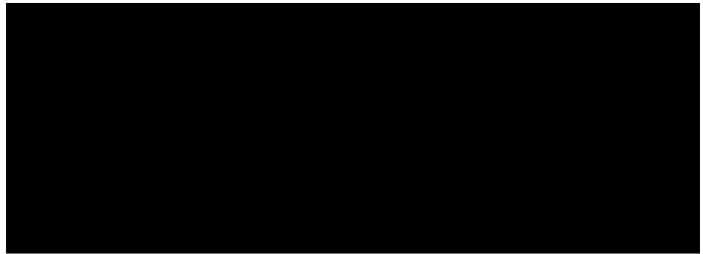
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PUGH, WILLIAM (1783 - 1842), of Bryn-llywarch, Montgomeryshire, Radical landlord and entrepreneur



Name: William Pugh Date of birth: 1783 Date of death: 1842 Spouse: Beatrix Matilda Pugh (née Dennison) Parent: William Pugh Gender: Male Occupation: Radical landlord and entrepreneur Area of activity: Business and Industry; Land Ownership Author: Arthur Herbert Dodd

Born at Pennant, Berriw, Montgomeryshire, on 26 December 1783. His father, William Pugh (1748 - 1823) of Pennant (later of Caerhowel, which he bought in 1800), belonged to an old county family which he had enriched by his legal practice, was a pioneer of banking in Newtown, and served as sheriff in 1813; his mother was the daughter of William Lewis of Welshpool. Educated at Rugby (to 1802), Trinity, Cambridge (1802-6) and Lincoln's Inn (admitted 5 February 1805), he settled at home at the height of the invasion scare, serving as deputy-lieutenant (1807), and as captain (1809), and major (1813) in the local militia. Although called to the Bar in 1813 (11 February) and occupying chambers in Lincoln's Inn (1814-17), he never practised. In 1816 (5 June) he married Beatrix Matilda Dennison, daughter of a Brighton doctor, of Montgomeryshire extraction, and next year was put on the county bench; soon afterwards he rebuilt and settled in the old family mansion of Brynllywarch. He was an active and lavish supporter of such measures for improved transport as the extension of the Montgomeryshire canal to Newtown (1815-19), the macadamizing of the county's turnpike roads and the opening (1825) of more direct access to South Wales via Newtown and Builth. As a magistrate he was popular and helped to prevent the outbreak of serious food riots in the hard winter of 1830. He organized local support for the Reform Bill, but declined to stand for Parliament and failed to break the fifty ears' monopoly of the county seat by C. W. Williams Wynn, in whose eyee Pugh was one of the 'new race of Liberals and independents.' He also promoted popular education, serving (c. 1832) as local representative of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. Further measures of his to promote the prosperity of Newtown and district were the building there of a flannel mart which helped to break down the historic Shrewsbury monopoly of wholesale distribution, the promotion of a local newspaper (1835), the *Montgomeryshire Heraid*, and the succ

Author

Emeritus Professor Arthur Herbert Dodd, (1891 - 1975)

Sources

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