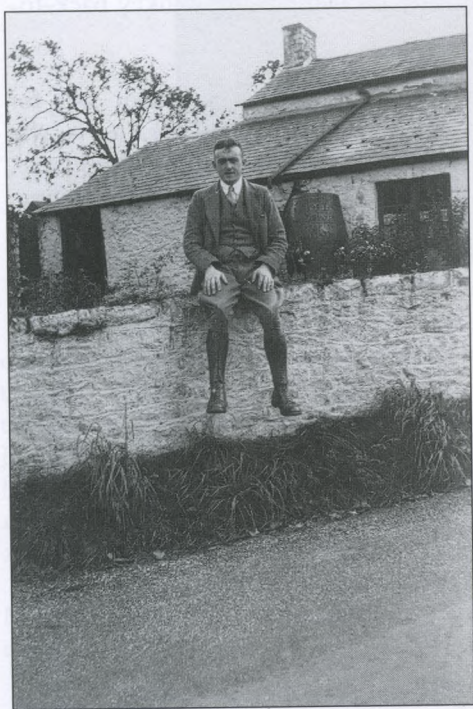


9 : TO THE WEST OF THE VILLAGE

Of the small cluster of buildings at the *Cross Inn* crossroads, only the inn itself and *Pentwyn* are of any antiquity, and their history has proved difficult to trace back before the 1840 tithe apportionment.

In 1840, *Cross Inn* was owned and occupied by John Marchant, who also farmed a neighbouring field. Evan Morgan is named as the victualler



Cross Inn, late 1930s, with Wyndham James

from 1851 to 1853, and Morgan Joseph, from Monknash, was here in the early 1870s. By 1879 Joseph (who in 1875 was named as an innkeeper and limeburner) had moved to *Limefield House* on the lane to *Crossways*, and William James from Llysworney had moved in as innkeeper, with his second wife and eight children. The James family continued to run the inn until the late 1950s. Kate, William's daughter, was the licensee from 1908 to 1916, while Martha, William's daughter-in-law, ran the business from about 1920 to 1951, and then her second husband, Bill Powell, took over until his death as a result of injuries received in a vicious attack in the inn.

The public house was owned in the mid- and late nineteenth century by William Thomas (a nephew of William Thomas of *Hill House*) who farmed first in Marcross and then the 1,100-acre Cog Farm in Sully, where he proved to be an expert cattle breeder - and often won prizes at the annual Cowbridge agricultural show. Ownership later changed to Lewis Jenkins of Cowbridge.

The core of the inn has not changed a great deal over the past fifty years. The present car park used to be a vegetable garden, surrounded by a high white-washed wall in which was set a postbox. Inside the public house, the beer was served from barrels set up on trestles in what is now the dining room.

The nearby *Pentwyn* was owned in 1840 by Revd Evan Jones, the vicar of Colwinston, who had considerable land and property investments in the Vale of Glamorgan. The occupants throughout the nineteenth century were Hopkinses: in 1840, John Hopkins, a labourer from Llysworney, and his wife Margaret. They were still here in 1851, but then their son David, a mason, was living in a cottage next to the *Cross Inn*, with his wife Jane, and son John; these had moved into *Pentwyn* by 1861. By the next census, John had married, and had a son, Evan Thomas. Jane Hopkins died in 1872, and David in 1876; John stayed on in *Pentwyn*, and was described in 1881 as a stone cutter, and in 1891 as a builder. He and his son ET Hopkins carried on a business as monumental masons, with their yard near the river in Cowbridge. ET Hopkins moved to *The Armoury* in Cowbridge, and later *The Shield*, in the early years of the twentieth century.

Mary Jane Hopkins, John's daughter, married WE Jones, a mining engineer who, on his return from South Africa, opened first a cycle shop at 50 High Street in Cowbridge, and then the *West End Garage* in 56 High



Pentwyn

Street. They lived in *Pentwyn*, initially with John Hopkins until his death in 1921. Mary's death in 1956 ended the long Hopkins connection with the house.