

Introduction and catalogue by Anna Page, Archive Assistant.

Thanks to the generosity of Mrs Olwen Underhill, Mrs Dora Jones and Mrs Clarice Grist, the Powys County Archives Office has been given an important collection of letters written by a local man to his family in Montgomeryshire while he was serving in the trenches during the First World War.

Owen Ashton, from Chapel House in Llawryglyn, was called up in 1916, and seems to have gone to France in 1917. At first the letters are in Welsh, but soon the demands of the censor mean that he has to write in English. Interestingly, although Owen cannot say where exactly he is, he does manage to write about the conditions under which he is living and fighting, and he is able to express his feelings about the horror of what he is witnessing, without his letters being impounded: “the People in England Got no idea what it is out here”; “them men that is keeping this war on ought to come and stand in these places, and [see] what we have to go through for few minutes to see how would they like it”. In one letter, he does mention getting into trouble for something he wrote, and that is because he gave the date at which they arrived at their present position. In another, he comments on the awkwardness of having his letters opened and read - especially if they are love letters.

Used as we are to learning of the First World War through the harrowing poetry of Wilfred Owen and his contemporaries, these simple letters have an immediacy which touches us as much if not more - after all they are written by an ordinary man, not a poet, who finds himself living through unimaginable events, striving to do his duty and also to survive to return to his home. In many of the letters he asks about the hay or the animals, and regrets not being there to help his father. Juxtaposed with this are matter-of-fact accounts of gas attacks - the gas was “like fog” and he now has “something breaking out on my face” - of colleagues being shot, the lack of food (and the men’s consequent reliance on food parcels), the shell holes full of water, the trench foot and the dreaded chatts (lice). There are flashes of humour, as when Owen says that he is helping the cook to “burn the water”, and through it all runs an abiding belief in God and the fervent hope that he will see them all through this terrible war.

Despite his assertion that “many of us will not be much good after this lot”, Owen came home, returned to his work on the roads, married, had children and lived to a good age. These letters are a tribute to the quiet courage and resilience of a man transplanted from his rural Welsh roots into the carnage of the trenches, and they provide us with an invaluable insight into the horrors he faced with such stoicism.

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M/X/114	War Letters	
/1	1. Owen Ashton 2. Mr & Mrs John Ashton, Chapel House, Llawryglyn Letter in English from Sutton on Hull Camp, Yorkshire (T co, 3 rd batt, Lancashire Fusiliers), on YMCA notepaper: 1. had received letter from Evan (brother) with Doctor's note, but will not be able to come home to help with the hay. 1. will get a weekend soon, so better for 2. not to send clothes yet. A lot of men left last Monday for Hornsea (Yorkshire). They will be going to Salonika "or somewhere". Postscript in Welsh	? 1916
/2	1. Owen Ashton 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton Letter in Welsh from Musketry Camp, Hornsea, Yorkshire, on YMCA notepaper:	3 Sep 1916
/3	1. Tom Thomas 2. Owen Ashton Letter in English from Bexhill on Sea, Sussex (4 co RGA), on YMCA notepaper: 1. has not heard from 2. for months. 1. was home on overseas leave for seven days from 16 Dec [1916], weather was bad - snow & frost. 1. came to Bexhill from Lydd. The Battery has been in France for a month, 1. is expecting to be sent out any day. Drafts of three hundred men go from Bexhill to Gosport every week, ready to go abroad. Signed "Cousin Tom".	6 Jan 1917
/4	1. Owen Ashton 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton Letter in Welsh from Thirtle Bridge Camp, Withernsea, Yorkshire (now A co):	? Feb 1917
/5	1. Owen Ashton 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton Letter in Welsh from Thirtle Bridge Camp, Withernsea, Yorkshire:	27 Feb 1917
/6	1. Owen Ashton 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton Letter in Welsh on notepaper from YMCA Reading Room, Bury:	13 Mar 1917
/7	1. Owen Ashton 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton Letter in Welsh from Zand sur Mere, nr Withernsea, Yorkshire:	13 May 1917
/8	1. Owen Ashton	17 May 1917

2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
Letter in Welsh from Thirtle Bridge Camp, Withernsea,
Yorkshire:
- /9 1. Owen Ashton 19 May 1917
 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
 Letter in Welsh from Thirtle Bridge Camp, Withernsea,
 Yorkshire:
- /10 1. Owen Ashton Sunday 27 [May]
 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton 1917
 Letter in Welsh from Thirtle Bridge Camp, Withernsea,
 Yorkshire:
- /11 1. Owen Ashton Sunday 22 [Jul]
 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton 1917
 Letter in English: 1. is still “here”, but may be moving
 sometime this week. Weather good. 1. was out all last
 night up the line. Not much rest, even when out of the
 trenches. 1. did not get much of the parcel 2. sent as he
 had to go up the line, the men’s oversacks were left in the
 village and everything was lost - razors, biscuits and
 many other things; “other battalions” pinched everything.
 1. had to stay in the trenches for days, nothing to eat from
 breakfast until the next morning. Had to go to front line
 to relieve another company. 1. tells Lizzie (sister) they
 have seen a lot in the last three weeks and had narrow
 escapes. 1. thanks Lizzie for the hymns and wishes he
 could go to Chapel, hopes she feels better. 1. asks father
 about sheep, price of wool; is glad they got hay in,
 advises them all to give themselves into God’s hands.
- /12 1. Owen Ashton Wednesday 25
 2. Mrs Elizabeth Ashton Jul 1917
 Letter in English: 1. needs a rest, has not had a proper
 sleep for a long while. One of the huts was blown in
 before daylight, with men inside. 1. slept in a field last
 night, afraid that “he” would shell the camp. 1. sorry to
 hear of deaths of Uncle Cefn Golau & Mr Bennet Owen’s
 brother, “but it is better to see one being buried like that,
 than to see the poor fellows is going under here every day
 [crossing out] well this is a terrible war and not much
 sign for it to come to and (sic) end, we are in a very bad
 part here, one the worst I here (sic) them say, and it will
 be awful here in a few days as they do tell, well I hope we
 will be out of it, when the Bombardment will be on”. 1.
 thanks 2. for the hymns and tells Lizzie he thinks of her

when on the road going up the line; would like to be back
sleeping in a good bed, they don’t know when they will

be shelled “its awful”. 1. hopes family have had a holiday; he may send his watch home, it has sand in it. 1. asks 2. to thank Mr Parry for taking the trouble to write for them, he is glad he went to the Camp Office to arrange this before leaving. 1. tells his sister she need not write in English and mentions his B[ank?] Book, wants 2. “to get it right” incase something happens to him; “Lizzie or any of you have name for them if there is any need”.

- /13 1. Owen Ashton 26 Jul 1917
 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
 Letter in English: 1. has moved between thirteen and twenty miles further, now close to the seaside. All those who were sick or had bad feet were given transport. 1. had blisters on his heels and was also suffering from gas - he had been up the line last night, went to the Doctor in the morning and was told he did not have to march.
- /14 1. Owen Ashton [? 26 Jul 1917]
 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
 Letter in English, (possibly enclosure with M/X/114/13): 1. asks 2. not to worry, can only hope that things will get better. 1. gives Lizzie a word puzzle. Ends “cheer up. do you think we are winning Ha Ha Ha”.
- /15 1. Owen Ashton 30 Jul 1917
 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
 Letter in English: 1. had been to a ‘meeting’ with a Wesleyan [Preacher] that morning, working in the afternoon, no Sundays off. 1. talks about parcels, they do not get delivered to the trenches, so he hopes one comes when he is not up the line. 2. had told of Nicholas cooking potatoes in a little tin, 1. says they do that here too. 1. has to go to bed on hard boards, he does not know when he last slept with his trousers off; there are no blankets.
- /16 1. Owen Ashton 4 Aug 1917
 2. Mr & Mrs John Ashton
 Letter in English: 1. has received parcel. 1. asks if the family will be able to have a holiday; also if they have had their coal, and how the little chickens are. 1. hopes to be home “when they are ready for use”. 1. is going to the doctor, as there is “something breaking out on my face”, does not feel well and his nerves are bad, he feels weak. 1. had to march to where he is now, has had bad legs for days and does not think he can stand it for very long -
- “many of us will not be much good after this lot”. 1. taxes Lizzie with not answering the questions in his letters and tells her “Johnnies” is shelling at the moment

Some “of the chaps” were killed, including the Officer, who was shot by a sniper. Where 1. is now, there are duck boards everywhere, with shell holes full of water. 1. thanks his sister for her postal order, tells her not to send any more, but would be pleased if she sent one for a shilling. 1. has not had much sleep, he was just dropping off yesterday morning when the Germans “opened a straff” on them and two pieces of shrapnel caught him on the left arm, but he “wasn’t much worse”. 1. says “the People in England Got no idea what it is out here”. They are under orders to be ready at two hours notice.

Salutations to parents & sister, then letter continues overleaf: 1. says they are to sleep in tents that night and ends: “Johnnies is not going to have all his way ha ha”.

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| /21 | <p>1. Owen Ashton
2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton</p> <p>Letter in English: 1. wants to reassure his parents that he is all right. He does not know if he will be going further away from the line. Weather very cold. PS to say that a lot of prisoners were captured the previous day.</p> | Monday 3 Dec
1917 |
| /22 | <p>1. Owen Ashton
2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton</p> <p>Letter in English (incomplete): 1. expresses regrets about [deaths of?] Johnny & David Richards. 1. has been in the line again, came out on 14th December, very dirty & tired. Torn page: 1. had been in the line for ten days, although told they were only going for forty eight hours. Many of the men have trench foot. 1. mentions Christmas & hopes to be further back by then. He ends his letter with kisses, which he calls “some barb wire for little Mair” [his niece].</p> | 16 Dec 1917 |
| /23 | <p>1. Owen Ashton
2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton</p> <p>Letter in English: 1 has moved back, is in a hut & expects to be there over Christmas. He does not think he will be able to get any cards to send. 1. is glad that his brother Edward will be home for Christmas. 2. are not to worry, he has plenty to eat now he is out of the line - one man had four parcels at once, and shared them. There is a Church Army [tent] close by, and he had fifteen francs pay, plus what the family sent him. 1. expresses his trust in God and tells 2. that he still says his prayers.</p> | 18 Dec 1917 |
| /24 | <p>1. Owen Ashton
2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton</p> <p>Letter in English: 1. has received 2.’s parcel, plus another from Llys Efrog, probably from Mary. Weather</p> | Sunday 23 Dec
1917 |

cold, hard frosts. Christmas greetings.

/25 1. Owen Ashton Christmas 1917
 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
 3. Lizzie Ashton
 Lancashire Fusiliers official Christmas card.

/26 1. Owen Ashton 31 Dec 1917
 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
 Letter in English: A "Good Hayne" of snow. 1. has moved twice since his last letter. The day after Christmas he was working up the line from 6.00am to 9.00pm, with nothing to eat except two small packets of biscuits that he had with him. He was not back in camp until midnight. 1. is now a long way from the line; they travelled by train for five or six hours, then had a 14 mile march, with nothing to eat after breakfast and nothing when they got to the camp; many could hardly walk. 1. had a drink of coffee and a piece of bread before they set off. The men ate snow on the march. The fact that they were moving away from the guns kept their spirits up. A young man 1. had met at Sutton on Hull training camp was killed the previous week. 1. had seen him a few times since they were in France; he was from Ffestiniog and was in a tent with others, singing, when a shell dropped and he was hit on the back of the head. Postscript: 1. is going out for a cup of coffee for supper "Trae Bon, Madam".

/27 1. Owen Ashton Friday 11 Jan
 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton 1918
 Letter in English: 1. thanks 2. for Postal Order - he had to borrow two francs that week, as he had no money at all. 1. is in hospital since Wednesday with diarrhoea. There is a good fire in the room day & night. RAUC had a concert in the next room the previous night. On Tuesday it was snowing and there was an inspection which entailed a two hour march. When they were nearly at their destination it was cancelled. 1. does not think he will get any pay while he is in hospital. There are thirteen people in his ward, 3 of whom are leaving the next day. 1. is on bread & milk. He wonders why Tom [cousin] does not get his parcels, as 1.'s letters and parcels always follow him when he moves. Postscript: 1. had to go before the Captain, because of a letter he had written to Mary, in which he gave the date

they arrived at their current position "and so on". He says they have to be careful what they write. The Captain tore up the letter. 1. says he had tough beef and potatoes with their jackets on for Christmas [lunch].

They are now in a village. They took over the billets from the Welsh Guards and 1. met "Parry the Police". The billet is a big barn. There is no shelling. There had been Church Parade that morning. Four men had been lost in the most recent tour to the trenches. There is plenty to eat at the moment; the parcels from home kept 1. going when he was up the line.

Over leaf: 1. thinks he will get lost next time he is home, as so much has changed - he hopes that God is with them.

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| /32 | 1. Owen Ashton
2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
Field card | 30 Apr 1918 |
| /33 | 1. Owen Ashton
2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
3. Lizzie Ashton
Letter in English: 3. had told 1. that Passchendaele had been taken - he believes so; no one wants to go back there. The weather has been good, it is nice to see some green after the shell holes. 1. appreciates that 2. cannot get certain foods for his parcels. 1. says that a plain loaf will do, he can get biscuits and tinned fruit. 1. is in a Lewis gun section now - number 2 Platoon (previously in number 1). | 4 May 1918 |
| /34 | 1. Owen Ashton
2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
Field card | 6 May 1918 |
| /35 | 1. Owen Ashton
2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
3. Lizzie Ashton
Letter in English: 1. is glad his father can go to his work again, though the day is long for him. Mention of work on roads [in France?]. 1. wishes he could go home to help his father with the hay, as the fields are a long way off and he has not got the pony to take him. | 11 May 1918 |
| /36 | 1. Owen Ashton
2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
3. Lizzie Ashton
Letter in English: 1. was in the trenches, very near the | 3 Jun 1918 |

enemy, the previous week. The men had to wear gas helmets on Saturday night in their dug outs, as there were a lot of gas shells coming over. These made some of the men sneeze, and their throats were burning. "Our men" are counter attacking and 1. would not like to be in the German lines when "our" guns start.

- /37 1. Owen Ashton 13 Jun 1918
 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
 3. Lizzie Ashton
 Letter in English (incomplete), from France: 2. had told 1. that Tom was in a "hot" place. 1. says it is "hot on us here very often, but they are far behind us". 1. does not know how the farmers at home will manage the hay harvest if more men are called up. 2. had said that there was better news in the newspapers in the past week.
- /38 1. Owen Ashton 29 Jun 1918
 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
 3. Lizzie Ashton
 Letter in English, from France: 3. had received only part of 1.'s last letter; perhaps he wrote something he should not have. 1. comments on awkwardness of having one's mail opened, especially when it is a love letter. Enquiries into health of friends/neighbours. 1. is still in the trenches, for the last fortnight he has been with the cook "Helping Him to burn the water". The Officers' cook got wounded last week, also two of the "Manchester's" cooks. 1. and his colleagues had to move from their positions the same night; they are "going through something out Here, but the Ground about Here is Nothing like it was about Passendale" (sic). 1. hopes to see 2. & 3. soon to tell them more; he hopes it will soon be over. 1. had a parcel from "Llan-Committee", containing a shirt and a pair of socks.
- /39 1. Owen Ashton 4 Jul 1918
 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
 3. Lizzie Ashton
 Letter in English from France: 1. says he thinks the hay will be easy to get in, if the weather in Wales is as good as it is in France. 1. is expecting to move. There was a raid a few nights ago and several men are missing. The Captain has not returned, also one of the Runners. It is known that [the Captain] was badly wounded, but enquiries at the Aid Posts have turned up nothing - he may be a prisoner. 1. is still with the cook, and is quite happy to be there. 1. tells 3. he is sorry to hear about Hannah Richards he asks 3. to tell her "many Chaps is laughing to
 get a nice wound to get away from Here, one Chap the other morn was hit with a piece of sharpel (sic) on his arm He did not take much notice of it, one of the Chaps was asking him if the piece was in, no He said I Heard it drop down my sleeve, and little after He had His coat off it Had gone through His arm". 1. says they are quite

footnote p8). All the men's underclothes are being put through the fumigator, the blankets have already been done. The men had a lecture from the Captain about being "chatty" [lousy]. They told him it was because of the dirty blankets and old clothing. The Captain said he would try to get new clothing, but that anyone who was found to be lousy after this would be put in the Guard Room. 1. says that they have pillow fights after lights out - "we must be Happy as we are" Postscript in Welsh.

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| /44 | <p>1. Owen Ashton
2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
Letter in Welsh, from Halsham Camp, Ottringham, Yorkshire:</p> | n/d |
| /45 | <p>1. Owen Ashton
2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
Letter in Welsh from Thirtle Bridge Camp, Withernsea, Yorkshire:</p> | n/d |
| /46 | <p>1. Owen Ashton
2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
Letter in Welsh:</p> | n/d |
| /47 | <p>1. Owen Ashton
2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton
Letter in English, first 2 pages missing: 1. has not heard from [friends/family?] in Newtown for a long time. 1. says he cannot see much sign of this "Great War" coming to an end - "them men that is keeping this war on ought to come and stand in these places, and [see] what we have to go through for few minutes to see how would they like it". Postscript: 1. says it is very quiet where he is, with half an hour's walk to the village - "there is plenty of Boozers out in France, they are very near every other door,". 1. goes for coffee in one, and says the soldiers try and enjoy themselves; he does not want his family to worry about him.</p> | n/d |
| /48 | <p>1. Mary [Jones?]
2. [Owen Ashton?]
Christmas card in Welsh</p> | n/d |
| /49 | <p>1. Evan Davies
2. Owen Ashton
YMCA postcard in Welsh, from France</p> | n/d |
| /50 | <p>Poem in Welsh: 'O'r Niwl I'r Nef' by Watcyn Wyn (later set to music by D E Williams) followed by a verse in English; both handwritten.</p> | n/d |

/51 Song/poem in Welsh, handwritten n/d

[These last 2 items possibly the 'hymns' which Lizzie sent Owen? see M/X/114/11]

2. Lizzie, Owen, May & Walter [wife & son of Evan Ashton, brother of Owen]
Letter in Welsh from Ty Capel, Llawryglyn:
- /57 1. Thomas Humphries, Surveyor, Newtown & Llanidloes RDC 22 Jan 1925
 2. Owen Ashton
Letter in English on Newtown & Llanidloes RDC, Caersws, notepaper: 1. was sorry not to have been able to attend funeral of 2.'s father on 21 January 1925. 1. sends condolences. 1. says, if 2. intends to return to work next week, his first job had better be putting in the pipes on Ninfa (sic) Road. William Jones has promised to help.
- /58 1. Reverend R W Jones 28 Jan 1925
 2. Mrs J Ashton
Letter in Welsh, from Aberangell:
- /59 1. V[alentine] & J Ashton [Uncle to Owen & Lizzie] 12 Jun 1925
 2. [Lizzie Ashton]
Letter in English, from Montgomery: Letter of condolence probably on the occasion of the death of 2.'s mother, Mrs Elizabeth Ashton.
- /60 1. May Ashton 12 Jun 1925
 2. Lizzie & Owen Ashton
Letter in English, from Sabrina Cottage, Llanidloes: 1. is writing to tell 2. that their brother, her husband Evan, has been made a Deacon in China Street [Chapel]. 1. and her children are very proud of him, and feel he deserves this honour. 1. Expresses regrets that 2.'s parents are not alive to see it.
- /61 1. Hywel Ashton [son of Edward Ashton] 29 Sept 1942
 2. "All at Llawryglyn"
Letter in English from Royal Corps of Signals, St Mary's Towers, Birnham, Perth, Scotland: 1.got married in Fulham last Saturday to Al(ice). 1.and his wife are in Holyhead with his parents at the moment, then he will go back to Scotland. 1. is managing in the Army, but will be glad to get back to civilian life.
- /62 1. Jack & Rachel [Ralls. Rachel cousin to Owen] 11 Jul 1948
 2. Mary [Ashton, née Jones]
Letter in English from 2 Howard Street, Treorchy: condolences on the death of 2.'s brother
- /63 1. C S Wood 1 Jan 1949
 2. Mrs [Mary?] Ashton

Letter in English from Newlyn, 138 Birchfield Road, Widnes: 1. thanks 2. for the parcel. 1. has sent a Postal Order for 14 shillings. 1. would like some bacon, if 2. has any to spare. 1. is trying to get extra food for Mr Wood, but it is difficult with rationing still in force. Friends have been helping, but she does not like to take too much food off them. Mr Wood is getting stronger. 1. would be grateful for further parcels, needs “soap & powders, etc”. Postscript: letter is late, because 1. has been snowed in.

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| /64 | 1. Edward & Elizabeth Ashton [2nd wife of Edward & mother of Hywel]
2. Owen & Mary Ashton
Letter in English from Bethpage Villa, Llaingoch, Holyhead: 1. thanks 2. for letter to say they got home safely. 1. hope that Mary feels better for her holiday. 1. thanks 2. for the parcel. 1. enquire about 2.'s daughters, mentioning that Clarice is in S Wales, Olwen going to London and that Dora has a new job. | 8 Sep 1950 |
| /65 | 1. Hywel Ashton [son of Edward & Elizabeth]
2. Owen Ashton
Letter in Welsh from Bethpage Villa, Llaingoch, Holyhead: 1. announces the death of his father [Edward] on the previous day. The funeral is the next week, in Holyhead. | Sunday 10 Dec 1950 |
| /66 | 1. Mair Ashton
2. Owen & Mary Ashton
Letter in English from Bethpage Villa, Llaingoch, Holyhead: 1. reports that the chicken arrived safely. 1.'s mother has been ill with influenza, but is better. | 30 Dec 1960 |
| /67 | 1. Ellen [Edwards, cousin of Owen]
2. Mary Ashton
Letter in English from 210 Park Road, Cwmpark: 1. sends thanks to Clarice for her letter & thanks 2. for the parcel. 1. finds the weather depressing and misses Mary Maud [daughter], who is back at school. | 11 Apr 1951 |
| /68 | 1. Lizzie Ashton [widow of Edward]
2. Owen & Mary Ashton & family
Letter in English from Bethpage Villa, Llaingoch, Holyhead: 1.'s sister in America has lost her husband. The weather is cold, so they have to have fires in the Chapel. The organ has not been repaired, nor has the decorating been finished. 1. has received prices of gravestones from Caernarvon, but has not yet decided which to order. 1. asks if 2. can spare some butter - as | 9 Nov 1951 |

her ration is very small now.

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| /69 | <p>1. Ellen [Edwards]
2. Mary, Owen & Clarice Ashton
Letter in English from 210 Park Road, Cwmpark: 1. thanks 2. for letter of sympathy on the death of her husband, Ted; she talks of his illness and her sorrow, and that of her 2 girls.</p> | 15 Nov 1951 |
| /70 | <p>1. Mair & Philip [Dearden]
2. Aunty & Uncle [Owen & Mary Ashton?]
Letter in English from 49 Somerset Avenue, Rochford, Essex: 1. thanks 2. for the wedding present; also the chicken for their Christmas dinner.</p> | 30 Dec 1951 |
| /71 | <p>1. Annie [Owen - cousin to Owen Ashton]
2. Mary Ashton & Family
Letter in English from 28 Church Lane, Prestwich, Manchester: 1. thanks 2. for the parcel - she cannot get margarine at the moment.</p> | 17 May 1952 |
| /72 | <p>1. Ellen [Edwards]
2. Mary Ashton
Letter in English from 210 Park Road, Cwmpark: 1. posted a 10 shilling note to 2. and is afraid that it did not arrive, as there is "so much pilfering going on in the post these days". 1. was pleased to see Clarice's [Owen & Mary's daughter] name in the paper as having passed [School Certificate?]. 1.'s [daughter] Clarice is engaged again - to a Welsh teacher who is a Chapel member & worker. 1. asks if 2. can spare "a bit of something in the fat line" to send her.</p> | 29 Sep 1952 |
| /73 | <p>1. Jack & Rachel [Ralls]
2. Owen & Mary Ashton
Letter in English from 2 Howard Street, Treorchy: 1. thank 2. for the invitation to Olwen's wedding, but are unable to come, as neither is well.</p> | 11 Aug 1954 |
| /74 | <p>1. Mair & Philip [Dearden]
2. Mary Ashton & family
Letter in English from 49 Somerset Avenue, Rochford, Essex: condolences from 1. on the death of Owen Ashton [10/4/63].</p> | 17 Apr 1963 |
| /75 | <p>1. Gwen & Lumley [Williams - Gwen daughter of Evan & May Ashton]
2. Olwen, Dora & Clarice Ashton [daughters of Owen &</p> | 3 Jun 1974 |

	Mary Ashton] Letter in English from The Baptist Manse, Tenby: letter of condolence on the death of Mary Ashton. 1. Report that Gwen's brother Walter & his wife Eiriana are in Malawi.	
/76	1. R H Brown 2. Miss Ashton [Lizzie] Letter in Welsh from Glandwr Villa, Llanidloes:	5 Jun 1974
/77	1.a Walter & 1.b Eiriana Ashton 2. Dora & Clarice Ashton Air letter in English from Bunda College of Agriculture, PO Box 219, Lilongwe, Malawi: condolences on the death of their mother, Mary. 1.a says they are in the 8th week in Malawi and gives a description of the campus, the country around it, what is grown there, and the markets. They have visited the tea growing area in the south of the country. The campus is on a plateau at 3,500 feet, and is therefore cool in the evenings. 1.a has seen leopard & baboons. Hyenas have been taking calves from the college farm. 1.b also sends condolences, and says she is getting lazy now she has a servant; most food is obtainable from the college shop; milk arrives in an ox cart. 1.b talks of the preventative measures that have to be taken against cholera & malaria. They hope to be back in July.	11 Jun 1974
/78	1. May Ashton [wife of Evan Ashton] 2. Mr & Mrs J Ashton 3. Owen Ashton 4. Lizzie Ashton Letter in English from Sabrina [Cottage], Llanidloes: 1. has had a letter from her husband Evan, who has gone to London to support his brother Edward on the death of his [first] wife, Lil. The letter gives better news than the telegram they received as Evan was setting off, which said that Edward & Mair [daughter] were ill. 1. asks after 3. and says that it is bad luck to be ill when on leave.	'Tuesday' [between 1916 & 1919]
/79	1. [Ted] 2. Mother & Father [Mr & Mrs J Ashton] Letter in Welsh, no address:	n/d
/80	1. Ted, Lizzie, Hywel & Mair Ashton 2. "Brother & Sister" [Owen & Lizzie Ashton] Letter in Welsh from Chapel House, 1a Tavistock Road, Stratford, London E15:	n/d ["probably about 1926/27" added]
/81	1. [John & Elizabeth Ashton - brother & sister-in-law]	n/d ["'? 1920's"

	2. Owen & Lizzie Ashton Letter in Welsh from Little Pentre, Newtown: Christmas greetings in English overleaf.	added]
/82	1. Mary [cousin] 2. Owen Ashton 3. Lizzie Ashton Letter in English from Berthrees, Llanfarian, Aberystwyth: 1. asks after family members & gives news of friends/relations. 1. asks 2. to tend her mother's [Sarah Ashton, sister of John Ashton] & "little Harriet's" graves. 1.'s father has not been well and Ellen [sister] fell off a ladder & injured herself. 1. talks of visitors for Easter & Whitsun, also gardening.	n/d
/83	1. A Newell 2. Mary [Ashton] Letter in English from Craigyrhenffordd, Machynlleth, Montgomeryshire: 1. has been asked by Mrs Pugh to write and pass on the news of Eluned's death. She had been ill for some time, but it was hoped she would recover. The funeral is on Wednesday at 2.00pm.	"Saturday night 5th"
/84	1. Ted & Lizzie Ashton & the cat 2. Brother & Sister [Owen & Mary Ashton] Letter in English from Bethpage Villa, Llaingoch, Holyhead: 1. is glad that 2. arrived back safely and enjoyed their holiday in Holyhead. 1.'s wife, Lizzie, is going to London on the mail train (which is due to stop at Holyhead for fuel and then go straight through to Euston). 1. asks 2. for some butter to take up to London, and complains about the lack of food, with rationing in force. 1. enquires after Stephen [cousin] who is staying with 2.	n/d ["about 1949" has been added]
/85	1. Steve [Stephen Owen] 2. Cousins [Owen & Mary Ashton] Letter in English from 210 Park Road, Cwmpark, Treorchy, Rhondda: Condolences on the death of Mary's father. News of 1.'s sisters & niece.	n/d [1953?]
/86	1. Sarah & family, Pontdolgoch 2. Lizzie [Ashton] Christmas card in English.	n/d
/87	Bundle of envelopes from First World War letters	25 Jul 1916 - 13 Mar 1919
/88	File, provided by Mrs C Grist, containing family tree, scanned family photographs, list of letters and scanned	

images of the letters.

Translations of the Welsh letters

Additional donations from Mrs Clarice Grist Accs 1698 & 1706

/89	Order of service for a 'United Memorial Service to the Men of Llanidloes and District who have fallen in the War', at China Street Calvinistic Methodist church.	7 Feb 1918
/90	Order of service [in Welsh] to dedicate a memorial to Flight Lieutenant Ieuan Jones of Llawryglyn, who gave his life for his country on 2 May 1944, at the age of 30	25 Sep 1949
/91	Davies, Major R B S. <i>A Brief Record of the Activities of the 7th Batt. The Royal Welch Fusiliers, 1908 – 1946</i>	1950
/92	Digital photograph of Llawryglyn, with Ty Capel marked	1980
/93	Copy of the bill/letter head of John Ashton, Draper, Grocer and Tea Dealer, Chapel House, Llawryglyn.	n/d [pre 1925]

John Ashton was Owen's father. He kept a shop before moving to Ty Capel in 1881, and he and his descendents continued to keep the shop there for over 100 years. Mrs Dora Jones (Owen's middle daughter) continued to live at Ty Capel until 31 August 2006

/94	1. John Arram 2. Owen Ashton	7 Sep 1918
	Letter from Edinburgh War Hospital, where 1. is being treated for the effects of gas	
/95	Two blank bill/invoice sheets from Owen Ashton's shop in Llawryglyn [The shop was run by Owen's wife, Mary]	n/d

Acc 1717

/96	Richmond, L. Parch. <i>Hanes Merch y Llaethwr</i> [Tale of the Milkman's Daughter] Bala, 1821. Unbound copy	1821
/97	Memorial cards, numbered 1 - 62 [see memorial card list]	1882-1939
/98	Ledger from the Ashton's shop at Ty Capel – records of accounts for goods purchased by individuals	1889-1892
/99	Ledger from the Ashton's shop at Ty Capel – records of accounts for goods purchased by individuals	1893-[1907]

/100	Ledger from the Ashton's shop at Ty Capel – records of accounts for goods purchased by individuals	1907-[1922]
/101	Owen Ashton's 1st world War Certificate – in Welsh	1919
/102	Photograph of Canmlwyddyant Ysgol Sabothol Tynyrwtra, Llawryglyn	29 May 1925
/103	Bennett, Richard [of Caersws]. <i>Methodistiaeth Trefeglwys, 1754-1814.</i>	1932
/104	Account/ notebook – with recipes for remedies, belonging to ?Richard Jones of Tylottyn, Llawryglyn	1932-1954
/105	Order of service for Owen Ashton's funeral	10 April 1963
/106	Photographs, most unidentified, except for: photo of a woman marked '?Auntie Lizzie, Ty Capel'; photo of a group of men outside Llawryglyn MC Chapel; photo of a man, marked 'Mam's cousin, John Derlwyn'; photo of a woman, with 'With best love, Grace' written on it; photo of pupils and teacher of Llanidloes National School, 1903	n/d [late C19th – early C20th]