

But Mrs. Sydney Platt, it appears, never really settled at Bryn-y-Neuadd. Nevertheless, the Sydney Platts lived there for thirteen years and during that period were generous benefactors of the people of Llanfairfechan. A new girls' school was built for the parish largely at Mr. Sydney Platt's expense. In 1898 he and his wife finally decided to leave Llanfairfechan and Bryn-y-Neuadd and the estate were sold, only forty-one years after John Platt had first come to Llanfairfechan. The property some two years later was bought by the St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton, who still own it.

Meanwhile, Colonel Henry Platt (in 1884 he had become Lieutenant-Colonel of the 4th Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers) lived at Gorddinog, taking an active part in the public and social life of the neighbourhood and of the county. He had been a county magistrate since he was 25. In 1877 he was high sheriff and in 1883 he became the first mayor of Bangor. His chief interest was agriculture and he was a liberal supporter of the School of Agriculture at the University College of North Wales in its early days. His father, John Platt, had been a staunch radical and Liberal M.P. for Oldham. Colonel Platt, however, was an equally staunch Conservative and in 1900 contested the Caernarvon Boroughs, though unsuccessfully, his opponent being David Lloyd George.

Colonel Henry Platt died in 1916 and was succeeded at Gorddinog by his second son, Major Eric James Walter Platt. Colonel Platt had had the misfortune of losing his eldest son, John Heylyn Platt, who, a young man of 24, was accidentally drowned whilst bathing in Cashmere, India. Major Eric Platt, a justice of the peace and Deputy Lieutenant of this county, served in the First World War and during the Second World War acted as Vice-Lieutenant of Caernarvonshire during the absence from the County of the Lord Lieutenant, Brigadier W. H. Wynne Finch, on active service. He died in 1946, aged 75. Following the death of his widow, Mrs. Florence Platt, in 1955, the Gorddinog Estate was sold in April, 1956. Their daughter, Mrs. Eneid Langdon, then readily accepted the invitation of the Custos Rotulorum to place on deposit with the County Archives the records and family papers preserved at Gorddinog and it is entirely due to Mrs. Langdon's signal generosity that it has been possible to prepare this paper and to reconstruct and tell a story which means, and must mean, so much to anyone who is interested in the history of Llanfairfechan and of this County.

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