

P O E T R Y W A L E S

Mamgu

Llan

my mother's party piece
(I am searching for her birth certificate online)

Fair

the taste of valley vowels
(this is difficult because I do not know her name)

Pwll

a delicacy in her mouth
(I start looking for a record of her death)

Gwyn

otherwise she never spoke
(I know her married name I know the year)

Gyll

her mother's tongue inside our house
(I was two she was sixty-two and her daughter)

Ger

never spoke of you or her Welsh family
(was seven months pregnant with my brother)

Chwyrn

shock and trauma buried under pit-black soil
(I find her death recorded in the town of my birth)

Drobwll

did she blame me for your death if you hadn't been
(her maiden name Morgan born Pontypridd 1913)

Llan

pushing me in my pram perhaps an ambulance a chance
(mum never said your name not because you were estranged)

Tysilio

a heart attack carves a faultline across the border
(but the opposite the loss too great to articulate)

Gogo

I never knew you but you loved me your only granddaughter
(I discover Muriel in Celtic means sea-bright)

Goch

what are the odds you'd marry a man with the same name
(I carry your name with me to speak my own hy/stories)

...

*there are some things for which my English tongue is silent and bereft
for those there is hiraeth*

(i.m. Muriel Seabright 1913-1975)