

Gibbets Hill (Thorn Villa), Westgate, Cowbridge

Dynevor property

1649/50 Lease for 99 years, annual rent includes a couple of hens and the work of one man one day in the corn harvest, Thomas Davies of Llanharan gent. to John Webb of Cowbridge, tailor – lands called Gibbett Hill or Hangmans Hill, three quarter acre *D/D D 155*

Pre 1740 Henry Williams

1740 William Lord Talbot, lease for three lives to John Jones of Cowbridge, periwig maker – messuage called Gibbetts Hill, three quarters acre, as lately held by Henry Williams or his undertenants *D/D D 160*

1758, 29th September John Lloyd of Cowbridge yeoman *D/D D 163*

1779 William Earl Talbot to William Meyrick, cordwainer – lease for three lives (William Morgan, wife Mary and Thomas, son of Richard Meyrick of Penlline, brother of said William Meyrick, at yearly rent of £3.10s, of house, garden and croft called Gibbets Hill for 99 years (3 lives) *D/D D 164*

1799 Rt Hon George Talbot, Baron Dynevor, to Rev Evan Jones, clerk (bought at auction for £78) – all that messuage/dwelling house, garden and close called Gibbetts Hill (about 1 acre) in the possession of William Meyrick or his undertenants at yearly rent of £3.10s *D/D WP Box 5, bundle 24*

1831 Evan Jones, vicar of Colwinston, to Thomas Lewis, then of Cowbridge, ironmonger, but now of Bridgend, brewer, 99 year lease.
Soon after the lease was granted, Thomas Lewis built the dwelling house now used as a public house called the Westgate Inn *D/D WP Box 5, bundle 24*

1843 Death of Evan Jones. Title of Westgate inn passed to Rev. Samuel Fenton of Wavertree, Liverpool, wife Lydia and Theophilus John Fenton;
Also freehold dwelling house occupied by John Morgan adjoining the same;
Also 3 closes of pasture land adjoining and near the Westgate inn, in Llanblethian

1849 Rev Samuel Fenton to Thomas Lewis, brewer - lease of land near Tyla Rosser and the Pyle road *D/D WP Box 5, bundle 24*

Thorn Villa probably built on this site around 1860

1861 William Thomas, 77, retired farmer (previously of Brocastle), with wife Rebecca, 70 and a female servant *Census 120*

- 1871 William Thomas, retired farmer aged 88, born St Mary Church, with wife Rebecca, 80, born Llanblethian, and a female servant *Census 134*
- 1872 To be let with vacant possession – Thorn Villa, set outside the West Gate, together with outhouses and about 6 acres of excellent pasture land. Apply to Mr Thomas on the premises *County Glamorgan Gazette 26/4/1872*
- 1873, 21st January To be let – Thorn Villa. Four rooms downstairs, four bedrooms, good garden in front and rear of premises. Possession May next. D Thomas, Sutton, Llandow *Co Glam Gazette*
- 3/6/1872 Mr William Thomas, Thorn Villa *T. Rees journal*
- 1881 Jane Meredith, widow aged 70, living on own means, born Merthyr, with daughters Mary, Sarah and Margaret (40, 50 and 30), and a young male boarder, a bank clerk. *Census*
- 1911 Mrs Elizabeth Thomas, 72, a widow born Peterston Super Ely, with one domestic servant *Census*

Sources/abbreviations :

GRO Glamorgan Record Office

D/D D Dunraven papers in GRO or NLW (National Library of Wales)

Census, directories, tithe – all in GRO

D/D Deposits in GRO