



TELEPHONE NO. 28033

EXT. 282

YOUR REF.

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COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

COUNTY HALL

CARDIFF

2 Salisbury Avenue,  
Penarth

12.7.68

Dear Mr. Johns,

I have been looking into my notes, to find the references to Aberthin, but I fear the information is meagre and unhelpful.

The main sources lie in a collection of Button of Cottrell deeds at the Cardiff Free Library (B.R.A. 247), and the Library also holds the notebooks of the late Mr. W.A. Fisher of Aberthin, who had a great interest in genealogies, etc., and who would naturally have been particularly interested in the house he lived in.

The R.W. 1658 of the sundail refers to Robert Williams, said by G.T. Clark (Limbus Patrum p.145) to be a barrister. R.W. was the son of William Thomas of Aberthin and both figure in the B.R.A. 247 deeds. R.W. acquires numerous small properties, and lends out mortgages during the period 1640-60. He died in 1661 (Fisher), buried at Llanblethian, aged probably only 48, leaving his father William Thomas still alive (d.1672).

R.W.'s only son Roger had died, so his heirs were two daughters. The elder, Anne, married Thomas Mathew of Castell y Mynach, and Aberthin descends in her family. The younger daughter, Gwenllian, married 1. Thomas Button 2. Edward Thomas of Llanmihangel 3. Thomas Lewis. Hence the documents in the Button collection.

Grandfather William Thomas (d.1672) leaves property, totalling 78 acres (Fisher) to his Mathew and Button grandchildren - and monetary bequests. According to his Will he had purchased these lands bit by bit.

R.W. as well as being described as of Aberthin is frequently described as of St. Hilary, gent. - and Fisher states that he lived at The Lake, St. Hilary.

(understandable if he was a barrister)

R.W.'s evident prosperity would allow him to embellish Aberthin, no doubt, and date the sundail, but I suppose the builder of the house would be about a century earlier, and is the gatehouse earlier still?

To go back earlier than William Thomas is a problem. G.T.C. (Limbus Patrum p.145) traces back to a Jenet, daughter of a branch of Grono of Alltwarddu - but this does not help (me at any rate) to trace the growing affluence of the family - or to know when they acquired Aberthin.

Pedigree overleaf.

Of the earlier occupiers of Aberthin C.T.C. (L.P. p. 353 under Basset of Eglwys Brewis) mentions an Edward, son of Robert Watkin Williams of Aberthin - period, second half of C16 - but this would not seem to be the same family as Robert Williams 1658 - for he appears to be the first to adopt the patronymic.

Earlier still there are some deeds in the collection of Carne of Nash manor, which we have in the Record Office, where Howel Carne purchases an acre of land from William White of Aberberthin in 1445. William White, the son of John White. G.T.C. prints these deeds in his Cattae - but can offer no further information on the White family.

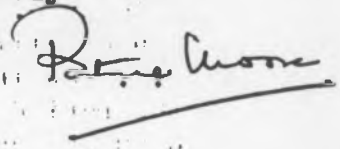
Fisher's notes add a little on the subsequent occupation of the house. A couple of generations of the family of Andrew Mathew (a younger grandson mentioned by William Thomas) were born in the house. Later it was occupied by Thomas Morgan (agent to the Hensol estate, into which the Castell y Mynach estate had passed by marriage), who had it on a Lease for lives - the last life dying in 1841.

Then it was rented from Lord Dynevor (Hensol estate) by a family named Butler. Probably in the 1880's it was sold by Dynevor (possibly jointly with Wingfield, who is mentioned also by Fisher's informants - they shared the Mathew lands) to someone named Thomas (said to have been a butcher with a stall in Cardiff Market). Mrs Thomas was named by the aged village informant who told Fisher that she, finding the panelling in the Long Parlour rotten, took it out, also the carved overmantel, and possibly also destroyed tapestries.

Mrs. Thomas sold Aberthyn to Jenkin Hughes, who farmed nearby land, and is stated to be the owner in the article on Aberthyn in the Cardiff Times 30 Sep. 1911. (This series of articles on Glamorgan houses, which appeared 1910-11 can often add useful bits of information, especially on the state of the fabric at the time).

I think this is all on Aberthyn - not very useful, as it seems difficult to get Back from Robert Williams and William Thomas to the period which matters.

Yours sincerely



Jenet = Harry William Grono

Thomas

William Thomas (d. 1672)

Robert Williams  
(d. 1661)

Roger  
D.V.P.

Cecil

Gwenllian

= Thomas Mathew of  
Castell y Mynach

- = 1. Thomas Button, Cottrell
- 2. Edward Thomas, Llanmihau
- 3. Thomas Lewis <sup>gel</sup>

Mathew of C.y.M.

Buttons of Cottrell

Talbot of Hensol

G.T.Clark, Limbus Patrum pp. 20, 145