



## SKITTLES ROOM

### *The Chess Cafe*

#### *E-mail List:*

Each week, as a free service to more than a thousand of our friends, we send out a brief e-mail message: *This Week at The Chess Cafe*. To receive this *free* weekly update, send us your e-mail address. You can remove your name whenever you wish and we do *not* make the list available to anyone else.

[Yes, include me on the e-mail list!](#)

## Captain William Evans

### Inventor of the Evans Gambit

The following article is adapted from an article by W.R. Thomas which appeared in the January 1928 issue of the *British Chess Magazine*...

A hundred years ago English Chess reached its highest rank. Sarratt and Lewis had carried on the methodical analysis of chess principles which we owe, in origin, to Philidor. Afterwards George Walker and Staunton continued the good work, though their reputation must always be stained by the personalities in which they indulged. But of all great English chess names the greatest, I think, is that of Evans: McDonnell and Blackburne were only players, and we are still too near Burn's striking personality to be able to estimate his historical value...

The marriage certificate of the parents of Capt. Evans (obtained from the Parish records of Nevern in the county of Pembroke) shows that John Evans, of the parish of St. Dogwell's, and Mary Davis, of the parish of Nevern, were married on April 12th, 1787. After the wedding the pair started life at the farm of Musland, where their eldest son, William Davies Evans, was born on January 27th, 1790...

It is almost certain that young Evans went to Haverfordwest Grammar School, the only school of any antiquity in Pembrokeshire. The school records, however, have been destroyed.

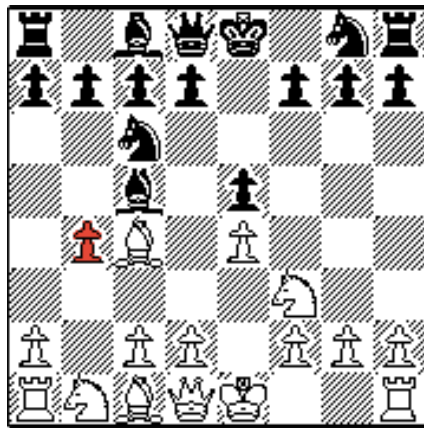
About the beginning of the century the family moved to Castle Pill, the name of an inlet of Milford Haven on the north side, just east of Milford town. "Pill" is the name given to several of these inlets. The name Castle Pill is also held by a large farm, which borders the inlet and has on it a very good house, and it was here that Evans lived. The owner was the Col. Greville, nephew of Sir William Hamilton, famous as the husband Nelson's "Emma." The connection of Nelson with Milford Haven was very intimate, and the principal hotel is still known as the Lord Nelson.

In 1804 (the year before Trafalgar) Evans went to sea, and served his country in some shape or form till the war ended in 1815. He was then transferred to the postal department, and in 819 had reached the rank of Captain of the sailing packet "Auckland," plying between Milford and Waterford. In 1818, according to his own statement, he learnt the moves at chess, and about this time he made the acquaintance, probably at Milford, of Lieut. Harry Wilson, R.N., one of the most attractive figures in the chess world of a century ago. As the *Chess Player's Chronicle* puts it in Wilson's obituary notice (1851): "During four reigns he served his country as an officer in the royal navy. He was distinguished amongst the champions of the board by imperturbable amenity and courtesy. For these happy qualities, not less than for mastery of the noble game, he was selected as marshal of the lists for England, in the memorable contest at Paris between

Staunton and Saint Amant... Of him it may be truly said that he never made an enemy, and never lost a friend." At the time of his death he was president of the Isle of Wight Chess Club.

At first, as Evans tells us, Wilson gave him a Rook, but they soon reached equality, and many of their games have been preserved, most of which, presumably, were played at Milford in the period 1820-1826, though some may have been played in London, a year or two later.

About the year 1824, on a steam postal packet, when actually at sea between Milford and Dunmore (the port of Waterford, Evans devised the Gambit that bears his name. The conclusive evidence on this important fact is Capt. Evans' own statement in a letter written in 1871, and published in *The Gentlemen's Journal Supplement* for 1872. The letter is given in full, in its proper chronological position, towards the close of the present article...

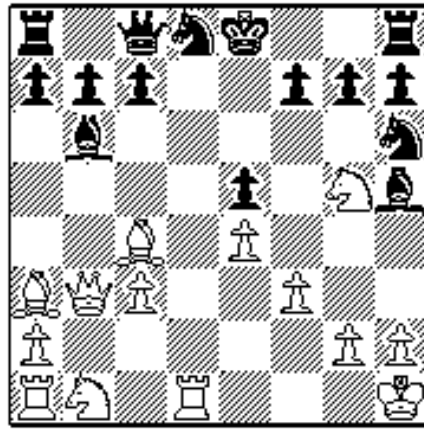


Some time in 1824, either on the *Cinderella*, the *Sovereign*, or the *Vixen*, between Milford and Dunmore, the Gambit was invented, not in actual play, but as the result of solitary study of a Giuoco Piano variation in Sarratt's Treatise (probably the one published posthumously, in 1821, by Lewis to his master's memory). Evans worked out his invention, and about the year 1826 found an opportunity of putting it personally before the London chess world. At that time organized chess was almost unknown, though on the point of coming into existence:

indeed the London Chess Club, in Cornhill, had already, in 1824, started its famous match versus Edinburgh. William Lewis had beaten Deschapelles (in 1821), at a match at Pawn and move, and at the moment stood out as the only famous English player. Although a man of good education (his favorite occupation in later life was the study of New Testament Greek), he was at this time making a precarious living as a "Teacher of Chess," and as a writer. He had opened, in 1825, Subscription Rooms for chess in St. Martin's Lane, which were closed in 1827 through his bankruptcy, caused by unsuccessful patents in pianoforte manufacture. To St. Martin's Lane Evans came, armed probably with an introduction from Wilson. He had no opportunity of playing his Gambit on Lewis, who refused to play anyone on level terms, but about the same time Alexander McDonnell (who since 1820 - according to the Dictionary of National Biography, had been engaged in business in Demerara) joined the Subscription Rooms, and in 1826 or 1827 the following epoch-making game was played:

#### ***Evans-McDonnell***

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 O-O d6 5 b4 Bxb4 6 c3 Ba5 7 d4 Bg4 8 Qb3 Qd7 9 Ng5 Nd8 10 dxe5 dxe5 11 Ba3 Nh6 12 f3 Bb6+ 13 Kh1 Bh5 14 Rd1 Qc8**  
(See Diagram)



**15 Rxd8+ Qxd8 16 Nxf7 Qh4 17 Qb5+ c6 18 Qxe5+ Kd7 19 Qe6+ Kc7 20 Bd6 mate**

The combination of White's 15th and 16th moves is sufficient evidence of Evans' strength.

George Walker, in *Chess Studies*, adds the remark, "This game occurred upon Captain Evans' first showing his new Gambit to McDonnell." Walker is not an accurate writer, but in this case his statement is supported by the internal evidence of the game. To McDonnell the opening is clearly a novelty.

The game must be date 1826 or 1827, for the following reason: At some time McDonnell played Evans a match of three games, at the odds of a Knight. Evans won all three. The games are also preserved in a notebook belonging to Lewis, which is now in the von der Lasa Library at Storchnest, Pomerania. In the note book Lewis states that the games were "played at St. Martin's Lane, in 1828 or 1829." As Lewis is known to have left St. Martin's Lane for Waterloo Place in 1827, either the time or the place must be wrongly recorded. Most people will agree that Lewis, who watched the games, is more likely to be in error as to the date than the place, and, if so, the match must have taken place not later than 1827. The interesting point is that the second game is an Evans Gambit, McDonnell attempting to turn the tables on its inventor. The game is well played by both sides, the opening moves being as follows:

#### **McDonnell-Evans Remove White's QN**

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 b4 Bb4 5 c3 Bc5 6 O-O d6 7 d4 ed4 8 cd4 Bb6 9 d5 Ne5 10 Ne5 de5 11 Bb2 Qe7 12 Qd3 f6**

It will be agreed that "much water must have flowed under bridges" between this game and the one already recorded, and, if this odds game was played at St. Martin's Lane, both games must be dated as far back as the year 1827.

It may be mentioned, in passing, that the first Evans Gambit of which the actual date is known is a game in which McDonnell, playing blindfold, tried to give a N to Worrall. That careful observer, Greenwood Walker (not of course to be confused with his namesake George) says that it was played in Lewis' house on April 13th, 1829.

These are the important facts connected with Evans' first known visit to London. At this point it may be convenient to give a list of his recorded games up to the year 1830. Against Wilson there are eight in existence, the score being Wilson 4, Evans 3, with one draw. Against McDonnell there are four wins already recorded. There are four losses against Slous, a loss against Walker and wins against Brandreth and Keen. It is noticeable that, while most of the other games are Evans Gambits, the opening does not occur in the games against Wilson: possibly they are of an earlier date.

On his return to his duties, about 1828, Evans maintained a correspondence, as he tells us, both with Lewis and with George Walker, and seems to have sent each of them a full analysis of the Gambit. In 1831 Lewis published the first series of his *Lessons on the Game of Chess*: this was a very elementary affair, and contains no

mention of the Gambit. In 1832 (Second Edition, 1834) appeared his *Second Series of Lessons*, with Evans' analysis and the famous *Fifty Games* (also published separately), which, as already shown, contain several examples of the opening, both by Evans and other players. Lewis says "For this ingenious variation I am indebted to my friend Capt. W.D. Evans, of Milford, who has also obligingly furnished me with most of the moves in this and the following game (an analysis extending over 18 pages). The game is generally, and with great propriety, called after the name of its inventor, Capt. Evans' Game."

Lewis' books were expensive: George Walker (then under 30 years old - in partnership with his father as publisher at 17 Soho Square) was bent on popularizing the game. In 1832 he published, for 3s. 6d., *A New Treatise on Chess, with 50 Chess Problems*. In this brochure of 80 pages he remarks, under the Giuoco Piano, "You may now obtain a brilliant game, by playing 4 P-QKt4. This finely imagined move was first introduced to the Chess World by Capt. E\*\*\*\*\*" No analysis is given, but in May, 1833, a second edition appeared at 5/6, enlarged to 160 pages, in which the Opening has a chapter to itself, with the heading, "The following are the principal variations, for a great part of which I thank my friend I have to thank my friend, Capt. Evans, who first introduced this beautiful opening." In a later book, published in 1841, Walker says that the analysis was given at the same time to Lewis and himself. It may be added that a copy, made by Bone, of the analysis given to Walker, exists at present in the Rivington Wilson library.

A careful comparison of the variations given by Lewis and Walker shows that they correspond closely in substance, though they differ in form. The first point to notice is that Evans did not consider the possibility of White playing d4 before 0-0: the compromised defense, accordingly, does not appear. Nor is the Lasker defense considered. The Gambit, declined by 4...Bb6, is considered to be sufficiently answered by 5 b5 followed by 6 Nxe5 - an enterprising variation, the soundness of which is still a matter of opinion. At the 5th move the possibility of Black Be7 is held to be answered by 6 Qb3 Nh6 7 d4. But the two main divisions of the analysis depend on Black's playing Ba5 or Bc5 at the 5th move. Evans clearly thinks the former the stronger, and on this point he agrees with recent conclusions.

After each of these moves Evans considers either Nf6 or d6 as Black's best move. He thus has four lines (though they are not clearly set out):

- A. 5 c3 Ba5 6 0-0 Nf6
- B. 5 c3 Ba5 6 0-0 d6
- C. 5 c3 Bc5 6 0-0 Nf6
- D. 5 c3 Bc5 6 0-0 d6

B and D, though they contain many other variations, are mainly important as leading to the well-known "normal position" after Black's 8th move. Here Evans passes over 9 d5 (which McDonnell had played on him) and 9 Nc3, in favor of 9 Bb2 (a move still highly esteemed) to which he gives as Black's replies either Kt-B3, B-Kt5 or P-B3.

As an example of the scope of Evans' analysis A alone will be sufficient. He considers White's main line of attack to be 7 Ng5 0-0 8 f4 and gives as Black's possible 8th moves (i) h6, (ii) d5, (iii) ef, (iv) Nxe5, and (v) d6. (Only (ii) is to be found in MCO). He continues (i) thus: 9 Nxf7 Rxf7 10 Bxf7+ Kxf7 11 fe Nxe5 12

Qh5+ Ke6 13 Qf5+ Kd6 14 d4 Nf6 15 e5+ winning.

The other variations (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) are worked out with equal care. The Evans Gambit has been called "the product of innumerable minds" (Freeborough), and this is true. But Evans himself was clearly not only the architect of the edifice, but also the actual layer of its foundations.

During the decade from 1830 to 1840 there is no sign that Evans visited London. Doubtless presentation copies of Lewis' and Walker's books were received with pride, and in 1834 came the news that McDonnell had played the Gambit on Labourdonnais. The story is well known. McDonnell, after losing the first match (there were six altogether), confided to his friends his intention of playing what he called the "Queen's Knight's Salient." Accordingly, in the first game of the second match he sprang the Evans upon his opponent. Labourdonnais, never having seen it (evidently Evans' great analysis was still confined to the English language), improvised Lasker's defense! Refusing, however, the exchange of Queens which is its logical continuation, and playing, after his style, for complications, he lost the game, and is said to have withdrawn for a day or two to think things over. He reverted to his Sicilian, but in the later matches, played the attack himself with signal success, McDonnell quite failing to hold his own against 9 d5 in the normal position.

Meantime Evans was occupied with his own profession. He claims, in his letter of 1871 (and the claim is repeated on his tombstone), to have been the inventor of the system of white, green and red lights at sea, and to have received , 1,500 from the British Government for his idea. It has proved a difficult task to investigate this matter. The present system, adopted by all nations, is taken for granted in all text-books. The following extract from the *Nautical Magazine* for 1837 is, perhaps, sufficient corroboration of Evans' statement: "Signal lights for ships. We have received the proposal of Capt. Evans, of H.M.P. Vixen, for the establishment of signals for vessels passing each other, whether steamers or otherwise. In our volume for 1836, we printed the report of the pilotage committee, in which a plan of signals is also recommended for the use of steam vessels particularly. Before we give publicity to Capt. Evans' plan, we should like to be informed what plan is really in use under the sanction of parliament, as it is evident that a third person might come forward with another proposal, and, among them all, seamen would be puzzled to know which was to be followed." Further investigation in the pages of the *Nautical Magazine* gave little information. The P. and O. Co. apparently adopted the present system, but as late as 1840 a "head-on" collision occurred between two steamers, both carrying white lights only.

During this period Evans founded chess in Ireland, as appears from the following extract...

"Chess playing in Ireland - The only spot where real chess could be met with was at Dunmore, in the Bay of Waterford; Capt. Evans, the well-known inventor of the Evans' Gambit, who was stationed there, created around him a small circle of players, which continued unbroken while he remained to give it vitality, but upon his removal it fell to pieces and was dispersed. Among the players thus formed was Sir John Blunden, who afterwards became of first-class strength."

In January, 1840, Evans retired on a pension. The following letter (dated November 2nd, 1927), from the Secretary of the General Post Office is worth quoting:

"Sir - With reference to your letter of the 26th October asking for further information respecting the Packet Service of apt. W. D. Evans, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to state that Captain Evans was retired in January, 1840, in the 50th year of his age, on account of ill health and was awarded a pension.

"During his service he was attached to the Milford Packet Station from 1819 to 1836, and from October 1836 until his retirement to that at Hobbs Points (near Pembroke) to which place the Milford Service was then transferred.

"Nothing is known of his activities subsequent to retirement, nor whether he was ever employed as a Mail Agent on Penninsular and Oriental Company's Steamers.

"You may like to know that it was reported of him that 'on all occasions his conduct was that of a vigilant officer, distinguished by most Honorable and Gentlemanly conduct and by the possession of very considerable abilities from which the service derived important advantages, and upon whose judgment and representations the most implicit reliance could always be placed.'"

On his retirement Evans seems to have gone abroad. On his return to London, at the end of 1842, he found Staunton at the head of affairs, presiding over the *Illustrated London News* and the *Chess Players Chronicle*, in the latter of which the following paragraph appeared:

"The London Circle of Chess has been roused from its lethargy by the timely return to England of the redoubted Capt. Evans, and a brief visit from Mr. C. Forth...The former, notwithstanding his long absence, and the want of practice with suitable opponents, has, during his sojourn here, contended successfully with many of the strongest Metropolitan players."

Evans seems to have made London his headquarters till about 1850, and this period of seven or eight years may be called his second London period. In May, 1843, St. Amant came to London, and beat Staunton in a match which the latter considered "skittle." He then proposed, in the presence of Evans and Petrigal to play a more serious match, with the condition that both players should play P-K4. The match was arranged, and Evans was selected by Staunton as his second, but on October 9th, 1843, the latter writes to St. Amant:

"Capt. Evans' absence rendering it impossible for me to ensure his presence at the match, I reserve to myself the privilege of naming my referee when you mention yours."

Eventually Capt. Harry Wilson took Evans' place. In a chess period that had become a stormy one, these two men seem always to have lived on a serener plane than the belligerents Staunton, St. Amant, Horwitz, Harrwitz, Perigal, and the irrepressible Walker.

The match was played in Paris, and resulted in a narrow win for Staunton, after he had taken a long lead at the start. An engraving of the room of play, showing a large number of players, is fairly well known, and a copy exists in the Liverpool Chess Club, but the writer has not been able to identify the figures. St. Amant very naturally asked for a return match, and Staunton at first consented, writing on August 21st, 1844: "In company with my seconds, Capt. Evans and another, I propose leaving London at the end of the month." The match was never played, and (as in the case of Harrwitz and Morphy) Staunton published laborious explanations to show that he was not to blame: "That is another story."

On April 9th, 1845, Evans took part in the first chess game played by telegraph. The players were Staunton and Kennedy, at Portsmouth, against Evans, Perigal, Buckle, and Walker, at New Cross. The event caused considerable sensation, and a woodcut of the scene at the London end appeared in the *Illustrated London News*. The four figures appear to be largely the result of the artist's imagination, and it is difficult to say which is intended for Evans. To him, however, is given the credit for having suggested the winning move.

In July, 1845, the *Chess Player's Chronicle* records that: "At the suggestion and under the superintendence of Capt. Evans a pool of half a dozen players was arranged against Staunton at Pawn and Two, the stake being a certain sum per game."

At the end of 1848 an article by Kennedy appeared in the *Chess Player's Chronicle* in which a pen sketch is given of the Divan in the Strand:

"Harrwitz has just checkmated a young Guardsman (who has left his Club in St. James' Street) with a jest that has set the gallery on the broad grin. At the further end of the room, near the fireplace, is a group of three persons engaged in the examination of a position, perhaps the last move in the Amsterdam game. The center one, with the prominent and capacious forehead, and features on which the intellect, energy, and perseverance, that have placed him at the head of living chess players, are legibly and boldly written, is the conqueror of St. Amant. The individual on Staunton's right, with the bluff, open expression of countenance, and hearty good-humored smile, is Capt. Evans, to whom chess players in all time will owe a debt of gratitude for the origination of the beautiful Gambit that bears his name. The third of the party, that small moustached man, gesticulating violently, and talking loudly to his companions, is Horwitz, a brilliant and inventive genius for the game of chess, and a kind and warm hearted man..."

In March, 1849 Evans acted as referee in a tournament of twelve players at the Divan (won Buckle), and this event closes his second period in London... Evans also took part in five known consultation games... To this period belongs Evans' only known problem and Evans' analysis of the famous three pawn ending...

About 1849 Evans seems to have left England. In the great Exhibition year (1851) of the London Tournament there is no trace of his name, and in the list of subscribers to Williams' "Horae Divanicae" (1851) he appears as Capt. Evans, Cape Verde. His actual residence was at Porto Grande, a coaling station. He returned to London in 1853 for his third period of residence...

At this time a match was being arranged between Harrwitz and Staunton, and Evans undertook the task of acting as the foreigner's second. Both principals proved "difficult," and the match was never played. Staunton published the correspondence at length. Evans appears to have put his principal's views forcibly, but, when he found out that "the negotiations were taking an unpleasant turn" (to use his own words), he wrote as follows to Staunton's second:

"29th December, 1853

Dear Sir - As I have formally resigned the second ship for Mr. Harrwitz, I decline entering into further discussion on the subject contained in your letter of yesterday. I will only remark that I am satisfied of the correctness of my observations on disputed points in my last letter to you.

"I have this day forwarded your last note to Mr. Harrwitz, from whom you will probably receive an answer.

"Hoping you may succeed in making the arrangement for this interesting match, I remain, dear sir, with the compliments of the season,

Yours very truly, W.D. Evans"

With this cheery remark the Captain vanishes into limbo for eighteen years. He was certainly not in England at the time of Morphy's visit. A careful search of the files of the *Illustrated London News* has produced nothing, and the writer of this article has further tackled the Bodleian and the British Museum for a file of *Bell's Life*, in which George Walker, from about 1836 to 1872, issued his weekly sallies. Both Libraries, to their shame, confess that they have failed to stock this standard work. It is clear that, at some time, Evans was connected with both the P. and O. and Royal Mail Companies, as stated on his tombstone. The Companies, however, have failed to trace the connection.

Milford tradition says that the Tsar of Russia presented him with , 300 for his Chess Services. An anonymous, and ill-informed, biography says that the Grand Duke Constantine gave him a gold chronometer, The true facts on this and other incidents in Evans' life, are given in the following letter in the third person, which he dictated on March 22nd, 1871, from a sick bed at Ostend, and sent to Herr Meyer, who published it in his column in the *Gentlemen's Journal* Supplement:

"William Davies Evans is a native of Pembrokeshire, South Wales, and was born on the 27th of January, 1790. He commenced a naval career at the age of fourteen. He was about twenty-eight years of age when he first learnt the moves of the game of Chess. Having the advantage of frequent practice, with Lieut. H. Wilson, R.N., who was a player of some reputation in his time, beside corresponding on the subject of the game with the late Mr. W. Lewis, and also with Mr. George Walker, the able Chess Editor of *Bell's Life*, he made a rapid progress in the game. Captain Evans received at first the odds of a Rook from Lieut. Wilson. After a continuance of play for some years, the odds were greatly reduced, until ultimately Captain Evans succeeded in defeating his formidable antagonist playing even.

"About the year 1824, being then in command of a Government Mail Steamer, the passages between Milford Haven and Waterford were favorable to the study of the game of Chess, and at this time he invented the Gambit, which bears his name. The idea occurred to him while studying a narrathon (?variation) of the Giuoco Piano in Sarratt's *Treatise on Chess*.

"Captain Evans was the first who gave to the world a true solution of that very difficult end game, the King and three Pawns unmoved against King and three Pawns also unmoved. This position was handed down to us through a period of some centuries as a drawn game, but Captain Evans proved that the first player can always win.

"Captain Evans acquired some celebrity as >Inventor of the System of Tri-coloured Lights for Ships to prevent Collisions at Night,=which has been adopted by all nations possessing a marine. For this invention the English Government awarded him the sum of , 1,500, and the Czar of Russia a gold pocket chronometer, value , 160, together with a donation of , 200."



This letter appears in the *Gentlemen's Journal Supplement* for June 1872, together with an appeal for Capt. Evans, for whom a subscription had been organized by George Walker, who was still alive, and had been, since 1840, a member of the Stock Exchange. The matter was taken up by *Bell's Life*, the Westminster and St. George's Clubs. Full information as to the list of subscribers can be found from the *Westminster Papers* of that date, and also from the *Norfolk News*, in which Mr. Howard Taylor (the author of *Chess Brilliants*) stated that Evans "aged 82, nearly blind, infirm, supporting a wife and sister, is detained abroad by the pressure of some comparatively trifling debts, contracted in his illness."

Despite the sadness of the case, the *Westminster Papers* kept a cheerful spirit. On June 1st, 1872, it published, under the head of "Unconsidered Trifles," a set of 40 Shakespearean quotations, descriptive of famous chess players. We append a few:

Owen-"More like a soldier than a man o'the church." Henry IV I.1

Walker-"I can tell thee pretty tales." Measure for Measure IV.3

Staunton-"I'll be revenged on the whole pack of you." Twelfth Night V.1

Morphy-"The round and top of sovereignty." Macbeth IV.1

Evans-"A well-graced actor leaves the stage." Richard II V.2...

Over , 200 had been collected, when the news came of Evans' death on August 3rd, 1872, at 29, rue Christine, Ostend. He is buried in the "ancien cimetiere" of that town. Visitors to his grave should turn to the right at the entrance, and to the left on reaching the corner. After passing the graves of German soldiers, they will find Evans' grave as the eighth on the left. Part of the inscription reads:

"To the sacred memory of William Davies Evans, formerly Commander in the Post Office and Peninsular and Oriental Steam Services; Superintendent in the Royal Mail Steam Company, and inventor of the system of tri-coloured light for shipping. Also well known in the Chess World as the author of the Evans' Gambit."

The age is wrongly given as "eighty-three years and six months." The correct age is given in the death certificate, which is witnessed by Evans' son, "William Evans, age de trente-neuf ans, negociant domicile a Londres."

Evans' widow, Marie Therese Duncan Evans, survived him for three years, residing at Southborough. She was awarded a pension of , 50 a year. Nothing is known of his son, nor are any descendants believed to be alive.

Many inaccurate statements about Captain Evans are to be found. The Rev. G.A. MacDonnell seems to be responsible for the remarkable one that the Evans Gambit was discovered off the coast of Africa, by a middle-aged lieutenant in the Royal Navy.

The obituary notice in the *Illustrated London News* repeats the story of his connection with the P. and O. and Royal Mail Companies, and is responsible for the information that he was once stationed at Porto Grande.

An excellent article on Evans, from the pen of Max Lange, appeared in the *Schachzeitung* for January 1873. Max Lange is inclined to believe that Evans did not invent the gambit, but gives him full credit for its analysis. There is little

doubt that, if Max Lange had read Evans' letter, he would have given him the complete credit he deserves.

The article contains a good portrait of Evans. The only other one known to the writer is a faded photograph in the album of the Liverpool Chess Club. It represents an old man in a black skull cap, with a flowing white beard.

Enough, I think, has been said to show that Captain Evans was a man who, while he gave his daily occupation the first place, and never allowed his Chess to interfere with it, yet achieved original work in Chess that no one player has surpassed; and that, furthermore, in his work and in his play he aroused universal admiration and respect.

---

**The Chess Cafe** would like to extend its thanks to the *British Chess Magazine* and its editor John Saunders for permission to reprint this article. Interested readers are invited to visit the BCM website at [www.bcmhess.co.uk](http://www.bcmhess.co.uk) .

---



[TOP OF PAGE](#)



[HOME](#)



[COLUMNS](#)



[LINKS](#)



[ARCHIVES](#)



[ABOUT THE  
CHESS CAFE](#)

[\[The Chess Cafe Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Reviews\]](#) [\[Bulletin Board\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)  
[\[Endgame Studies\]](#) [\[Tournament World\]](#) [\[The Skittles Room\]](#) [\[Archives\]](#)  
[\[Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About The Chess Cafe\]](#) [\[Contact Us\]](#)

Copyright 2000 CyberCafes, LLC. All Rights Reserved.  
"The Chess Cafe®" is a registered trademark of Russell Enterprises, Inc.