

Penylan, Aberthin – *from handwritten notes of Jeff Alden*

Richards farmed Penylan from 1889, and William Jones Richards owned the property in 1926.

Earliest records – property owned by Ann Thomas of Oldcastle upon Alun, St Brides Major. Descended to Elizabeth Purcell and John Davies, her son.

1818 To Edward Thomas, Custom House, Cardiff.

1824 To be let – Penylan, Aberthin, nr Cowbridge and the fashionable village of Llanblethian, a desirable residence for an officer on half pay or any gentleman on a moderate income.

Series of eleven letters to Edward Thomas, mainly from John Davies's widow, asking for payment of £400 bond due to John Davies on the death of his mother. It seems rather like the story of Lydia Bennett in 'Pride and Prejudice' – Mr Davies was a schoolmaster sergeant in the 1st Regiment Foot Guards on detachment to Bexhill, under the command of Col. John Clitheroe. Sarah Landers was a ladies maid with the wife of Col. Clitheroe. Married 1814 - two children. Mr Davies 51st Regt. of ? – left England from Portsmouth 1821 for Corfu. Died after working as overseer of roads 1825. Mrs Davies was ladies maid to wife of Sir Frederick Adam, Governor of Ionian islands.

Edward Thomas very cautious - £400 a lot of money; needed to check death of J Davies from War Office ID, especially as Mrs Davies was by then a Mrs Gregory. Details of journey England to Corfu. Left England 13th September, Malta 27th October, stores from dockyard. Left Malta 25th November, arrived Corfu 28th November. Journey cost £30 each way. Eventually money paid.

One of the Penylan tenants was Capt. McGregor, officer on half pay. Begging letter from Mrs McGregor to Marquess of Bute. She had been Elizabeth Stewart. Her grandfather, 'the acknowledged friend, favourite and near relative of your lordship grandfather' fled from Scotland to Donegal after the 1745 rebellion. She married John McGregor, officer in the 38th Regiment, who retired on half pay rather than go to India (£80 p a) 1817. Seized by the farming mania 7 years. £350 in debt. Asks for £100 loan.

Leighs of Pontypool Park as referees. Favourable response.

Sublet out Penylan – had lived in Great House subsequently.

One of their two boys, a Lt. in the Army, married Mary Ann Thomas, daughter of Edward Thomas in 1832 - John Stewart.

(David Jones of Wallington wrote : ‘Young McGregor was a fine young man. Had an illegitimate child and turned out somewhat of a scapegrace’).

The mother of the child was Triswyth Morgan of St Brides Major – had a daughter Helen, who married Thomas William of Llanblethian in 1847.

Poor Edward Thomas was killed in a tragic accident – his phaeton rushed downhill on the road between Llantrisant and Cardiff. He jumped out, fractured skull on Pontypark (?) bridge 1834.

Penylan bought by Wm Jones of Machen, woollen manufacturer – various tenants, incl. Richards 1889.

Typed by B Alden 14/8/2015

Re Mrs Gregory

1. Letter to Edward Thomas, Esq., Custom House, Cardiff
from Wm Robinson, 4 Gloucester Place, Gloucester, 4 June 1826
Sir, at the request of Mrs Davies, the widow of the late Mr John Davies late of Highgate Coy of Middlesex who died 16 July 1825 . . . apply re payment of £400 secured by yr bond to be paid to him or his representatives within 12myhs after death of his mother Mrs Elizabeth Purcell. Mrs Davies has been told that Mrs Purcell is dead; so in right of herself and 2 sons, she applies for repayment + interest, and asks to fix a time and place for settlement, as she is anxious to return to her chn in Greece
2. Letter to Edward Thomas, Esq., Custom House, Cardiff
from Wm Robinson, 4 Gloucester Place, Gloucester, 9 June 1826.
Sir, Acknowledges reply of 6th inst; Mrs Davies would have no objection to dispose of her interest in the bond to benefit her chn; has necessary documents to establish her claim; anxious for early settlement; have the kindness to make fair terms. Mr Davies left England as Schoolmaster Sgt of the 51st Regt and was afterwards transferred to 36th Regt where he continued till his death in Corfu, 16 July 1825, where he was buried. Mrs Davies returned to England with HE Sir

- Fredk Adam and family; is engaged to return with them; is going with them to Scotland on 16 inst if her business can be settled. Thanks for yr offer to make your house her home for a short time, but as she does not intend visiting the country and the shortness of her stay in England will not allow it.
3. Letter to E Thomas, Esq
from Sarah Davies, 12 Broadway, Westminster, 8 July 1826
States business settled yesterday and administration was granted. Has been very busy since family was in town – expected them to leave Town earlier (only left yesterday) Shall leave England towards the end of the month with part of the family. Asks whether he will come to London mid-July as intimated earlier. Respects to Miss Thomas.
 4. Letter to Edward Thomas, Esq
from Sarah Davies, 12 Broadway, Westminster, 14 July 1826
Not in her power to stay in England after 28th inst. Has certificate in Sir Frederick's own hand, has everything necessary. On account of her leaving England shall accept your offer for sake of the children.
 5. Letter to Edward Thomas, Esq
From War Office, 18 July 1826
You are informed re application re John Davies of 36 Foot that it appears he died on 16 July 1825, and his effects .. to widow.
 6. Letter to E Thomas, Esq
from Sarah Gregory, New palace, Corfu, 17 Jan 1827 (recd 13 Feb)
Informs of safe arrival in Corfu after most tedious and truly disagreeable voyage. Left England 13 Sept, did not reach Malta before 27 Oct when the ship had stores from the dockyard which delayed us a month. Left Malta 25 Nov and arrived in Corfu on 28th. Sir Frederick and family did not arrive till nearly a month later. Requests reply 'how things are going on in the country'. On arrival found my husband and child well.
 7. Letter to E Thomas, Esq
from Charles Turner, 13 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, 4 July 1827
Had recd letter from Mrs Gregory in Corfu dated 14 May, had had no response to letter of Jan last. To respond via courier returning to Corfu in a few days.
 8. Copy letter, Mr Thomas to Mr Turner, 9 Feb 1828Asks the best way of communicating with Mrs Gregory – under cover to Sir Frederick Adam her master, through some Govt dept or to her using the Post Office in the usual way? Needs to ask Mrs G and her husband to come to England to settle some matters of business. Asks how long it would take for a letter to get to them – must be more frequent than usual because of the Greek and Turkish business.
 9. Letter to E Thomas, Esq
from Charles Turner, 13 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, 4 July 1827
Suggests that the letter be sent to him and he will ask Mr Adam, Sir Frederick's brother to send it under cover with his letters. By the ordinary mode of transmitting letters by post, it takes a month, and the Corfu mail bag is made up the first Tuesday in every month. Cost for Mr and Mrs Gregory to come to London and return would be £120. Informs Mr Thomas that Mrs G put all relevant papers in his custody; he is not aware of Mrs Purcell's death so affairs can not have changed; suggests a power of attorney be

granted by Mrs G so that affairs can be finalised.. Points out that original agreement of 27 March 1818 for £700 included both f/h and c/h ppty, but bond of 2 Dec 1818 is only for repayment of £400 and appears to be for c/h alone; presumes f/h had been conveyed by that date. Notes that the bond surrenders to Mrs Purcel and her son the c/h ppty to her use, and thereafter to you; concludes that nothing needs to be done at the Court re the ppty by Mrs Davies's representatives.

Note appended by Mr E Thomas stating that Mrs G represented herself to Mr Thomas as Mr Davies's widow, until she found out by accident that she had remarried; this was the sole cause of him not paying off the bond then.

10. Letter to E Thomas, Esq

From Mrs Sarah Gregory, Corfu, 14 April 1828

States that she and her husband have executed the release and authorized Mr Turner to receive the £500 due.

11. Letter to E Thomas, Esq

From C Turner

States he has received the release and power of attorney from Corfu, duly executed.

Notes re family of Sarah Gregory, previously Davies:

Mrs Davies is daughter of Henry Lander, coppersmith, of Southgate St Gloucester (d 22 April 1822) and of Mary Lander. Mrs Davies at the time of her marriage with Mr Davies (Oct 30, 1814) lived as Ladies maid with the lady of Col John Clitheroe of the 3rd Regt Foot Guards at Bexhill; Mr D was schoolmaster Sgt to 1st Regt Foot guards and belonged to the detachment then stationed at Bexhill under the command of Col John Clitheroe.

Mr Davies was discharged from the 1st Regt Foot after his 7 years service, about 13 May 1818. Entered 51st Regt of the Line in Dec 1820 and left England from Portsmouth on 24 May 1821 for Corfu where he continued to be employed in the same capacity until he had some little difference with the Colonel of that regiment, then Col Rice, in Jan 1824, when he transferred to the 36th Regt in Corfu, commanded by Major Brown. He continued in latter regt as 'Overseer of the New Works' (roads) until his death on 16 July 1825. He was buried with military honours in the English burying ground at Corfu on 17 July 1825.

Mr Davies's eldest son, John Llewellyn Davies, born Bexhill 24 Aug 1815; second son is Charles or Charles Henry, born Chelsea 27 Feb 1820 when Mr Davies was schoolmaster to the military asylum (called Duke of York's school) at Chelsea. J L Davies is now with Mrs Davies's brother Charles Lander, painter in Cheltenham; Youngest child is with a friend of Mrs Davies – Mr Harris, groom to HE Sir Fredk Adam the governor of the Ionian islands.

Mrs Davies came from Corfu to England as Ladies' Maid to Sir Frederick's lady on 8 April 1826.

Mrs Purcell's daughters were Eliza Janes and Ann Janes both by the first husband. The former married a Mr Body, a Bristol man, at Bristol; and the younger married a Parry near Cardiff, and had a daughter, Eliza Ann, by him, since dead (now June 1826).

“Documents to accompany the title deeds for Penylan Estate”

No documents include, but in pencil on verso:

Bond from John Davies to warrant title, 2 Dec 1818

Recovery and Surrender from Mr Davies of his reversion, 2 Dec 1818

Deed of Covenant, Davies to Thomas

Bond from Thomas to Davies

Affidavit of Mrs Purcell as to her sister Ann having died without ever being married