

83 High Street – Woodstock House

Grade II listed – 18th century town house of the Wyndham family. North west boundary wall to No. 83 is also Grade II listed ('a wall which follows the line of the medieval wall, perhaps incorporating some of its footings').

CADW/RCAHM

Burgage rentals show two plots on this site, both of one burgage

- 1658 Lease to Evan Pritchard, Anne Carne, Margaret Praulfe, John Jenkin, Catherine Jenkin and Jenkin John – messuage and garden containing one burgage, having been conveyed by John Jenkins and his son, Jenkin John, to Anne Carne, and half a burgage now adjoining Anne ? Carne, and the same conveyed to William Praulfe deceased *Dunraven*
- 1670 John Wyndham to Anne Carne and her son, Edward Carne of Cowbridge – one burgage, containing one messuage, bakehouse, garden etc. now in the tenure of Anne and Edward Carne, adjoining the west gate, lately held by Anne Jenkins, spinster, or Mary Robinson, deceased, or Anne Carne. *Dunraven 33*
- 1693 Edward Carne to William Wyndham – half a burgage, containing one messuage and bakehouse, garden and curtilage, now in the tenure of Edward Carne, adjoining the west gate. *Dun 33*
- 1738 and 1744 Thomas Wyndham, one burgage in the tenure of Thomas Richard *BR 157*
Thomas Wyndham, one burgage, The Clodge *BR 158*
- 1759 Charles Wyndham to Thomas Williams – messuage or dwelling house, barn, cowhouse and garden in the town, now in the tenure of Jenkin Howell, between the lands of Charles Wyndham called town walls on the north, the highway on the south, the way leading to the town walls on the west (annotated 'rented in 1805 to Rev. John Nicholl) Near the Spread Eagle, now Williams Academy *Dunraven*
- 1762 Charles Wyndham esq., late Thomas Wyndham, - freehold, Mr Thomas Williams, late Thomas Richard, tenure *Burgage rentals*
Charles Wyndham, for The Clodge, one burgage “
- 1773 Thomas Williams gent., 6/- *LTA*
- Ca 1780 Thomas Williams gent., proprietor, one burgage, occupied by himself *BR 158*
Thomas Williams gent., one burgage, The Clodge, occupied by himself *BR 159*

- 1783 Charles Edwin esq. (Dunraven family), proprietor, one burgage occupied by Mr Thomas Williams *BR 157*
Charles Edwin esq., proprietor, one burgage, The Clodge, occupied by Mr Thomas Williams *BR 158*
- 1784 Charles Edwin esq. owned; Thomas Williams occupied, 8/- *LTA*
- 1800 Charles Edwin esq. owned; John Nicholls clerk occupied, 8/- *LTA*
- 1813 Capital mansion with yards, gardens, curtilages, stables and coachhouses and other buildings, as Whitlock Nicholl now holds for a term of ?years (45 years approximately unexpired) Dunraven 194, NLW, Prelim. Schedule part II
- 1815 Dr Nicholl owned and occupied, 8/- *LTA*
- 1819, May Leasehold estate to be sold by private contract – a capital mansion house in Cowbridge.
Ground floor – drawing room, dining room and breakfast parlour, kitchen, back kitchen, larder, pantry, cellars, etc.
1st floor – 5 good bedrooms and dressing closet.
2nd floor – 2 good bedrooms and lumber room.
Two good walled gardens, planted with fruit trees etc.
Now occupied by Dr Nicholl as yearly tenant from year to year. Held by a lease for 99 years, 39 of which will be unexpired 24/6/1819.
Thomas Williams, solicitor, Cowbridge *Cambrian newspaper*
- 1819, July Auction on the late premises of Dr Nicholl in Cowbridge on August 2nd – all of the household furniture, consisting of mahogany tables, chairs, sofas and covers, nests of drawers, Brussels carpets, pier and swing glasses, bedsteads and furniture, an elegant mahogany sideboard....Swansea ware etc. *Cambrian*
- 1830, April ‘Cowbridge : excellent family residence to let and entered on immediately – dwelling house containing spacious and handsome dining and drawing rooms, large hall, with suitable bedrooms, every convenience for a family of respectability. Extensive lawn, kitchen garden, four-stall stable and coach house. Many years in the occupation of the late William Nicholl Esq., barrister *Cambrian*
- 1830 Mrs Morgan owned and occupied, 8/- *LTA*
- 1830-35 Mrs Elizabeth Morgan, gentry *Pigot's directory*
- 1840-45 Miss Mary Nicholl, gentry *Pigot*

1843 John Bevan owned; Mary Nicholl occupied *Tithe*

1851 Charles Sylvester, MD, MRCSL, 54, born Swansea, with his wife, daughter and 2 servants *Census 131*

Charles Sylvester listed in 1848 directory as doctor here in Cowbridge, probably resident in 83 High St then. His son William Henry Thomas Sylvester, assistant surgeon in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, was awarded the Victoria Cross after the battle of Sebastopol, Crimea in 1855. He was probably an ex-pupil of Cowbridge Grammar School for a while – see CHS magazine articles.

1857, December 5th Henry Thomas Sylvester MD, son of Charles Sylvester MD, late of Cowbridge, awarded VC and cross of the legion of honour (Assist. Surgeon HT Sylvester, 23rd Reg Welsh Fusiliers – September 8th 1885, dressing wounds in dangerous and exposed situation (Crimea). *Bridgend Chronicle*

1861 William Haines, MRCS, LSA, general practitioner, aged 37, born Warwickshire, with his wife, 3 sons, 2 daughters, a niece and 3 servants *Census 102*

1871 John Stockwood, solicitor and landowner, 54, born Newport, with wife, son, 4 daughters, his sister and 2 servants *Census 113*
(In 1858, 16th January, Bridgend Chronicle had an announcement that Miss Stockwood's School for Young Ladies in Cowbridge was re-opening)

1880, 7th May Death at Cowbridge of Mr Alfred Stockwood, solicitor, aged 36. Shops partially closed in the afternoon of his funeral. *Central Glam. Gazette*

1881 John Stockwood, with his wife, 3 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 3 servants *Census 272*

1891 John Stockwood, with his wife, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 2 servants *Census 265*

1901 John Stockwood, 51, clerk to justices, born Cowbridge, with wife Rachel, sons John (aged 23, a solicitor's articled clerk), Alfred D. (aged 18, apprentice to steam engine makers), William B. (17), Charles V. (15), plus a housemaid and a cook *Census 155*

Sons Alick Stockwood drowned at sea by falling aloft on the barque Penrhyn in a gale off Cape Horn, Oct 1899, aged 20 years – *wall memorial, Holy Cross church*; and John Arthur Stockwood who fell in action at Guillemont, France, September 3rd 1916 aged 38 years – *GS Old Boys memorial, Holy Cross church*

Holy Cross gravestones :Alfred Stockwood, died April 30, 18890, aged 36

John Stockwood, b 1 August 1816, d 18th Oct 1892

Jane Stockwood his wife b 28 Feb 1816, d 22 March 1895

Helen Stockwood d 7 May 1888 aged 33.

1912 Richard D Moynan, physician and surgeon *Western Mail street directory*

- 1913 Sold by the Dunraven estate to Dr Moynan for £750 *D/D SA 8/22*
- 1921 Dr Moynan *Electoral register*
- Dr David Evans bought the house and live there from 1921-41
- 1926 David John Evans, physician and surgeon, medical officer of health for the borough and referee for the Ministry of Pensions *Kelly's directory*
- 1940-5 Nancy Summers (sister-in-law of David Evans) lived in the upper part of the house. The ground floor was a food office and baby clinic. *B Evans*
- 1946 Eddie John owned and occupied *Deeds*
- 1947 Morlais and Lydia Summers, Woodstock House *Register of electors*
- 1950 Arthur and Lucy Davies *Register of electors*
- 1966 Baby clinic in the ground floor room, left side
- 1970 Louis C Fisher Ltd. (Estate Management) owner *Deeds*
- 1970-89 Three other owners *Deeds*
- 1989 Woodstock House Management Company owned *Deeds*
(The property was converted into maisonettes).

83 High Street: Woodstock House

This large corner property was owned by John Bevan in 1844 and occupied by Mary Nicholls. Then as later it was a private house with garden. In 1851 and 1861 it was the home of medical men: at the earlier census that of Charles Sylvester MD MRCSL, aged 54, born in Swansea, married with a daughter, and in 1861 occupied by William Haines MRSC LSA, aged 37, born in Avon Dassett, Warwickshire, married with three sons, two daughters and a niece at home.

In 1871 and 1881 81 High Street was the home of John Stockwood, from whom the property takes its present name. He was born in Newport, Mon., gave his age as 54 in 1871 and 68 in 1881, had a wife, son, five daughters and a sister at home in 1871 and a wife, three daughters and five grandchildren there ten years later. He returned his occupation as solicitor on both occasions, coupled with 'landowner' in 1871. *Unknown source*

Woodstock House is a grade II listed building which is bordered on the west side by the town wall. The earliest known records show it was the property of the Wyndham family, later to become earls of Dunraven They were major property and land owners not only in Glamorgan but also in the West Country and East Anglia.

John Wyndham, Sergeant at Law (the senior Law Officer in the County) occupied the house in the closing decades of the 17th century. In 1748 his son Thomas was castigated in court - for not raising the wall by the West Gate. He must have been pleased when his neighbour Thomas Edmondes demolished the gate in 1754. During the life of Thomas Wyndham's son Charles the family changed its name to Edwin. The mansion was owned by the Edwins until the end of the century but by 1784, was leased to Thomas Williams and in 1800 to the Revd John Nicholl.

The house changed hands several times during the next 40 years. In the 1850s it was occupied by Charles Sylvester and in the 60s by William Haines both of whom were surgeons.

John Stockwood, landowner and solicitor lived in the house during the last 30 years of the century. He was Town Clerk of Cowbridge from 1887 to '92. It is presumed that he gave the name Woodstock to the house. He was followed at the turn of the century by Dr Richard Moynan, Medical Officer of Health to Cowbridge Borough Council. By purchasing a Humber 6hp in 1905 he became one of the first car owners in Cowbridge. In 1908 he produced a report on the health of the townsfolk and the state of the abattoirs and lodging houses. He recommended that a piped water supply and sewage system should be provided. The former was developed in the 1920s but sewers had to wait until 1957.

Dr David Evans bought the house and lived in it from 1921 to 1941. He succeeded Dr Moynan as MOH to the C.B.C, in addition to being physician for Crossways Orthopaedic Hospital and Medical Officer to RAF Llandow. During the 1939 - 45 war, his sister in law Nancy Summers lived in the upper part of the house, until her husband Morlais returned from the forces and resumed his business as Funeral Director in Cathedral Road.

Early on in the war, the Food Office moved from the Town Hall to the ground floor of Woodstock House and remained there until the end of rationing. In adjacent rooms the Maternity and Child Health Clinic provided highly valued services, including the distribution of orange juice, cod liver oil and powdered milk. The clinic closed in the late 60s; soon after, the Health Centre opened in the Old Hall Garden.

After the war Eddie John of the Eagle Agricultural Stores lived in the house. He served the town for many years as councillor, mayor and magistrate. In 1970 Louis and John Fisher bought the house, and commenced the division of the house into five flats. Charlie Mallet of Woodstock Builders completed the work and built Woodstock Mews Flats in the northern half of the burgage plot.

In 1983 the freehold was bought at auction by Castlebeg Investments (Jersey) Ltd. who proved to be less than congenial ground landlords. In 1987 George and Jeanne Crabb bought the freehold and set up a Management Company which was incorporated in 1989 and is now jointly owned by their fellow residents.

George and Jeanne Crabb – earliest residents of the maisonettes

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'Cowbridge Buildings & People', CRS 1998

Sources/abbreviations :

GRO = Glamorgan Record Office

PRO Public Record Office (Kew)

BR Burgage rentals (GRO or National Library of Wales)

LTA Land tax assessments in GRO

D/D Deposits held in GRO

Tithe, census, electoral registers, directories – in GRO

CRS Cowbridge Record Society (merged later with the History Society)

Dunraven deeds in National Library of Wales