

Daniel Andrew – further details

Daniel Andrew was the second son and fourth child of Daniel James and Beatrice Susannah Andrew. He was born on the 5th October 1913, in the family home at 3, Clarence Street, now in the Sandfields area of Swansea. Along with his siblings at that time, his early childhood was spent without his father, Daniel James Andrew, who had been called up for service in the First World War in 1915 and was not demobilised until 1919.

It was also in 1919 that Daniel started school as a five-year-old, attending the Oxford Street School - or National School, as it was sometimes called. The school was originally a church run concern. Founded in 1848, it catered for some 400 children. The first class of 1919 shown below, had 51 children and not a sign of a classroom assistant!!

Beatrice Andrew and Children

Taken in 1916 this shows Beatrice Susannah Andrew with her first five children. Clockwise from the left they are Lillian, Beatrice herself, Daniel, Clifford, May and baby Doris.



Daniel Andrew in Oxford Street School's first class in 1919

School life at this time was very strict and regimented, with the Church still having a strong influence on the educational provision of the school. The local vicar would often visit, RI had a high profile and older pupils were often given lectures in temperance and the evils of alcohol. However,

pupils did get time off for big local events like an afternoon off for the arrival in Swansea on 3rd. October 1921 of Broncho Bill's circus. At school, Daniel was a promising student and on the 18th. June 1925 passed his scholarship exams to continue his studies at Dynevor School - one of only ten successful pupils from Oxford Street School that year.



A busy street scene in 1925 looking along the now widened Castle Street towards the Ben Evans department store. (Just look at that traffic jam !!)

It was at the unfortunate time at the start of the depression years in 1930 that Daniel left school. By 1934 he was working as a milk rounds-man and had met Mary Owen, from St. Thomas.

The Owen family had a long association with the St. Thomas area of Swansea, although they were not originally from there. Mary Owen lived at 60, Kilvey Terrace, or "No. 60" as it was usually referred to, and grew up with her grandparents George and Mary Owen, her aunt and uncle Ernest and Edith Fox and their children. Following their wedding in 1939, and before Daniel was posted to Northern Ireland, the couple lived at No. 60 Kilvey Terrace and that was where their first son Terry was born. With army postings in various parts of the UK, Daniel was only able to come home on a very few short visits. About two years after Terry was born they moved out of No. 60 and rented rooms further down the street in No. 17.

Mary lived there with their son Terry until Daniel was discharged from the army after the end of the war. By early 1947 they had moved to No. 4. Cleddau Place, between Bon-y-Maen and Pentrechwyth. This was very close to Tir Nest where Francis and Sophia Andrew first set up home 60 years earlier in 1887. Back in civilian life Daniel's first job was selling insurance for the Co-op but he must also have been drawn back towards a military lifestyle since, after only a short break, he formally rejoined the TA on the 28th. July 1947. They moved to Caereithin in 1952 where their second son Colin, was born. Daniel joined the South Wales Transport Company and remained with them until his retirement in 1978. He died in February 1983.