

67 High St – Sorrento

- 1738 Nathaniel Taynton, half a burgage *BR 149*
- 1761 House and Garden of Joan Taynton, widow *Deed of 69 High St.
Hopkin James papers, Cardiff library*
- 1762 Mrs Taynton owned; Thomas Lewis tenanted *BR 145*
- 1773 John Cole, 3s.9d *LTA*
- Ca 1780 Rev. Francis Taynton owned; Mr John Miles, tenant, half a burgage *BR 150*
- 1784 Rev Mr Taynton owned; John Miles occupied, 5/- *LTA*
- 1793 Rev Mr Taynton owned; Mr Francis Thomas occupied, 5/- *LTA*
- 1795 Francis Taynton owned; Michael Jones and John Williams BA (part of a mortgage settlement) *Deeds*
- 1800 Mrs Taynton owned; Francis Thomas occupied, 5/- *LTA*
- 1807 Francis Taynton owned; William Samuel Cooper occupied, 21 year lease *Deeds*
- 1815 Mr Taynton owned; Mr Kennedy occupied, 5/-
Peter Kennedy in Burgage rents 149 *LTA*
- 1822 Peter Kennedy, grocer etc. *Pigot's directory*
- 1824 Francis Taynton the elder, solicitor, wife Jane and Francis Taynton the younger, clerk, owned; lease to Mary Lewis, widow, house now occupied by William Samuel Cooper; John Miles or Francis Thomas, glazier undertenant *Deeds*
- 1830 William Lewis etc., Thomas Lewis occupied, 5/- *LTA*
- 1830 Thomas Lewis, ironmonger and wheelwright *Pigot*
- 1831 Thomas Lewis and his mother Mary occupied *Deeds*
- 1839, 30th November Ann Harry, wife of a labourer of Llantwit Major, was committed to Cardiff gaol by the magistrates of Cowbridge for stealing from the shop of Mr Lewis of Cowbridge a shawl and three handkerchiefs. *Cambrian*

- 1843 Mary Lewis owned; Edward Williams occupied *Tithe*
- 1844 Edward Williams, surgeon *Pigot*
- 1845 Mary Williams died
- 1851 Edward Williams, 54, born Caerphilly, general practitioner, with wife and servant
Census 122
- 1856 John Thomas, auctioneer, owned; William Jones, shoemaker occupied. Sale for £350. *Deeds*
- 1861 John Thomas, 39, auctioneer, livery and stable keeper, and farmer of 42 acres employing 5 men, born Ewenny, with his wife, mother-in-law, sister-in-law (Charlotte Alexander, master mariner's widow) and a servant *Census 91*
- 1870 John Thomas of Eastfield House owned; property leased to John Watkyn Phillips, surgeon, for 21 years *Deeds*
- 1871 John W Phillips, 39, surgeon born Somerset, and one servant *Census 101*
- 1879 JW Phillips owned and occupied – sale for £600, dwelling house with stable, coach houses etc. *Deeds*
- 1881 George Reynolds, 30, surgeon born Ireland *Census 264*
- 1890 JW Phillips died
- 1891 Arthur L Phillips, 19, living on own means, born Cowbridge, with 2 servants
Census 258
On the death of AL Phillips, under 21 years of age, by the terms of JW Phillips's will, the sons of his half-sister inherited the property – Percy Douglas Joliffe and Sydney Charles Joliffe *Deeds*
- 1895 Arthur Wilberforce Shepherd, physician and surgeon, bought no. 67 at auction in the Bear Hotel and lived there *Deeds*
- 1901 AW Shepherd died *Deeds*
- 1901 Hastings Torney, 33 medical practitioner, born Ireland, with wife Jessie and 3 year old son Tommy, plus a domestic servant *Census 163*
- 1910 H Torney occupied; Mrs Shepherd owned *D/D PRO/VAL/1/46*
- 1912 Hastings Torney, physician and surgeon *Western Mail street directory*

1926 Owners : Dr David Evans of Woodstock House, Cowbridge, physician and surgeon, and Dr David William John of the Croft, Bridgend, physician and surgeon *Deeds*

1937, December Death of Mrs Alice Thomas, wife of the Revd Gilbert Thomas (vicar of Bonvilston) occurred at Sorrento, High Street, where she had been living for the last sixteen months. She was the daughter of Mr Thomas Culverwell, and the sister of Gilbert Thomas who is at present laid up. His sister, Catherine Thomas of Rochdale has been living with them. *? Glamorgan Gazette*

1941 DW John retired *Deeds*

1942 Mrs Mary J Evans, widow, of 60 High St, owned; Rev. Gilbert Thomas occupied *Deeds*
(Hymns in Holy Cross church safe written by Rev. G Thomas in the 1970s)

1947 Rev. Gilbert Thomas
Katie Hallett *Register of electors*

1964 Death of Mrs Mary J Evans, the then owner and occupier *Deeds*

1964 Sold by Gwyneth Jane Jones, of 67 High St., to David and Reta Thomas *Deeds*

Subsequent removal of the third storey and the porch, and the installation of a shop window – Sorrento soft furnishings shop (plus carpets, china). On the western side of the property, an alleyway leads down along the front of what were three cottages built at right angles, facing west. A well was discovered under the flagstones of the path when ‘Sorrento’ was developed and this has been preserved for interest and decoration.

2015 Monmouthshire Building society and Brinson’s estate agents – ground floor
Sorrento furnishings – first floor
Mr and Mrs David Thomas now live at the rear of the premises

From ‘Cowbridge Buildings and People’, 1999

This was a substantial three storeyed property, with an imposing pillared porch, which was only removed when the building was altered in 1964. In 1773, it was occupied by one John Cole, whose son attended the Grammar School and went on to Jesus College, Oxford. The owner of the house then was Revd Francis Taynton, and the Taynton family continued to own the property into the 19th century.

In 1824, Mary Lewis, a widow, and her three sons were joint owners, but by 1831 one of the sons, Thomas Lewis an ironmonger, owned the property and lived there with his mother. After they moved, for some

reason medical men dominated the pattern of residence in the house - Edward Williams a GP from Caerphilly from 1843 to the 1850s, John Phillips, a Somerset-born surgeon in 1871, and George Reynolds a surgeon from Ireland in 1881. Albert Wilberforce Shepherd, physician and surgeon, bought the house by auction in 1895, and lived there, and he was succeeded by Dr RHS Torney - who named the house Sorrento - and then Dr DJ Evans of Woodstock House and Dr John of Bridgend took it over in 1926.

The only exception to medical occupancy noted in the censuses was in 1861, when John Thomas, an auctioneer, livery and stable keeper - and a farmer of 42 acres, employing 5 men, lived there with his wife, mother-in-law and sister-in-law. Perhaps it is no wonder that he did not stay there long! His sister-in-law, Charlotte Alexander, described as a master mariner's widow, had moved in from the Green Dragon vaults across the road.

Much more recently, the Revd Gilbert Thomas, the much-loved vicar of Bonvilston and a noted hymnologist, lived in the house in the 1940s. It is now a soft-furnishing business selling fabrics, china and furniture.

Sources/abbreviations :

GRO Glamorgan Record Office

D/D Deposits held in GRO

BR Burgage rents (GRO)

LTA Land tax assessments

PRO Public Record Office (Kew)

Tithe, directories, census, electoral registers – in GRO