

Broadway Farm

While this is obviously one of the few old properties to be seen on Broadway today, its origins are somewhat hazy. The fields in which the house was built were known as Cecil Woodward's lands in the eighteenth century; they were owned by William Bruce of Great House and leased to a variety of tenants. Rees Adam of Stallcourt farmed the land in 1799, but at that time it was leased to Henry Edmund, initially described as a yeoman, but later a cooper. Edmund acquired the land and left it in his will to his children.

One of his children, Mary, had married Evan Hopkin in 1824, and in 1840 Evan Hopkin is recorded as the occupier of the house and garden - so far, this is the first record that we have of a building on the site.

There is a remarkable record of continuity of occupation here - as Evan is recorded as living in the farmhouse from 1840 to at least 1881. He was born about 1798 in Llysworney; he farmed at most 15 acres. In 1851, he and his wife had a servant, Mary Evans, and two nieces, probably twins - Mary and Rebecca Griffiths born in Llanharan - living with them. Mary Hopkin died in 1857, and in 1861 Mary Williams, a widow born in Colwinston, was his housekeeper - and remained so till his death. Both in 1861 and 1871 there were boarders or visitors in the house (Elizabeth Davies, a 43-year-old farmer's widow from Llanharan, and the three-year-old Mary Thomas from Ystalyfera in 1861; Mary and her twin sister Ann, both described as scholars, and nieces of Evan Hopkin, in 1871).

The farm was sold in 1881, with Evan Hopkin as sitting tenant, to Revd D Watkin Williams of Pontypridd, and became part of a larger estate, including *The Verlands*. Thomas Whitney farmed there in 1890, and the 1981 census records the house in two parts - one occupied by Thomas's widow Mary Ann, who described herself as a dairy farmer, aged 67, born in Llanblethian, and the other part lived in by her children - two daughters and a son, James, his wife and their two children.

By 1910 George Cox and his son David were living there. George died in 1930, aged 81, but his son David continued running the farm.

Much more recently, many still think of it as "Meredith's shop", a favourite calling point for children on their way to and from school in Broadway. It is now a private residence.

'Llanblethian Buildings & People' CRS 2001

This farm, now a private house, stands on the Cowbridge end of Broadway, between Cae Rex and the primary school.

1765/7 William Bruce owned; Cecil Woodyard's lands, 7 acres *NLW Bute R6/17-19*

1778 William Bruce owned; Cecil Woodyard's lands, 7 acres " "

1799 J Knight of Aberdare esq. and the Rev. T Hole of Barnstaple to Henry Edmund of Llanblethian, yeoman – lease of 2 closes (Broadway field or Cecil Woodyard's land) in the tenure/occupation of Rees Adam *D/D HJ*

1840 Elizabeth Edmondson owned; Evan Hopkin occupied, house and garden *LTA*

? 1850 'Among the successful competitions at the great Dairy Show, London, we notice the name of Miss Annie Jones, of Broadway Farm, Llanblethian. We are glad to state that this young lady is coming like her aunts of Beaupre Castle, noted for her good butter'.
Cutting from scrapbook of WAH Fisher, Cardiff library Vol. 4 882

1851 Evan Hopkin, 53, farmer of 13 acres, born Llanmihangel, with wife Mary, born Llanblethian, servant Mary Evans and 2 nieces, Mary and Rebecca Griffiths aged 12, born Llanharan *Census 82*

1856 Whereas Henry Edmund, cooper died in 1830, he bequeathed his property to his children (one of whom was Mary, wife of Evan Hopkin) – sale of Broadway fields and Broadway house to Lewis Jenkin etc as trustees *D/D HJ*

1857 Mary Hopkin died *D/D HJ*

1861 Evan Hopkin widower, with 15 acres, with a servant, a boarder and a visitor *Census 89*

1871 Evan Hopkin aged 72, with the same servant and 2 nieces born Ystalyfera, both scholars *Census 88*

1881 Evan Hopkin, 82, farmer of 8 acres with his servant *Census 90*

1881 Sale of Broadway Farm to Rev. D Watkin Williams of Pontypridd *D/D HJ*

1884 Evan Hopkin *Kelly's directory*

1890 ?Thomas Whitney, land and farm *Electoral register*

1891 (Probably) Mary Ann Whitney, widow aged 67, dairy farmer born Llanblethian *Census 1*

Next door was her daughter Elizabeth Whitney, another daughter, Louisa Whitney, and her son James Whitney with his wife and 2 children *Census 2*

1900 Broadway Farm – letting of 35 acres grass to Edward John of Cowbridge for £60 *D/D SA 8/15*

1903 TR Hamlen-Williams of Fairfield, Pontypridd and Shrublands, Kingsland, Herefordshire died leaving all his property in trust for his wife and children
Deeds of Broadway property

1908, 18th February Will of Theophilus Richards Hamlen-Williams of Fairfield, Treforest and Shrublands, Kingsland, Herefordshire – all property in trust for wife and children.

1911 Farm and lands known as Broadway, 28 acres, to Thurstan Bassett (of Crossways),
£2400 *D/D SA 8/21*

1912 George Cox occupied; Rev. Hamlen Williams owned

1914 Schedule....2 closes called Broadway fields or Cecil Woodward's lands and house called Broadway, tenant David Cox *Deeds of Broadway property*

1930 Burial of George Thomas Cox aged 81 of Broadway Farm
Llandough parish records

1934 Broadway fields and Broadway let to David Cox (together with Cae Rex, Gwain Boddor, 7 acres Cae Stumpy) *D/D HJ*
Freehold – Evan Phillip Dunn, trustee, formerly of The Cross, now of Plasnewydd, Cowbridge – all those two closes of pasture called Broadway fields. *Tithe map* numbers 339, 349; OS 580,581, part of 582. Tenant David Cox.

1950s Dai Cox's farm. Later, Mrs Cox had a shop there in her front room (right hand side as you enter). Mrs Meredith's shop later again was on the left hand side.
Memories of Roy Harris

1951 Conveyance to Glyn Morgan Thomas of Croesty farm, Coity - for £6100, all that messuage, outbuildings, lands : Broadway Farm 26 acres 3r 19p *Deeds*

1956 Glyn Thomas died, widow Mrs Freda Thomas. He had devised a portion of the farm with lots in accordance with a layout plan (built a dwelling house on each lot).

1960s/70s Mrs Knight, mother of Sir Bernard Knight, pathologist, who lived at Picton House, Llanblethian. She ran a general store from the building, and her son served there at times.
Local information

1970s Mrs Meredith's sweet shop – much frequented by the primary school children

Converted into private house by Danny Powell, of Llanblethian.

Sources/references : *D/D = deeds in Glamorgan Record Office*
LTA = land tax assessments
NLW = National Library of Wales