

5 Westgate, Cowbridge – The Pelican Inn

1738 As below (owners only)

1744 Owner David John; occupier John David (also John Richard Taylor named);
owned by Richard Rutledge, occupied by Isaac Redwood. *Burgage rents 163,4*

1767 Owner David John, occupier Thomas Williams late John David, half a burgage;
Mrs Redwood late Richard Rutledge owned, Mr Redwood occupied, half burgage
Burgage rents

1783 Owner John Hopkins; occupier Mary Rawley, half burgage
and Mary Williams, half burgage *B r 161,162*

1798-1804 Owner Richard Williams; occupier Bethuel Williams *LTA*

1804, April 20th 'I attended the meeting this day on the Property Tax at the Pelican
in Cowbridge'
Account of Robert Nicholl *D/D CF 16*

1805 Owner Richard Williams; occupier Bethuel Williams

1815 Owner Jenkin Morris; occupier Cecil Richard *Burgage rents*

1822, 7th December Death of Mrs Jones of the Pelican public house aged 69. 'She was a
good and obliging neighbour and very kind to the poor'. *'Cambrian'*

1833 Owner Jenkin Morris; occupier Cecil Richard, two half burgages *B r 161,162*

1843 Pelican Inn and garden, owner Thomas Morris; occupier Richard Morris *Tithe 29*

1851 Margaret Morris, widow, victualler aged 63, born Llantrithyd, with
daughter Mary, 38, niece Mary Thomas, 9, and a servant *Census 3*

1857 Licence of the Pelican transferred to John Morris
'Bridgend, Cowbridge, Llantrisant Mercury'

1858, 9th October Inventory of sale of household furniture at Pelican Inn (to be sold by
auction on October 12th) *'Bridgend Chronicle'*

1861 John Williams, 35, butcher and victualler, with wife Ann and daughter Mary,
plus 2 servants and a lodger from Hampshire, a wheelwright *Census 106*

1871 Thomas Evans, 46, publican, with wife Mary Ann, son Thomas,
and 3 nieces (one born Pennsylvania) *Census 118*

1881 Morgan Thomas, 80, innkeeper, with wife Elizabeth *Census 274*

1891 David Joseph, 59, licensed victualler, with wife Elizabeth and a servant
Census 267

1910 Occupier E Villis; owner Hancocks *Record of valuations 343*

1912 F Villis, Pelican Inn, 5 Westgate Street *Western Mail street directory*

During WW1, Mrs Mary Villis (who ran the pub here) put up troops, and her daughters Florence & Gwladys had to sleep in the attic. There used to be a ring on the wall outside to tie up a horse. The horses were taken through the pub to the stables at the back.
Memories of David Hayman, grandson of Mrs Villis.

See photo chs 03903 showing landlord as T. Jenkins – taken ca 1930

1937 No longer the Pelican - the Trott family occupied till 1952 (moved to Borough Close). The far right of the property was demolished to make way for OBI camping shop.
Brian Trott information

Sources/abbreviations : *Most documents consulted are in the Glamorgan Record Office (GRO).*

PRO = Public Record Office, Kew

5 Westgate - Pelican

This is the second of the two inns bearing the name *Pelican*, and it is difficult to know when one ended and the other began. It is likely that Mrs Jones of the *Pelican*, whose death was reported in 1822, and of whom it was said that she was a good and obliging neighbour and very kind to the poor, lived in the Westgate *Pelican*. William Jones or John - the names were practically interchangeable at that time - was recorded here between 1827 and 1835, and is alluded to in a poem which was published in the *Cambrian* in 1838. It begins:

Yes, Befan, I remember well
The *Pelican* with all its sprees,
and with what rapture you did dwell
On lettuce, onions, bread and cheese.

And oh! the landlord's face of fear
As all his grub you swept away
Swilling, you dog, such lots of beer

For which you never meant to pay.

Poor J---n, he must have grieved full oft
To think that all his ham and mutton
Should be devoured by one so soft
As thee, my friend, my classic glutton

and another verse runs:

And how you danced in the Long Room
With many a servant girl so frisky
With many a lackey, scrub or groom
Drinking gin, porter, ale or whiskey.

The publication of the poem led to some spirited correspondence in the paper, and induced one writer to travel from Llantwit Major to see what the ‘sprees’ were. His comments included:

Upon going into the hotel I was received with the greatest civility, and took a seat by a fire in a snug parlour. ‘Well’, said I to a very good looking young woman, ‘what is become of all the “lettuce, onions &c.”, with which you formerly regaled your guests?’ The young woman smiled; - ‘we are wiser now, Sir’, said she, ‘and we do not at present give our victuals away for nothing’. ‘Good’, said I. ‘Is this the room where the young gentlemen held their spreess, where porter was metamorphosed, painting in fresco executed, candles conjured, funeral piles erected and a “variety of other tricks too numerous to mention” performed?’ ‘Yes, sir’, said the damsel, ‘but they never come here now’.

How we wish we could find out more!

Thomas Morris had been the owner of the building since 1830 (and John Morris before that), and Richard Morris was recorded as the occupier at the 1843 tithe apportionment. Contemporary directories then record John Marchant and David Lewis as the innkeepers, but Margaret Morris, widow, born in Llantrithyd was listed in the house in the 1851 census, and the licence was transferred to her son, John Morris, in 1857. John Williams, butcher and victualler at the *Pelican* in 1861, was followed by 1871 by Thomas Evans, who was later to move to the *Masons Arms*.

Police Superintendent Thomas opposed an application for the licence of the *Pelican* to be given up to the new tenant in March 1881, the ‘applicant being a cripple and unable to get out of the house, and his wife being sixty years of age, there could be a problem in case of a disturbance’. Nevertheless in the census of the following month, eighty-year-old Morgan Thomas of Bryncethin was recorded at the *Pelican*, with his sixty-five-year-old wife Elizabeth, who was a daughter of Margaret Morris.

Ten years later, David Joseph from Wick, was the tenant, followed rapidly by Thomas Eddolls, Cornelius O’Connor (an Irish-born cattle dealer as well as innkeeper, with his Welsh wife and family), David Jenkins, and then, in 1908, Edward (probably Edwin) Villis. He was the brother of William who was the landlord of the *Greyhound*; Edwin left the *Pelican* in 1913, and became landlord of the *White Lion* in the following year. Subsequent innkeepers in the *Pelican* include Gertrude Brittain in 1921 and Elizabeth Morgan from 1926. *‘Old Inns & Alehouses of Cowbridge’, CRS 2003*