

NORTH WEST WALES

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A boy made good

Last updated: 19 July 2006

Raymond Davies from Holyhead introduces us to his uncle, Captain Willie Davies - another member of the town's seafaring tradition.



During the 1880s when unemployment was very high, the only available jobs for the young men were on the farms, and the young women went into service in the big houses.

Education was at a premium - the only schools were 'Dame' schools where old ladies taught in their homes and charged a penny a day. So it is little wonder that boys looking for adventure went off to Liverpool to find employment on the schooners and sailing ships.

One of these boys was my uncle Willie (William) Davies, a boy from Llaingoch. At 13 years old he served as a deck hand. The wages were small, but he saved hard so that he could buy books to study to be a captain. All credit to him, he eventually achieved his ambition, serving in the Merchant Navy.

He joined the Royal Naval Reserve and he was made Lieutenant Commander, serving during the war. From 1939 to 1945 he was posted to Holyhead as Royal Navy Paymaster in the Turkey Shore office where local girls served with him as Wrens.

After the war he married a lady from Liverpool. He spent his remaining years as a senior officer at the Liver Building in Liverpool where he was responsible for training young officers.

I am very proud of my uncle and also privileged to tell his story - a Holyhead boy making good.

I was serving in Egypt during the years when my uncle was in Holyhead, but I would be interested to hear from anyone who remembers Captain William Davies.

your comments

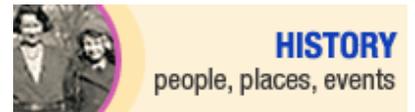
John Bakewell, Valley

I retired as Master of "St Columba" 16 years ago. There is very little recorded history of Masters and Officers who served on the Holyhead, Dublin/DunLaoghaire service. You could possibly get some information from Stena Line, Holyhead, or from our excellent maritime museum.

Thu May 24 09:27:14 2007

J B Barton

I am working on family history and the above story rang a distinct bell with me. One story handed down in the family is



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	Sunday max 16°C min 10°C		Monday max 12°C min 7°C
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that my great-grandfather John Newton and his son Robert Newton both spent time as captains of the Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire and Dublin ferries. Does anyone know where I may be able to find information to substantiate this story?
Tue Feb 20 08:57:57 2007

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