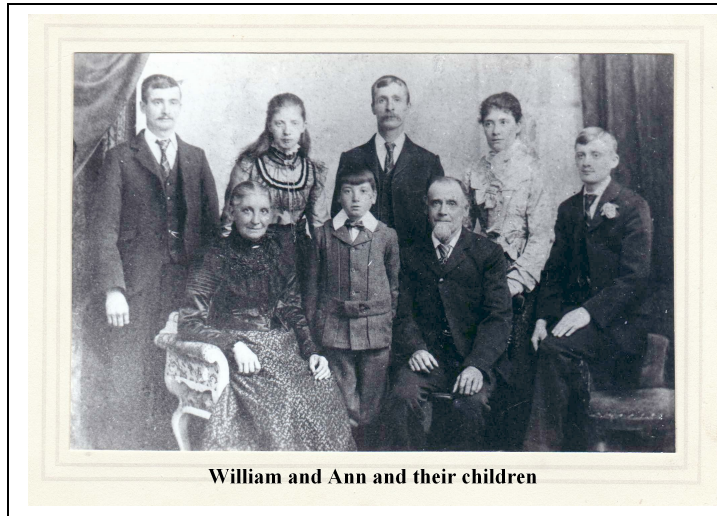


## Janet Collier's Canal Memories



My husband's great great grandfather, Evan John, was a boatman and lived at Maes Araul between 1841 and the late 1870's. The A470 now runs through that area just before it passes the Tesco Store in Upper Boat. Evan John's son William and his family were living at 5, Springfield Terrace, Rhydyfelin in 1901. In " The Glamorgan Free Press" dated 13/12/1930 it states the following:

*"William John, aged 84, married 60 years a week before his death. He built the first house in lower Rhydyfelin. He was in charge of barges on the canal between Pontypridd and Cardiff. He retired in 1910. He lived at 5, Springfield Terrace, Rhydyfelin. He leaves a wife, Ann "*

William's son, Bedlington John, lived at 2, Springfield Cottages, Lock Lewis, Rhydyfelin. Springfield Cottages gardens ran right to the edge of the canal. Bedlington's daughter, Iris (my husband's mother), often travelled by barge to school in Hawthorn. She was often late because of the leisurely pace of the horses that pulled the canal boats!

Another great grandfather of my husband, Richard Williams, born in 1853 and living in Duffryn, was also a boatman on the canal. A model he made, in about the 1880's, of a canal boat is in the Welsh and Maritime Industrial Museum. According to the book *The "Glamorganshire and Aberdare Canals"* he also made a "salt box" which was kept on board the boat for use when cooking. His son, also called Richard, made a model of a canal boat. A picture of this appears in the book I mentioned but the model has not survived.

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