

Porth y Green, Llanblethian

It is likely that in the 18th century Porth y Green was the property of the Caercady Estate, though the Bute papers and Land Tax Assessments do not specify the existence of a house on the spot. David Jones of Wallington, however, mentions the house as existing in the early 19th century, and it being on the site of an earlier building.

1749 Glamorgan Fines – commend Charles Bonville, gent., John Thomas, gent, Jennet Bates, widow, Richard Bates, Dr of Physic and Catherine his wife, that they perform with David Jenkins, gent., the covenant made between them, of one messuage, one barn, one garden, one orchard, 10 acres of land, 5 acres of meadow, 3 acres of pasture (*which David Jones says can only be the old castle in Llanblethian etc.*)
Quoted in WAH Fisher, Vol. 26 p 65

Porth y Green : was I think built of the castle stones, but there was a considerable ruin there on both sides of the road before the house was put up. Two sculptured heads are there to be seen on each side of the garden door (inside) which were brought from the old castle. Nancy Evans pointed the out to me when a child and said they were Robert St Quentin and his wife. David Jones MS 2.1160 3/

'The Jenkinses lived at Porth y Green, a bachelor brother and two maiden sisters. Mr Jenkins had been a haberdasher and draper in Cowbridge, and after retiring to Llanblethian filled one of the vaulted rooms in St Quentin's gateway with the old stock he had remaining from his business. This included many show buckles, then much worn. When he wanted to go to the castle, he being aged, would call at the Clerk's (old David Williams) or tap and ask one of the children to go with him – and often the child had given him or her one of the choice things in the stock.

William Evans and Nancy his wife lived with old Mr Jenkins at Porth y Green and were there when he died. The gentleman who obtained the property after Mr Jenkins (a Mr Bonville) seemed to have but a doubtful title thereto. He had probably only advanced Mr Jenkins, who was rather poor in his latter days, a little money. Anyhow he had no title deeds to show for the property, and the Joneses of Caercady, to whom Mr Bonville left the castle, were in no better position. The deeds were in old William Evans's possession and he meant to keep them. He was a shrewd old fellow. He must have paid some rent, but it is believed not much, and might amount to no more than the interest on the money lent to Mr Jenkins by Mr Bonville. The last Jones became Mrs Thomas (lived at the Cross, Cowbridge)'
WAH Fisher Bk 43 p92

1767 Edward Jenkins, gent, Castle land *NLW Bute R 6/17-19*

1778 Edward Jenkins, Castle Close, 10 acres *NLW Bute R 6/17-19*

1808 (redeemed) John Jenkins owned and occupied, Castle and land, 13/4d *LTA*

1808 ...one parcel of pasture lying north side of Llanblethian castle called Porth y Green (2 acres).....
Dunraven 201 in NLW

1821 John Jenkins owned and occupied, Castle and land, 13/4d *LTA*

1823 John Jenkins owned; William Evans occupied, Castle and land, 13/4d *LTA*

1824 Mr Bonville owned; William Evans occupied, Castle and land, 13/4d

LTA

1825 John Thomas owned; William Evans occupied, house and garden

Tithe 324

(John Thomas was probably at Caercady)

<i>Plot number</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>State of Cultivation</i>	<i>Area</i>
318	Hill Acre	Pasture	1/2/30
319	Middle Field	Meadow	3/1/16
320	Castle Yard		1/0/30
321	Castle Acre	Meadow	1/2/8
322	Meadow	Meadow	1/3/20
323	Field under house	Meadow	3/0/38
324	House and garden		0/0/32

(Areas are in Acres/Roods/Perches)

1851 William Davies, 60, retired maltster, b Mynyddislwyn, Mon. with wife Mary, 57, b Cowbridge, daughter Eliza, 20, teacher at a school, b Cowbridge, son Joseph, 15, apprentice to a currier, b Mynyddislwyn, daughter Ellen, 12, scholar, b Mynyddislwyn, and granddaughter Margaret B Davies, b Mynyddislwyn

Census 77

1861 Eliza Lloyd, 52, fundholder b Reading, with daughter Esther Lloyd, 24, b Glos., daughter Marian Lloyd, 21, b Glos, and daughter Margaret Melinda Lloyd, 15, b Glos.

Census 84

1869/70 William Morgan (RV of over £12) – house and land at Porth y Green and Whip Hill
Register of electors

1871 William Morgan, 39, butcher b Llanblethian, with wife Rebecca, 28, b Llandow, daughter Anne, 9, scholar b Llanblethian, son John, 7, daughter Mary Jane, 5, son William, 2, and two visitors
(William Morgan was the son of Richard Morgan, Causeway, Llanblethian. He had moved by 1881 to Great House, Llanblethian. Cowbridge butcher most of the 20th century Ann Jarvis).

1874 William Morgan occupied; Mrs MA Thomas owned – house and land (farming 43 acres)
Glam. County Rate 77

1877 Sale of Lot 23 (6 fields) and Lot 24 (Porth y Green house and one field), all in the tenure of William Morgan, by the Caercady estate.

Sale documents FO LB61 6 58. 82

1881 Bennett Edwards, 32, farmer of 20 acres b Cowbridge (from Curland, Factory Road), with wife Mary, 30 b Llanblethian, son Evan R Edwards, 7, scholar and daughter Annie, 4, both b Llanblethian.
Census 84

1891 Bennett Edwards, farmer, wife Mary, son Evan, 17, butcher, daughter Annie, 15, domestic servant, son John, 7, scholar, and John Richard, brother in law, 31, cattle dealer b Llanblethian, and Annie Richard, sister in law, 29, b Llanblethian *Census 94*

1896 Bennett Edwards, land and tenement *Register of electors*

1900 Bennett Edwards, constable of Manor of Llanblethian *D/D BM/4*

1910 Evan Edwards occupied; Lord Bute owned, £10 *Record of valuations*
D/D PRO/VAL/1/46

12.1.1918 Letter from Frederic Edmondes -

Dear Sir,

Mr William Giles of Cowbridge contractor has been the tenant of Porth y Green field in the parish of Llanblethian for some time past and is about to give it up. He does not pay his rent; he has treated the field with great carelessness or neglect; and he returns me no answer at all when I write to him. The rent is £8 10s per annum, the tenant paying all rates and taxes except landlord's property tax. The last payment Mr Giles made was on September 1st 1915 when he paid £4 5s, due on August 2nd 1915. Will you please try whether you can recover the rent on and to be due on February 2nd?

Mr Richard David of Danygraig, Llanblethian is taking on the field that date.

Yours truly, Frederic W Edmondes

'Saturday 2/2/1918 – William Giles paid Porth y Green rent to Gwyn 7 Gwyn and gave up the field. Richard David, Danygraig, Llanblethian, took it.' *FW Edmondes' diary*

1937 Death of Evan Richard, husband of Annie Edwards, Porth y Green, aged 64 *Parish records*

1943 Mansel Edwards bought the farm from the Bute estate *Family information*

1960 Death of Mansel, husband of Annie Edwards, Porth y Green, aged 64 *Parish records*

Sources/references :

GRO = Glamorgan Record Office

PRO = Public Record Office, Kew

NLW = National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

LTA = land tax assessments in GRO

Parish records = in GRO

D/D = deeds in GRO

The Bennett Edwards Family

'I was delighted to see my late husband's family, the Bennett Edwards of Porth y Green, mentioned in the Llanblethian book. There was a large age gap between Evan, who had the butcher's shop in Cowbridge, and my father in law, John Edwards, who was always called Jack. He was born in Porth y Green in 1884, and kept farming. He farmed for a while at Old Beaupre and in the early 1920s he bought a small farm of 30 acres in Sigginstone, where they farmed until my husband Glyn left school. The farm being too small, he took over the tenancy of Whitney farm on the Merthyr Mawr estate. When he died in 1952, we came back to Sigginstone with our two young children.

I'm pleased to say my son Jonathan is still farming here at Ty Newydd farm, having acquired 60 acres, part of Moorshead Farm. He has a son of 18 who also works on the farm, so we have another generation of Bennett Edwards to carry on in the Vale. My daughter married Alan John who was farming at Marlborough Grange, and they are now farming in Witshire....'

Doris Edwards, Sigginstone – CRS newsletter No.1