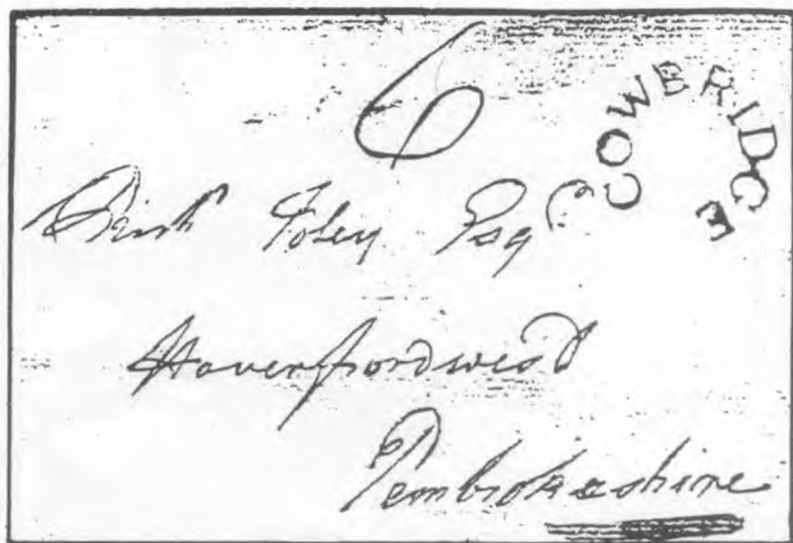


A LETTER FROM CHRISTOPHER BRADLEY

by Neil Prior

The cover illustrated below, containing a letter written on 9th January 1797, was sent from Cowbridge to Haverfordwest and was charged 6d, the rate for a single-sheet letter carried between 60 and 100 miles. The route would have been by way of Bridgend, Neath, Swansea, Carmarthen and St Clears.



Sir,

As the Tontine is paid in full I have taken the liberty of sending this acct. which I have no doubt but you will find Right - and will be much obliged to you for a Bill on London for the Ballance. Wishing many happy returns of the present season.

From your most obedient & humble servant

Christ. Bradley

Cowbridge January 9th 1797

1796 - Dec 25th

To first four shares of Tontine for Wm Cadogan for 3 years and one month's farm at £1.8.6d	18.10.6
I paid Mr Franklen your Rent for a field in Sept 1794 ..	3.10.0
Stamp Receipt & postage of a letter.. .. .	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>
	22. 1. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
By a Bill in London 18 Sept 1794	10.12.6
Ballance	11.8.10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paid at Cowbridge Friday 22 May 1795	1.9. 0
	<hr/>
	9.19.10 $\frac{1}{2}$

Tontine was a financial scheme which resulted in a monetary gain for the longest surviving participant/s.

Although Mr Bradley states that the account is 'Right', there seems to be a subtraction error in that £22.1.2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d minus £10.12.6d should be £11.8.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. One wonders if Mr Foley spotted the mistake.

Christopher Bradley was a member of a well-known coaching family in South Wales and was the host of the Bear Inn in Cowbridge for some 18 years. Re-horsing of the mails took place at the Bear Inn.

In 1804 a quarrel became public through the pages of *The Cambrian* between Bradley and his successor at the Bear, Michael Glover. Bradley inserted an advertisement in the newspaper under the heading 'Posting at 1/- per mile'. He thanked his friends and the public for their support during his 18 years at the Bear Inn, and advised them that he would be continuing the posting business from his own house, the Post Office in Cowbridge, where he had 'fitted up some comfortable sitting rooms for the accommodation of those ladies and gentlemen who may please to honour him with their favours. Refreshments may be had while changing carriages or horses. The public are particularly informed that unless they give directions to the drivers, either from Cardiff or Pyle, to drive to Bradley's, they will not be drove to his house, as the innkeepers do

not approve of lowering the price of posting; and CB is the only person in this part of the country who runs regularly for one shilling a mile'. Bradley also added that 'A hearse is kept, and CB means to have a mourning coach'.

The war of words continued for several weeks after Glover responded with advertisements of his own, in which he assured travellers that he was 'authorised by the landlords of Cardiff and Pyle to say that their post-boys shall always obey the orders of the company; but they appeal to the liberal public for their countenance and support of the inns upon the road, as they supported the Bear Inn whilst Mr C. Bradley was suffered to keep it'.

A subsequent advertisement hoped that he would obtain 'the patronage of a generous public, in preference to a peevish opposition'.

However, Bradley's business does not appear to have suffered after a mysterious fire burnt down his stables in June 1804. It was put out with the help of neighbours, and the horses were unharmed.

Source: Herbert Williams, *Stage Coaches in Wales*.

A few copies of back issues of the Newsletter are available from the Editor at £1 each, plus postage at cost.

During the first half of the 19th century, Christopher and Edward Bradley lived at *Treguff Place*. Edward became well known in the Vale as a prosperous Land Agent, practising in Cowbridge, and as a long-serving Secretary of the Glamorgan Agricultural Society.

He was certainly admired by at least two other people, according to the Llancafán Parish Register, which includes a curious entry for 24 October 1845. A child born to Elizabeth, and her husband, Thomas Henry May, Gent., of *Treguff*, was baptised with the Christian names "Edward Bradley".

Dear Mr Alder,

Mary thanks for your letters, which I received this week.

After extensive enquiries we are now considering the possibility that my husband's ancestors were Bradleys of Lowbridge, rather than Hlysworney. I feel that a member of his family has researched this matter in the past, and has put 2 and 2 together to make 5, so to speak! I shall therefore be looking at the family of Christopher Bradley at the Bear Hotel, and notice there is also the land agent and J.P., Edward Bradley. My husband's late grandmother always said that she was related to a former high sheriff of Glamorgan, and so I will see if I can establish any links via this connection.

Also, if I may point out the fact that there was apparently a 40 foot ballroom at Crossways House, which has now been partitioned into the 'Ballroom Flat' and is available for rent as a holiday home.

We are very interested in the fact that Prince Ranjit Singhji, 'The father of Indian Cricket', should have found himself in such circles as to visit Crossways House in the first instance. We are aware that he formed a liaison with Margaret Williams and that they later took up residence at Ballynahinch Castle in Conemara. Interestingly, it seems that the Indian film industry (the so-called Bollywood) are making initial moves towards a film about 'Ranji' as he was known. As he was something of a 'superstar' of his time, with such things as Ranji hairstyles being available, it seems strange that he visited Crossways in the first place. He actually played, I gather, for Sussex and England. It will be interesting to see if the Harbledown area becomes a Bollywood film star!

In the meantime, we have a missing person, Elizabeth Bradley, to find. She would have been born in 1870 (or a couple of years either side.) We can find no mention of her in the directions we have investigated. We do know she died, in childbirth, in 1896. At the moment inability to clearly locate her is holding back our research, in which we have traced back several

hundred years in other directions. We cannot, at this time, match up any of our findings, nor the ones you kindly ~~find~~ found for us, with the few details we knew.

My husband's late grandmother lived until the age of 104. Her father, who lived till he was over a hundred, married a Miss Bradley. He was called Arthur Tying and came from Arundel. My husband's grandmother, Hilian Tying (later Bartholomew) used to say jovially "I'm a Welsh witch, I was born in Lowbridge." She actually grew up in Arundel and her mother sadly died when the child was only three. We think the mother was buried at South Stoke, Sussex.

Members of the family think that her name was Elizabeth. We have never seen any actual evidence of her existence within the Bradley census returns or parish registers for Hlysworney. There may be a possibility she was the 'Isabel' mentioned in the census returns, we conjecture.

However, we are stuck at the moment. We do not know where else to look as we have tried many times to solve this problem.

Should you be able to advise us, we would be very pleased,

Kathryn Smith.

Cowbridge Record Society

1 Mill Park Cowbridge CF71 7BG

01446 - 773373

21st April 2002

Dear Mr Smith,

I hope you enjoy the Llanblethian book!

I have so far not found out anything about the Bradleys in Llysworney, but I have been able to locate a Gluepot Cottage. This was not in Llandow (though on the edge of Llandow airfield) but in the parish of Llantwit Major. As part of the Owen Williams (Crossways) estate, it was sold in 1924 when the tenant was Mr Joseph Parker. The map reference is 952712.

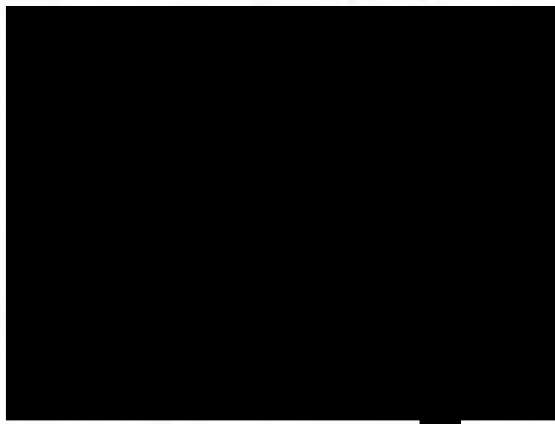
The name Crossways reminds me that you mentioned the house, and I presume that your mention of it being destroyed by fire came from a book about Llysworney, *Keepers of the Past*. However the author jumped from Crossways to the Pavilion cinema and ballroom, and it was that ballroom which was destroyed by fire in 1942, and not Crossways.

If you have other questions, I will try to answer them, as part of the work of the Record Society - all we ask is a SAE.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Alden



Cowbridge Record Society

1 Mill Park Cowbridge CF71 7BG

01446 - 773373

24th April 2002

Dear Mr and Mrs Smith,

I hope you've now had the Llanblethian book, and my accompanying letter.

I located a Gluepot Cottage, at 952712. If you have a 1:25,000 map, you will see just to the east of that reference the name 'Leechmere' at 942710, (and there is a prefabricated building near there which had the name Leechmore Post Office, if I remember rightly). It is possible that Gluepot and Leechmore Cottage were one and the same place, but a look at the first edition 1:2,500 map should clear that up. I think the West Glam Records Office in the County Hall at Swansea has a copy.

As far as Elizabeth Bradley is concerned, it is difficult to give any answers without knowing details of age, etc. We have printed out from the 1881 census not only the Llysworney information, which you probably have, but details of Elizabeth Bradleys who were servants (as seems likely, as two of the children were recorded as servants) in Yorkshire. There were two others, in Staffs and Lancs, but we have ignored those. If any of the enclosed Elizabeths seem to fit the age profile, you could at least look at birth records, as most of the sheets show parish details.

If you've not inspected the original census records, I would recommend that you do so, as sometimes printed data, such as those I've used, are not completely accurate. The hand-written originals might have parish details on.

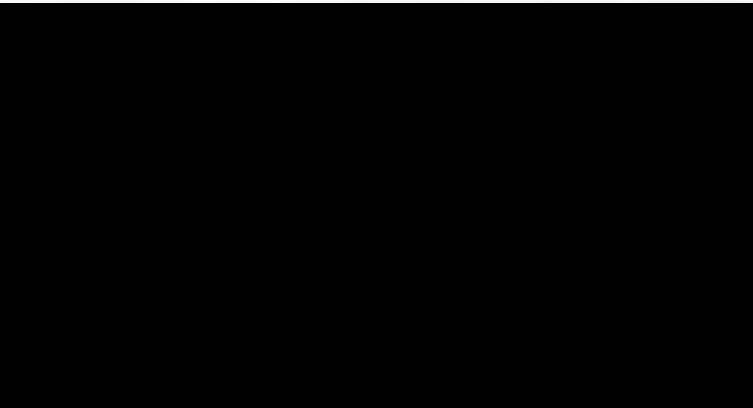
The 'Nash Estate' was usually considered to be the properties centred on Nash Manor, belonging to the Carnes. It included most of the farms in Llysworney, but extended into neighbouring parishes too.

Hope this is of some use. Thanks for the SAE!

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Alden



Dear Mr. Alden,

Further to today's phone call, please find enclosed a cheque for £6, for the purchase of your book.

Our interest in the area around Cowbridge is based on a family connection going back to around 1870. Around this year a gamekeeper called Thomas Bradley is recorded as working on the Nash Estate, having recently come from Yorkshire with his wife and children. In 1872 his address was Beechmore Cottage, in 1881 Great House (probably Hlysworney) and in 1897 as the Village Shop Hlysworney. He, his wife Ellen (also Eleanor) and several of their children were recorded in the 1881 Census (a document entitled Strays from Yorkshire 1881 records this

We are unsure which part of Yorkshire the family came from, as the place of birth is merely entered as Yorkshire.

We are particularly interested in one of Thomas Bradley's children, called Elizabeth, who went to live at Arundel in around 1890. One of her siblings called James was killed on the Tatt Vale Railway in February 1886. In Hlyswarney churchyard there is a monumental inscription dedicated to Thomas Bradley, Ellen Bradley and James.

We have never seen any recorded evidence of Elizabeth Bradley, nor can we find Beechmore Cottage or Gluepot cottage which was a given address. Do these names refer to the same house?

We wonder if you have any suggestions regarding further searches to find which part of Yorkshire they came from? Also, we are unsure if the Nash Estates were those of Nash Manor only or some of the other Carne properties in the area?

We would be grateful for any suggestions you might be able to make,

Yours sincerely,
Kathryn
Smith.

Michael + Kathryn Smith.

Cowbridge Record Society

1 Mill Park Cowbridge CF71 7BG

01446 - 773373

BRADLEY

8th June 2002

Dear Mrs Smith,

Thank you for your letter and for the information about the ballroom at Crossways: every little bit of information helps! I think the original link between Ranji and Margaret must have been via the initially very wealthy Owen Williams, who was nearly 40 years older than his wife, Margaret. I hope to go to Connemara this summer so will look up Ballynahinch: something else I didn't know.

In fact there's an awful lot I don't know, and don't think I can help you much with your lost Elizabeth. I suppose you have access to the 1881 CDs produced by the Mormons. From that I've printed out the details of the Llysworney Bradleys, and the Cowbridge Bradleys still living in the area, plus one from Cardiff. Certainly the Llysworney ones seem to be the best fit from what you've told me. There were no Elizabeth Aylings anywhere in the UK in 1881, according to the CDs.

Earlier there were Bradleys in Penmark and Cardiff as well as Cowbridge, all stagecoach operators. Robt Christopher in the *Bear*, Cowbridge, John Bradley in the *Cardiff Arms*, other family members in the *Angel*, Cardiff. There are apparently references to the Bradleys of Treguff in the Vale (Christopher and Edward, sons of Robt Christopher) in the newsletter of the Llancarfan Society, Nos 42 and 43, 1991, and a mention of Frederic Bradley who had enquired about the family. The editor of the newsletter is John Etherington, Parc y Bont, Llanhowell, Solva, Pembs SA62 6XX.

Hope the above is of some value.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Alden
Editor

1883, 12th February Late Mr Edward Bradley, born 13th May 1787, died in the 96th year of his age.

Patriarch, full of spirit, hunter's horn sounding merrily over many a field. Smartest and noblest man in the whole county. Booted and saddled, riding splendid hunters over hill and dale with the Glamorgan hounds. He was 61 when dear and immortal Iolo Morganwg died at his humble little cottage in the neighbouring hamlet of Flemingstone. He must have paid a toll frequently to Iolo Fardd Glas, when that worthy resided in the toll house of the Cowbridge gate.

Bradley family of Cowbridge – notes of Jeff Alden from the memorials in Holy Cross church

Elizabeth Bradley, wife of Edward, died 8th November 1827 aged 49

Edward Bradley, Alderman, died February 7th 1883 aged 95

Edward, son of the above, died 1st May 1889 aged 76

Herbert Edward, son of the late Edward, born 9th August 1843, died 2nd August 1922

Robert Christopher Bradley, died 18th April 1812 aged 62

Children of Robert & Elizabeth :

Christopher died 6th April 1786 aged 21 days

Charlotte died 25th November 1788 aged 28 days

Sophia died 21st October 1800 aged 17 days

Thomas died 27th September 1802 aged one month

Henry died 31st March 1804 aged 3 months

Elizabeth, wife of Robert C Bradley died 15th November 1829 aged 69