

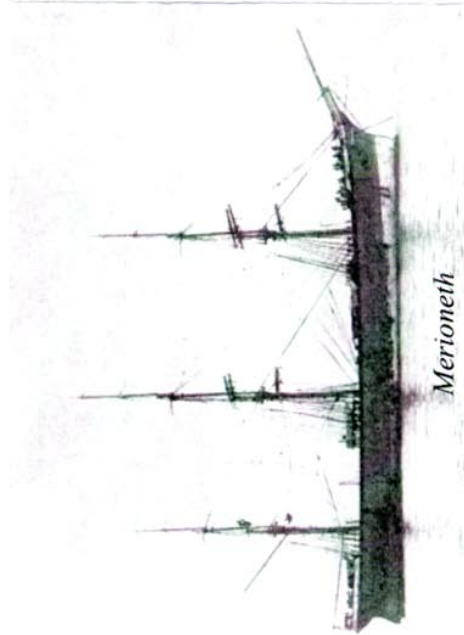
Sponsors:

The Davies Family.

John Edwards (Wholesale Grocers) Ltd.

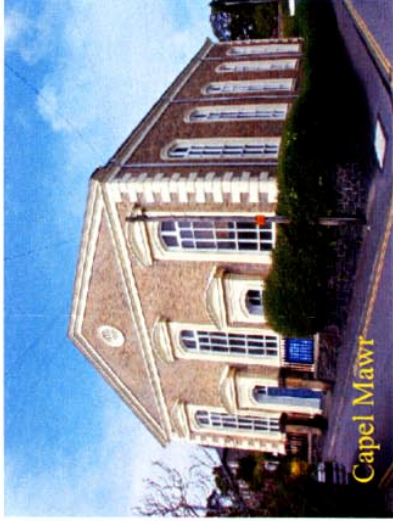
Dr and Mrs Tom Parry Jones.

Friends of the Menai Bridge Community Heritage Trust.



Menai Bridge Community Heritage Trust,
Menai Bridge, Anglesey, North Wales.
Charity Reg. 1082013

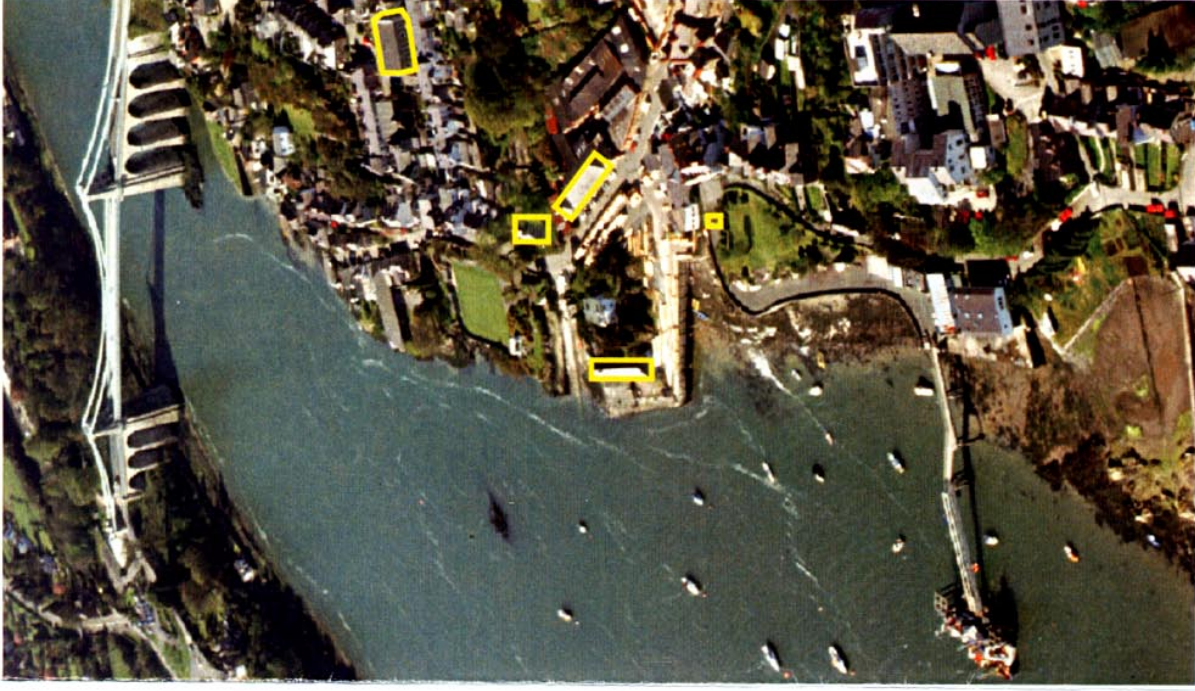
Layout by David Roberts, University of Wales Bangor,
printed by Argraffdy Menai.



The Davies family were splendid examples of Victorian self-made men. They became very wealthy, and Richard and his brother Robert were generous benefactors, giving money and support to the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Capel Mawr and to the English Presbyterian Church in Menai Bridge, strongly supporting British Schools in Anglesey and donating money to the Normal and University Colleges of Bangor.

The heart of the Davies family's marine empire still exists in Menai Bridge: the original Georgian warehouses (now known as the John Edwards warehouse), the Princess pier and warehouse, and the splendid early-Victorian residence of the family, Min y Don. This waterfront area is the historic centre of Menai Bridge and is the perfect site for a heritage centre and museum.

This document is dedicated to the memory of the late Professor Dennis Wood.



Menai Bridge Waterfront Heritage Trail

Menai Bridge Waterfront

THE DAVIES CONNECTION

Following the opening of the Telford Bridge in 1826, the Davies family developed a large business as timber merchants and ship-owners in Menai Bridge. The Davies fleet of over fifty sailing ships eventually sailed all the world's oceans.



The Warehouse

A In 1826, Richard Davies (1778-1849), the owner of a successful grocery business in Llangefni, "built and completed a warehouse and timber yard with other improvements at his own costs and charges". His eldest son John lived here and shared the premises with other young Methodist entrepreneurs, including John Edwards, a wholesale grocer.



Min y Don

B The Davies family built this elegant house in the 1840s. After John Davies died in 1848 his younger brother Richard Davies, MP lived here as "a timber merchant and ship-owner". Later, Richard built Treborth Hall across the Straits.



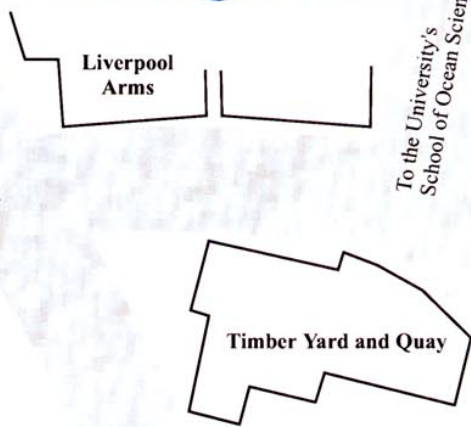
Richard Davies (1818 - 1896)

Richard Davies was High Sheriff of Anglesey in 1858 and its Liberal MP from 1868-1886. He served as the Lord Lieutenant of the county for twelve years. He was the first Nonconformist to hold these offices.

Heritage Trail

From Town Square, Water Street

To the University's School of Ocean Sciences.



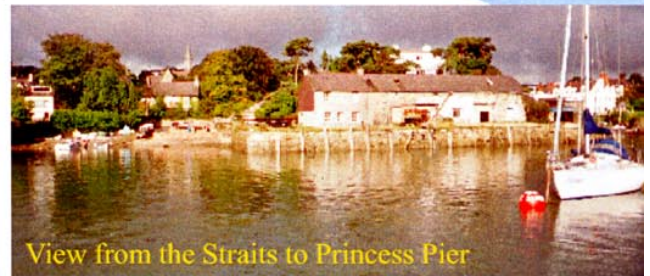
D Pier gatehouse restored by the Civic Society Menai Bridge in 1999



D

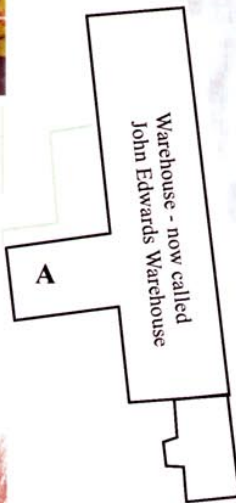
To St. George's Pier

Porth Daniel



View from the Straits to Princess Pier

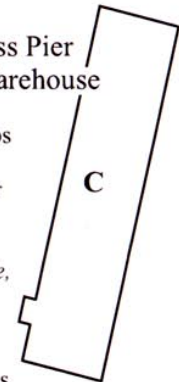
C The Davies family built the Princess Pier wharf and built up a large fleet of North American-built vessels, taking slates and emigrants to the New World and bringing back timber to their yard at Menai Bridge.



A

Warehouse - now called John Edwards Warehouse

Princess Pier and Warehouse

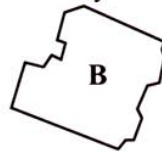


C

Seven of their fleet of ships were built by Royden of Liverpool and named after the counties of: *Anglesey, Merioneth, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Carnarvonshire, Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire.*

Gradually the business was dominated by shipping coal from Swansea and Cardiff to San Francisco and returning with Californian grain or South American guano.

Min y Don



B

To Telford Bridge

Porth y Wrach

Menai Straits

