

THOMAS, LEWIS (1832 - 1913), pioneer of coal-mining in Queensland, Australia;

Name: Lewis Thomas
Date of birth: 1832
Date of death: 1913
Spouse: Ann Thomas (née Morris)
Gender: Male
Occupation: pioneer of coal-mining
Area of activity: Business and Industry
Author: John Oliver Stephens

Born 1832, at Tal-y-bont, Cardiganshire. He married Ann Morris at Llanfihangel-genu'r-glyn. Emigrating at the age of 27 he worked his way through Victoria to Queensland. In 1866 he cut the first ton of coal from the Bundamba coal-field and opened up the well-known Aberdare colliery, where he worked till 1890, when its output reached between 50,000 and 60,000 tons per annum. Retiring from mining in 1894 he entered Parliament as member for Bundamba and, after being re-elected in 1896, retired from the seat in 1899. In 1902 he was called to the Legislative Council. The community which he helped to establish at Blackstone became the leading centre of Welsh life and culture in Queensland. He died 16 February 1913, and was buried in Ipswich cemetery. He endowed a Lewis Thomas Scholarship, tenable at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, by students from Tal-y-bont and neighbourhood.

Author

Reverend Professor John Oliver Stephens, (1880 - 1957)

Sources

Queensland at Home (Brisbane 1905) (Dept. of Agriculture, Brisbane, 1905)

The History of the United Welsh Church of Blackstone (Brisbane 1933) (Brisbane, 1933)

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Lewis Thomas](#)

Additional Links

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