

Thomas Morgan, brewer

Interview with grandson of Thomas Morgan (February 2014), Owain Williams, farmer of Ochre Draw Farm, Ewenny

Thomas Morgan, his grandfather owned the brewery at 1-3 High St, Cowbridge, though he did not live there. It was managed by his son Dillwyn, who was killed in a motor bike accident in Worcestershire, where his father had two farms, before Owain Williams was born, but Owain can remember visiting the brewery. His grandfather used the water from the well in the garden there for the brewing. His dray horse Daisy, his favourite horse, died there and is buried in the garden – the stone marking this is now in Cowbridge museum. Thomas Morgan brought saplings from the Newton Hotel, Porthcawl to plant there, the trees keeping the barrels cool in the summer months. 100 barrels of 36 gallons each of mild ale were produced at the brewery each week. The brewery closed in the 1950s. Owain has fishing hooks from his grandfather, who fished for trout in the Thaw by the brewery. He collected from the garden a very early coin.

Whenever there was a drought in Cowbridge, the brewery had water from the well at Llwynhelig House (Thomas there) and so they had their beer supplied free for their help.

Thomas Morgan owned a number of pubs, including the Edmondes Arms in Cowbridge, and the Hare and Hounds at Aberthin. He supplied the Bear with beer, and was an agent for Worthingtons. He built the Dunraven Arms in Bridgend (Owain Williams has a large photo of the building work and his grandfather observing it).

Owain Williams has lent for copying a photo of his uncle Dillwyn, manager, with some of the other brewers (Dillwyn second on the right), plus a photo of the fire brigades in procession through the town in 1909.

M. Y. GRANDFATHER

THOMAS MORGAN 1856.....1928

He was a Millers son born near Aberystwth , he came to Pontyclun at 18yrs and opened a grocers shop near the bridge.

His uncle was Rev Dafydd Morgan the Revivalist He was preaching in Cowbridge the same time as Tom Morgan was brewing there !

He moved down the road in Pontyclun and opened a bottling plant and introduced Worthington with their green shield beer to South Wales.

He married the daughter of David Jenkins Innkeeper Windsor Arms Hotel , and he took over from Lewis Jenkins the Brewery in Cowbridge,

His Cowbridge Home Brew was called " Golden Ales 4 X " and he brought three chestnut saplins to keep when they grew the barrels cool in the Summer. (they are still there) Nearby is buried Daisy the Dray Horse that won a race and died i, a headstone for Daisy is held in the old cells at Cowbridge.

In 1928 Thomas was the oldest member of the Ogmere Lodge and was a founder of St Quintins & Trissant Lodges, He bought Hartnal farm in Tenbury Wells shipping down cattle and pigs to his land at Cowbridge and Sigginston , butter was shipped down packed in dock leaves to keep it cool,

In 1898 he bought the Oak and Ash Pub in Derwen Rd Bridgend it was then demolished and under his personal supervision he built the Dunraven Arms Hotel,

In 1908 he married Ruth Morgan who After Toms death took over the Dun then after her her daughter Sophie

Thomas Morgan

1881 census at Pontclown, Miskin :

Thomas Morgan, 23, grocer, draper and beer merchant, born Llanbadarn, Cardigan, with brother William, 19, and sisters Ann, 26, a housekeeper, and Jane, 21, a grocer's assistant; also his mother Sophia, 58, carpenter's wife, born Ystrad Meyrick.

1891 census, at Victoria Buildings, Miskin :

Thomas Morgan, 38, ale and spirit merchant, with wife Margaret, born Llanwonno, and two servants (a haulier and a bottle washer)

1901 census, at School Street, Pontyclun :

Thomas Morgan, wine and spirit merchant aged 44, born Devils Bridge, Cardiganshire, with wife Margaret, 33, born Mountain Ash, sons Wyndham, 8, Walter, 6, Valentine, 3, and daughter Alice, one; also a general servant and two other servants.

Margaret Morgan, nee Jenkins died 1908.
Thomas Morgan re-married 1909.

1911 census, at School Street, Pontyclun :

Thomas Morgan, 54, born Rhosygell, Cardigan, wine and spirit merchant, with wife Ruth, 35 (born Kimbolton, Herefordshire), son Wyndham, 18, assistant in the office, son David Walter, 16, son Valentine Dilwyn, 13, daughter Alice Margaret, 11 and daughter Emley Sophia, one year, plus three servants.

Dilwyn Morgan was born 1898 in Pontyclun.
He died in Herefordshire in 1922.

Notes on the Cowbridge breweries from Brian James :

There were two breweries in Cowbridge in the late 19th century, both founded by men named Lewis Jenkins – they were not related to one another. Lewis Jenkins (1835-1929) started the Vale of Glamorgan Brewery (where the Vale of Glamorgan Inn is today) and Lewis Jenkins of the Horse and Groom (1851-1897) started the Cowbridge Brewery, at the back of 1-3 High Street.

The latter had no children, and in 1903 Thomas Morgan took over this brewery. He was married to Margaret Jane (c.1868-1908), the daughter of David Jenkins of Pontyclun, who (with his son Thomas Jenkins) started the Crown Brewery at Brynsadler. Lewis Jenkins of the Horse and Groom was a cousin. Many of these Jenkineses were in the pub and brewing trade, but their ancestor was Lewis Jenkins (who died 1830) of Trefran, Llanilid, a farmer.

(Brian James is one of his descendants).

J. MORGAN Licensed Brewer

C.R. 1



X

DILWYN VALENTINE
MORGAN
"COWBRIDGE
BREW"

Dilwyn ran the Cowbridge brewery
for his father, Thomas Morgan, till he was
killed in 1922



? PONTYCLUN
BREWERY

Daisy's memory will live on

THE memorial to Daisy, the 28-year-old Cowbridge brewery horse who collapsed and died after winning an important race in the Vale of Glamorgan many years ago, has found a permanent resting place in the precincts of ancient Cowbridge Town Hall.

A heavy marble tombstone in memory of Daisy was paid for by local inhabitants who had won substantial sums of money after backing Daisy to win the race.

Daisy worked as a drayhorse at the Cowbridge Brewery owned by the Morgan family.

Now, a member of the family, Mr. Thomas Owain Williams, of Ochdraw Farm, Ewenny, near Bridgend, has offered the tombstone to Cowbridge Town Council.

Important

Mr. Williams is a grandson of the brewery owner, the late Mr. Thomas Morgan. His uncle, Mr. Dilwyn Morgan, rode the horse in the big race.

In a letter to the authority, Mr. Williams wrote: "In 1919 our family owned the brewery and when I left in 1950 I took the tombstone of Daisy for safe-keeping."

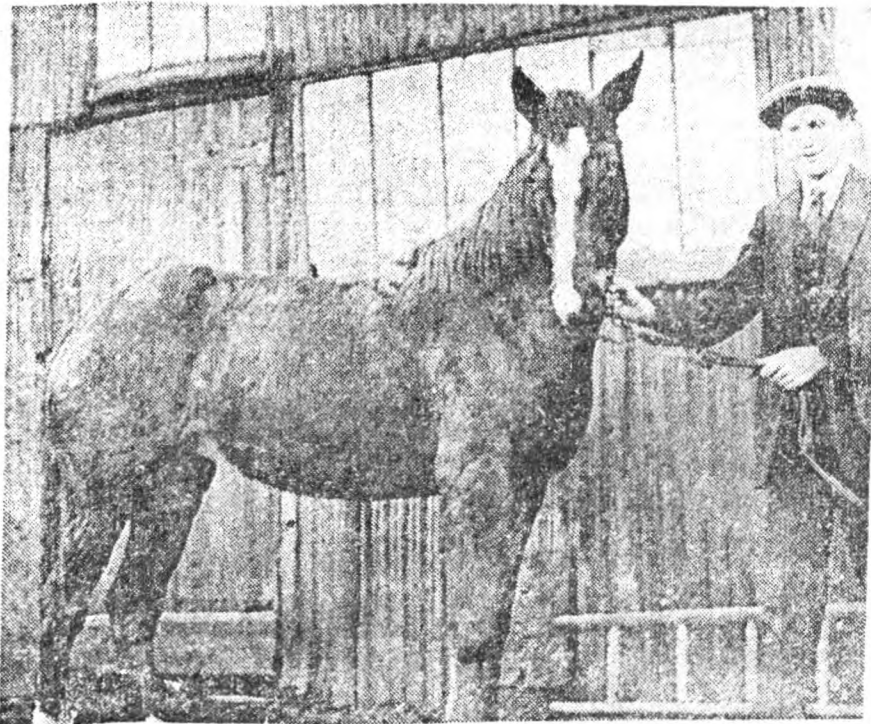
"Our drayhorse won a very important race, beating the best horses in the Vale, but, unfortunately, as she was being led away she died."

At a meeting of the council, the Mayor, Coun. Norman Williams, said: "Either the council or the Cowbridge History Society should take an interest in it. Can we install it in the wall of the council chamber?"

Coun. Sandy Greenwood suggested the tombstone be placed in the council's mini-museum at the town hall, and members agreed.



● Mr. T. O. Williams with the memorial stone to Daisy, who at 28 won a race and then dropped dead.



● Dray horse Daisy with her rider Dilwyn Morgan



A Memorial Stone to Daisy