

## Theophilus Jones and his Family at Aberbechan Mill Montgomeryshire

Theophilus Jones, my great Grandfather, was the miller at Aberbechan corn mill in Montgomeryshire. We do not know when he went there but he remained there until his death in 1892 at the age of 58 years. He was married to Mary Jones nee Davies. They had 5 children, Mary, who never married, Thomas Evan [always known as Uncle Evan] who married Emily, Sarah Elizabeth who was my grandmother and married Frank Tilley, Theophilus and Hannah. We believe that Theophilus and Hannah died of TB at a young age. . Great grandmother died in 1898 and was only 54. She and her husband Theophilus are both buried in Llanllwchaearn churchyard.

Mary was in service most of her life but Uncle Evan ran the Red Lion pub at Castle Caereinion before moving on to be the miller at Upper Heldre near Welshpool. My grandmother moved to Birmingham after her marriage but my father and his sister used to spend holidays at Upper Heldre. They were allowed to go in to the mill and to help on the farm in the days before mechanisation changed things forever.

Theophilus, the miller, left £591 when he died, a sum which would equate to £58,000 today, so a considerable sum. I was always told that great Grandmother paid towards the building of Aberbechan chapel which is still there today and just up the hill from the mill which is now a private house.

The mill at Aberbechan was taken over by John Bebb and his family by the time of the 1901 census.

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