

## James and Mary Jane Andrew

James and Mary Jane were married on the 6<sup>th</sup>. March 1853 with their first child, Emily Bennallack Andrew, born on 30<sup>th</sup>. July the same year. They lived initially with Mary Jane's parents at 6 Pleasant Street, before moving to Clifton Street and a home of their own by 1854. (Following the construction of Alexandra Road, Clifton Street was renamed Clifton Hill). From the time of their marriage in 1853 to the census in 1901 they moved house at least ten times and had ten children, Emily, James, Harriet, another Harriett, Joshua, another Joshua, Elizabeth, Francis, William and Sydney. In 1858 they lived at 27 Greenfield Street only to move to No. 15 Greenfield Street by 1860, both addresses being just around the corner from James' parents in 28 Union Street and Mary Jane's mother Mary Bennallack, at 20 Garden Street.



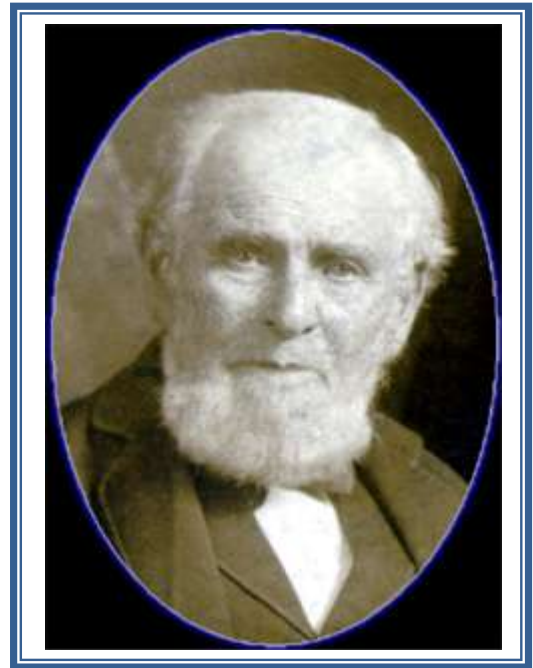
**Greenfield Street in 1852 with James Andrew's house, No. 15, highlighted**

The detailed map of Greenfield Street dates from 1852 and comes from the Swansea Board of Health survey. No. 27 was next to the Albion Inn and had not been built when this map was prepared. For No. 15, the garden area behind is described as an old dump, although of what is not stated. At the end of the long garden is the privy and at this time it appears that it may well have been shared with other houses in the row. However, the same area had been built upon and become part of an engineering workshop by about 1860, with new toilets built for each house. By 1863 the family were living in the brand new houses that had recently been built in Nicholl Street, but they were at 22 Garden Street in 1865 and Oxford Street in 1867. By 1870, when their tenth and last child Sydney was born, they were in Westbury Street. After this they went to 26 Union Street by 1880. They are missing completely from the 1881 census but were still in Union Street in 1885, only to move again to Humphrey Street by 1901. At that time James Andrew was 73 years of age and with no

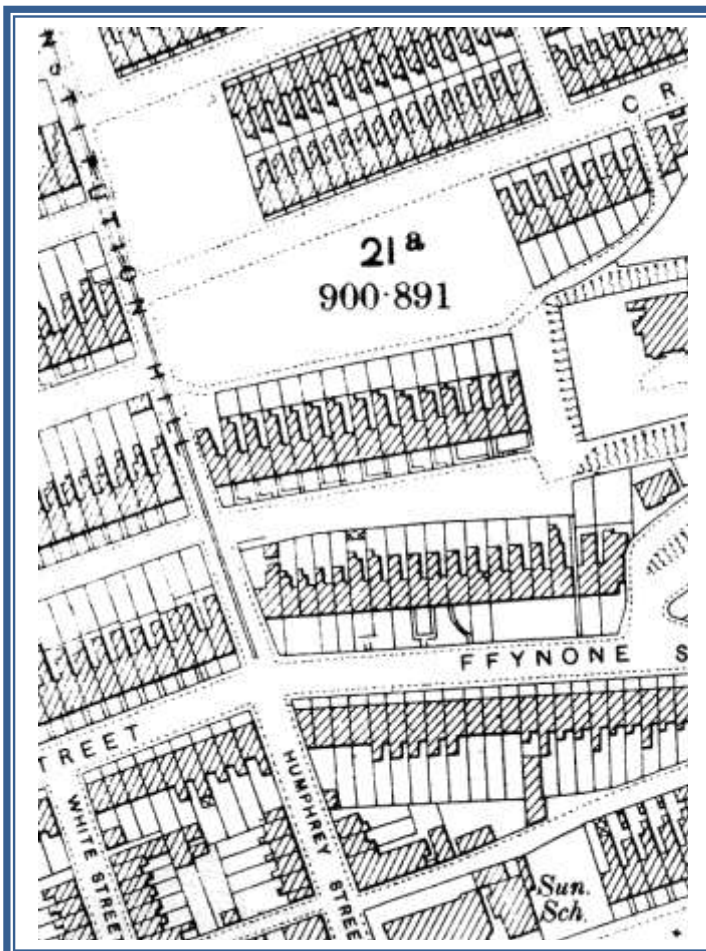
state pension or income support was still working, although not as a sawyer. He was described as a copperworks labourer, but no other details are available. He was still alive in 1908, aged 80, when the photograph below was taken.

**James Andrew at 80 taken in 1908 (Sadly, no photograph exists of Mary Jane.)**

As for their children, Emily has not been positively traced beyond 1871, but is believed to have married Charles Hewitt from Connahs Key. Quite why the family are missing from the 1881 census is unclear, but this may have been the time when Emily married Charles Hewitt, although no marriage records have been found. On a visit to Swansea, possibly to have a baby, she died in October 1890 and was buried in plot 670B of Danygraig cemetery. Her death provides the only known family link to Charles as he is listed as the grave owner. Harriet was born in September 1856 but died a year later. In 1858 another Harriet was born and married William Roberts in 1883 but up to 1901 it appears that they had no surviving children. They were then living at 19 Ffynone Street just around the corner from James and Mary in Humphrey Street. She died in 1925 and was buried with Emily, rather than her husband, in plot 670B.



**Humphrey Street in 1899 (Taken from the 1899 Ordnance Survey map)**



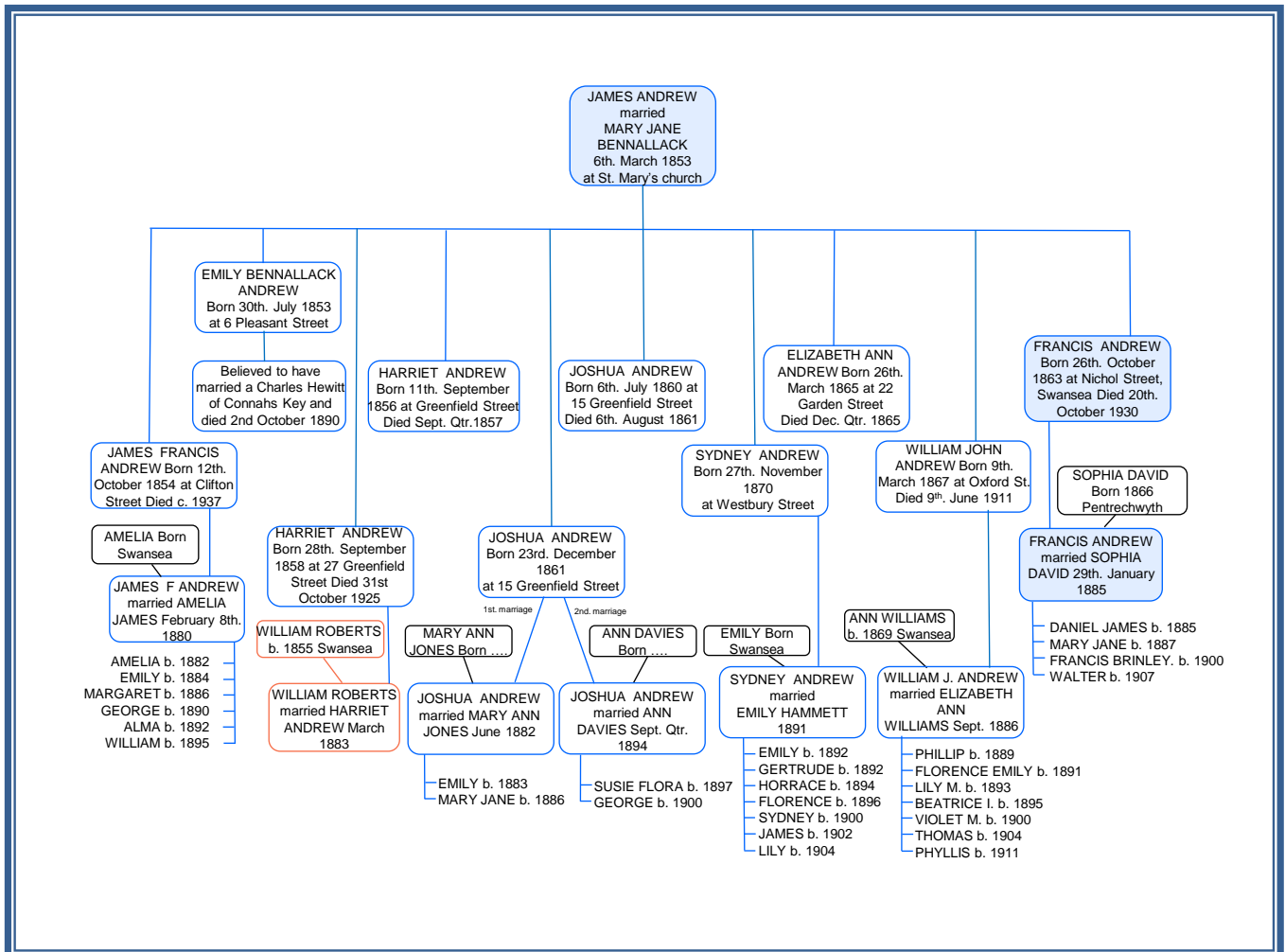
The eldest son James was a painter, and after marrying Amelia James in Swansea had moved to Blaenrhondda by 1881. A year later they were living in the Neath area and by 1883 were back in Swansea. They had six children up to 1901 and were living at 65, Pentregethin Road. Joshua was born in July 1860 but died a year later. They named their next child Joshua too, and he became a mason and married Mary Ann Jones in June 1882. Shortly after, they moved to the Cardiff area before returning to Swansea by about 1885. His wife died after their second child and by 1891 he was living with his sister Harriet Roberts. He then married Ann Davies in 1894 and by 1901 he had a total of four children and lived at 8, Caswell Street. Elizabeth Ann, named after James's grandmother and mother, died after a year. William John named after James's grandfather and father, was a painter and married Elizabeth Ann Williams from Swansea in 1886. They stayed in Swansea and by 1901 had five

children and were living at 20 Baptist Well Place. William suffered from lead poisoning most probably brought on by mixing the lead based paints he used in his job. He died of exhaustion due to dementia

in 1912 at the Hay-on-Wye Lunatic Asylum. Sydney Andrew, the youngest son, was also a painter and married Emily Hammett in Swansea sometime in 1891. By 1900 they had had five children, all born in Swansea, but by 1901 the family had moved to 13, Croft Street, Aberavon where they had a further two children. The remaining son, Francis, is our next direct ancestor and like three of his brothers was also a painter.

James Andrew and his family are recorded as living at the following eleven addresses..: -

- 1853 6 Pleasant Street Sawyer
- 1854 Clifton Street Sawyer
- 1858 27 Greenfield Street Sawyer topman
- 1860 15 Greenfield Street Sawyer topman
- 1861 15 Greenfield Street Sawyer topman
- 1863 Nicholl Street Sawyer topman
- 1865 22 Garden Street Sawyer topman
- 1867 Oxford Street Sawyer topman
- 1870 Westbury Street Sawyer topman
- 1871 20 Westbury Street Sawyer topman
- 1880 26 Union Street Sawyer
- 1885 26 Union Street Sawyer
- 1891 26 Union Street Sawyer
- 1901 24 Humphrey Street Copper works labourer
- 1903 74 Ffynone Street Retired



**James Andrew's family**

## THE SAWYER

James Andrew was a sawyer topman for most of his working life, although he would have started as an under-sawyer. Sawyers worked either in a saw-mill powered by water wheels or steam engines or else they worked in the more traditional saw pits. These were pits dug into the ground with a frame for supporting uncut trees or timber. At best they would have a roof for protection from the weather and a boundary wall to contain the timbers. Being a port, with a need for ship's timber and masts, many sawpits were sited close to the shore or docks but it is not known where exactly, James Andrew worked.

The saw-pit required two sawyers. The topman, who as the name implied worked at the top of the pit, was in control of the operations and would be balanced on the tree trunk being sawn or sometimes on planks either side of the trunk. His companion worked at the pit bottom, the sorry end of the two-man saw, often in water, and would be showered by all of the debris from the sawing process for eight hours a day, six days a week. Keeping an upturned eye on the cutting line was essential and so sawdust, wood and bark splinters would often need to be removed from the under-sawyers eyes. The aim therefore, was to graduate to the topman as soon as possible.

The job was physically demanding of both men and for the topman the skill was in getting the most out of a tree with as little waste as possible. Not surprisingly the heavy work drew rewards in higher than average pay.