

Bridge Garage/Riverside Mews site, Cowbridge

‘William Aubrey, mercer, was, in his lifetime and at his death, seized in fee of Llanmihangel and other messuages and lands (including)... a messuage...on the bridge, formerly the Swan but now the Plough or Harrow, and upon his death the same descended to his two only children, Margaret and Cecil Aubrey and his heirs...’

Refers to past deeds of ? and 1704 between the Aubrey sisters and Robert Button regarding a moiety of a messuage called the Plough or Harrow (amongst other messuages and lands), the use of which was declared to Margaret Aubrey and her heirs. She died intestate, leaving her share to Pierce Cornish gent.

1717 Conveyance of Edward and Cicil Portrey (nee Aubrey) to Thomas Wilkins of Llanblethian gent and William Cornish apothecary – property including the moiety (half) of a house called the Swan in the possession of William Morgan *D/Dx75 18/19*

1717/18 One messuage, one cottage and stable and garden, and the moiety of four messuages, 20 acres of land etc. – indentures of a fine levied between Thomas Wilkins and William Cornish, plaintiffs, and Edward and Cecil Portrey, defendants (Cecil Portrey, nee Aubrey, had separated from her husband Edward in 1700, and their lands were divided)

1720 Will of Cecil Portrey leaving various property including the messuage called the Plough or Harrow to her nephew Pierce Cornish.

1723 Endorsement on the will of Pierce Cornish’s inheritance of the property.

1758 Philip Walton and other creditors of Pierce Cornish (regarding his sole sister and heir, Anne Cornish, described as ‘a lunatic’) order that sufficient part of his estate be sold off to pay debts.

c. 1760 Old writings refer to ‘the Swan on the bridge’ *D/Dx75 282*

1763 Premises pursuant to previous notices in the public papers for the best purchaser. Indentures between Richard Turberville, William ?, John Nicholl and John Thomas, surviving executors and devisees of Pierce Cornish’s estate. *D/Dx75 236*

1763 Copy of feoffment in trust (John Wilson inheriting the estate of Pierce Cornish) includes The Swan and leasehold stable near the Swan *D/Dx75 159*

1765 Estate of Pierce Cornish for sale includes – messuage and croft adjoining, near the bridge, formerly the Swan Inn let to Thomas Lougher at a yearly rent of £5 *D/Dx75 177*
(Edmond's deeds of 1742 and 1749/50 show Thomas Lougher had the Plough and Harrow on the south side of Eastgate – about no. 70. He possibly changed the name of the Swan when he moved slightly west along the street into this property).

1767 Conveyance from John Wilson (bankrupt) to Snelson and Davis of Bath (handling the estate he had inherited from his cousin Pierce Cornish – includes The Harrow, formerly the Swan, near the bridge *D/Dx75 223*

November 1768 Snelson and Davis to Christopher Bassett –
Messuage or tenement buildings, ground and garden adjoining, in the town of Cowbridge near or adjacent to the Bridge, formerly occupied by William Morgan, then or late of Thomas Lougher, formerly called the Swan but then or late the sign of the Harrow (plus other properties of the White Hart and Mary Shelcott's house in High St etc) *D/Dx75 240*

1769 Account of moneys due from Mr Thomas Williams solicitor (?) for the sale of the Plough. He took possession in July 1769 for £320 *D/Dx75 242*

July 1769 Payment of Thomas Williams – conveyance of the Harrow (and for the reversion of the other properties listed in the above deed Dx75 240) *D/Dx75 243*

August 1768 Particulars of John Wilson's estate (he having inherited from relative Pierce Cornish and then went bankrupt) includes – to be sold freehold and in possession, a house near the bridge called the Swan or the Plough, subject to quit rent of 2s.9d. per year *D/Dx75 237*

1773 Jennett William, widow (5 windows) was in this area of the town – possibly the widow of Thomas Williams *Window tax assessment*

The property presumably had behind a courtyard and storehouse etc. in the 'limes yard' John Edmond's possibly owned the property at this time *LTA*

1776 'The Workhouse...in or near the said town of Cowbridge...near the great stone bridge at the south side thereof.'
Notes of Hopkin James, author of 'Old Cowbridge', in Cardiff library

1779 Lease for 14 years, Thomas Edmond's to Edward Ballard and Aberthin, skinner – courtyard and wainhouse called the limes yard and wainhouse, with storeroom, formerly occupied by John Thomas *D/D Ed 146*

1784 Thomas Edmond's owner; property occupied by Jennet and Thomas Williams (the inn, or former inn) and Edward Ballard (behind, on the corner of the Limes) *LTA*

1789 Abstract of title of house with appurtenances situated on the bridge, formerly the Swan but now the Plow or Harrow (plus other properties listed above in *Dx75 240*, sold separately from this property).

1796 Owned by Thomas Edmond; occupied by Lewis Llewellyn and Edward Ballard. Mention too of two houses owned by Dr Bates *LTA*

1799 Thomas Edmond owned; Edward Ballard occupied *LTA*

1830 Thos. Edmond owned; Edward Ballard senior occupied – house and yard *LTA*

1948 Bridge Garage, kept by Frank Sanders, was burned down. Re-built with concrete blocks. Used to store bundles of newspaper for the Girl Guides (collecting to raise funds)
Memories of Danny Powell and Ossie James

2003 Site redeveloped as a row of town houses

Sources/abbreviations :

GRO = Glamorgan Record Office

BR = burgage rents (in GRO)

LTA = land tax assessments (GRO)

D/D = deeds in GRO