

Kingscombe Farm, Llanblethian

History

Early C19. On Tithe Map.

Exterior

Two storeys, 3 windows. Double-pile plan. Stucco over local stone (exposed to rear), shallow pitch slate roof, rendered chimneys. Entrance faces S; on first floor, three 12-pane hornless sash windows. On ground floor, 2 similar windows flank central doorway with overlight and intersecting glazing, panelled reveals, panelled door, modern Doric porch. To R, lower extension, 2 storeys, one 6-pane sash window to each floor.

Listed

Early C19 house, retaining most of its character, in conservation area.

Although known as Kingscombe Farm this property, as described in the Tithe Schedule of July 1840, consisted only of a House and Garden with an Upper Field and Lower Field (both meadowland) totalling 8 acres 2 roods and 17 perches. It was owned, under the system of copyhold tenure, by William Lewis who had inherited it, together with the farms of Trebettyn and Llanquian ucha (or Hollybush) according to the customs of the manor of Llanblethian - the lord of the manor being the Marquis of Bute. The previous owner of Kingscombe had been David William of Llanblethian who, in 1807, had purchased the property for £974 from Andrew Armstrong of Great House (and previously of Llandough Castle). David William died intestate in 1827 and without ever having married (1) and 24 year old William Lewis, born in Llanblethian, was the heir according to the custom of the manor. By 1834 Lewis was married to a Swansea-born girl, Anne and lived in Llanllwch near Carmarthen town where their first son, John, was born. In 1835 the family was living at Earlswood Cottage, Cadoxton-juxta-Neath where David (1835), twins Catherine and Mary (1837) and Gwilym (1840) were born and baptised in the parish church (2). William Lewis signed his last will and testament at Earlswood Cottage in 1837, appointing William Lewis, gentleman of Bridgend and Thomas Lewis, ironmonger of Cowbridge as trustees. His wife was to receive an annuity of £40, his two daughters £500 each when they married or reached the age of 21 years and the lands and properties were devised to the two sons, John and David, as tenants in common (3). This will was never amended despite three more children (Gwilym, Jennet and Eliza) being born after 1837. Kingscombe in 1837 was tenanted by John Williams, a surveyor of taxes but at the time of the Tithe Schedule in 1840 it was apparently occupied by William Lewis although his family were probably still living at Cadoxton where Gwilym was baptised in September 1840.(4).

In the 1851 census Kingscombe was empty and William Lewis had moved to Hollybush Farm on Stalling Down, describing himself as a farmer of 104 acres, employing 4 men and he was also a landed proprietor.(5) Four years later he had died at the age of 53 but his widow Anne lived on until 1876 although not at Hollybush. Both were buried in Llanblethian although Anne Lewis died at Newcastle, Bridgend (6). Her tenant at Kingscombe in 1861 was Georgiana Royds, a widow born in Lancashire and a fund-holder, as was her daughter Alicia Vittoria Royds. The two ladies were supported by a married couple, Joseph and Jane Strange as domestic servant and cook, and also a housemaid and 13 year-old general servant. Frederic Charles Allin Royds, living at St. Quentins Cottage with his wife, Frances, was possibly Georgiana Royds's son.

In 1871 Kingscombe again appeared to be vacant but by 1881 Arthur Treharne, a retired naval officer and his wife, Harriet, were in occupation at the time that John Lewis of the city of London, ship broker and David Lewis of Briton Ferry, clerk in holy orders, were admitted as tenants in common (7). On the 20 September 1886 Kingscombe was sold by the Lewis brothers for £1180 to William Rees, innkeeper of Graig Ddu Dinas.⁸ He was living there as a dairy farmer in 1891 with his wife Anne, a niece Bronwen Walters and a maidservant. A small parcel of land (60ft. x 30ft.) on which the Sunday School (later parish hall) was built, had been sold to Llanblethian church in 1888; the rest of the land and the property was conveyed to Thomas Thomas, farmer of Wern fawr in Ystradowen parish, for £1200, in November 1895⁹ A David Jenkins and then his son Richard farmed Kingscombe in the early twentieth century. Thomas Thomas died at Penylan House, Capel Llanilterne on the 14th September 1917 His will left his estate in trust to his wife, Elizabeth and after her death to her niece Winifred Elizabeth Philpott⁹ On the 10th October 1930¹⁰ Elizabeth Thomas died at Greenfield, Ystradowen, the home of her niece Elizabeth, wife of Howell David Thomas who farmed Greenfield. Kingscombe with its 8 acres and 2 fields of 1 acre and 2 acres near Brynhyfryd on the Llanmihangel Road were conveyed to the younger Elizabeth Thomas on the 31st December 1931.

- 1 Deeds in private ownership.
- 2 Cadoxton-juxta-Neath parish registers
- 3 National Library of Wales LI/1856/43
- 4 Cadoxton-juxta-Neath parish registers.
- 5 Census 1851 Llanblethian parish
- 6 Llanblethian parish registers
- 7 Deeds in private ownership
- 8 Deeds in private ownership
- 9 Grant of Probate, Llandaff Registry 22nd October 1917
- 10 Grant of Probate, Llandaff Registry 13th December 1930

Kingscombe December 1999



N.L.W. L1/1856/43

Last will and testament of **William Lewis** of Earlswood Cottage, Cadoxton-juxta-Neath. He bequeathed unto William Lewis of Bridgend, gent and Thomas Lewis of Cowbridge, ironmonger, all his personal estate; also Llanquian Ucha and Trebeting in the parish of Llanblethian and one messuage and land in the village of Llanblethian on the side of and adjoining the road leading to Llanmihangel in the occupation of John Williams, surveyor of taxes for 500 years from his decease in trust that they should pay out of his person or real estate one annuity of £40 p.a. to his wife Anne for life or as long as she remain a widow. The remainder of the estate to apply profits to maintenance and education of his four children: John, David, Mary and Catherine and invest surplus for the benefit of the children. Two several sums of £500 to be raised to be paid to daughters as soon as they reach the age of 21 or marry with consent. As soon as trusts had been discharged premises should be devised to his sons John and David as tenants in common and not joint tenants.

Signed: 7th April 1837 William Lewis died on the 29th June 1855.

Grant of Probate: 20th February 1856 Executors: William Lewis and Thomas Lewis. Under £800

Grant of Probate: 22nd October 1917 at Llandaff of last will of **Thomas Thomas** of Penylan House, Capel Llanilterne, Glam, retired farmer Everything to his wife Elizabeth for life and after her death to Winifred Elizabeth Philpot, his wife's niece. Signed on 4th May 1915 Thomas Thomas died on the 14th September 1917..Probate to widow Elizabeth Thomas of Penylan House. Gross £3924. 7s 4d net £1874 17s 5d.

Grant of Probate 13th December 1930 at Llandaff of last will of Elizabeth Thomas formerly of 66 Corporation Rd, Cardiff who died at Greenfield on 10th October 1930. Probate to William Edward Phillpotts of Pantylladron Farm, near Cowbridge, farmer, nephew of deceased and Thomas Heal Ralls, solicitor's clerk, 52 Eastgate, Cowbridge. Gross £2315 13s 1d, net £2224 12s.

Assent 31st December 1931 between Wm Edward Phillpotts of Pantylladron farm and Thomas Heal Ralls of one part and Elizabeth Winifred Thomas of Greenfield, Ystradowen, wife of Howell David Thomas of same place, farmer, the beneficiary. Various pieces of property including Kingscombe 8 acres and fields near Brynhyfryd 1 acre and 2 acres.

Manor of Llanblethian.

15th January 1807 John Miles of Aburthin, gent, feoffee of premises with Andrew Armstrong of parish of Llanblethian, Esq., in consideration of £974 paid to Armstrong by David William of Llanblethian surrendered one customaryhold messuage or dwelling-house, garden and orchard 2 acres, formerly purchased by Armstrong of David William and one other close or piece of land called Crofta mawr, 4 acres, then lately purchased by Armstrong of the trustees of the will of the late Rev. Thomas Bruce having other lands of the said Armstrong adjoining east highway from Cowbridge to Llanmihangel. John Bevan of Cowbridge, surgeon feoffee in trust to use of David William.

David William died intestate in 1827 without ever having married leaving William Lewis of Earlswood Cottage, Cadoxton his customary heir.

Admittance 30th May 1881 John Lewis of 10 Cullum Street, City of London, ship-

broker and David Lewis of Briton Ferry, clerk in holy orders were admitted to premises of Kingscombe in occupation of Arthur Traherne, gent, to have and to hold as tenants in common and not as joint tenants according to the custom of the manor Fine 2s.

Surrender and Admittance 20th September 1886. John Lewis of London and the Rev. David Lewis of Briton Ferry, by Thomas Tamplin of Bridgend, solicitor, surrendered for £1180 to them paid by **William Rees** of Graig Ddu Dinas, Glam, innkeeper, one customaryhold messuage, orchard and garden known as Kingscombe House and a piece of land called Crofta Mawr formerly in the occupation of Arthur Traherne in the village and parish of Llanblethian William Rees was admitted to the premises according to the custom of the manor. Fine 2 s

Sale 9th June 1888 Sale by William Rees to Rev David Bowen, William Thomas and George William Nicholl of a parcel of customaryhold land 60ft x 30 ft. on the road from Llanblethian to Cowbridge. (Site of Sunday school and later church hall).

Surrender 2nd November 1895 William Rees of Kingscombe, late of Graig Ddu Dinas has agreed with **Thomas Thomas** of Wemfawr Farm near Cowbridge, farmer for the sale of premises for £1200 except for the site of Sunday School.

Cadoxton-juxta-Neath Parish Registers

Baptisms:

20th October 1837 Catherine daughter of William Lewis, gent and Anne. Earlswood

“ “ Mary,

24th September 1840 Gwilym, son of William Lewis, gent and Anne. Earlswood.

Holy Cross Cowbridge, Registers

Baptisms:

28th October 1803 Thomas (Twin) son of William Lewis and Elizabeth

“ “ William

Llanblethian Parish Registers

Baptisms:

May 1845 Jennet daughter of William and Ann Lewis, gent, Llanquian

Burials:

26th January 1828 David William, Llanblethian 62 years

3rd July 1855 William Lewis of Hollybush, aged 53 years

20th January 1876 Ann Lewis, Newcastle, Bridgend, aged 68 years.

1763 Feoffee in trust for Stephen Nicholl of Llanblethian gent. Deceased to reconvey to Philip Thomas and wife Maud, customary heirs to Stephen Nicholl – one messuage, one garden, one orchard, one stable, two acres of land adjoining (and 3 parcels including Heol y Valbro, Erw y Groes Llanfrynach Erw'r Eglwys and two parcels called Kaia yn y Cadd...4 acres)

D/D Xeo 39

1752 Surrender by Cann Wilkins, one s, one o, one g, one m...regrant to Wm Bruce
NLW Bute 1515 p14

1805 Surrender all that customary messuage, garden and orchard containing 2 acres, in consideration of £225 paid by Andrew Armstrong of Llanblethian to David Williams, having lands lately purchased by A Armstrong of the trustees acting under will of Thomas Bruce adjoining on east the highway from Cowbridge to Llanmihangel on north and west and the said highway and land of Mary Morgan widow on south (now in tenure and occupation of A Armstrong)
NLW Bute M18/125

1807 David Williams Esq purchased for £974 from Andrew Armstrong of Llanblethian all that customary held messuage, garden, orchard – 2 acres, formerly purchased by Andrew Armstrong from David Williams (and one close, Crofta Mawr, 4 a) to the use of John Bevan surgeon of Cowbridge, as feoffee in trust for David Williams
Bute papers 1518 (p130)

1827 David Williams died (William Lewis of Llanquian as customary heir) *Bute 1518*

1828 Death of David Williams of Llanquian *Cambrian 26/1/1828*

1829/1 William Lewis proprietor, John Williams occupied 5/1 *LTA*

1837 Will of William Lewis – to Wm Lewis of Bridgend and Thomas Lewis of Cowbridge ironmonger (*Will of Wm Lewis proved 1861, Aberthin papers 111*). The house was then occupied by John Williams, surveyor of taxes *Bute 1518*

Llanblethian tithe schedule, 22nd July 1840

Kingscombe House (#227) Owner/Occupier: William Lewis
House and garden lr.33p. Upper field (meadow) 3a.3r.32p.

Lower field (meadow) 4a.0r.32p. Total: 8a.2r.17p.

Trebettyn Owner: William Lewis. Occupier: Llewelin Roberts 35a.lr.32p

Hollybush Farm Owner: William Lewis Occupier William John 277a.0r.19p.

1851 Census Kingscombe Uninhabited.

Hollybush Farm

William Lewis	Head	48	Farmer of 104 acres employing 4 men,	Llanblethian
Anne Lewis	Wife	41	(Landed proprietor)	Swansea
John	“	Son	17	Llanllwch Carm
David	“	“16	Scholar	Cadoxton
Mary	“	Dtr	14	“
Catherine	“	“14	Scholar	
Gwilym	“	Son	10	
Jennet	“	Dtr	6	Llanblethian
Eliza	“	“	4	
Jane Lewis	Visitor	22		Swansea
Isaac Thomas	Servant	18	Farm labourer	Llanblethian
Thomas Hopkin	“17		“ “	Ystradowen.

Census 1861 RG 9/4075 Llanblethian parish**35 Kingscombe**

Georgiana Royds	Head	Widow	68	Fundholder	Lancs, Ardwick?
Alicia Vittoria Royds	Dtr	Unm	31	“	Yorks, Auderly?
Joseph Strange	Svt	Mar	38	Domestic servant	Glos Fishponds
Jane Strange	“	“	40	Cook	Mont. Barmouth
Mary Gibbon	“	Unm	26	Housemaid	Colwinstone
Sarah Lloyd	“	“13	General servant	Glos. Tetbury	

Frederic Charles Allin Royds, aged 34, fundholder, with wife Frances, living at St Quentins Cottage in 1861 and 1871 (perhaps son of Georgiana Royds?)

1861 ‘Tea and cards at Mrs Royds’ (15 October) *FW Edmondes diary*

1861 ‘On 2 December 1861 to Mrs Col Royds the wife of J Oldham a daughter’
Cambrian 20/12/1861

1861 census at **Hollybush Farm** Thomas Evans and wife Margaret. Farmer of 25 acres.

1862 ‘Charades and dancing at Miss Royds’ *Cambrian newspaper*

1863 Marriage in Llanblethian church of Alicia Vittoria Royds to William Oldham Esq of Llanblethian, son of James Oldham Esq. Witnesses included Lawrence Peel, brother of Sir Robert Peel.
Parish records

(1865 John Oldham leaving neighbourhood, Caercady House – stock sale, then furniture March 24th
Bridgend Chronicle)

1866 Wm Jones farmer, Kingscombe Cottage *Harrod’s*

1869/70 Joshua Llewellyn Morgan *Register of electors*

1871 Kings Cott. (possibly Kingscombe) Uninhabited. *Census 48*

1871 Reference to Miles family (Henrietta Sophia, spinster, Ebenezer William Miles, solicitor's clerk, and Elizabeth Mary Ann Miles, spinster – all of Kingscombe House) *Aberthin 121*

1873, 21st January Mr EW Miles, son of Mrs Miles of Kingscombe House, Llanblethian, articulated with Thomas Rees, has passed first law exams. *Co Glam Gazette*

1874 David Williams occupied; Mrs Lewis owned *Glamorgan county rate 45*

1879 David Williams, late of Kingscombe, now of Aberthin, retired builder being 65 years old and upwards, knew David Williams who died 1827 *Bute 1518 p141*

1880 Arthur Traherne Esq., Kingscote *Slater's*

Census 1881 53 Kingscombe House

Arthur Treharne	Head	48	Late Royal Navy Rtd. Officer Glam Bettws
Harriet Trehame	Wife	48	I.O.W. Bonchurch
Marianna Hayer	Svt	22	General servant St. Nicholas

1881 John Lewis of London, shipbroker, and Revd David Lewis of Briton Ferry admitted tenants (occupier Arthur Traherne, gent) *Bute papers 1518, p135*

1884 Arthur Traherne, private resident *Kelly's*

1886 John Lewis and Revd David Lewis surrender for £1180 to William Rees, Graig Ddu, Dinas, innkeeper *Bute papers 1518*

1891 Kingscombe House

William Rees	Head	48	Dairy Farmer	Llantrisant	Welsh
Ann Rees	Wife	49			
Bronwen Walters	Niece	23			
Mary Jane David	Servant	21	General servant, domestic		<i>Census 21</i>

1895 William Rees – sale to Thomas Thomas of Wern Fawr farm near Cowbridge, farmer *Bute papers 1518*

1896 William Rees *Register of electors*

1907 Death of David Jenkins of Kingscombe aged 60 *Parish records*

1913 Marriage of Richard Jenkins, 27, farmer of Kingscombe to Mary Elizabeth ...? of the Vicarage, Llanblethian *Llanblethian church records*

1914 E Morris of Kingscombe

Western Mail

1950 Revd. EOT Lewis

Church records

Sources/references :

GRO = Glamorgan Record Office

NLW = National Library of Wales

Bute papers = in NLW

Aberthin papers = in NLW

Glamorgan county rate, tithe accounts and other documents in GRO

Kelly's, Hunt's = directories in GRO

Authority	Vale of Glamorgan	Grade	II
		Date Listed	16/09/1999
Community	Cowbridge with Llanblethian		
Locality	Llanblethian	Grid Ref	2987 1738
		Record No	22306
Name	Kingscombe		

Location

About 50m SW of Church Hall, on bend as road rises.

History

Early C19. On Tithe Map.

Exterior

Two storeys, 3 windows. Double-pile plan. Stucco over local stone (exposed to rear), shallow pitch slate roof, rendered chimneys. Entrance faces S; on first floor, three 12-pane hornless sash windows. On ground floor, 2 similar windows flank central doorway with overlight and intersecting glazing, panelled reveals, panelled door, modern Doric porch. To R, lower extension, 2 storeys, one 6-pane sash window to each floor.

Listed

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