

Date	68 Eastgate, Cowbridge	Source
	<i>Grade II listed. 19th century former house contributing to conservation area (grouped together with no. 66)</i>	
1738	Martin Button esq., half a burgage in tenure of Lewis Sanders	Burgage rents
1744	Martin Button esq., half burgage in possession of Lewis Sanders, Mr Edward Thomas tenant	Burgage rents 55
1767	Martin Button esq., half burgage in tenure of John Jones	BR
1773	John Jones, glover, 3/-	LTA
1777	Occupier Rachel Jones	D/D Ed 143
1778	Martin Button esq., half burgage in tenure of John Jones	BR
1778	Martin Button esq., half burgage in tenure of Thomas Pryce	BR 55
1784	Thomas Pryce owned, Rachel Jones widow occupied, 4/-	LTA
1805 - 1816	John Lewis owned and occupied	BR 55
1815	Mrs Lewis owned, William Humphreys occupied	LTA
1830	William James owned and occupied, 4/-	LTA
1843	James Reynolds owned, Richard Aubrey occupied	Tithe
1851	Richard Aubrey, 41, cabinet maker employing 4 men, born Penmark, with wife Ann, 43, born Cowbridge and son Richard born Cowbridge	Census 150
1861	John Jones, 32, collector of poor rate born Cardiganshire, with wife Mary born Cowbridge, 4 daughters and one son, all born Cowbridge	Census 210
1871	Harriet S James, widow, 62, cabinet maker employing 4 men and one boy, born Bath, and sons William A. James, 24 (manager and cabinet maker) and Alfred G James, 17 (cabinet maker), plus daughter Rhoda, all born Cowbridge	Census 223
1874	William Thomas owned, Harriet James occupied	Glamorgan County Rate
1881	Harriet James, Alfred G James and her granddaughter	Census 103
1891	Harriet James, widow, 82, with one servant	Census 95
1901	Unoccupied	Census
1910	EA and D Thomas occupied; Mrs Anne Lewis, Sunnyside owned	PRO/VAL/1/
1912	Thomas brothers butchers	Western Mail directory
1923, 1926	Robert Morgan butcher	Kelly
	<i>(Son of William Morgan, in Porth y Green in 1871 and in Great House, Llanblethian in 1881 – see Morgan, Thomas family)</i>	
1924	Mrs Mary Morgan, wife of Robert Morgan, butcher, purchaser of Great House, Llanblethian	Deeds of Great House
	In recent years, the Eastgate Gallery	

Date	68 Eastgate, Cowbridge	Source
2016	Arboreal restaurant	

The earliest records we can find so far are of 1738, when the building was owned by Martin Button and tenanted by Lewis Sanders. This was half a burgage, that is half the original width of the plots with which the town was laid out, and so only 6d (half the usual shilling) was payable annually to the Marquis of Bute as a ‘burgage rent’.

Martin Button was recorded as owner until 1778; the tenants included Edward Thomas in 1744, John Jones, a glover, in the 1760s and early 1770s and then after his death, his widow Rachel lived on in the house.

By the nineteenth century, the property was owned and occupied by John Lewis. In 1815, Mrs Lewis was the owner so by then she was presumably a widow, and a William Humphreys lived in the property. William James was owner and occupier in 1830, but by 1843 James Reynolds, a prosperous Cowbridge businessman, was the owner and Richard Aubrey the occupier. Richard Aubrey was described as a cabinet maker and he went on to become a celebrated wheelwright - one of his ‘Glamorgan wagons’ is preserved in the Museum of Welsh life in St Fagans - and also took over the Tennis Court inn just up the road. This soon became known as the Wheelwrights Arms in his honour. This is the building which later became the cinema and is now known as The Pavilion.

The censuses, every ten years, give us the information about who lived in the house in the nineteenth century. Richard Aubrey was there in 1851, then in 1861 John Jones, a Cardiganshire-born collector of taxes, lived here with his wife Mary and five children.

By 1871, however, Harriet James lived at 68 Eastgate. She was the widow of William James, a cabinet maker, and who may well have been the William James who was recorded as owner and occupier in 1830. He had been a cabinet maker, and on his death she carried on the business, employing four men and a boy. She had been born in Bath, and was the daughter of a stonemason who worked on Bath Abbey. She had four children, three of whom were living with her in the 1871 census. William Aaron James, then also a cabinet maker, later went on to become mayor of Cowbridge and one of Cowbridge’s best-known builders at the end of the century - The Shield, Stafford House and Llwynceilyn were all built by him. Alfred George James changed from cabinet making to become a shopkeeper, keeping a furniture, upholstery and china business in the building now occupied by Arthur John’s clothing department. Apparently he also taught woodwork in the Grammar School. He visited Russia a number of times, once being mistaken for King George V, whom he strongly resembled, and once being arrested as a spy because of his fondness for sketching. Of Harriet James’s two daughters, Rhoda was recorded in Cowbridge in the 1871 census; she later became a schoolteacher in North Wales. The other daughter had already left home by 1871. She was also named Harriet; she became governess to the uncle of Vladimir Nabokov, the author of *Lolita*, and had a dacha in the Caucasus mountains. She was the reason for Alfred’s visits to Russia. In 1917 she managed to escape the Russian Revolution, only being able to bring out of the country the few things she could carry.

Harriet James, the mother, lived on at 68 Eastgate until her death in 1903. Then began the butchers’ business. Thomas Brothers, butchers, were occupying the building in 1910, and by 1923 Robert Morgan - who was doing well enough to buy Great House, Llanblethian, in 1924, started the long connection between the Morgans and 68 Eastgate.