

**46 High Street, Cowbridge**

1662	Lands of Sir Edward Thomas	<i>Dunraven 31</i>
1702	Lands of ...Edwyn in the occupation of Catherine Richard, spinster	<i>D/D C 44</i>
1744	Children of the late John Stider, one burgage in the tenure of William Llewelin, butcher	<i>Burgage rents 36</i>
1751	Charles Edwin lease to David Bowen of Swansea, clockmaker (details of Bowen in ' <i>Clock and Watch Makers in Wales</i> ' by Iorwerth Peate) - one bakehouse, one garden, two curtilages, one penthouse (half burgage), formerly in the tenure of Catherine Richard, now Mary Llewelin widow	<i>Dunraven</i>
1762-7	Lady Charlotte Edwin, late children of John Stider, owned; Isaac , late Llewelin, butcher, occupied.	William <i>BR</i>
1773	Catherine Redwood, spinster, 6/-	<i>LTA</i>
1778	Lady Charlotte Edwin owned; Isaac Redwood tenanted, one burgage	<i>BR</i>
1784	Owner Edwin; occupier Edward Thomas, 8/-	<i>LTA</i>
1787	Mr David Bowen, tenant – public house etc called The Half Moon, Dunraven survey book, map XIX	<i>D/D Dun E/2</i>
1787	Edward of The Half Moon, Cowbridge, 10 pence	<i>Llanblethian tithe</i>
1793	Charles Edwin esq owned; Edward Thomas occupied, 8/-	<i>LTA</i>
1799-1802	Charles Edwin owned; Edward Thomas occupied, Half Moon	<i>BR 36</i>
1813, 27 <sup>th</sup> July	Auction of Cowbridge Arms public house, with brewhouse, carthouse and garden, occupied by William Griffith as yearly tenant; also a bakehouse lying behind occupied by Edward Thomas as yearly tenant (see Duke)	<i>Cambrian 10/7/1813</i>
1815	Owner, Wyndham; occupier, John Matthews, 8/-	<i>LTA</i>

- 1815 Wyndham Quin to Jenkin Morris of St Hilary, maltster (lease) –  
messuage in the occupation of Thomas Bowen, on the north the High Street,  
south the churchyard,  
east the lands of John Kayes,  
west the lands of John Thomas, publican,  
known as the Half Moon public house *Dunraven*
- 1827 Thomas Griffiths, Cowbridge Arms *AHR*
- 1830 Owner Adair (Wyndham family); occupier Griffiths, 8/- *LTA*
- 1833 Owner Earl Dunraven; Jenkin Morris occupier, one burgage, Half Moon *BR 36*
- 1839 At 9 o'clock on the evening of Monday night, as Mr Thomas Griffiths of the  
Cowbridge Arms and a friend were returning from Bridgend fair, they were  
suddenly attacked by three men who turned them from their horses which they turned  
adrift, and presenting each a pistol demanded their money, taking from Mr Griffiths 15  
sovereigns and his watch, and 10 sovereigns and a watch from his companion. The men wore  
smock frocks of a dark colour.  
*Cambrian, 30/11/1839*
- 1843 Dunraven : Thomas Morris lease for life, rent £12, Half Moon public house  
*Dunraven rental R 84*
- 1843 Owner Thomas Morris; occupier Thomas Griffiths, Cowbridge Arms *Tithe*
- 1851 Thomas Griffiths, maltster and victualler, 59, employing two men, with his wife, son  
David, daughter Margaret, two grandsons, a nephew and a servant, Cowbridge Arms  
*Census 64*
- 1858 Death at house of his son, Mr Thos Griffiths, maltster of Cowbridge, of Mr Thomas  
Griffiths of Porthcawl, formerly of the Cowbridge Arms, aged 66 *Bridgend Chronicle*
- 1861 Mary Reynolds, 42, with 3 daughters, three sons and her mother Mary Griffiths (as  
above), plus a servant, Cowbridge Arms *Census 170*
- 1871 Morgan Thomas, Cowbridge Arms *Census 185*
- 1881 & 1891 Margaret Thomas, Cowbridge Arms *Census 56, 54*
- 1900, 23<sup>rd</sup> February Lease for 60 years from 1/5/1896, Rt Hon Windham Thomas, Earl  
of Dunraven to Margaret Thomas, widow of the Cowbridge Arms – dwelling house used  
as an inn and known as the Cowbridge Arms, with the brewhouse, stables, yard and out offices  
there to. *Deeds*
- 1900, 22<sup>nd</sup> May Margaret Thomas died *Deeds*

*Handwritten in Holy Bible, lent to Cowbridge History Room* : ‘I William Edgar Thomas, born at the Cowbridge Arms, Cowbridge on July 20<sup>th</sup> 1873, married August 8<sup>th</sup> 1900 to Margaret David, Westgate Inn, Cowbridge.

Netta Thomas daughter of William Edgar and Margaret Thomas born June 24<sup>th</sup> 1901.

Dorothy Thomas born July 9<sup>th</sup> 1904.

Alice Thomas born September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1912’.

1901 William E Thomas, Cowbridge Arms Inn, 27, publican and brewer born Cowbridge, with wife Margaret and a domestic servant *Census 145*

1903 Property conveyed to Mrs Margaret Thomas, wife of William Edgar Watkin Thomas of the Cowbridge Arms inn (executor) *Deeds*

1906 & 1910 Lewis Jenkins (of Craig House, Cowbridge, brewer at the Vale of Glamorgan brewery) *D/D PRO/VAL/1/46*

1910 John William Hughes (had purchased lease) *Kelly's directory*

1913 For sale (D/D SA3/424) but not sold *D/D SA8/22*

1915 Richard James (he had purchased lease) *Kelly's*

1916 & 1919 Sarah Catherine Labdon, wife of James Labdon (she acquired the lease from Jenkins in March 1919 for 5/-, purchased the Cowbridge Arms for £360, and so the property passed out of the ownership of the Wyndhams in December that year). *Deeds*

1926 Gwenllian Maud Styles (of Porthcawl – bought the property for £900, described as ‘formerly a brewhouse’) *Deeds*

1926, 25<sup>th</sup> June Cowbridge Arms belonging to Mrs Margaret Stiles, Bridgend, and tenanted by Mrs Catherine Labdon *Glamorgan Gazette*

1928 Arthur Thomas Mills (of 44 High St) bought the property for £500, ‘buildings formerly used as an inn and now unlicensed’. Mills died in 1933. His wife, Jessie Campbell Mills, maintained ownership of the property until her death in 1963, utilising part of the building as an extension to the Cowbridge Motor Car premises next door which Mills owned (subsequently sold to A.E.Harris and Co., main Ford dealer, and part as offices for the S Wales Power Company from 1932, forerunner of the S.W.E.B. Needing to expand their activities in Cowbridge, S.W.E.B. purchased in 1969 ‘all that piece of land together with the motor garage, offices, showrooms and buildings known as 44a High Street’, a number initiated by Arthur Mills that was to cause some confusion in later years. *Deeds*

1932 South Wales Power Company *Deeds*

1969	South Wales Electricity Board	<i>Deeds</i>
1972	Holt Enterprises (eastern part of property), by lease from SWEB	<i>Deeds</i>
1976, '78 and '82	Carole Griffiths and Anne Potter (leases)	<i>Deeds</i>
1990	SW Elect. Board to Ushi's, gifts and ladies' clothing	<i>Deeds</i>
1994	Western half sub-let to Tenovus, cancer charity shop	<i>Deeds</i>
1999	Conveyance of garden to Brains (brewers) as extension to Duke of Wellington	<i>Deeds</i>

***Sources/abbreviations :***

*GRO* Glamorgan Record Office  
*PRO* Public Record Office (Kew)  
*Tithe, census, directories, electoral registers – in GRO*  
*BR* Burgage rents (GRO)  
*LTA* Land tax assessments (GRO)  
*D/D* Deposits in GRO  
*AHR* Alehouse recognisances  
*Dunraven deeds in National Library of Wales*

## **46 High Street The Cowbridge Arms**

The family in residence by 1871 were the Thomases: Morgan Thomas, aged 30, listed as innkeeper and butcher, Margaret his wife, aged 26 and three sons of 3, 2 and 1 years. A newspaper cutting in MS 2.335 (DJ MS/23) in Cardiff Central Library, probably from the *Cambrian* states: 'Cowbridge Arms, Cowbridge. Morgan Thomas has just refitted and painted the above ancient hostelry (which dates back as far as 1404) and respectfully solicits the patronage of travellers and farmers. Good beds and nice accommodation, stabling, etc. NB Morgan Thomas has opened in connection with the same a butcher's shop, and hopes to have the favour and custom of the clergy and gentry of the neighbourhood'.

Morgan Thomas died of injuries received when robbers stole the gold he was carrying to buy land in Little Rock Arkansas in 1881 (buried in Treoes graveyard).

Info from Randolph DL Thomas, Bushey, Herts.

In the 1881 census returns (#56), Margaret, married is innkeeper and head of the household of one daughter and six sons. In 1891 (#54), Margaret Thomas is listed as widow and innkeeper with Watkin and David, her 'middle' sons acting as assistant brewers. The previous year Margaret had been granted by the Wyndhams a lease on "the messuage or dwelling house erected thereon used as an inn and known as the Cowbridge Arms with the brewhouse, stables, yard and outoffices", a yearly rent of £18 being fixed on May 1st 1896 for 60 years from that date. (Deeds)

With the death of Margaret Thomas in May 1900 the frequency of change in leaseholder and/or occupier accelerated. In 1901, the census (#145) records Wm E Thomas, 27, b Cowbridge as publican and brewer, with his wife Margaret, 26, b Cowbridge and one servant. In 1903 for £200 the lease passed to ?another Margaret Thomas, wife of Edgar Thomas and to William Watkin Thomas. (In the 1881 census Edmond is named as the 2nd son, and Wm W as the 5th). In 1906 for £100 the lease was purchased by Lewis Jenkins of Craig House, Cowbridge, the current brewer at the Vale of Glamorgan Brewery in the Town and occupied in turn by John William Hughes\* (1910), Richard James (1915) and Sarah Catherine Labdon (1916), wife of James Labdon. Sarah Labdon having acquired the lease from Jenkins in March 1919 for 5/- purchased the Cowbridge Arms for £360 and the property passed out of the ownership of the Wyndhams in December that year.

\* In 1910, it was described as having a superior interior (Dunraven estate) – PRO, IR58/18459#65.

Sarah Labdon's period as licensee did not last many years. The sale of No 46 by her in March 1926 to Gwenllian Maud Styles of Porthcawl for £900 referred to buildings, including one 'formerly a brew house' and Styles in turn sold for £500 in October 1928 to Arthur Thomas Mills of 44 High Street, Cowbridge "buildings formerly used as an inn and now unlicensed".

(*Glamorgan Gazette*, 25/6/1926 stated 'on the grounds of redundancy the Licensing Authority dispensed with the licence of the Cowbridge Arms belonging to Mrs Margaret Stiles, Bridgend, and tenanted by Mrs Catherine Labdon; compensation £1000, tenant to receive £100').

Velox in the *Glamorgan Gazette*, 20/7/1928 reported "Another link with the distant past has disappeared this week: the old *Cowbridge Arms*, a charming bit of old time Cowbridge. We are sorry to see it go, but of late it had become dilapidated and, we fear, an eyesore, but we are assured of this - that when Cllr AT Mills sets out to improve a position, there are no half measures".