

Hello,

I got your name and email address from the Cowbridge website. An ancestor of mine, Mary Ann (May) Williams had the Blue Bell Inn on High Street in Cowbridge with her daughter Mary Ann Humphrey. I hope that you might be able to give me some information on the inn. I also hope that there might be a photograph in the collection showing the inn.

Thank you for any help you can give me.

Sincerely,

Oliver Andes

Dear Betty,

I hope that you don't mind my addressing you so informally. Thank you so very much for the information on the Blue Bell Inn which arrived in today's post. I am so pleased to have the copies of the photos which I will share with my nephew and my brother who plans to visit his son when he is a Swansea. I was very interested to read the description of my 4th great-grandmother Mary Williams (known in the family as May). I do have a photograph of her which fits the description exactly. I will make copies of the family photographs and send them to you for inclusion in the history room.

My 4th great grandmother, born in Colwinston, married William Williams. We know of two daughters one of whom was my 3rd great-grandmother Mary Ann. She married David Humphrey in Pen-y-fai Chapel. At that time both her parents were living in Bettws. The Humphreys had three children including my great-great grandmother Catherine Humphrey while still living in Wales. The family emigrated to the US where they had an additional child also named Mary Ann. When David Humphrey died, Mary Ann and her daughter Mary Ann returned to Wales to visit family and never returned to the US. Mary Ann helped her mother at the Blue Bell Inn and her daughter Mary Ann married John Harris. Our family has wondered if there are still Harris cousins in Cowbridge. I visited the town in 1972 but unfortunately had only a few hours there but I was able to photograph the Pen-y-fai chapel for my grandmother. We also wondered where the family members are buried. When I visited the chapel the graveyard was overgrown with weeds and I was unable to see any of the grave stones.

I was disappointed to see the present condition of the Blue Bell Inn as I thought only those types of changes happened in the US. Thank you again so very much for the information and pictures. I look forward to visiting Cowbridge when I can spend more time there.

Sincerely,

Oliver

2011

I am enclosing copies of several pictures of my ancestors who lived in Cowbridge. I've cc the fronts and also the backs to show the photographer's name S. Hayter. The photo of my great-great-great grandmother Mary Williams fits the description reported by Silurian: 'the Cowbridge Blue Bell, where seated in her armchair like a queen upon her throne, was a genial, motherly old lady, as sweet as a rose, and who, he thought from photos, much resembled Queen Victoria. It was the beloved and cultured Mrs. Williams, whose memory green and savoury for many miles around.' (Who was Silurian?) The group picture is of Williams' daughter Mary Ann Williams Humphrey (my great-great grandmother) with her

Mary Williams (landlady of the Blue Bell, Cowbridge) married David Williams, born 25/9/1825 in Colwinston, to Thomas (a labourer) and Gwenllian.

Their daughter, Mary Ann Williams married David Humphrey.

The children of Mary Ann and David Humphrey were – Catherine, Elizabeth and William.

The family emigrated to the U.S. A further daughter, Mary Ann, was born out there.

Mary Ann Humphrey married John Harris.

Their child was the grandparent of Oliver Andes



Oliver Andes

1861

David William	was Victualler & Omnibus driver	aged 35	born in Colwinstow
Mary William	his wife	aged 46	born in Cambridge
William William	their son	aged 7	born in Cambridge

871 ROYAL OAK NOW CALLED BLUE BELL INN

David William	was Coachman & Purveyor	aged 44	born in Colwinstow
Mary William	his wife	aged 30	born in Cambridge
William William	their son, drapers apprentice	aged 17	born in Cambridge
Ann Thomas	sister-in-law, widow,	aged 63	born in Cambridge

1881

Mary Williams (widow)	Scrubber	aged 72	Born in Colwinston, Glamorgan
Mary Ann Humphrey (widow) <small>daughter</small>	Housekeeper	aged 49	Born in Bedwelty, Monmouthshire
Hopkin M. Watts (grandson)	Scholar	aged 14	Born in Newcastle (Lidgend) Glamorgan

1891

Mary Williams (widow)	Licensed Victualler	aged 81	Born in Colwinston, Glamorgan
Mary Ann Humphrey (widowed) <small>daughter</small>	Assistant "	aged 60	Born in Bedwelty, Monmouthshire
Hopkin M. Watts (grandson)	Butcher	aged 22	Born in Glamorgan

1901	John Harris	hd	36	b Carmarthen
	Mary	winkeeper	33	b America
	dan Margaret		9	
	son David		6	
	mother Mary Ann Humphrey			b Ebbw Vale aged 69



S. Hayler 96 COWBRIDGE

MARY WILLIAMS
of the Blue Bell

'The Cowbridge Blue Bell, when seated in her armchair like a queen upon her throne, was a stout, genial, motherly old lady, as sweet as a rose, and who, he thought from photos, much resembled Queen Victoria. It was the beloved and beloved Mrs. Williams, whose memory is still green and savory for many miles around'.

Sturians in the Glamorgan
Gazette



DAVID HUMPHREY with wife

MARY ANN WILLIAMS HUMPHREY
(daughter of Mary Williams)

AND THEIR CHILDREN:

CATHERINE (with book)

ELIZABETH

WILLIAM

MARY ANN (born after the family
emigrated to the U.S.)



MARY ANN HUMPHREY
HARRIS

(granddaughter of
Mary Williams)



JOHN HARRIS