

## Leys Cottage, Factory Road, Llanblethian

At various times in the past, up to three cottages existed on this site, but in the mid-eighteenth century, it was one cottage, leased to Jenkin Butler by the Carnes of Nash manor. After Jenkin's death, his widow Catherine continued living here, but from 1798 to 1807, the Butler lease having expired, a fresh lease was granted to William Bowen.

Bowen was replaced as tenant by William Hardee, who appears (with some variations in the spelling of his name) to have lived on in the house until the mid-nineteenth century. Certainly, the Tithe Apportionment of 1840 records William Hardee in the house, and in the Churchwardens' accounts of 1851, William Hardee is one of the 'industrious poor' of the parish. However, the census of that year records his name as William Hardin, a 88-year-old coal-carrier, born in Newton Nottage, with his wife Catherine, aged 55, and son Thomas aged 14.

The Cambrian newspaper records the death of William Harding aged 93 in 1854 (presumably the same man, despite the slight discrepancy in age) and by 1861 William's widow Catherine, described as a nurse, who had been born in Llantwit Major, lived in what then was one of three cottages on the site. Gwenllian Roberts, a widow born in Llantrisant, and James Braddick a coachman, from Stockland in Devon and who subsequently moved to the Firs near the Mill, were the other occupants.

By this time the annual Llanblethian pleasure fair had ceased to exist on the land near the Church and Cross, but a modified version continued as Kitty Harding's fair, held in her cottage. EW Miles of Cowbridge wrote "I remember being taken to her Fair by a nurse from the village on one occasion. Her cottage had a capacious hearth, with stone seats on each side under the chimney which were appropriated by the older boys, while cracking jokes and nuts, and consuming the small but primitive luxuries sold at the table at the side of the room."

After Catherine's death it is difficult to work out occupancy of the cottages, though it is likely that one was occupied by William Jenkins, a farm bailiff from Colwinston, and his family. Ownership changed from the Carnes to the Revd JCF Morson, headmaster of Cowbridge Grammar School, and then to Edward Llewellyn who bought the adjoining property, where he built Windsor House.

In 1891, the three cottages were occupied by the Barbers, Thomases and Boobyers. Mr Barber, who worked at Marlborough Grange, was away at the time of the census; his wife was described as a charwoman. The children had been born in Cirencester and Llanfair Discoed, Mon, so the family had certainly moved about the country. The son, though completely crippled, could play the piano with his feet! The middle cottage was lived in by Isaac Thomas, a carpenter who had been born in the Bakehouse in Llanblethian (and one of whose sons was Robert who started the Cowbridge building firm which still exists). The Boobyers lived in the end cottage on the right. Aaron came from Stoke St Gregory in Somerset, Harriet from Pendoylan; she kept a sweet shop.

By 1910, all had again changed; the three occupiers were then John Harding, Fred Bryant and Thomas Jenkins. In the twentieth century, Viv Wythe's parents bought two cottages and converted them into one, despite the different floor levels; the Georges moved into the third, and then bought the others to make one cottage.

*Carne property*

1761	Commencement of lease for 3 lives - Jenkin Butler, David Butler (son), Margaret (d)	<i>D/D C E/I</i>
1771	"A cottage leased to Jenkin Butler, for 3 lives" Carne Tenants' A/cs	<i>D/D C E/I</i>
1787	Catherine Butler, widow - house, etc at Llanblethian, 2/6d do	<i>D/D C E/I</i>
1798	Lease expired - fresh lease to William Bowen, 6/- do	<i>D/D C E/I</i>
1798 - 1807	Wm Bowen, tenant do	<i>D/D C E/I</i>
1808 - 1822	William Hardee, tenant do	<i>D/D C E/I</i>
1840	Elenora Markham, o, Wm Hardee, occ, cottage and garden	<i>Tithe#215</i>
1851	Wm Hardee was one of the 'industrious poor' of the parish - Churchwardens' accounts	<i>P/13 CW/B Lib</i>
1851	Wm Hardin, 88, coal carrier, b Newton Nottage + wife Catherine, 50, and son Thomas, 14 and perhaps John Richards, lime burner, 33, b Llb	<i>Census#28</i> #
1854	Death of Wm Harding, aged 93, 24/2/1854	<i>Cambrian</i>
1861	Catherine Harding, 69, nurse, w, b Llanwit Major and perhaps Gwenllian Roberts, w, b Llantrisant and family and James Braddick, 38, coachman, b Stockland, Devon + fam	<i>Census#38</i> #37 #39
ca 1860	<p>"The annual Llanblethian Pleasure Fair evidently expired prior to the year 1860, for about that year it had become known as Kitty Harding's Fair, held in her cottage, near the present Malthouse. I remember being taken to her Fair by a nurse from the village on one occasion. I don't think the cottage exists today. It had a very capacious hearth, with stone seats on each side under the chimney which were appropriated by the older boys, while cracking jokes and nuts, and consuming the small but primitive luxuries sold at the table at the side of the room. These were the days of Corduroy and Fustian."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Letter from EW Miles to Revd Hopkin James, Sept 1923, in Cardiff Library MS 4.615</i></p>	
1871	?Wm Jenkins, 66, farm bailiff b Colwinston + fam ?Robert Pring, 33, ag lab, + w + 8 children	<i>Census#43</i> <i>Census#44</i>

- 1874 David Thomas, occ, Dr Carne, o *Glam County Rate 41*
- 1875 10th Sept. Lot 10, Carne sale  
 Conveyance of 2 f/h cottages, gardens and pses (2r 12p)  
 John WN Carne to Revd EJ Houghton and JW Phillips Esq (trustees under the will  
 of Revd JFC Morson, late HM of CGS) [after death of RC N-Carne in 1869,  
 decision of High Ct of Chancery 1873, ppty put up for sale by auction in 1874, no  
 sale made, but with permission sale to Revd JCFM agreed for £300; JCFM died  
 26/4/1875] *Deeds*
- 1881 ?Wm Jenkins, 77, farm bailiff + wife Catherine *Census#46*  
 ?David Thomas, 50, gardener, b Llanblethian + wife Mary *Census#47*  
 ?Geo Hayward, 34, painter, b Wilts + wife + 5 children *Census#48*  
 ? J Williams
- 1890 24 March. conveyance of 3 f/h cottages, Revd EJ Houghton and JW Phillips to Mr  
 Edward Llewellyn, carpenter of St Fagans - cottages now occ Isaac Thomas,  
 Charles Stephens and Aaron Boobyer *Deeds*
- 1891 Annie Maria Barker, 46, charwoman, b Nottingham + 2 chn *Census#27*  
 Isaac Thomas, 31, carpenter/joiner, b Llanblethian + w + 3 chn *#28*  
 Aaron Boobyer, 35, + wife + son + boarder + vis *#29*
- 1895 “End house - people named Barber. He worked at Marlborough Grange. One son  
 was completely crippled. He could only remain in a sitting position and his hands  
 were fixed in one position. Everything was done with his feet and toes, he thus  
 played the piano and ate his food.  
 ... Isaac Thomas, a carpenter, a great Radical, and his wife Elizabeth (1 son and 3  
 daughters, Robert, Mary, Elizabeth, Adelaide, and Gertrude).  
 ... Mrs Boobyer, whose husband was Aeron (2 sons, George and Willy). She kept  
 a sweet shop. her speciality was toffee, half a slice, same shape as if you were  
 cutting tart, would last all afternoon.” *‘Llb in 1895’: Robert Thomas*
- 1901 Harriet Boobyer, widow aged 39, grocer/shopkeeper b Pendoylan  
 George Frederick Boobyer, son, 19, wheelwright b Llanblethian  
 William Ralph, son, 3 B Llanblethian  
 Thomas David, gardener, 66 b Cowbridge with wife Mary, 71  
 Joseph Gifford, carpenter, 42, with wife Lydia, plus 3 daughters and 2 sons. *Census*
- 1910 E Llewellyn, o, J Harding, F Bryant, T Jenkins, occ *D/D PRO/VAL/1/46*
- 1928 Will of Edward Llewellyn – he devised inter alia Windsor House and the three freehold  
 cottages and gardens adjoining to his son Vivian D llewellyn for life, and after his life to  
 grandchildren equally. *Deeds*
- 1950s Viv Llewellyn, Mollie and Vera Palmer, Connie Sanders, occ *Bill Taylor*

1950 Declaration of ELA Morgan of Belgrave House, Wenvoe, wife of Chas Frederick Morgan:

1. Born 19/1/1950
2. Father was Edward Llewellyn of Windsor Ho, Llb and he died there 31/3/1928
3. Will proved 10/9/1928
4. At date of conveyance of 1-3 Kingscombe Tce, father was residing with his family at 27 Eastgate, Cowbridge

In or abt 1908, father erected a dw ho with outbuildings on westernmost piece of garden adj the 3 cottages, and in or about the same year father and family moved to the house now known as Windsor House, Llb, and father and mother resided there until date of father's death

*Deeds*

1958 ELA Morgan (surviving executor and trustee of Edward Llewellyn's will) conveyed to Philip Perch Thomas 2 cottages being Nos 1 and 2 Kingscombe Terrace

*Deeds of Windsor House*

1959 ELA Morgan to Aneurin Felix and Mary Lewis, Rose Cottage, 3 Kingscombe Terrace

*Deeds*

[1959 Mrs E L A Morgan of Wenvoe to Mr Thomas Williams of Llanharan, f/h premises known as Windsor House

*Deeds of Windsor House]*

Viv Wythe's parents bought two of the three cottages, and converted them - though at different levels - into one, called Rose Cottage. Viv Llewellyn had lived there before. The Georges moved in as newly-weds into the third one, and eventually bought the three when Mrs (Wythe), widowed, moved into one of the Causeway Cottages.

***Sources/references :***

*GRO = Glamorgan Record Office*

*PRO = Public Record Office, Kew*

*D/D = deeds in GRO*

*Most documents sourced here can be found in the GRO*