

Cross Inn and Pentwyn, Llanblethian

According to the Tithe map, John Marchant owned and occupied Cross Inn in 1840, but by 1852 William Thomas, variously described as of Sully and of Marcross was the owner, while the inn was occupied by Evan Morgan, a 67-year-old victualler, born in Llanblethian, with his wife Catherine and their daughter. Evan Morgan died in 1853; by 1861 Jane Thomas, described as a farmer of 26 acres – but not as a publican – lived there. Morgan Joseph, born in Monknash, was described as a publican in 1871, and occupied Cross Inn with his wife and seven children. In 1875, he was described as a limeburner and merchant as well as an innkeeper, and he went on to build a house near the lime kilns in an adjoining field (today's *Limekiln House*).

By 1881, William James, born in Llysworney, with his wife, three sons and five daughters, started the long association of the Jameses with the inn. Alban Watts in 1888 and then Lewis Jenkins in 1901 signified changes in ownership, but Ann James from 1902 to 1908, and Kate James between 1908 and 1916, and William James in 1920 show the continuing links with the James family. Martha Powell, shown as the landlady in 1926, was William James's widow, who married William Powell of Llanmaes in 1923.

Just across the road from the Cross Inn stands Pentwyn. Although parts of the house date back to the late eighteenth century, the first recorded occupant was John Hopkin in 1851. He was a 69-year-old labourer, born in Llysworney; his 70-year-old wife, Margaret, had been born in Llysworney. Nearby, perhaps in part of today's Cross Inn, lived his son, David, a mason, with his family. They had moved to Pentwyn by 1861, and lived there until David's death in 1876.

John Hopkin, the son, was installed in Pentwyn by 1881, with his wife, two children and a servant – Caroline Morris, aged 59, born in Llanblethian. John was described as a stone cutter, and was the monumental mason (apparently somewhat recalcitrant) employed by David Jones of Wallington for his parents' grave. John continued living in Pentwyn until his death in 1921; his son, Evan Thomas Hopkin, was the monumental mason whose workshop was in what is now called Penny Lane in Cowbridge. He lived for a time in The Ancient Druid in Cowbridge.

Molly Jane Jones is the next person recorded on the electoral roll, and lived in Pentwyn until 1956; she was the wife of WE Jones the garage proprietor of Cowbridge.

Cross Inn

1840	John Marchant owner and occupier	<i>Tithe #147</i>
1851	Evan Morgan, victualler, 67, b Llanblethian + w Catherine, 45, d Catherine, 22	<i>Census #3</i>
1852	Evan Morgan, occupier, William Thomas, owner	<i>Llanblethian rates, R13 2/5</i>
1853	Death of Evan Morgan, landlord of Cross Inn, 27/5/53	<i>'Cambrian' newspaper</i>
1861	Jane Thomas, farmer of 26 acres, and servant	<i>Census #17</i>
1869/70	William Thomas, house and garden, Cross Inn	<i>Reg. of electors</i>
1871	Morgan Joseph, 41, b Monknash, publican + w + 7 chn	<i>Census #8</i>
1874	Morgan Joseph, occupier, Mr William Thomas, owner	<i>Glamorgan County Rate 4</i>

1875	Morgan Joseph, Cross Inn, innkeeper, limeburner and merchant (At Limefield Ho in 1881 <i>census: #4</i>)	<i>Worrall's directory</i>
1878	Wm Thomas of Marcross - freehold house and garden, Cross Inn	<i>Electoral Reg</i>
1881	Willm. James, 41, b Llysworney + w + 3 s + 5 daus	<i>Census #5</i>
1881	Willm Thomas of Marcross, owner, Cross Inn	<i>Reg of electors</i>
1885	Willm Thomas of Sully, owner, Cross Inn, house and garden (details of Wm Thomas: Thomas, farmers of Cowbridge and Sully by BW Richards, GFHS magazine, n.d)	<i>Reg of Electors</i>
1888	Sale by Marquis of Bute : tenant Alban Watts (Cross Inn)	<i>Sale docs</i>
1890	Willm. James, Cross Inn, public house	<i>Reg of electors</i>
1891	Willm James + w + 3s + 5 daus	<i>Census #48</i>
1894-1902	occ, Wm James	
1896	Willm James, Cross Inn	<i>Reg of electors</i>
1901	owner, Lewis Jenkins, brewer, Cowbridge	
1902-8	Occupier - Ann James	
1906	Mrs Ann James	<i>Kelly's directory</i>
1908-16	Occupier - Kate James	
1912	Miss Kate James	
1914	“ “ “	“
1920	William James, Cross Inn	“
1923	Marriage of Martha James, Cross Inn, aged 50, widow, to William Powell of Llanmaes	<i>Llanblethian church records</i>
1926	Mrs Martha Powell	<i>Kelly's</i>

Sources/references :

GRO = Glamorgan Record Office, where most of the documents listed (such as trade directories, registers of electors) are held