There has long been a need for a list of books, papers and articles, in Welsh and English, relating to the history of the Cynon Valley particularly as the body of works on this subject and an interest in our past has grown considerably during the past decade.

The project was started in 1993 but proved too huge a project to complete. Much of the work was done by Geoffrey Evans of the Cynon Valley History Society and my former library colleague Mrs Lynne Bryn Jones. In 2012 it was decided to complete it and with modern technology it has made the project easier. I have updated the entries since 1993.

The present list has therefore been produced jointly by the Cynon Valley History Society and Rhondda Cynon Tâf Libraries and it is hoped that it will assist schoolteachers, their pupils, research students and all those interested in the rich history of this locality in locating relevant material on a particular subject.

In this internet age it is often thought that everything can be found if you “Google” it. This is not true especially of material published before 1990. It is hoped this bibliography will fill this huge gap.

The list includes not only books and articles relating solely to the Cynon Valley but also other texts of more general information that contain important references to the Cynon Valley. The bibliography also contains the titles of dissertations relating to the history of the area submitted for degrees and higher degrees to the constituent colleges of the University of Wales and their successor universities. We have some of these at Aberdare library.

As you will see, Literature is not a subject of the Bibliography. I have included it if it has local interest otherwise I have not included the works of local authors. Biographies of local authors I have included.

Whereas every effort has been made to include everything that has been written on the various aspects of the history of this valley it will be inevitable that some item has escaped my notice. If it transpires that there are omissions, I tender my apologies, and would be glad if readers contact me with details of the book or article so that the bibliography can be updated.

Annotations have been added alongside particular titles where necessary in order to explain the subject matter of the work.

Many of the works listed in this bibliography are to be found in Aberdare library either in the reference department or in the lending department and have an asterisk before the author/title. If the book is not available at Aberdare, it can be borrowed fairly quickly from another library.

I have included only some items from our W.W. Price Collections and R. Ivor Parry Local History Collections as they are too numerous to list in their entirety. They contain collections of booklets, papers, news cuttings and many other documents
about the Cynon Valley that these two local historians donated to the library. There is a printed catalogue of these collections available to view in the Reference Department of Aberdare Library.

May I draw your attention to two particular items, our excellent local historian Watkin William Price’s magnum opus: his 30 volume Biographical Index of Wales. The other one complements his work. It is the Index of Obituaries in the Aberdare Leader 1902-1940 which has been compiled by the members of the Cynon Valley branch of the Glamorgan Family History Society which must have taken thousands of hours to produce.

The Cynon Valley History Society produces a newsletter called Hanes that includes articles about local history. Some of them are included in this bibliography but not all, firstly because of the sheer number of articles but also because the complete run of Hanes to 2011 is now available on a DVD, which is available from the society. It has an index and search facility.

All the photographs at the beginning of each chapter are from our Digital Archive: http://archive.rhondda-cynon-taf.gov.uk/treorchy/index.php

I would like to express my thanks to Jeremy Morgan, Elfed Bowen, David Leslie Davies and Colin Rees of the Cynon Valley History Society, Brian Davies, the Curator of Pontypridd Museum and Gwyn Griffiths for drawing my attention to books and articles that might otherwise have been overlooked. I would also thank Geoffrey Evans for all his preliminary work in starting this bibliography.

Finally I would like to thank Mr Daryl Leach, a library colleague, who has transferred all this information onto PDF files and has put it “live” on the internet. This will be updated at regular intervals.

It is my hope that researchers will find this bibliography very useful.

September, 2013

Steven Graham
Reference Librarian
Aberdare Library
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17. Politics: Elections, Members of Parliament

18. Education

19. War/Military History

20. List of local newspapers
1. GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The Cynon Valley
A pencil sketch by Emma and Lucy Bacon drawn circa 1820-30


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Leland, John, *The Itinerary in Wales in or about the years 1536-1539*, Ed. Lucy Toulmin Smith, 1906.


*N*orth, Frederick John, *The River Scenery at the Head of the Vale of Neath*, 1930.

*P*rice, Martin *A Local Hill Top Walkers Guide*, 2010 (about the area from Abercynon to Mountain Ash)

*P*rice, Martin *A Ridgetop Walkers Guide*, 2011 (about the area between the Cynon and Clydach valleys)

*P*rice, Martin *A walker’s guide to the Upper Reaches of Cwm Clydach and Llanwonno*, 2006


2. GENERAL HISTORIES: ABERDARE

*‘Aberdare 150 years Ago’ IN Hanes, Issue 58, Spring 2012.

*Aberdare Almanacks 1888-1922 (these give interesting local information including some short biographies).


Anon 20 views of Aberdare, T.E. Smith, n.d.

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*Astle, Ivor, The History of Aberdare, 1901.  (He was only 19 when he wrote it and was not a native of Aberdare so it should be read with caution.)


*Blaengwawr Comprehensive School: The way we were*, Book One, 1986. (Oral history recorded by the pupils of the school. Many photographs and copied documents.)

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*CADW Aberdare: Understanding urban character* 2009, (an excellent volume on the historic architecture of Aberdare).


*‘Chartism in Aberdare’ IN Hanes, Issue 58, Spring 2012.

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Cynon Valley History Society

*Old Aberdare*


*Vol. 2* 1982

*Vol. 3* 1984

*Vol. 4* 1985

*Vol. 5* 1988

*Vol. 6* 1989

*Vol. 7* 1993

*Vol. 8* 1997

*Vol. 9* 2003

*Vol. 10* 2008

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*Hall, Marjorie E., Regional Survey of the District of Aberdare, 1929, (W.W.Price Coll.).


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*Jones, David Watkin, (Dafydd Morganwg), *Hanes Morganwg*, 1874.

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ABERCYNON
MOUNTAIN ASH
LLANWONNO
PENDERYN
PENRHIWCEIBER

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*Anon. Mountain Ash Coronation celebrations, 1953, (a good survey of the history and institutions of the town, together with a good directory of local tradesmen).

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*Davies, David, (Dewi Cynon), Hanes Plwyf Penderyn, 1924.


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*John, Deric, Cynon Valley Place-Names, 1998.


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*Mountain Ash Archival Footage (from 1920s of the opening of the Mountain Ash Hospital and of the unveiling of the Mountain Ash War Memorial) (DVD).


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Powell, Roberta *The Apothecary’s child*, 1982 (this romantic novel is loosely set at Duffryn House and Mountain Ash)

*Price, Martin, *A Local Countryside Diary*, 2007 (this is included as it has many photographs of Perthcelyn


Price, Martin *Poems*, 2013 (this is included as many of the poems are about Perthcelyn and the locality)


*Reports of the Commissioners Concerning Charities*, 1819.


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*Treaman (articles about) IN *Hanes* Summer 2013 Issue 63


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*Fox, Aileen, Lady, ‘Mynydd Aberdâr Prehistoric Settlement’ IN ARCH CAMB 1936, p111.


Fox, C. F., ‘A second cauldron and iron sword from the Llyn Fawr (Rhigos) hoard’ IN Antiquaries Journal, 1939.

Grimes, W.F., The Prehistory of Wales, 1951 (see chapter VI(i) Objects from Llynfawr. Also see index for Aberdare, Abercwmboi, Abercynon & Mountain Ash).


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**4B. ROMAN AND EARLY CHRISTIAN**
Bartram, Peter C., *A Welsh classical dictionary: people in history and legend up to about AD1000*, 1993 (Quite magnificent scholarship).


*Davies, Wendy, *An early Welsh microcosm : studies in the Llandaff charters*, 1978 (this has references to Llanwynno).

*Davies, Wendy, *The Llandaff Charters*, 1979 (this has a reference to Llanwynno p118 (99).

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*Nash-Williams, V.E., *The Early Christian Monuments of Wales*, 1950 (the new edition has both the Llanwonno crosses and the one found above Cwmpen nar).


4C. MEDIEVAL


*Clark, George Thomas, ‘Bolgoyth (Hirwaun) Margam Abbey Land’ in ‘Contribution Towards a Cartulary of Margam Abbey’ IN *ARCH CAMB* 1868, p192-3 & 195.

*Clark, George Thomas, Aberdare and Llanwonno mentioned in ‘Manorial Particulars of the County of Glamorgan’ IN *ARCH CAMB* 1878, pp1-3, 8 & 9.

*Clark, George Thomas, (ed.), *Cartae et Alia Munimenta Quae ad Dominium de Glamorgan Pertinent*, (Glamorgan Charters), 1910, 6 vols., (the source of information relating to grazing land disputes on Hirwaun common and the delineation of it boundaries).

*Clark, George Thomas, *The land of Morgan*, 1883.

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*Gray, Thomas, ‘The site of Pendar (Pendar was either Margam or Cefn Pennar?)’ IN *ARCH CAMB*, 1903, pp144-53.


4D. EARLY MODERN 1600-1800


*Thomas, William, The Diaries of William Thomas of Michaelston – super-Ely 1727-1794*, (contains several entries about the Cynon Valley)
4E. NINETEENTH CENTURY


Davies, W., *General view of the agricultural and domestic economy of South Wales*, Volume 1, 1815.


*Morgan, Kenneth, ‘How they lived then: Aberdare in the 1850s’ IN *ESCV*, 1984, pp80-100.

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5. BIOGRAPHY


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*Earley, Tom, All these trees, 1992.

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*Edwards, Wil John, From the Valley I came, 1956.


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*Evans, George Ewart, The strength of the hills: an autobiography, (Although associated with collecting the oral history of East Anglia he was born in Abercynon).

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*Hanford, Terry, From the valleys to the mountains, 2006 (an autobiography of a Pentecostal minister born in Aberaman)


*Hughes, Emrys, Keir Hardie, 1956.


*Jenkins, R.T., *Bardd a’i Gefndir* (Edward Ifan o’r Ton Coch), 1949.


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*Jones, Marion, ‘David Morgan (Dai o’r Nant) (1840-1900)’ IN GFHS, March 2013, pp21-23.

*Jones, Marion, ‘Henry Austin Bruce -1st Lord Aberdare’ IN GFHS March 2013, p4-6.

*Kahn, Cynthia, *Wild Water Lilies*, 2005. (The wartime diaries of Cynthia Kahn, née Cohen, who lived in Penrhiwceiber and whose mother ran the women’s fashions shop Jane Cooper in Canon Street, Aberdare. Mention of various Jewish families in the Cynon Valley, such as the Britz family of Aberaman.)


Keating, Joseph, *Son of Judith* (a novel about industrial non-conformist village life in the Cynon valley towards the end of the 19th century
probably based on Mountain Ash), 1901. (He wrote other novels about the same subject.)


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*Lewis, Trevor *Dandy Lion’s among the daffodils*, 1993 (a pamphlet about a Cwmaman man during the 1926 General Strike)


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*Pike, W. T., (ed.), *South Wales and Monmouthshire at the opening of the twentieth century*, 1907, 1986.


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*Williams, Lewis Noah, *Carw Coch*, 1908.

*Williams, Tom, (Parcwyson), *Cofio “Tel” Mr Tom Evans, Cwmaman*, Aberdâr 1929.

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6B. INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

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6C. IRON INDUSTRY

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*Hughes, Margaret, ‘Aberaman Colliery, the price of coal’ IN ESCV., 1984, pp152-159.

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*Young, Eric W., A Course in World Geography: Book 1: People in Britain, (Chapter 6 is entitled Coal miners of South Wales and is about Mr Ernest Clarke, a miner at Cwmaman colliery and his daughter Marian), 1960.

6E. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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6F. OTHER INDUSTRIES


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Aberdare & Aberaman Consumers Gas Company
Aberdare Holdings
Clog making
Evan Thomas & Williams Ltd., (Lamp manufacturers)
Gadlys Engineering Works
Hirwaun Industrial Estate
Helliwells Ltd
Phurnacite Plant
Printers
Robertstown Tinworks
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