

BARRY GI BRIDES MAGAZINE

September 2010 Number Eleven

From Britain With Love
World War II Pilgrim Brides Sail to America



Vera A. Cracknell Long

Welcome to BARRY GI BRIDE MAGAZINE Number Eleven...

FRONT PAGE PICTURE

"**From Britain With Love**, is a thoroughly documented historical book about the GI Brides of WWII, "a valuable addition to our heritage." Back in print, it is available directly from [Vera A. Long, chasveralong@gmail.com](mailto:chasveralong@gmail.com) 19365 Cypress Ridge Terrace, Apt.412, Lansdowne, VA 20176. The price \$12.95 includes US postage."

A CHANGE OF TITLE IS DUE IN THE NEAR FUTURE

As I am coming to the end of publishable material *so far as BARRY GI BRIDES are concerned* in a few months this Magazine will become:

SOUTH WALES GI BRIDES MAGAZINE

Hopefully fresh information will still be forthcoming about Barry Brides but our *field of fire* will be greatly enlarged!

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WAR BRIDE AND A GI BRIDE?

(My definitions)

A **British War Bride**, in the broadest sense, is someone who got married during or just after the war. She might have married an American or a Canadian or Czech or Pole.

A **British GI-War Bride** is a woman who married an **American** soldier, sailor or airman during or just after the war. This could be expanded to include merchant seaman or even civilians working for Uncle Sam "Over Here".

So a female could be a War Bride but **not** a GI Bride. But then a GI Bride would **not** be a War Bride if the female married a GI in the 1950's! I guess that would make her a **Cold War GI Bride!**

Having clarified that ☺ there is another category to consider: **Male War/GI Brides**. British males married American females whom they had met whilst in the States or Over Here as for instance when American **WAAC's (later WAC's – see below)** arrived in the UK. We will return to this at a later date...



Basically my interest is in the:

**ANGLO-AMERICAN
MARRIAGES**

that came into being
**ON ACCOUNT OF THE
WAR.**

Put another way: if it were not for the war then these couples would not have met.

“GI?” stood for “GOVERNMENT ISSUE”

This was stamped on some of the US soldier's equipment. The designation was at some point transferred *to the man* issued with the equipment.

In World War One American soldiers were known as “doughboys”... Enough definitions for now!

The following Anglo-American weddings took place in 1945...**Barry & District News**Friday June 16th, 1944**MACKOWIAK – DYKE**

The engagement is announced between **William Mackowiak** of Chicago (US Army) and **Maud Dyke**, third daughter of Mrs Dyke, of 77 Kingsland Crescent.

Barry & District NewsFriday April 20th, 1945**MACKOWIAK – DYKE**

The marriage took place on Wednesday at St. Helen's Church, Barry Dock, between **Sergeant William Valentine Mackowiak**, Chicago, USA and **Miss Maud Dyke**, Kingsland Crescent, Barry Dock.

During the 1970's Bill and Maud returned to live in Barry...and, sadly, in 1989, Bill died in Barry.

Barry & District NewsThursday April 20th, 1989

MACKOWIAK – Bill (the Yank) peacefully in hospital on April 11th, the beloved husband of Maud...

Barry & District NewsFriday May 25th, 1945**HUTCHINSON – KERSLAKE**

The marriage of **Miss Mavis June Kerslake**, granddaughter of Mr and Mrs J Kerslake, Porthkerry Road, Barry, and **Private Glen Hutchinson** (US Army) took place in the Methodist Church, Caversham, Reading, on Saturday May 12th.

Barry HeraldFriday September 14th, 1945**RUPPEL – LEA**

On 23rd August by special licence at All Soul's Church, Harlesden, London, **Corporal Mirl George Ruppel**, US Army, only son of Mr and Mrs C Ruppel, Pennsylvania, to **Betty Maude, Auxiliary Territorial Service**, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs W H Lea, Glamorgan Street, Barry.

Barry HeraldFriday October 19th, 1945**RADTKE – PAGE**

The marriage took place at St. Helen's Church, Barry Dock, on Saturday of **Miss Winifred M Page**, third daughter of Mr George Page of Wilfred Street, Barry Dock, and the late Mrs Page, and **Sergeant John T Radtke**, youngest son of Mr and Mrs L Radtke, of Winstead, Minnesota, USA

Barry Herald

Friday July 13th, 1945

DURANT – BRAUND

The marriage was solemnised at St. Paul's Church, Barry, between **Miss Marion Braund**, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Braund of 76, Queen Street, and **Elton Lee Durant**, third son of Mr and Mrs Ben Durant of Buffalo, Texas...**Mr Jack Stevens** was organist. The best man was **Chief Officer K C Kadar**...

Barry Herald

Friday May 31st, 1946

ARRIVED IN BUFFALO

BARRY WIFE WAS FIRST BRITISH BRIDE THERE

Mrs Len Durant, formerly Miss Marion Braund, is reported by the "Buffalo Times" to be the first British bride to have arrived in Buffalo, Texas. She is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Herbert Braund, of Queen Street, Barry, and she was married on July 4th, 1945, at St. Paul's Church, Barry, by the Rev. J. Lloyd Richards. She crossed the Atlantic in the **Citeria** and was accompanied on the three-day train journey to Texas by twelve other British brides.

Soon after her arrival in Buffalo her sister-in-law, Mrs Lawrence Durant, gave a shower party in Marion's honour. The entertaining rooms of the house were decorated with roses, flocks, larkspur, and hydrangeas and all the twenty-four guests signed their names in the bride's book. She received many presents from the guests and absent friends of the Durant family.

In the "Buffalo Times" Marion is described as a "lovely English bride." Her husband, son of

Mr and Mrs Ben Durant, of Buffalo, is employed at the Leon Fabricating Company and they have recently purchased a new house in Buffalo.

Barry Herald

Friday March 28th, 1947

DURANT – On February 20th, at Buffalo, Texas, USA, to **Marion** (nee Braund) and **Elton**, a son. (**Duane Lee**).

Barry Herald

Friday September 14th, 1945

HOPKE – BOARD

The marriage was solemnised on Saturday at Penmark Church of **Margaret Board**, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W J Board, of Court Farm, Fontigary, Rhoose, and **Sergeant Harold Donald Hopke** of New York. Sergeant and Mrs Hopke will shortly make their home in New York.

SOUTH WALES ECHO

Wednesday September 12th, 1945

HOPKE – BOARD

On September 8th, at Penmark Church, **Harold Hopke**, US Army, son of Mr and Mrs G Hopke, of Freeport, New York, to **Marjorie Board**, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W Board, Court Farm, Rhoose.

SOUTH WALES ECHO

Tuesday November 13th, 1945

MENTZ – EVANS

On November 10th at Merthyr Dyfan Church, Barry, **Kenneth**, Sergeant US Army, to **Eileen Evans**, 4, St Paul's Place, Barry.

Barry & District News

Friday November 30th, 1945

READER – HEWITSON

The marriage was solemnised at St. Paul's Church, on November 13th, by the Rev. W Harries between **Technician Sergeant David Reader**, son of Mr and Mrs E.V. Reader Pennsylvania, USA, and **Miss Ida Hewitson**, second daughter of Mrs and the late Mr E Hewitson, Princes St., Barry... the groomsmen were... **Sergeant F Freezer** and **Sergeant J Seaburger** of the US Army.

Barry Herald

Friday December 7th, 1945

READER – HEWITSON

The marriage took place at St. Paul's Church, Barry, on Tuesday last week of **Sergeant Martin David Rader**, US Army, son of Mrs F. Fenstermacher of Pennsylvania, USA and **Ida Hewitson**, third daughter of Captain Hewitson (reported missing) and Mrs Hewitson of Princes Street, Barry... The best man was **Sergeant E Parker**, US Army. The groomsmen were **PFC J Seeburger**, **Private First Class F. Freeze**...

The logo for Barry Herald, featuring the name in a stylized, gothic-style font within a rectangular border.

Friday December 21st, 1945

JOHNSTON – BARTEK

The wedding took place at St. Helen's, Roman Catholic Church, Barry Dock, on Wednesday of last week, of **Miss Gloria Johnston**, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Johnston, College Road, Barry and **Sergeant Willie Bartek**, US Army, only son of Mrs L. Bartek, Flatonia, Texas.

The logo for Barry Herald, featuring the name in a stylized, gothic-style font within a rectangular border.

Friday March 12th, 1948

BIRTH

BARTEK – On March 6th, at 77 College Rd, to **Gloria** (nee Johnston) and **Billie**, a son (Alvin Yarnton).

The logo for Barry Herald, featuring the name in a stylized, gothic-style font within a rectangular border.

Thursday November 1st, 1951

BIRTH

BARTEK – On October 19th, at Daw Hospital, Valesco, Texas, to **Willie and Gloria**, (nee Johnston) a Daughter (Sister for Alvin), **Ellen Beth**.

Barry Herald

Friday December 7th, 1945

FORSYTHE – PALMER

The marriage took place at St. Paul's Church, Barry, on Thursday of last week of **Miss Irene Louisa Plamer**, only daughter of Mr and Mrs F J Palmer, Regent Street, Barry Dock, and **Mr Jack Phillip Forsythe**, Eighth United States Air Corps, only son of Mr and Mrs Forsythe, Pennsylvania, USA

Weddings in 1946...

Barry Herald

Friday April 19th, 1946

MCNULTY – PREECE

The marriage took place by special licence at St. Helen's Church, Barry Dock, on Monday of **Miss Beryl Preece** (Women's Royal Naval Service), twin daughter of Mrs Preece, Gladstone Road, Barry, and the late Mr Preece, and **Mr Francis McNulty**, US Army, son of Mr and Mrs McNulty, Columbus, Ohio.

Barry Herald

Friday March 28th, 1947

McNULTY – On March 10th, at Columbus, Ohio, to **Frank and Beryl** (nee Preece), a daughter (**Jennifer Ann**).

Barry & District News

Friday July 5th, 1946

BANNISTER – HUNTER



The marriage was solemnized on Saturday at the *Old Village Church*, Cadoxton, between **Private Floyd Bannister**, US Army and **Miss Seilla Hunter**, Holmes Street, Cadoxton...the best man was **Private Henry Arbell**.

Mrs "Babs" Gardiner of Cadoxton, Barry, knew "Cilla" Hunter and went to this wedding: Private Bannister was probably a member of 596th Port Company, Transportation Corps. Both were of mixed race and are now deceased.

Western Mail

AND SOUTH WALES NEWS
THE NATIONAL DAILY OF WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE

June 5th, 1946

HOWELL – LOUGHER

On June 1st at First Baptist Church, Dothan, Alabama, **Fred Howell**, son of Mr and the late Mr Howell, to **Jean Mary Lougher**, daughter of Mrs and the late Mr David Lougher, 43 Porth-y-Castell, Barry. (By cable)

FEEDBACK FROM A WAR BRIDE**(Not from Barry)**

I just loved your August edition, so many memories flooding back of those wartime weddings, the wondering if they would take place, the effort to get the show on the road, the dress, the food, the guests, the flowers, and on and on. My instinct as a historian was immediately, I wonder if any of these couples are alive and together. Advertise? Could you make a list of all the couples you have, I bet the bride magazines and web sites would publish it

Thank you for giving me so much pleasure.

Avice Wilson

So, that's all for this month, FOLKS! In this issue it is clear that the public records, the old newspapers have been SCANNED and PLUNDERED for wedding notices.

As ever, if any readers are able and willing to share further information about ANY GI brides I would be delighted!

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