

## GRAVE NO: F144

### EVANS, David James



#### ***Inscription:***

In Loving Memory of David James Evans, Llanelli Hill, who was killed in the Cwm disaster, March 1<sup>st</sup> 1927 aged 23 years.

*The call was sudden, the blow severe,  
To part with one we loved so dear,  
His loving voice, his smiling face,  
Not one can fill my darling's place.*

#### ***Inscription on pot:***

To my dear Daddy

David James Evans was born in 1904, growing up in the industrial heartland of Wales. By the time of the 1911 Census, seven-year-old David was living in Llanelli with his father, William, a collier and hewer born in Blaenavon, and his mother, Harriet, a native of Llanelli. The household also included his older sister, Lilian Ivy, aged nine, and his younger brother, Benjamin Ivor, aged five.

A decade later, in the 1921 Census, David, now seventeen was following in his father's footsteps and working alongside his father and brother, Benjy, aged fifteen, at the Milfraen Colliery in Blaenavon. The family had grown with the addition of Horace, aged ten and they remained living in Llanelli. In 1925, David married Ellen Furber and the couple soon welcomed a daughter, Gwynneth Lilian Evans, in April 1926. The young family settled in Upper Gelli, Llanelli Hill, near Abergavenny, a familiar mining community where life was tough but full of shared resilience.

Tragically, disaster struck just two years later. In the early hours of March 1, St David's Day, 1927, an underground gas and coal dust explosion ripped through the Black Vein Seam of the Marine Colliery in Cwm, claiming the lives of 52 men. Among them was David James Evans, listed as a labourer and resident of Upper Gelli. His body was recovered the following day, and he was laid to rest on March 7, 1927, with Minister W.S. Davies presiding over the burial.

David's widow, Ellen, continued to raise their daughter, Gwynneth. By 1939, the Register records William and Harriet Evans living in Upper Gelli with their granddaughter, Gwynneth Lillian Evans, suggesting that she had possibly been taken in by her grandparents after her father's tragic passing. Gwynneth later married William Lucas in July 1947, but her life, too, was cut short. She passed away on January 28, 1948, at the Royal Infirmary in Cardiff, and was buried in Llanelli Parish. Her husband, Arthur James Lucas, handled her estate, which was recorded as £85.12s.8d in probate records. The Evans family's story is one of resilience and sorrow, bound by the hard realities of coal mining life in Wales. Their sacrifices and struggles reflect the experiences of countless families who lived and worked in these mining communities, shaping the legacy of Wales' industrial past.

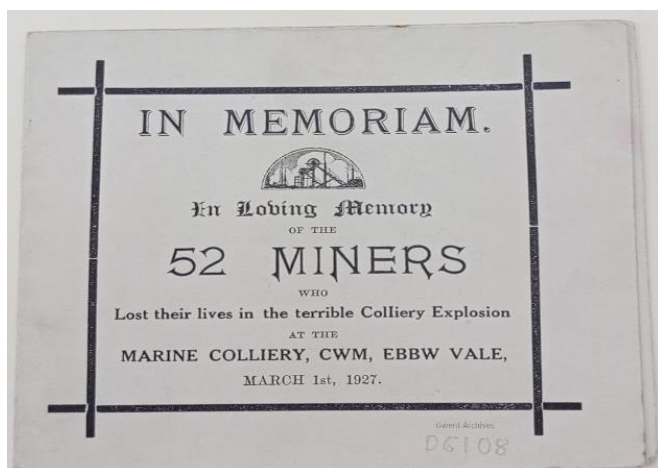


Photo: Gwent Archives

## RECORDS:

### MARRIAGE

David James Evans to Ellen Furber Crickhowell 1925: Breconshire Baptisms, Marriages & Burials

### 1911 Wales Census living in Llanelly

David aged 7 living with father William (born in Blaenavon) aged 32 (collier/hewer) and mother Harriet (born Llanelly) aged 28. 1 sister Lillian Ivy aged 9 (born Blaenavon) and 1 brother Benjamin Ivor aged 5 (born Llanelly).

### 1921 Wales Census living in Llanelly

David aged 17 living with father William aged 43, mother Harriet aged 38, Lillian aged 19, Benjy Ivor aged 15 & Horace aged 10. William, David and Benjy all listed as Coal Hewers at Milfraen Colliery, Blaenavon.

### 1939 Register living in Upper Gelly, Llanelly

William & Harriet with a Gwynneth Lillian Evans (later Lucas). Gwynneth appears to be the daughter of David and Ellen. She later married a William Lucas July 1947.

### BURIAL RECORD, Monmouthshire, Wales, Anglican Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1551-1994 P8

March 7<sup>th</sup> 1927, Minister-W.S Davies

### Marine Colliery Disaster, Cwm, 1<sup>st</sup> March 1927

52 men died after an underground gas and coal dust explosion at 12.50 a.m. on Black Vein Seam. David's body was found the following day. He is listed as a labourer, living at Upper Gelli, Llanelly Hill

## OTHER RELEVANT FAMILY RECORDS

### England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index 1916-2007

**Gwynneth L Evans** – Registration date April 1926  
Registration District Crickhowell  
Mother's Maiden Name: Furber  
Vol 11b/ p 157

**Llanelly Parish Burials Register** no 1011/ p 127

**Gwynneth L Evans** - died in Cardiff Royal Infirmary (abode Llanelly Hill)  
January 31<sup>st</sup> 1948  
Curate: J Avery Williams

**Probate Records**

**Lucas Gwyneth Lilian** at Upper Gelly, Llanelly Hill near Abergavenny Monmouthshire (wife of Arthur James Lucas) died 28<sup>th</sup> January 1948 at The Royal Infirmary Cardiff Administration Llandaff 25 February to the said Arthur James Lucas general labourer.