

## **Rose Cottage, Church Road, Llanblethian**

This was a 'squatter's cottage', built on land which was regarded as waste but which was the property of the Manor of Llanblethian. The builder was a Llewellyn, probably Edward, the son of David Llewellyn who is recorded as the tenant, of the Marquis of Bute, of a garden there in 1824.

In a Royal Commission enquiry on land in 1893, Edward Llewellyn, a carpenter of St Fagan's, stated that his grandfather built the house in about 1830, 'on the strength of a promise from the Bute estate officials that a lease in perpetuity be granted him at a rent of 1/- a year'. The outbuildings - stable, cart shed, cowshed - were added, bit by bit, as he could afford them; the total cost was about £10. The land carried a right of common on the waste land of the manor.

Edward Llewellyn, born in Llanblethian in 1788, a farmer of 15 acres, was the occupant in 1840 and 1851 with his Caerphilly-born wife Jane, and three children, David, Jane and Elizabeth. He died in 1859; the next recorded tenant is his married daughter Elizabeth, with her husband, Thomas Richards, now only farming 10 acres. Elizabeth however died in 1870, and so it seems that the house reverted to another Elizabeth Llewellyn, a widow, who had probably been the wife of David Llewellyn, recorded as the son of the house in 1851. (Thomas Richards moved on to farm the much bigger, 92-acre, Stallcourt farm nearby). This Elizabeth Llewellyn had six children including the carpenter Edward mentioned above, and farmed 21 acres on the Downs, and, according to Edward's evidence, some Glebe land in the village.

The key point of Edward's evidence to the Royal Commission, however, was that his mother and her family were evicted from their cottage in October 1880. At this time all squatters' premises in the manor of Llanblethian had been offered for sale. The Bute agents offered Mrs Llewellyn "eighty shillings" (£4) for the house, which she refused. According to Edward, the house was in 'a very good state - the best in the village as a cottage'. Revaluation by the estate office raised the offer to £5, which she also declined; sadly she was then forcefully evicted "on to the road by bailiffs accompanied by a policeman. When informed she must take 100 shillings or nothing, she accepted." Fortunately at the end of that day, her cousin took pity on her and gave her accommodation. The house was subsequently let to a David Jenkins (at 8/- rent per year), thus ending the Llewellyns' 50-year occupancy of the house. By 1891, he had been followed by John and Mary Williams. After a sequence of tenants, the house was once again occupied by Llewellyns from the 1930s on.

1824 'A garden of 28 perch with a tenant David Llewellyn' *Bute estate map 29a*

1840 Owner and occupier Edward Llewellyn, a garden. *Tithe 133*

'My grandfather about 1830 built on some waste land in Llanblethian a house and buildings. The house was built by my grandfather on the strength of a promise from the Bute estate officer that a lease in perpetuity be granted to him at a rent of 1/- a year.'

*Edward Llewellyn, given in evidence at the Royal Commission of Land in Wales and Monmouthshire 1893-4(p.1318)*

1851 Edward Llewellyn, 63, farmer of 15 acres, b Llanblethian (died 21/2/1859)  
wife Jane, 61. b Caerphilly (died 24/3/1876),  
son David, 24, daughter Jane, 21, daughter Elizabeth, 18 *Census 7*

1861 'By Picton'  
Thomas Richards, 31, farmer with 10 acres, b Llanblethian (died 30/8/1876)  
Elizabeth, wife, 28 (died 10/4/1870)  
Llewellyn, son, 1 (died 5/12/1898) *Census 15*

1868 Elizabeth Richards, daughter, born - died 30/5/1870

1871 'Near Picton'  
Elizabeth Llewellyn, 40, farmer, b Llanblethian (died 29/2/1888)  
Edward, son, 13  
William, son, 12 (draper's apprentice)  
Thomas, son, 10  
Windsor, son, 8  
Elizabeth, daughter, 5 (the latter 3 born in St Nicholas) *Census 11*

1874 Elizabeth Llewellyn occupied; Lord Bute owned – cottage and garden (also farmed 21 acres on the Downs) *Glam County Rate 6*

1881 Uninhabited *Census 9*  
'The family was turned out in October 1880, about 50 years after the house was built'  
*Edward Llewellyn to Royal Commission 1893-4*

1882 David Jenkins @ 8/- p a *Royal commission LWM*

1891 John Williams, 73, labourer, b Llanblethian (died 22/10/1897)  
Mary, wife, 72, b St Hilary (died 18/11/1901)  
Helen, daughter, 40, single and a domestic servant (died 1/11/1924) *Census 51*

***Mr Edward Llewellyn, carpenter, of St Fagans:***

*My grandfather about 1830 built on some waste land in Llanblethian a house and buildings costing him, with his personal labour, about 200 shillings, the garden belonging to which he had enclosed some years previously. The house was built by my grandfather on the strength of a promise from the Bute estate officials that a lease in perpetuity be granted him at a rent of 1/- a year. Before the 23 lots of squatters' premises were offered for sale, Messrs Corbetts offered my mother 80/- for the house which she declined. Revaluation by the Bute estate office offered 100/- which she also declined. Eventually she was forcibly ejected from the premises on to the road by bailiffs accompanied by a policeman. When informed she must take 100/- or nothing, she accepted.*

*The house was then let to Mr David Jenkins for 8/- a year. My mother farmed about 30 acres of glebe land in the vicinity. The house was in a very good state - the best in the village as a cottage.*

*It was usual to build houses without a lease "on those places".*

*One other adjoining house was built in the same way. The family was turned out in October 1880, about 50 years after the house was built. In the house adjoining, the people were not turned out; one hedge separating the two gardens. The other house was probably built before this one in question. His grandfather had been paying 1/- a year to the marquess of Bute, and saw this as an acknowledgment of his right. People looked on this as a sort of freehold.*

*Q. Were these houses put up originally under the notion that if they were put up in a single night, it was legal?*

*A. Oh, no.*

*Q. They were deliberately built on portions of waste?*

*A. Yes - that house of my grandfather, the outbuildings and so forth, were not built for a few years afterwards, as he could come round, and he added bit by bit. There was a stable, cart-house and cowshed with the cottage. The land taken was about 20-30 perches. This carried with it a right of common on the waste - before this time there were 3 or 4 gardens adjoining, taken into the field at the back. Not by my grandfather however; the landlord adjoining withdrew those gardens into his field, so that they are enclosed with the field now.*

*Others bought their holding of the lord of the manor rather than be turned out. We did not have the chance. They could not accept any terms from my mother when she offered them. It was simply the greed of the Revd Morgan of St Hilary who wanted the cottage to*

*put into his field which adjoined at the back. He took in other gardens without the same resistance. He is the incumbent of St Hilary, the adjoining parish.*

*My grandmother died a few years before my mother, about 1876, having lived in the cottage 12 or 13 years without paying rent. She was turned out on to the road until that night when my cousin took her in - to another house.*

*Mr Edward John had previously given evidence about these cottages. Mr Corbett has also previously given evidence. The house is now let to another party - Jenkins has left - paying 8/- a year. My mother was left a widow to bring up 6 children. She died Feb 22nd 1888 after a heart infection.*

*Royal Commission LWM -minutes of evidence 1893-4, p.1318  
(reference to squatters at Llanblethian).  
Ref p.1321 to W.D Roberts Eastfield, Cowbridge, and Robert Lane, Llanblethian)*

1905	John Bannister, near Picton Inn	<i>Electoral roll</i>
1910 and 1915	Henry Ryall	<i>Electoral roll</i>
1920	Thomas Brewer	<i>Electoral roll</i>
1925 and 1930	Robert and Bertha Dicken	<i>Electoral roll</i>
1935	Alice Llewellyn (died December 1941) and Colwyn Llewellyn - Rose Cottage, first mention	<i>Electoral roll</i>
1945	Colwyn and Gwendoline Llewellyn	<i>Electoral roll</i>
1950	Colwyn and Gwendoline Llewellyn Gwyn Llewellyn Glyn Llewellyn	<i>Electoral roll</i>
1955-70	Colwyn and Gwendoline Llewellyn (both died 1973)	<i>Electoral roll</i>
1975	Daunter family	<i>Electoral roll</i>

***Sources/references :***

*Royal Commission on Land in Wales and Monmouthshire (LWM)*

*GRO = Glamorgan Record Office, where most of the source documents can be found*