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To: margaret@anturgroup.co.uk

Subject: Ysgol Glynhir

Mrs. Williams Y Gelli - Her Recollections of Ysgol Glynhir

Mrs. Williams died on March 13th 1971

There are no old members of Glynhir's school alive by today so it seems.

This was a school for girls only, and members that were there at the same time as Mrs. Williams include Mrs. Roberts (Mountain), Mrs William Llewellyn, Nant-y-Glyn, Mrs. Price, the mother of Mr. Rhys Price Brynhywydd and Mrs. Sarah Bowen, Folland Road, and also Mrs Ann. Davies (The Nurse) and a cousin to Mrs. Roberts.

Many years ago, Mrs. Williams told me her memories of the times she spent at the school in Glynhir. I sent them to the local paper, and a great interest was shown in the history of the school, especially by the people who knew Mrs. Williams.

There were about 30 children at the school - all girls apart from two boys. these were the boys living at Y Felin (The Mill), near Glynhir. They had a special favour so that they could attend the school as they lived so near. After these memories appeared in the local paper, Mrs. Williams received a letter from one of the boys of Y Felin. He was Mr. Davies Y Bon from Swansea. He came famous as a shopper in the town, and he was delighted to read the memories of the old school.

The children that attended the school came from the Black Mountain, Trapp and Gwynfe. Some houses were within reach of Glynhir and those children nearby walked. However, a number of children had to stay near the school during the week and go home on a Friday night.

There was only one large room as a school and only one teacher - Miss Harries. She was a tall lady with white hair. She wore shoes with elasticated sides. She would join in in playing skipping as she seemed to be so flexible. Mrs. Harries' mother had also been a teacher at the school.

The floor was covered with an enormous coconut rug that was long lasting. Every now and again, it was dragged out to be cleaned on the grass. To clean this rug, it was pulled back and fore along the grass. After being cleaned, it looked very fresh. Strong arms were required to drag this up over the hills, but Mrs. Williams thought that it was a worthwhile effort as it looked so clean, and gave some comfort over the stone flooring under it.

An open fire within a grate heated the room, and light came in through the four narrow windows that were so tall within the walls. There was no danger to the children to appear to be in a dream, as there was a beautiful sight to be seen outside. Miss Harries came into class through a door that led to the main house. Behind the door, a heavy curtain hung. The old Grandfather clock kept ticking very regularly.

The girls wore blue and white checked pinafores, and were allowed to wear any coloured frock underneath. a grey cloak with a red rim and a lining to the middle kept them warm when they went outside. There was a hood to the cloak. hey wore buttoned shoes on their feet. After it had rained, the cloak seemed to be heavy, but every one liked it as it kept them warm. There was a long room and very convenient it was to hang the clothes.

Every girl had to wear their hair in a short manner. Mrs. Williams knew of some girls that refused to go to

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school because of this.

School dinners were not fashionable this time. Each child carried their food in a basket, and these were arranged and kept in a specific area of the room.

Sometimes they were asked to bring a basin and a spoon so that they could taste the cook's Cawl. This was the best Cawl Mrs. Williams had ever tasted. She could taste it on her tongue as she was telling me her memories of the school. The Cawl came in a large stern and it was heated on the large open fire. After eating this, the children had to go down to the pond by Y Felin (The Mill) to wash their hands, and each girl had their own bar of soap. Clean hands were required for the following lesson. Sewing work was of importance within the school - these lessons took place in the afternoon.

English was the main language of teaching within the school, and girls were encouraged to speak this language while walking home, to enable them to become more fluent in the language. Emphasis was given to memorise poetry too.

Slate and chalk were used most times, but on special occasions, the children did use pencil and paper. There was no need to pay for reading books nor writing books. The most important lessons were sewing lessons, although Geography and singing were taught at the school too. Many Glynhir Samplers were sewn and some were seen hanging on the walls of past pupils. Mrs. Williams was five years old when she attended the school, and remained there until she was ten years of age. She made some beautiful Samplers while at the school, but her problem was the fact she had four grand-daughters.

The Ladies of the Dubusson family at Glynhir, cut out clothes ready for the sewing lessons. They included shirts and petticoats along with other items of clothing. These were usually distributed to the poorer families of the area by the Ladies in their four wheelers.

On a Monday, the children paid three or six pence to the Clothes Club, and on a certain day that was appointed, the mothers came to the school to buy clothes for their children and themselves.

Easter time was seen as an important time, and for a whole week before Good Friday, regular services were held at the Church at Llanddewi. It was expected that the important people would be present. On Good Friday, Hot Cross Buns were distributed to the girls. The buns were the same size on a reasonable sized plate. Mrs. Williams remembers how tasteful these were.

During the summer time, two parties were held, one in the main house itself. These parties are also amongst the most happy recollections of Mrs. Williams' time at the school. Another treasure to remember are the violets that grew so beautiful in the fields near the school, and the aroma that came from these. Some of the violets were sent to Torquay, where the Dubusson family would spend the Winter.

There is much more history than this to the school at Glynhir, but these are all the memories that I have right now. By now, the person who knew the history have parted from this world, and like the memories she had of Glynhir, the memories that we have of her are a treasure in themselves.