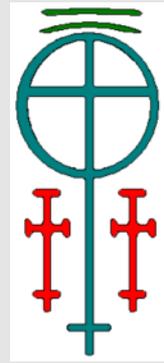


Meisgyn and Glynrhondda

Llantrisant and District Local History Society

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Rhiwsaeson Mill

Llantrisant & District Local History Society

President: J. Barry Davies
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Hon Social Secretaries: Sue & Ray Callow
Hon. Librarian: Geraldine Rogers
Webmaster: Jeff Brown
Hon. Secretary: Hilary Davies, 44 Parc y Fro, Creigiau
Cardiff CF15 9SA: llantrisantlhs@gmail.com
Editor: J. Barry Davies, Cerrig Llwyd, Lisvane
CARDIFF CF 14 0SG: Tel: 02920756173
johnbarrydavies@btinternet.com
Webbsite www.ladlhs.org.uk

A BRIEF STUDY OF FORMER WATERMILLS AND WINDMILLS IN AND AROUND THE PONTYCLUN AREA

By Edgeley Thomas

INTRODUCTION

I have always been interested in watermills and windmills. My first mill, with which I became familiar, was probably the one in Miskin [known for many years as New Mill] which since the 1920s has been home to the Miskin Mill Scout Group. On holiday many years ago I met an elderly man who had visited Wales on only one occasion and that when he was a young man. His holiday in Wales was, of course, as a scout in Miskin Mill which he remembered with some affection.

My first memory of Miskin Mill was as a young man in the 1960s when the Mill Race could still be seen from the River Ely as could the course it took under the road bridge [not the road bridge over the Ely River] heading for the mill wheel which had long since been removed.

This brief study, it seems to me anyway, partly fills a gap in knowledge of mills in this area. It has been said that just before the Industrial Revolution there were in excess of 10,000 mills in the UK. Most, but not all, were corn mills [or grist mills] to grind corn into flour and thence to sustain the population with bread and all kinds of essential food. Fulling mills were for cleaning and the thickening of wool after it had been woven; they were sometimes called walk mills or tucking mills. In Wales, a fulling mill was known as a pandy. Cross over mills were where a corn mill and a fulling mill could be worked side by side and could be converted one to the other. Crab mills were used for crushing crab apples but I have heard of none of this type in this area. One of the mills in Rhiwsaeson was, according to the Llantrisant Community Council website, "a flannel mill-long since demolished". As we will see later, the flannel mill was on Tontrugware farm near Rhiwsaeson but closer to Cross Inn. Rhiwsaeson village itself had a corn mill only.

Since I started my research I have come across a number of places where mills were situated which I was unaware of. Most villages had access to a mill and some, such as Cowbridge/Llanbleddian had at least two. We have all passed properties called "The Old Mill" from time to time but it has only been in recent times that I have called in to some of them to seek information on the building which gave the property its name.

What kind of mills are we looking at here and when were they most commonly used? Watermills are the most common type but there is the occasional windmill and tide mills as well although the last named are not covered here. Many were established in medieval times and some have been used until the early decades of the last century i.e. until the 1920s. Some mills were privately owned to serve the farms which grew the grain to be milled but many, also, were Estate Mills where the estate owner made it obligatory for tenants to grind their corn in the mill in return for a portion of the flour produced; this was called the Miller's Toll.

The St. Fagans Museum of Welsh Life has a working water mill which is well worth seeing. Entry to the Museum and mill has been free of charge for a number of years.

This study is not exhaustive so some readers will, no, doubt, remark that a mill or two they know of is not covered here. This is only a start and can be added to. Similarly, some readers will want to add to the information shown for each mill and this can be added at a later date also.

The Welsh Mills Society was launched in 1984 and was set up to study, record, interpret and publicise the wind and water mills of Wales. The website is www.welshmills.org

WHAT ARE MY INFORMATION SOURCES

From the Cowbridge History Society, friends and neighbours, census records, the Glamorgan Record Office, the owners or tenants of the various mill sites, ordnance survey maps, tithe maps, and various publications including *Llanblethian Buildings and People 2001* to name but some. Other thanks are included in the text.

1. Llanbleddian [Llanfleiddan] Mill



With thanks to Cowbridge Record Society [Llanbleddian Buildings and People]; the mill is on the left.



The Mill about 1910

This brief history of Llanbleddian Mill expands on the mill elements of the pages entitled “Llanblethian Mill and Greenfield Way” in “*Llanblethian Buildings & People*” published by Cowbridge Record Society in 2001.

In *Cowbridge and Llanblethian, Past and Present* by Brian Ll James and David J Francis [1979] is written

among the details of manorial administration revealed in the inquisition of 1314 and in the half year's accounts of 1316 which have chanced to survive, we learn that there were three water mills, one windmill and one fulling mill belonging to the manor and worth about £19 per year to the Lord. The mills were probably Llanblethian Mill, Town Mill and the Little Mill at Llanblethian on the Factory brook; the windmill stood on the demesne south of Broadway and the fulling mill was probably the Old Mill situated on the north side of Cowbridge.

In recent times, Brinsons and Birt in advertising the sale of a Llanbleddian property, claimed there had been a mill in Llanbleddian since about 1200, and said the existing mill property is probably Victorian or possibly built in the early 1800s. Life as a mill finished in 1947 and it has been a domestic residence ever since.

Llanbleddian Mill is clearly marked on each of the ordnance survey maps published between the 1870s and 1947 and was situated on the Afon Ddawan [River Thaw] near St. Quintin's Row. More familiarly, if one proceeds down Broadway from the road traffic lights in Eastgate, Cowbridge, and take the right hand turn at Llanbleddian Farm, a short walk will get the walker to the former mill site.

A Cowbridge History Society [CHS] document [CHS 04254] reveals

For at least 475 years a water-powered corn mill has existed in Llanblethian. The 1570 Manorial Survey records its

existence and then in 1582 the then Lord of the Manor, the Earl of Pembroke, leased one water grist mill called Llanblethian Mill firstly to Howell Meyrick and then to Thomas Williams, yeoman, of Llanblethian.

Bute D/218/3, NLW] and 1587 - Bute D/218 /11 NLW]

Sixteenth century deeds relating to the mill also exist-and also the sad details of an inquest in 1679 when Hopkin Rees, yeoman, was killed by the water wheel. Also from the same document, Revd David Nicholl of Llanblethian took a 80 year lease at £4 per quarter in 1694 [Bute D 218/17 NLW] but the 1767 Manorial Records show William Bruce of Great House as owner. A fuller account of the occupants starts with the sale of the mill, and Cowbridge Town Mill, by the Bruce Trustees in 1796 [D/D X57] to Henry Edmund, a Llanblethian farmer. When Henry Edmund died in 1830, his will – initially leaving the mill to his wife Elizabeth and then to his daughters Mary Rebecca and Elizabeth- eventually gave rise to a large number of people with an interest in the property. However, in 1840, Elizabeth was owner and occupier”.

The 1841 census record for Llanbleddian is on one side of paper only and no reference is made to the mill or to a miller. However, the National Library of Wales website on Tithe Maps indicates field number 317 [pasture and mill] was owned and occupied by Elizabeth Edmond. Adjacent to the mill was a field numbered 318 of more than an acre owned by one John Thomas and occupied by William Evans. The mill was an area of 19 perch for which £2 was paid to the vicar.

A descendant of the Edmunds family, Michael, in 2003 informed the CHS “Elizabeth, Henry Edmund's widow, continued to live at Llanblethian Mill until her death in 1844 according to her obituary in Y Drysorfa Gynulleidfaol. A daughter of Henry and Elizabeth married the Revd William

Griffiths of Llanharan who was a part owner of the mill in an 1877 conveyance.

Ten years later, the 1851 census is more helpful [District 22 HO 107/2461]. Here, Edmund [or Edward] Edmunds is the miller born in Pencoed in about 1802. He and his wife Mary had four children of whom William and Thomas are described as “Miller’s Sons” [aged 20 and 16] so presumably worked in the mill also. All were born locally.

In the 1861 census [District 2 RG9/4075], the Edmunds parents are aged 57 and 52. The household head is now described as “Maltster/Miller” and had his wife and unmarried daughter Mary, aged 24, for company. In this same year, the son William married Gwenllian the daughter of John Jenkins, a farmer living in Greystones Factory Road. [Llanblethian Church Records]

In April 1871 [census record District 2 RG10/5416], William Edmunds, the son of the previously mentioned Edmund Edmunds, is the resident miller and farmer as well. He was aged 41, married to June, and aged 35, with whom he had 3 children all born in Llanbleddian. John Edalls lived “near Llanbleddian Castle” at this time and was also a miller but whether he worked in Llanbleddian or Town Mill or indeed another mill we shall probably never know.

Again the CHS records the mill being auctioned at The Bear Hotel in Cowbridge in 1877 and sold to John Hopkins when it was described as *house, mill, garden and orchard [where there were growing several walnut trees] croft or quillet of land which divides the River Thaw from the meadow called Gwayn Beddor [D/D X 57].* A news cutting from the scrapbook of David Jones of Wallington [in Cardiff Central Library] showed that *The machinery of the mill had recently undergone considerable improvement, a machine for refining flour had been added, and the large wheels are of iron.*

This referred to a field near Cowbridge Town Mill which was some way from Llanblethian Mill.

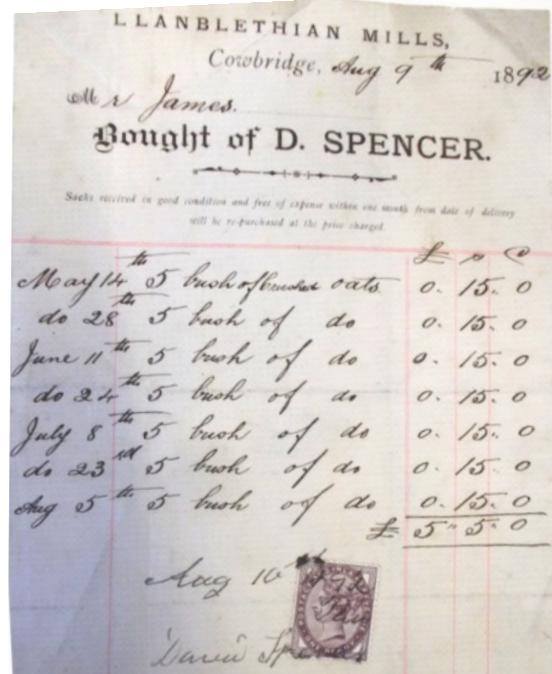
Another ten years on in 1881 [District 2 RG11/5329] and the Edmunds family is still in Llanbleddian but no specific address is shown for them; as no other family is shown to be living in the mill it is probably safe to assume they were there. William is described as a “Miller, Corn” and his wife is now shown to be Elizabeth with six children with ages from one to eighteen. In this year Aaron Boobyer aged 24 and from Somerset was a miller living *near Llanbleddian Cottage* with his wife Harriet. The Boobyer family continued to live in Llanbleddian at least until 1911 when Harriet was a widow aged 50 living with her son William in Picadilly, Llanbleddian. She died in 1952 aged 94.

Perhaps the milling business had suffered a downturn because when William Edmunds was 61 in 1891 [District 2 RG12/4453] he and his family were living in “*East Village, Cowbridge*”. He was now a grocer, his son John a baker, his other son Gwilym also a baker, his daughter Margaret an assistant baker and son Thomas an engine cleaner. The mill was occupied by miller David Spencer from Pendoylan aged

48 with his wife Margaret and four children. David was still in the mill in 1895 according to Slater’s Directory. Kelly’s Directory shows David Spencer in the mill in 1884.

The following is an extract from *Llanblethian in 1895 ; a Boyhood Walk* by The Late Alderman Robert Thomas which was published in 1982 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of their parent business, Robert Thomas the Cowbridge builder in 1922.

We come now to the mill which was going full swing, all the farmers bringing in their corn to grind. The corn was ground by an underwater wheel, the water flowing under the wheel, could only grind for a period unless there was plenty of water in the stream. The water was dammed by flood gates ,to stop the flow, quite an interesting procedure. The people who lived in the mill were the family of David Spencer-his son Llewellyn, quite a weight lifter. All their transport was by horse and sprung cart. Gilead Spencer was also a son but he was not in the business. He became a wheelwright.



Receipted invoice for sale of crushed oats 1892

With the help of the CHS again, by 1884 William Edmund had been replaced by the same David Spencer who had been born in Pendoylan. In the new century, ten years later, the Spencers were still in the mill, the wife being named as Hannah then.

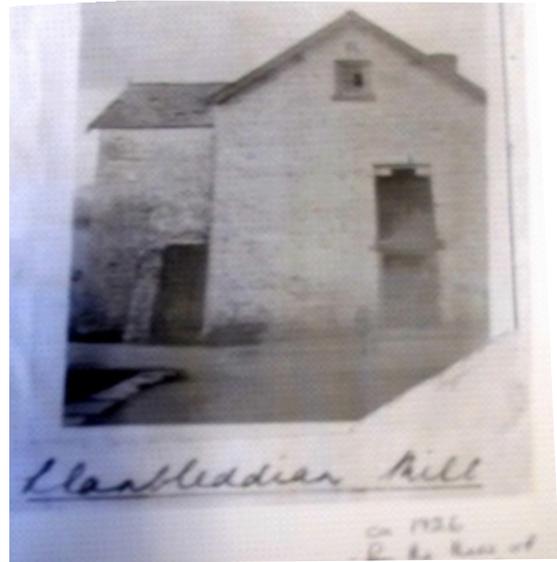
By 1911, the last census record available to us, [District 2] shows David Spencer’s son Llewellyn as the “Corn Miller” living in the mill with wife Sarah [born in Misikin] and two children. David Spencer [the senior], and his wife Hannah, were living at this time “near the Mill” and he was shown as “*Miller and baker*”. Hannah died in 1912 aged 57 after which David married her sister Elizabeth [Llanblethian Church Records].

Kelly’s shows William Nell as miller in 1914.

According to Kelly's Directory, Llewellyn Spencer was in the mill in 1920 and John Stone in 1923. By 1926, Harry Stone was named as the occupier and he lived there until 1954. Initially, flour was the main product but they also had a bake house on the other side of the road [where Afon Ladrad is today]. At this time, the mill was still owned by the Hopkins's, who had given land for the Baptist Sunday School and kept horses in the walnut orchard.

Harry Stone's son, Walter, helped keep the mill going until it was closed in 1948. Walter stated that closure happened after a visit from some local councillors with the River Board engineer who explained that the sluice gates were contributing to the flooding of Cowbridge. Walter volunteered to close the mill and give up the water rights. By then, the demand for milling had decreased a great deal and the mainstay of production had become rough-crushed grain for cattle and chickens and engineering developments meant that farmers could fix attachments [called kibblers] to their tractors to, produce the same product themselves.

The mill is now a private house but the stones of the mill leat which led to the mill wheel are still there but buried in the garden.



The Mill in 1926; with thanks to Cowbridge History Society



The Mill, Llanblethian

With thanks to Haydn Baynham. This could be late 1940s or early 1950s prior to the fitting of windows at floor level and after the garage extension on the left.



The mill in 2004; Thanks to the Cowbridge History Society and Brinson and Birt

2. Llansannor Watermill and Windmill



The above is an impression of a windmill in Wales about 1815; with thanks to Wikipedia.

To some residents of this settlement, between Llanhari and Cowbridge, there have always been two mills but although I had heard of the windmill [hence Windmill Farm where it was situated; just along the road from the Mountain School, Llanhari] the water mill came as a surprise. I discovered the site by chance on the way through the lanes to Windmill Farm because the house on the site of the mill is appropriately named “Old Mill”.

I should have reread David Francis’s book entitled *The Border Vale of Glamorgan* [published 1976, page 102 et seq] closer because he refers to the Gwyn Estate of Llansannor.. *...together with the water mill and windmill.*

In his book *Llanharry, Llansannor and District; A Memoir* [Cowbridge History Society, 2017] David described the windmill as of “four winds”. This means it was a ‘post mill’ the whole structure housing the machinery would have been mounted on a vertical post about which it could be turned to bring the sails into the wind.

The Dorset History Centre in Dorchester holds the Forde Abbey Estate Archive [D/FAE] of the Gwyn family who built and lived in Llansannor Court until about 1750. The catalogue identifies references to a grist mill and windmill plus lands in Llansannor [D/FAE/T/67; 1751]. These have not been examined but would, no doubt, shed further light on the mill and watermill.

The mill is inextricably linked with the Llansannor Court Estate since it was owned by successive owners of the Estate or Court and is but a long stone’s throw away. Some of those owners were, Richard Gwyn [16th and 17th Century], Sir Joseph Bailey [purchased in 1836], Sir Joseph Layton Elmes Spearman [who lived there until 1891], Sir Thomas

Morel[who bought it off Spearman], Major Herbert Watson [from early 20th Century]. In more recent years owners of the Court have been the Church in Wales, Arthur Jones and Michael Eddershaw.

The Ordnance survey maps of Llansannor from the 1870s to the 1940s are useful as each has Windmill Farm and the Old Millpond clearly marked; the latter in The Park surrounding Llansannor Court. No indications are given of the precise position of the mills themselves. The Afon Ddawen [or River Thaw as it is more familiarly known] provided the water power for the water mill.

Before moving on to the census records from 1841 [which were only a record of people and places on a specific day] and the Tithe records of the mid 1800s, the following is an extract from “Llansannor” which has been passed to me.

In 1690, Windmill was a small holding known under its Welsh name Melin Wynt. There was then a windmill close to the dwelling and its location is still marked by a low circular bank [see later present day photograph]. In 1811 there was an Enclosure Award for [what was then called] the New Forest area. After the enclosure, the land gradually reverted to its original state and in 1851 a tenant named John Thomas [who was not named on the census of that year] was farming only 30 acres on Windmill. In 1863 a further Enclosure Award was made to bring the land back into production. In 1871 Windmill was being farmed by Llansannor Court Estate. The old thatched cottage was extended and the stone farm buildings were constructed in about 1860. The farm had no natural water supply and two catchment ponds were installed.

In 1881 the tenant was John Davies [not mentioned in the census of that year] and in 1895 Evan Lewis of Talyfan. Some of Evan Lewis’s big family were sent to farm Windmill. They constructed a new windmill of timber utilising the former mill machinery. In 1901 following the sale of the Llansannor Court Estate the James family occupied Windmill under its new owner Mrs Babbage of Groesfaen. From 1919 to 1936, George Watkins grandfather of John and Keith Watkins was the farmer. The farm was sold to Jack Evans who was the first farmer in Llansannor to use a tractor. He brought the Graig and Bullen areas back into cultivation. In 1945, Tal and Joan Thomas, niece of Jack Evans, moved to Windmill as tenants and in a few years purchased it, excluding the Bullen.

In 1996, the Windmill passed over to Claire and John Rosser”.

The Tithe maps show William Huntley [possibly the Land Agent to Sir Joseph Bailey] to be the occupier of both Windmill House and the Water mill; both properties were owned by Sir Joseph Bailey who had bought the Llansannor Estate in 1836 and died there in 1859.

The census records for Llansannor from 1841 to 1911 are of some use in identifying occupiers of the mills. However, the 1841 census includes only a *windmill*, the 1851 and 1861 censuses include no mills at all, the 1871 census includes a

mill and a windmill, the 1881 census includes *old mill and windmill*, the 1891 census includes an *old mill* [of only 4 rooms], the 1901 census has *old mill* [uninhabited] and the 1911 census *old mill* only.

Before having a look at the occupiers in these years, Mrs Summers [the present occupier of what is now the “Old Mill”] tells me it is possible that the waterwheel was of a breastshot type. Wikipedia describes this as having a vertical wheel and a horizontal axle where the water hits the wheel roughly central, typically between one quarter and three quarters of the wheel height. The buckets of the wheel were carefully shaped to ensure the water from the mill pond via the mill race enters smoothly giving efficiency of 50 to 60%.

In “Windmill” in 1841 [Census; Llansannor District 11] was William Thomas a farmer aged 75, his wife Barbara, a daughter and a servant. There was no occupation of miller shown.

There was no mention of any mill or a miller in either the 1851 or 1861 census records.[Llansannor Districts 5 and 8] For the 1871 census [RG 10/5418], the “Mill” was occupied by William Newport aged 46, an engineer from Wiltshire originally. He and his wife Ann, aged 47, had five daughters four of whom were Wiltshire born but the youngest Hannah was born in Llansannor, suggesting a move by the family to Llansannor in the 1860s. In the same census, “Windmill” was the home of the Elay [?] family. John was a shepherd from Berkshire who lived with his wife Harriett aged 54. At the same time, “In Windmill” was William John aged 30, a labourer on a farm from Narberth and his wife Rachel and four children all born in Llansannor.

By the time of the 1881 census [RG 11/5330] none of those mentioned living in the mills of Llansannor ten years earlier were there. “Old Mill” was occupied by a George Mustoe aged 42 and an agricultural labourer from Cirencester along with his wife Eliza originally of Llangefelach. Of their four children, three were born in Llanharry and the youngest, Henry, in Llansannor. At this time, “Windmill” was the home of the Williams family. Thomas was from Colwinstone and his wife Jane from Penllyn. Four children made the

windmill a busy home and two servants Richard Bishop and Fred Bachelor provided some of the labour.

“Old Mill” in 1891 [Census RG 12/4453] had only four rooms to make the living space for Daniel Pegg, 42, a Butler from Mapperley, Nottinghamshire and his wife Elizabeth both in their early 30s. They had three children, two of whom were born in Lanelay, near Llantrisant. In fact, Daniel George Pegg is shown as Butler to Sir Joseph L E Spearman in 1881 when his family lived in Lanelay Hall, near Llantrisant. They had subsequently moved to Llansannor Court and the Butler and his family moved with them. For more on the Spearman family see my book entitled *The History of Lanelay, the Hall and the Lanelay Estate [2015]*.

In 1893 there were two auctions of property from the Llansannor Court Estate [Glamorgan Record Office DSA /12/488] at the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge. Lot 13 was for the Windmill Farm; no mention was made of the windmill itself but the farm of 234 acres was occupied at the time by Mr T David .The brochure was marked “not sold”.

A further sale at the Bear in September 1898 [GRO, DPR/68a.b] included Lot 7 for Windmill Farm of 235 acres. The occupier was shown to be Mr Evan Lewis. Again, there was no mention of the windmill itself; the papers were marked “£3350, Clayton” indicating a possible sale. Lot 9 at the same sale covered the Court itself and 407 acres; it included “The old mill cottage and garden” which was let to William Thomas on an annual tenancy of £346 and ten shillings. The papers were marked “£12,900 Morel” indicating a further possible sale.

In the 1901 census [RG 13/5408] for Llansannor, no mention is made of the “Windmill” so the last mention of it twenty years earlier probably means that by 1901 it was uninhabited and probably derelict. The “Old Mill” was shown as uninhabited at this time.

A sale, this time at the Mart, Cardiff in 1907 [GRO, DRA/21/461] included the “Old Mill Cottage and garden” and still under the tenancy of W Thomas at the same rent as shown above.



**The mound of the former windmill at Windmill Farm;
with thanks to Mr and Mrs Rosser**



A mill stone at the “Old Mill” now used as a garden feature; thanks to Mrs Barbara Summers.



The “Old Mill” in about 1968; with thanks to Mrs Barbara Summers

The last census [Penllyn and Llansannor District 7] which is publicly available, that of 1911, again has no mention of “Windmill” in Llansannor but “Old Mill “[Penllyn and Llansannor District 7] has David Evans and his wife Martha as the occupants. David, 41, was from Pyle and Martha, 33, from Penllyn. They had four children born in various parts of South Wales reflecting no doubt David’s efforts to get employment as a Farm Labourer.

Only a mound now remains of the former windmill but its situation, high up above the Thaw valley, made it an ideal place for such a mill. Mr John Rosser of Windmill Farm tells me it was a “pole mill”. This refers to the massive pole projecting from the rear of a post mill for winding it into the wind by hand.

Yet another sale in May 1914 [GRO, DPE72], under the instruction of John Fraunceis Griffith Esq., did not include the Court itself but clearly showed on a map the “Old Millpond”.

Continuing with the watermill, Mrs Barbara Summers tells me the mill house was converted in the late 1800s and its roof, which was formerly of rough bundles of straw called “boltings”, was replaced by galvanised metal sheets following a fire.

The leet used to run past the mill, of course, but its route was altered many years ago. Sometime in the distant past, the mill cottage was used as servant accommodation for Llansannor Court and at that time was a two up and two down building.

The cottage was bought by a builder in the 1960s and modernised. In 1976 the old mill was occupied by R J Brown. There were two further owners before the Summers family arrived in 1987 at which time water was still running through the building.

I am grateful to Mr and Mrs Rosser of Windmill Farm and Mr and Mrs Summers of Old Mill, Llansannor for their help. Mrs Rosser told me some mill equipment was passed to the mill in Ystradowen. The mill there was situated at Talyfan

Farm adjacent to the ruins of the ancient castle. In the former mill building is an RB 3202 Corn Grinding Mill made by Barford and Perkins [1840-1934] of Peterborough, England. Mr Nigel Randall kindly allowed me access to the mill building which, he said, was not of the conventional tower type but was a pole mill with sails which drove belts [some of which are still in place] to the milling machine itself. Perhaps this mill will be covered in more detail in a later edition; thanks to Mr Randall.

3. Brynsadler Mill [Y Felin Fawr; the Great Mill]

A fair amount has already been put on paper about this watermill especially in *Pontyclun and Talygarn A History and Topography* by J Barry Davies and others [2002] and also in *A History of Brynsadler and its People* by me [2008]. The aim here is to bring those accounts together and to add additional information and photographs which have come to hand.

The following extract from the 2002 book gives an overall historical perspective of the mill.

“The Great Mill stands on the north bank of the Ely River where Cowbridge Road crosses over to Brynsadler. In the Extent of his lands taken at the death of Richard de Clare in 1262 it was mentioned as Brosley Mill. It was the mill belonging to the Lordship of Meisgyn and to the Manor of Pentyrch and Clun to which all the tenants were obliged to bring their corn for grinding and it was always held in the demesne of the chief lord. In practice its manorial function had fallen into disuse long before the 16th century and it was leased out to local gentry who sub-let to working tenants.

The earliest leaseholder we know of is John Thomas Bassett of Pencoed in Capel Llanilltern who had it before 1540 and by 1570 it was held by his widow, Dame Elizabeth Walwyn. From a marginal note in the 1570 Survey it appears that the lessee shortly after that was George Mathew, gent., probably the base son of William Mathew of Radyr who owned Bryn Rhydd, the modern Lanelay Fach in Talbot Green.

The Survey of 1638 records “*One Water grist Mill called the Velyn Vawre houlden in lease by Thomas Mathewe of Castle Menych Esq.....*”. A Rental of 1671 lists Thomas Mathew, of Castell Y Mynach, grandson of the above, still holding the lease but thereafter no trace can be found until the valuation of Lord Windsor’s demesne estate made by Thomas Browne in 1779. By then the lease was held by Christopher Bassett of Lanelay.

Christopher Bassett Esqr. Tenant [of the Great Mill] for his own life from 1743, aged about 55, rent 18/- .A corn mill called the Great Mill with a drying kiln a garden and two pieces of meadow adjoining containing 1 acre one rood and 10 perch. This mill was built by the Bassett family and was let to David Rees at £15 p.a. some years back .It is uncertain what the mill will let for when the life drops, but I think it would be worth £7 p.a. and the tenant to do all the repairs. Thomas Mathew of Castell Y Mynach probably bought out George Mathew’s lease of the mill at the same time as he bought Bryn Rhydd and subsequently renewed the lease. However, the Castell Y Mynach family may have decided eventually that it was too distant from their main land holding to be continually renewing their interest. The building still standing, although no longer a working mill, is probably substantially that built by Christopher Bassett in the 18th century”.

A Survey, in 1824 by David Stewart, of the Estates belonging to the Most Honourable John Crichton Stuart Marquis of Bute and Earl of Dumfries [reference GRO D/D BE/1] included Felin Fawr as part of “New Park, Hendy and other farms in the Parish of Llantrisant”. The tenant was Evan David who was granted a lease from 2nd February 1824 for 31 years for the sum of £20 for the mill house, garden and meadow in all just over one acre. Judging from the triangular shape of the land on the terrier map, the land element was for the narrow strip between the former mill race and the Pontyclun to Cowbridge Road. It seems the 31 year lease was not completed because the Tithe Map of 1840 shows the occupier to be Richard Evans. The 1841 census shows Mary Lewis in occupation of the mill. She was 70 years of age and of independent means. In 1851, Morgan John and his wife Margaret lived there together with a lodger Joseph Mullins who was a porter on the railway. He was from Buckingham.

The 1861 census shows Morgan and Margaret John still in the mill; both were born in Llantrisant. Both in their late forties, they had a son, Morgan, aged 16 and a daughter, Margaret, aged 14. Joseph Mullins was still lodging in the mill, still a porter and then aged 23.

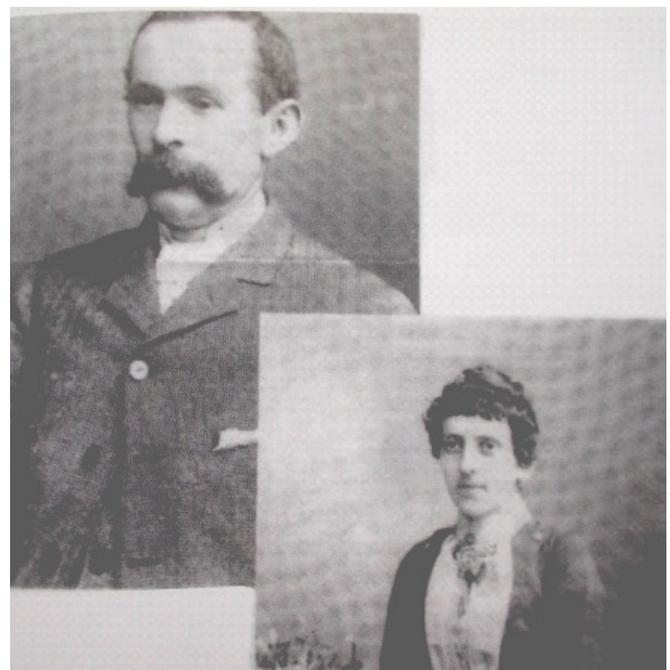
Ten years later, the 1871 census showed widower Richard Evans, 42, as a miller and farmer of 30 acres who was born in Llantrisant. He was a member of the Evans family of Maes-y felin farm in Pontyclun [now a domestic housing site plus the library] originally of Garth Graban Farm in Tonyrefail and who were founders of Capel Sion in Brynsadler. Richard’s daughter Margaret was aged 10 and a scholar born in St Mary Hill. Two unmarried servants completed this household; Roderick Roderick, a farm servant

aged 20 and Esther Davies, aged 25, who was a domestic servant born in Blaenporth.

By the time of the 1881 census, none of the occupants from 1871 lived in the mill. They were replaced by Jane John, a 43 year old coal trimmer’s widow and her eight children ranging in ages from five to twenty two. None of this family was described as “miller” and they had strong connections with Cardiff [where two sons and a daughter were born] and with Porthcawl [where the remaining children were born]. There was another family in Felin Fawr at this time. James and Jane Robbins – both of Somerset- had five children who included William who was a bundler in the tinplate works, presumably in Pontyclun where this business had recently been established. Three children were born in Llantrisant and it seems they had lived in the area for at least five years. Again no “miller” was in this family.

Rachel Williams, a 40 year old widow, was head of the Felin Fawr household in 1891. Rachel was a charwoman from Pentyrch originally who had four daughters, the eldest of which ,at 15 years of age, was already a labourer in the tinworks. Evan Davies aged 45 was a boarder and coal miner. “Near Felin Fawr” according to the same census lived Richard Thomas and his wife Mary plus John James a domestic servant from Nantymoel. Richard Thomas was described as a miller born in Llantrisant so presumably it was him who was operating Felin Fawr at this time. His occupation is confirmed by Kelly’s Directory for 1891.

The first census in the new century in 1901 showed Evan Jones, 44, as a corn miller born in Cardiff. He and his wife Catherine lived alone in the mill.



Richard Thomas of Felin Fawr and his wife Mary [see 1891 census]; with thanks to Mr Colin Davies of Pontyclun.



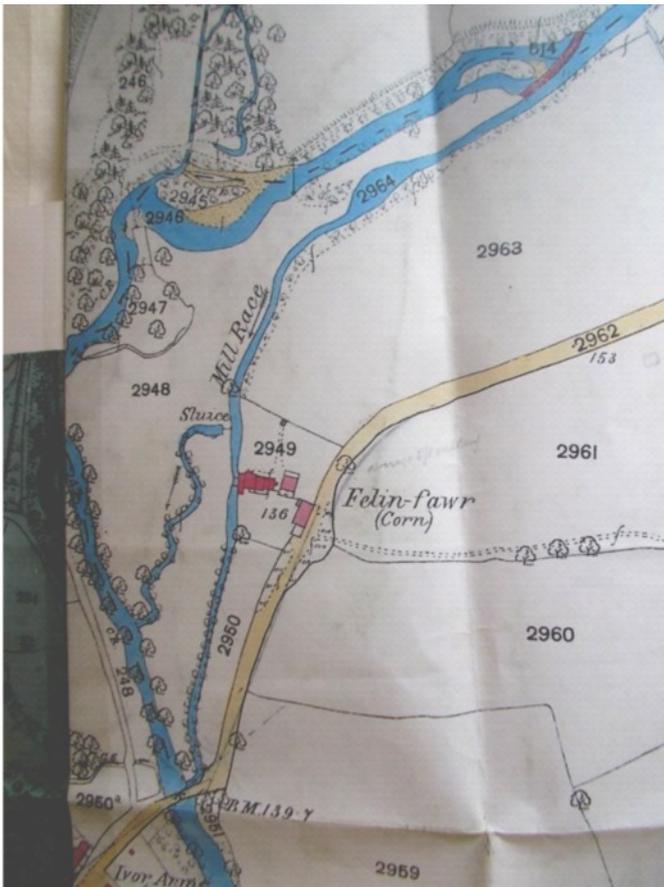
**Felin Fawr today; the mill wheel was on the left of the photograph.
With thanks to Mrs Wyke.**



**Present day rear of Felin Fawr; the mill wheel would have been on the right.
Thanks to Mrs Wyke.**



A present day glance into the inside of Felin Fawr taken from the small opening in the rear was [see previous photograph]. Thanks again to Mrs Wyke.



From the OS map circa 1878 showing the mill race flowing off the River Ely and rejoining it near the Ivor Arms. The yellow coloured road is that from Pontyclun to Brynsadler and then onward to Cowbridge.

Ten years later in 1911, Evan and Catherine Jones were together in the mill aged 54 and 52 respectively but Evan was shown as born in Pendoylan. He was “miller and farmer” and had been married 15 years but had no children born alive. This small family were wealthy enough to have a domestic servant Rosie Jiles aged 16 from Bath.

An ordinance survey map circa 1935 shows Felin Fawr to be “disused”.

The electoral registers of 1913, 1922 and 1930 named Evan Jones as a voter in the mill. In 1918 women were entitled to vote in the UK and Catherine joined Evan as a voter in the last two dated registers. By 1930 Evan was aged 73 and his wife 71.

In 1937, my parents Nora and Percy Thomas rented rooms in the mill and my late brother Tony “bucket” Thomas was born there in that year.

The 1939, 1946 and 1950 electoral registers name Charles George Wyke and his wife Ada Maud Wyke as voters at the mill.

Brynsadler Mill, house and land is currently on the market with H R Thomas of Cowbridge.

4. Rhiwsaeson Mill

The history of Rhiwsaeson mill was covered in some detail by Barry Davies in the last issue (M&G Vil X No1) down to 1911. All I need add here is a note of two subsequent sales. In 1920, the Hendrescythan Estate was put up for sale by order of Lady Morgan. The sale details are shown in the Glamorgan Record Office [GRO] file GD/ LA/15/133 which is the Land Agent record. The 20 lots of 630 acres included *Lot 2 Rhiwsaeson Corn mill of 5 acres*. The occupant was Edward Dummer. Furthermore, *The mill house which adjoins the mill [which is in working order] has parlour, small sitting room, kitchen, pantry, 4 bedrooms; outside scullery and WC.....water to the mill is by a mill race*. The papers were marked “£520 William Jones.

GRO DX/31/48/1-2 is the record of the sale of Rhiwsaeson Mill in 1979. The papers state that the mill was in a poor state of repair but was used up to about 1920. Also, the mill had a good name for producing a fine product; in World War 1, wheat was ground there for bread making. The papers are marked *abortive sale* and that the property had been vacant for some little time but there was *scope for extension*.

A recent owner of the mill, Mr Michael Ashdown, bought the “Old Mill” in the early 1980s from an elderly couple. He kindly allowed me to copy a number of his photographs of the mill from many years ago.

5. The Flannel Mill at Tondrygwair near Rhiwsaeson

The flannel mill on Tondrygwair farm was sited on Nant Cyndda bach adjacent to the farmhouse. It was described by Barry Davies in NI 94, December 1991. Originally a corn mill it is mentioned in a deed of mortgage dated 25 August 1676 ... *a moiety of a tenement called ton y drgwair with*

moiety of watergrist mill called Melin y drwgwair, otherwise Melin Evan Griffith, in Llantrisant ... D/Ed 189

The marriage settlement of David Griffith the freeholder in 1685 has *‘...closes of land called y waine 6 a. Kaia yr graige 12a. Y weren 5 a. Kae yr odynd and gwaine yr odynd 4 sa. And a mill called Velyn Tondrygwar and kiln in Llantrisant...*

The same David Griffith in his will dated 1709 left to his daughter Mary David *‘a certain tenement called Ton Drugwair and one water grist mill upon the said tenement ...*

In 1743 the tenement was sold to Thomas Edmondes gent then of Llantrithyd and agent to Sir Thomas Aubrey but subsequently of Cowbridge. In 1753 *the messuage and farm called Tondrugwa with water grist mill* was leased for 21 years to Mr James Prichard of Talygarn

In terms of census records, 1841 Thomas and Ann John and a 10 year old, Mary, were the occupants. Thomas was a mason so the water grist mill was apparently no longer operating.

In 1851, “Tondrygwair factory” was occupied by George Hill and his extensive family plus Edmund Norton, a 17 year old servant. George was a 44 year old “*Woollen Manufacturer*” born in Llandaff; his wife Margaret was also aged 44. They had 7 sons and 2 daughters in ages ranging from 25 to 31. Son John was a spinner, son Richard a weaver and son William a corder. In 1841 George Hill, a weaver, had been living at a ‘factory in Newbridge, i.e. Pontypridd. In origin he was either from Cumberland or Scotland where his wife was born.



Rhiwsaeson “Old Mill” in the foreground in 2018.



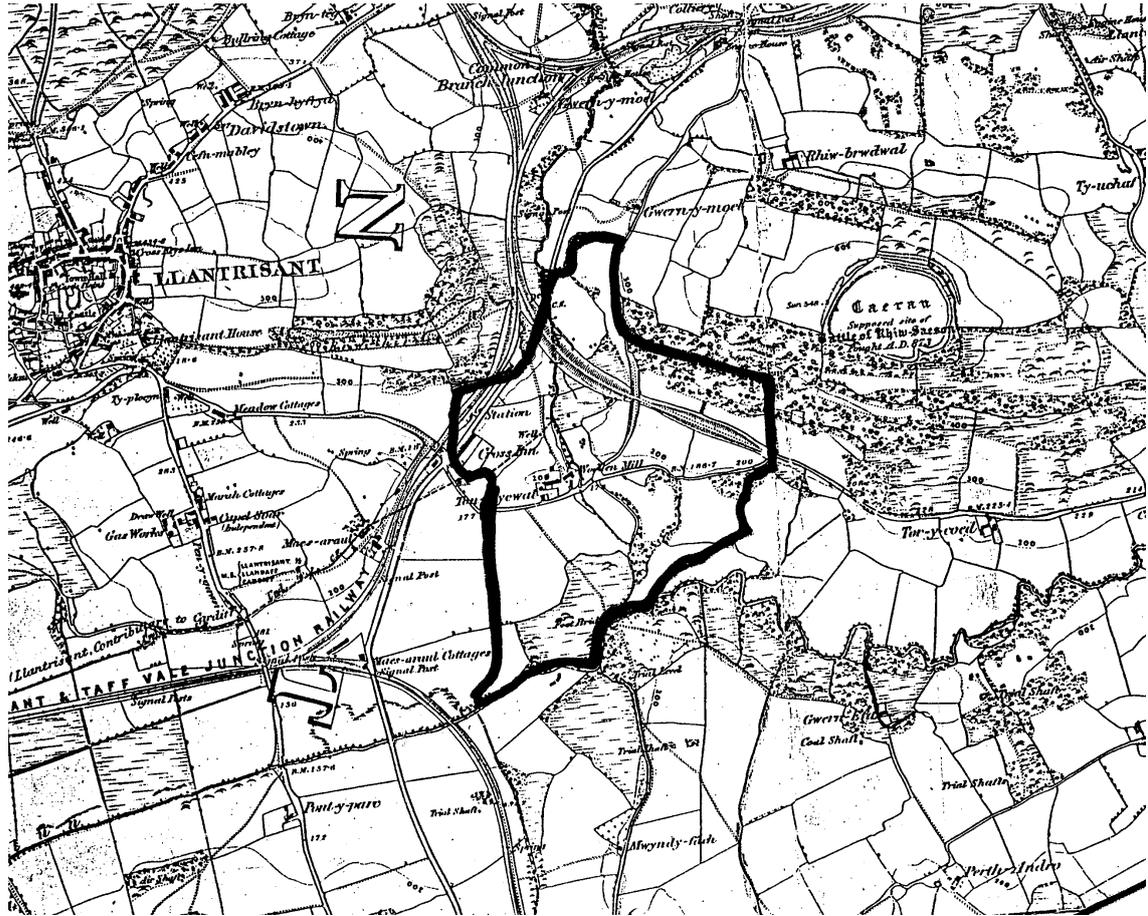
**Rhiwsaeson Mill [extreme left] and the Mill House in 1905.
With thanks to Mr Michael Ashdown.**



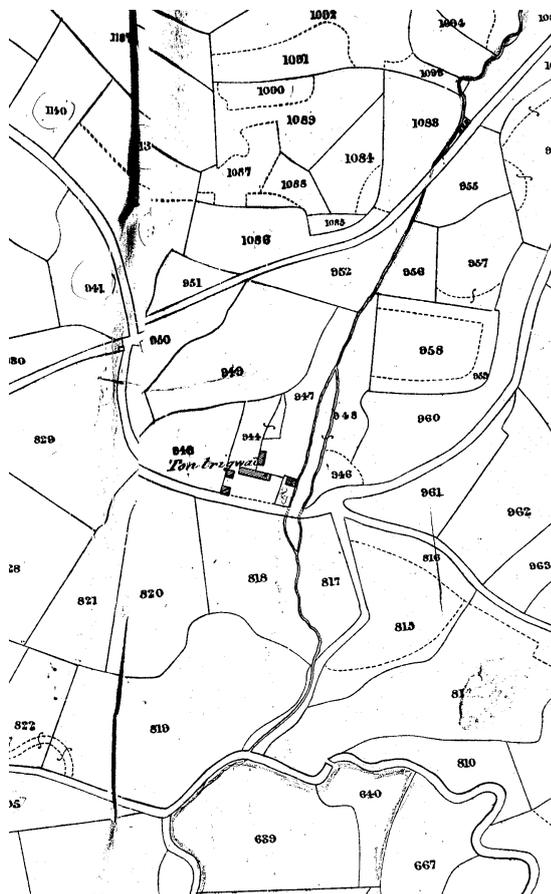
**Rhiwsaeson Mill about 1910; the Mill itself [extreme left] and Mill House.
Thanks to Mr Michael Ashdown.**



**The Old Flannel Mill, Rhiwsaeson in 1914
Kept by a Mr. Evans. The Mill is demolished**



First Edn 6 inch OS map 1881 showing Tondrhwair farm and mill



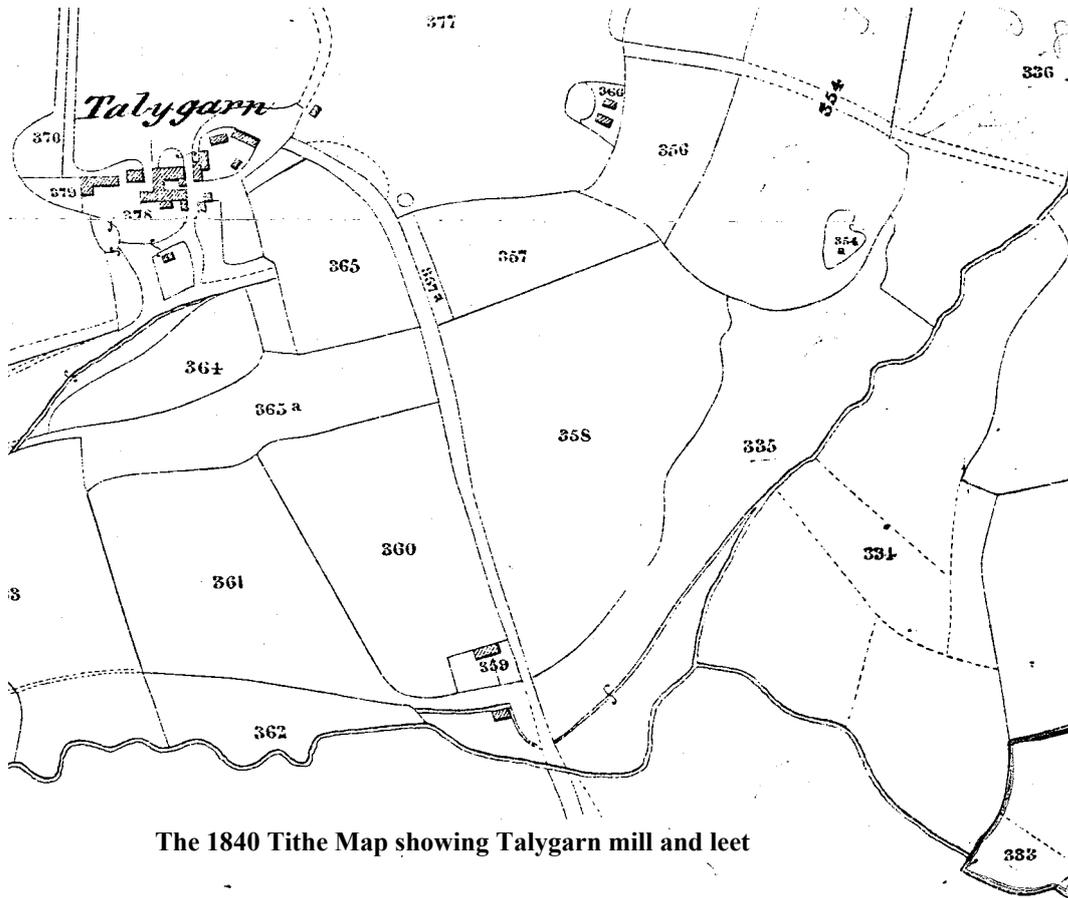
The 1840 Tithe map showing Tondrhwair Faerm and Mill

Another ten years later, in 1861, “Tondrhwair factory” was in the hands of George’s son John and his wife Mary each aged 35. John was born in Cumberland and Mary from Llantrisant. There was a son also named John. John Ford was aged 20 and was a “corder” born in Cardiff. A lodger, John Davies aged 70 was a mason.

The factory appears in the 1871 census occupied by Thomas and Mary Evans and their two children. Thomas was described as “Woollen Manufacturer” born in St Hilary.

A building shown as “Factory” appears in 1881 occupied by John and Jane Jones both from Carmarthen. John was a “Wool Spinner” by trade. They had three young children.

The 1891, 1901 and 1911 census returns are silent on any factory.



The 1840 Tithe Map showing Talygarn mill and leet

6. Talygarn Mill

No doubt, originally the manorial mill of the one-time independent lordship, nothing remains today of Talygarn mill. The geography of the area has changed a great deal since the 1840 Tithe map which showed Talygarn Mill owned by the Rev. Doctor Lisle and occupied by Meyrick Thomas. Fields and properties were numbered, 359, 360 and 361 and described as a cottage, garden and Mill. All these appear to have been submerged by the lake created by George Clark after he purchased Talygarn house and lands in 1865.

To get to the site of the former Mill, follow the signage to "Talygarn Manor" from the Pontyclun to Cowbridge road and proceed past Talygarn House itself [now converted to several residences]. The road leads downhill to the lake. The Mill was probably situated near the present lake overflow on the lake side of the road which goes to the Keeper's Lodge Farm. The Nant Rhydhalog stream, which still keeps the lake fed, comes from Ystradowen moors and must surely have driven the now disappeared Mill wheel. After the lake and heading to the River Ely, the stream becomes the Nant Dyfrgi [Otter's Brook]. There is a presumption that the Mill itself was demolished as part of the Clark plan to create his lake and was not mentioned in the book G T Clark, *Scholar, and Ironmaster in the Victorian Age*.

Mr. Paul Griffiths, formerly of Lake View, Talygarn tells me the present semi detached Lake View houses date from about the mid 1800s and the central portions were the original Mill House with the Mill itself not being a residence.

Meyrick Thomas lived in Talygarn Mill when the 1841 census was taken, was 55 and a carpenter. He lived with his wife Mary, aged 55, and with [it seems likely] sons Ebenezer, Miles and Meyrick junior. In common with all subsequent census detail, no occupation of miller is mentioned. The mill-race is clearly marked on the tithe map but it seems likely that the mill was by then disused.

In the 1851 census, Meyrick and Mary Thomas were still in the Mill and were shown to be from St Mary Hill and Pentyrch respectively. Both were age 66 but had only one son, Miles, living with them. He was a journeyman carpenter. No property in Talygarn was described as a mill or mill house in the 1861 census.

G T Clark bought the Talygarn property in 1865 and in 1871, William Angell, a shepherd, and his wife Sarah lived in the mill. He was from Gloucestershire and she from Llanhari. Probably recently married, they had three children aged 4, 2 and two months; each born locally. Also living in a second property called Talygarn Mill were John Airdrie, his wife Mary and their children. All were born in Scotland.

No property in Talygarn in the 1881 census was described as a mill or mill house. A number of houses were noted as being in "Talygarn" but none of the occupants was a miller. The subsequent censuses up to 1911 are similarly silent on mills, mill houses and millers.

No photographs have been found of the mill and ordnance survey maps from the late 19th to early 20th centuries do not show a mill at all.

7. Llanhari [Llanharry] Mill or Y Felin Vach

The Mill, of which nothing remains and of which no photograph or drawing has been seen, used to be about 400 yards up the Nant Felin Fach, on the north bank from the point where it joins the Ely River near the bridge in Brynsadler, near Pontyclun. Put another way, the access path or road to the mill used to cross the two fields at the bottom of the lane from Llwynau Farm where it joins the road from Brynsadler to Llanhari.

The Mill was part of the Trecastle Estate until it was sold in 1906. The details of the sale of the Newton and Trecastle Estates are shown in the sale catalogue from that year, a copy of which is held by the Glamorgan Record Office [GRO] [DSA/6/107/1]. The Ordnance Survey Six-Inch map of 1897 which was published in 1900 shows the Mill "In Ruins" but this is a reference to the "new" mill which was built some time after 1815 when an agreement was signed by Eleanor Savours of Cowbridge, the owner of the Trecastle Estate and William Rosser, of Llanharry, who was Miller. Rosser signed with his mark. That agreement was a lease for 100 years or the length of the lives of William Rosser [aged 46] himself, his son Robert [aged 12] or his servant Morgan Thomas [aged 23]. On the evidence of the Ordnance Survey map all three lives had dropped by 1915. The lease allowed the timbers, stones and other parts of the old mill to be used to build a new one; it also allowed certain felled trees to be put to similar use.

The 100 year lease had a fixed annual rent of £15.15.0d which had to be paid on a quarterly basis. There were 4 acres in all which included the Water Grist Mill [called Y Felin Vach], cottage, oat kiln, a field and some waste groundNear Trecastle, Llanharry. As we shall see later, the rental income from the Mill was just a small part of the income of Eleanor Savours who died in the early 1860s.

Returning to the 1906 sale of the Trecastle Estate, Lot 22 of 122 acres covered Ty Draw and Ty Du farms. The map accompanying the catalogue [part of which is reproduced in this account] shows Llanharry Mill but the area on which it sat was described as "*pasture*" confirming that the Mill had ceased to function by this time. The vendors of the Estate were the Trustees of Richard Thomas Samuel who had died in 1906. He, in turn, was the heir to John Samuel Gibbon who died in 1893.

GRO ms DTRE/811 is a schedule of freehold farms and lands of Eleanor Savours [Deceased]. It comprised the following with annual rentals included;

The Castle; Llanharry parish £155.0.0
Ty Du; Llanharry Parish £82.0.0
Tyn y Waun; Llanharry Parish £20.0.0
Cwm Grau; Llanharry Parish £10.10.0
The Castle Mill; Llanharry Parish £15.15.0 [This must be Y Felin Vach]
Orchard Farm; St Athan £160.0.0
Leigh Castle, Llancarfan £40.0.0
Pentre Farm; Llantrithyd £105.0.0

The total income from these properties in 1863 was about £588 per annum, equivalent to about £69,000 today. John Samuel Gibbon inherited these properties and when he signed off the Inland Revenue *Succession Duty on Real Property* form in 1870, he stated he was a *Descendant of a sister of the mother of the predecessor*. He paid Duty of nearly £488 including interest of £67. Webster's Directory of Bristol and Glamorgan shows a J S Gibbon as "Lord of the Manor" in 1865.

The layout of the area of the Mill is clearly shown in the various Ordnance Survey maps produced over the years and the Tithe map of 1841. Some are reproduced here with thanks to the publishers. The 1875 survey [published in 1885] shows Llanharry Mill [Corn] and the Mill Dam close to the Llantrisant to Cowbridge railway line which follows the Nant Felin Fach at this point. The revised edition published in 1900 shows it *In Ruins*. Another revision published in 1921 simply refers to Llanharry Mill. The map enclosed with the sale documents from 1906 shows two springs up the gradient from the Mill and Ty Du Reservoir [Llantrisant and Llantwit Fardre Rural District]. Presumably the springs fed the reservoir and the Mill Dam which stored the water to drive the mill wheel when necessary. Perhaps the Nant Felin Fach was the receptacle for the water after it had driven the mill wheel rather than driving the wheel itself.

Another early reference to the Mill is found in the deeds and papers of Trecastle Estate [Gibbon family] 1699-1809 including*Trle-Garw, and watermill called Y Felin Fach, kiln and smith's forge, in Lanhari.....*" [GRO DVL/216/1]. It is a 1699 document which is very difficult to read. This was in the 11th year of the reign of William 111 and is between Jennet Gibbon [widow] and her brother Edward Gibbon. For a sum of £400 pounds paid by Jennet Gibbon to her brother she acquired two local properties and "Y Felin Fach, kiln and smith's forge". This seems a huge sum but, of course, the largely unreadable agreement could detail other properties as well.

There is reference to a "Final Concord for £800" [GRO DTRE/288] dated 24th April 1671, written in Latin, which names a number of the Gibbon family, mentions ten messuages and "...water mill and land in Llanharry".

In 1751 [GRO DTRE/660] there is a deed and related documents regarding a pre-nuptial settlement between William Gibbon [the only son of Grant Gibbon] and Alice, the daughter of Rees Powell of Llanharan, gent. Included in the agreement was ...*corn grist mill with kiln and watercourses; all in Llanharry.*

September 1814 was when a Deed of Partition regarding the Trecastle Estate was drawn up [GRO DTRE/717-721] which mentioned Thomas Williams of Cowbridge, Elizabeth the sister of the late William Gibbon, Eleanor Savours of Cowbridge, widow, and the Rev. William Williams of Cowbridge. It included*water grist mill called y felin vach, kiln and smith's forge....*

The day to day slog in the mill was carried out by the miller and his helpers and we can see their names and some other detail from the census records from 1841. In that year,

[HO/107/1416/11] we see Thomas Edward as miller with Ann aged 33 and three young children .Sarah John aged 25 was a servant. All were born within the county.

In 1851, the same Thomas Edward and his wife Ann were 45 and 46 years of age respectively. They now had five children in ages from 14 years to 7 months. We see that Edward was born in Pencoed and his family all born in Llanhari. The tithe map shows the occupier as Edward Thomas and the owner as Robert Saviours.

“Little Mill“ in the 1861 census was occupied by Thomas Thomas, 35, and his wife Jane aged 32. Ann was their child aged 2.

“Mill” in 1871 had the same occupants as 1861, all 10 years older.

The Thomas family no longer occupied “Little Mill” [they had moved to the Boars Head public house in Tyle Garw] during the time of the 1881 census. Into the mill had moved Evan Morgan, a millwright, born in St Nicholas and his wife Mary also of that village. They had seven sons and a daughter aged from one to 21. Most were born in Llanblethian.

The 1891 enumerator of the census in 1891 reverted to the Welsh “Felyn Fach”; the Morgans had left the mill and in had moved Isaac Merryfield and his family. He was described as a general labourer [not miller] from Somerset. His wife Louisa was 61 and their son William 17; he was a labourer in the tinworks. A grandson Edgar Merryfield aged 3 completed the family.

The 1901 and 1911 census records are silent on the mill. Significantly, the ordnance survey map of 1900 shows the Llanharry Mill as “In ruins”.



1870s map showing the position of the mill in relation to the Llantrisant to Cowbridge railway and the Nant Felin Fach.



The Nant Felin Fach at the point where the former road crossed it to get to the Llanharry Mill. In the distance is the Brynsadler to Llanharry road.

8. Hensol Mill and Farm

The history of the Mill and Farm are inexorably linked to the Hensol Estate of which the Mill and Farm were once part. The Mill, therefore, was an Estate Mill to which the estate tenants would be compelled to take their wheat etc for grinding in return for which the Estate would take a share. This was called the Miller's Toll.

Some history of the owner's of the Estate will give the reader a good idea from whom the successive tenants of the Mill rented it. According to Wikipedia, the Hensol Estate dates from at least 1419 and the sources of the following can be seen online at that site. It was owned by the Jenkins family in the 17th century and the house itself was said to have been built by David Jenkins' great grandfather David Tew. In 1721 the Jenkins' line became extinct with the death of David Jenkins and the Estate passed to Charles Talbot [1685-1737]; he had married the Jenkins heiress Cecil who died in 1720 and became Baron Talbot of Hensol. There is a clear link in the Talbot family to William Henry Fox Talbot of photographic fame. In 1789, the Estate was sold by the Talbot family to Samuel Richardson [1739-1824] a banker, who is said to have made many improvements to the Estate. He left Hensol in 1815 and Hensol was purchased by Benjamin Hall [1778-1817] who was son of the Chancellor of the Diocese of Llandaff. He had married Charlotte the second daughter of Richard Crawshay [1739-1810] the ironmaster of Cyfarthfa, Merthyr. Their first son was also Benjamin and was involved in the rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament and the naming of the hour bell "Big Ben".

Following the death of Benjamin Hall, the Estate was put up for sale in 1824 and bought by William Crawshay the second [1788-1867] who later built Cyfarthfa Castle. Another ironmaster bought Hensol in 1838; he was Rowland Fothergill [1794-1871] of Abernant. He rebuilt Pendoylan Parish Church. On his death, the Estate passed to his unmarried sister, Mary [1797-1887] and on her death to her sister Ann Tarleton-Fothergill [1802-1895]. In 1895 it passed to her daughter Lady Isabella Elizabeth Price Fothergill [1839-1918]. Her second son, Sir Francis Caradoc Rose Price [1880-1949] inherited Hensol on her death in 1918 but the Estate was up for sale in 1923. It is said that the actor Dennis Price [1915-1973] had a connection with Hensol through the Price family. Then, in 1926 Hensol was bought by Glamorgan County Council for use as a County Mental Hospital.

The site of the former Mill and Farm is now occupied by a substantial domestic property and is situated south of Junction 34 of the M4 Motorway; take the road south off Junction 34 and follow the sign for Pendoylan [Pendeulwyn], take the sharp right turn at Tynnyplancau Farm and the site is at the corner of the T junction a short distance ahead. The left turn is the road to the Vale Hotel and the right turn to Hensol Villas and, after a mile or so, to Miskin village.

This history is meant to be in chronological order but inevitably some overlap between tenancies, ownerships and personalities is inevitable.



A sketch of Hensol Mill showing [bottom centre] the mill itself and the barn. The mill race can be seen from the mill pond almost encircling the property. The road [going to the top right] passes Hensol Cottages and onward to Miskin. The road to Pendoylan is at bottom right.

When was the Mill established and who were the tenants/residents of the Mill and Farm?

The date of the building of the first mill on this site remains to be discovered but the census records from 1841 show the names of tenants. However, there was a mill on this site in 1824 and most probably earlier. The map of the sale of the estate in 1824 [Surrey History Centre G85/2/1/2/56] after the death of Benjamin Hall in 1817 shows clearly a building and fields numbered 36 and 37 described as “Bryn Y Felin Plantation” or Mill Hill Plantation. No tenant’s name was recorded.

The first meaningful national Census, which identified people rather than just numbers of people, was taken in 1841. The information obtained remains unpublished for 100 years so the most recent census details in the public arena are for 1911; in 2021 we should be able to access the 1921 detail. The 1841 detail for Hensol Mill was included in the Pendoylan Parish census identified as District 9. Thomas John, aged 40 was living in the mill with a female, presumably his wife, named Jane John aged 35. A younger unidentified female aged 13 was also there. A fourth resident at that time was Edward Thomas aged 35 who could have been a servant. At this time, the Hensol Estate was owned by Rowland Fothergill [1794-1871] of Abernant who bought it in 1838. He was not resident in Hensol at the time of this census which showed the names of four females and one male living there and were presumably servants. Fothergill, himself, was living in Caerleon and was shown to be aged 45, an Ironmaster and having been born outside the county.

Ten years later in 1851 the census record for the mill [Pendoylan District 3 b] has James Ball, born in Norton Bavant, Wiltshire as a Master Miller. He was aged 38 and his wife Frances also 38 was from the same county. They had no children recorded but William Ball, the brother of James was shown as a Journeyman Miller aged 24. There were two Mill Carriers, George Hill and William Arthur aged 23 and 15 respectively so it seems the mill was a busy place. Rowland Fothergill, the Estate owner, was resident in Hensol Castle at this time and was shown as aged 56, born in Clapham, London and described himself as Magistrate, farmer and owner of about 600 acres employing 28 labourers. One hundred years or so later, the Estate was almost double this acreage. Living in the castle with Rowland Fothergill was his sister Elizabeth Foreman [or possibly Freeman] aged 58 and also born in Clapham. Six servants were living in as well but, of those, only Mary Lewis aged 33 were still there from 1841.

James Ball, in 1861, described himself as a Miller [Pendoylan District 4]; his wife Frances and brother William were still in the mill as were Henry Watts, a miller, Sidney Watts, a Mill Helper together with John Edwards, at 23 a servant Carter and Martha Watts a 16 year old House servant. All seven of the mill residents were born in Wiltshire. Once again Rowland Fothergill was absent from the castle. His **sister** Elizabeth was there and was described as a visitor, now aged 63 and Mary Fothergill, also a “visitor” but actually Rowland Fothergill’s sister as well, aged 61. Both these ladies entered their occupation as “lady”. They had 5

servants including a Ladies Maid, Cook, two Housemaids and a Footman.

By the time of the census of 1871 [Pendoylan District 3], James Ball, his wife Frances and brother William had left Hensol and were living in Peterston Mill near St Nicholas in the Vale of Glamorgan. James was now a farmer of 30 acres and a Miller; he was aided by seven workers. John Morgan was now a” Corn Miller” in Hensol Mill, aged 45 from Pentyrch. His wife Mary was from St Georges. No children were recorded but Edward Edmunds was also a Miller there and three servants provided some of the help. Rowland Fothergill had returned to the Castle, now aged 76 and had his **sister** Mary [1797-1887], 72, for company. A Butler, Cook and three Housemaids made up the staff. Rowland Fothergill died not long after this census was taken.

Ten years later in 1881 [Pendoylan District 3], John Morgan described himself as a Farmer of 12 acres and a Miller. His wife Mary was still there in the mill and two servants made up the residents. In the Castle, Mary Fothergill was now 81 years of age [and the owner of the Estate which was left to her by her brother Rowland] and had her sister Ann Tarleton Fothergill [1802-1895] for company; she was a 78 year old widow. There were five servants.

John Morgan had decided to move away from Hensol Mill and his place as Miller was taken by Thomas Williams originally of Llanbleddian and aged 38 in 1891. Harriet his wife was 44 and their children Alice 12, Arthur James 10, John Thomas 5, and Herbert Stanley just 10 months. John Wilcox was a Lodger aged 19. Herbert Stanley was baptized in the Parish Church on 13th August 1890. In the Castle, Ann Tarleton Fothergill was now the new Estate owner aged 88 and of “own means”; she had a Nurse, Millicent Clark, aged 44 to tend to her needs. There were six other servants. [Pendoylan District 9]

Little is known of Joseph Clifford of Hensol Mill who was buried in the Parish Church aged 73 in December 1895. Perhaps he was a short term tenant; perhaps he was a mill helper. The Estate records could shed some light on this otherwise unknown man.

At the turn of the new century in 1901 [Pendoylan District 7] there was still a Fothergill in Hensol Castle; she was Mabel E Fothergill aged 61 and widowed. She had been born in Ireland and had just two servants, a groom and a cook. Ann Tarleton Fothergill had died in 1895 aged about 92 and the Estate passed to her daughter, the splendidly named Lady Isabella Elizabeth Price Fothergill [1839-1918]. In the mill, another change. Evan Edwards aged 59 was from Cowbridge and a farmer as well as a Miller. His aged 54 and three daughters plus a son made up the household. One of the daughters, Annie Elizabeth, married William John Evans [farmer] of Dyffryn Mawr, Pendoylan on 23rd April 1902 in the Parish Church, Pendoylan.

The Parish Church records in Pendoylan shows three baptisms on 21st October 1908 for residents of Hensol Mill; Charles William Taylor [aged 5], George Dean Taylor [aged 2] and Irene Anne Taylor were the children of Charles

William and Anne Taylor. It is not clear if the Tailors were the sole family in the Mill or if they were tenants but presumably they were. Again, the Estate records might shed some light.

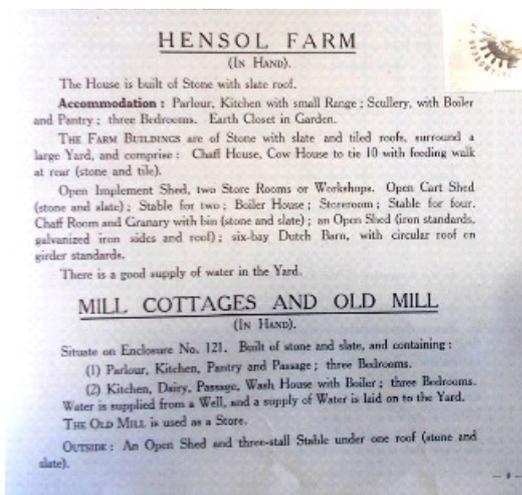
Clearly a sole occupation as Miller was scarcely enough to keep a family so we have seen farming coming alongside milling. By 1911, the last census available open to the public, George Callow, aged 50, was living in "Mill House", Hensol. He was a Farm Bailiff from Northamptonshire and lived with his **wife Lucy** aged 53. The Castle had only five servants living there as the owner Lady Fothergill was in the Curzon Hotel, Curzon Street, London described as a widow aged 72 and of independent means.

William Thomas Cooper and his wife Gladys Gertrude Cooper were of Hensol Mill when their children George and Gladys were baptized in the Parish Church on 18th September 1921. Once again, the Estate records could shed some light on these people.

Hensol Mill has new owners

The history of Hensol Castle has seen the Estate pass through the hands of various families. Another change was to take place as a result of the decision by Sir Francis Caradoc Rose Price [who had inherited the Estate from his mother Lady Price Fothergill in 1918] to put the Estate up for sale in 1923. The sale catalogue can be seen in the Glamorgan Record Office [GRO] [DC/E/67]; the Mill and Mill house is included and described as stone buildings with no fewer than six bedrooms plus various out buildings. By the time of the sale, the old mill was being used as a store so clearly the millstones had ceased to grind corn.

In November 1926, the Castle and Estate of 1082 acres was sold to Glamorgan County Council for £36,500 for use as a County Mental Hospital. Hensol Mill Farm, as it was now described, went to the County Council as well and became smallholding number 219 as not all the land acquired was needed for the hospital. Indeed, more than half the 1082 acres became smallholdings including Caergwanaf, Tynyplancau and Llwynrhiddy as well as Hensol Mill Farm.



Extract from the 1923 sale brochure for the Hensol Estate.

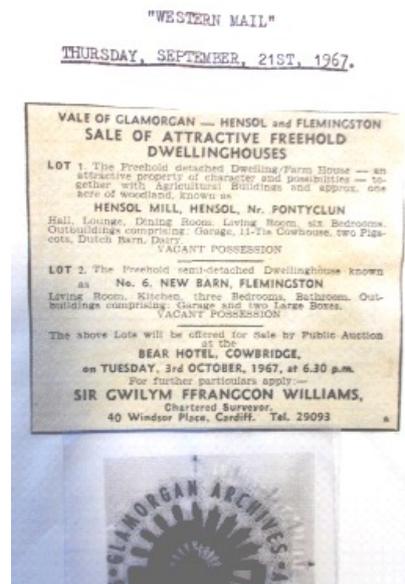
Fortunately, we have detailed Smallholding records from 1925 in the GRO [GD/LA/16 Series] and the only tenant for Hensol Mill Farm, one Arthur Raymond Williams from Llanwensan, Groesfaen, features. He started his tenancy and occupied the Mill House in April 1927 and ended it in March 1967 when he was 67 years of age and was unable to carry on farming. He and his wife, Hilda, moved to Cardiff. His tenancy was for 25 acres of pasture at an initial annual rent of £38-15s-6d. Arthur had a horse, chickens and a vegetable patch at the rear of the house from which soft fruit would be picked for bottling. Haymaking was a joyful time for local youngsters who would help and get their reward with drinks, bread and cheese. Potato picking however was very hard work. By the time of this tenancy, the mill wheel had gone and the mill, itself, was getting increasingly dilapidated as witnessed by the pleadings of the tenant to the County Council to improve facilities; most of these pleas appear to have fallen on deaf ears and the deterioration continued. By the end of the tenancy the County Council were told that the house had been unfit for human habitation for years.

The County Smallholding records detail how changes were made to Mill Farm over the 40 years of Arthur Williams' tenancy. For example, a new stable was erected in 1928 but there were regular rental increases too.

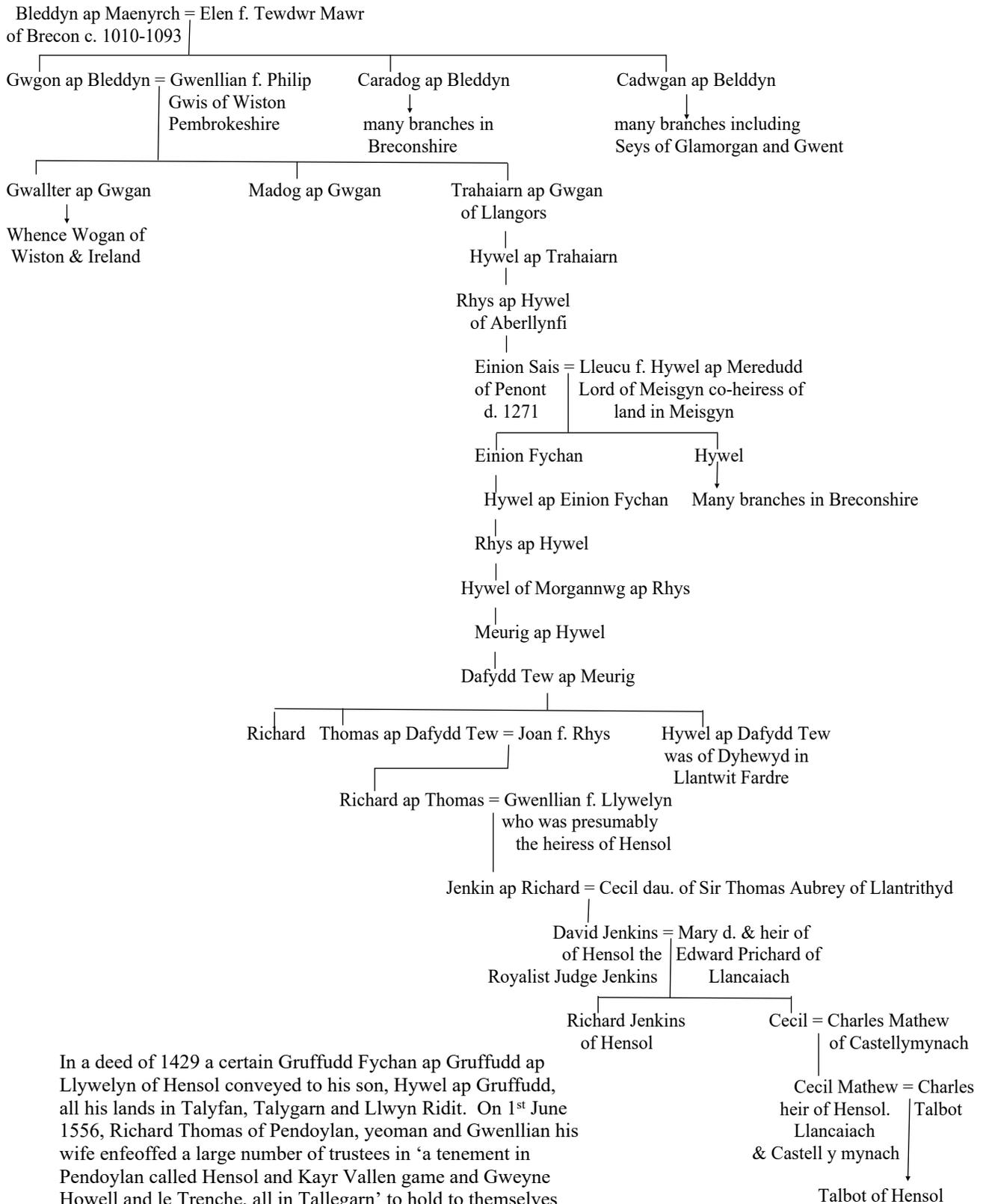
Arthur and Hilda Williams had at least two children when they lived in the mill. Both were baptized in the Parish Church; June in August 1932 and Mary Elizabeth in July 1951.

The property comprising the farm and mill was sold by the County Council by auction in 1967.

Acknowledgements for help in putting together this history are due to the Glamorgan Record Office, The Llantrisant and District Local History Society, Ms Emma Leeke, Mary Alleyne, Noel Alleyne, Surrey History Centre, Wikipedia and Mr Christopher Thomas.



Origins of the Jenkins family who owned Hensol from the mid-sixteenth century



In a deed of 1429 a certain Gruffudd Fychan ap Gruffudd ap Llywelyn of Hensol conveyed to his son, Hywel ap Gruffudd, all his lands in Talyfan, Talygarn and Llwyn Ridit. On 1st June 1556, Richard Thomas of Pendoylan, yeoman and Gwenllian his wife enfeoffed a large number of trustees in 'a tenement in Pendoylan called Hensol and Kayr Vallen game and Gweyne Howell and le Trenche, all in Tallegarn' to hold to themselves with remainder to Jenkin ap Richard their son. This is the first appearance of the Jenkins family as owners of Hensol and, it seems likely that Gwenllian was the ultimate heiress of Gruffudd Fychan ap Gruffudd above. No place has been found for her family in the pedigrees.



Section of the present day mill pond with sluice to the mill race.



A mill stone on the site of the former Hensol Mill.

9. Miskin Mill, originally New Mill

This is Miskin near Pontyclun; not to be confused with Miskin, Mountain Ash. To find the former mill proceed through Miskin; go over the railway bridge and the mill buildings are on the left.

The history of the mill is closely linked to that of the Miskin Estate and its families. I am grateful to J Barry Davies and others for *Pontyclun and Talygarn, A History and*

Topography [2002] in which details of the Bassett families of Miskin are shown. There were several Bassetts named William so each has been numbered here for convenience. William Bassett [1] of Maesyfelin [died 1702] inherited Miskin after his cousin Mary Gwynne.. His son, also William Bassett [2], [died 1770 aged 84] inherited the Miskin Estate and married Mary [died 1751 aged 66] the daughter of Edmund Treharne of Castellau. A further William Bassett [3] was their son and a daughter named Cecil. He died in 1767 aged 47 without lawful issue but had three base issue children. Cecil Bassett inherited Miskin and married Stephen White of Bristol. Their daughter Ann married Francis



Present day Miskin Mill showing, on the left, where the mill wheel used to be and the road under which went the mill race from the River Ely.

Saunderson, MP for Clare. Their son Alexander Saunderson eventually inherited the Estate. He died in 1857 after which the Estate was sold off piecemeal as we shall see later. The new owner of Miskin House [which he re-built and re-named Miskin Manor] and demesne was David Williams formerly of Ystradowen whose Bardic name was Alaw Goch; he owned land in Rhondda which accounts for the name of Trealaw. the township of Alaw.

Further, *Pontyclun and Talygarn* states that “*the new mill that gave its name to the village that later became Miskin was a Miskin Estate Mill dating from the early to mid 18TH century and not an ancient manorial mill of the lordship*”.

The 1841 census [Llantrisant District 8] is short on detail but we see that David Davies, aged 30, was the miller there in Miskin and he had a mill boy named Evan Williams aged 14 to help.

Ten years later in 1851[Llantrisant District 6a], the census is more informative. Lewis Evans who was from Wenvoe was the farmer of 100 acres and miller together with his wife Maria and three children all born in Llantrisant. Lewis employed two labourers and the family home had five servants as well including a nurse [presumably to care for the youngest child Ann Maria only ten months old]. Three of the servants were of Irish descent.

A few months after the census was taken, the Miskin Estate was put up for auction in August 1851. Thomas Watkins was the auctioneer and the Cardiff Arms was the venue [where the Angel Hotel in Cardiff now stands] as it was for the 1858 auction [see later].On this occasion the sales brochure [GRO DSA/2/1] specified the sale of” The Miskin Estate” and “Freehold and Mineral Estate”. Lot 1 comprised the Miskin House and lands, Crofta [near Groesfaen] Farm, Corner-y-Park Farm, and New Mill [Miskin] Water Corn Grist Mill and Farm; in all 349 acres. Lewis Evans was the occupier of

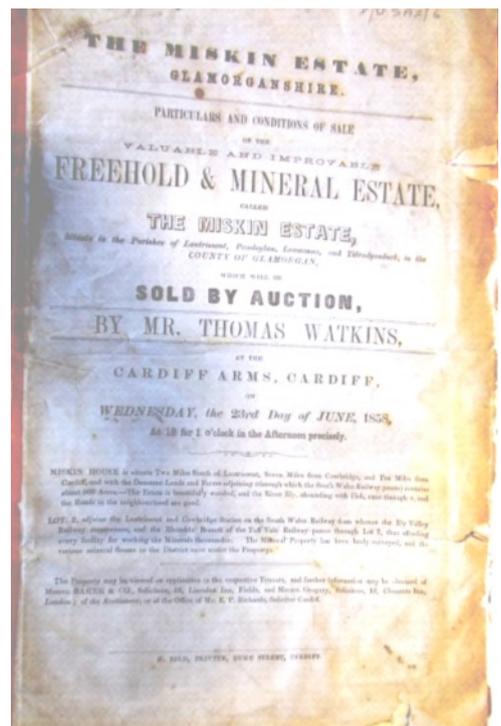
the mill and farm which extended to 45 acres; there were cottages for workmen, sheds etc. and the mill was of the undershot variety. It seems that Lot 1 was split into four sub Lots with the mill and lands being 16 acres .There is a pencil note against this sub Lot for £1,400.

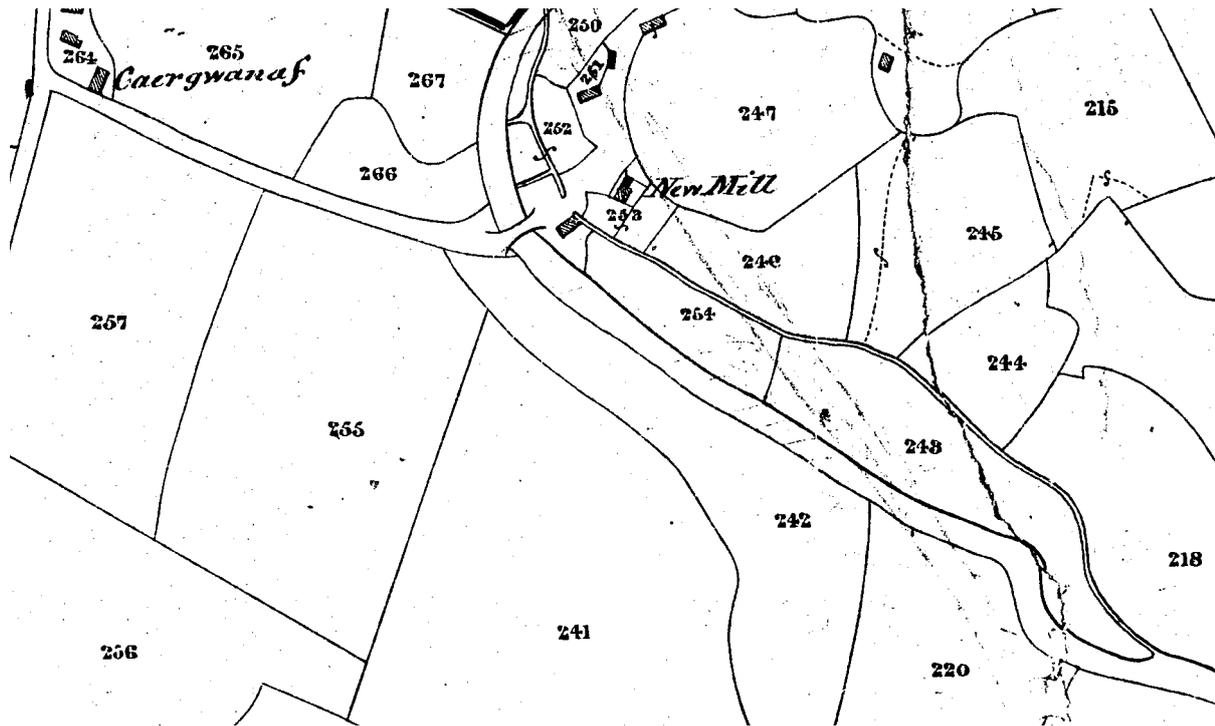
In June 1858 the Miskin Estate was again put up for auction and included New Mill [water corn grist mill]. To demonstrate the extent of the estate it included not only Miskin mill but also Miskin House, Corner Park Farm, Maes y Felin [Pontyclun] Farm, Caergwaner [Caergwanaf] Farm, buildings and cottages and Bedw Bach Farm, land in Pendoylan, and various other properties. There were 7 lots in all; the description was *The mill is an undershot corn mill with two pairs of stones and is amply supplied with water from the River Ely which adjoins.*

By 1861 [Llantrisant District 8 RG 9/4043], Lewis Evans had moved on and was actually a victualler in Womanby Street in Cardiff. Edward Morgan, aged 24, had taken over the mill and farmed 50 acres as well. He stayed until at least 1865 when he was named as the miller in a Directory of Glamorgan and Bristol. His wife Susannah had a son, William, 18 months before. Mary Williams was a dairywoman and Richard Walters [?] a miller born in Devon. Edward John was a miller and farmer in Miskin mill in 1871 [Llantrisant District 1 RG10/5380]. He and his wife, Jane, were aged 50 and 46 respectively and were from St Fagans and Peterstone. Their daughter Hannah was aged just 13 at this time but she will appear in the mill in later years. Two domestic servants and a relative completed this household. Hannah John [see 1871 above], in 1881 [Llantrisant District1 RG11/5297], had been elevated to farmer and miller at the age of 23.Her uncle Llewellyn Williams aged 54 was corn miller. A servant Francis Morgan was also a miller. In this year, Hannah John married Rhys Davies and it was he who appeared in Kelly’s as miller in 1884.



Miskin Mill Cottage; adjacent to the mill.





The 1840 Tithe Map showing the new mill and leet

So, in 1891 [Llantrisant District 1RG 12/4417], Rhys and Hannah Davies were husband and wife in Miskin Mill. Their son, Gwilym, was aged 8. Three servants and a brother of Rhys completed this household in 1891.

In the new century in 1901 "New Mill-Mill and Farm", [Llantrisant District 3 RG13/5007] Rhys and Hannah Davies continued to farm and mill in Miskin. They were now 44 and 43 years of age. Their son Gwilym was not with them at this time but he will reappear later. A cousin, Elizabeth Bartlett, was a servant and Ivor Davies aged 18 was a miller/carter. There must have been problems with the working of the mill as Evan Morgan of "Bryngwastad", Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun, millwright, quoted for repairs to "Miskin Estate Mill" in October 1904. A new flood gate of red pine timber with strong hoops ;all for £6 5s 0d. Also, he quoted two guineas for 12 new paddles for the waterwheel fastened with bolts and plates of spruce timber.[GRO DXDZ/4] Rhys Davies died in 1910.

The final census available to us at this time, 1911, shows Hannah Davies a s head of the household and "married"

despite the loss of her husband. In fact they had been married 29 years and had two children one of whom had died. Hannah's occupation was shown as "Farm and Flour mill business". The second child, Gwilym, was now back in the mill with his mother "assisting on the farm". A niece was a domestic servant and Evan John, an uncle aged 92, a roadman.

Since 1929 the site of the mill and the area around it has been in continuous use by Scouts for camping and training purposes. At first a nominal rent was paid to the Lord of the Manor for use of the site and then in 1965 it was purchased by the Welsh Scout Council. In 1985 it was handed over to the joint ownership of the Mid and South Glamorgan County Scout Councils as they were known then. "The Mill" now has kitchen, eating and activity room facilities and the "Cottage" has activity rooms. It is now known as Miskin Scout Village.

I am grateful to Mr Steve Duggan and Mr Ivor Lippet for their help with this account.

Middle Hamlet Ystradyfodwg continued

By J. Barry Davies

Tyle Coch

In 1540 and 1570 Tyle Coch was part of the demesne land that had been held by lease by the Cadwgan family for many generations but, as we saw in Vol XI No 1 it was, by 1630, no longer part of the Abergorci estate. By 1848 the tithe apportionment shows that it was combined with Nant Dyris as a comparatively large farm of 411 acres belonging to William Morgan and in the tenure of Howell Llywelyn. William Morgan, whose family had owned Tyle Coch for several generations, had acquired Nant Dyris between 1833 and 1818 and it was a free tenement in 1540 so I shall set it aside for the moment.

The 1630 Survey has Rees Morgan David paying a free rent of 8d. for Tyle Coch combined with Tir Howell Madog while all subsequent surveys and rentals name only Tyle coch at the same rent

In 1540 Sir George Mathew of Radyr was paying 16d. free rent for:

parcels Enys Wen Naunte in Blaythe (3d. s), Tyre Pulva Ava (9d. s) and Tyre Howel Madoke with Istradwen (4d. s) (idem Wi' r' m), all of George Mathewe.

In 1570 William Mathew of Radyr Esq was paying 15d. free rent for:

ynys wen ii d. Nant y Blayth ix d. Ystrad wen iv d.

in 1595 David a Jevan David was paying 19d. fr:
ynis wen vid. Nant y blayth ix d. Ystrad Wen iv d.

In 1630 Lewis Thomas of Betws was paying 3d. for *Ynys Wen* and Rees Morgan David was paying 8d. for *Tir Tyle Coch* and *Tir Howell Madog*

Rees Morgan David was a younger son of Morgan David ap Howell of Abergorci so we can assume he inherited the *Tyle Coch* portion of the Cadwgan family's former demesne estate and purchased or otherwise acquired the freehold *Tir Howell Madog*.

Just as the name *Tir Howell Madog* drops out of the record after 1630 so the name *Nant y Blaydd* drops out after 1595. However, a stray deed dated 12 September 1544 in the Dynevor Estate papers in the Glamorgan Record Office shows us that *Tir Howell Madog*, and *Nant y Blaidd* were indeed part of the modern farm of Nant Dyris as was *Tyre Pulva Ava* listed in 1540. (DD/908)

George Mathew of Radyr, esquire, to John ap William Mathew of Peterston-super-Ely, gent., and Hugh Montaigne of Ystradyfodwg, husbandman.

A messuage called Lloyne y Krege, and woodland called Coyder Allon, in Peterston-super-Ely; and a messuage called Tere heoll ap Madok, Tere Pollhua Eva, and Tere aber nant Eblayth, in Ystradyfodwg

This deed is George Mathew appointing John ap Wm Mathew and Hugh Montaigne as his attorneys perhaps in a proposed sale of the messuages although they were not sold at the time. The Dynevor papers are the records of the Castell y Mynach estate in Pentyrch which possessed no land in Ystradyfodwg at all. While this deed tells us nothing of the transaction involved it is valuable in that, while Howell Madog does not survive as a field name in the 1848 tithe map, *Tere Pollhua Eva, and Tere aber nant Eblayth*, clearly equate to fields 1351 *Cae Pwll arfa*, 1350 *Craig Nant y Blaidd* and 1345 *Cae Nant y Blaidd* all within the 1848 farm of Nant Dyris.

All above gives us an insight into the landholding pattern by the sixteenth century whereby the great land holdings of the likes of the thirteenth century Llywelyn ap Cynwrig had become divided into portions of three or four small fields by the process of generations of *cyfran* or partible inheritance. Here we find an instance of one of the great landowners still in possession of one of these small partitions of land. We know that Sir George also still owned small parcels of his Mathew paternal inheritance in Llanfyfodwg. The pressure of finding provision for his numerous children, including many daughters for whom he was providing dowries was, no doubt, a factor in William Mathew's decision to sell these small plots of land.

By 1630, we have seen that Tyle Coch, combined with Tir Howell Madog, was the freehold of Rees Morgan David. He was, as mentioned above, a younger son of Morgan ap Howell ap David of Abergorci whose widow, Catherine, in her will proved in 1637, named her granddaughter, Elinor, daughter of her son Rees Morgan. James Morgan of Abergorci, in his will proved in 1641, mentions his brother Rees Morgan. In 1642 Rees Morgan David's will names his wife, Margaret Evan, daughters Margaret Rees and Mary Rees and son Morgan Rees his sole executor. Morgan Rees was the freeholder of Tyle Coch and Tir Howell Madog in 1671.

From 1720-1752 the rentals name the freeholder of Tyle Coch [Tir Howell Madog is no longer listed] as Mr William Morgan. Again, it is possible that this was a direct descendant and being a gentleman we may be sure he was not an owner occupier of such a small farm. In fact, his tenant is named as one John David. The Revd Canon T.J. Prichard in "Rural Rhondda" *Glamorgan Historian Vol Three* Ed. Stewart Williams writes:

... a descendant of the line of Cadogan who owned Tyle Coch in 1744 married a sister of the renowned Dr Richard Price of Tyn'n ton ...

Canon Prichard has not named his source but we know him as a reliable historian and he is referring to William Morgan the physician of Bridgend who married Sarah daughter of Rees Price and father of (a) William Morgan, F.R.S. the actuary and pioneer of scientific life-insurance (1750-1833) and (b) George Cadwgan Morgan arian minister (1754-95) see Dictionary of Welsh Biography.

I am grateful to Brian Ll. James for drawing my attention to an article in the Genealogists' Magazine by Sir William P. Elderton entitled *Some Family Connections of William Morgan (1750-1833, F.R.S.* This is the actuary nephew of Dr Richard Price and Sir William tells us:

The grandfather of William Morgan (1750-1833) was William Morgan of Parkgwyllt whose wife was Elizabeth John; family descent from the Cadogans is claimed through a female line.

William Morgan of Parcgywyllt in Coety made his will on 8th November 1729 and it was proved in 1730. [LL1730/50] This must have been the Mr William Morgan named as the freeholder in the rental of 1726 and he names two son, John and William Morgan and two daughters aged under 21, Elizabeth and Anne Morgan. He appointed his loving friends Rice Price of Tynyton (Father of Dr Richard Price) and Thomas Howell of Nant Mooth guardians of his daughters.

The rentals have this Morgan succeeded by a John Morgan and by the 1780s another William Morgan who could be the Actuary. I suppose that John, evidently the elder son had Tyle Coch until his death presumably without issue. The fact that the actuary's younger brother was named George Cadogan Morgan supports the statement by Sir William Elderton that *family descent from the Cadogans is claimed through a female line* though he may have had other supporting evidence.

William Morgan of Parcgywyllt, whose eldest son was born before 1708 was likely to have been a grandson, whether in the male or female line of the Morgan Rees freeholder of Tyle Coch in 1670 but I suspect that Sir William's statement that descent was in the female line was an assumption based on his lack of understanding of the Welsh naming system. He was very likely, unaware that the surname of the so called "Cadogan family" was, in fact, Morgan. However, we cannot say for certain whether William of Parcgywyllt was son of a daughter or a son of Morgan Rees. See Family Tree A

The tenants of Tyle coch.

The tenant in 1726 was John David, then, for several rentals the tenant's name is omitted and from 1753 it is Jane Hopkin, widow followed by Jennet David. This is the family holding the freeholds of Bwlch y clawdd and Parc isaf which we looked at in Vol. XI no. 1. What I had not then realized is that Hopkin David Powell was, in fact, a younger son of David ap Howell ap Cadwgan of Abdergorci and therefore kindred of William Morgan the actuary. It is appropriate, given we have now identified two new branches, to include here a revised family tree for the Cadwgan family of Abdergorci. Jane Hopkin, of course, would not have been farming the land herself but sub-letting probably to the tenant of a neighbouring farm. See Family Tree A

In 1848 the tenant was Howell Llywelyn. His will dated 23 November 1849 was proved in 1850. His inventory was valued £39. In 1851 his son Howell Llywelyn aged 37 was the tenant. We are again bedevilled by non-conformity which robs us of the baptismal history of this family and pretty well any chance of tracing their ancestry. See Family Tree B

Tyle Coch farmhouse, 725 feet up on the mountain, appears on the 1888 map as a ruin and today it is entirely within woodland.

Nant Dyris

Nant Dyris farmhouse lay on the bank of the Rhondda Fawr at the confluence with Nant Dyris. It was marked as an occupied house in 1888 but today is lost to woodland.

In 1540 Morgan Robert ap William and Richard ap Ieuan Goch were paying 7d. rent for *parcel Tyre in Warne and Tyre in Tynslogge* in 1570 and 1595 the freeholder was Jenkin Griffith. Whether this was Jenkin Griffith David of Cwmsaerbren it is impossible to say but, by 1630 and 1672 it belonged to a Thomas Morgan and the rent was 8d.

I have not been able to identify Morgan Robert ap William or Richard ap Ieuan goch in the main body of Welsh pedigree evidence, but the latter appears to have held several tenements in Ystyrdyfodwg and may be worth detailed examination.

Richard had two brothers, Howell ap Jevan Goch and Llywelyn ap Jevan Goch. The former, in 1540 held *Tir David ap Howell William Goch*, subsequently known as *Ystrad fernal*, later belonging to the Dunraven estate, while the latter held *Tir John ap Gronow*, now called *Ty Newydd* and, *Ton Lloyd*. Richard, in addition to Nant Dyris had *Tir Isbel* and a moiety of *Rhiw maen gwyn uchaf*.

There is no trace of this family in the main body of Welsh pedigree material culminating in the Golden Grove Book, but, Egerton Ms 2587 fo.79v has the following;

Jonet f. Jevan goch ap Llywleyn ap David Fychan md. David ap Jevan ap Jevan Eos and had issue.

The 1570 Survey has Janetta f. Jevan Goch holding *Nyth Bran* in Llanwynno and several parcels of demesne land in Glynrhondda that had been granted to Jevan ap Jevan Eos for 99 years on 31 April 18 Hy VII.

Assuming the above Howell, Llywleyn, Richard and Jonet to be siblings this gives us a descent for Jevan Goch, but I am still unable to identify his father, Llywleyn ap David Fychan although I suspect he was an unrecorded son of Dafydd fychan ap Dafydd ap Gronwy of Hendresguthan in Llantwit Fardre, descending from Owain Peldu. Family Tree C illustrates this tentative theory.

1540 seems to mark the end of the Jevan Goch line as the freeholder 1570 and 1595 was Jenkin Griffith. I cannot say whether this was Jenkin Griffith David of *Cwmsaerbren* but probably it was not, since the 1630 survey has a Thomas Morgan holding *Tir y Wern*. In 1672 it was Evan Thomas and in 1726 Edward Llywelyn. The latter was one of three brothers, Evan, David and Edward Llywelyn who had a lease of *Gelligaled* in Penrhys Hamlet. See M&G Vol IX No 5. Edward inherited the freehold of *Nant Dyris* in 1688 under the will of his father Llywelyn Edward. The family tree shows that his grandmother was Margaret Thomas who died a widow in 1638. It may be she was a daughter of the Thomas Morgan who had *Nant Dyris* in 1630 and sister of Evan Thomas of 1671. Family tree D

There is nothing to show that Edward Llywelyn had issue and by 1742 the freeholder was Howell Griffith. This Howell Griffith was of Treferig uchaf in Llantrisant who died intestate in 1754. He was drowned attempting to ford the river Rhondda. See M&G Vol. VI No. 5. From 1754 until 1793 the freeholder was his widow Jennet Griffiths and subsequently their son Revd Griffith Griffiths, Rector of Llanharry. By 1848 Revd Griffiths had sold to William Morgan.

Tenants of Nant Dyris

There is little evidence for the family of Griffith Jenkins the tenant in 1748 and 1752 but we can draw up a family tree for his wife. Family Tree E. The tenant named in the rentals 1782-1833 was Howell David. This was Howell Thomas the supposed son of David Hopkin of Parc isaf and Bwlch y Clawdd. See Family Tree A

Tyla'r Forest otherwise Bedw Hir

In 1848 *Tyla'r forest* was a farm of 234 acres belonging to Griffith Llewellyn Esq and tenanted by William Thomas who was also farming Ynis Fayo where he was resident. I should have included it in Vol X No x where I described the three farms in the Middle Hamlet belonging to the Llewellyn family of Baglan. In fact, the family had four farms at the time and I had somehow overlooked Tyla'r Forest. Although in different ownership Tyla'r forest had been farmed by the tenant of Ynis Fayo at least since the early seventeenth century.

The 1777 rental has *Tyr y vedw hire late called Ynis y Vedw now Tila Forest 2 1/2 d.*

In 1540 and 1570 *Bedw hir* was part of the demesne land held by the Cadwgan family of Abergorci as we saw in Vol XI No. 1. It seems to have been sold to David Jenkin Griffith of Cwmsaerbren who was the freeholder in 1630 but by 1671 George Morgan of Abergorci had taken it back and in 1726 it had descended to John Jones of Dyffryn Aberdare who had married Mary, one of George's daughters and co-heirs of the Abergorci estate.

Mr James Jones of Dyffryn was the freeholder until 1752 after which it appears to have been sold to Nahun John, tenant of the adjacent farm, Ynis Faeo. It is very uncommon for a tenant farmer in this area to be able to buy a farm so Nahun John is a particularly interesting person, but, unfortunately, we know little about him and he has left no will. What we do know is that he was the supposed son of John David who made him chief beneficiary of his will (LL1727/451) and sole executor. He married Margaret daughter of Jenkin David of Cwmsaerbren on 23 October 1733 and was buried 16 October 1774. After his death the farm was acquired by his landlord of Ynis Fayo, Mr Hopkin Llewellyn of Baglan. As we shall see later, his grandfather and uncles were leaseholders of Ynis Wen as he was himself. See Family Tree F which will be expanded when we come to study Ynis Wen.

Nahun's successor as tenant until 1793 was Rees Morgan followed by William Thomas. A Rees Morgan left a will 29

February 1790 proved in 1793(LL1793/131) leaving an annuity of £5 for his natural mother Tabitha Prys and making his grandson Griffith Jenkins sole executor. I cannot prove that he was the tenant succeeded in 1793 by William Thomas.

William Thomas of Ynisfayo who was tenant in 1793 was succeeded by his son William Thomas and in 1851 Tyla'r Fforest house was occupied by his grandson Charles Thomas. See Family Tree G

Coedcae Arlwyd

Two fields, 738 and 739 forming a bite out of Tyla'r Fforest which were the freehold of Leyson Morgan the owner of Parc uchaf. As the name tells us these, in common with all the surrounding land, were part of the original demesne of the lord of Glynrhondda.

Fforch Orky

A remote farm of 567 acres 900 feet up in Glyn Fforch, Fforch Orki in 1848 belonged to William Hamlyn Adams and the tenant was Richard Williams.

In 1570 it was part of the demesne held by the Cadwgan family of Abergorci and claimed to be free. In 1630 it was the freehold of James Morgan and in 1671 of George Morgan. It was inherited by George's daughter and coheir Mary whose husband was John Jones of Dyffryn Aberdare so it did not follow the descent of the main holding of the Cadwgan family and end up belonging to Lord Bute. Instead, by 1726 it had been sold to John Mathews.

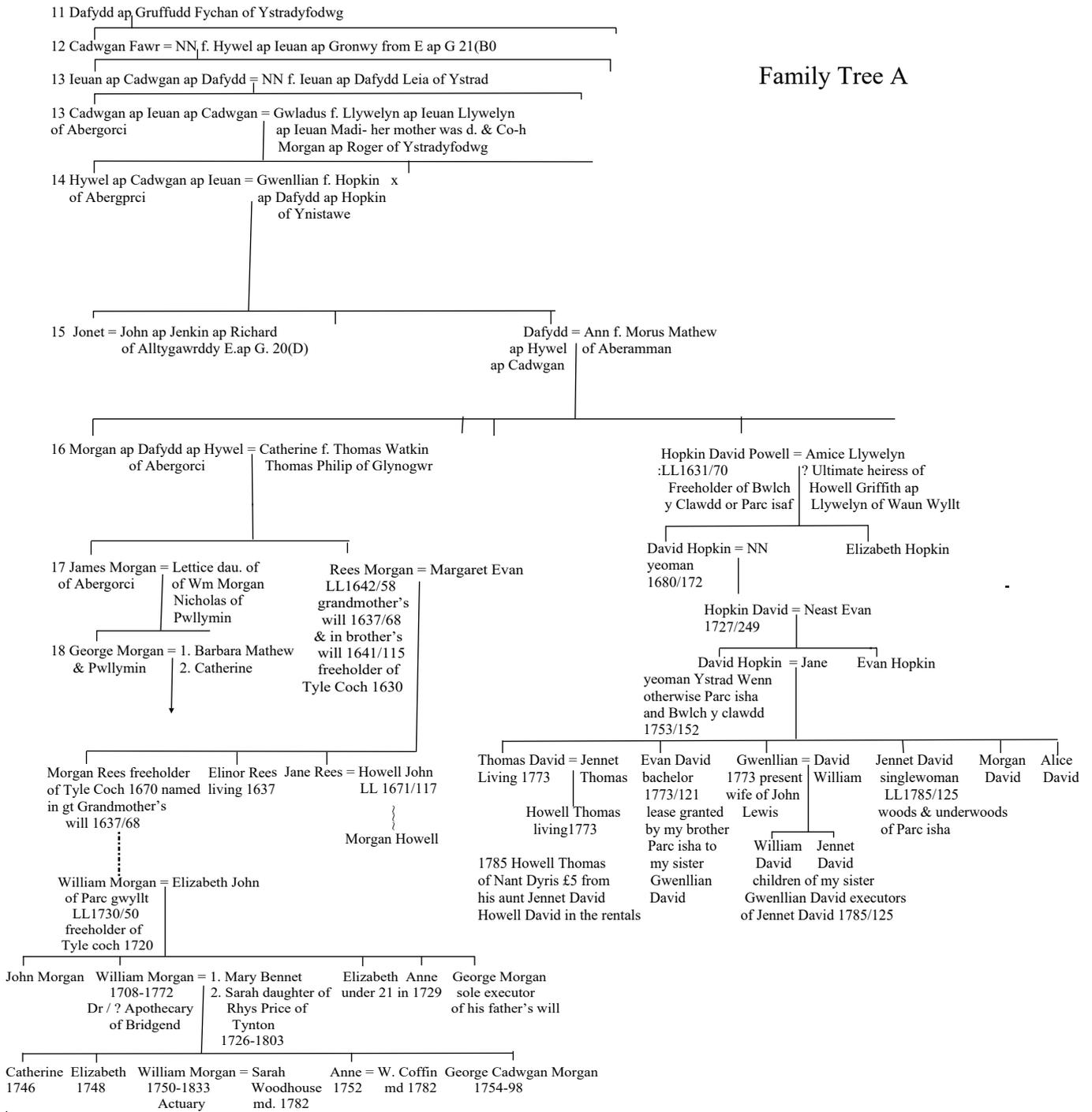
This must have been John Mathews Esq of Oldcastle, eldest son of John Mathew of Meiros in Llanharan and Sheriff of Glamorgan in 1748. We might wonder why he should have wanted to acquire this remote hill farm and the probable answer is that John Jones mortgaged the property and was unable to redeem it.

By 1782 the farm had passed to Cecil Thomas, widow, and by 1833 to John Hamlyn Adams. This is the same descent as Llwyn Milwas in Llantrisant see NI 101 and supplement. Cecil Thomas was the widow, his second wife, of John Thomas attorney of Cowbridge and daughter of the Revd Richard Hancorne. I have not been able to identify John Adams.

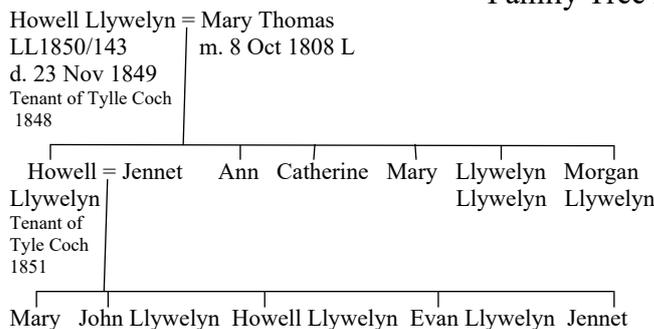
Watkin Evan seems to have been the tenant prior to 1726 succeeded by Selathuel Evan. Watkin Evan, otherwise Morgan, made his will on 7th December 1726 making his brother Ivor Evan, alias Morgan his residual legatee. The will was proved 12 January 1727 and meanwhile Ivor made his will 21 November 1727 leaving £20 to his brother Selathiel who became the tenant of Fforch Orky until as late as 1752 according to the rentals. He was succeeded by Ann Simon, widow, it would seem, of one William David whom she had married in 1737. See Family Tree H

Subsequent tenants David Edward and Evan Thomas I have not been able to identify.

Family Tree A



Family Tree B



William Thomas = Jennet David
 Tenant of Ynis Mayo and Tyla'r forest from 1793
 md. 6 August 1785

Family Tree G

Howell bapt 13 Aug 1786
 David bapt 22 Jan 1786
 William Thomas = Ann Mayo 22 Sept 1794 but at Ynis Mayo in 1851 aged 63.
 Thomas bapt 28 aug 1789
 John bapt 4 Feb 1798

Thomas Thomas bapt 26 Nov 1826 aged 11
 Charles Thomas = Gwenllian bapt 18 Nov 1821 living at Tyla'r Forest in 1851 farm labourer
 David Thomas bapt 18 Jan 1824
 Daniel Thomas bapt 26 Nov 1826

Evan Thomas
 b. c. 1847

Evan Morgan = Mary
 LL1688/151
 lease under Thomas of Llanmihangel
 20 Feb 1678

Family Tree H

Morgan Evan
 Thomas Evan
 Ivor Morgan otherwise Ivor Evan
 Salathiel Morgan otherwise Evan
 Ann Jennet LL1733/176
 LL1722/250

