

*I came across this useful piece of information in a Welsh Newspaper of 1870. It had previously been published in an Australian Newspaper (in English). A family member living in Australia cut the story out and sent it to his cousin living in Wales. He translated it into Welsh and sent it to the Seren Cymru Newspaper. This is a translation of a translation.*

During the first week of the year 1870 in the town of Launceston in Tasmania or Van Dieman's Land if you prefer the death of Mr W. Lloyd Jones was recorded, he had suffered a long illness and dreadful poverty. He was better known as William Jones, one of the leaders of the 1839 chartist Uprising and along with Zephaniah Williams and John Frost was transported to Tasmania for their role in their attempt to free the country thirty years previously.

A few years prior to his death William Jones was in a very comfortable position but he lost his complete fortune in various schemes while he kept a hotel in the village of Franklin, Tasmania. Between that time and about two years prior to his death he had returned to his old calling of a watch maker in Elizabeth Street in Launceston until the time, due to his illness, he was forced to retire. Very few of the inhabitants of the town who passed his little shop and seeing him with the magnifying glass in his eye peering into the bowels of a watch knew that at one time this simple worker about forty years previously was a thorn in the side of the British Government and in the heat of the moment, without considering the possible outcomes or judging carefully with reason along with John Frost and Zephaniah Williams led armed men in an attempt to topple the English Government.

After the clash between the Chartists and the militia, the leaders and others were arrested and eventually transported for life to Tasmania or to Milbank prison in London. What the Chartists tried to achieve was an improvement in Britain's laws, that we now take for granted. Their aims were correct but possibly their path was unwise yet today all but one of their aims are law. The three leaders were pardoned after fifteen years; Frost sailed back to Britain to a hero's welcome. Zephaniah Williams lived a comfortable life on the coast of North Western Tasmania but William Jones sadly died a pauper.

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