

**Plans and images (dated c.1902-10) of Ynysywarn Farm, Llantwit Fadre, near Pontyp-
ridd.** This farm was taken over to provide a site for building the Upper Boat Power Station. More recently the remains of the farm and power station have vanished completely under the Treforest Trading Estate. The farm was originally part of the Bute Estate and had historic as-
sociations with nonconformity and chapels in the area.

The farm was old, dating back at least to the 18th century, and was part of the Bute Estate. The local name for the farm was Ty Nel, which originated from the name of Eleanor, the widow of an early tenant who continued the tenancy after her husband died and who was instrumental in hosting the earliest meetings of Calvinistic Methodism in the area, using the farm as the meet-
ing place before Bryntirion CM Chapel was built in Upper Church Village.

The tenancy was taken over by John Morgan (my great-grandfather) sometime between 1851 and 1861. The farm features in the Bute Estate records (at NLW) comprising 54 acres in 1881. Very early in the 20th century it was sold to provide a location for the new Upper Boat Power Station. John Morgan continued to farm the remaining land until his death in 1913 and his son, John Evan Morgan, continued at Ynysywarn until 1925/6, when the power station was extended and farming was abandoned.

In 1902 the first stages of the power station were built on a portion of the Ynysywarn farm land. In 1925/6 it was extended. In 1972 the power station was demolished and the whole site is now part of Treforest Trading Estate. At the time of the demolition local news reported that Eunice Lewis (nee Morgan), one of the daughters of the Ynysywarn family who had been pre-
sent at the opening of the power station, remembered a bottle containing a gold sovereign and a newspaper had been buried at the site. Bulldozing was halted until this was recovered. Sadly, Eunice had died in the meantime.

The surviving plans and photograph of Ynysywarn farm:

These date from the earliest days of the Power Station (pre-1910) and were drawn up for the new owners, the South Wales Power Company. They reveal minute detail for the installation of electricity. The large photograph of the farm reveals the outline of the power station in the background.

Chapel connections:

John Morgan (1826-1913) was the son of David and Catherine Morgan of Drysgoed Fawr, a farm owned by Salmon William, comprising 90 acres in 1846. David Morgan had parish re-
sponsibilities as Churchwarden, Vestry Clerk, and Overseers of the Poor in 1818 and 1819, as well as being Treasurer and Trustee of Bryntirion CM Chapel. He had beautiful handwriting, and many of the church accounts are written by him.

John Morgan married twice and had a large family, all the children being born at Ynysywarn farm. The family graves are at Bryntirion Chapel cemetery, and burials have taken place there into the 1990s although the chapel had already been taken down. After John Morgan's death (1913) his widow Jane remained at Ynysywarn farm for a few years before moving to one of the houses built by John Morgan in Dynea Road, Upper Boat, which were occupied by his

daughters Eunice (wife of D Ben Lewis), and Ruth (wife of John Jenkins) for the greater part of the 20th century.

John Morgan had attended the parish Church as well as Bryntirion CM Chapel (Upper Church Village) and was later associated with Carmel CM Chapel, Upper Boat, where he provided communion vessels c.1902. His widow Jane was a long serving member at Carmel and was its treasurer for many years, taking over that duty after her husband's death. She died in January 1934 aged 79 and was buried alongside other family members at Bryntirion, where they had attended services from its establishment in the mid-18th century (after the early days of CM worship at Ty Nel) until the establishment of Carmel CM Chapel at Upper Boat.

John Morgan married his second wife, Jane Evans, in 1873. Their daughter Jane (1879-1911), who qualified as a teacher and married Iorwerth John Howells in 1903, was my father's mother. Her sudden death in 1911 from pneumonia, aged 32, precipitated a family crisis as she left two young children aged three and seven. Her sister Eleanor Morgan (1887-1972), also a qualified teacher, went to care for her niece and nephew at 9, Evansfield Road, Llandaff North, and subsequently married her brother-in-law, my grandfather Iorwerth John Howells, who worked in the drawing office of the Taff Vale Railway in central Cardiff. Eleanor was the grandmother I knew.

The information above is based on family records and papers and on research on other official records. All the family records are now in my possession and ownership, having been passed down through my grandmother to my late father – Iorwerth Howells (1907-1999).

Dr Susan J Davies, 2012