

Newhouse Farm, Llanblethian

It seems that Newhouse Farm was built on land originally belonging to William Bruce, who had built up his estate in Llanblethian in about 1750.

This was a small farm situated in the southern part of the parish of Llanblethian, overlooking the Vale to the north, built towards the middle of the nineteenth century. The farmhouse is thought to be the last house to be built using stone from the Old Quarry.

Until 1914 the land was tenant farmed and the freehold was sold, as Lot 9 in the Ham Estate sale on the 7th July 1914, by Illtyd Bond Nicholl JP of Llantwit Major to WH Mathias Esq., Tynycymmer Hall, Porth, gent. At that time, the farm was in the occupation of Mr Hopkin Thomas and covered just over 12 acres.

In 1853, an Indenture of Settlement for Newhouse Farm was made between members of the Nicholl family on the marriage of George Nicholl and Mary Lewisa Nicholl. On the 18th November 1889, George Nicholl died and his will passed the property to his widow Mary Lewisa, and the copyhold tenure was passed to their eldest surviving son Illtyd Bond Nicholl. The tenant at that time was Thomas Thomas and the farm consisted of 12 acres, including the house and garden, 6 acres of meadow and four and a half acres of pasture land.

On November 8th 1918, four closes of land in Llanblethian, abutting on the north side of the road leading from Llanblethian to Llandough, were acquired for the farm – just over 8 acres.

On 1st June 1921, Newhouse Farm was conveyed from William Mathias of Porth to Joseph William Hall of Hill House, Llanblethian, merchant. It was then in the occupation of ? Blackmore.

A further 4 acres was conveyed to Richard Jenkins, Kingscombe, Llanblethian, farmer from Frances AC Bereton, nee Jenner, & others on 9th October 1921.

On 11th March 1926, the farm was sold by Annie May Coleman Jones to Barry Thomas of Tredegar Farm, Pontypridd.

On 25th June 1929, there was a conveyance between Mr Charles Thomas, quarry foreman of Llantwit Major to Mr Barry Thomas of 2 closes of land known as Ushers Quarry in Llanblethian.

On 21st June 1951, Barry Thomas passed the farm to John Thomas by Deed of Gift.

1767	Free farm rents: William Bruce, Gibbs land	
1778	Free farm Rents: William Bruce, Gibbs Land	<i>Llb rentals Windsor rentals D/D</i>
		<i>NLW Bute, R 6/17-19</i>
1801	Free farm Rents, Wm Nicholl, part of Gibbs land	<i>Llb Rentals NLW Bute R 6/17-19</i>
1815	Marriage of Dr William Nicholl of Llanblethian to Augusta Maria Nicholl (daughter of late Revd Iltyd Nicholl of Ham) at Penlline chapel	<i>Cambrian 14/9/1815</i>
1820-3	Free Farm Rents: Wm Nicholl, part of Gibbs land	<i>Llb Rentals NLW Bute R 6/17-19</i>
1821	Dr Wm Nicholl, owned, Wm Jones, occ, Newhouse and lands, 5/-	<i>LTA</i>
1831	do	<i>LTA</i>
1840	Wm Nicholl, owned, Thos James, occ, h and g (and fields #916, 917, 918)	<i>Tithe#251</i>
ca 1840	Wm Nicholl of the Isle of Wight, owned Newhouse farm and land	<i>Cowbridge Hundred Reg. Elects</i>
1845/6	Edward Nicholl of Adamsdown, owned, f/h ho and land	<i>Electoral Reg</i>
1851	Anthony Harding, 63, farmer of 13 acres, b Kindle, Mon + wife, 63, b St Brides and d, 24, b St Hilary	<i>Census#34</i>
1861	Thomas David, 41, ag lab, b W St Donats + Rebeca David,w, 40 b W St Donats, + Elizabeth David, d, 7, b Llanblethian + David Wade, boarder, widower, 78, b Pendoylan	<i>Census#48</i>
1870	Death of David Wade of New House, Llb, aged 86	<i>Welsh St Donats parish records</i>
1871	Thomas David, farmer and gardener + w Rebecca	<i>Census#50</i>
1874	Thomas David occupied; Mr Nicholl, of Ham, owned (11 acres)	<i>Glam. County Rate 54</i>
1881	Thomas David, 61 b Pendoylan, farmer of 11 acres + wife Rebecca	<i>Census#57</i>

- 1881 G Wm Nicholl of Llanbadock, Usk, owned, Thos David, tenant
(rent of £50+) *Elect reg*
- 1885 G Whitlock Nicholl, o, Thos David, tenant (RV £12+) *Elect reg*
- 1889 Conveyance, Mary Louisa Nicholl to son *D/D SA 3/452*
- 1891 Thomas Thomas, 40, dairy farmer, b Llanblethian +
Margaret, w, 41, b Llantwit Major + 3ds + 1s
(all b Llanblethian) *Census#24*
- 1895 'Occupied by Thomas Thomas, son of Johnny Thomas, the Bakehouse and
brother of Jenny Thomas...He had a wife, son and four daughters, Calid, Di, Bean, Annie and
Augusta. A favourite stopping place coming from Llandough'. *'Llb. In 1895', R Thomas*
- 1914 Ham Estate sale, when tenant was Mr Hopkin Thomas
Freehold pasture farm occupied by Hopkin Thomas on annual 2nd February tenancy, terminating
2/2/1915 at a rent of £36 pa. total are = 12 acres 1r 3p. The farm house is built of stone with slate
roof, containing sitting room, kitchen, scullery and dairy on ground floor, 2 bedrooms and store
room on first floor, farm buildings of stone with slate roofs are cow house to tie four, stable, pig
sty and WC. Good kitchen garden and yard. Commuted tithe rent charge is £1.16s pa; for the
year 1913 was £1. 16s. 10 and three farthings d; land tax in 1913 was 8/10d.
D/D SA 3/452
- 1918 Death of Hopkin Thomas, saddler of Cowbridge, at New House, Llanblethian, husband of
Margaret, aged 56 *Western Mail*
- 1924/6-1967 The farm was owned and farmed, as a mixed farm first, by Barry and Mary
Thomas, and then by their son John Thomas and his wife Mary.
- 1941,3 Children born to John and Mary Thomas of New House
Llandough parish records
- 1967 Norman Thomas (son of the architect of the Severn Bridge, Sir Percy Thomas) bought
the property and kept half a beagle hound pack.

Sources/references :

GRO = Glamorgan Record Office, where most documents here (such as Glamorgan County rate, registers of electors, tithe accounts) are held

NLW = National Library of Wales, where Bute papers are held