

Ar y Mynydd, Llanblethian

This was Richard Rees's own house – he was living there in 1819 when he mortgaged his properties; he was still there in 1840. It was a much smaller cottage than Ar y Mynydd today – the property was considerably enlarged in the 1970s.

Home to one of the John Rice families in 1851, the cottage was occupied in the 1861 census by a pauper widow called Ann Harding, and also by a tailor journeyman, the Devon-born James Tout and his wife Mary, who moved to various cottages in the village during their life.

Unoccupied in 1871, the 'cottage and pigsty with garden' was occupied by Morgan Morgan, shoemaker, for an annual rent of £5, when Philip Morgan became the owner in 1876. In 1881, Aaron Boobyer, miller, from Stoke St Mary in Somerset, whose brother had also moved into Piccadilly, lived in the house with his wife Harriet. They soon moved to live in part of Leys Cottage, and in 1891, Thomas Jones, a postman, lived in Ar y Mynydd with his family. Robert Thomas remembered his wife as having a laundry; the 1891 census records his daughter Elizabeth as being a laundress. By 1910 Richard David lived there; Thomas Williams of the adjacent Hillside was recorded as the owner.

'Llanblethian Buildings and People' 2001

Richard Rees had the following properties :

Tithe 257, 258 – sold these in 1815 to Mary Williams (see Rose Cottage)

Tithe 259, 260 – Half Moon; Mary Morgan here 1840, so possibly 1834

Tithe 268 – Ar y Mynydd; Richard Rees here 1840, so possibly in 1819 too

Tithe 269 – Hillside; R Rees here in 1840, so possibly in 1819 and 1834 too.

Jeff Alden's notes

1819 Richard Rees, mason, to Miss Elizabeth Simkins – mortgage of premises at Llanblethian, three messuages or dwelling houses occupied by Richard Rees, Ann Evan, widow, and Jennet Lewis, widow, with certain crofts hereto adjoining. *D/D GG 15/12*

1834 Further mortgage, occupied now by Richard Rees, Ann Evan, Mary Morgan, Jane Richard and the overseer of the poor of Llanblethian. *D/D GG 15/12*

1834 Richard Rees owned and occupied.

1840 Richard Rees owned and occupied

Tithe 263

1846 Richard Rees died aged 72, 23rd January

Cambrian

1846 Conveyance – Jane Rees of Cowbridge, widow, to Miss Elizabeth Simkins, 5 cottages, stable, croft and premises in Llanblethian *D/D GG 15/12*

1855 Elizabeth Simkins died, leaving property to Thomas Rhys

1861 Ann Harding, James and Mary Tout and William Moore

Census 5,6

1863 Thomas Rees died intestate, leaving to CT Rhys, heir at law

1867 CT Rhys died, leaving all real estate to wife, Jennet Rhys

- 1871 Unoccupied *Census 18*
- 1876 Mrs Jennet Rhys conveyed 'all that cottage and pigsty with garden, occupied by Morgan Morgan, shoemaker, for £5 rent' to Mr Philip Morgan *D/D GG 15/12*
- 1881 Aaron Boobyer, miller, with wife Harriet *Census 16*
- 1891 Thomas James, postman, aged 51, and his family *Census 66*
- 1895 Tom Jones and his wife had a laundry *'Llanblethian in 1895', R Thomas*
- 1910 Richard S David occupied; Thomas Williams owned *C & G, The Hill*

1950s Roy Harris grew up in Ar y Mynydd. He remembers lots of rabbits in the fields at the foot of Mount Ida – the family caught them with ferrets and ate them regularly. Otters were caught there on the Thaw from time to time, by dogs.

At the Kennels (Dan y Graig) lived the Hallett family.

Roy Harris (*aged 84 in 2015 when giving B Alden these memories*) went on to run the garage repair service in North Road with Derek Pearce (where 'Coyote' ski wear shop is now).

Sources/references :

GRO = Glamorgan Record Office

D/D = deeds in GRO

Tithe accounts in GRO

Cambrian newspaper