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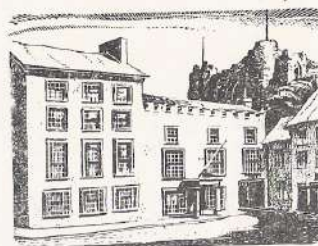
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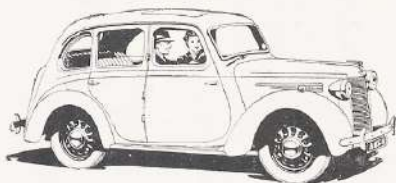
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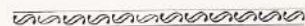
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The Official Guide
to
HAVERFORDWEST

By
G. DOUGLAS JAMES

Published under the auspices
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HAVERFORDWEST

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Photo by Lockwood's Flying Service

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Haverfordwest as seen
from the Air*

HAVERFORDWEST

HAVERFORDWEST is probably one of the most ancient boroughs in the Principality of Wales and has a varied and absorbing history. Its antiquity strikes the stranger at every turn—the hilly streets, the churches with their Early English style of architecture, and the imposing ruins of its fine old Norman Castle which dominates the town, are vivid reminders of those far distant days when this “no mean city” was the capital of Englishry and the enterprising and valorous Flemings.

It is now the County town of Pembrokeshire, the Land of Castles, and the surrounding district is affectionately known far and wide as “Little England Beyond Wales”.

Situated near the centre of the County on a tidal river, and served by the main line of the Great Western Railway, the town offers great attractions for holiday-makers. It teems with the more romantic type of historical associations, and is a splendid jumping-off ground from which to visit and explore other interesting and historical spots which are easily accessible by road or rail.

The derivation of the town's name was for a long time the subject of much controversy but it is now generally accepted that the name “Haverford” was originally “Hafna fiord”—the creek in the haven—and is one of the numerous Norse names in Pembrokeshire which record the activities of those marauding Scandinavian adventurers who harried our shores in pre-Norman times.

The “West” has also presented difficulties, but the latest researches establish the fact that the “West” was added to distinguish it from another pronounced Harford, Hertford or Hartford. In the town records the name is spelt in various ways: Hareford (1283), Hereford alias Hareforde (1385), Harford (1389) and Harford West (1448). In those days pronunciation and not spelling was what mattered. In 1317 Edward II granted the town and castle of Hartford to Aylmer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, and as he already held the town and castle of Haverford his scribes, having often to write two names

pronounced alike, would be bound to find some way of preventing confusion, hence Haverford West.

It is interesting to note that in the first folio of Shakespeare's *Richard III* (V. iv 7) is the following passage:

"Where is the princely Richard now?
At Pembroke or at Hertford West in Wales."

The town's charters date from the twelfth century, the earliest one being granted by Henry II.

Between 1107 and 1135 the Flemings settlements in Pembrokeshire took place, and Haverford was the capital of the district assigned to them. It became a place of great strength and was garrisoned by a people who had acquired considerable reputation by their enterprise in commerce and valour in war, and it is interesting to record that for long before the great industrial towns of South Wales began to attain prominence, Haverford's industries and trade were prosperous, due to the fact that its burgesses were men of great influence, many being of noble birth; another helpful factor was the town's position, which was ideal for distributive purposes. In Elizabeth's reign the Queen's Surveyor for South Wales reported that "it is the best buyt, the most civil and quickest occupied towne in South Wales".

The town's documents reveal that in medieval times Haverford was particularly important and carried on a brisk trade with foreign parts.

During the twelfth century Haverford Castle was built by Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, *circa* 1100, on the site probably of a much older wooden structure, and was one of the strongest and most important of Welsh castles in the middle ages. It withstood many sieges and was never taken by the Welsh, but during the Civil War Haverford was the scene of desperate encounters between the various factions and the castle changed hands several times. Cromwell, however, took possession, and shortly afterwards it was partially demolished. His letter to the Mayor and Corporation respecting its dismantlement is still preserved. Part of the castle is now used as the Headquarters of the Pembrokeshire Constabulary.



Photo by Lewis Algar

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The Castle

In 1545, during the reign of Henry VIII, Haverfordwest was made by statute a Town and County of itself, also the right of holding Assizes along with the other shires, and the sending of one burgess to sit in Parliament. A few years later a Custos Rotulorum (Keeper of the Records) was appointed, and in 1761 a Lord Lieutenant was first appointed for the town. The Assizes are still held for the town, but, as a result of certain provisions in the Territorial and Militia Act of 1921, the town lost its Lord Lieutenantcy, and though the office of Custos Rotulorum was retained for some time, the two offices were transferred to the Lord Lieutenant of the County. The town continued to exercise its right of sending one member to Parliament until the passing of the Third Reform Act of 1884 when it was merged into the Pembrokeshire Boroughs, and subsequently into that of the County.

Being a Town and County in itself the town has its own Quarter Sessions and High Courts of Assize, the latter being held in spring and winter.



Photo by Lewis Algar

*Copyright
Castle Square*

The first Mayor, who has also been Admiral of the Port of Haverfordwest since the reign of James I, was appointed in 1479 under the powers of the charter of incorporation and the list, except for a short period, is intact. Before this date the chief officer of the town was called Bailiff, Praetor or Prepositor, and was chosen by the Lord's Constable of the Castle or his deputy. The office of Sheriff is also as old as that of Mayor.

The old seal of the town deserves mention as it represents the trade of Haverfordwest along the Cleddau (Welsh for Swords), while the gatehouse and the slain dragon are a fitting memorial to the resolute character of its medieval inhabitants. It belongs to the second half of the thirteenth century and is thus considerably older than the College of Heralds, which came into being in the reign of Richard III (1483-5). It bears the following inscription: "O Lector Salve Coeli Pateant Tibi Valve" (O Reader Hail, May the Gates of Heaven be Open up to Thee).

The town's fairs are mostly of ancient origin, and the April Fair is said to be older than the ones referred to in the charters. From the earliest times a market was held in the town, and the records reveal that King John 1207 confirmed to Robert de Hwlfordd the privilege of a market here.

HAVERFORDWEST OF TO-DAY

The Haverfordwest of to-day, still dominated by its old Norman Castle, presents many fascinating features to the visitor. From many points of vantage on its hilly streets one gets glorious panorama of the district. Immediately below are many fine buildings which are monuments of antiquity, standing out prominently against the old-fashioned houses. From the Parade, overlooking the valley of the Cleddau, can be seen the Lion Rock of Trefigarne, the Rath Rings (a prominent British earth work) and, beyond, lovely pasture land stretching for miles to the base of the Prescelly Hills, while immediately to the south, along the left bank of the meandering Cleddau, are the magnificent woods of Boulston.

The town has four parishes within its boundaries: St. Mary, St. Thomas, St. Martin, and Furzy Park and Portfield, the last of which contains no parish church.

The most important building, apart from the ancient churches, is the Shire Hall, erected in 1835, at the bottom of High Street and is probably the most spacious Court of Justice in the country. It was built on the site of a Quaker Meeting House.

There are two War Memorials in the town. In the Salutation Square is the County of Pembroke War Memorial, erected in 1921, in remembrance of all the men of Pembrokeshire who gave their lives in the First World War. It is an impressive rock-like column of Portland stone which is surmounted by a sculptured figure of a Welsh dragon, while round the sides of the column are bronze tablets on which are recorded the names of the fallen.

The other War Memorial, standing in an enclosure close to St. Mary's Church on the site of the Old Guild Hall, is in remembrance of those who fell in the Great Boer War, and consists of a Celtic Cross whose ornamentation is of ninth century design of runic interlaced work and key patterns.

On the right bank of the river, immediately above the railway bridge, are the ruins of the Augustinian Priory of St. Mary the Virgin and St. Thomas the Martyr, founded



Photo by Lewis Algar

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Looking down High Street



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Looking up High Street

by Robert, son of Richard Tankard, Constable of Haverford Castle, in 1207, while in the Clay Lanes are the remains of the lordly mansion of Sir John Perrot, the renowned Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and reputed son of Henry VIII, and a great benefactor to the town.

At the junction of High Street and Dark Street is the monument, which consists of a Balmoral red granite column surmounted by an urn, to William Nichol, who was burnt on that spot on the 9th April, 1558.

Other interesting buildings in the town are the Old Fish Market at the bottom of Dew Street, which contains some striking examples of early English arches, the County War Memorial Hospital in Winch Lane, and the County Council Offices on St. Thomas Green, to which is attached the County Library which houses a fine collection of books bequeathed to the town by the late Dr. Henry Owen, F.S.A., the well-known antiquary.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

St. Mary's Church, which occupies a commanding position overlooking the High Street, is a beautiful specimen of the decorated style of architecture, and probably incorporates remains of a Norman structure burned by Llewellyn the Great on one of his raids. The Church contains some beautiful Early English arches, while its panelled roof and clustered pillars with their fascinating and quaint medieval carvings are striking features. The oak panelled roof, one of the finest in the country, was formerly coloured, while its corbels are representations of men's heads on one side and women's on the other. The Church contains the oldest brass, dated 1651, in the county, the organ is the second largest in the county, and visitors are greatly interested in the recumbent effigy of a pilgrim near the south-west corner of the nave. The Church registers are the oldest in Pembrokeshire and date back to the year 1590.

St. Martins, which stands within the Castletown enclosure, is the oldest Church in the town, dating back to Norman times, but it was rebuilt in the fourteenth century. It contains many interesting features: its fine Perpendicular west window and an early medieval tombstone in the chancel, while over the porch there is a priest's chamber.

St. Thomas Church is also of ancient foundation, but, apart from its commanding thirteenth century tower, has been completely restored, and the same has been done to St. David's Church, Prendergast, apart from its tower which, like that of St. Thomas', is a landmark for many miles around.

The oldest Non-conformist Church in the town is the Albany Free Church on St. Thomas Green, which traces its origin from the year 1638. Prior to the Restoration of 1660, the Cause was known as the "Green Meeting", but in 1665 the Chapel was built adjoining the "Green Meeting" (now the Church Vestry), and the Rev. Peregrine Phillips, one of the ejected clergy of 1662, became its first ordained Minister, and he was ably assisted by the Rev. John Luntly, another of the ejected. The Church records date



Photo by Lewis Algar

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St. Mary's Church showing part of the Arcade of 13th Century Pillars

from the middle of the seventeenth century, and its solid silver Communion plate of exquisite design was the gift, in 1774, of Miss Ann Williams, daughter of one of Haverford's leading mercers.

The Moravian Church, on St. Thomas Green adjoining the old potato market, is the only one in Wales.

Another Congregational Church is the Tabernacle near Cromwell Corner, and was founded by George Whitfield, the famous Methodist revivalist. Close to it is the Wesley Methodist Church founded by John Wesley, who visited the town on fifteen different occasions.

There are also two Baptist Churches—Bethesda and Hill Park—and a Calvinistic Church, the Ebenezer.

The Roman Catholic Church, which is of recent date, is near the top of Dew Street.

EDUCATION

The Grammar School, the only Public School in the county, is situated in Dew Street near St. Mary's Church, and its foundation dates from before 1488. It was endowed by Thomas Lloyd of Kilkenny and John Milward in Stuart times. Many outstanding men have been educated there, including General Sir Thomas Picton, G.C.B., second in command to Wellington at Waterloo, where he fell leading the last desperate victorious charge of the British Army; Fenton, the historian; and Captain Cromie, R.N., C.B., D.S.O., who was shot on the Embassy steps in Petrograd in 1918.

Tasker's High School for girls in Tower Hill, originally intended for poor children of both sexes, was founded and endowed by Mrs. Mary Tasker of Rudbaxton. To-day it is a High School regulated by a scheme under the Welsh Intermediate Act of 1889.

The Primary Schools are as follows: For infants—Fenton Council, Barn Street National and Prendergast Council; for girls—St. Martin's Council, Prendergast Council and Barn Street National; for boys—Barn Street Council, Barn Street National and Prendergast Council.

Under the Butler Act it is anticipated that much re-organisation will take place, that at least one modern school will be built, and provision made for technical education.



Photo by Lewis Algar

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Tower Hill from
Mariners Square

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Haverfordwest has been from early times an enterprising and flourishing centre. For hundreds of years it was noted as a famous woollen, grain and malt centre due to the skill and industry of its inhabitants, and along the river banks can still be seen the huge warehouses which testify to the great volume of trade carried on and which was chiefly water borne. The Cleddau (Welsh for Swords) is navigable for ships of 200 tons up to the New Quay, but the advent of the railway in 1854 has greatly diminished its importance.

The surrounding district is agricultural, hence the trade of the town is largely in agricultural products.

It is also the administrative hub of Pembrokeshire, and the centre for all the important courts and county meetings.

The town is the natural shopping centre of the County and its shops compare very favourably with those of far more populous towns.



Photo by Lewis Algar

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Opening of the Assizes

The Judge, Mayor, Town Clerk and other Officials, after Divine Service at St. Mary's Church

There is a factory for the manufacture of dairy utensils and poultry appliances, and at Hook, a few miles outside the town, is an important colliery which produces anthracite of the best quality.

Up-to-date motor bus services are run by Messrs. Green Ltd., The Western Welsh Ltd., and Messrs. J. Griffiths & Sons, and thus every part of the County is easily accessible.

The ex-Royal Air Force Station at Withybush (1½ miles from the town centre) is to be developed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation as a Civil Airport to serve West Wales, and it is anticipated that regular scheduled services will commence in the autumn of 1947. At present a private Flying Company operates Charter Taxi Services. The Headquarters of the West Wales Flying Club, where facilities are available for instruction in all branches of aeronautics, are located at the Airport. There is a spacious Club house, fully provided with recreational and social amenities.

SPORT AND RECREATION

Haverfordwest provides its residents and visitors ample opportunities for enjoying their favourite sports.

On Bull's Hill, half-a-mile from the Railway Station on the Carmarthen Road, is a nine-hole golf course.

On the Parade, on a commanding position overlooking the winding Cleddau in a picturesque miniature park, are hard tennis courts and a well laid out bowling green.

The Town Cricket Club, one of the oldest in South Wales, has its ground on the Racecourse, and facilities are also provided there for Hockey.

The Association Football Ground is the Bridge Meadow, the Rugby Ground is the Cottage Field adjoining St. Thomas Green, while the Racecourse, the Recreation Ground in Jury Lane, and the Picton Playing Field cater for the physical activities of the children.

The angler will find excellent fishing both in the Western and Eastern Cleddau, and the huntsman will find that the Pembrokeshire Hounds, whose kennels are in Slade Lane, will provide him with excellent sport and thrilling runs.

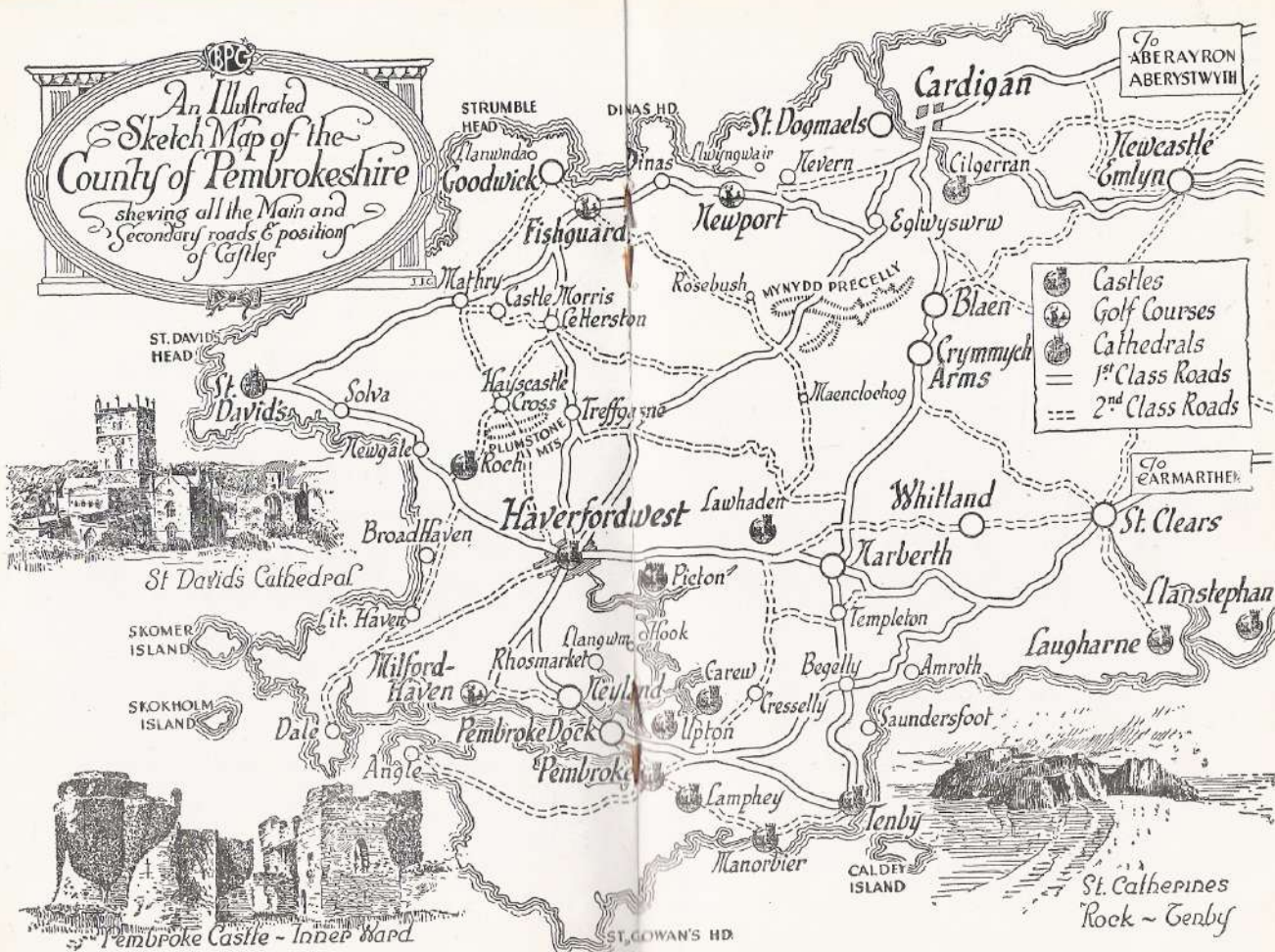
Visitors to the town in October will be fortunate in having the opportunity of attending Portfield Fair, which is always held on the 5th of the month. For hundreds of years this was the great hiring fair for the whole of the County, but now it is simply a great pleasure-fair of many sensational attractions.

Near the town is the mansion of Sealyham, now a Welsh Memorial Hospital, where the world-famous Sealyham Terriers were first bred.

EXCURSIONS

The coastal districts of Pembrokeshire, with their majestic cliffs and golden sands washed by the mighty breakers of the Atlantic and many of its island sanctuaries for countless sea birds, can easily be reached from Haverfordwest, and the visitor will probably visit the following:

An Illustrated Sketch Map of the County of Pembrokeshire
 shewing all the Main and Secondary roads & positions of Castles



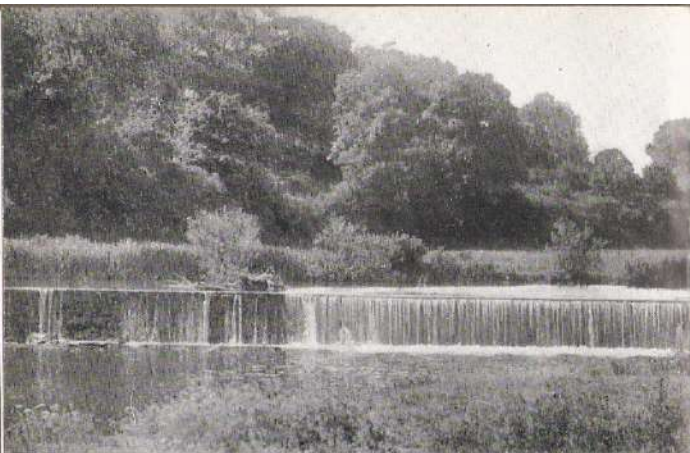


Photo by Lewis Algar

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The Head Waters of the River Cleddau

St. Davids, with its magnificent Norman cathedral, the old ruined Bishop's Palace, etc., passing on the way Roch Castle, Newgale Sands and the picturesque village of Solva.

Tenby, the Naples of Wales; Caldy Island; Lydstep Haven with its sea-caverns; Manorbier Castle (the birthplace of Giraldus Cambrensis); Carew Castle.

Pembroke with its massive Norman castle (the birthplace of Henry VII); Bosheston Pools with its delightful lily ponds; The Huntsman's Leap; the Stack Rocks; and St. Govan's Chapel on the cliff. Milford Haven, described by Nelson as the finest natural harbour in the world.

Fishguard and Goodwick, near the scene (Carreg Gwastad) of the French Landing in 1797, etc. etc.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Position.—Pembrokeshire, South Wales. Lat. 51.48 North, Long. 4.58 West. Distance from London, 251 miles.

River.—The Cleddau.

Latest Population Figures.—7,500 (approx.).

Railway.—The Great Western. About 6 hours from London.

Early Closing.—Thursday. Banks: Saturday.

Market Day.—Saturday.

Cinemas.—Palace Cinema (Upper Market Street); The County Theatre (Picton Place).

Post Office.—Quay Street.

County War Memorial Hospital.—Winch Lane, St. Thomas Green.

Newspapers.—*Western Telegraph* (Bridge Street); *West Wales Guardian* (Market Street).

Clubs.—County Club (High Street); Balfour Constitution Club (Quay Street); The British Legion Club (Bridge Meadow); Services Club (Quay Street); Women's Institute (Dew Street); Girl Guides' Headquarters (Dew Street); Youth Welfare Club (Rosemary Lane); Boy Scouts (Wesleyan Guildroom); The Arts Club (Fenton Infants' School); West Wales Flying Club (The Airfield, Withybush, Haverfordwest).

Lord Lieutenant of the County.—Col. L. H. Higgon, M.C.
Clerk of the Peace for Haverfordwest.—Mr. W. E. Bufton, LL.B.

Mayor and Admiral of the Port of Haverfordwest.—Councillor W. Ivor Lloyd.

Sheriff.—Councillor John White.

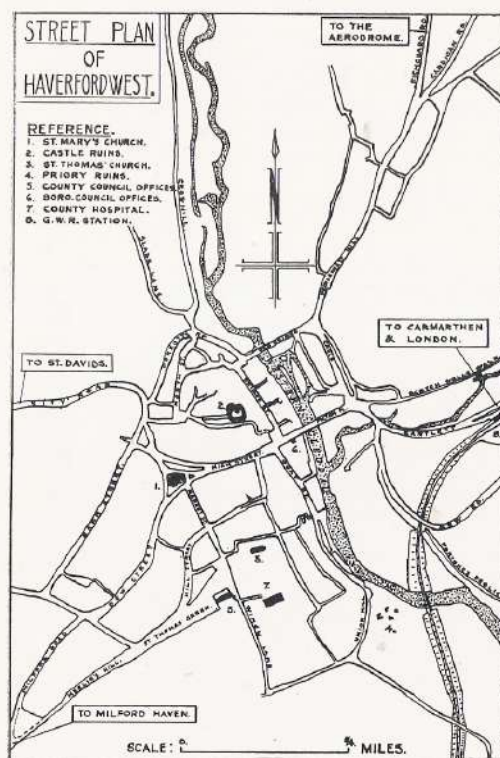
Town Clerk.—Mr. R. Ivor Rees.

Surveyor.—Mr. Ralph G. Henderson, M.I.M. & Cy.E., P.A.S.I., A.R.S.I.

Borough Treasurer.—Mr. F. R. Lowther, F.C.A.

Medical Officer of Health.—Dr. G. J. Bowen.

Sanitary Inspector.—Mr. D. Brynmor Evans.



PATRIOTIC SONG OF PEMBROKESHIRE

PRIZE POEM

by

ALFRED HUGH JAMES, J.P.,
Haverfordwest

God bless the Premier County
 Of gallant Little Wales,
 The sea-girt shores of Pembroke,
 Its mountains, hills and dales,
 Whose castles, though decaying,
 Speak of a glorious past,
 When warriors bold assembled,
 Called forth by bugle blast.

Chorus: Pembroke, beloved County,
 Thy praises we will sing!
 A people, true and loyal
 To Country, Empire, King.

As then, so now if called on
 To fight against the foe,
 Thy sons are ever ready
 To volunteer and go.
 The children of thy Homeland,
 To whom thou didst give birth,
 Are proud of thee, dear Pembroke,
 Their brightest spot on earth.

Chorus: Pembroke, beloved County, etc.

And when they roam the world o'er,
 Their thoughts are oft of thee,
 In dreams they see thee ever,
 Dear County by the sea.
 Roll gently, bold Atlantic!
 Nor wreck its lovely coast,
 And softly blow, ye breezes,
 O'er land they love the most.

Chorus: Pembroke, beloved County, etc.

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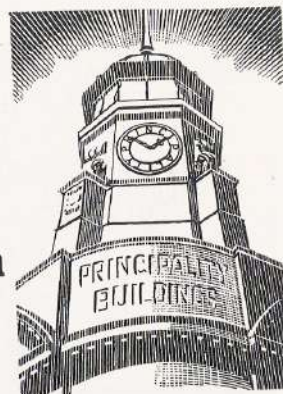
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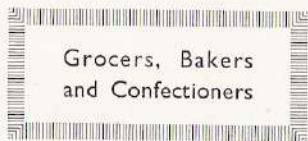
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