

## **59 High Street**

The earliest available records of No 59 date from 1773 when Margery Deere occupied a sizeable house here. By 1786 the Revd Evan Jones was owner and occupier, and he remained owner of the property till after 1843. In 1850 it was bought by Mr John Samuel. Throughout the 19th century it housed a variety of tenants, who included Joseph May, wife and six children in 1851, Richard Felton, tailor and postmaster in 1861, and Edward Evans, a gardener with wife, five children and five male lodgers, all scholars, aged between 10 and 21 - presumably attending the Grammar School - in 1871.

Surprisingly for such a large and probably valuable property, 1881 saw the family of an agricultural labourer, Thomas David, living here (admittedly seven people in all) and 1891 that of a general labourer, Thomas Jenkins.

In 1894, the building was conveyed to the Metropolitan Bank of England and Wales, and it was about this time that the present building was erected: it was known as Oakley House. Robert Thomas, from a farming family of Barry and Moulton, was the manager; the bank office fronted on to the High Street while the manager and family lived in the rest of the house. In 1924, Robert Thomas while remaining manager of the bank, bought the property from the Metropolitan Bank, which moved into the adjoining premises; his son, Herbert R Thomas developed the business of chartered surveyors, auctioneers, valuers and estate agents here, where it remains today.

*From 'Cowbridge Buildings and People', published by CRS 1999*

*See next page :*

## 59 High Street

- 1738 Thomas Richards, 14 b *BR 143*
- 1762 Mr James Morgan, late Thomas Richards, f/h, William Thomas, tenant, half  
burgage *BR 139*
- 1766 Will of James Morgan (see 14 HS)- devised *inter alia* mess in occ Wm Thomas,  
maltster and ironmonger purchased from Mrs Richards, widow of Thos  
Richards, surgeon to bro Henry Morgan of Bristol, linen draper and  
haberdasher *D/DC1 1/216*
- 1773 Margery Deere, widow, 6/- *LTA*
- 1784 Henry Morgan, o, Francis Thomas, occ, 8/- *LTA*
- 1786 Conveyance, Revd John Powell to Mr Evan Jones and another (sold for £100)  
*Deeds and GRO CL deeds 1/914*
- 1787 Mr Evan Jones, landlord, himself, tenant *BR 143*
- 1788 Revd Evan Jones, o and occ, 8/- *LTA*
- 1799 Revd Evan Jones, o and occ, 8/- *LTA*
- 1830 Revd Evan Jones, o and occ, 8/- *LTA*
- 1843 Revd Evan Jones, o, Wm Edwards, occ *Tithe*
- 1843 Revd Evan Jones, vicar of Colwinston, died Aug 19, 1843, aged 90. His will was  
proved Sept 1843
- 1848 Baptism of Theophilus John Fenton, Nov *Deeds*
- 1850 Conveyance, Revd S Fenton &c to Mr John Samuel, of house between house to  
west occ  
by the then manager of the Nat Prov Bank, and to east by Great House occ  
Maryann Thomas, widow. Deeds acknowledged by Mrs Lydia Fenton [Samuel  
Fenton of Christchurch, Univ of Oxford married Lydia Llewellyn in 1819 (Parish  
records). Lydia was the niece of the wife of Revd Evan Jones. Revd Samuel Fenton  
was 'of Wavertree near Liverpool' (Bute 1518)] *Deeds*
- 1851 Joseph May, 41, ostler, b Pyle (was in No 77 in 1843) + w Margaret, b  
Cowbridge + sons, Joseph, William, George + daughters Ann, Margaret, Frances +  
Mary George, servant *Census# 118*
- 1858 Will of John Samuel - codicil added 1860 *Deeds*
- 1861 Richard Felton, 55, b Cowbridge, tailor/postmaster (was in 55 HS in 1851) + w  
Ann, 54, b Cowbridge + John Eliot, 31, boarder, magistrates' clerk + John  
Jones, 20, tailor journeyman *Census#88*
- 1868 Death of John Samuel (January) - succession to Miss Elizabeth Samuel *Deeds*
- 1869, 22<sup>nd</sup> June Death of Mr Richard Felton, tailor of Cowbridge, aged 68. Much  
respected. *Central Glamorgan Gazette*
- 1871 Edward Evans, 29, b Pendoylan, gardener + w Maria, 35, b St Brides Major + sons  
David, 7, b Llanblethian, Edward, 5, b Cowbridge, Albert 1 month, b Cowbridge + lodgers  
(scholars) William Turner, 21, b Llanfair, Mon, Edward Evans, 17, b Llan... Glam, Richard  
Davies, 15, b Llan..., David Smith, 10, b Llantwit *Census#97*
- 1873/25<sup>th</sup> April Edward John writes in a letter in the County Glamorgan Gazette that he is  
overseer for the parish of Cowbridge, tenant of Hall, Reynolds and Co., and has been a  
tradesman (advert shows him as manager of HRT & Co) *Notes of J Alden*
- 1875 Conveyance, Miss Elizabeth Samuel &c to John Thomas, Esq *Deeds*

- 1881 Thomas David, 45, b Cowbridge, ag lab + w Mary, 50, b Cowbridge + Jessie Thomas, 25, dau, tinworker's wife, b Cowbridge + Edward Thomas, 25, s-i-1, tinworker, b Cowbridge+ William David, 18, son, b Cowbridge private in Army + David David, 16, son b Cowbridge, saddlers apprentice + Kate Thomas, 1, gd-dau, b Maesteg *Census#254*
- 1891 Thomas Jenkins, 45, b Llanblethian, gen lab + w Margaret, 50, b Bridgend + dau MaryAnn, 16, b Cowbridge, dressmaker + Lucy Thomas, 17, b Bridgend, dom servant *Census#254*
- 1894 Probate of will of John Thomas  
Conveyance, John Llewellyn to Metropolitan Bank of England & Wales Ltd (Metropolitan Bank had merged with Bank of Wales, founded 1879; in 1891 their branch was at 62 HS [Midland Bank Ltd] *Deeds*
- 1895 Robert Thomas bank manager at Oakley House, where it is likely that the bank office fronted the street while the manager and family lived in the rest of the house. Robert Thomas was a young man who came from a farming family, originally farming in Barry, later Moulton. House rebuilt. *Kelly*
- 1901 Robert Thomas, 32, bank manager, b Llancarfan + wife Lizzie, 32, b Llanwonno + son Arthur, 6, daus Gwladys, 5 and Catherine, 2, all b Cowbridge + Bessie Thomas, 31, dom servant b Llangan, Carms *Census# 167*
- 1902 Birth of Herbert R Thomas, son of Robert Thomas *Family records*
- 1910 Robert Thomas, occ, Metropolitan Bank, o, ho and pses *D/D PRO/VAL/1/46#315*
- 1914 Robert Thomas, treasurer of RDC *Kelly*
- 1924 Conveyance, Metropolitan Bank to Robert Thomas of Oakley House. Bank moved into premises at 61 HS; RT remained manager. *Midland Bank records*
- 1943, 28<sup>th</sup> November Golden Wedding of Mr and Mrs Robert Thomas of Oakley House *Western Mail*
- 1949 Robert Thomas died; property passed to his son Herbert R Thomas, and subsequently to partners of Herbert R Thomas, chartered surveyors, auctioneers, valuers and estate agents *Family records*
- 2003 HR Thomas

#### **Sources/abbreviations:**

GRO Glamorgan Record Office  
LTA Land tax assessments (GRO)  
BR Burgage rents (GRO)  
PRO Public Record Office (Kew)  
Census, tithe, directories etc all in GRO  
D/D Deposits in GRO