

Bates' Mill /Johnny's/ Mill Field

Now Millfield Drive area – some old photographs show the little row of cottages, now demolished, below the old Girls' High School.

17th year of Queen Elizabeth (1550) Between Jenkin Williams of Cowbridge and David Gronow of Cowbridge farmer – one burgage lying ? east gate between the house of ?Rice Knapp called Cae Velin etc. *Dunraven 31*

1st. year of Charles I (1625/6) Between William Thomas and Samuel Williams, alderman – messuage and garden (one burgage) without the ? east gate between the dwelling house of John Knapp on the west, lands of Christopher Williams on the north and east, the highway on the south. *Dunraven 31*

1631 '3 acres meadow in Piggmore on the east part of the higher mill of Cowbridge called wayneburthin or burteyn's meade and half acre called Sommway adj the meadow last mentioned' *NLW D218/10*

1677 Lease, Philip Earl of Pembroke to Richard Carne of Lincoln's Inn 'all that water and grist mill called the little mill and lands and meadow, about 7 acres, adj the way leading from Cowbridge to Aberthin on the E, and to the river Thawon on the W, together with all millstones, millwheels, &c, late in possn of Christopher Wms, gent (99 yr lease or lives of Richard, Howell Carne of Osmond's Ash, and Geo, son of Richard, at £3. 6. 8d a quarter) *NLW D218/13*

1697 Mortgage for £350 – Jenkin Williams of Cowbridge gent. to John Wyndham of Dunraven, sergent at law : the Mill Close (7 acres) *D/D Tre. 34*

1703/4 Jenkin Williams to Robert Deere of St Mary Church – mortgage for £80 (99 year lease) for land as above. *D/S Tre. 35*

1705-6 Reference to 'close called mill close in Cowbridge' *D/D Ed 86,87*

1719 Ref. to mill close in occ Jenkin Williams of Llanquian, gent (JW died by 1737) *D/D Ed 89*

1739 Parcel of lands called Mill Close – lease and release *D/D Ed 95,6*

1741 Lease and release – Thomas Wyndham of Cloverwall, Glos. To Jenkin Williams of Cowbridge gent. : small parcel of meadow land (quarter acre) called the hams, adj. west the river of the town, east the mill close, part of the lands of Jenkin Williams near the bridge *D/D Ed. 98*

1742 Mortgage for £250 – Jenkin Williams and wife Catherine and Thomas Edmondess to John Edmondess, Jane John of Colwinston and Jenkin Simon of Ewenny : parcel of land called mill close etc. Note of sale – for £200 parcel of land called mill close, formerly occupied by Thomas Lougher and three quarters called the hams. *D/D Ed. 99-102*

- 1746 Assignment and redemption of mortgage for £420 to Anne Howard and £70 to Evan Jenkins - Anne Howard of Llysworney, spinster to James Morgan of Cowb, mercer to use of Nathaniel Taynton of C gent. and Thos Edmondes of C. gent., property inc 'close or parcel of land called $\frac{3}{4}$ (acre) by the mill, and 7 acres in occ of Jas Morgan, mercer, adj west the lands of Jenkin Williams, called the mill 7 acres, east the lane and highway to Aberthin *D/D Ed 1-3*
- 1746-7 Lease for 21 years - Cae y Velin, formerly occupied by Jane Vallance, also ruinous house leading to Cae Velin and adjacent to the house occupied by Susan Deere - deed transferring land from Jenkin Williams to Thos Edmondes *D/D Ed 115*
- 1749-50 Reference to 4 messuages, adj north the Mill Close *D/D Ed 113*
- 1759 Property and land including 'parcel of land called mill close and adjoining piece of meadow ground (three quarter acre) called the hams' (included with mill close) in the occupation of Thomas Edmondes; adjacent barn in occupation of William Read yeo. *D/D Ed 265*
- 1770 Reference to land of John Edmondes called 'Cae Velin' *D/D Tre. 44/45*
- 1775 Reference to the hams occupied by Walter Williams *D/D Ed. 268*
- 1790 Lease from Thos Edmondes of Llandough Castle to Christopher Bradley of Cowbridge innkeeper - field called millfield, adj north west Cowbridge river, E the lane from Cowbridge to Aberthin, N the land of Thomas Bruce, clerk, decd, and reference to right of passage from the eastern village through the mill field to a barn occupied by David Bowen (which lay to the east of the barn being leased). *D/D Ed 119*
(reference to this path also in *D/D Ed. 154*)
- No date Estate of Col Thomas Edmondes - inc
2 cottages and the mill field in occupation of David Abraham blacksmith. *D/D Ed. 308*
- 1831 John Jenkins, owned and occ, £1. 7s 4d *LTA*
- 1840 Mortgage for £400 of property near the Limes, plus a 'water corn grist mill called the Old Town Mill or Johnny's, and two closes formerly in one called the Little Mill Field and a lane leading by the side of one of the closes from the turnpike road from Cowbridge to Aberthin down to the said mill, and a parcel of land belonging to the said mill'.
The parties involved were a). William Lewis of Bridgend gent. And William Jones ironmaster of Pyle
b). Ann Bates, widow of Edward Bates, late of Green Gate, St Brides Major, surgeon decd., Edward Bates, surgeon, eldest son and heir of above Ed. Bates, and Catherine Bates of the Chateau de Thon, near Bonnay in Loiret, France, spinster, daughter of said Ed. Bates father.
c). Thomas Reynolds of Caerphilly, shopkeeper
d). William Edmondes of Cowbridge, gent. *Aberthin papers 93*

1840 Edward Bates, owned, Jane Jenkins occupied - 402, Westfield
403, Mill & garden
404, Mill Meadow
438, East field *Tithe*

Ca 1840 Edward Bates, owner – freehold house and land; Jane Jenkins tenant
Cowbridge Hundred register of electors

1845 Edward Bates, prop, Richard Evans, tenant, freehold mill and land *Electoral register*

1849 Land inc Old Town Mill or Johnny's... and all that piece of meadow
ground belonging to the mill occ by Evan Evan *Aberthin 93*

1857, 21 April Baptism of John Thomas, son of Evan (miller) & Catherine Thomas,
Johnny's Mill *Llanblethian parish records*

1858, May 22nd To be sold by private contract at the Old Town Mill, known as 'Johnny's
Mill', Cowbridge, 'all the machinery thereto belonging, comprising a large water wheel on an
improved principle by John Morgan of Llanmaes, the dry machinery, two pairs of stones, two
flour dressing machines, with strap, old oak and other timbers' etc etc. Apply to Edward
Bates Esq or Mr John Morris, Cowbridge *Glamorgan Gazette*

Notes of David Jones of Wallington, mid 19th century :

Johnny's Mill.

Johnny who gave his name to the mill was a character. He was great in the construction of mill wheels. His work was supposed to have the durability of any miller in the neighbourhood. He was very particular as to the wood he used. Apple tree wood I have been told was his favourite wood for the flanges (?) of the wheel. Before his time the mill had..... The property had been owned by the Bates family for several generations. When Dr Edward Bates died (old Dr Bates he was called in my childhood) the property was offered for sale, about 1850. Primrose Hill was sold but Johnny's Mill was bought .. at a ? reserved price of £600 or £700 a few years later. Penlline Moors were enclosed 1855/7 and a scheme for their drainage design, to carry out work it was necessary to do away with the mill. For the water right of the mill alone the Bates' got the sum of £750. So that they did well by keeping the property. The property was ultimately sold and old mill too for about £1100 in 1870. Meanwhile the railway had passed through the land and an additional £200 or so had been netted. The estate will not yield so much luck for another 100 years as it had yielded in the previous twenty.'

Notebooks in Cardiff central library – transcribed (with difficulty) by B Alden

1859 William Thomas, Town Mill Lanblethian, between Cowbridge and village of
Aberthin
???? *Elect reg*

- 1861 Hopkin Davies, 55, farmer of 10 ac, b Llandow
Sarah, wife, 52, b Penmark
Ellen, daughter, 25, b St Athan *Census 100*
- 1863 Ann Bates, widow, to Cowbridge Railway Co - sale of millstream
belonging to Johnny's Mill *note in Aberthin 117*
- 1865 William Thomas, Town Mill, Llanblethian, rent of £50+ pa *Elect Reg*
1865, 8 March Baptism of Mary Phillips, daughter of Thomas & Catherine Phillips,
yeoman, of Bates Mill *Llb. parish records*
- 1868 William Lewis of Bridgend, gent. and William Jones formerly of Hall, Glamorgan,
now of College Green, Bristol to Edward Bates, surgeon, and Wyndham Bates, gent., his
brother - reconveyance of 3 pieces of land in the possession of the Cowbridge Railway
Company a dwelling house and buildings, formerly a grist mill and then
known as Bates's mill or Johnny's mill, and all that adj meadow,
adjoining the R Thaw, contg 3 ac+, and land adj about ½ acre,
formerly part of a field called Westfield, and all that lane leading
from the Cowbridge and Llantrisant turnpike road to the said dwelling house, now
occupied by Thomas Phillips *Aberthin 117*
- 1869 Edward Bates – Johnny's mill and land *Register of electors*
- 1869 David Jones of Rockley Cottage, Limpley Stoke, near Bath – copyhold land situate
near Bates mill; Jonathan Howells tenant *Reg. of electors*
- 1869-70 William Thomas, Town Mill, Llb, rent of £50+ pa ? ? ?
(described as between Cowbridge and Aberthin) *Elect Reg*
- 1869 Thomas Philip of Aberthin – occupier of land at Bates mill and Wain y Vicar
Reg. of electors
- 1871 John Holt, engine driver and family *Census #184*
Benjamin Gronow, railway stoker, b Bridgend + family *#185*
- 1875-6 John Calighan, Bates Old Mill, RV £12+ *Elect Reg*
- 1878 David Jones of Limpley Stoke – land near Bates mill, with Jonathan Howell tenant.
Reg. of electors
- 1881 John Preece, 49, blacksmith, b Llanharry
Jane, w, 49, b Pendoylan
+ 3 daughters + son *Census #97*
- 1889 Evan David, dwelling house, Bates Mill *County register*
- 1890 Edward Hopkin of Bates' Mill, dwelling house *Elect Reg*
John Heke of the Old Mill, dwelling house *Elect Reg*

1896 Evan David, Old Mill Cottage
John David, Old Mill Cottage
Wm Harry, Millfield Cottage, Old Mill
Frank James of Aberthin, Town Mill

Elect Reg

1898 Settlement of marriage of Charles Gresford Edmondson with Dorothy Nicholl (of the estate of the late Archdeacon Edmondson) – land and property including ‘mill field and shed on same’, J. George £11

D/D Ed 512

Sources/references :

D/D = deeds in Glamorgan Record Office

Electoral registers and Aberthin papers in GRO

NLW = National Library of Wales

Druids Green/Millfield Drive became an estate of housing in the 1970s built by Wimpey. Marnie Pepper (nee Hall) reported that her father worked for Wimpey and helped name the roads on the estate.

Grays Walk was so called after Marnie's maternal grandmother, Mary Gray, who lived in Bristol but who used to enjoy walking this road before development. Marnie grew up in the Ancient Druid, Eastgate.

Notes of B Alden