

JOHN EMRYS EVANS

John Emrys Evans was born on the 18th August (October), 1853, at Bron y Berllan near Abergele, Denbighshire, North Wales. He was the eldest son of the late Mr. Emrys Evans and Anne Jones.

He was educated at the High School, Liverpool Institute and the Denbigh Grammar School. He commenced his career in banking at the National Provincial Bank of England, Amlwch, Anglesey, in 1870.

In 1882, he arrived in South Africa and started as an inspector in the Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd. After being connected with that institution for fourteen years, Mr. Evans resigned his position and went to Johannesburg.

In 1897, he was appointed British Vice-Consul for the Witwatersrand Gold Fields. This position he held until the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War on 11th October, 1899. At the outbreak of hostilities, he became financial advisor to Lord Milner; and from March to June 1900, he was appointed financial adviser in Bloemfontein to Lord Roberts, Commander-in-Chief. In August 1900, he was made Controller of the Treasury, Transvaal; and from April, 1901, he officiated as Auditor General, resigning from that office on the 31st December, 1901.

From 1902, he went into business in Johannesburg as a financial advisor. He was responsible for restoring the financial stability of the Johannesburg Hospital Board, served on the Johannesburg Town Council for two terms from 1902 to 1906. In 1907 he was elected Unionist member of the Transvaal legislature for Langlaagte.

He was Vice Chairman of the National Bank of South Africa Ltd (to become Barclays Bank) a position he held until his death; a Director of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, and a Board Member of various other charitable and financial organisations in the Transvaal.



Evans was a member of the Rand Club, the Johannesburg Turf, Cape Town Civil Service, the Kimberley and Pretoria Clubs.

Fond of sport, he listed his interests as being fishing, golf, horse racing and shooting.

He died in November 1931. His funeral service was held on 20 November at St. George's Cathedral, Cape Town and he was buried in Plumstead Cemetery.

His estate, worth £30,711, was lodged with the Johannesburg Estates Office, his city of residence. He had recently purchased a portion of the farm *Paarlvallei*. This he left to his son, William, a usufruct on his estate in favour of his wife, and that which remained in favour of his two surviving sons, William and Paul, in equal portions.

He was awarded the Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG warrant and insignia awarded 1 December 1902 : Breast Badge, silver-gilt & enamels); Queen South Africa Medal (no bar)(inscribed E.EVANS ESQ.)and 1910 Union of South Africa Medal (unnamed as issued).



From the late 19th century onwards, the Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George was used to awarded ambassadors, colonial governors and senior diplomats. This Evans received in recognition of his services as British Vice-consul for the Witwatersrand Goldfields from 1897 until the outbreak of war in October 1899. The Queens South Africa medal was earned when Financial Advisor to Lords Milner and Roberts. He received the Union of South Africa Commemorative Medal, 1910, as a founding member of the Union Legislative Assembly for the Transvaal.



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5. Marais JS. The Fall of Kruger's Republic. Publ. Oxford University Press1961.
6. Mr. Emrys Evans' Will. Unknown Publication. 8 January 1932:46
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GENEALOGY

1. Emrys Evans b. 1812 St. Asaph, Flint, Wales m. Anne JONES b. 1812 Gwyrch, Abergele, Denbigh ~ 18 December 1814 Gyffylliog, Denbigh, Wales (do. Thomas and Anne Jones of Nant Fawr, Abergele).

The 1881 British Census lists the family as follows:

Emrys Evans (aged 69) retired farmer, Ann Evans (aged 69) retired farmer's wife, Jane Evans (aged 30) daughter, William Evans (aged 25) son, plus 6 other occupants of Cotton Hall, Denbigh, Denbigh, Wales. One was a grandson, Edward Evans Roberts.

John E Evans (aged 28, a bank accountant), together with James Allen, the proprietor and 28 others, was resident at the time in the Queens Hotel, Wellington Street, Leeds, Yorkshire

1.1 Jane Evans b. 1851 Abergele, Denbigh

1.2 John Emrys Evans b. 18 August 1853 (at Bron y Berllan, Denbighshire, North Wales) d. Sea Point 19 November 1931 m. Johanna Margaretha née Leeb b. 23 August 1864 d. 1 August 1837 (do. Maria Johanna née Sieberhagen and P G Leeb, Wynberg)

Maria Johanna neé Sieberhagen bc. November 1835 d. 23 March 1886 in Westbrook, Newlands leaving an estate of £28823 [MOOC 6/9/232.655 & 13/1/497.23](#) . She was born in Richmond, the do. Johann George Sieberhagen and Christina Jacobs. She and P G Leeb formerly of Wynberg produced 5 children : Christina Petronella, Johann Ludwig, John Georg, Johanna Margaretha and Peter George Leonard.

Johanna Margaretha Emrys-Evans née Leeb b. 23 August 1864 d. at "Osborne", Milner Road, Rondebosch 1 August 1937 leaving an estate of £4236/14/8 to her sons, Paul Vychan Emrys Evans of 2 Lowdes Street, London SW1, and William Leeb Emrys Evans of "Nant", Parel Vallei, Somerset West. She is buried, together with her husband, in the Plumstead Cemetery, Grave EG B10. [MOOC 6/9/4950.55711](#).



Gravestone of Table Mountain granite, Plumstead Cemetery

1.3 William Evans b. 1856 Abergele, Denbigh

1.2.1 Paul Vychan Emrys Evans b. 1894

In 1930, Paul Emrys-Evans was elected Conservative Member of the British House of Commons for Derby. The Churchill Papers [CHAR 20/151/12-13](#) contain a letter [1944 sic] from Bobbety [Lord Cranborne, earlier Robert Gascoyne Cecil, later 5th Lord Salisbury] of the Dominions Office to W.S. Churchill recommending Paul Emrys Evans, commenting that he would make a wonderful Under Secretary and detailing his qualities. He was to become Under-Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, 1942-45.

1.2.2 William Leeb Emrys Evans b. Germiston 1895 d. 1961 m/div.
(first) Grace BLAKE

At the time of their divorce in 1945, William Leeb Emrys Evans was living on Hospital Hill, Johannesburg and Grace BLAKE was living in Seaforth, Simonstown [CSC](#)
[2/1/1/1478.825](#)

1.2.2 William Leeb Emrys Evans b. Germiston 1895 d. 1961 m. (second)
Hester Christina Kathleen GROVE d. 1974

1.2.3 John Emrys Evans b. 1898 d. 1924