

Mary Jones, Pedlar doll

One of the items on display in the Newtown Textile Museum is this lovely model doll of a pedlar. The details of her stock are amazing.

Mary Jones was born in 1823 in Llanllwchaiarn and her mother Anne Jones born in 1790 in Denbighshire. In 1871 they are recorded, as living in Frankwell, Llanllwchaiarn and her occupation was Hawker.

A hawker was a person, who traded in goods, wares and merchandise from horse drawn vehicle or travels by any means of locomotion to other places.

A hawker's license was issued by the local authority and cost 4/- p.a. in the 1820s. It lasted for one year from date of issue. To obtain such a license, the applicant had to produce references of good character from a clergyman and two householders or a Justice of the Peace or Superintendent or Inspector of Police. They had to have their name and the words 'Licensed Hawker' visibly written, painted or printed on every box, package and every vehicle used for the carriage of goods and on every room or shop in which his/her goods were sold.

Mary Jones was apparently licensed to sell tea, tobacco and snuff. Her travels took her from Newtown to Aberystwyth four times a year.

For more examples of Pedlar dolls, check this site.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/objects/g5Wreyc6TwCCPmaCHt1iDw>

or here: <https://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O1131610/pedlar-doll-unknown/>