

interestingly into 'Society, Politics and Culture' and 'Industrial Change and Development'. Even so there is a vast amount of material to cover and the author is to be congratulated on a succinct, readable narrative that really brings out Carmarthenshire's distinctive contribution. Thus there is a good account of the Rebecca Riots but these are set within their context. Underlying tensions between landlords and tenants, desperate levels of poverty and nonconformist resentment of the established church are factors which became prominent at different times and in different areas within the county throughout the 19th century. The perceived injustice of tithes which was a strand within the Rebecca protests, resurfaced to centre stage late in the 19th century. The role of Welsh as a spoken and written language is skilfully deployed through this section's religious and cultural overviews. Although Industry leads the heading for the next section, it is quite rightly the importance of agriculture in the county economy that is first described. Population growth, with problems of backwardness and poverty, led to rising numbers of landless labourers powering the exodus to the burgeoning industrial areas of the county. Short separate sections describe the main industries but inevitably it is more difficult to trace the underlying movements of capital and investment – indeed much of this research has yet to be done.

What many readers will find new and exciting is the final section looking at the twentieth century – and in fact the very up-to-date conclusion of the book in 2002. Due emphasis can thus be placed on the anthracite coal industry and the political and cultural importance of the Amman Valley for example. Finally, since the greater part of the period is within living memory, we have themes and events brought out in direct quotation. Dylan Rees himself has interviewed many of the century's greatest from Gwynfor Evans – whose election victory for Plaid Cymru in Carmarthen electrified Wales – to Ray Gravell whose account of Llanelli's defeat of the All Blacks has entered sporting folklore. Despite the pocket format, there is room for some illustrations which have been well chosen to capture the essence of the county and to complement the text. This 'concise history' works very well as a stand-alone narrative, but also, furnished with a select bibliography leads the inquiring reader on to further study. Well-written, well-produced and very good value – all members should buy one!

HEATHER JAMES

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The Place-Names of Cardiganshire, Iwan Wmffre, British Archaeological Reports (BAR) British Series 379; Oxford 2004. 3 volumes, cxxx + 1,403 pp., £105.00, A4 paperback.

This immense three-volume work is the largest corpus on any county to be published in Wales eclipsing B. G. Charles *Place-names of Pembrokeshire*, which itself runs to 857 pages. Professor Wmffre's study of Ceredigion runs to over 1,400 pages – the index alone occupying 51 pages – and is based on his doctoral thesis *Language and History in Cardiganshire Place-names*. The work, ordered by commote and then parish, lists some 15,000 headwords – comparable with the numbers recorded on the Carmarthenshire Place-name database. This then follows a familiar format consisting of a national grid reference, a break-down of elements, the phonetic pronunciation followed by historic forms with sources in chronological order. Within these forms Wmffre discusses his own interpretation of meanings comprehensively cross referenced with work of other toponymists. His emphasis on pronunciation derives from extensive fieldwork over many years where he interviewed some 200 people for oral evidence and pronunciation. These appear in the sources and are listed in the bibliography. His consumption of tea over a decade must have been prodigious! Reading the introduction one soon becomes aware of the author's passion about place-name studies in Wales and elsewhere, and his strong views on methodology, presentation and the value of collecting oral evidence.

For anyone who is writing local history a place-names volume is an essential starting point, but unless armed with the specialist knowledge of a place-names scholar, he or she might be a little daunted by these volumes. The structure of commote/parish order works well for individual names, but where a name – like that for a river – extends over a larger geographic region, then another system has to be used. There is no easy method of handling this, and Wmffre adopts separate sections within each parish for 'hydronyms' (water features) and 'hodonyms' (urban names) and 'geonyms' (natural and other features) which follow place-names that do not fall into these categories. At the end of Volume III sections are then devoted to longer hydronyms and 'macrotoponyms' – administrative names. Once mastered the methodology works well, especially because of the work's extensive index. Within the index names are flagged accordingly (a) settlements,

(b) geonyms, (c) hodonoms, (d) hydronoms and (e) macrotoponyms, which gives the reader the information needed to proceed. To find a particular name from the index one is not given a page number but is directed to a parish number (which is included on the running heads of each volume). This can lead to a bit of toing and froing amongst the three heavy A4 books. It takes a bit of getting used to, so the casual user of the work will find it hard going. I did find one lack of cross-referencing in the extensive index. Wmffre quite rightly corrects the long-errant 'Llangwryfon' for 'Llangwrddon' but the former is still current, and is listed by Elwyn Davies/Ifor Williams *Gazetteer of Welsh Place-names*. Any user who is unaware of this correction would fail to find the parish in the index, a problem easily handled if there had been a cross-reference. A concordance near the front of Volume I lists all the 81 parishes with the numbers Wmffre has allocated to them with a map of these on the opposite page. The map has an inset showing commotes. I found it infuriating that this list and map is not repeated in each volume, and I soon found it better to photocopy both and have them to hand, rather than always having to pick up Volume I. Having used the work extensively on a parish where I am doing in-depth research (Llanddewibrefi) I can only congratulate the author for the thoroughness of his research which I found exemplary. If all the parishes in the volume are as good, which I do not doubt, then the work will be recognised as a quarry for its vast use of sources. There is unfortunately no section on elements. The non-Welsh speaker will therefore find difficulty without the specific knowledge of Welsh elements, since Wmffre does not translate them into English. This is a minor irritant since wordlists of elements can be found elsewhere and we understand from the introduction that Dr Wmffre is to publish a dictionary of Welsh Place-name Elements – something that we have had for Cornish for many years and has been sorely lacking in Wales.

My main quibble, and this is not with the author, is the size and weight of the three volumes. Since this is a book of reference it will have to sustain heavy use over many years. I would therefore have preferred to have seen it in a case-bound set of say crown quarto size, printed on a lighter paper, which would have made the work easier to handle. On the other hand Archaeopress and the BAR series are to be congratulated for publishing the work, albeit in their chosen A4 perfect-bound format. This tremendous work complements

that on Pembrokeshire and will become an essential companion to anyone doing historical or archaeological research in west Wales let alone place-name studies. We can only hope that at some time in the not too distant future a scholar will take on Carmarthenshire, using the Society's computerised place-name database as a starting point, and develop it into a scholarly thorough-going work in the mode of Iwan Wmffre's *Cardiganshire*.

TERRENCE JAMES

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The Wolf and the Boar: the Lloyds of Bronwydd Cardiganshire Lords Marcher of Cemais, Leslie Baker-Jones, Quatrefoil Books, Llandysul, 181pp., £13.95, ISBN 0-9550916-90-8.

Every contribution to the history of Ceredigion is to be welcomed, particularly by a historian like Dr Leslie Baker-Jones, whose *Princelings, Privilege and Power: the Tivy-side Gentry in their Community* (1991) described so thoroughly the gentry of the lower Teifi valley. Since Bethan Phillips's *Peterwell* of 1983, histories of Trawsgoed and Nanteos have appeared, and a good deal has been written about Hafod in addition to Elizabeth Inglis-Jones's classic *Peacocks in Paradise*. On the other hand, Gogerddan and the Pryse family have been completely neglected, and published knowledge of the multitudinous Lloyds is restricted to the hundred printed copies of *Some Family Records & Pedigrees of the Lloyds of Allt yr Odyn, Castell Hywel, Ffos y Bleiddiaid, Gilfach Wen, Llan Llyr and Waun Ifor* by Lucy E. Lloyd Theakston and John Davies (Oxford, 1913) and the twenty-five copies of *Annals and Pedigrees of the Lloyds and Edwardes of Crynfryn, and other Families . . .* by John Davies (Aberystwyth, 1931). So a history of Bronwydd and the Lloyds, virtually unmentioned in those two sources, is to be welcomed.

Not everyone is yet willing to concede the value of estate and family histories; their historians, unless themselves of that social class, may be seen as *cynffonwyr*, toadies to a class whose political and social significance is minimal. But that attitude is pathetically shortsighted. The gentry of the past controlled the lives of the people and the very landscape in which they lived to such an extent that history which ignores them is purblind. Moreover, their surviving archives can be rich sources of information about so many aspects of the