

Llanblethian Cottage / The Old Vicarage, Llanblethian

...Approached by a curving drive, stands the Old Vicarage, a large and solid house, which was built in 1900. In the porch can be read the exhortations *Pax intrantibus, salus exeuntibus* (Peace to those who enter, health to those who leave). The house in fact served as the vicarage for Llanblethian for only about half a century, and was built on the site of the even larger Llanblethian Cottage, which had extensive terraced gardens on the hillside above the house, and stables and coach house to the west (now the Old Coach House).

In 1822, Hugh Entwisle, one of a number of Lancastrians living in the parish in the early nineteenth century, bought Llanblethian Cottage. Hugh was the second son of John Entwisle of Foxholes, Rochdale, and had entered the navy as a midshipman in 1795, serving first on the 'Amethyst'; he saw action at Trafalgar, and was decorated. He was made lieutenant in 1806; his subsequent ships were the 'Pauline', 'Warspite', 'Bucephalus', 'Seahorse' and 'Madagascar', from which he retired on half-pay in 1816.

Why he moved to south Wales is not known – but his father stayed (and died in 1818) at Cadoxton Lodge in the Vale of Neath, and had earlier been recorded as a regular visitor to Swansea 'for the season'. Hugh was then living at Drymma, near Neath. His father left him £5,500 in his will and, on selling Drymma (and Cadoxton), he moved, initially to Clemenstone in Llandow and then to Llanblethian Cottage. His account book showed that he extended the building, altering the front, building or re-building the verandah, and building the stables. His brother Robert and sister Margaret probably lived in the Cottage at this time, before moving to Crossways, but the wedding announcement of Hugh Entwisle and Mary Anne Royds in Rochdale in 1823 stated that he was 'of Llanblethian Cottage'. Captain Royds, father of Mary Anne, must have also lived here for some time, as an announcement in 'The Cambrian' of 1829 lists 'the elegant and well-preserved furniture' of Captain Royds, to be sold as he was moving from Llanblethian Cottage to Bath.

By the time Hugh and his wife moved (to Marlborough Grange) in 1838, the house was described in the sale advertisement as :

the compact and convenient residence of Hugh Entwisle in the pretty village of Llanblethian, consisting of dining and drawing rooms, hall, cellars, kitchen, back kitchen, larder, pantry, laundry, shoe room etc. Four bedrooms, dressing room and water closet, two servants' rooms and attics, four-stall and two-stall stables, saddle room, coach house, gig house, cow house, granary and pig styes, two gardens and orchard within a wall and free from intrusion.

Gervase Turberville, Lt-Colonel in the 12th Foot (the East Suffolks) and a nephew of General Picton of Napoleonic Wars fame, is listed as owner and occupier here in the 1840 tithe apportionment. He married Elizabeth Dowell of Bath the following year, and by 1849, after the death of his brother, had moved to the family seat at Ewenny. He was followed in Llanblethian cottage by Birt Jenner, a retired captain in the East India Company, the youngest son of Robert Jenner of Wenvoe Castle. Jenner had a substantial household, with six servants in 1851 (including the mysteriously-named Charlotte Robitanski) to look after his wife and two children. Revd FW Edmond records dinners and dances 'at Capt Jenner's', and even after the death of Birt Jenner in 1863, Mrs Jenner continued to entertain – in August 1865, 'Mrs Jenner had thirty to lunch after cottage garden show (in St Quentin's Castle) – very good spread'.

The next significant occupant was Morgan Joseph, a colliery proprietor who was born in Merthyr Tydfil, and who was here from 1875 with his wife and three daughters. His wife died in 1881, and Joseph had moved by 1884.

1884 saw the first use of the house as a vicarage for Llanblethian, when Revd JA Protheroe moved in (for the previous forty years, the incumbent had been Revd Thomas Edmondson, who lived in Old Hall, Cowbridge). By 1891 the property was vacant, probably becoming dilapidated, and the new vicarage was subsequently built on the site, the land having been presented to the parish by Frances Brereton, a daughter of Birt Jenner.

Among the vicars who have lived here were Revds Isaiah Roberts, Lemuel Hopkin James, the author of 'Old Cowbridge' and 'Hopciniaid Morganwg' and Gilbert Williams. It is now a private residence.

'Llanblethian Buildings and People' 2001

1758 Between Lewis Jenkin of Llb gardener to Joan Deere of Llb widow : one messuage, curtilage & garden in the village of Llanblethian, having the highway east and south, one common called y Tilla Mawr north and the hse formerly of George Kemeys west (as Lewis Jenkins or undertenant now holds).

Joan Deere died by 1760. 23/1/1760 'Received of Mr Wm Thomas the sum of £6.6s in full'. (*Did Wm Thomas take over this house? ? Llanblethian Cottage or Hill House? – note of J Alden*) D/D Dav 227

1788 Dr Throckmorton (Sir Charles Throckmorton, 7th baronet?) moved to Llanblethian Cottage – initially until 1791 *Warwks RO, CR 1998*

1789 'We went to Cowbridge where Dr Throckmorton and myself were stewards for the night. A very small meeting owing to the very cold weather. The Sieur Rea exhibited his legerdemain'. *Diaries of Revd John Carne*

1799 – 1802 Throckmortons at Llanblethian *Warwks RO, CR1998*

? This property - 21.6.1806 To be let and may be entered immediately
A commodious house near C - 2 parlours and a kitchen on ground floor, 3 bedchambers over, large well-stocked garden and a lawn in front, situated within 10 minutes walk of a trout stream and bathing place.

Apply to Mr C Bradley, Post Office, C. Grass for 2 horses if required *Cambrian*

1809 – 1814 Edward Sterling and family at Llanblethian Cottage
Carlyle: 'Life of John Sterling'

'my home was built on the slope of a hill, with a little orchard stretching down before it, and a garden rising behind'.
John Sterling, quoted by Carlyle

1815 – 1819 Throckmortons at Llanblethian Cottage *Warwks RO, CR 1998*

1819 Handbill : a small neat cottage fit for the residence of a genteel family, to be sold by private contract.

‘The village of Llanblethian is generally allowed to be one of the most picturesque in the county, and the house stands in the most eligible part of the village as to convenience, health or prospect : it consists of two parlours, three best bed-rooms and a dressing room, with three excellent servants’ rooms in the attics, and one over the kitchen. The offices consist of kitchen, back-kitchen, butler’s pantry, beer-cellar, wine ditto, Brewhouse, woodhouse, and coalhouse, dog kennel, and an excellent three-stall stable, with a hay loft over it.

The house is well supplied by water by a large cistern communicating with the back kitchen. The garden and orchard adjoin the house, are in complete order, and well stocked with every vegetable of the season; the orchard is proverbial for its produce. Besides the above, there is likewise a large plantation above the house, well stocked with full grown trees.

The parish church, in which there is a pew belonging to the house, is within five minutes’ walk, and a trout stream runs within a gun-shot of the garden.

The whole has undergone a complete repair within these two years’.

Warwks RO, CR 1998

1819 Inventory of furniture to be sold by auction (household furniture & other effects of C Courtenay – Throckmorton family *Cambrian*) *Warwks RO, CR 1998* 1819, 26th

1819, 26th June Sale at Llanblethian – small neat cottage with two parlours, three best bedrooms and dining room, three excellent servants’ rooms in the attics, and one over the kitchen. The office consists of kitchen, back kitchen, butler’s pantry, beer cellar, wine cellar, Brewhouse, wood house and coal house, dog kennel and excellent thee-stall stable with hayloft over. Garden and orchard adjoining. Large plantation above the house. Parish church has a pew belonging to the house. Trout stream within gunshot of garden. Complete repair in last two years. Sale of furniture in August. Thos. Williams, solicitor, Cowbridge. *Cambrian*

1819 Death of Eleanor Cook, late of Llanblethian Cottage, in Sussex

Cambrian, 13/2/1819

1822 Hugh Entwisle rents the house and extends it by 1824. His brother Robert Entwisle and sister Margaret probably lived in Llanblethian Cottage at this time

D/D Xgc 107/1,2

1824 ‘money expended in purchase and building at Llanblethian’ : House and garden £630; building stable and room over kitchen £248; altering the front window in dining room, verandah, walls and flags, and building of Robert’s stable £220; building new room and new pantry and laundry £164; painting and papering £100; furniture £350 etc. Value of property at Llanblethian £2144 *D/D Xgc 107/1,2*

1824 Marriage of HR Entwisle of Llanblethian Cottage to Mary Anne, eldest daughter of James Royds esq of Mount Falinge, Rochdale

Cambrian, 23/10/1824

- 1825 Hugh Entwisle pays land tax for Crossways *Llanblethian LTA*
- 1829 Auction of household furniture of Captain Royds of Llanblethian Cottage to be sold by William Morris at Llanblethian Cottage on 26/3/1829. Sale without reserve as the owner now resides in Bath - affords an opportunity seldom met with of procuring elegant and well-preserved furniture
Cambrian, 14/3/1829
- 1837 Kilhays, field below the dwelling house of Hugh Entwisle *D/D Ed 180*
- 1838 Llanblethian Cottage to be sold: the compact and convenient residence of Hugh Entwisle in the pretty village of Llanblethian, consisting of dining and drawing rooms, hall, cellars, kitchen, back kitchen, larder, pantry, laundry, shoe room, etc. 4 bedrooms, dressing room and water closet, 2 servants' rooms and attics, 4-stall and 2-stall stables, saddle room, coach house, gig house, cow house, granary and pig styes, 2 gardens and orchard well stocked with good trees in full bearing, the whole enclosed within a wall and free from intrusion.
Cambrian, 22/9/1838
- 1840 Gervas Turberville, o and occ *Tithe#182*
(Gervas Turberville, Major 12th Foot (E Suffolks) 27/8/1825
Army List Jan 1829)
(*Col. Gervas Powell Turberville, KH, of Ewenny Priory, son of Richard Turberville Picton afterwards, after 1797, Turberville, son of Thos Picton of Poyston, Pems., and Elizabeth Powell, daughter of Revd Gervase Powell of Llanharan House. Died 1862).*)
- 1840 Lt Col Turberville married Elizabeth Powell of Bath *Cambrian, 7/11/1840*
- 1844 The wife of Lt Col Turberville died at Tresilian *Cambrian, 1/6/1844*
- 1845 Lt Col Turberville married Sarah Ann Way (?Werry) of Somerset
Cambrian, 31/10/1845
- 1845/6 Gervas Turberville of Llanblethian - freehold house and land *Electoral reg*
- 1848, 29th September Indenture between Gervas Powell Turberville of Ewenny Abbey (heretofore by mistake called Gervas Picton Turberville) and Birt Wyndham Rous Jenner of Llanblethian – sale of property for £1300.
Rep body Church in Wales
- 1849 Son born to Birt Jenner of Llanblethian Cottage *Cambrian, 27/4/1849*
- 1849 Birt Jenner, Llanblethian Cottage *Electoral reg*
- 1850 Birt Jenner of Llanblethian Cottage - freehold house and garden *Electoral reg*
- 1850 Daughter born to Birt Jenner of Llanblethian Cottage *Cambrian, 22/11/1850*

- 1851 Birt Jenner, capt (ret) EICo, 41, b London + w + 2 chn + 6
servants (inc Charlotte Robitanski) *Census#13*
- 1860, 11th May Will of late Birt Jenner (eldest son Birt St Albyn was amply provided for
under the will of gt uncle Thos Cridland Luxton, late of Weacombe House, Somerset) –
devised Llb property to use of wife Ann Jenner during her life and after to his children, except
eldest son. (Birt Jenner died 1863) *Rep body Church in Wales*
- 1861 Birt W Rous Jenner, Capt Ret Bengal Army, b Wenvoe Castle,
+ w + 2chn = 5 servants *Census#7*
- 2/1/1861 Dance at Capt Jenner's *Diary of FW Edmondes*
21/1/1862 Dined at Capt Jenner's; pleasant evening “ “
- 1863, 18th December On 12th December at Llanblethian Cottage, death of Birt Wyndham
Rous Jenner, youngest son of late Robert Jenner of Wenvoe Castle, aged 54 *Cambrian*
(Widow Ann married William Pritchard of Bryntirion 1865 and outlived him. He died 1888)
Llb mon. inscrip
- 10/8/1865 Mrs Jenner had 30 to lunch after cottage garden show – very good spread *Diary
of F W Edmondes*
- 1/10/1868 With Birt Jenner and Ted Davies shooting *Diary of FW
Edmondes*
- 28/12/1869 Birt and Fanny Jenner among guests at Old Hall Christmas party *Diary of FW
Edmondes*
- 1869 Henry Stone, Llanblethian Cottage *Electoral reg*
- 1871 Thomas Williams, mason, b Cowbridge + w + d + s *Census#17*
- 1874 GW Quilter occupied; Mr W Prichard owned *Glam County Rate 13*
- 1875/80 Morgan Joseph *Worralls/Slaters*
- 1880 Intended marriage between Cuthbert Brereton and Ann Jenner *Rep body
Church in Wales*
- 1881 Elizabeth Joseph, w of Morgan Joseph, d 9/1/1881, aged 49 *Llb mon inscrip*
- 1881 Morgan Joseph, colliery prop b Merthyr Tydfil, 54, + 3d + grandson
+ 3 servants *Census#15*
- 1884 'Called at Llanblethian Cottage, the Protheroes (new vicar)'
FW Edmondes diary

1886 JH Protheroe resigned 'for a noted ministry at Aberystwyth' *'Reclaiming the Wilderness', RL Brown*

1890 Reuben Norton, land and tenement, Llanblethian Cottage *Electoral Reg*

1891 vacant

1899 Mrs Ann Pritchard offered Llanblethian Cottage with its one and a half acres of land as a site for a vicarage, but land was in fact held in trust. She then offered £300 to help buy the land for £400. Revd OE Evans stated that the house would have to be demolished but the coach house and stables could remain. Site conveyed to Ecclesiastical Commissioners in September. Plans drawn up by Diocesan architect, GE Halliday.

'Reclaiming the Wilderness', RL Brown

Building of Llanblethian Vicarage

1900 'Walked to Llanblethian to see the new vicarage, 5 June' *FW Edmond's diary*

1901 House ready for painting. Revd OE Evans moved in in November
'Reclaiming the Wilderness', RL Brown

1905 – 1917 Revd Isaiah Roberts MA *'Reclaiming the Wilderness', RL Brown*

1907 Revd Isaiah Roberts thanked Miss Brereton of Meadow Bank, Twickenham, for presenting the parish with the site of the vicarage, and restoring the peal of bells in the tower. *Western Mail 12/4/1907*
(Frances Caroline Brereton was a daughter of Birt Jenner (Llb Mem Inscrips), and so it seems that the Pritchard/Jenner family owned the site 1849 - 1899)

1912 Baptism of daughter of Philip Thurstan Bassett, Llanblethian Cottage
St Hilary parish recds

1917 Revd L Hopkin-James, MA

1920,3 Revd L Hopkin-James, MA, FSD,LID, (rector, rural dean of Gronoath Lower, and Surrogate. Author of 'Old Cowbridge')
Kelly's

1926 Revd Gilbert Williams *Kelly's*

Diary of FW Edmond's:

2/1/1861: dance at Capt Jenner's

21/1/1862: dined at Capt Jenner's: pleasant evening

10/8/1865: Mrs Jenner had 30 to lunch after the cottage garden show - very good spread

28/12/1869: Birt and Fanny Jenner among guests at Old Hall Christmas party

1/10/1878: with Birt Jenner and Ted Davies shooting

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*Supposedly built 1870. The porch has a date 1901 carved on it.
Incumbents who have lived there in living memory were : Owen Evans,
Isaiah Roberts and
Lemuel Hopkin James (author of 'Old Cowbridge').*

The stables are dated 1822.

Sources/references :

GRO = Glamorgan Record Office

Warks RO = Warwickshire Record Office

*Register of electors, Glamorgan County Rate & Worrals, Hunts, Slaters, Kellys directories =
all held in GRO*