

Dear Mrs Alden

I would be most grateful if you might be able help me.

On 15th October 1829 the Cowbridge Court of Common Council 'ordered that thanks be given' to Isaiah Verity of Ash Hall for offering ground for the erecting of a new town hall and I am wondering if you might have knowledge as to whether this offer of land was accepted and is the site of the town hall as built or whether the town hall as constructed is on an alternative site?

In this context I attach a copy of the list of properties auctioned in 1848 following the death of Abraham Robert Verity, third son of Isaiah Verity, which include part of his fathers' Cowbridge estate. There were, however, many additional Cowbridge properties including Eastfield House built by Isaiah Verity and further properties on the High Street and Eastgate that were retained by the family after 1848.

On page 5 of the attached Verity Family Record you will find the entry for Isaiah Verity.

I find myself the custodian of the Verity family records which I am gradually depositing in appropriate archives including Glamorgan. I notice that unfortunately on 'Peoples Collections Wales' there is a rather inaccurate, confusing and seemingly conjectural record of the family of Isaiah Verity. The confusion has been increased by a failure of recognition that Isaiah Verity, in later years, lived apart from his wife Anne (who had her own establishment at Llanblethian) and shirred a number of children by others (*which may be why, although he owned three pews at Holy Cross, he was denied burial there and rests at Ystradowen*) while additional confusion has resulted through a failure to realised there were, and probably still are, other non-related Verity families living in South Wales. The advent of electronic family tree making means that I find that this family has often been adopted and 'pasted in' as part of unrelated Verity or some other cousinhood!

I hope that the attached files may be useful to future Cowbridge History Society researchers in knitting together, with greater clarity and certainty, the various references to 'this' Verity family in Glamorgan.

The Verity family lived in the Vale of Glamorgan for 7 generations, where they were probably little noticed, yet they developed extraordinarily significant broader connections - and once away from the confines of the Glamorgan social order - they 'flew' making their mark in other worlds.

Thanking you for your kind attention.

Your sincerely,

Peter Verity

IMPORTANT SALE,

GLAMORGANSHIRE, WALES.

THE UNDER MENTIONED VALUABLE

FREEHOLD, COPYHOLD, AND LEASEHOLD

PROPERTY.

WILL BE OFFERED

FOR SALE, BY PUBLIC AUCTION,

(Unless previously disposed of by Private Contract, of which due Notice will be given.)

By Mr. ROBERT EVANS, Auctioneer,
BRIDGEND,

At the Places and Times hereinafter mentioned:—

Cardiff Property.

Lot 1.—A very commodious Freehold Dwelling House, with convenient and extensive Outhouses and Cellars, situated in the High Street, in the Parish of St. John the Baptist, in the Town of Cardiff, and now in the several occupations of Mr. David Evans, Wine Merchant, and Mr. Herbert, Grocer.

Lot 2.—A Freehold Dwelling House and Premises, with convenient Outhouses and Cellars, situated adjoining the last lot, and now in the occupation of Mr. Foster, Mercer.

Cowbridge property.

Lot 3.—An extensive Freehold Dwelling House, with a Malthouse and large Garden behind the same, on the South side of the Town of Cowbridge aforesaid, and now in the several occupations of Mrs. Ann Thomas, and Mr. William Thomas, Milliner.

Lot 4.—A Freehold Dwelling House, and Shop, being on the Northern side of the said Town of Cowbridge, and now in the occupation of Miss Elizabeth Morris, Stationer, and the Coach House adjoining in the occupation of the Rev. Mr. Powell.

Lot 5.—A Freehold Dwelling House, and Shop, situated adjoining the last lot, with the large Warehouses, Garden, and Coach House adjoining, now in the occupation of Mr. William Williams, Grocer.

Lot 6.—A Freehold Cottage, being situated in Princes Buildings, behind the last 2 lots, and now in the occupation of Thomas Rees, Groom.

Lot 7.—A Freehold Cottage adjoining the last lot, now in the occupation of Mrs. Kennedy, Widow.

Lot 8.—A Freehold Cottage adjoining the last lot, now in the occupation of Miss Cecilia Verity.

Lot 9.—A Freehold Cottage adjoining the last lot, now in the occupation of Mr. John Bowen, Nailier.

Lot 10.—A Freehold Cottage adjoining the last lot, now in the occupation of Mrs. Margaret Felton, Widow.

Lot 11.—A Freehold Spot of Land, used as a Garden, adjoining the last lot, and now in the several occupations of the said Miss Elizabeth Morris, and Thomas Rees.

Lot 12.—A Freehold Dwelling House with the two Gardens belonging thereto, adjoining the last lot, surrounded by a Stone Wall, now in the occupation of Mr. Wm. Wood, Painter.

Lot 13.—A Freehold Dwelling House with convenient Outhouses and an extensive Garden, situated in the Eastern Village of Cowbridge, now in the occupation of Mr. Wm. James, Carpenter.

Lot 14.—A Freehold Cottage lying at the Southern end of the last lot, and situated in a Field called *The Limes Field*, now in the occupation of *Margaret Jenkins, Widow*.

Lot 15.—An extensive Freehold Dwelling House and Shop, with all necessary and convenient Outhouses, and large Garden adjoining, situated in the Eastern Village of *Cowbridge*, now in the occupation of *Mr. David Rees, Mercer*.

Lot 16.—A Freehold Dwelling House with convenient Outhouses of every description, and an extensive Garden, and 2 Stall Stable, now in the occupation of *Mr. Henry Bellet*.

Lot 17.—A Reversion in Fee, (expectant on the determination of a certain Term of 99 years granted therein by *Isaiah Verity, Esq.*, deceased, to *David Johns*, by Indenture, dated 19th August, 1828,) of and in all that extensive Coach Manufactory, Stable Yard, Garden, and Premises, situated in the said Eastern Village of *Cowbridge*, and now in the occupation of *Richard Burchell*, Coach Builder, which said Premises are subject to the payment of a yearly conventional Rent of 7l. 7s. so long as the said Lease for 99 years continues.

Lot 18.—A Freehold Cottage adjoining the last lot, situated in *Bethuels Court*, and now in the occupation of *Bethuel Williams, Labourer*.

Lot 19.—A Freehold Cottage, and the two Workshops held therewith, adjoining the last lot, and now in the occupation of the said *Richard Burchell*.

Lot 20.—A Freehold Cottage adjoining the last lot, and now in the occupation of *Evan Roberts, Labourer*.

Lot 21.—A Freehold Cottage adjoining the last lot, and now in the occupation of *Jenny Roberts, Widow*.

Lot 22.—A Valuable Freehold spot of Garden Ground, situated at the end of *Bethuels Court* aforesaid, and now in the several occupations of *Edward Morgan, Shoemaker*, and the said *Evan Roberts*, and *Bethuel Williams*.

Lot 23.—A Freehold Dwelling House and Shop, situated in the said *Eastern Village*, and adjoining the last 5 lots, now in the occupation of *Mr. John James, Shopkeeper*.

Lot 24.—A Freehold Cottage adjoining the last lot, and now in the occupation of *Edward Morgan, Shoemaker*.

Lot 25.—A convenient Freehold Dwelling House, with the Outhouses, and extensive Garden belonging thereto, situated in the said *Eastern Village*, and now in the occupation of *Mr. Thomas Jackson, Painter*.

Lot 26.—A convenient Freehold Dwelling House, with necessary Outhouses, and extensive Garden adjoining the last lot, and now in the occupation of *Mr. Cadie, Exciseman*.

Parish of Llanblethian,

Lot 27.—A Freehold Cottage and Garden, situate in the parish of *Llanblethian*, and now in the occupation of *Thomas Taylor, Labourer*.

Lot 28.—A Freehold Cottage, Garden, and Stable, adjoining the last lot, now in the occupation of *Charles Anderson, Chimney-Sweeper*.

Lot 29.—A Freehold Cottage and Garden adjoining the last lot, now in the occupation of *Henry Jenkins, Labourer*.

Lot 30.—An excellently built Messuage, with

the large Courtlage, Stable, Cattle and other Sheds, and extensive Walled Garden belonging thereto, and containing by estimation, about half an Acre, situated in the said Parish of *Llanblethian*, and now in the occupation of *Captain Rogers*.

Lot 31.—A rich Close of Meadow or Pasture Land, adjoining the last lot, and called *Tair drw pen y Pentre*, and containing by estimation, 2A. 3A. 0V., in the said Parish of *Llanblethian*, and now in the occupation of the said *Captain Rogers*.

N.B.—The last two Lots are Customary or Copyhold Land, and are within the Manor or Lordship of *Llanblethian*.

Cefn Carvan Property.

St. Brides Minor.

Lot 32.—A very desirable and most improveable Freehold Estate, called *Cefn Carvan*, situated in the Parish of *St. Brides Minor*, in the County of Glamorgan, comprising a Genteel Residence and Garden, and a Farm House adjoining, and about 42 Acres of very rich and improveable Arable, Meadow, and Pasture Land, together with an unlimited Right of Common, of Pasture and Torbarry, and of cutting wood for fuel and repairs on Hirgoed Common and Wood, (of which said Common and Wood it is intended to make an early division amongst the Estates enjoying the said Rights,) now in the several occupations of *Henry Verity, Esq.*, and *Mr. Thomas Williams*.

N.B.—Underneath this Estate there is a large Mineral Basin, which indicates every appearance of a productive supply of Coal and Iron, and the Black Band is very prevalent.

St. Brides Major.

Lot 33.—A Freehold Cottage and small Garden behind the same, in the occupation of *Jenkin Hopkin*, and situated in the Village of *St. Brides Major*, in the County of Glamorgan.

Southerndown in the above Parish.

Lot 34.—A Dwelling House and Shop, with a small garden in front, now in the occupation of *Mr. Evans, Shopkeeper*.

Lot 35.—A Dwelling House with a small Garden in front, and a good 3-stalled Stable, Coach House and Saddle Room, adjoining the last lot, now in the occupation of *Mr. Thomas Thomas*.

Lot 36.—A Walled Garden adjoining to and on the Western side of the last lot, with a large Soil Pit therein, called *Southerndown Fern*, and containing about 25 perches, and now in the several occupations of *Mr. Lloyd*, and *Mr. Thomas*.

Lot 37.—A Genteel Cottage and a Garden in front, with all requisite and necessary Outhouses, called *The Vine Cottage*, and now in the occupation of *Mr. Lloyd*.

Lot 38.—A Field of rich Meadow Land, called the *Higher Croft*, containing, by estimation, $\frac{1}{2}$ of an Acre, and lying to the South of the last lot.

Lot 39.—A Cottage called *Southerndown Cottage*, with necessary Outhouses and Garden, containing about 28 perches, now in the occupation of *Thomas Jenkins, Farmer*.

Lot 40.—A Field of rich Meadow and Pasture Land, lying on the South side of the last lot, with Cattle Sheds thereon, called the *Lower Croft*, containing about $\frac{1}{2}$ of an Acre, and now in the occupation of the said *Thomas Jenkins*.

Lot 41.—A Field of rich Meadow and Pasture Land, lying adjoining to and on the Western side of

the last two lots, called *Dwy erw y sqwar*, containing about 3 Acres, and now in the occupation of the said *Thomas Jenkins*.

Lot 42.—A Field of rich Meadow and Pasture Land, lying to the North of the last lot, called *Cae Cwrt*, containing about 9 ½ Acres, and now in the occupation of the said *Thomas Jenkins*.

Lot 43.—A Field of rich Meadow and Pasture Land, called *Cae Cliff*, lying to the Westward of the last 2 lots, containing about 8 Acres, together with about a quarter of an Acre of Land adjoining, and on the North thereof, inclosed with a Stone Wall, and now in the occupation of the said *Thomas Jenkins*.

Lot 44.—A Field of rich Meadow and Pasture Land, lying to the North of the last lot, called *Cae Llai*, containing about 6 Acres, and now in the occupation of the said *Thomas Jenkins*.

Lot 45.—A Field of rich Meadow and Pasture Land lying to the Westward of the last lot, called *Cros Hoi*, and containing about 5 ½ Acres, and now in the occupation of the said *Thomas Jenkins*.

Lot 46.—A Field of rich Meadow and Pasture Land, lying to the North of *Cae Cwrt* aforesaid,

called the *Cae Inn*, and containing about 3 Acres, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Wm. Evans*, Innkeeper.

These Premises are held for the Residue of a Term of 99 Years determinable on the Lives of THREE healthy Persons, aged respectively, about 30, 27, and 22 years, and are subject to the yearly Rent of £35.

Bridgend Property.

Coity.

Lot 47.—A commodious Dwelling House with a Garden thereto belonging, situated in the Town of *Bridgend*, in the Parish of *Coity*, and now in the occupation of *Abraham Verity, Esquire*.

These Premises are held for the Residue of a Term of 99 Years determinable with the Lives of TWO healthy Persons, aged respectively, 61 years, and 59 years, and are subject to the yearly Rent of £2.

Newcastle Parish.

Lot 48.—All that yearly rent of 32*l.* payable half yearly, out of all that Field, called *Cae Green*, and the Buildings and Erections thereon, situated in the Parish of *Newcastle*.

The Premises are held, and the above yearly Rent is payable during the Lives of TWO healthy Persons, aged respectively, 50 years, and 47 years, and are subject to a yearly Rent of 3*l.* 10*s.*

The Southerndown Property comprised in Lots 34 to 46, (both inclusive,) is beautifully situated on the *Bay of Dunraven*, commanding *Extensive and Delightful Views of the Bristol Channel*, and of *Dunraven Castle and Park*, and the adjacent *Splendid Scenery of this Romantic Spot*; and is a *Favorite Resort of Invalids and Others*, on account of the *Salubrity of the Air*, and the convenience of *Sea Bathing*; and the whole of the Property affords a *Rare Opportunity for Investment*.

The several Lots situated in Cowbridge, Cardiff, and Llanblethian, will be Sold at the BEAR INN, in Cowbridge, on Monday the 10th day of July, at ONE o'Clock in the Afternoon; and the several Lots situated in St. Brides Major, St. Brides Minor, Coity, and Newcastle, will be Sold at the WYNDHAM ARMS, at Bridgend on the 11th day of July next, at ONE o'Clock in the Afternoon.

For viewing the Premises apply to the several Tenants; and any further Particulars may be obtained from the Auctioneer, or at the Offices of

MESSRS. RIGGARD AND SON,

SOLICITORS, SOUTHMOLTON, DEVON.

Dated 7th June, 1848.

VERITY

Sale Catalogue, 1848

Lot 3 54 High Street.

4 47 High Street.

5 45 High Street

Lots 6-12 Verity's Court (Prince's Buildings)

13 66 Eastgate

14 cottage in the Limes, back of 66 Eastgate

15 79 Eastgate (the former RDC Offices)

16 77 Eastgate

17 75 Eastgate

Lots 18-22 Bethuel's Court

23 73 Eastgate

24 71 Eastgate

25 58 Eastgate

26 56 Eastgate

Lots 27-29 cottages adjoining Eastfield

Lots 30, 31 Eastfield, and field called 'Tair erw pen y Pentre'.

89 Eastgate had belonged to Isaiah Verity but had been conveyed by him to James Hiscock in 1830 (Source Book). 40 and 42 High Street was owned by Isaiah in 1830 but had been sold before 1843 (Source Book).

There is no evidence in the Source Book that 5, 43, 48 (The Duke), and 77 High Street had ever belonged to the Veritys. Numbers 85 and 87 High Street do not exist.

There is no information in the Source Book on 43 and 55 Eastgate, but the Burgage Rentals and the Land Tax Assessments do not confirm Verity ownership.

Mr Peter Verity says that the family retained property in Cowbridge after 1848. However, the sale catalogue lists the entire extent of that property as it was in 1848, so anything retained would have been lots that failed to sell at the auction. He is quite right that Eastfield House had been built by Isaiah Verity - it is Lot 30 in the sale catalogue.

Isaiah Verity moved with his family from Cardiff to Cowbridge in or about 1793. At Cardiff he was described as 'mercier, draper and grocer' (Universal British Directory, c.1793, Vol.2, p.643) and at Cowbridge he was primarily a shopkeeper though he quickly moved into property ownership and then into property development. It seems likely that it was he who 'developed' Verity's Court and Bethuel's Court. At first the family lived at 77 Eastgate, but soon after 1800 he built Eastfield House, just outside the borough boundary in Llanblethian parish and manor. (It was copyhold of the manor of Llanblethian.) Probably it was at Eastfield that his wife, Ann, continued to live after they separated. Isaiah seems to have gone to live at Ash Hall, Ystradowen, which belonged to his son-in-law, William Wood.

Both Ann (d.1835) and Isaiah (d.1837) were buried at Ystradowen and are commemorated on a plaque in Ystradowen church. I cannot understand why, as Peter Verity says, Isaiah was denied burial at Cowbridge - perhaps it was burial within the church building that was not allowed by the churchwardens. They may have stopped intra-mural burials by that date; the churchwardens would not have been exercising some sort of moral judgement.

Mr Peter Verity quotes from the minutes of the Cowbridge Court of Common Council in 1829 that Isaiah had offered ground for erecting a new town hall. I have not looked at the minute book, but I think the answer to his question is that Isaiah's offer was not taken up. The Council decided to buy the former House of Correction (a new House of Correction was being built at Swansea, so the building in Cowbridge was available). Isaiah was however employed in 1830 'in directing and superintending the building of the new Town Hall & the market place', for which he was thanked by the Council and rewarded with the freedom of the borough. (L.J.Hopkin-James, Old Cowbridge, p.57.) As a speculative guess, I wonder if the site offered was the present 40 and 42 High Street, then a single building, the White Hart, very close to the old town hall.

Cecilia Verity, one of Isaiah's daughters, was living in Eastgate, Cowbridge, in 1881, unmarried, aged 72. But the family had mostly moved to Bridgend and district where there were 17 Veritys living in 1851, all of them descendants of Isaiah.

interesting to note the extensive splay of minor roads immediately outside these gates to the east and west of the town. They may well mark the limits of the medieval built up area, but are more likely to reflect the turnpike system, in so far as this involved a formal routing of earlier tracks, outside the toll gates of the borough.

The introduction of the railway also had a marked effect on the topography of Cowbridge. The branch line from Llantrisant approached from the north-east (Fig. 20) and the terminus was situated in Eastgate (SS 99867446) with a turn-table and sidings slightly to the north. The site is now marked by a wide dual carriageway entrance to a modern housing development on the northern side of Eastgate. The turntable and sidings are covered by Millfield Drive and Grays Walk. The small houses in Croft Street (formerly Taff Street) and Croft Terrace, situated immediately opposite the original terminus and built at right-angles to the former burgage plots, were constructed to accommodate railway employees.

The opening of the single line extension to Aberthaw resulted in the construction of a second station, a short distance to the north-east. The original terminus in Eastgate became a goods depot, with the passenger station on the new line²⁴. As a result of these developments this part of the town was fully occupied. In addition, the Commercial Hotel, Railway Inn, Edmondes Arms and New Druids were all commercial premises built about this time.

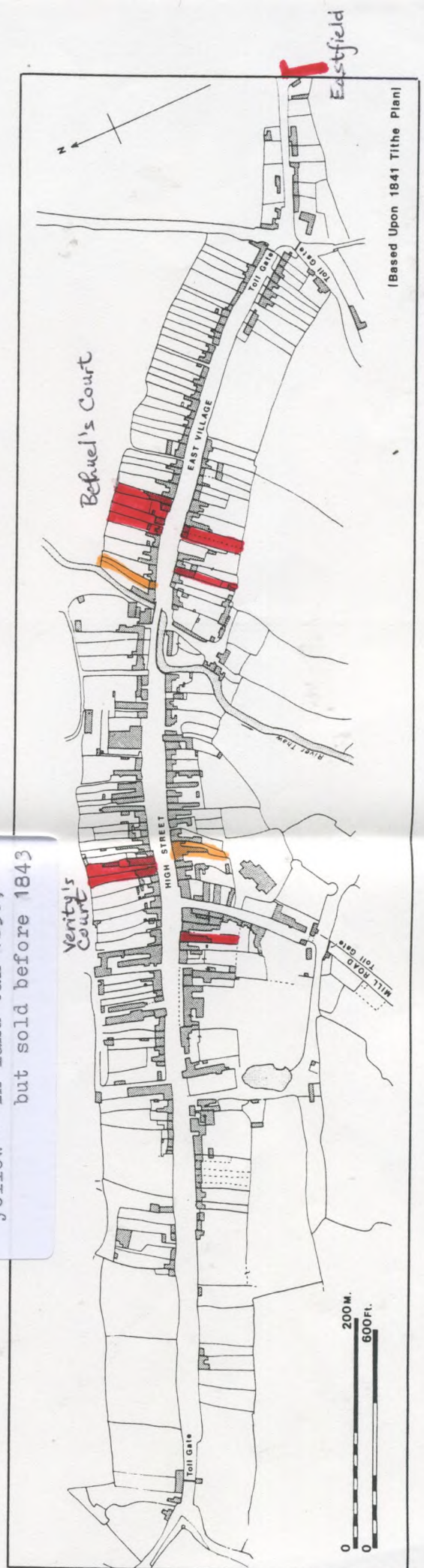
Turning from these details of the topography of Cowbridge in the post-medieval period, it is of great interest to examine something of the wealth of fine upstanding buildings²⁶.

Post-Medieval Upstanding Buildings

As pointed out above, any survey of the archaeology of a town should include an account of its upstanding buildings. They are of course an important part of its history and development. Thus, it is hoped that the information given here will provide an interim until the Royal Commission survey is published.

A considerable amount of information has been summarized in Fig. 15, however, it is important to bear in mind two points. To begin with, as stated earlier, it is difficult to confine any of the structures to a single temporal phase since most received constant additions. Secondly, the buildings illustrated are those of particular architectural and historic interest

Fig. 18: *The settlement as it appears on the 1841 Tithe Plan. Note the position of the toll gates where main roads enter the town*



Verity property in Cowbridge
 red - 1848 sale catalogue
 yellow - in land tax 1830,
 but sold before 1843

Verity properties in Cowbridge & Llanblethian – 1848 sale catalogue

Cowbridge property

Lot 3 - Extensive f/h dwelling with malthouse occupied by Miss A Thomas & Mr William Thomas, maltster.

Lot 4 – F/d dwelling house & shop on northern side occ by Elizabeth Morris, stationer, and coach house adjoining occ by Revd Mr Powell

Lot 5 – F/h dwelling house & shop adjoining the last lot with large warehouses occ by Mr Wm Williams grocer

Lot 6 – F/h cottage in Princes Buildings behind the last 2 lots occ by Thos Rees, groom

Lot 7 – F/h cottage adjoining the last lot occ. by Mrs Kennedy widow

Lot 8 – F/h cottage adjoining the last lot occ by Miss Cecilia Verity

Lot 9 – F/h cottage adjoining the last lot occ by Mr John Bowen nailer

Lot 10 – F/h cottage adjoining the last lot occ by Mrs Margaret Fellon widow

Lot 11 – F/h spot of land used as a garden adjoining the last lot, occ by Miss Elizabeth Morris & Thomas Rees

Lot 12 – F/h dwelling house with the 2 gardens belonging therein, adjoining the last lot, surrounded by a stone wall occ by Wm Wood painter.

Lot 13 – F/h dwelling house with convenient outhouses & extensive garden sited in eastern village occ by Mr Wm James carpenter

Lot 14 – F/h cottage lying at the southern end of the last lot in a field called Limes occ by Mgt Jenkins widow.

Lot 15 – Extensive f/h dwelling house & shop with outhouses etc in east village occ by David Rees, mercer

Lot 16 – F/h dwelling house with outhouses, large garden, stables occ by Mr Henry Bellet

Lot 17 – Reversion in fee – extensive coach manufactory, stable yard, garden in east village occ by Richard Burchell coachbuilder

Lot 18 – F/h cottage adjoining the last lot, in Bethuels Court, occ by Bethuel Williams labourer

Lot 19 – F/h cottage & 2 workshops adjoining the last lot occ by Richard Burchell

Lot 20 – F/h cottage adjoining the last lot occ by Evan Roberts labourer

Lot 21 – F/h cottage adjoining the last lot occ by Jenny Roberts widow

Lot 22 – Valuable f/h spot of garden ground at the end of Bethuel’s Court, now in several occupations of Edward Morgan, shoemaker, and the said Evan Roberts & Bethuel Williams

Lot 23 – F/h dwelling house & shop in Eastern Village, and adjoining the last 5 lots, occ by Mr John James, shopkeeper

Lot 24 – F/h cottage adjoining the last lot occ by Edward Morgan, shoemaker

Lot 25 – A convenient f/h dwelling house with outhouses & extensive garden in Eastern Village occ by Mr Thomas Jackson, painter

Lot 26 – A convenient f/h dwelling house with necessary outhouses & extensive garden, adjoining the last lot occupied by Mr Cadie, exciseman

Parish of Llanblethian

Lot 27 – f/h cottage & garden in parish of Llanblethian, occ by Thomas Taylor, labourer

Lot 28 – F/h cottage, garden & stable adjoining the last lot, occ by Charles Anderson, chimney sweeper

Lot 29 – F/h cottage & garden adjoining the last lot, occ by Henry Jenkins, labourer

Lot 30 – An excellently built messuage with the large curtilage, stable, cattle and other sheds and extensively walled garden belonging thereto, about half an acre, in the parish of Llanblethian, occ by Captain Rogers.

Lot 31 – A rich close of meadow or pasture land adjoining the last lot and called Tair drw pen y Pentre & containing by estimation 2 acres 3 rods in the said parish of Llanblethian, occ by the said Captain Rogers.

NB The last 2 lots are Customary or Copyhold land within the Manor or Lordship of Llanblethian.

The several lots (in Cowbridge, Cardiff & Llanblethian) will be sold at the Bear Inn, Cowbridge on Monday, 10th July at one o’clock in the afternoon.