

Great House, Aberthin – Thomas & Morgan families

In the photograph (chs00742) :

Gentleman in bowler - William Thomas (II)
Lady in black hat - his second wife, Catherine
Boy by hedge - William's son David
Man with brush – John Davies
Lady by house – unknown

Identified by the father (deceased) of this information

Cardiff Times 30/09/1911 – article on Great House in series 'Welsh Country Homes'

....'Subsequently, about a quarter of a century ago, it was sold by Lord Dynevor to a family named Thomas. Mrs Thomas, who still lives hard by in Aberthin village, sold it ten years ago to Mr. Jenkin Hughes, who still lives there, and farm land in its vicinity'.

Family tree :

At Ystradowen – William Thomas, born Bassaleg, 1851 (aged 43) a butcher/farmer 13 acres, married Susanna Williams 28/04/1831. In 1881 he farmed 97 acres at Prisk.

They had eight children – William (II), third child born Prisk 1838, married Elizabeth David/Davies/Dafydd (1838-1874?). In 1851, William (II) was aged 13; in 1881, he was aged 44 (90 acres); he died in 1901 leaving £1117-15-4 to his second wife, Catherine (nee Evans), who he married 29/04/1878. They are buried together at Ystradowen. The grave of first wife Elizabeth not found.

From the first marriage of William Thomas (II) and Elizabeth, there were six children – Mary born 1861, Susanna born 1863, Thomas born 1866 buried Ystradowen (these 3 were born in Welsh St Donat's parish ? *Prisk*), William born 1869 and David born 1871 – both born in Llanblethian parish ? *Aberthin*) Elizabeth (1874-1946), born Ty Isha Welsh St Donat's, buried Ystradowen.

Elizabeth married David Morgan who was working for his uncles (Johns) at Church Farm, Ystradowen. Their four children were William born 1899, Clifford, Gwyneth & Cledwyn.

William (III) was the father of this informant.

Dear Mr Alden,

Thank you for your letter and for the information it contained.

Some of the information was new to me, e.g. the owners of the house before and after the Thomas family, and the fact that the second Mrs Thomas removed the panelling etc. My father referred to her as stepmother Kate. He actually lived at Great House for a short while when he was a baby – some time between his birth in Blaengarw in 1899, and living in Cardiff in 1900. I knew (from my father) that the Thomases had a link with Cardiff market, and was told that William Thomas had a stammer.

My grandfather, David Morgan, at one time worked for his uncles at Ffistla Farm, Penllyne, and at Church Farm, Ystradowen, and according to the man himself it was while he was taking the milk cart from Church Farm to Cowbridge that he ‘first cast his eyes upon the fair Elizabeth from Great House’.

Between 1906 and 1909, David Morgan and Elizabeth lived at Sweetings Farm. My aunt was born there in 1908, and from there my father attended Maindy School – other Thomas cousins were also there. I didn’t know that the previous generation had possibly lived at Sweeting in 1881.

I am enclosing a better copy of the photograph – actually it is better than the original (if it is really an original or an old copy!). I don’t need it returned.

Best wishes,
yours sincerely,

Personal details not included in this transcript.

This letter is a transcript of correspondence in 2001 from Mrs Barbara Morgan of Cardiff concerning the photograph of Great House, Aberthin taken around the end of the nineteenth century showing William Thomas and family, and relating to David Morgan and Sweetings Farm.

B. Alden 2015