

LLANDOUGH MILL, near Cowbridge

REDWOOD CONNECTION

According to Cadrawd (T.C. Evans), in his unpublished history of Llandough (**Cardiff Library mss 4.403**) which was intended for the Bangor National Eisteddfod in 1902, Charles Redwood restored the mill and also created the water meadow in the low lying land alongside the river Thaw and the mill. I take this to mean that he restored the mill to working order and that the building was in a dilapidated/ruinous condition before Redwood's arrival in Llandough sometime in the 1830s.

The mill is not listed in the 1841 Census for Llandough which again points to a derelict building. Charles Redwood is included on the 1841 Census, living at the 'Lower House' [later called The Cottage].

Charlotte (or Louisa) Traherne's watercolour dated 19 October 1839, depicts a single storey thatched mill building, with the mill wheel prominent on the east wall, set in an idyllic rural setting. Dilapidation/dereliction is not evident here ...artistic licence ??.

INFORMATION FROM CENSUS RETURNS

1841 no mention of the mill

1851 and 1861 Evan Evans, miller, and family

Also recorded on the 1861 census is Benjamin Jones 'miller journeyman', living in the village with his family.

1871 James James, miller, and family.

Also recorded on the 1871 census is David Eddolls, miller, living in the village

1881 Thomas Eddolls, 'farmer of 10 acres and miller', and family. His address is given as 'Llandough mills'. Also living at the mill is David Eddolls, uncle of Thomas.

1891 Thomas Eddolls, miller

INFORMATION GATHERED (verbally) FROM GLYN SIMKISS AND OTHER LOCALS

Llandough mill was in operation as a corn grinding mill until the late 1920s/early 1930s. The miller lived the stone cottage attached to the Mill

I have been told that Miss Hettie Phillips, laundry maid at Llandough Castle for the Byass family lived in the mill cottage (?1920s/1930s) before she went to live at 'The Gardener's Cottage' (subsequently Phillips Cottage). The mill was still working when Miss Phillips lived there and she remembered the whole building shaking when the machinery started up.

By 1939 the mill machinery had been dismantled. The mill stones survived but by the 1970s had been broken up. I think a few pieces of the mill machinery may still survive in the stone 'shed' (? former wagon house) adjacent to the mill.

The line of the old mill race is still visible.

In 1939 the Simkiss family moved into the cottage attached to the old mill building and later purchased the entire property. The former mill building was converted into a dwelling in the early 1970s. Glyn Simkiss and his wife Glenys still live at the mill.

EARLIER HISTORY OF LLANDOUGH MILL

The medieval lordship/knight's fee/manor of Llandough comprised the parishes of Llandough and St Mary Church and was held by the Walsche family from C12th to mid C15th.

I have not discovered any early references to Llandough mill, but a mill was an essential component of the medieval manorial economy and the site of the present building must have its origins in the medieval period.

Margam estate Rentals of the late C17th and C18th contain numerous entries relating to the repair of the mill and the mill pond.

I include some info on the mill which I extracted from the Margam Rentals years ago. These details need to be checked and I'm sure there is more to be found in the Margam estate Rentals in Glamorgan Archives, West Glam Archives and NLW.

There are regular expenses recorded for repairs to Llandough mill from late C17th onwards. There are numerous gaps in the chronological sequence of the Rentals.

1685, Edward William for Llandough mill.

[I have also noted William Scacy as tenant of Llandough mill in this year, but the Scacys were at Gigman, so I have probably made an error in transcription from the 1685 rental.]

1690 David Richard for Llandough mill and meadow (5 year lease from Feb. 1689)

1692 Richard David, for 'ye mill [Llandough] (7 years lease from 1691; annual rent £11 5s. 0d.)

1700, 1704 Edward Powell, Llandough mill.

1751 Joan Lewis, Llandough mill.

1755/6 making upper flood gate; and work by millwright and blacksmith.

1767/8

Edward Rees, tenant at will, Llandough mill, annual rent £9 0s 0d.

Provision of a mill shaft; payment for ale given to sundry tenants who assisted hauling the mill shaft to Llandough in June last year

The Revd John Walters supervised repair of Llandough and Gigman mills and paid 'sundry persons' for work on the repairs [he was reimbursed by the Margam estate].

1769/70

Breach in Llandough mill pond wall repaired; thatching work on mill by David Llewellyn.

1773/4

Thomas Hopkin, Llandough mill. The rental records 'lost arrears' of rent due from Thomas Llewellyn, Llandough mill, which suggests he was the previous tenant.

Repairs to Llandough mill pond.

1775/6 the following were employed on mill repairs:

David Abraham, blacksmith

David Richard [?carpenter] who made the upper flood gate for Llandough mill

1782 Thomas Hopkin, Llandough mill and Erw'r felin, tenant at will, reserved rent

£8 0s. 0d.

1793/4 John Morgan, Llandough mill, paying annual rent of £8 0. 0d.

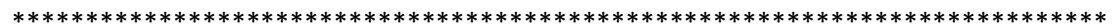
Hilary M. Thomas
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Thomas Carlyle

Bovian magazine July 1894

Carlyle stayed with Redwood, solicitor in The Cottage, Llandough in 1843, and with him in Boverton 1850



Ebsworth of Llandough Castle

He presented the cricket field to the town. A short gentleman with an enormous nose. Employed a tremendous number of people – gardeners, keepers. Made his money in candles, wine in Russia – lost all in Revolution. Byasses followed them to Llandough Castle, then went to Cross House, Llanblethian.

? David Jones of Wallington