

## WESTERN MAIL, CARDIFF

**1 June 3 1869**

**Cardiff**

THE RECENT LOSS OF A LITTLE BOY On Monday week, John Morgan, aged four years, the son of John Morgan of Hill's terrace, was missed from his home, and although the canal was dragged for a considerable time his body could not be found. Yesterday morning his body was found in the canal, and last evening an inquest was held at the Town Hall, before Mr R L Reece. Eliza Francis, the deceased's grandmother, said the little boy was in her house about half past six on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> ult. He left on hearing music in Bridge Street, and that was the last time she saw him alive. Search was made for him at once, and a girl said she had seen him by the steps at the Hayes Bridge. Neighbours and friends did all they could to find him, and his father went to Newport and Caerphilly. The body was found yesterday morning floating in the canal, near Mr Crawshay's iron shed, by **Thomas Gosney**, a boatman. He acted upon the popular belief that the body might be floating, as yesterday was the ninth day; and he got out of bed about half past five and walked down the canal side, when he saw something floating, and after watching it for some time, he saw it float between two boats. Then he saw it was the deceased and, with assistance, he lifted the body out of the water, wrapped it in a sack, and carried it home. An open verdict was returned.

**2 July 13 1869**

**Merthyr**

ASSAULTING THE POLICE For violently assaulting Police-constables Melluish and Parsons on Sunday last, **Thomas Goswell**, a boatman, was yesterday sentenced by the Merthyr stipendiary magistrate to pay a fine of £5 and costs, or be imprisoned with hard labour for two months.

[\[See next article – John Gosney?\]](#)

**3 October 21 1869**

**Aberdare**

ROBBERY AND ASSAULT On Monday a man named William John went into the Pelican, Commercial Street. He left his coat in the kitchen with a boatman named **Richard Jones**, and when he returned both were gone. He gave information to the police, and Police-constable Morris arrested Jones at the Canal Head. As they were coming towards Aberdare another boatman named **John Gosney** came up, attempted to rescue Jones, and both severely assaulted Morris. Other constables came to his assistance, and both men were taken to the station. They were brought up yesterday at the Merthyr police court, before Mr E J Davies. It was stated that Gosney had, during his life, been sent for three years to a reformatory; had been sentenced to gaol for fifteen months for stealing geese; twelve months for stealing watches; eight months for robbing a boat; and in July last to two months for assaulting the police. The Bench sentenced Jones to six weeks for stealing the coat, and to fourteen days for assaulting the police; and Gosney was sentenced to four months hard labour for assaulting the police.

**4 November 15 1869**

**Cardiff**

WANTON MISCHIEF On Saturday before Mr Pride and Mr Bassett, a boy named **Morgan Elliott**, the son of a boatman, was charged with damaging two ropes belonging to the schooner Flush. The boy cut about ten fathoms from the ropes on Friday night, as the vessel lay in the West Dock. Under the dock by-laws the lad had rendered himself liable to a penalty of £5. In consideration of his age, he was fined 1s and costs and to pay 15s damages, or go to prison for seven days. His father was communicated with.

**5 November 16 1869**

**Swansea**

SERIOUS CASE OF STABBING AT PONTARDAWE A man named **William Williams**, a boatman, is in custody on a charge of seriously cutting and wounding with a knife Daniel Rees, a collier living at Walltwn, near Pontardawe. Defendant will be brought up before the magistrates today.

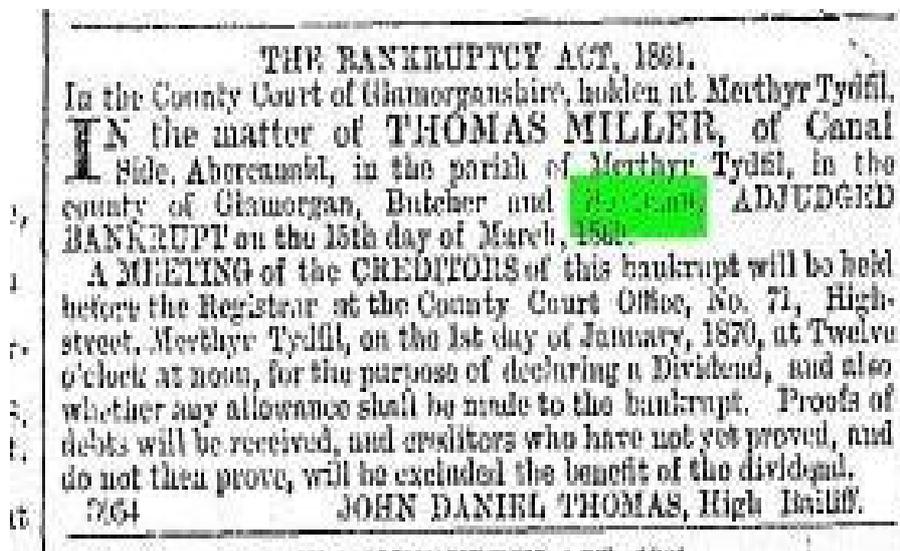
**6 November 22 1869**

**Swansea**

THE STABBING CASE AT PONTARDAWE On Saturday, before Mr Herbert Lloyd, in the head-constable's office at the police court, the man **William Williams**, a boatman, was brought up from Pontardawe, where he was examined on Tuesday, as reported in the *Western Mail* on Wednesday, charged with maliciously cutting and wounding one Daniel Rees, a collier, at Llangnicke on the 13<sup>th</sup> instant. Mr Morris, solicitor, appeared for the prisoner. The evidence of the complainant, as previously reported, was repeated. Gwenllian Jones, who was in the Ivy Bush at Pontardawe on the night in question, in company with the prisoner and the complainant, proved that on their way home the prisoner and the complainant quarrelled and fought, and the prisoner stabbed Daniel Rees with a knife while on the ground. Several other witnesses named Owen Daniel, Rice Morgan, Henry Davies, Griffith Griffith (surgeon) and Thomas Thomas gave evidence, and the prisoner was eventually committed to take his trial.

**7 December 21 1869**

**BANKRUPTCY**



**8 January 10 1870**

**Swansea Vale**

THE RECENT STABBING CASE AT PONTERDAWE At the Glamorganshire County Sessions, held at the Town Hall, Swansea, on Saturday, the man **William Williams**, a boatman, surrendered to his bail, charged with having on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November last maliciously wounded one Daniel Rees at Pontardawe, with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm. Mr Hughes (instructed by Mr George Bowen, magistrates' clerk) appeared to prosecute; and Mr Bowen (instructed by Mr H Morris, solicitor, Swansea) defended the prisoner. Daniel Rees was called, and proved that on the occasion in question he was going homeward with the prisoner, when Williams wanted to fight him, and said that if he would not fight him, he would watch him home and kill him. They fought, and when on the ground, the prisoner being undermost, he felt himself stabbed in the neck with a knife, and became insensible. Gwenllian Jones said that she was at the Ivy Bush, Pontardawe with the two men, and they all left for home together. On arriving near Thomas Evans's house at Llangnicke, a fight took place, and the man Rees was stabbed in the neck by the prisoner, who had previously threatened to kill him if he did not fight. Price Morgan, Owen Daniel and Henry Davies corroborated the evidence of previous witnesses in every particular. Mr Griffiths, surgeon, said that he was called in to see the man Daniel Rees. There were several minor cuts about the face, the lobe of the left ear was cut through, and there was a wound four and a half inches long behind the left ear. The wound behind the ear was dangerous, and the whole of the wounds, he should think, were made at one sweep with a knife. Thomas Thomas, inspector of police at Pontardawe, said he apprehended the prisoner, who said that he did it in self defence. He subsequently complained of

being badly bruised, and said that the prosecutor was on top of him, and was twisting his neckerchief, nearly choking him, when he took the knife out to cut his neckerchief to free his throat, and might have cut the prosecutor. Witness produced a knife, which was found in a field adjoining, closed. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour.

**9 January 15 1870 Cardiff**

SHOPLIFTING **James Meredith**, a boatman, was charged with stealing a guernsey from the shop of Mrs Mary Evans, Bute Street. David Evans, assistant, stated that he missed the guernsey when prisoner had left the shop, and gave information to the police. He could not swear to the guernsey. Police-constable Newman stated he went on board the prisoner's barge in the West Dock and saw him in the boat with the guernsey on. He charged him with stealing it, and took him into custody. The prisoner was discharged.

**10 January 18 1879 Cardiff**

VIOLENT ASSAULT **Stephen James**, a boatman, was charged with an assault on John Beynon on Thursday night last. These men were at the Custom House Hotel, and had a few words. When they came out, the defendant struck the complainant on the mouth, and knocked him down. Complainant fell with his head on the kerb stone, and received a nasty cut. Witnesses were called in support of the complainant, and one said that the defendant kicked him when he was down. The magistrates committed the defendant to prison for a months hard labour.

**11 January 25 1870 Pembroke**

ASSAULT At the borough sessions on Saturday, before Mr W Huhn and the Rev R H Thomas, Thomas Thomas charged **John Davies**, boatman, of Pembroke Dock, with having assaulted him on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst, at the pier, Hobbs Point. From the evidence it appeared that some words passed between the two men relative to the ownership of a boat, when Davies struck the complainant. The defendant was fined, including costs, 13s 6d.

**12 March 10 1870 Cardiff**

ROBBERY OF CHEESE At the police court yesterday, before Messrs R O Jones and W D Bushell, **John Jones**, a boatman, was brought up on remand, charged with stealing two cheeses, the property of George Allen. About three o'clock on Wednesday morning, the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst, Police-sergeant Lewis saw the prisoner in Homfray Street, and was led to notice him particularly in consequence of his bulky appearance. The officer stopped him and questioned him, and then forced open his coat, under which he found two cheeses concealed. He accounted for the possession of the cheeses by stating that he had bought them on a ship, but he declined to give the name of the ship, or say where it was lying. Upon inquiries being made it was ascertained that the cheeses had been taken from a boat which was lying at the old canal wharf. The boat belonged to the prosecutor, who had engaged the prisoner to assist him in loading the cargo. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to three months imprisonment.

**13 May 3 1870**

AN IMPORTANT DISTINCTION WITH REGARD TO GAME A boatman named **Rae** was lately convicted at the Derbyshire Quarter Sessions of stealing a partridge. A covey had been shot by a party of gentlemen, and the prisoner picked up the bird in a field over which one of the party had a right of shooting. The question in dispute was the condition of the partridge when it came into the prisoner's possession, and the jury found that it was in a dying state, and could not escape. They therefore convicted Rae of having taken the bird fraudulently, with intent to deprive the owner of it. On Saturday the Court of Criminal Appeal quashed this conviction. Five judges held that a bird or an animal in a wild state was not regarded as property, and that it was never intended to make those who preyed on game thieves as well as poachers.

**14 June 19 1870**

**Cardiff**

ASSAULTING A NEIGHBOUR **William Matthews**, a boatman, was charged with cutting and wounding one Mary Ann Hall, by beating her head on the pavement, and otherwise assaulting her. From the evidence of the various witnesses who were called for both prosecution and defence, it appeared that a fight had been mutually indulged in by Matthew's wife and the complainant who, after some damage to the complainant's head had been done, had been separated by neighbours. The point disputed by both sides, however, was who began the row, and what part did the defendant partake therein – merely that of a looker-on, a protector of his wife, or a chastiser of her assailant. The defendant himself denied the charge and only admitted having kicked, instead of the complainant's head, as alleged, a tin can which that person had had in her possession. The case was remanded until Monday.

**15 June 21 1870**

**Cardiff**

ROBBERY FROM A CANAL BOAT George Davies, a boy aged 13, residing with his father in Grangetown, was ordered to be imprisoned for one day, and to receive 12 strokes with the birch, for being concerned with three others not in custody with stealing a coat and a cap from a canal boat (No 245) in the old canal, the property of **Henry John Thomas**, a boatman.

**16 August 16 1870**

**Cardiff**

ROBBERY FROM THE PERSON **Edward Daley**, 23, a boatman of Halket Street, Canton, was charged with stealing a sovereign from the person of another boatman named **William Rimron**, belonging to Treforest. Prosecutor stated that he and the prisoner were partners, and worked in the same boat. On Saturday evening, while the boat, on board of which the prisoner had just been, was near Treforest Yard, prosecutor missed his money. Prisoner: Were there any girls on the boat with you? Witness: No. In answer to the Bench, however, witness admitted that he, together with his mother and two girls (the persons to whom the prisoner referred) had been drinking all the morning; that he had £1 12s when he began, and had spent 12s before he finished; that he was very drunk himself and that he had, a short time before he was aware that the robbery had been committed, gone to lie down for a sleep in the stern of the boat. One of these girls, named Thomas, living in Charlotte Street, said she was on board at the time indicated, and saw the prisoner take the sovereign out of the prosecutor's pocket while he was lying asleep near the stern. The other young woman who was with the last witness, on being called, stated that she also saw the prisoner take the money from the pocket of the sleeping man. Prisoner afterwards showed the coin to witness, saying that it was a "duffer", wanting to make her understand that it was a bad one. Police-constable Webb apprehended the prisoner who, in answer to the charge, said he knew nothing about the matter. When searched at the station only a few coppers were found upon him. Prisoner was committed for trial.

**17 August 20 1870**

**Cardiff**

STEALING IRON FROM THE ABERDARE IRON COMPANY Two intelligent looking beings, named **Edmund Williams** and **James Donovan**, alias the Pig, boatmen, were both charged with stealing over 3 cwt of iron, the property of the Aberdare Iron Company. Mr J Edwards-Price prosecuted. Henry Rees, weigher in the Aberdare Iron Company's works, Treforest, said that both prisoners were employed by **William Davis**, the contracting boatman to the company. Went to the boat, which was laden with rails, on the 10<sup>th</sup> instant, to count the rails, as was his duty; the boat was in charge of prisoners. Discovered some puddled bar iron which did not form a part of the proper cargo. It was not concealed. Asked Donovan what was the meaning of all this. Said he knew nothing about it. No one else was there then. Told one of the men to take out the iron found in the boat. The other prisoner then came up, and he asked him what all the iron was wanted for. Williams said it was to balance the boat. Witness said he would have to suffer for it, when prisoner said it was hardly worthwhile to make any bother about it. The weight was 3cwt 1qr 16lbs at 5s per

cwt. It is not necessary to balance the boats as stated by prisoner. John Williams is a fireman on the canal quay at Treforest, in the employ of the Aberdare Iron Company. From what last witness told him he went to the prisoners' boat and found some puddled bar iron like that produced under the false bottom of the boat. Threw it out, and had it weighed. It is not usual to put the iron where it was found or for the purpose of balancing the boat. There are 300 tons of the same iron along the canal, about twenty yards from the prisoners' boat. Police-constable Roberts apprehended Donovan at Melingriffith, and charged him with the theft. He said nothing then, but at the station said, "I suppose the iron got there by itself". Police-constable Wells apprehended Williams at Nantgarw locks. Charged him, and he said, "I know nothing about stealing the iron. I took the iron there to balance the boat". Prisoner Williams pleaded guilty of putting the iron in the boat for ballast, practically being a plea of not guilty. Williams's brother said he was working to find a child who was drowned, and forgot to take the iron out. Donovan protested against stealing the iron. Against Williams a previous conviction was recorded ten years ago. Committed for trial at the ensuing quarter sessions.

**18 September 22 1870 Cardiff**

FELONY Caroline Morgan, an unfortunate, pleaded guilty and was committed for two months imprisonment with hard labour, having stolen a purse and 3s 3d from the person of **William Morgan**, a Treforest boatman.

**19 October 3 1870 Merthyr**

AN UNGRATEFUL RETURN FOR A NIGHT'S LODGING On Wednesday night a boatman named **Thomas John** was asked by **Thomas Phillips**, another boatman, to give him a bed in his boat, for his own had gone to Cardiff without him. John did so, but the next morning when he awoke, he found Phillips had made off with two bushels of oats which were in the boat. Phillips was arrested and committed for trial by the magistrates at the police court on Saturday.

**20 October 21 1870 Glamorganshire Quarter Sessions**

STEALING OATS A boatman named **Thomas Phillips** was charged with stealing a sack containing two bushels of oats, the property of **Thomas John**, at Merthyr. Mr B T Williams prosecuted. On the 28<sup>th</sup> September, the prisoner and Thos John were drinking together, and the prisoner asked John to allow him to sleep in his boat that night. John consented, and the prisoner laid down on a sack of oats. John retired to the cabin, and when he got up next morning, the prisoner and the sack, which contained two bushels of oats, had disappeared. About eleven o'clock the same night, the prisoner went to Mr John Williams, the landlord of the Patriot Inn, Merthyr, and offered a sack of oats for sale. The landlord told the prisoner that he was in want of oats, but he refused to buy them of him at that time of night. The prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to two months imprisonment.

**21 October 22 1870 Cardiff**

REMANDED CASE **Thomas Rimron**, boatman, charged with stealing a quantity of pig iron from the West Wharf on the Old Canal, was again brought up. The case was heard yesterday, and was remanded for the attendance of a witness named Hurcomb, who found the three pigs of iron under the Great Western Railway bridge over the canal, on the 11<sup>th</sup>. They were the property of the Treforest Tin-Plate Company. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sent to gaol for the space of three calendar months with hard labour.

**22 October 25 1870 Llandaff**

BARGE ROBBERY **James Gould**, a boatman, was brought up on remand, charged with stealing one hundredweight of coal from a barge, the property of Thomas Williams of Taff's Well. It appears that the prisoner did something for the boatmen in charge of Mr Williams's boat, and they gave him permission to take the coal. The prisoner was accordingly discharged.

**STEALING MONEY** A waterman named **Dennis Leonard** was charged with stealing a purse containing £3 5s 10d, the property of Thomas Edwards, landlord of the Baroness Windsor Hotel, Grangetown, on the 14<sup>th</sup> October. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to two months hard labour.

**OBSTRUCTING THE CANAL** A boatman named **Benjamin John** was charged with throwing a quantity of limestone out of his boat into the Glamorgan Canal. Mr Spence appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Canal Company, and asked that the full penalty of £5 should be inflicted, as the offence was of very frequent occurrence. The defendant was fined £3 and costs, or one months imprisonment.

### **23 October 31 1870**

**ALLEGED MURDER OF A BOATMAN AT CARDIFF** On Saturday afternoon an inquest was held before the coroner, Mr Reece, touching the death of a boatman named **Edward Daley**, aged twenty five, who met his death under suspicious circumstances. A boatman named **George Harding** and a woman named **Margaret Rimron** are in custody on suspicion.

The deceased, who was single, had been in gaol for ten weeks and was discharged on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst. About nine o'clock that night he was in the Bath Arms with his mother and brother and a few acquaintances. His mother left to transact a little business, and when she returned about half past nine both her sons had gone. They were both sober when she left them. She went to several public houses to look for them, but not finding them she returned home to Canton.

William Daley, the deceased's brother, said he left the Bath Arms with his brother soon after nine o'clock, having drunk a quart of beer each. They then went to an eating house in Caroline Street, where they remained for about an hour. They afterwards went to the Custom House Hotel, and had a couple of pints of beer each. They remained there about an hour and a half until they were both half tipsy, and when witness got up to leave he found that his brother had already left. Witness went to two or three public houses to look for him, but could not find him. He then walked about the streets looking for him, and at last came to the conclusion that his brother had gone home. Witness himself then returned home, and found that his brother had not been there.

Mary Ann Davies, barmaid at the Custom House Hotel, said she remembered the deceased and his brother going to that house about ten o'clock on the Saturday night. They had some beer, and remained there over an hour. The deceased left before his brother, in company with George Harding, one of the prisoners who was in custody. Neither of them returned again that night. Margaret Rimron, the other prisoner who was in custody, left before the deceased, in company with a sailor.

Mary Gulliver said the female prisoner ran up to her on the Wharf bridge between twelve and one on the following Sunday morning. She stopped when she reached her, and she asked witness to go to the Bath Arms. They went and found it closed. She told her as they were walking along that Edward Daley and George Harding had been fighting about her by the boat. Witness said, "Let us go and see if they are still fighting". Gulliver replied she would not go because she was afraid she would get a kick. She also added that Edward Daley was in the water, and she ran away. They were jealous about her, and Harding and Daley fought in the stern of the boat, and Daley fell over the side into the water. Witness asked her to go down with her to see if Daley was out of the water. Rimron said she had tried to get him out of the water herself. Witness asked Rimron if the other man tried to get him out, and she answered that Harding said, "Leave the b---- drown". The barge in which the struggle took place was nearly opposite Mr Watson's timber yard. When they returned they met a man on the bridge, and Rimron went away in his company, and witness went home. Canal Constable Dix said that on Friday morning last he received information from Mr Horne that someone was supposed to have been drowned in the canal opposite Mr Watson's yard. He dragged the canal and discovered the body of Edward Daley.

Dr Paine said he had made a *post mortem* examination of the body of the deceased. He found no marks of violence whatever. The body presented the ordinary appearance of death having resulted from drowning.

Mr Freeman, the superintendent, applied for an adjournment of the inquest until Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup>, which was granted.

The Coroner considered the evidence was strong enough to justify the detentions of the prisoners, who were accordingly remanded until the adjourned inquiry takes place.

## 24 November 1 1870

THE ALLEGED MURDER OF A BOATMAN AT CARDIFF Yesterday at the Cardiff police court, before Messrs R O Jones and J Pride, **George Harding**, boatman of Treforest, and **Margaret Rimron**, wife of **Thomas** of Treforest, were brought up in custody, charged on suspicion of causing the death of **Edward Daley**, a boatman, by drowning in the old canal, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult.

Mr Ensor said: A person, sir, named Edward Daley, has been found dead in the canal in this town, near the wharf, under circumstances which, to say the least of them, are circumstances of great suspicion. His brother has instructed me to investigate the matter, and if it be the wish of the bench, I am prepared to do what I can towards assisting the police in unravelling this matter, which at present appears involved in some little mystery.

Mr Jones: That is a matter for the police not the bench to settle. The chief constable of the borough must make his own arrangements for that. If he makes a charge we will hear it, and if he thinks it is desirable that some gentleman should be engaged to conduct the case, so much the better.

Mr Ensor: But I have been employed by the brother -

Mr Jones: We cannot take that into account -

Mr Ensor: And with the full approval of Mr Freeman.

The Chief Constable: I have no objection to Mr Ensor appearing in this case for the brother.

Mr Jones: That is not the point. It is your business to bring the case forward, and if you think it is one which necessitates the engagement of counsel you must do it.

The Chief Constable: We are prepared with certain evidence today, sir, upon which we shall ask for a remand.

Mr Ensor then proceeded to state to the bench the facts of the case as they have already appeared.

Mary Ann Gulliver, one of the witnesses examined at the inquest held on Saturday, reported in the *Western Mail* of yesterday, then gave again in substance the evidence she had already tendered.

Susannah, wife of William Jenkins, said: I live at Pentrebach, Treforest. From something I was told I went to a boat, which was by the bridge near Treforest, and saw the female prisoner. I called her out, and she and I went to my house, together with Ellen Daley, the wife of Cornelius Daley. I asked her where she had left Edward Daley last. She said, "In the Custom House Hotel on Saturday night". She said that she and Harding went together, and that Daley followed them, and that Daley jumped into the canal, and asked Harding to give him his hand to get him out of the water, and that Harding made answer, "Come here then". In a few minutes after she heard in a low voice, "No, never mind : Goodbye!" It was Daley said this. I said to her, "Speak the truth, for it's a serious thing, is a man's life". As Mr Roberts, the policeman, came in, she said, "Oh don't!" What she meant by that I don't know. She said, "I have been in gaol once, but I am afraid I shall be in again to wait my trial for wilful murder". She said that Daley stepped his foot between two covered boats, went down, and never rose any more. This conversation was on Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> ult.

Mary Isabel, wife of Balston Cooper Kenway said; I reside at the west side of the wharf, and on Saturday, October 22, there was a canal boat moored opposite my bedroom. Early on Sunday morning I was awoke by the noise of two men quarrelling. I distinctly heard the sound of two men's voices. They were talking very loudly and using very bad language. I also heard a woman's voice. In the course of the quarrel I heard a sort of struggling, and then I heard a splash in the water. Immediately after I heard the splash I heard a woman shriek. I got out of bed and opened the window, but it was quite dark, and I could not see anything. I heard one man's voice continuing using bad language, and the woman crying. At half past eleven on Sunday morning I saw the boat in the same place, and recognised the prisoner Harding (whom I have known for some time) in it. A woman, whom I believe to be the female prisoner, was talking to him.

A remand for a week was asked for and granted.

## 25 November 9 1870

### THE ALLEGED MURDER OF A BOATMAN AT CARDIFF – ADJOURNED INQUEST

Yesterday afternoon the adjourned inquest on the body of one **Edward Daley**, a boatman, who was found drowned in the Old Canal on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, was resumed at the Town Hall, before Mr Reece, the borough coroner. **Margaret Rimron** and **George Harding**, the two persons charged with having caused the death of the said Edward Daley had been brought from gaol (they having been remanded on the charge until the termination of the coroner's inquiry) and were present during the proceedings.

Mr Ensor watched the enquiry on behalf of the friends of the deceased.

Mrs Kenway, one of the witnesses already examined, was again called, and gave in substance the evidence she tendered before the magistrates. She also said that, on being awoke by the noise of the two men quarrelling, she got up, and though she endeavoured to discover from whence the sounds proceeded, it was too dark to enable her to distinguish anything. The struggle was in or near a barge lying in front of her house. There seemed to be a struggle for a few minutes, and then a splash.

This was followed by a woman's scream. Then there was the noise of one man swearing, and of the woman walking away sobbing.

The Superintendent: The female prisoner, sir, has made a statement; if you think it is desirable to call her as a witness, I will do so.

The Coroner: Yes.

Margaret Rimron, wife of **Thomas Rimron**, said: I live with my husband at Treforest. He is a boatman on the Glamorgan canal. I remember Saturday night, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of last month. On the afternoon of that day Edward Daley was discharged from gaol. I saw him about half past six that evening at the Bath Arms beerhouse, St Mary Street. His brother William was with him, and both were drinking. I had some beer with them, and we remained there till about ten o'clock, and I left about twenty minutes past ten, but I believe they went before that time. I saw deceased again at the Custom House Hotel about half past eleven or ten minutes to twelve o'clock the same night. He was then lying asleep in the tap room of the hotel. George Harding was there drinking, and he asked me to have something to drink. I afterwards went out with both of them. As we went over the Custom House bridge, Harding asked Daley, "Which of us do you think is the best man?" They then began to quarrel, and continued quarrelling as we walked. When we got very nearly opposite Watson's timber yard, Harding said, "Very well, we will fight to see who is the best man". Near where we were there was a boat which belonged to Harding. Harding again repeated what he had already said about fighting, and then struck Daley, who said, after he had received the blow, "Wait until I pull off my jacket". He took off his jacket, and Harding did the same. They then fought, but did not knock each other down. I ran between them to try and stop them, and screamed out for a policeman, but they continued to fight. When I had called out a third time for a policeman, Harding gave me a kick, and said "if I called out again, he would shove me into the canal". Harding gave Daley a blow in the forehead, I also think his lip was cut, as blood issued from his mouth. On seeing the blood, I again cried out for a constable, and then they both put on their jackets. Harding jumped on his boat and opened his cabin door, and asked me whether I was coming into the boat or into the canal. I jumped with affright into the boat, and went to him in the cabin. Harding said to Daley, "If you jump into this boat, your life will be gone". Daley was then standing close by the boat, on the wharf side. In a few minutes Daley jumped into the boat on the cabin side near to where we (Harding and I) were. After Daley got into the boat, they began to struggle again. After struggling a short time, they parted, and in a few minutes, while standing in the small space near the helm, Harding made a rush at Daley, and shoved him back into the canal. Daley made a loud noise in the water. I then jumped out of the boat on to the quay, and began to cry. I heard Daley's voice in the water, calling out, "Georgie, Georgie". I could not see his head. I saw Harding leaning over the side of the barge, and asked him if he had got Daley's hand, and I heard Daley say to Harding, "I will forgive you for what you have done : never mind, now I am going". Daley went down in the water and never rose again. I asked Harding should I call out for assistance, and he said, "No, let

the b---- drown". I then walked away, and on going over the Custom House bridge, met with a young woman, Mary Ann Gulliver. I did not see Harding until a quarter of an hour after, when I met him in Charlotte Street.

A Juror: Did Harding have hold of Daley's hand while deceased was in the water?

Witness: Yes.

By the Coroner: Harding said, in reply to my question whether he had got his hand or not, "Yes, I have got his hand". It was then Daley said, "Never mind, I am going; I forgive you".

The Juror: Did Harding let Daley's hand go?

Witness: Yes.

The Coroner: Could you see all that?

Witness: No.

The Coroner: Well we can't take that statement then. Was the night dark?

Witness: Yes, it was dark and raining.

Dr Paine was the next witness. He stated that a *post mortem* examination had been made, and the result showed that death had been caused by drowning.

Margaret Rimron, recalled, was questioned by one of the jury :- On which side of the boat was the deceased pushed into the water - on the off side, or that nearest the quay wall?

Witness: On the side nearest Mr Watson's timber yard.

The Coroner, in directing the jury, said: Gentlemen, this is a very serious charge against the man George Harding, and if you believe the evidence of the last witness, there can be no doubt at all that he was the cause of death of the deceased, Edward Daley. The difference, I may tell you, between manslaughter and a murder is the intention – the *animus* at the time the offence is committed, in the mind of a person who does such a thing. If a man with malice aforethought, takes away the life of another, there is not the shadow of a doubt that it is wilful murder. But on the other hand, if in the heat of quarrel one strikes the other a fatal blow, or throws him down so as to cause his death, it would be manslaughter. But -

The Superintendent: May I interrupt you for a moment, sir? The prisoner Harding wishes to make a statement.

The Coroner said that he, in that case, would have to administer the usual caution to him.

Some conversation here ensued, and ultimately, on the suggestion of the superintendent, the prisoner Harding withdrew his request to make the statement he at first expressed his wish to do.

The Coroner continued: If you believe the witness Rimron – for the whole of the charge against the man Harding rests upon her evidence – there is no doubt that he was the cause of the man's death.

But, as I say, the only difference between manslaughter and murder would be the intention of the prisoner at the time the deed was done. And this difference and distinction is whether or not the thing were done on the impulse of the moment, in the heat of anger, and before hot blood had time to cool. In this case, however, after the quarrelling, there was a little respite – both parties had ceased to wrestle with each other, and as you know the localities of the barges pretty well, the probability is that both or either of them might have rested against the side, because the place where they were in was very small, and then George Harding takes the other man at a disadvantage, by surprise, and shoves him over. Certainly we have it also in evidence that the prisoner Harding made an attempt to recover the deceased, inasmuch as he was seen stooping down; and when asked had he hold of the deceased's hand he replied, "Yes". The Coroner also quoted law upon the distinction of the crime of manslaughter from that of murder, and,

After an absence of about twenty minutes, the jury returned a unanimous verdict of "Manslaughter" against the prisoner Harding only.

## **26 November 12 1870**

**George Harding**, a Cardiff boatman, who lately pushed a man with whom he had been quarrelling into the canal and drowned him, was yesterday committed by the magistrates of the borough on the charge of wilful murder. The prisoner had previously been committed on the coroner's warrant on a charge of manslaughter.

**27 November 15 1870 Cardiff**

FELONY CASES William Reece, a boatman, was remanded until Friday on a charge of stealing a roll of cotton check from the shop door of Mr Lewis Lewis, draper, Bute Street.

**28 November 24 1870 Cardiff**

CRUELTY TO A HORSE A boatman named **Charles Harris** was charged with cruelty to a horse. Police-constable Dix, of the Bute Dock police, saw the defendant on Tuesday with a horse, which was suffering with a large wound on its back, walking on the canal bank. The animal had been brought to the back of the Town Hall, and was now examined by the magistrates, who left the court for that purpose. On their return they expressed their opinion that it was disgraceful both to master and man that a horse should have been allowed to work in such a condition. Defendant was sent to prison for one month, and the magistrates would take other steps with the owner.

**29 December 9 1870 Glamorganshire Winter Assizes**

THE MURDER OF A BOATMAN IN CARDIFF **George Harding**, a boatman aged 25, stood charged with the wilful murder of **Edward Daley**, also a boatman, at Cardiff on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October last.

Mr Coleridge and Mr Dunn, instructed by Mr Ensor, appeared for the prosecution and, at the request of his Lordship, Mr Allen defended the prisoner.

Mr Coleridge opened the case at some length, and detailed the facts of the case as they have already appeared in the *Western Mail*.

The story of the murder was briefly this :- The prisoner and the deceased had met at the Custom House Hotel at the corner of Whitmore Lane on the night of the day named. At about ten o'clock a woman named **Margaret Rimron** came in and had something to drink with the prisoner. Deceased, who was sleeping on a bench, woke up and all three left the house and proceeded over the Custom House bridge down the canal bank. There was some conversation, and an altercation ensued between the two men as to which of them was the "better man". The woman and the prisoner then got into a boat lying at the quay side. The prisoner dared the deceased to come on board at his peril, upon which the deceased did jump into the boat. A struggle here took place, and while the deceased was resting on the side of the boat after a cessation of their struggle for one or two minutes, the prisoner rushed at him and threw him over into the water, and he was drowned.

In opening the case, Mr Coleridge called the attention of the jury to the fact that no doubt there had been, from the very first phase of the case to the last, bad blood between the prisoner and the deceased, and that this, he considered, had arisen from the deceased having paid some attention to the woman, who previously had been in the company of the prisoner. Mr Coleridge also remarked that the expressions made use of by the prisoner when the deceased was in the water, to the effect, "He's gone, and I am sure I'll have you now", showed the prisoner knew the deceased was drowned; and it would appear to have been his intention, from the very commencement of the affair, to kill the deceased, inasmuch as when the deceased attempted to get into the boat the prisoner threatened him if he did so he would lose his life.

The woman Rimron, in her evidence, stated that after the drowning of the deceased by the prisoner, she left the scene of the murder, and in about half an hour after the occurrence met the prisoner, and they went together, and had some drink. They then walked to another house, and on the way the prisoner said to her, "Do you intend to say anything about Daley? Because if you do, I would rather kill you, and be hanged for you both". She afterwards spent the night with the prisoner. Next day she left for Treforest, and returned to Cardiff in the custody of a constable. She was lodged in the police station, in a cell adjoining that where the prisoner was; and during the evening of the day she was there, he called out, "For God's sake don't say anything about Daley!" She had been previously threatened by him that if she told anything he would kill her; and this, coupled with the disposition (she having been in prison twice before) on her part not to be dragged into the matter at all, induced her to give two different versions of how the deceased man met with his death. What

she now stated, to the effect that the deceased was thrown into the water by prisoner, was true. Police-sergeant Hornblow said that when the prisoner was apprehended and charged with the murder of Edward Daley he said, "The last time I saw him was on Saturday night, and he passed over the Custom House bridge, and went down by the side of the canal". He afterwards told witness the direction in which, if he grappled, he would find the body.

Other witnesses were called, amongst whom was Mrs Mary Isabel Kenway, who corroborated in many material points the evidence which the witness Rimron had given.

Mr Allen, in an able speech, addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner, asking them whether there was not, when they took into consideration all the circumstances attending the case, and the character of the witness Rimron, upon whose evidence, to a great extent, rested the charge of murder against the prisoner, sufficient doubt to justify them in acquitting him, not only of murder or manslaughter, but entirely.

His lordship, in summing up, dwelt for some time upon the circumstances under which the witness Rimron appeared before the court. In view of the fact that she was a prostitute, though a married woman; had been twice before in prison; was in drink on the night of the murder; and then, after the deed had been committed, had spent the night with the man who had caused the death of the other – he said, in view of these facts, she was a witness whose evidence ought to be taken with some amount of caution. But, unsatisfactory witness that she was, there she appeared before the court, and it was for them to say how far they could credit her evidence with such corroboration as the case presented. His lordship then commented upon the manner in which the evidence of the woman Rimron was borne out by Mrs Kenway. With regard to the throwing of the deceased into the water, spoken to so plainly by Rimron, there was no corroborative evidence. Touching upon the conduct of the prisoner after the occurrence, his lordship asked the jury how, if the prisoner was blameless in this matter, could they account for the fact that he did nothing at all to get the man out of the water, never raised any alarm, or went near to the brother of the unfortunate deceased to tell him of the disaster. What they would have to consider was whether the man was thrown into the water while the blood of the prisoner was heated through the subsequent quarrel, or whether it arose out of the evil and malicious nature of the prisoner himself. They ought, however, to be very reluctant to attribute it to the latter cause, but rather to that anger and heat of blood which the law said should take away from the crime of killing a fellow man the gravity of murder, and reduce the offence to one of manslaughter. In conclusion, what they would have to consider was : did the prisoner cause the man's death by drowning? If they were not satisfied that he did, then they would say he was not guilty. If they were satisfied that he did, then the question arose was it murder or manslaughter? If he did not intentionally throw him into the water, then the crime would be manslaughter. If he did do it intentionally, then whether it was murder or manslaughter would depend upon whether they considered the prisoner had committed the offence out of heated blood or that evil and malicious disposition to which he had referred.

The jury retired to consider their verdict. After about half an hour's absence, they returned into court.

The Foreman: We find the prisoner guilty of manslaughter.

In answer to the question of the court whether he had anything to say why judgement should not be passed upon him according to law,

The prisoner said: I am very sorry for what is done.

The Judge: Yes, I should think so; I should think so, indeed, and I hope you will continue sorry for the rest of your life. I must say to you what I said to a prisoner in another case yesterday, that the jury have, in returning a verdict of manslaughter, found a right verdict; that if they had found you guilty of murder, I should not have said it was a wrong one. There is no doubt you threw this wretched man into the water. If you had done it in a moment of anger, and then made some effort to save him from drowning, though you had not succeeded, your punishment would have been a light one. Whether you did or did not make an effort to save him, or whether you did not accelerate his death, is a thing known only to your own conscience, but you did not pull him out, you did not give any alarm, and in my opinion, you did what is clearly equivalent to killing him. I shall sentence you

to twenty years penal servitude.

**30 February 23 1871**

**Glamorgan Epiphany Quarter Sessions**

FELONY AT CARDIFF **Thomas Gorney**, 22, a boatman, who could read, was charged with stealing £8 5s, the property of one William Mitchell, at Cardiff, on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

The prosecutor was a poor man, resided in a lodge on the canal bank, and his door had been broken open and the money stolen. He could not say who it was, but the prisoner had been seen loitering about the place for a long time previously, and, on his being taken into custody on suspicion, money to the amount in question was found upon him, concealed in his boots.

There were four previous convictions against him, and he was sentenced to seven years penal servitude.

**31 March 13 1871**

**Glamorgan Spring Assizes**

RAPE AT CARDIFF **William Edwards**, a boatman, was charged with committing this offence on Margaret Davies, at Cardiff, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March.

Mr B F Williams appeared for the prosecutrix. The prisoner was undefended.

The prosecutrix said that on the night in question she was coming along by the canal side, having just been to bid a sailor goodbye. She heard a splash in the water, and was almost immediately seized by the prisoner, who had only a coat on. She got away from him, and ran to some timber, when she was followed by him, and a struggle took place, she screaming and resisting all the while. He swore if she did not yield he would kill her. He struck and kicked her brutally, and eventually dragged her into the cabin of his boat, where his object was effected.

Police-constable Camden said he heard screams at the spot indicated. He went, and found they proceeded from the cabin of the prisoner's boat. He broke open the door, and found the woman lying on the bed with her face covered with blood. She accused the prisoner of having assaulted her.

Another officer confirmed the evidence of the previous witness; and a watchman, named Thomas Jones also gave confirmatory evidence, which concluded the case for the prosecution.

The prisoner, in defence, called a witness named Parker, who stated that the woman went to the barge with him, and the prisoner came there afterwards.

The Jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to seven years penal servitude.

**32 May 31 1871**

**Cardiff**

ROBBERY BY A LODGER **Thomas Evans**, boatman, was charged with stealing the sum of £1 10s in gold from the person of one **Ebenezer Burgess**, another boatman, on the night of Monday. Prosecutor and prisoner lodged in the same house, No 15 West Bute Street, and the former, after having been to Llandaff fair, and there getting considerably intoxicated, returned to his lodgings.

He retired to rest. Some time afterwards the prisoner came home and, sleeping in the same apartment as the prosecutor, went to his room, rifled the trousers pockets of the prosecutor, and made off downstairs. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and said he was the worse for drink, and did not, in thus making free with the prosecutor's money, intend to steal it, but only to borrow it, as he intended to pay it back again. There was a previous conviction, and the prisoner was committed for trial.

**33 June 9 1871**

**Cardiff**

ALLEGED ROBBERY BY A BOATMAN At the police court on Thursday (before Messrs C W David, mayor, and W D Bushell), **John Phillips**, a boatman, was charged with illegally pawning a guernsey and several other articles, the property of **William Rimron**, also a boatman. The prosecutor alleged that on Wednesday last he left his clothes in a canal boat and went out drinking with the defendant, and got drunk. On his return to the boat he missed his clothes, and found that the defendant had pawned them. The defendant, in defence, said that while in company with the prosecutor, he was authorised by him to pawn them, together with some of his clothes. The Magistrates were of the opinion that the evidence of the prosecutor was not reliable, as he had

acknowledged being drunk, and therefore dismissed the case.

**34 June 19 1871**

**CARDIFF DIVORCE CASE** In the Divorce Court on Saturday, the cause of Capel v Capel and May was heard.

The petitioner, a boatman at Cardiff, said he was married in that town. His wife left him without assigning any cause.

Henry Underwood, father of the respondent, said the petitioner treated his wife well. He knew she was living with a Mr May in Bristol, and had children by him.

Lord Penzance granted a decree nisi for a dissolution of marriage.

**35 June 29 1871**

**Midsummer Quarter Sessions**

**GLAMORGAN Thomas Evans** (many times previously convicted), 30, a boatman of no education, was charged with stealing £1 10s, the money of **Ebenezer Burgess** at Cardiff, May 30<sup>th</sup>, and was sentenced to seven years penal servitude.

**36 July 9 1871**

**Pontypridd**

A charge against a boatman named **Daniel Donovan** of attempting to drown **Henry Greenway**, another boatman, was investigated before the Pontypridd magistrates yesterday. The prisoner, without any apparent provocation, threw Greenway into the canal, and was holding him down in the water, when two men came up and rescued the victim. The prisoner was committed to the Assizes.

**37 July 24 1871**

**Glamorgan Summer Assizes**

**THE ATTEMPTED MURDER AT PONTYPRIDD Daniel Donovan**, 18, a boatman, of no education, was indicted for having attempted to drown, with intent to murder, one **Henry Greenaway**, at Eglwysilan, July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr G Williams prosecuted; the prisoner was undefended.

The evidence, which was in the main tendered by boatmen who knew the prisoner, was a repetition of that which was given before the magistrates at Pontypridd.

The foreman of the jury said they were all agreed except one of their number, but he was a stubborn man [Laughter].

The Judge: And probably this one man thinks the other eleven are stubborn men [Renewed laughter].

The jury then retired to consider their verdict, and in about a quarter of an hour returned into court with a verdict that they found prisoner guilty of the minor count of intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The Judge, in passing sentence, said :- Daniel Donovan, you were indicted upon the most serious charge of attempting to murder by drowning. The jury have taken a merciful view of your case, and have acquitted you of that charge. They probably thought of your state, being in drink when you did the act; but that really is no excuse; you had sense enough to know what you were about. If your victim had died, probably you would have had to suffer the extreme penalty of the law. You are sentenced to twelve months hard labour.

**38 August 21 1871**

**Merthyr**

**STEALING THE HOME SECRETARY'S TURNIPS** At the police court on Saturday (before Mr J C Fowler), **John Williams**, a boatman, was charged with stealing turnips, the property of Mr Bruce, MP. John Stone, son of Mr Bruce's gardener, said he saw Williams going through the hedge into the field, and shortly afterwards he came out with about a dozen turnips behind his back. He afterwards jumped into his boat. Stone called out to him, and asked him where he was going with the turnips. He replied, "If you come here I will throw you into the canal". Stone subsequently communicated with his father, who gave evidence to the police. Police-constable 125 proved the apprehension of the prisoner, who denied the charge, and said that he only picked up a turnip top to beat his horse

with. Mr Morgan, agent to Mr Bruce, estimated the value of the turnips at 1 1/2d. He was ordered to pay 1 1/2d compensation, 5s fine and costs, or one weeks imprisonment in default.

**39 September 25 1871 Pembroke Dock**

INQUEST An inquest was held at the Old Lion Inn, King Street, on Friday afternoon, before Mr W V James, coroner, touching the death of **Joshua Huzzey**, a boatman aged 75 years, whose death occurred suddenly on the preceding day, in his boat, as we reported at the time. A verdict of "Death from natural causes" was returned.

**40 October 9 1871 Merthyr**

ROBBERY OF OATS James Yard and **John Thomas** were charged with stealing 25lbs of oats, the property of Mr R T Crawshay. Mr D R Lewis prosecuted; Mr Plews defended the prisoner Yard who, it was stated, was employed at prosecutor's stables, whilst Thomas was a boatman in the same employ. On the day of the robbery, the latter prisoner went to the storekeeper at Cyfartha Granary, and presented an order for two bushels of oats. The storekeeper (Watkins) asked prisoner Yard to measure out the oats. This he willingly did, and left for the granary. He and Thomas were seen to leave the granary about twenty minutes afterwards, when they were met by an agent named Jones, who entertained a suspicion that there were more oats in the bags than the prisoner Thomas had an order for. He, however, allowed them to carry the bags to a boat, a policeman being subsequently communicated with, who measured the oats, when it was found that there was an excess to the amount of 25lbs. Thomas was at once arrested, and admitted having a larger quantity of oats than the necessary order allowed. During the cross-examination Mr Plews elicited that by shaking the bushel measure, and not being exacting, the 25bs might easily have accumulated, but neither of the witnesses had tried such an experiment. Mr Fowler, having heard the evidence, adjourned the case until this day, in order that the experiment might be made, observing that the evidence was clear as against Thomas, for he must have been perfectly cognisant of receiving too many oats.

**41 October 19 1871 Glamorganshire Michaelmas Sessions**

STEALING AT LLANGUICKE **James Parkhill**, boatman, aged 23, was charged with stealing two sovereigns, a coat and a hat, the property of Daniel Davies, in whose service he was at the time, at Llanguicke, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September.

Mr B F Williams prosecuted.

The prosecutor deposed to the loss, and identified the property produced as that which he lost.

Police-constable Giddins proved apprehending the prisoner at the Ystalyfera railway station, with the coat and hat in his possession, and £1 15s.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to four months imprisonment with hard labour.

**42 December 26 1871 Swansea**

SINGULAR ACCIDENT On Saturday an inquest was held at the Commercial Hotel, Plas Marl, to enquire into the circumstances surrounding the death of **David Williams**, a boatman in the employ of Messrs Vivian and Sons, 60 years of age, who, in passing another boat on the Swansea Canal, got thrown into the water by the tow rope coming in contact with him, and from the injuries received by which he subsequently died. Elizabeth Williams, wife of the deceased; **John Griffiths**, boatman, Morryston, and Henry Davies, surgeon. Morryston, gave evidence, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

**43 February 13 1873 Treherbert**

ALLEGED MEAT ROBBERY **Morgan Lewis**, boatman, and well known to the police, was charged by Sarah Lewis, butcher, Trallwn, Pontypridd, with stealing from her shop 6lbs of meat. Complainant said that on Saturday last prisoner, accompanied by his uncle, came into the shop for meat. (Parenthetically : "She didn't like to see him coming in at all!") The uncle asked the price of

some meat that was hanging, and prisoner was moving about the shop. At this moment sixpence was dropped by another customer, and the candle was taken to look for it. The uncle was supplied with meat and both left; but noticed that the prisoner had meat hanging by his side from under his jacket. In a moment afterwards she found that a piece of veal, weighing 6lbs, had been stolen from a table. She told her son, who gave chase, but did not succeed in apprehending the prisoner. Information was then given to the police. The prisoner stoutly denied the charge. Sergeant Rees apprehended the prisoner in a boat on Coed Penmaen, to whom he denied having taken the meat, nor had he been in the shop at all that night. The prisoner was committed for trial.

**44 February 20 1873**

**Adjourned Epiphany Quarter Sessions**

**BILL IGNORED Morgan Lewis, alias Morgan James Lewis**, a boatman, of imperfect education, charged with stealing six pounds weight of veal, of the value of 5s 6d, the property of one Edward Lewis, at Eglwysilan, on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant.

**45 February 21 1873**

**Pontypridd**

**ALLEGED ROBBERY OF MONEY Charles Morris**, boatman, was committed for trial for an alleged robbery of £3 12s from **James Harris**, another boatman.

**46 May 17 1873**

**Cardiff**

**ASSAULT David Edwards**, a boatman, was ordered to pay 10s and costs for striking an elderly man, named George Hill, in the face, in Mr Grant's timber yard, on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. The defendant, it seems, had offered the prosecutor 10s not to bring the case into court. Mr Ensor appeared for the defence.

**47 June 11 1873**

**ATTEMPTING TO DROWN A WOMAN AT CARDIFF** At the Cardiff police court yesterday, before the Mayor (Mr Bowen), Mr G Bird and Mr E S Hill, **John Phillips**, a boatman, was brought up, charged with attempting to drown a married woman, named Mary Kane, by throwing her into the canal on Monday evening. The complainant, who appeared to be a very eccentric person, said that she was the wife of Tim Kane, and lived at No 8 Canal Bank. On Monday evening she had been singing on board the boat *Pembroke*. Coming home, and near her house, she met the prisoner, who asked her to take a glass of beer. She refused and said he was not of the right colour and she had a better man than he was. The songs she had been singing on the *Pembroke* were in Irish. She liked the boat very much, as it had taken her son across to New York. When she refused to take the beer, the prisoner caught hold of her throat, and threw her into the canal on the flat of her back. She could swim, and she struck out to the side, where she was assisted out. Police-constable Dix said he saw the prisoner and the prosecutrix talking together on the side of the canal near the Hayes Bridge. They were having words about something, and they appeared to be intoxicated. The prisoner walked away towards Millicent Street, and the woman said something to him, which made him turn back. He then caught hold of her by the hair of her head and by the skirt of her dress, and pitched her into the centre of the canal. The woman appeared to swim, and managed to get to the side. The water was only about four feet deep. A man and a woman rescued the prosecutrix. The prisoner, in defence, said that the woman was as drunk as himself. While she was trying to get away from him she backed into the water. He did not push her. The magistrates thought it a very serious offence, and sentenced him to four months imprisonment with hard labour.

**48 July 4 1873**

**Glamorganshire Midsummer Quarter Sessions**

**CHARGE OF STEALING IRON AT CARDIFF Richard Jones**, 34, a boatman, whose education was described as imperfect, was charged with stealing a bar of iron, the property of the Aberdare Iron Company, at Cardiff, on the 17<sup>th</sup> June.

The prisoner pleaded guilty, and also admitted a former conviction in June 1871.

The court sentenced him to 18 calendar months imprisonment with hard labour, the last week of

every other month to be spent in solitary confinement.

**49 August 18 1873**

**Newport**

**ATTEMPTING TO DROWN A BOY** **George Ashford**, a boatman in the employ of Mr Roberts of the Cefn, was charged with attempting to drown Albert Cox, a boy, by throwing him into the Monmouthshire Canal on Monday last. The evidence showed that the prisoner, when passing a number of little boys, caught hold of the complainant, and threw him deliberately into the canal, and it was with difficulty that he could be extricated. The bench did not conceive that defendant intended to drown the boy, and probably he received some aggravation. He was fined 10s and costs, or 14 days hard labour.

**50 August 20 1873**

**Cardiff**

**ASSAULTING THE POLICE** At the police court yesterday (before the Mayor and Mr D Bushell), **Albert Randall**, a boatman, was charged with assaulting Police-constable James Smith, and also with causing an obstruction, on Monday afternoon. The defendant, it appeared, was ill-treating his wife, and this caused a crowd to assemble. At the request of Sergeant Wallbridge, witness attempted to get Randall into his house, and in the course of the struggle, the defendant struck him in the stomach. The magistrates cautioned the accused, and discharged him.

**51 March 10 1874**

**Glamorganshire Spring Assizes**

**CHARGE TO THE GRAND JURY** The next case to which he (the Judge) would draw attention was an attempt to murder by drowning, **Thomas Orndale**, a boatman, was charged with an attempt to murder **Ann Rees** by drowning. Ann Rees had been living with the prisoner as his mistress – a sort of wife in fact. They had been in the habit of going about in a canal boat together, and in this, as in the other cases, drink appeared to have something to do with it. At the time this offence was committed they were both drunk, and it seemed had had words of an unfriendly nature. Prisoner, it would appear, had often said he would do for her, and he would murder her, and according to the evidence of witnesses he pitched her over the side of the canal boat into the canal, and there she remained for a considerable time, having hold of the tiller of the boat. Ultimately she was helped out. Now the woman in this case, as often in many others, endeavoured to shield the man she had lived with and, differing widely with the version given hitherto of the case, now said she did not know whether she fell in or not. And she also said, now, that she believed the prisoner tried to pull her up. They would look at the fact that the woman gave prisoner into custody on the offence of which he was charged and, upon looking at the evidence, it would be found, he thought, pretty clear that he threw her into the canal, and so far from helping to get her out, he refused to do so. His lordship here recited portions of the evidence in proof of prisoner's conduct at the time, adding that they would perhaps discover, when the woman came before them, that she was desirous of shielding the prisoner; but they would hear the evidence, and then decide whether the prisoner threw her in, or whether it was an accident. And then, if he did throw her in, was it an attempt to murder her, or frighten her? *Prima facie*, a man must take the consequence of his own act, and was this woman's position in the canal one from which death would ensue, had she not been rescued? They would have to consider the surrounding circumstances – such as the depth of the canal, and how far there was a chance of getting the woman out. If, however, it was in their opinion an act with intent to hurt her, then a true bill could be found, and the matter discussed in court.

**52 March 14 1874**

**Glamorganshire Spring Assizes**

**THE ATTEMPTED MURDER AT PONTYPRIDD** **Thomas Orndale**, 42, boatman, was indicted for feloniously attempting to drown **Ann Rees**, with intent to murder her, at Pontypridd, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January.

Mr B T Williams prosecuted.

The prisoner and the prosecutrix have been living together as man and wife for some years. The prisoner is a canal boatman, and the woman was in the habit of going with him in his barge. On the

night in question, about seven or eight o'clock, they were on board together near the chain works at Pontypridd and, having been drinking together previously, they quarrelled. The woman was seen to attempt to strike the prisoner with a stick, when he seized the stick and threw it into the water, afterwards taking hold of the prosecutrix, and throwing her overboard, at the same time saying, "You ----- I have threatened to do for you many times, and I will do for you now". The woman struggled about in the water and attempted to seize hold of the tiller of the boat, but the prisoner moved it, and in reply to her appeal for help repeated that he would do for her now. Two young women then came up, and while they were endeavouring to rescue the woman the Rev T D Griffiths, who was walking on the bank at the time, came up, and with his assistance succeeded in getting her out of the water, not, however, before she was in a most exhausted condition. The woman then gave information to the police, and charged the prisoner with attempting to murder her, but she now sought to screen him. Mr Williams called her, but asked her no questions. In answer to the prisoner, she said he had always been very kind to her, and that she fell into the water. The jury, after a lengthy deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty, but recommended the prisoner to mercy, believing that there was great provocation.

His Lordship, in sentencing the prisoner, said he had been convicted on very clear evidence of the offence of attempting to murder the woman with whom he had been living for 17 or 18 years as his wife. She had endeavoured to shield him, and sought to lead the jury to believe it was the result of an accident. The jury had most properly refused to entertain prisoner's version of the transaction. Looking at the language he used, and the circumstances of the case, he considered prisoner was actuated by a desire to avenge himself of the petty act of a wife in striking him. He endeavoured to take that woman's life, and it was only by God's providence that prisoner was not now standing to receive such a sentence as might have affected his own life. His lordship sentenced prisoner to ten years penal servitude.

### 53 April 13 1874

### Caerphilly

**DAMAGING THE CANAL** At the monthly petty session, on Tuesday (before Messrs Williams, Davies and Williams), **George Chaplin**, a boatman, was charged with having on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, while in charge of a boat using the Glamorganshire Canal between Cardiff and Pontypridd, thrown a quantity of limestone therein. Mr J S Corbett appeared for the Canal Company, and stated that it was a common occurrence among the men in charge of the boats to throw out large quantities of their contents in order to relieve them. This was frequently done with limestone, iron ore and pitwood, and thus, while a loss was entailed on those to whom the goods belonged, the Canal Company were put to a great deal of expense for effecting the necessary clearance. Defendant had committed the same offence again on the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant, and another summons had been taken out against him. Police-constable Dix, in the employ of the Canal Company, having given evidence, the Bench cautioned the prisoner, and fined him the mitigated penalty of 40s and costs, or in default one months imprisonment.

### 54 July 1 1874

### Glamorganshire Quarter Sessions

**ALLEGED THEFT AT CARDIFF** **James Jenkins**, boatman, was charged with stealing a cask of butter, the property of Messrs Burton and Sons, from their warehouse on the canal bank, on Monday last.

Mr Dillwyn prosecuted; the prisoner was defended by Mr Dunn.

The evidence led the jury to return a verdict of not guilty.

The prisoner was then acquitted.

### 55 October 31 1874

### Cardiff

**ILL TREATMENT OF A HORSE** **John Robertson**, a boatman, was charged with cruelly treating a horse by working the animal whilst in an unfit state. Several witnesses deposed to having seen the animal at work whilst suffering from sores on the back and in the feet. It had apparently been very much neglected, and the sores were such as would cause a great amount of pain. The defendant

stated that he was not working the horse himself when it was seen by the police, and that the animal had been taken away and yoked to a boat without his knowledge. This statement being corroborated by a witness, the case was adjourned in order that it might be ascertained who really was working the horse. Defendant was admitted to bail.

## 56 November 4 1874

**THE ROBBERY FROM CWMBACH CO-OPERATIVE STORES** At the Aberdare police court, yesterday (before Messrs A de Rutzen, R H Rhys, R Fothergill jun, and D E Williams), **John Daley**, of Cardiff, boatman, and **Rees Griffiths**, of Swansea, boatman, were charged with feloniously breaking and entering a storehouse at Cwmbach, and stealing therefrom four sacks of flour and twelve casks of butter, together of the value of £75, the property of the Co-operative Store Company, at the parish of Aberdare, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1874. **Moses Jenkins** and **James Jenkins** of Pontypridd, boatmen, and William Davies were charged with receiving it, knowing the same to have been stolen.

Mr Frank James again prosecuted; Mr Price of Pontypridd defended Wm Davies, and the remaining prisoners were defended by Mr Simons.

Mr Frank James foreshadowed the nature of the evidence he intended to adduce. He intended charging Daley and Griffiths with actually committing the robbery; Moses Jenkins and James Jenkins with receiving the property, knowing it to have been stolen; as also William Davies, a publican near Pontypridd, with also receiving a portion of the goods knowing it to have been stolen. There were also two other persons named Thomas taken into custody by the police, but he was bound to say, after the evidence against these persons submitted by the police, there was no fair ground for preferring a charge against them. Therefore they were discharged.

Thomas Lewis, under manager at the Cwmbach stores, re-called, said neither of the Jenkins had purchased any butter during the last three months. (This was elicited to contradict prisoner's assertion as to having purchased the butter found in their possession from the Cwmbach stores). On the casks of butter were cards, identical to the one produced, addressed "J Rees and Company, Co-operative Stores, Cwmbach. From Kenway and Rees, Bute Dock, Cardiff".

By Mr Simons: Would swear James Jenkins, the son, had not purchased flour. Mr Price, of the canal-head, did not supply flour for the company. Had only seen ten tubs of flour from Kenway and Rees, and none before this supply.

William White, recalled, said he knew both the Jenkins, Daley and Griffiths. Saw the two last-named in charge of a boat on the Friday previous to the robbery. They brought 30 sacks of flour and two sacks of onions about 2.30 p m. They left the warehouse and went towards the canal head. Was positive Daley and Griffiths were in charge of the boat.

Police-sergeant Martin, recalled, said: The butter in the canal was found below the boat. Upon first passing the boat nothing could be seen of any tubs, but on returning he found fresh traces on the boat, as though some persons had been there. Moses Jenkins house was about 100 yards from the boat.

By Mr Simons: When I first spoke to Moses Jenkins about the boat, he pointed it out to me, and I knew nothing about the boat previously. I was absent with Moses after visiting the boat about quarter of an hour, so that any interference with the boat happened whilst Moses was with me. The son was not with us. The dust was on the butter when found, as in the condition produced a week since.

David Price said: I am a manager of the Aberdare Boat Company, and have a warehouse at the canal head. The Cwmbach Co-operative Company have a warehouse also. Our company own boats numbered 92 and 267. Jenkins contracts to bring goods from Cardiff in our boats at 2s per ton. On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, goods were brought in boat 192, for the stores at Cwmbach. Jenkins's men brought the goods. I saw Daley and Griffiths in charge. They discharged the boat on that day, and finished at 5.30 p m.

By Mr Simons: I keep money back from these men for goods had at the stores. I know nothing of a sack of flour. I kept back £1 on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, according to the voucher produced.

By Mr James: I cannot explain what this £1 was for. It was allowed to Moses Jenkins, but I do not remember that it was allowed to the Co-operative Company as compensation for goods pilfered. Charles West said: I am in the employ of Spiller and Brown. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October I delivered 30 sacks of flour to Daley, consigned to John Rees and Co, Cwmbach. Some of our sacks are marked "Spiller and Brown" and others "Spiller and Co."

By Mr Simons: There are many thousands of sacks under my control at Cardiff, and they are identical in appearance. We send the sacks to different parts in the hills.

By the Bench: The book produced only refers to goods given out by myself. I cannot read myself. I saw Daley write in the book. I know his signature, and saw him write the receipt produced.

Mr Daniel Llewelin, grocer, Pontypridd, said he knew the prisoners Moses and James Jenkins, who were in the habit of dealing in his shop. Never sold either of them such a quantity of butter as that produced at one time. The witness here cited from his day book the quantities sold to prisoners during the month of October.

By Mr Simons: James Jenkins's wife was in the habit of paying for things as she received them, as well as keeping the account.

Police-sergeant Cook corroborated Police-constable Martin as to picking up a card which had been affixed to the goods. Upon James Jenkins being apprised of the charge, he said, "All right, I know all about it". Two or three days ago he found Daley unloading a boat at Risca. Told him the charge upon which he said that he was not the man and knew nothing about it; that his name was Sullivan, and he had been there eight weeks. Witness then took him into custody, and subsequently went in search of Griffiths, who he found at a lodging house in Newport. Asked him his name, and he replied Thomas Davies. Witness took him to the station and told him the charge, and he said there was not so much butter as that; that there were only four casks; and it was Tommy who went into the store. He was conveyed next day to Pontypridd, where witness saw Wm Davies. Daley told witness in Davies's presence that they had carried a sack of flour into Davies's house. Davies said, "I did not speak to you did I?" to which Daley replied, "No, you were cleaning the harness when Rees Griffiths brought it in on his back". Davies said, "I did not see the flour. I did not know where it went, or what became of it. I saw Rees there. He asked me for a bit of tobacco, and I told him to take it from my waistcoat pocket, as my hands were wet". Davies told me on the Sunday morning previous that he had not seen Daley there at all – only on the bridge close by.

**Joseph Davies**, boatman, said he remembered seeing Daley and Griffiths coming from Moses Jenkins's house. They came to his boat, and asked his "butty" to allow him to put a sack of flour in his boat. They moved the sack from their boat into witness's so far as the Trallwyn loch. Rees went down before witness along the canal bank, and Daley along the road. At the lock Rees came to witness, and he gave him the sack. Rees took it away down the road, in the direction of William Davies's house. Witness saw John Daley carrying something on his back down the road. Last saw him passing Lock yr Heol. Next saw him coming from the direction of the White Horse, which was eleven or twelve yards from the Trelwyn Lock. Griffiths took the sacks in the direction of the back of the White Horse.

By Mr Price: Sergeant Rees fetched me on Sunday night, and has charged me with being implicated in this offence.

**Wm Thomas**, another boatman, deposed that on the 24<sup>th</sup> ult he saw Daley and Griffiths coming down the road leading from Moses Jenkins's house. This witness repeated what was said by the last witness as to depositing a sack of flour in the boat. Witness was also taken into custody on this charge, being suspected.

Sergeant Rees said on last Sunday week he called at the White Horse in company with Police-constable Cook, and saw Wm Davies, who conversed as to tobacco &c, as stated by Cook in his evidence. About eight o'clock, last Wednesday evening went again to Davies's house, in company with Supt Matthews, for the purpose of searching the premises. Upon asking Davies whether he had flour and butter there, he said, "No, you are welcome to search". In a back room upstairs the superintendent, upon searching a box, found it empty, but upon subsequently looking again, he found it to contain 11 1/2lbs of butter. The superintendent also found a drawer open, the key of

which could not be found. Upon the superintendent asking why they attempted to conceal the butter, Davies made no reply. Afterwards found a quantity of butter in the cellar downstairs. Davies had previously denied having any butter in his house. Upon searching the brewhouse, found an empty flour sack between the washtub and the wall. Davies said, "I had that sack from William Lewis with barley meal in it". Examined the sack, and found it had contained flour, and the sack was marked "Spiller and Brown". Arrested him on Saturday, and charged him with having received these goods knowing them to have been stolen, and he said, "I am free from that". The butter upstairs was found in a box amongst the linen.

By Mr Price: Upon going to Davies's house, he said, "You are quite welcome to search". Upon discovery of the butter, Davies remarked, "I did not know I had any butter". Had made enquiry as to the sack, and Mr Lewis, who is a flour merchant, said he had sent barley meal to Davies's house. I will not be sure Mr Lewis said he had sent that barley meal in one of Spiller and Brown's flour sacks.

Mr John Rees, principal manager of the Co-operative Stores, proved that the £1 spoken to in the earlier part of the examination was in consequence of goods lost in transit.

By Mr Simons: Would swear Moses Jenkins had had no flour during last summer from the stores, but James Jenkins had half a sack.

Police-sergeant Rees, recalled, said in answer to Mr Price, that the defendant Davies was contractor for the carriage of the mails, and consequently was a great deal from home.

Mr Simons contended that there was no evidence against the Jenkins; and Mr Price suggested that the evidence against Davies was of the most intangible kind, but his Worship remarked that he had listened very attentively to the evidence, and there appeared to be sufficient evidence against all the accused to justify their committal for trial at the next quarter sessions.

Bail was accepted in the case of Davies and the two Jenkinses.

## 57 November 12 1874

### Mountain Ash

**CHARGE OF STEALING SLEEPERS** At the Merthyr police court, on Wednesday (before Mr A de Rutzen and Mr L Williams), a young boatman named **Charles Blake**, was charged with stealing a quantity of timber belonging to Messrs Nixon, Taylor and Cory, of Mountain Ash. Mr Simons appeared for the prosecution, and Mr Beddoe for the defence. It appeared that three boat loads of "sleepers" arrived from Cardiff by canal on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> ult, and were received by William Gwynne, traffic manager of the company. On the 27<sup>th</sup> seven of the sleepers were missed, and on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant three more disappeared. In consequence the police were communicated with, and the accused having been seen cutting off and shortening a sleeper for the use of his boat, he was apprehended at Pontypridd, when returning from Cardiff. In answer to the charge, he said, "I took it out of the Bute dock a week ago; my brother was present, and helped me to get it out".

Subsequently, while in custody, the accused met his brother at the Pontypridd railway station, and a conversation took place between them in the course of which the brother repudiated the statement that he assisted him to get the timber out of the dock. Mr Gwynne said in cross-examination that he would not swear that the portion of the sleeper (produced) belonged to Messrs Nixon, although it was very much like it. Mr Simons, who stated that he had further evidence to offer, applied for an adjournment of the case for a week. This was opposed by Mr Beddoe, who argued that the prosecution had failed to prove to whom the timber belonged, whereupon Mr Simons retorted that the accused could be indicted for stealing timber from persons unknown. Eventually the bench acceded to an adjournment, and the accused was liberated on bail in his own recognizance of £10.

## 58 November 19 1874

### Cardiff

**A BOATMAN DROWNED** On Wednesday afternoon a boatman, named **Edward Rimron**, about 35 years of age, was drowned in the Glamorgan canal. The deceased, who was in a boat with some boatmen, was suddenly missed, and search being made, he was found in the water, quite dead.

**59 November 20 1874 Cardiff**

ACCIDENTALLY DROWNED On Thursday Mr E B Reece held an inquest at the Town Hall on the body of **Edward Rimron**, a boatman, who was drowned on Wednesday in the Glamorgan canal. From the evidence adduced at the inquest it appeared that the deceased was on board a boat, steering, and a companion was leading the horse on the tow path. Suddenly Rimron was missed, and his companion, assisted by another man from a vessel lying in the canal, obtained a boat hook and in about five minutes after Rimron was missed his body was brought to the surface. The instructions of the Royal Humane Society for the restoration of persons apparently drowned were at once carried out, but life was found to be extinct. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned".

**60 March 15 1875 Cardiff**

WIFE DESERTION **William Rees**, a boatman, was charged by Mr Miller, officer of the board of guardians, with neglecting to maintain a wife. The woman had been chargeable to the union since February. The prisoner was sent to gaol for one month with hard labour.

**61 May 24 1875 Pembroke**

**John Warlow**, boatman, Pembroke Dock, was charged with being drunk and fighting at Front Street, Pembroke Dock, on the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. He admitted the offence, and was fined 10s and costs 7s 6d. There was also another charge against defendant for wilfully damaging the windows &c of the Milford Arms public house, near where the "scrimmage" took place, but this was withdrawn by permission of the bench, as defendant had paid for the damage.

**62 December 14 1876 Pontypridd**

ROBBERY ON THE CANAL **Edward Drochaw**, boatman, was charged with stealing two sacks of oats, the property of Thomas Ashton, Coedpenmaen, from a boat on the Glamorganshire Canal. Prisoner was committed for trial.

**63 January 3 1877 Glamorganshire Epiphany Quarter Sessions**

STEALING OATS AT LLANDAFF **Edward Drochaw**, a boatman, for stealing a sack of 378lbs of oats, the property of Thomas Ashton of Llandaff, on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 1876, was committed to gaol for eight months with hard labour.

CONVICTIONS **William Williams**, a boatman, was found guilty of stealing a coat from the shop of Mr W B Tope, outfitter, Bute Street, Cardiff, and sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labour.

**64 June 15 1877 Swansea**

BRUTAL TREATMENT OF A CHILD **Robert Owen**, a boatman, was charged on Thursday with assaulting Mary Ann Evans, aged two years and seven months. The prisoner cohabits with a woman, and the little girl Evans is her daughter. On Monday the prisoner took a belt from his waist and struck the little girl several times on the bare back with it. The back of the child was fearfully discoloured, and its forehead bruised. The Stipendiary stated that the prisoner had treated the child in a most brutal manner. Had he been the father he would have had no right to treat the child in the manner he did. It was a mercy that it was not killed. He was not aware that he had ever to adjudicate on so cruel a case of child beating as that. Prisoner was sent to gaol for six months with hard labour.

**65 July 5 1877**

STEALING AT BASSALEG **William Jones**, 54, boatman, charged with stealing a tarpaulin from the Tydee Station of the Monmouthshire Railway and Canal Company, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March last, was acquitted.

**66 August 30 1877**

ALLEGED ROBBERY OF SUGAR ON THE GLAMORGANSHIRE CANAL On Wednesday, at the Pontypridd police court (before Mr Ebenezer Lewis, Mr Jackson and Dr Leigh) **William Hughes** and **William Thomas**, boatmen, living at Rhydfelen; Amerston Thomas and Rachel Parfitt of the same place, were charged with stealing a quantity of sugar, the property of Messrs John Griffiths and Son, Pontypridd. **Mrs Jane Davies** said she kept boats on the Glamorganshire Canal, and she had charge of two casks containing sugar, consigned to Messrs John Griffiths and Son. William Hughes and William Thomas were the boatmen in charge of the boat containing those casks from which the sugar weighing 120lbs was missed. Police-constable Watkins stated that on the morning in question (the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst) he went to Amerston Thomas's house, and said he wanted to examine the place. He said, "All right. All that is here belongs to me". Witness then proceeded into a room, and on a bed found a bag containing 50lbs or 56lbs of sugar. He also found another bag under the bed containing sugar. Took Amerston into custody, and conveyed him to the lock up. Here he said that he had "bought the sugar of a man from Cardiff". Took also Rachel Parfitt into custody, and charged her with selling sugar to Mrs Brooks. The prisoner said, "It is a lie". Ellen Brooks now said that she bought of Rachel (the prisoner) 27lbs of sugar. She particularly asked where she had had it from, and the latter replied, "From a friend who is in trouble". Prisoner had 3 1/2d per lb for it. All the prisoners were remanded for a week.

**67 October 11 1877**

DISTRICT INTELLIGENCE On Wednesday, at the Pontypridd police court, **Wm Hughes**, boatman, was fined 10s and costs, for working a horse in an unfit state.

**68 October 20 1877**

**Glamorganshire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions**

LARCENY AT PONTYPRIDD **John Davies**, boatman, was indicted for stealing 2s 6d in money, a pair of boots, a knife, and a tobacco box, the property of Edward Jenkins, at Eglwysilan on August 5<sup>th</sup>. The prisoner was found guilty, and previous offences having been proved against him, the Court sentenced him to 10 years penal servitude, and to seven years police supervision.

**69 April 3 1878**

**Glamorganshire Quarter Sessions**

STEALING PLANKS AT ABERDARE **Edward Thomas**, 40, boatman, was indicted on a charge of stealing three deal planks, the property of the Metropolitan Railway Carriage and Waggon Company (Limited) at Aberdare, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and evidence was given that he had served seven years penal servitude for a previous offence. The court sent the prisoner to gaol for twelve months.

**70 April 4 1877**

**Glamorganshire Quarter Sessions**

ALLEGED THEFT OF CORN **Rees James**, 57, boatman, and **Rees James**, the younger, boatman, were indicted on a charge of stealing 313lbs weight of maize and 337lbs weight of barley, valued together at £2 10s 7d, the property of John Lewis, then being in a certain boat upon the Glamorganshire Canal, at Eglwysilan on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr Henry Allen appeared for the prosecution and the prisoners were defended – the elder by Mr B Francis Williams and the younger by Mr Bowen Rowlands. The prisoners, father and son, are boatmen on the Glamorganshire Canal, and conveyed a number of sacks of maize and barley from Messrs Spiller and Sons, Cardiff to a person at Merthyr. When the cargo arrived at Merthyr the sacks were weighed, and several sacks were about 10lbs short in weight. The prisoners lived near the canal, and a quantity of maize and barley was found in their house. It was argued for the defence that the evidence was not sufficiently complete to warrant a conviction, but the jury found the prisoners guilty, and they were sent, Rees James the elder, who had previously been in prison, to eight months, and Rees James the younger to six months incarceration.

**71 April 16 1878**

**BIGAMY AT GLOUCESTER** At the Gloucester Assizes on Monday, **William Williams**, a boatman, aged 36, was charged with bigamy at Gloucester. He was married at Gloucester in 1869, and had subsequently deserted his wife and three children. Last November he came to Gloucester, became acquainted with a widow named Wells, who has four children, went to live at her house, and having promised her marriage he slept with her until the banns could be published, and ultimately married her. He was found guilty, but recommended to mercy because of the conduct of the second wife. The Commissioner sentenced him to a months imprisonment.

**72 October 17 1878 Glamorganshire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions**

**STEALING AT CARDIFF** **Morgan Lewis**, boatman, was indicted on a charge of stealing two pairs of drawers, the property of one Benjamin Morris, at Cardiff on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 1878. The prisoner, who is also known by the name of Morgan James Lewis, was found guilty, and several previous convictions having been proved against him, he was sentenced to seven years penal servitude.

**73 December 24 1878**

**ANOTHER BURGLARY AT TREForest** Between the hours of six and eight o'clock on Sunday night the house of **David John**, boatman, Rhydfelen was broken into and £4 10s in gold, a valuable watch and chain, a bottle of wine, a pair of gold earrings, and some other articles stolen. The family were in chapel at the time, and the robber or robbers entered by prising open the front door with a chisel. A neighbour named Evan Jenkins has been taken into custody on suspicion.

**74 March 11 1879**

**AT MERTHYR POLICE COURT** **James Sullivan**, a boatman, for stealing coal belonging to Mr R T Crawshay, was sentenced to seven days hard labour.

**75 April 5 1879**

**AN UNSUPPORTED CHARGE** **John Jenkins**, a canal boatman, who was brought up on remand at the Cardiff police court, on Friday, on a charge of stealing a carriage rug, the property of Mr George Davies of Westbourne Place, was discharged on Friday, the evidence against him being unsupported as to identification.

**76 August 14 1879**

**THE SERIOUS ASSAULT AT COEDPENMAEN** At Pontypridd police court on Wednesday, **Jas Davies**, boatman was brought up in custody, charged with unlawfully wounding **Jas Gilbert**, an old man, on the afternoon of that day week. Ann Hearn deposed that that day week the prisoner entered Gilbert's house, and sat down. He asked if tea was ready. He used to have his meals there. She replied that it was not. He then asked where Gilbert was. Gilbert, who was in the garden, was then called in. When he entered prisoner asked him for his money – 14s 6d. Gilbert said there was not so much due to him, and told him to go out. He would not go, and struck Gilbert down with his fist. Gilbert got up again, and ordered him again to go out. Prisoner then struck him three times, but he did not fall. Witness then went out to fetch somebody, and when she returned she found Gilbert on the floor, bleeding. Prisoner also was there. She asked him what had he done to the old man. He replied that he had not done anything, and he asked the old man to get up, and he picked up a stick. Found that the blood came from three or four cuts on the old man's head. The old man was unable to attend there that day. Dr Hunter deposed that he saw Gilbert on the Wednesday night. His face was badly contused. There was a lacerated wound under his right eye two inches in length, in which it was necessary to place one stitch, and there was also a wound on the right side of the head, which exposed the bone. Besides these injuries he found contusions above both eyes, and a jagged cut on the left ear. Both hands were slightly contused. Had seen Gilbert that morning, and found he was unfit to leave his bed at present. The case was then adjourned to that day week. Dr Hunter

stated privately that Gilbert is progressing favourably.

**77 August 21 1879**

**THE BRUTAL ASSAULT UPON AN OLD MAN AT PONTYPRIDD** On Wednesday, at Pontypridd police court (before Mr Gwilym Williams), **James Gilbert**, 83 years of age, boatman, Coedpenmaen, charged **James Davies**, who was brought up in custody, with having unlawfully wounded him on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. The complainant had his nightcap on, and was accommodated with a chair when giving his evidence. He said that he lived in Coedpenmaen, and was the owner of one boat on the Glamorganshire Canal. The prisoner had been employed by him as a boatman. Paid him and his partner off on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> instant. He received 1s more than was due to him. He then wished him (complainant) and his wife goodbye, saying he was going to Swansea. In the afternoon of the same day, he (complainant) was called from the garden by his granddaughter and went in the house, where he saw the prisoner. He said to prisoner, "Hello, what do you want now?" He replied, "I want money, £2 or 30s". Said to him "You have had your money. What do you want more? Where have you been to? You have no hat, coat or shoes". He answered, "Never mind that", and then said he wanted some tea. Told him he could not have tea there, and told him to go. He, however, would not do so and he (complainant) sent for a constable, and again advised him to go before a policeman would come. He threatened to knock complainant's brains out. A girl in the house said, "Don't strike the old man", and he struck her on the shoulder. She went out for assistance, and while she was away the prisoner knocked complainant down with a stick, and struck him several times whilst on the ground with the stick. The first blow with the stick was on the left side of the head, and it cut the head. He struck him several blows on the head, and cut it in several places, and he jumped on him, but he had no boots on. He also struck him on the hands and face with the stick, and caught hold of his neck handkerchief and knocked his head against the floor. Had gone senseless, and didn't know whether he said anything or not. Thought prisoner was drunk at the time. He had only his trousers and stockings on at the time. Ann Hearne gave corroborative evidence, and Dr Thomas deposed going to complainant's house. He found him on the floor, his face covered with blood. The prisoner, the little girl and Ann Hearne were there. Asked the prisoner why he had beaten the old man. He replied, "Don't you say much, or I'll give you the same". He then struck complainant on the side of the head with a stick – the one produced. Went out and called Jones in, and afterwards went for a constable. The complainant was lying on the ground, and appeared to be senseless. Thomas Jones stated that when he entered the prisoner had his hand on the complainant's cravat, and he was twisting it. He got up when he saw him. Said to him, "What is this?" Ann Hearne said, "He has murdered the old man". He went towards her and said he would run a knife through her if she said that. Saw a small knife lying near the complainant's head. Got complainant in a sitting posture, and he spat blood. Prisoner then came on and said, "He is worth 20 dead men yet. I will help him up". And he did so. He then tried to push complainant and witness down. Succeeded in getting the complainant into an armchair. Prisoner then said that the complainant owed him £2 but that he had given him quite enough, and was satisfied. He remained in the house until a couple of boatmen put him outside, and they detained him until a couple of constables came and took him into custody. Dr Hunter repeated the evidence already reported as to the injuries complainant had sustained. He added that the complainant did not complain of injury to the body, and would not swear that any of the injuries were done with a knife. They might have been caused by the stick produced. He was now progressing favourably.

Police-constable John Llewellyn proved taking the prisoner to the lock up, after which the prisoner, who had nothing to say, was committed for trial at the quarter sessions.

**78 October 23 1879**

**Pontypridd**

**POLICE COURT** On Wednesday at the police court, **Edward Thomas**, boatman, was convicted of stealing a pair of boots, the property of Jane Davies, Trallwn. The prosecutrix had given the boots to prisoner to convey to her son at Cardiff, but instead of delivering them as requested he pawned

them at Mr George Goodman's shop, Pontypridd. He was sentenced to 14 days with hard labour.

**79 January 13 1880 Cardiff Police Court**

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Evan Watkins**, canal boatman, was charged with ill-using a horse. Police-constable Bates saw the horse lying down at the canal side. It had a wound on its side. As the horse had been destroyed the case was not further gone into.

**80 January 30 1880**

MYSTERIOUS DEATH FROM DROWNING IN CARDIFF At the Cardiff Town Hall, on Monday evening, Mr E B Reece, coroner, held an inquest upon the body of a woman identified as that of Elizabeth Powell, which had that morning been found in the Old Glamorganshire Canal, near Bute bridge. **William Morgan**, boatman, of 14 Tyndall Street, gave evidence as to finding the body. Elizabeth Parnell, 36, Frederica Street, recognised the body as that of Elizabeth Powell, who had rented a room of her for three months. Deceased was missing a month ago last Saturday from the house. She was 38 or 40 years of age, and went by the name of Mrs Powell. She was a native of Haverfordwest, and was given to drink. Fanny Keen said she last saw the deceased at the Rothsay Castle Inn, Bute Street, a month ago last Saturday, at half past ten o'clock at night. The jury returned an open verdict.

**81 April 20 1880 Cardiff Police Court**

ASSAULT ON A BOY **Daniel Shaughnessy**, boatman, was charged with assaulting a boy named William Price, on the Hayes bridge, on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. Evidence was adduced to the effect that the prisoner asked the boy a question, which he was unable to answer. He then knocked the boy down with a blow from his fist, and kicked him while he was on the ground. The prisoner, who had been previously convicted, was committed to gaol for 21 days with hard labour.

**82 August 4 1880 Cardiff**

THE FATAL ACCIDENT A coroner's inquest was held upon the body of **John Davies**, boatman. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

**83 November 5 1880 South Wales Winter Assizes**

ROBBERY AT CARDIFF Wm Powell, 19, labourer; Mary Ann Prendergast, 18, hawker; Annie Pear, 16, hawker; and **George Morgan**, 18, boatman, were indicted on a charge of robbing Magnus Johansen at Cardiff, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, and stealing a half sovereign, 2s, a handkerchief, tobacco box, &c. Mr Benson prosecuted, whilst prisoners were undefended. After hearing the whole of the evidence, the jury retired, and on their return found prisoners guilty. His lordship sentenced Powell, Prendergast and Pear, whose previous characters were bad, each to two years, and Morgan to eighteen months imprisonment.

**84 January 31 1882 Newport**

INQUEST Mr W H Brewer held an inquest on Saturday on the body of **Ann Pickard**, aged 70, wife of a boatman in Raglan Street. She had been unwell for some time, and died suddenly on Friday. Verdict, "Died from natural causes".

**85 May 23 1882**

A SWANSEA POLICEMAN ATTACKED BY A MOB At Swansea borough police court on Monday (before the Stipendiary and Messrs Buse and Davies), **Edward Davies**, 18, boatman, 23 Greyhound Street; **James Chapman**, 18, boatman, John Chapman, 20, labourer, and William Chapman, 17, boiler maker, three brothers, living at 29 Jockey Street, were charged with assaulting Police-constable Thomas Evans whilst in the execution of his duty. The constable deposed that about 9.15 on Saturday night last he was on duty in Greenhill Street when he saw prisoners and several other men coming towards him. They were shouting and singing. He went to meet them,

and told them to be quiet. Davies said, "Who the ---- are you? I'll put a mark on you, you ----". He then rushed at witness and struck him in the face. Witness caught hold of Davies, who bit his finger. The three Chapmans and others not in custody then took hold of witness by the arms and legs, and allowed Davies to escape. They then ran away, and witness ran after them and overtook them in Brook Street, Davies and James and John Chapman then threw him down and kicked him several times about the body until he was senseless. They also took off his helmet and threw it away. While he was on the ground he heard Davies say, "Let us kill the ----". Samuel Davies, a turner, said he saw Wm Chapman strike the policeman in the face and run away. Benjamin Davis Brown said he heard cries of "Murder" and saw the constable without his helmet. The crowd was hustling him about and his face was bleeding. Witness told him not to go towards the Strand, or he would be sure to get a thrashing. Someone in the crowd called out, "Give the ---- a good punching". Witness was then knocked down and kicked. He did not see anyone strike the constable. He saw John Chapman in the crowd, but could not swear to either of the other prisoners. The Bench convicted all the prisoners. Davies was sent to prison for two months with hard labour, and the other three were sentenced to six weeks imprisonment each.

**86 August 24 1882 Cardiff**

YESTERDAY'S POLICE **Thomas Wilcox**, Pontypridd, canal boatman, was summoned for working a horse in an unfit state. Inspector Kennedy, of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said that on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst he saw the defendant driving a bay gelding on the canal bank. The animal was attached to a boat, and was going very lamely. James Thomas Handy, veterinary surgeon, described the injuries from which the horse was suffering. The animal was unfit for work. Defendant was ordered to pay 25s and costs, or go to gaol for fourteen days with hard labour.

**87 October 4 1883**

THEFT BY A BOATMAN ON THE GLAMORGAN CANAL At Pontypridd **Ben Potter** was charged with stealing a certain quantity of horse food, the property of Messrs Lenox and Co, Chain and Anchor Works, Pontypridd: and **William Williams**, boatman, was charged with receiving the food knowing it to have been stolen. Potter pleaded guilty and was sent to prison for seven days. Williams was dismissed for want of sufficient evidence.

**88 January 26 1884**

ROBBERY FROM THE PERSON AT NEWPORT Enoch Watkins, William Taylor and Sarah Taylor were charged on remand with stealing five sovereigns, four half sovereigns, 15s in silver and a gold ring from **Simon Bigmore**, boatman, Upper Marian Street. Prosecutor said that on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup> inst, he was at the Cumberland Beer-house. Prisoners and others were there. He left at eleven o'clock, and went to the house where the prisoners Taylor live. Beer had been got in before the Cumberland was closed, Watkins carrying it in; and prosecutor paid for it. When prosecutor went into Taylor's house he had five sovereigns, four half sovereigns, about 16s or 18s in silver (chiefly in half crowns and florins), and a gold ring in a purse. They all sat drinking until about four o'clock in the morning, and then prosecutor laid down on a bed and fell asleep. Before he fell asleep he told the prisoner Watkins he was very sleepy, and would have a lie down. At daybreak he awoke and found his watch had stopped. The pocket of his trousers was turned inside out, and his purse empty on the bed. All the money and his gold ring were gone. Watkins was discharged, also Sarah Taylor; Wm Taylor was committed for trial at the Assizes.

**89 June 8 1885**

PAINFUL SUICIDE AT CARDIFF On Saturday Mr E B Reece, borough coroner, held an inquiry at the Town Hall, Cardiff into the circumstances attending the death of a young woman named Susan Pearce, whose body was found floating in the Glamorganshire Canal early on Saturday morning. William Henry Pearce, of Richmond Villa, Mackintosh Place, Castle Road, deposed that the deceased was his sister, and resided with him. She was 25 years of age, and was a single



complainant's case, Mr Belcher addressed the bench on behalf of the defendant, and animadverted very strongly upon the evidence adduced. The Bench eventually made an order upon the defendant for 2s 6d a week and expenses.

**94 June 24 1887**

**TWO BOYS DROWNED NEAR SWANSEA** Two boys were drowned this week in the neighbourhood of Swansea. Mr Strick on Wednesday held an inquest on the body of Patrick Dumphy, aged 5. living at Squance(?) Row, Llangyfelech. It appeared from the evidence of a canal boatman, named **Thomas Evans**, that on Wednesday morning, as he was in charge of a boat on the way to Swansea, a lad who was on the timbers underneath the railway bridge shouted to him that a boy was drowned there. He groped about in the water, and eventually picked out the body in about five feet of water. A verdict of "Accidental drowning" was returned. The other case occurred at Penclawdd, the lad being Morgan Leyabon aged 12. He fell into a pool of water, and before he was rescued had lost his life.

**95 November 7 1887 Taff's Well**

**FOUND DROWNED** On Saturday Mr E B Reece (coroner) held an inquest on the body of one **Louis Hancock**, who was found drowned in the Glamorganshire Canal on Friday morning. Deceased, who was 18 years of age, was a native of San Francisco, California, where his parents now live. At the time of his death he was in the employment of **Mr Philip Jones**, boatman, Treforest, by whom he was missed from the boat about eight p m on Thursday while passing the Treble Locks. A verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was returned.

**96 September 26 1888 Cardiff**

**YESTERDAY'S POLICE – ALLEGED THEFT OF A DUCK** **Noah Francis**, 28, a canal boatman, was charged with attempting to steal a duck with violence from the person of Edward Hampton, in Cathays Road, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst. Prisoner seized the prosecutor by the throat, and attempted to take the duck from him, but he did not succeed. He now denied all knowledge of the offence, but he was fined 40s and costs, or one months imprisonment.

**97 March 5 1889 Llandaff**

**ALLEGED TILL ROBBERY** **David Edward Evans**, boatman, Treforest, was charged with stealing a shilling and some coppers from a till at the Cow and Snuffers public house, Llandaff, on Saturday. The witnesses were unable to attend, on account of the snow, and prisoner was remanded until Monday next.

**98 March 12 1889 Llandaff**

**ALLEGED THEFT OF MONEY** **Daniel Evans**, boatman, was committed for trial charged with stealing a shilling and some coppers from the till of the Cow and Snuffers, Llandaff Yard.  
[Clearly same case as above, even if name different]

**99 September 9 1889**

**ANOTHER DEATH BY DROWNING AT CARDIFF** On Saturday afternoon two little boys aged six and five respectively were playing on the west bank of the Glamorganshire Canal when the oldest of them fell into the water, and was drowned before assistance could be rendered him. The body was recovered with a boathook by a boatman named **William James Davies** about ten minutes after its immersion, and taken to the York Hotel, where Dr Stewart of 15 Richmond Road, used every possible means to restore animation, but without result. The body was afterwards conveyed to the dead house awaiting identification, and the younger child was taken to the central police station, where it remained throughout the night. At six o'clock on the following morning a Mrs Brown, of 45 Diamond Street, identified both children. Deceased she said was six years of age and his brother five. Strange to say, the woman was on the canal bank looking for her children

when the body was recovered from the water, but of course had no knowledge that the child was hers.

### **100    October 13 1892**

**A STABBING CASE AT CARDIFF** At Cardiff police court on Wednesday (before Sir Morgan Morgan and Mr Gooch), Martha Saga was charged with cutting and wounding Annie Green on the wrist with a knife, at 28 Knole Street, and also with attempting to stab William Green. Annie Green said that defendant had lodged with her, and went away owing her 18s. On Tuesday defendant came to her house for a box of clothes, and on being asked for the money she took a table knife off the counter, and with an oath threatened to cut her throat before she would give her any money. Defendant then stabbed her on the wrist, and on her calling for assistance, the husband of the prosecutrix came in. Defendant tried to stab him also, and caught his brace buckle with the knife. Defendant here interposed to prove that Mr Green used violence to her, and both women became so exceedingly voluble that there was some difficulty in checking the flow of language. Mr Jones, surgeon, said that Mrs Green called at his place, suffering from a wound on the right wrist, an inch and a half long, but not deep enough to injure the tendons. The wound might have been caused by the knife produced. Other evidence was given to corroborate the statement of the prosecutrix, showing that prisoner had been seen to rush past one of the witnesses with a knife in her hand. Police-constable Evans proved the arrest of prisoner, who denied that she ever had a knife in her hand, saying, "I never saw a knife at all". **William Green**, boatman, husband of the prosecutrix, said his wife called out, "Bill, I'm stabbed", and he went to her rescue. His wife's wrist was bleeding, and he pushed defendant out with the knife in her hand. Defendant struck at him with the knife, and cut through his brace (which was produced, half severed). She also threatened him. Defendant said she owed nothing to Mrs Green, and was not guilty. The Magistrates sent the case for trial at the quarter sessions.

### **101    September 5 1893**

**DROWNED AT LLANTERNAM** On Monday afternoon a boy named John Sanders, son of **Joseph Sanders**, a boatman of Cefn, was drowned in the canal near Llantarnam. The lad, who was assisting his father, was in the act of raising the paddle at one of the lock gates when he fell into the lock, and was drowned. The body was subsequently recovered and taken home.

### **102    June 12 1894**

At Llandaff police court on Monday (before Colonel Page and Mr Harry Lewis), Samuel Quarrel, collier; William Morgan, labourer; and **John Herbert**, boatman, all of Tongwynlais, were charged with being found on the premises of the Old Ton public house for an unlawful purpose on Sunday morning, the 27<sup>th</sup> of May last. The first two defendants did not deny that they had gone to the public house for the purpose of getting drink, and the Bench fined them 5s and costs. Herbert denied that he went there for drink, and swore, as a witness on his own behalf, that he went there to get a key to open the stables at the back of the Old Ton, where he always kept his horses. The last charge was dismissed.

### **103    June 19 1894**

**CRUELTY TO CHILDREN – A SHOCKING NEWPORT CASE** At Newport police court on Monday, **Elijah Williams**, a boatman, was charged with cruelly ill-treating his little girl, Lizzie, aged 13 and his son, Joseph, aged seven. Mr W Lyndon-Moore prosecuted on behalf of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Prisoner did not appear, but his wife proved that he had received the summons, and the case was proceeded with. Mr Moore, in opening the case, briefly stated the particulars, It was, he said, without exception, the worst case in which he had prosecuted. A few weeks ago, prisoner's wife was charged with theft, and during the hearing of the case reference was made to prisoner's brutal temper. Prisoner worked on a canal boat, and only visited his home two or three times a week. Invariably he celebrated these visits by brutal conduct. On

June 7<sup>th</sup> his little girl, Lizzie, went with her aunt and uncle to Sanger's Circus. When she returned home, prisoner was drunk, and did not say anything to her ; but about half past four the next morning he went into the bedroom where Lizzie and her brother were sleeping. He said something about the girl's visit to the circus, and then beat her for about twenty minutes or half an hour with a strap two inches in width. When the society's inspector visited the house on the following day he examined the girl, and found that her back and neck were covered with one mass of bruises. Prisoner used the buckle of the strap, and the flesh had been cut in one or two places. There was a quantity of dried blood about. Prisoner also thrashed his little boy. Inspector Coates gave evidence as to examining the children and finding the bruises. The little girl's left shoulder was one mass of contusions. Elizabeth and Joseph, the two children, also gave evidence. The former said her father had thrashed her dozens of times. On one occasion he struck her across the forehead with the buckle of the strap. On the morning in question her father, after thrashing her with the strap, took her downstairs, and banged her head against the wall. Two neighbours spoke to being awakened by hearing the cries of the children, and one of them said she heard a noise as though a strap was being used. She afterwards saw the little girl's back, and blood was issuing from a wound on the shoulder. The mother also gave evidence as to her husband's conduct. He repeatedly thrashed her, and had not given her any money for eighteen weeks. She was thoroughly afraid of him. Inspector Winnill was also called, and deposed to seeing Mrs Williams in a state of stupefaction, which she alleged was due to her husband's violence. In the end prisoner was sentenced to three months imprisonment for the assault on his daughter, and one month for the assault on his son. Mr Kessick, the magistrates clerk, stated that the court regretted they could not order prisoner to be thrashed with a strap. He deserved the cat.

#### 104 July 24 1894

LOCAL NEWS ITEMS At Llandaff police court on Monday (before Mr H Lewis and Mr John Vachell) **William Davies**, boatman, of Maindy, was charged with assaulting Police-constable Williams while in the execution of his duty, at Maindy on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. While Police-constable Williams was engaged in stopping a row at Maindy on the date mentioned, defendant drew off his belt and struck him three blows across the face. Davies was sent to gaol for seven days.

#### 105 December 12 1894

CARDIFF BANKRUPTCY COURT At Cardiff Bankruptcy court on Tuesday (before Mr Registrar Langley) the examination took place of **Charles Rich**, boatman, of Cardiff. Debtor, in answer to Mr Orr, deputy official receiver, stated that the causes of his failure were slackness of trade and an action for slander against him. His only assets were £2 worth of furniture and £15, which he lodged with his solicitor for the filing of his petition. His earnings were about £1 or 25s a week. He formerly owned a boat jointly with his father, but he sold it in February last, in order to defend the slander action. The examination was closed.

#### 106 March 22 1895

**Mary Ann Cunningham**, Kingsland Crescent, Barry Docks, charged her husband, **John Henry Cunningham**, boatman, at the local police court on Thursday, with an assault on the 21<sup>st</sup> ult. Mr A Jackson, solicitor, Barry Docks, appeared for the prosecution. Mrs Cunningham told the magistrates a desponding tale of domestic infelicity. Defendant, she said, continually assaulted her, and he had threatened to shoot her with a revolver. A neighbour, named Mrs Wood, corroborated, and the Bench granted a separation order, allowing 25s a week towards the maintenance of plaintiff and her five children.

#### 107 May 23 1895

DROWNED AT TREFOREST On Tuesday night the body of a boy was found floating in the Glamorganshire Canal at Treforest by a boatman named **Ebenezer Howells**. Upon being brought to bank, the remains were identified as those of Alfred George Onions, whose father, George Onions,

is a labourer living at 23 Gwernygerwn Road.

### **108 June 18 1895**

At Newport Town Hall on Monday **George Adams**, a boatman, was charged by his wife with assaulting her, and was bound over to keep the peace. The couple had been married 39 years, and defendant had never been in a police court before.

### **109 June 20 1895**

#### EXTRAORDINARY CASE AT PONTYPRIDD

#### ALLEGED HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND ASSAULT

#### A MARRIED WOMAN BRUTALLY TREATED

#### FOUR MEN COMMITTED FOR TRIAL

At Pontypridd police court on Wednesday (before Messrs James Roberts and D Llewellyn) an extraordinary case of alleged indecent assault and highway robbery with violence and theft was heard. The complainants were Joseph Emery, engine driver at the Albion Colliery, Cilfynydd, and his wife, a delicate looking young woman, respectably dressed in black, and the defendants were **Ivor James**, a boatman, lodging at Coedpenmaen, who said that he was bred and born in Cardiff; **John Brewer**, another boatman, who lives in a boat; and David Charles Gomer and Richard Kearl, colliers of Coedpenmaen. The first two named were shabbily dressed and rough looking fellows, and the four were undefended. The prosecution was conducted by Mr D Roberts Rosser, solicitor.

#### CASE FOR THE PROSECUTION

In opening the case, Mr Rosser stated that Mrs Emery proceeded from Cilfynydd to Pontypridd by break about ten o'clock last Saturday night for shopping purposes. She met her husband in the town, and about eleven o'clock they started homewards, whither they proceeded over the canal bank at Coedpenmaen. Here they rested on some timber, as Mrs Emery felt tired, and immediately afterwards the four defendants appeared on the scene, one after the other. The defendant James asked her husband, "How go Joe?" and he replied he was all right. Then Kearl struck her husband in the face, and pulled him away from her in the direction of the canal. James then indecently assaulted her, and afterwards ran to the assistance of Kearl. Her husband was again knocked down, and Kearl was trying to push him into the canal. Immediately James left Mrs Emery, the other two ran towards her, and they also indecently assaulted her. She was screaming for her husband, and then Kearl ran towards her, and left James struggling with her husband, who succeeded in escaping and running for assistance to the neighbouring houses. During his absence his wife was knocked unconscious to the ground, and the four succeeded in their evil design. Mrs Emery carried a handbag, which contained about 13s and a silver chain, and next morning it was found about 30 yards from the spot, but despoiled of its contents.

#### THE WIFE'S STORY

Mrs Emery, who resides at Twyn Villa, Cilfynydd Road, corroborated the opening statement, and added that her husband did not know James, who addressed him as Joe. Inspector Evans interposed with a remark that just a little before this the defendant James had addressed a policeman as Joe. Proceeding, Mrs Emery – who seemed to be in a weak condition and was now accommodated with a seat – said that when the first man got up, her husband asked her to get up from the timber upon which she sat, and make a restart for home. This she did, but Kearl immediately came on and struck her husband, who struggled with him. James took hold of her by the shoulders and flung her on the timber. She struggled with him and, although he grossly assaulted her, he failed in his attempt. The other man was trying to throw her husband into the canal, and as James failed in his design he ran away from her to help Kearl. Before she had time to get up from the timber, Brewer and Gomer were standing over her, and stopped her getting up from the timber. In the struggle with them she fell to the ground, and whilst Gomer held her down, Brewer attempted to assault her, but he again failed, as she struggled and screamed as much as she could. Whilst this was going on, Kearl left her husband and rushed towards her. She was crying for her husband, "Joe", and telling him that he "would give her Joe". Kearl put his hand over her mouth and his knee on her chest. She continued to struggle, and as she was rising to get up he caught hold of her head and hurled it to

the ground. She then became unconscious, and she did not know anything more until she woke up in a strange house about six o'clock on Sunday morning. Mrs Emery added that she had since then felt very sore and ill, and she believed that the four defendants had intercourse with her whilst she was in an unconscious state. She had been badly bruised on the shoulders, head and groin, and the steel of her corset had been broken. She wore a brown fall at the time, and her hat, which had cost 21s, and which could not have fallen off, had been lost, as well as the 13s 2d and silver chain in the handbag.

Joseph Emery, the husband, said that when Kearl came upon the scene he pulled him (witness) from his wife and, telling him he should not go with her, dragged him towards the canal, and said, "Go on there, you ----". He was also struck in the mouth and then near the eye, and he was pushed to the brink of the canal several times, and he only just prevented himself from going in by pushing the assailant back. He could not then see his wife. James eventually came to the assistance of Kearl, who then ran towards his wife. James knocked him repeatedly on the sides and kept him pinned to the ground. Witness, believing he was to be thrown into the canal, appealed to them to let him go, and ultimately he succeeded in running for assistance to the nearest houses, which were some distance away. Several women at once ran towards his wife, who said to them, "Oh you don't know what I have gone through". She then became unconscious, and did not again speak until six o'clock the next morning.

Police-sergeant Lewis, stationed at Norton Bridge, arrested prisoners.

In reply to Mr James Roberts, Mrs Emery said that she had been enceinte for three months.

Further evidence was given, and in reply to the charge each prisoner said he had nothing to say.

They were then committed to the assizes, which will be held next week, bail being refused. A painful scene occurred in court when the prisoners were committed, the sister of the most respectable looking of the prisoners fainting and afterwards crying bitterly. His father was also present, and he appeared a very respectable working man.

### **110 February 23 1897**

INQUESTS AT BARRY DOCK The coroner and jury then proceeded to inquire into the circumstances attending the death by drowning of **David King**, 27, a boatman living at 17 Lower Morel Street, Barry Dock. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned, there being no evidence to show how deceased got into the water.

### **111 March 23 1897**

#### **Cardiff**

COMMITTED William Charles Clarke (19) was charged with stealing a silver watch, a silver chain, a jet chain and two gold rings, value £2 15s, the property of Thomas Sloggett, No 11 Cranbrook Street, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March. He was also charged with stealing a silver medal and a pair of opera glasses, value 17s 6d on the same date, and from the same address, the property of William Stephens. There was a further charge of stealing a silver watch, a gold seal and a hair-guard, value £5, the property of **William Davies**, of 5 South William Street.

Mary Ann Sloggett, wife of the prosecutor of that name, who is a plasterer by trade, spoke to missing the articles from a drawer in her bedroom.

Jane Stephens, wife of William Stephens, a labourer, also of 11 Cranbrook Street, said the prisoner had lodged with her from the 6<sup>th</sup> of March. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, between five o'clock and half past in the afternoon, prisoner left suddenly, and after he had gone she missed the medal and the opera glasses produced.

Hyman Levy, a pawnbroker's assistant to his mother, in Salisbury Road, spoke to receiving the silver chain in pledge from the prisoner.

**Mary Ann Davies**, wife of the prosecutor Davies, who is a boatman, said prisoner came to lodge with her at the beginning of February, and stayed for nearly a fortnight. Just after he had left she missed the property prisoner was charged with stealing, and now she identified the several articles produced.

An assistant to Mr Cohen, a Cathay's pawnbroker, stated that prisoner pawned the watch with him.

Thomas Darling, a vocalist, who was one of the performers at the Cardiff Empire last week, deposed that on Saturday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, he met prisoner in Queen Street, near the Empire. They had a conversation and a drink. Witness admired the seal on prisoner's watch chain, and said he would like it, and prisoner gave him the seal.

Detective Dicks, who arrested the prisoner, also gave evidence.

Accused only said he was sorry for this, his first offence, which he said was committed while he was in drink.

He was sent for trial at the next quarter sessions for the borough.

### 112 September 16 1898

#### DARK SIDE OF KLONDYKE

#### BARRY BOATMAN'S STORY

#### 100,000 MEN DUPED

**Mr D John**, boatman, 66 Kingsland Crescent, Barry Dock, has just received a letter from **Mr William J Thomas**, late of Castleland Street, Barry Dock, who until the outbreak of the coal strike was also a boatman at Barry, but left home early in April for Dawson City, Klondyke, wherefrom he addressed the following letter, dated the 23rd of July :- "Dear Mr John – I beg to inform you that I arrived here on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month, three months and a day from home. When I arrived at Dawson City I could see about 35,000 idle men walking about and talking to each other, with tears in their eyes. As soon as the ship got alongside, about twenty strong, able bodied young men jumped aboard, and asked the captain to allow them to work their passage down the river to St Michael's. It is a great pity that people are allowed to put so many untruths in the newspapers, to bring men out here for nothing. There is a little gold here, and one or two men have done well, but about 100,000 have gone back penniless. So H Lane and myself have bought a boat to proceed to St Michael's, a distance of 1800 miles, and we expect to be there about the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, and then we will have a steamer for San Francisco, and from there home, I hope".

### 113 September 26 1898

LOCAL NEWS PARAGRAPHS A boatman named **Walter Tonks**, aged 40, was drowned in the docks basin at Gloucester late on Saturday night. Deceased was under the influence of drink.

### 114 November 29 1898

On Monday morning **John Morris**, a boatman in the employ of the Cardiff Railway Company, fell from a barge at the East Bute Dock, and was drowned before assistance could be rendered. The body was recovered shortly before two o'clock by the Docks police, and conveyed home.

### 115 April 27 1899

LOCAL NEWS PARAGRAPHS About eleven o'clock on Wednesday morning Police-constable Benjamin Davies found the body of a man floating in the canal near the sea lock of the Glamorganshire Canal at Cardiff. The body was subsequently identified as that of **Frederick Rich**, a boatman late of No 7 Evelyn Street, who had been missing from his home about nine days. Rich was the husband of a woman who a short time ago is alleged to have been stabbed by a lodger. The lodger is now awaiting his trial.

### 116 June 13 1899

LOCAL NEWS PARAGRAPHS At Llandaff police court on Monday morning, **Daniel Dew**, a canal boatman, appeared in answer to a summons for not having a man in charge of the boat horse whilst the boat was in motion. The defendant was further summoned for not having two men in charge of the boat. Mr W L Harris, from the Bute Estate Office, prosecuted. The defendant was mulcted in a fine of 2s 6d and costs for the first offence, the second being dismissed. **Thomas Francis**, another boatman, was also ordered to pay a fine of 2s 6d in respect of each of the above offences.



**118 September 16 1899**

**Barry**

**IMPUDENT THEFT OF SOAP** A dock boatman, **William Henry Giffard**, living at 39 Castleland Street, Barry Dock, was charged with stealing from Thomas Beutaria, a Spanish seaman, a quantity of soap, value 1s. Accused admitted the offence, and the Bench imposed a fine of 20s and costs or one month, prisoner remarking that he took the soap as a joke.

**119 September 19 1899**

**Cardiff**

**A DANGEROUS ACT** **William Rees**, boatman of Tongwynlais, was charged with opening a paddle of the Glamorgan Canal at Llandaff, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of this month. The prosecution was at the instance of the Glamorgan Canal Company. It appears that on the day in question important masonry works were being carried on at this point, and by the opening of the paddle the works were seriously endangered. Rees admitted the offence, but pleaded ignorance of the damage which might have been caused by his act. As the prosecution were determined to press the case, the Bench imposed the least penalty allowed, namely 40s and costs, or one months imprisonment.

**120 November 23 1899**

**INQUESTS AT PONTYPRIDD** At the inquest on the body of **John Jones**, boatman on the Glamorgan Canal, who died at the Union Workhouse, Pontypridd, on Tuesday morning, the jury returned a verdict of "Death from failure of the heart's action". The evidence showed that deceased had no home, slept in the boat, and had no known relative.

**121 February 2 1900**

**Cardiff**

AN ANCIENT ACT Away back in 1799 – the tail end of the last century – a measure of precaution to be observed on the Glamorganshire Canal was boiled into a bye-law.

It was called “The Glamorganshire Canal Act” and under section 33 the bye-law ordained that no boat should be navigated on the Glamorganshire Canal unless two boatmen were in charge.

Mr Harris now appeared to prosecute two boatmen and a canal boat contractor for having forgotten the bye-law on January 9<sup>th</sup> last. The evidence was simple. Neither of the men's boats had two to the crew, each defendant being captain, mate, deck hand, driver, engineer and pilot in himself.

The men, **Henry Hole** and **Charles Watkins**, claimed they were only employees under a contractor. **Edmund John Lloyd**, the contractor, excused himself by saying he “wasn't there”.

The Stipendiary argued that he should have been, or seen to the presence of another boatman. The contractor was fined 40s and costs accordingly, and the boatmen advised of the law and cautioned.

**122 July 24 1900**

ANOTHER DROWNING CASE AT NEWPORT Still another drowning case occurred at the mouth of the River Usk on Monday evening. **Frank Jones**, a Newport boatman, 27 years of age, who lived at 21 Dolphin Street, by some means fell out of his boat as he was attempting to reach a rope flung to him from a mud hopper (a heavy barge that receives the tippings from the dredger).

He was unable to swim, and seems to have been carried right away by the current. It was only on Monday that the body of David Griffiths, a moulder, who was drowned near the same place on Saturday, was recovered.