

### 32 Westgate, Cowbridge (West House)

#### *Around the site of West House :*

1668, 6<sup>th</sup> August Thomas Andrews of Greendown, Bonvilston, gent. To Mary Griffith (widow of Ynon Griffith of Cowbridge, labourer), son Thomas Griffith and daughter Margaret Griffith – ruins of a house, one burgage, adjacent east, west and south the lands of Edward Jenkins gent., north the highway, lately in the occupation of John Griffiths of Cowbridge, without the west gate.  
*D/D Ed 66*

1724, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May Thomas Wyndham of Lincolns Inn Esq. to John Jones, barber of Cowbridge – messuage or dwelling house adjacent east, west and south the lands of Evan Jenkins gent, north the highway, in the occupation of John Gamage, without the west gate. *D/D Ed 67*

One of the earliest records for this site come from *the Bute papers in NLW, the Cowbridge Burgage Rentals*.

In 1738 this was part of a 11½ burgage plot owned by Evan Jenkins. As it was such a large plot it does not suggest that there were many houses constructed on the land at this time; after the initial post-1254 development of 'Cowbridge New Town' when houses probably stretched all along the east-west road as far as Hopyard Meadow in the west, there seems to have been a decline in interest and development of the western part of Cowbridge.

The property was acquired by Thomas Edmondes in about 1742, and from the 1762 burgage rentals the whole plot stayed as Edmondes property until the last recorded burgage rental in 1832.

Unfortunately the rentals give no more information: no details of houses or any other kind of land-use.

On the *1843 Tithe map*, this house is marked as one of three buildings in a plot belonging the Thomas Edmondes. The occupant for the whole plot was Robert Church, and the description is simply 'house and garden'.

If we assume that Robert Church lived in this central and largest part of the block of buildings shown on the tithe map, then for 1851 and 1861 we can assume that the Churches continued to live here. After 1871 more houses were occupied, and we can be more sure as to determining the occupants.

1851 Robert Church, age 51, market gardener, b Bristol  
wife Elizabeth Church, 38, b Ashburton, Devon *Census*

1861 Elizabeth Church, widow, market gardener, 49, b Torquay (?), Devon  
son John Church, 6, b Cowbridge. *Census*

1871 William Tilley, age 47, master implement and carriage maker, employing 1 man and 1 boy, landowner, b Wilts  
Mary Tilley, wife, 52, b Pembs  
Three daughters, aged 24 – 20, two sons aged 17, 15 *Census*

1881 Eliza Tilley, 34 (one of the daughters enumerated in 1871), housekeeper, b Llansannor  
David Tilley, brother, carriage and implement maker, 25, b Cowbridge *Census*

1891 Richard Moynan, 32, doctor and surgeon, b Ireland  
Emma Moynan, 35, b Newport Mon., sons Richard 6 and Harold 5, and servant Ellen Dawe.  
*Census 17*

1901 John C Osborne, 57, retired master mariner, b Essex  
Jane Osborne, 47, b St Athan  
One daughter, 3, b Cowbridge *Census*

1922, 2<sup>nd</sup> November West House leased for 99 years from 1/5/1869 *Old Hall estate auction*

***Memories of Enfys Brown :***

The Watts family (ex-mayor) lived in West House in the 1921 electoral roll, then from there DC Watts built and moved into 'West Winds' up in Love Lane.

Dr Owen Thomas and his wife Betty lived in West House from the 1960s onwards ; he was the partner of Dr Cumming Naysmith GP (surgery in Lynthurst, Eastgate).

***Sources/abbreviations :***

*GRO Glamorgan Record Office*

*D/D Ed Edmond's deeds in GRO*

*Census, tithe, burgage rentals, directories – in GRO*