

Cowbridge Grammar School and Jesus College, Oxford

Jesus College, Oxon/CGS

1. Three letters from David Watkins, HM of Cowbridge School, 1685-6
 - a. Oct 15 1685 to Evan Jenkins, Maendy, stating that he had been HM of 'near this twenty years'
 - b. Nov 17 1685 re pensioners to Thomas Bedford at his lodgings at Doctors Commons, London (and April 13 1686) naming pensioners at this school since 8th Jan (1686):

Charles Robotham
Rice Jenkins
Henry Yeomans
Christopher Portrey
Thomas Basset

2. Letter from Daniel Durel, 21/8/1755 re Richard Evans: Entered CGS 14/2/1753, pensioner 6/11/1753; matriculated and entered as commoner at Jesus 16/6/1755; returned to school. (Question as to eligibility as pensioner). Referred to Henry Jones, pensioner, 13/12/1749. Had written in 1754 that this young man had been much out of order, his father (Mr Henry Jones of Ewenny, vicar of Llandewodwg and formerly of the College) desired he might stay longer in school to be better fit for the college. He is yet in school, the captain of it. Other pensioners quoted:

1750.	Wyndham Lewis (son of Mr Lewis of Newhouse, Mon)
23/11/1751	John Edmondes
9/12/1751	Edmund Williams
6/11/1753	Richard Evans
14/1/1754	Justinian Harris
26/1/1755	George Richards

3. (Ref SC 7(f))

Fellows

Thomas Williams, MA, Llb	25/2/1750
Robert Williams Howell, BA, Llb	20/10/1855
John Cole, MA, Cowb	27/11/1800
Charles Williams of C	0/12/1830 (bapt Cowb Ch 22/6/1807; scholar 1824)
John Lewis of C	8/6/1790
Robert Williams BA of C	21/3/1819

Scholars

Thomas Edmondes, C	1826
Thomas Thomas, C	1787
Charles Williams, C	1824
Thomas Williams, Llb	1751
John Cole, C	1790
John Williams, C	1808
Robert Williams, C	1812
Robert William Howell, Llb	1849
Robert Williams, C	1814

4. Property

- a. 1868, deed showing title of John Blackwell Dawson, Esq to Tregroes estate by succession from William Thomas of Tregroes, inc house garden and stable in Church Street occ Mrs Jane Lewis another house and garden adjoining the last occ Mrs Howe
- b. 23/10/1868, conveyance, JB Dawson to Jesus College, two houses in Church Street, bounded on

N by stables of WM Alexander of Cardiff and a garden belonging to Mrs Mary Ann Thomas of Cowbridge

c. 1920: Conveyance of site and buildings of CGS, and property in and b above, Jesus College to Glamorgan CC.

d. Comments from Jesus College (bursar?) n.d

“At the request of the late HM, the college bought two cottages for £409.10s and spent £141.15s on them. Mr Morson used them for classrooms and dormitories and Mr Price Williams has allowed them to fall into utter decay, and has actually pulled down a portion without any communication with the college so that the buildings are absolutely useless.

5. Rebuilding

a. A return of men's time at the schoolmaster's house at Cowbridge ending Sept 20, 1851.

Wm Parry, £2. 2s

Carpenters	Thomas Harry	6 days	£1-4s
	Geo Dawkins	3 ¾ days	13s. 1½D
	Thos Jones	6	£1 – 1s
	Abraham John	5	£0 17s – 6d
	Wm Williams	6	£1 – 1s
	David John	6	do
	John Evans	6	£0 – 18s
	Thomas Cox	6	£1 – 1s
	Thomas Morgan	6	do
	David Thomas	6	do
	William John	6	£1
	Thos Goodfellow	6	£0 – 18s.
	Plasterers	David Williams, jnr	4 ½ days
David Williams, snr		2	£0 – 5s
John Gilham		6	£0 – 9s
Masons	John Jenkins	6	£1 – 2s
	Geo Window	4	£0 – 14s – 8d
labourer	Thomas Thomas	6	£0 – 12s.

b. Dr to Henry Wood, Statuary, Bristol, 18/12/1851

Gothic Painswick chimney piece	£4 – 15s	
Packing and hauling to packet		5s
Painting three shields for do	£1 – 5s	
Total	£6 – 5s.	

c. Revd Mr Beever for haulage to the School House, Cowbridge

Dr to John Thomas

1852 To amount of bill delivered £5 – 11s – 8d.

April 1st; 2 carts and 3 horses hauling rubbish, 14s; pikes, 1s
also April 3, 19, 22, 27 and 30, etc

6. 4/3/1847 Letter from Diocesan architect of Llandaff (John Prichard) – had done a requested survey of the Grammar School bldgs : - so bad they cannot be improved and must be rebuilt; “ in a ruinous state and so ill arranged as to require extensive alterations”; any portion of the present bldg left would “have a tendency to ... prevent a more desirable arrangement”.

“All the apartments on every floor are of insufficient height varying from only 8 to 6 ft. To raise the rooms on the ground floor to the moderate height of 10 ft, the first floor to 9 ft and the attic to 8 ft will require an additional height of walling of about 10 feet, the present height of the eave course being only 14 ft.”

- unwise to put such additional height on old walls, though strong enough, especially “when it must be

borne in mind that under several apartments commodious (?) it will be necessary to remove the position of most of the present illshaped doors and windows, the apertures thus left however well they may be rebuilt must naturally have a tendency to destroy that bond of union which is so essential to the strength and durability of a building". - the retainment of any portion of the old walls would not amount to a saving of £50; has prepared preliminary sketches to forward for inspection.

7. 4/6/1847 Letter from Diocesan. Architect detailing plans for new bldg – had taken longer than anticipated. It “provided comfortable accommodation for the Master and for the Boarders, the number of forty, with such ...appendages as ...considered essential to an establishment of this description.”
- felt the sum they wished to spend inadequate to provide required accommodation; so obliged to adapt plan... “having regard to strict economy”.
.... “the schoolroom which is the only important part of the present building I propose to retain in precisely of the same character. The houses in the immediate neighbourhood possess much of the same style. It cannot fail to harmonise with the church which is hard by on one side, and the ancient town gateway which abuts against the bldg on the other. The great irregularity it admits of frequently increases the picturesque effect externally while it often affords a most convenient internal arrangement. It is economical and substantial, which I imagine must be a good inducement to you...to meet...the wants of the present day....to provide also for the exigencies of generations yet to come....”
“... the picturesque effect I expect will be produced by the varied disposition of the several gables, chimney stacks, etc, but by a careful comparison of the play with the elevations you will be able to form a tolerable idea of the light and shade which will be produced by those parts of the building which project and the others which recede
...the manner in which i have disposed of the dormitories. I thought that to arrange the beds as they are generally done in a hospital or an infirmary would not be very agreeable to the feelings of young gentlemen, for it is not pleasant for the occupant of one bed to be staring at that of another. . . . proposed to divide the room by means of boarded partitions which are not to be carried up to the ceiling but only so high as to give an air of privacy to each division, thereby preserving the advantages of one large room for the purpose of due ventilation.
...the apartments of the boarders are quite distinct from that of the master yet ready access is provided both above and below. The amt of accommodation in these pses is so great that to execute them satisfactorily will require the sum of £2500.
8. 16/11/1850 Letter from Thos. Edmondes (for churchwarden of Cowbridge) – the parish had given a small piece of churchyard to the College for the school; could they now have a small piece of school garden for making the path to the church straight?..... “It does not seem clear whether the boundary walls belong to the parish or to the College.....You will have a decently built boundary wall instead of the tumbledown one there at present”.
9. 6/4/1851 From Mr Beever to Dyke reporting on work done at the school - “.....6 shillings a day for hauling rubbish for 600 yds. I am paying a man for bringing me turf from more than a mile off.....The polished grate has come. It is already fixed. The fireplace is made up and the plasterers busy in the boys dining hall.....The man has just been to put up the bells”.
10. 14/11/1851 From Mr Beever – congratulates on “exceeding taste you have displayed a selection of those really beautiful chimney pieces I wish the windows would come”. Some problems with contractor Mr Parry.
11. August 1851(also September and October) From Wm Parry – is sending return of men to work.
12. 18/12/1851 From Mr Parry re the School House - “I have looked over the bldg and the work that remains undone is as follows: attics – the whole of the doors to be cased, the ceilings and walls to be lined; chamber floor – one door to be made and fixed, water closet in the dormitory; three doors to be fixed and all those that are fixed to be eased...lining ..much swollen from the damp; a window board to be made and fixed for the drawing room window; ground floor – two doors to be made, the back door...to be finished and the whole of the doors to be fixed lining.....a lock and latch to be fixed to front door, pendants to be fixed toposts of staircases; one coat of plastering, to access in dining hall, three soffits to be made and fixed to the dining room and study windows, shutters of the same to be fixed “ etc etc

13. 18/12/1851 "...I enclose.....for Gothic chimneypiece.....Chimney is in three large pieces and two small ones
14. 2/6/1864, from Thomas Williams to Heaton, bursar
"The grates in the house were paid for by the college, but 3 in the schoolroom and 3 with a boiler for hot water in the boys' dorm were not put in by the college. The kitchen range has also been paid for by me, and I have had to put in a new boiler as the old one is burst and had not been used for some years.
... Papering and painting in the house has been a heavy pull on my purse strings..."
15. 23/3/1865, Thos Wms to Mr Bursar, referring to petition for ball Court
"A capital piece of ground is to be had close to the school now let for about £3 pa. The building of a wall for the purpose of ball play would perhaps reach £80... poss less. At present the boys play agst the front of the house – inconvenient and unseemly.
I also think there should be a building fitted up as an infirmary. This is most impt as a safeguard agst serious injury to the school and poss ruin to the master. . . every attack that has seemed infectious has obliged me to revive the patient in my own part of the house."
16. 3/5/1865, Thos Wms to Bursar (Heaton) – urges him to bring his camera "we have some good subjects in the neighbourhood".
17. 27/2/1868, Thos Wms to Mr Bursar:
"A small property – 2 cottages with gdns, fronting the school, will shortly be sold. . . of one of the cottages I am tenant, using it for the daily work of the school in part (as a classroom where one master works) and having an infirmary in case of illness, supplying also 2 studies for senior boys. The other cottage is inhabited by my manservant. The rent of both cottages amounts to abt £25 a yr."
18. 24/4/1875: Morson has died after painful short illness (scarlet fever) . . .after thorough purifying of the pses
19. 27/4/1875: letters offering selves as HM:
Daniel Jones, curate of Llb with C
Rupert St Morris, Training Coll, Carmarthen
M Price Williams, Llangejni, Anglesey (prefers this to Beaumaris appt)
(W Hawker Hughes, Jesus C, Oxford, declined the offer)