



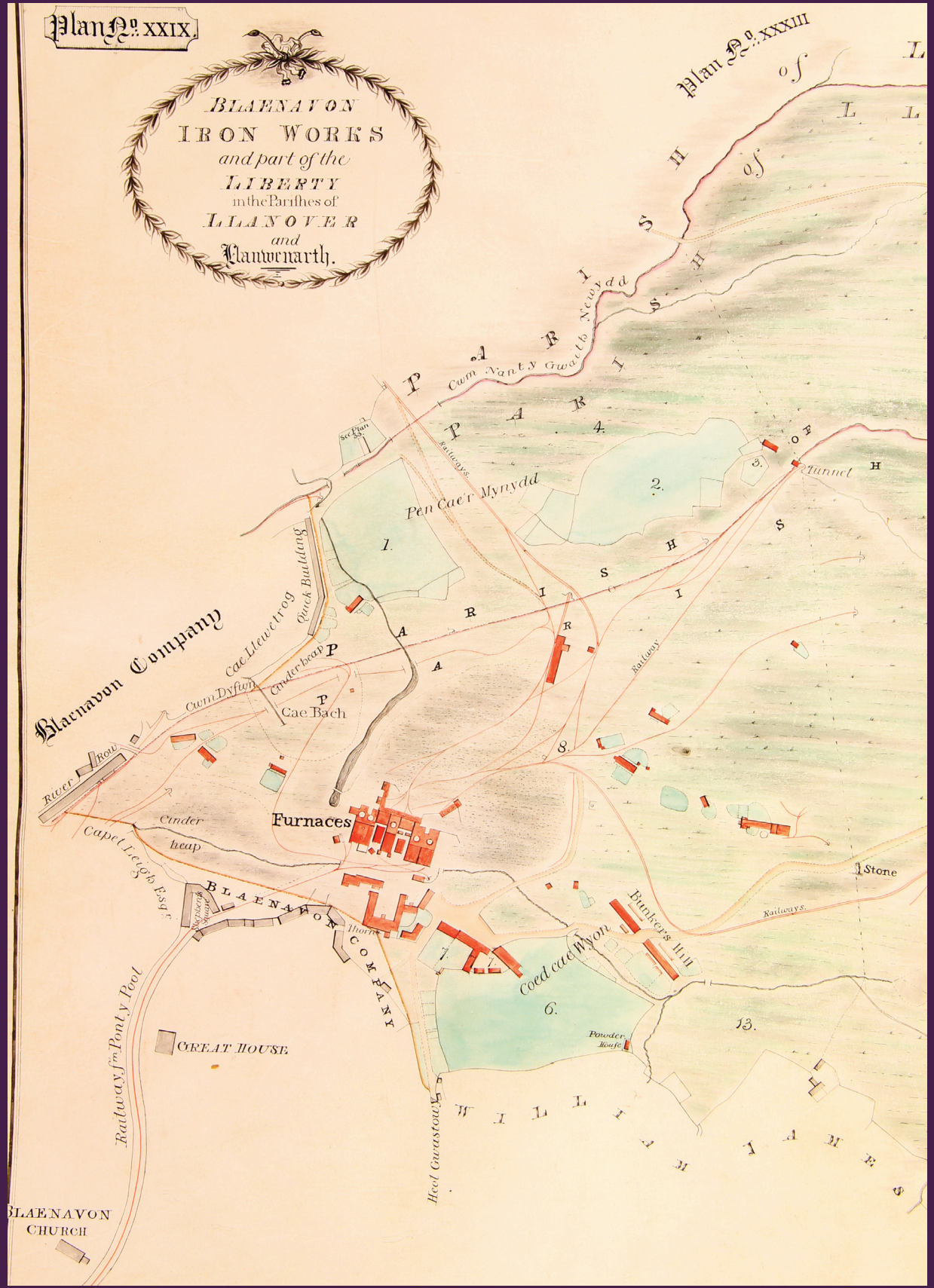
## Guide for Teachers



Plan No. XXIX

BLAENAVON  
 IRON WORKS  
 and part of the  
 LIBERTY  
 in the Parishes of  
 LLANOVER  
 and  
 Hlanwenarth.

Plan No. XXXII



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# Our Collections and Areas of Learning and Experience

Stretching from the 1200s to the 2000s, our extensive collections can be utilised for a wide range of topics. This guide will provide some examples from our collections and how they can be used for the Areas of Learning and Experience and linked to Welsh Black and Minority Ethnic history.

The following sections highlight just some of our many collections that can be used to support the Areas of Learning and Experience and how they can be used;

## Maps

### Areas of Learning and Experience:

- Language, literacy and communication;
- Humanities;
- Mathematics and numeracy;
- Science and technology;
- and Expressive arts.

The Archives hold a wide range of maps in our collections from estate to Ordnance Survey maps. These are a fantastic way of introducing students to the historical changes that took place in their local area. Students can compare and contrast maps from different time periods to aerial photographs and present-day maps to;

- develop map reading skills,
- identify local landmarks
- and changes in population growth and local industries.

As many of the towns in Monmouthshire were established during the 'Industrial Revolution', maps can be used to prompt discussions around town planning;

- why is their local town designed the way it is?
- What facilities do towns and workers need?
- What transport links are needed for goods and the general public?

Students could undertake a creative exercise where they redesign their town or create their own. They can also be used to discuss who maps are made for and how they are made.

Maps can be cross-referenced with other records in our collections such as parish or school records – for example, school admission registers contain a child's name and address. The address could be plotted on an Ordnance Survey map and students could measure the child's route to school or other landmarks.



## Parish Registers

### Areas of Learning and Experience:

- Language, literacy and communication;
- Humanities;
- Mathematics and numeracy;
- and Health and wellbeing.

Parish registers contain baptisms, marriages and burials that took place in the local parish church;

Baptisms usually record	Marriages record	Burials record
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the person's name</li><li>• their parents' names</li><li>• their father's occupation</li><li>• where they lived</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the bride and grooms' names</li><li>• their ages</li><li>• occupations and where they lived</li><li>• and their fathers' names and occupations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the person's name,</li><li>• their age and where they lived</li><li>• sometimes it will also include what they died from</li></ul>

Many of these records have been digitised and are available online via the websites Find My Past and Ancestry. It is worth noting that this particular collection of records relates to the Church in Wales. The Archives also hold Non-Conformist (Chapel) and Jewish records.

These records offer the opportunity for students to;

- interpret old handwriting
- and analyse historical data.

By choosing a date range from the parish records, students can undertake a data analysis of jobs and life expectancy.

Parish registers can be used in connection with the maps, the census and school records – however, they can also be used as a starting point exploring the history of healthcare and the creation of the NHS.

For example, the below gives Charles Foley's address as the Workhouse – not only was it somewhere that you went if you were destitute, it was also used as a hospital. Many of former workhouses were adapted into hospitals following the creation of the National Health Service. The Archives hold a number of workhouse records, hospital records, mental health records and medical aid society records.

You can find more information regarding which religious records we hold on our website [here](#).

BURIALS in the Parish of Abergavenny  
in the County of Monmouth in the Year 1840.

Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
Sarah Jones Widow worn out No. 1897.	Butcher Row	April 3 <sup>d</sup>	79	W. Powel Vicar
Charles Foley hydrocephalus No. 1898.	Workhouse casual poor	7 <sup>th</sup>	1	Rev. H. Peake B.A. Chaplain
James Parry Scrophula No. 1899.	Union Frogmore Street	9 <sup>th</sup>	25	Rev. H. Peake B.A. Chaplain
William Nicholas Phtisis & Dropsy No. 1900.	Union Monk Street	10 <sup>th</sup>	42	Rev. H. Peake B.A. Chaplain
Robert Williams typhus fever No. 1901.	Union Monk Street	13 <sup>th</sup>	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rev. H. Peake B.A. Chaplain
Mary Anne Tranter Typhus fever No. 1902.	Union Cross street	13 <sup>th</sup>	15	Rev. H. Peake B.A. Chaplain
David Barry convulsions from teething No. 1903.	Workhouse from Abertruth	18 <sup>th</sup>	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	Rev. H. Peake B.A. Chaplain
Richard Absalom inflammation of lungs No. 1904.	Workhouse casual poor	21 <sup>st</sup>	24	Rev. H. Peake B.A. Chaplain

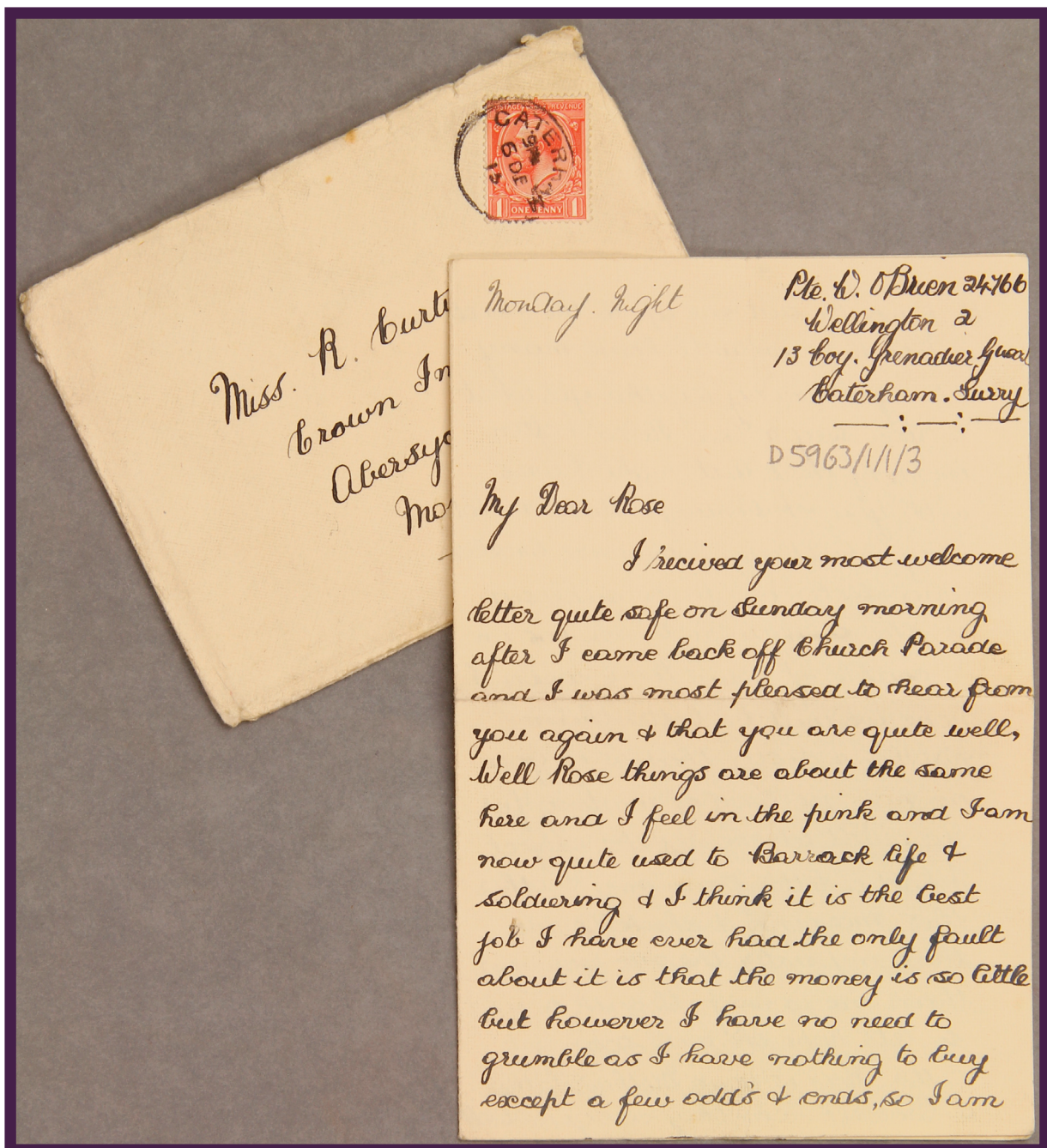


## Personal Papers

### Areas of Learning and Experience:

- Language, literacy and communication;
- Humanities
- and Expressive arts.

Gwent Archives hold a wide range of personal papers ranging from letters, postcards and diaries. They capture individual's experiences of travelling through Wales, exploring foreign lands and the wet, muddy trenches of the First World War. These documents can not only help your class experience the past from an individual's perspective, but also be used as prompts for creative writing, exploring changes in communication and developments in transportation.





## School Records

### Areas of Learning and Experience:

- Language, literacy and communication;
- Humanities;
- Science and technology;
- Health and wellbeing;
- and Mathematics and numeracy

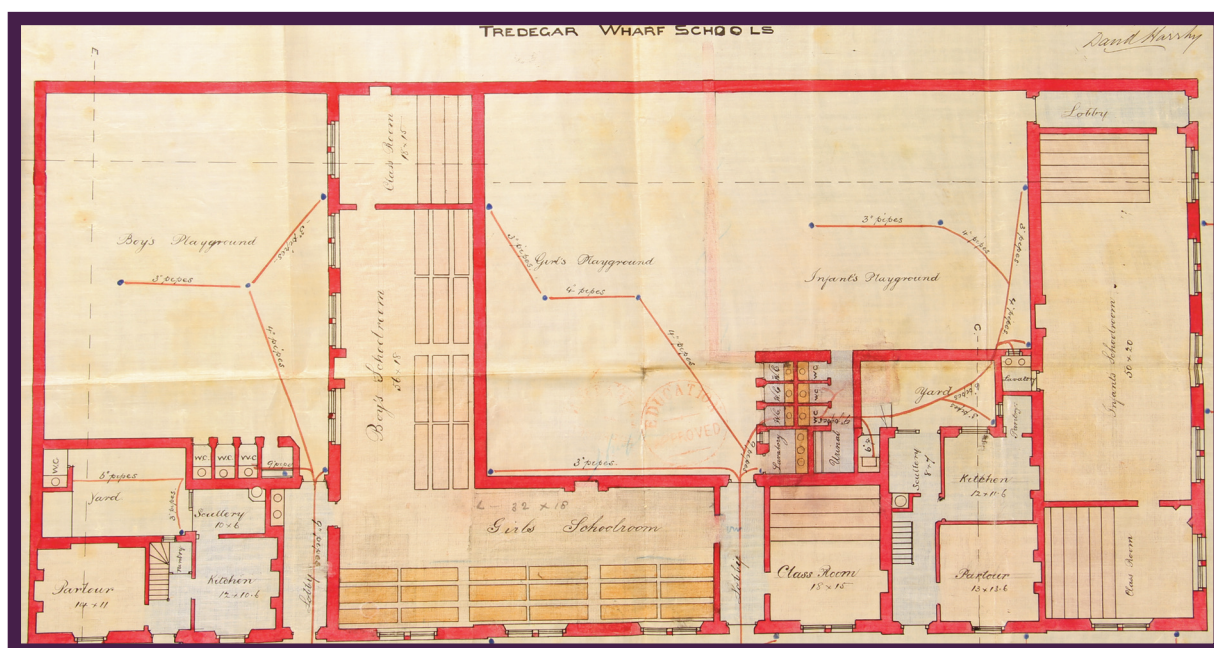
Our collections contain a number of school records – ranging from admission registers, log books and punishment books. We might even hold the records for your school!

Admission registers contain pupils' names, dates of birth, address and, sometimes, their reason for leaving the school. They can also include entries relating to Belgian refugee children who came to Britain during the First World War.

Admission registers can be used in connection with maps, parish records, and the census to name a few. They can provide an insight into families leaving the area to find work elsewhere during periods of industrial decline and children leaving school to find employment at a young age. It is worth noting that some admission records have been digitised and can be accessed online via the websites Ancestry and Find My Past.

Log books will document the day to day running of the school but can also record events such extreme changes in weather, outbreaks of illness such as measles, mumps and Spanish 'flu; as well as the impact of national and international events on the local area (such as strikes and the First and Second World Wars).

Please note that there may be some restrictions in terms of accessing these records as they can contain individuals' personal information and other sensitive information. You can find more information regarding which school records we hold on our website [here](#).



## Census Records

### Areas of Learning and Experience:

- Language, literacy and communication;
- Humanities;
- And Science and Technology

Family history websites, Find My Past and Ancestry can be accessed through computers in our Research Room or at your local library. These websites have access to the census from 1841 to 1921, and the 1939 Register.

The census provides a snapshot of a household at a particular moment in time and provides as insight into occupations, family sizes, education, and places of birth.

The census can be used to undertake a data analysis of a particular street, can be used to compare and contrast streets or buildings over a long period of time, can be cross-referenced with a wide range of records in our collections such as maps, parish records, building plans and health records; and can be used to trace individuals through time.

The census can also be used to demonstrate;

- changes in education and child employment;
- the role of women at home and in work;
- and Wales' links to the international community and wider world.





## Deeds, Leases and Charters

### Areas of Learning and Experience:

- Language, literacy and communication;
- Humanities;
- Science and technology;
- and Expressive Arts

This beautiful wax seal belonged to Jasper Tudor who was the Duke of Bedford, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Abergavenny. He was also the great-uncle of Henry VIII! This document is an agreement between Jasper Tudor and Hoel ap Gwilim David ap Griffith regarding a house and ten acres of land. On one side of the seal you will see Jasper Tudor on his horse, his sword raised and his family coat of arms on his shield. On the reverse is the Tudor family coat of arms.

Many of our older documents may seem intimidating but they can still be used by children to explore different topics, for example;

Seals such as these can be used to discuss changes in literacy – many people in history could not write their own name so would use a recognisable seal to ‘sign’ official documents. They can also be used as a creative exercise with the class designing their own seal – what would they put on their coat of arms, how would others know that it was their seal?

Our older documents also tend to be written on parchment using iron gall ink. Science and technology could explore the history of parchment to paper, from individual scribes to mass printing, from the use of iron gall ink (made at home!) to biros.



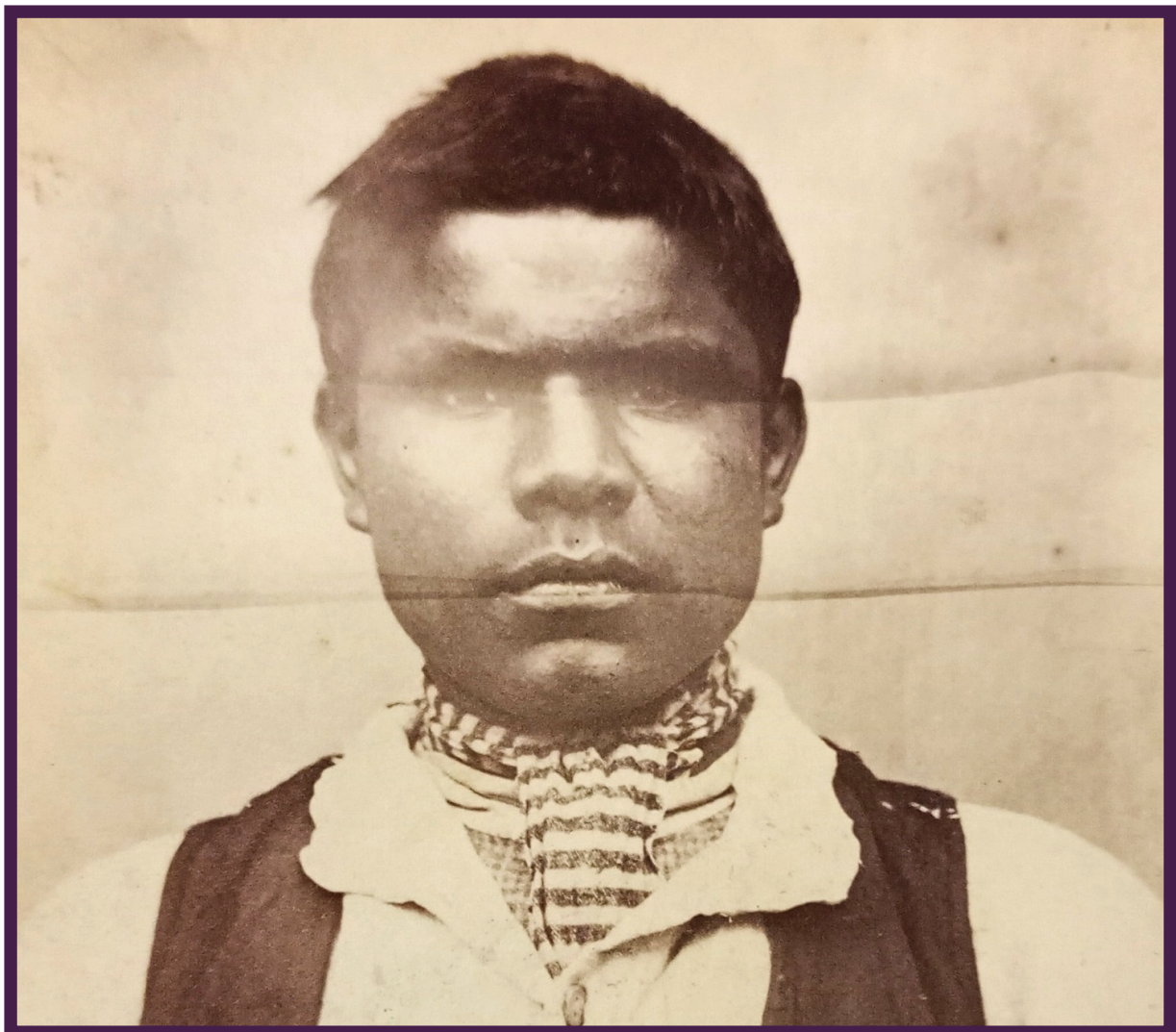


## Welsh BAME History

The Archives are still working towards understanding how many of our collections connect to the empire, slavery and diversity. Our collections include the baptisms of enslaved men at Monmouth; lists of enslaved men, women and children living on plantations; and records relating to the Newport Race Riots of 1919. We also hold a number of records and publications that relate to Newport Docks that mention goods that came into Wales and where they came from.

This photograph is taken from the Usk Gaol Registers. John Mason is an 18 year old black man who is living at Forge Row, Ebbw Vale in the 1870s. He is described as a labourer who may have been employed at the Ebbw Vale Steelworks. The Register tells us that John Mason was born on the island of St Helena – a place that has connections to the British Empire and the slave trade. The British brought an estimated 27,000 enslaved people from west Africa to the island on their way to America. Slavery was abolished at St Helena in 1839 – John was born in 1854.

John Mason's entry in this volume can prompt discussions on slavery and the Empire, as well as discussions and creative exercises around how John Mason made his way from St Helena to Ebbw Vale (likely via Newport).





## Summary

These are just some of the many records we hold and how they can be used to support the curriculum. To find out more, please contact the Community Engagement Archivist, Rhiannon Phillips, via [enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk). We will be able to recommend suitable collections, suggest possible exercises and provide a variety of resources.

