



(Y Gymraes 1922 rhifyn 306)

Sarah Emily Matthews

Wrth ddathlu gorchest Deiseb Heddwch 1923-24 rhaid cofio ymdrechion y trefnwyr lleol fu'n cerdded o dŷ i dy, o fferm i fferm ym mhob tywydd i gasglu'r llofnodion arni.

Un ddynes a gyfrannodd lawer at y gwaith hwn oedd Emily Matthews (1875-1945), Trehinon, 35 Stryd Mona, Amlwch. Hi arweiniodd yr ymgyrch ar Ynys Môn a'i chyfrifoldeb hi oedd casglu'r deisebau ynghyd oddi yno i'w hanfon i swyddfa'r Undeb yng Nghaerdydd. I gynorthwyo yn y gwaith denwyd 52 o drefnwyr lleol i ganfasio pob plwyf yn drwyadl, a heddiw, wrth inni ddarllen y llofnodion ar y deisebau, gwelwn mor llwyddiannus fu'r gwaith. Mae disgrifiad Emily o'r ymateb yn heintus:

"Yn fy ardal i, daeth menyw ... a oedd wedi neilltuo dau ddiwrnod at y gwaith, â'i rhestr ataf gyda balchder mawr, gan ddweud ei bod wedi cael llofnod pob menyw yn ei hardal hi. Yn gynnar fore trannoeth, cyn mynd i'r gwaith, daeth i nôl y ffurflen, oherwydd yn ystod y nos roedd wedi cofio am ddynes arall a ddaethai'n ddiweddar i letya yn y fro ac nad oedd wedi ei gweld. Mewn ardal arall, cyfarfu menyw, yn byw mewn tŷ bychan llwm yn slymiau'r dref, ag un o'r canfaswyr a gofynnodd pryd fyddai hi'n galw, ei bod hi a'i chymydog wedi prynu potel o inc a phen yn barod!"

Merch John Matthews, rheolwr banc a Sarah merch Thomas Gee o Ddinbych ac ymgyrchydd dros ddirwest oedd Emily. Roedd hithau'n Ynad Heddwch, ac yn hynod o weithgar gyda phob math o fudiadau ar yr Ynys: Cymdeithas Nyrsio'r Sir, y Pwyllgor Addysg, Undeb Neuaddau a Chymdeithasau Pentrefol Môn a Sefydliad y Merched. Yn y tridegau gwasanaethai ar Bwyllgor Llywio Undeb Cynghrair y Cenhedloedd Cymru.

Priododd Emily Capten A. Stanley Davies yn 1935. Yn eironig, roedd e wedi bod yn recriwtio bechgyn sir Gaernarfon i'r fyddin yn ystod y Rhyfel Mawr, ond ymddengys iddo gael tröedigaeth oherwydd roedd yn cyd-fynychu cyfarfodydd yr UCCC / WLNU yn yr 1930au. Yng Nghofrestr 1939 nodi Emily mai 'gwaith cyhoeddus yn unig' a wnâi (nid 'gwaith domestig yn unig' fel pob gwraig briod arall). Dyma a enillodd iddi urdd M.B.E. Trigent yn Y Wenallt, Llandegfan a bu Emily farw yn 1945.

Gan Catrin Stevens



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(Portrait from 'Y Gymraes' 1922, edition 306)

Sarah Emily Matthews

When celebrating the achievement of the Peace Petition of 1923-24, we must remember the efforts of the local organizers who walked from house to house, from farm to farm in all weathers to collect the signatures on it.

One woman who contributed a great deal to this work was Emily Matthews (1875-1945), of Trehinon, 35 Stryd Mona, **Amlwch** on Ynys Môn. She led the campaign on Anglesey, and it was her responsibility to collect the petitions from there to send to the Welsh League of Nations Union office in Cardiff. To assist in the work, 52 local organizers were attracted to thoroughly canvass each parish, and today, as we read the signatures on the petitions, we see how successful their work had been. Emily's description of the reaction is infectious:

"In my area, a woman ... who had dedicated two days to the work, brought me her list with great pride, saying that she had the signature of every woman in her area. Early the next morning, before going to work, he came to collect the form, because during the night he had remembered another woman who had recently come to stay in the area and he had not seen her. In another area, a woman, living in a small bleak house in the slums of the town, met one of the canvassers and asked when she would call, that she and her neighbor had already bought a bottle of ink and a pen!"

Emily was the daughter of John Matthews - a bank manager - and Sarah, daughter of Thomas Gee from Denbigh, a temperance campaigner. She was a Justice of the Peace, and extremely active with all kinds of organizations on the Isle of Anglesey: the County Nursing Association, the Education Committee, the Union of Anglesey Village Halls and Societies and the Women's Institute. In the thirties he served on the Steering Committee of the Wales League of Nations Union.

Emily married Captain A. Stanley Davies in 1935. Ironically, he had been recruiting Caernarfonshire boys into the army during the Great War, but it seems he was 'converted' because he was attending WLNU meetings together in the 1930s. In the 1939 Register Emily notes that she did 'only public work' (not 'only domestic work' like all other married women). This earned her the M.B.E. They lived in Y Wenallt, Llandegfan, and Emily died in 1945.

By Catrin Stevens



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