

23 Westgate, Cowbridge

Abstract of the title of Arthur Francis Thomas and the Baptist Union Corporation Limited to the freehold dwelling house and premises know as number 23 Westgate, Cowbridge

24th April 1828 Lease between John Samuel gent. of Llanbethery in Llancarfan parish on the one part, Richard Rees mason of Llanblethian parish on the second part and Thomas Lewis carpenter of Cowbridge on the third part.

Reciting an indenture of **18th April 1820**, made between Richard Rees and John Samuel, when Richard Rees sold to John Samuel –

those dwelling houses in the western village of Cowbridge occupied by John Lewis mason and William Jones labourer (being part of premises purchased by Richard Rees from Thomas Wyndham Esq. deceased), having a house and garden purchased by James Hitchcock off Richard Rees plans of Maxse of Bristol Esq., a certain spot of ground called The Broad Shord, the residue of the said premises purchased by Richard Rees off Thos. Wyndham, and the turnpike road leading through Cowbridge on all or most sides -

to hold unto John Samuel, his executors, administrators and assigns for 500 years.

Some extensive detail about sums of money being paid or owed, and a lease agreement to Thomas Lewis...

All those dwelling houses and all other premises described which were then or had been occupied by Richard Rees, Richard Rees's son and John Lewis (or some or one of them), and also that Chapel or Meeting House standing to the north of the cottages, and those gardens and burial ground lying between the cottages and the chapel, together also with a right of way leading thereto – all of which had lands of Mistress Mary Powell on the north, the High road leading to the town on the south, a messuage and garden of Thomas Edmondes Esq. on the east, and a messuage and garden of Elizabeth Hiscock spinster on the west.

The said cottages or dwelling houses, chapel and all other premises granted to Thomas Lewis for 999 years, paying Richard Rees a peppercorn rent. Covenant from John Samuel that the property was free from incumbrances. Covenants by Richard Rees for premises to be for quiet enjoyment and freedom from incumbrances.

Executed by John Samuel and Richard Rees

29th April 1828 Sale – from Thomas Lewis of Cowbridge carpenter to John Roberts of Llantwit Major Minister of the Gospel, William Morgan of Cowbridge labourer, Thomas William of Cowbridge labourer, Richard Howe of Cowbridge butcher, William John of Llanblethian carpenter, Thomas Jenkin of Llanblethian labourer, William Robert of Llanblethian labourer, William Rees of Llanblethian yeoman, David John of Coychurch woollen manufacturer, John Evan of Colwinston gardener, David Morris of Llangan carpenter, Jenkin Prees of Llangan yeoman, and Richard John of Llansannor labourer.

For promoting the Christian religion as professed by Protestant dissenters of the denomination of Particular Baptists at Cowbridge, and for the professors of the same religion to exercise their religious worship more conveniently at Cowbridge....also in conson of 5/- to ad Thomas Lewis then paid (receipt acknowledged)...Thomas Lewis....sold unto John Roberts etc.....to the freehold dwelling house and premises known as number 23 Westgate, Cowbridge.

...all those two cottages in western Cowbridge then or lately in tenure or occupation of Richard Rees the elder, Richard Rees his son, and John Lewis, and the chapel being to the north of the cottages....for 999 years....sold upon trust that the trustees should from time to time and at all times permit the chapel to be used, occupied and enjoyed as a place of public religious worship...by the Society of Protestant Dissenters called Particular Baptists, and the burial ground be appendant to the chapel, and also at all times forever thereafter to permit one of the cottages to be used with the chapel as a vestry room and the other to be used by the officiating Minister for his residence or otherwise....

10th April 1888 Meeting of Owen Jones of Cowbridge Minister and appointment of new trustees of the dwelling house and premises belonging:

New trustees : John Lewis of Brigam, Llansannor farmer

Evan Thomas of Llwynhelig

Thomas John, Broadway, Cowbridge farmer

Thomas Jenkins of Llanblethian, farmer and maltster

John Hopkin, Cowbridge and Llanblethian contractor

John Thomas, Cowbridge tailor

William Norton, Llanblethian tailor

William Morgan, Llanblethian tailor

Thomas Thomas, railway guard Cowbridge

David Spencer, Llanblethian miller

Joshua Thomas, Llanblethian tailor

Evan Thomas, Cowbridge grocer and butcher

Old continuing trustee : Richard John

Executed by Owen Jones

6th October 1926 Appointment of new trustees of (1) Ramoth Baptist Chapel and the two dwelling houses, land and premises and (2) the land, dwelling house and premises known as the Manse situated in Westgate St. and (3) the land and buildings thereon used as a Sunday School room situate in the village and parish of Llanblethian – special meeting :

Old continuing trustee is Evan Thomas of Cowbridge, Justice of the Peace, retired farmer

New trustees : James Gilbert Harold Bird, High St Cowbridge, Borough Surveyor
David Hopkin Davies, High St Cowbridge saddler
Evan Thomas Hopkin, The Shield, Cowbridge, monumental sculptor and builder
William Jenkins, The Factory, Llanblethian, farmer
John Davies, Eastgate St. Cowbridge, railway signalman
James Charles John, No. 9 Rose Cottage, Southgate, Cowbridge, engine driver
James Llewellyn, Moorlands, Penlline, farmer
Robert Thomas, Oakley House, Cowbridge, bank manager
Thomas Thomas, Llwynhelig, farmer
Thomas Rogers Thomas, Penyrheol, Llysworney, farmer
James Whitney, The Folly, Llanblethian, farmer
Benjamin Williams, Piccadilly, Llanblethian, gardener
Gilead Spencer, Brook House, Llanblethian, wheelwright
Anthony Francis Thomas, Oakley House, Cowbridge, bank accountant
Executed by Brinley Thomas Roberts as Chairman.

4th August 1957 Appointment of new trustees of the Baptist Chapel and two dwelling houses and the Manse in Westgate St. Cowbridge, known as Ramoth, and the Baptist Sunday School in the village of Llanblethian (being the property in deeds of 1815, 1828, 1911 and 1887) – special meeting :

Chairman - Latimer Ridley Williams

Names and descriptions of all former listed trustees, listed above, all of whom had died, except for Gilead Spencer, Brook House, Llanblethian, retired wheelwright and Arthur Francis Thomas, now of West Winds, Monmouth Rd., Usk, retired bank manager (both these being continuing trustees).

Signed by G Spencer and A F Thomas

23rd October 1938 Deed of enlargement (not attached)

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Johnson Miles, first Socialist mayor in Cowbridge, lived here. He was killed in a motor accident in 1949.

*Most deeds were loaned by the current resident.
Typed by B. Alden, 2015*