

Old Hall, 1762 and 1778.

Old Hall, the "Mansion House and Gardens", was the principal house in 18th. Century Cowbridge, and belonged to John Edmondes when the inventory of 1762 was taken. We do not know why this was done, and no valuation was made. It is detailed, but still omits certain rooms; thus the "office" is referred to only in relation to another room, and there is no mention of cellars or stables.

By contrast, the second inventory was taken, in 1778, for the purpose of letting part of the house for a year. John Edmondes died in that year at the age of thirty eight, and as his sons were minors, the house seems to have been taken over by his brother, colonel Thomas Edmondes of neighbouring Llandough Castle. This inventory includes a valuation, but the furnishings are not only much sparser but actually bear little relation to those of 1762, which suggests that Thomas must have made reductions and substitutions for letting purposes. Some things, such as the "Dutch Oak" pieces and the "Scots Carpet", were presumably regarded as inferior items. Even the names of the rooms are different, making comparisons extra hard.

The 1762 inventory reflects good living, amply provided with amenities, without grandeur. The kitchen is vastly better equipped than in the previous two dwellings, and in addition to the items of tin, pewter and brass, there are lists of china and plate. The hall furnishings suggest that it was used for dining, and the service items indicate a degree of informality. Only three bedrooms are elaborately equipped. There are some curious anomalies in the descriptions: thus "marble slob" presumably means "marble slabs", "battle boards" may be "bottle boards", and the strange heading "On the Kitchin Chair", as if it were a separate room, may mean "On the Kitchin Stair".<sup>\*</sup> Possibly these are errors of dictation, since the usual method of taking inventories is for one person to call out the items while a second person writes them down. Unfortunately there are no names or signatures appended to the 1762 inventory.

\* The "Brass Level with legs" in the hall is presumably a surveying instrument, with "legs".

As well as the inventories, the style and layout of the 18th. Century house is well shown in a small watercolour of the garden front, made in the mid 19th. Century, from which the illustration is taken, and in a survey of the interior made in the 1890s just before alterations were carried out. The names of the rooms shown are those of the survey, with the 1762 names, where known or conjectured, in brackets.

I have analysed some of the features of the two inventories, as follows:

### 1. Furniture Woods.

In contrast to the previous inventories, furniture woods are often used as a means of differentiation. Oak is referred to in several ways; thus "oak" pieces are mentioned in both inventories, "wainscoat chairs" are referred to in the 1762 kitchen, and several pieces in 1778 are "Dutch oak". This suggests that the chairs may be of the panel-back variety, since "wainscot" is not used to describe the imported wood; assuming that "Dutch oak" refers to imported timber rather than furniture. There is evidence that the family's servants were familiar with timbers, for a technical schedule exists from the 1770s, listing "Russia Deals" and other softwoods imported via Aberthaw for flooring and other joinery in Old Hall. It may be inferred that Dutch oak had been imported for the use of local furniture makers, and was recognised as such.

### 2. Service and Kitchen Items.

The use of the word "board" for a tray is common, but the term "handboard" (four in the passage adjoining the hall in 1762) is obscure. It is interesting that there is no word for "tray" in old Welsh, and during the present century the term "hambwrdd", a literal <sup>transcription</sup> translation of "handboard", has been coined for this purpose. The pair of "Battle boards" in the Yellow Room may refer to trays for bottles, the "Small Hand Sideboard" in the Little Parlour is probably a tray on a stand, and there is a "Pontypool Tea Board" included among the plate.

Also mentioned is a "Pontypool Waiter", presumably a small tiered stand to be placed on a table, and "3 Small Mohogany Waiters" in the kitchen, for

delivery of self-service food to diners. In the hall also are an amazing " 7 Mohogany Stands to hold Dishes on the Table".

Warming devices are represented, in the kitchen, by a "Footman", a table-like trivet to hold dishes before a fire, a "Copper Plate Warmer", and " 2 Twig Plate Warmers". This is an interestingly different use of the term "twig", used <sup>here</sup> to describe a basket-work device instead of a chair.

None of these items appear in the 1778 inventory, but there is an "Iron Cat" in the Great Parlour, presumably for warming food at the "Bath Stove".

### 3. Bedrooms.

In 1762, the Red Room, Green Room and Yellow Room were elaborately furnished. Among many items, each had a dressing-table with a "Toilet", a floor-length cloth cover. In the "Closett" there is a "Handkerchief Table", a term I have been unable to identify.

There are a further seven bedrooms, more simply furnished, presumably for children and servants. The room over the kitchen, reached by its own stair, has two beds and a store of cutlery, while in another room there is just a cradle and an "Empty chest bed", presumably a fold-away device of the "press bed" type, but lacking the bed part.

It is interesting that in all the three dwellings feather beds are ubiquitous, the "Dust Bed" in William Howards inventory being the sole exception.

An Inventory of all the Household Goods and Furniture in the House of  
John Edmondson Esq. at Cowbridge taken the 20th. Day of September 1762

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In the Library

- 6 Chairs with stuff bottoms
- 1 Leather bottom Elbow Chair
- 12 Pictures
- 1 Landscape
- 1 Fire Screen
- 1 Card Table
- 1 Tea Table
- 1 Large Book Case full of Books
- 4 Images on the Top thereof
- 1 Reading Desk and a pewter stand with an Ivory Rule
- 1 Window Curtain
- 1 Grate Fender Tongs Shovel Poker and Brush

In the Lobby adjoining the Library

- 2 Boxes with Orange Trees
- 2 Windsor Chairs

In the Old Parlour

- 1 Marble Slob and Lumber

In the Lobby adjoining the Hall

- 1 Bath, or Sedan Chair
- 1 Screen
- 1 Leather Bottom Chair

On the Stair Case

- 13 Large Pictures
- 9 Small Do.
- 2 Carpetts
- 2 Small Table Carpetts
- 1 Glass Globe to hold a Candle, with a Mohogany Arm

In the Hall

- 3 Tables
- 10 Leather Bottom Chairs
- 1 Glass Globe with a Brass Handle
- 1 Bureau and Glass
- 1 Corner Cubbord
- 4 Glass Decanters with Tops

Hall Continued

- 4 Glass Juggs
- 4 Glass Salts
- 1 Large Delft Jar with 5 Bottles and 5 Basons on the Bureau
- 1 Small China Jar on the Chimney piece, 2 Candlesticks, and some other small things
- 2 Glass Sconces
- 2 Window Blinds
- 7 Mohogany Stands to hold Dishes on the Table
- 1 Tobacco Box
- 1 Brass Level with Logs
- 9 Pictures, 1 Landscape, 4 Maps
- 2 Small Mohogany Stands

In the Passage adjoining the Hall

- 2 Tables, 4 Handboards, 2 Marble Slobs
- 1 Tea Chest, 1 Tray, and 1 Mohogany Knife Box
- 1 Chair
- 3 Maps, 3 Large Pictures, and 19 Small Pictures
- 1 Glass Lanthorn
- 1 Clock and Case

In the Little Parlour

- 4 Leather Bottom Chairs
- 2 Arm Do.
- 1 Tea Table
- 1 Looking Glass
- .....Curtain
- ..... Scales to Weigh Gold
- 1 Bureau
- 1 Small hand Side Board
- 1 Pair of Steps for Cubborts
- 1 Grate, Tongs, Poker Shovel Fender and Brush
- 1 Small hand Bell
- 1 Weather Glass

In the Brown Parlour

- 1 Oval Mohogany Table
- 1 Card Table
- 6 Wallnut Leather Bottom Chairs
- 1 Satee Do.
- 1 Large Looking Glass
- 2 China Branches
- 2 China Images on the Chimney Piece, and several small things
- 19 Prints of different sorts
- 1 Grate, Poker, Tongs, Shovel, Fender and Brush

In the Dressing Room

- 1 Spinnet
- 1 Chest
- 1 Table
- 3 Chairs
- 1 Looking Glass
- 1 Grate

Over the Dressing Room

- 1 Feather Bed, Bedstead, Bolster, Pillow, 2 Blankets and Blue Curtains
- 3 Chairs
- 1 Grate
- 1 Bureau
- 1 Pair of Window Curtains

Over the Office

- 1 Feather Bed, Bedstead 1 Bolster, 2 Blankets, 1 Rug and Bed Curtains
- 1 Dressing Table
- 2 Chairs
- 1 Couch

In the Inner Room

- 1 Empty Chest Bed
- 1 Cradle

In the Red Room

- 1 Feather Bed, Bedstead Bolster 1 Pillow 2 Blanketts 1 Quilt and Red Curtains
- 2 Bureaux
- 1 large Looking Glass
- 1 Dressing Table with a Toilet
- 4 Chairs
- 1 Bed Table
- 1 Grate. A few China on the Chimney Piece
- 2 Pair of window Curtains

In the Green Room

- 1 Feather Bed, Bedstead, Bolster, Pillow and Blanketts 1 Quilt and Green Curtains.
- 2 Pair of Window Curtains
- 1 Couch
- 7 Cane Chairs            3 Quilts and 1 Counterpane in a Drawer
- 1 Easy Chair
- 1 Landscape
- 1 Large Glass
- 1 Do. Dressing Glass
- 1 Dressing Table with a Toilet
- 1 Stand for the Bason

Green Room Continued

- 1 Close Stool
- 1 Brass Grate Do. Tongs Shovel and Fender with one pair of Bellows and a Brush
- 1 Case of Drawers upon Drawers

In the Yellow Room

- 1 Feather Bed, Bedstead, Bolster 3 Pillows 3 Blanketts 1 Quilt with yellow  
Curtains
- 2 Case of Drawers
- 1 Small Cabinet with a Glass fixed to it
- 1 Dressing Table with a Glass and Toilet
- 1 Large Chest
- 1 Elbow Cane Chair
- 5 Cane Chairs
- 1 Box with Linen
- 1 Close Stool
- 1 Stand for the Bason
- 1 Grate and 1 Brush
- 1 Clock upon a Stand
- 1 pair of Battle Boards
- 4 Bed Carpetts

In the Closett

- 1 Corner Cubbord with a Spying Glass in it
- 1 Handkerchief Table
- 2 Cane Chairs one of which is with a Cushion
- 1 Pair of Window Curtains

On the Top of the Kitchin Chair

- 1 Sea Chest

Over the Brewhouse

- 1 Feather Bed, Bedstead 2 Pillows 1 Bolster 3 Blanketts 1 Quilt with  
white Dimity Curtains
- 1 Red Window Curtain
- 1 Looking Glass
- 1 Dressing Table
- 1 Elbow Chair
- 1 Other Chair
- 1 Grate
- 1 Box

Over the Kitchin

- 1 Large Press
- 1 Looking Glass and Dressing Table
- 1 Feather Bed, Bedstead Bolster , 1 Pillow, 4 Blanketts 1 Quilt and Red Curtains
- 1 Other Feather Bed, Bedstead 2 Bolsters 2 Pillows 1 Quilt 1 Rug, with brown Curtains
- 3 Leather Bottom Chairs
- 2 Small Stools
- 1 Dozen of Green Hafted Knives and Forks in a Case
- 6 Silver Hafted Knives and Forks in another Case, with 6 Black hafted Do. in Do.
- 6 Silver hafted fruit Knives and Forks
- 6 Do. Brown hafted
- 5 Green Hafted Knives and Forks
- 1 Polishd steel Grate

In the Inner Garrett

- 1 Feather Bed, Bedstead Bolster 2 Blanketts 1 Rug and Blue Curtains
- 2 Leather Bottom Chairs
- 2 Portmanteaus

In the Outer Garrett

- 1 Feather Bed, Bedstead, 2 Bolsters, 2 Blanketts, 1 Rug with Green Curtains
- 1 Old Press Bed, Feather Bed Bolster and 4 Rugs

In the Kitchin

- 1 Settle
- 1 Long Table with a Long Bench
- 1 Small Oval Table
- 1 Large Do.
- 1 Long Do. by the end of the Dresser
- 5 Wainscoat Chairs
- 1 Leather Bottom Chair
- 1 Small Square Table
- 1 Large Dresser
- 19 Pewter Dishes of different sizes
- 2 Pewter Soup Dishes
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  Dozen Pewter Plates
- 10 Pewter Soup Plates
- 22 Tin Patty pans of different Sorts and 1 Nutmeg Grater
- 1 Pewter Water Plate
- 3 Tin Coffee Pots
- 1 Tin Cheese Toaster
- 1 Brass Pestle and Mortar



In the Kitchen Continued

- 2 Copper Coffee Potts
- 1 Copper Chocolate Pott
- 1 Copper Tankard
- 4 Tin Tankards
- 1 Tin Tundish
- 1 Tin Plate Cover
- 1 Tin Pudding Pot and 1 Pepper Box Do.
- 1 Tin Candle Box and Drudging Box
- 1 Pewter Bed Pan
- 1 Brass Candlestick wth. an Extinguisher
- 8 Brass Candlesticks and 1 pair of Brass Snuffers with a Stand
- 1 Small Brass Chaffing Dish
- 2 Brass Pepper Boxes
- 3 Tin Coffins
- 1 Tin Oven
- 1 Copper Fish Kettle
- 1 Brass Warming Pan
- 1 Copper Do.
- 1 Large Tin Dripping Pan
- 1 Small Do.
- 1 Marble Mortar wth. a wooden pestle
- 2 Copper Teakettles
- 1 Copper Plate Warmer
- 1 Copper Stue Pan
- 1 Urn, a Dutch Coffee Pott and Lamp
- 2 Tea Kettles and Lamps
- 2 Twig Plate Warmers
- 1 Standing Cubbord
- 1 Jack
- 1 Brass Do. in the Cubbord
- 1 Dog Wheel
- 2 Brass Fenders
- 4 Steel Do.
- 4 Shovels
- 4 Tongs
- 3 Pokers
- 1 Footman
- 1 Pewter Lamp
- 1 Brass Shovel
- 4 Steel Candlesticks

In the Kitchin Continued

- 1 Brass Toaster
- 4 Steel Do.
- 1 Glass Lanthorn
- 4 White Earthen Dishes
- 5 Do. Soup Dishes
- 3 Do. Soup Plates
- 4 Do. Basons
- 2 White Teapots
- 3 Blue and White Dishes
- 3 Spits
- 1 Old Broken Do.
- 3 Foils
- 1 Sword
- 1 Pair of large And Irons
- 1 Grid Iron
- 2 Tongs and 1 Poker
- 1 Hearth Shovel
- 1 Grate Do.
- 1 Salamander
- 1 Large Kitchin Grate wth. and Tbps
- 1 Crane wth. Pot Hangings
- 1 Small Breakfast Knife
- 1 Flesh Fork
- 8 Buckhorn Knives and Forks
- 5 White Do.
- 1 Long Fork for Toasting
- 3 Small Mohogany Waiters
- 4 Brown Decanters

China

- 11 Scollop'd Dishes
- 12 Soup Plates Do.
- 4 Dozen Plates Do.
- 8 Other Plates
- 12 Other Plates
- 10 Other Plates
- 7 Soup Plates
- 6 Custard Cups
- 9 other Plates
- 2 Punch Bowls
- 1 Turin
- 13 Dishes

*Scallops Dishes*

China Continued

- 3 Mugs
- 4 Colourd Basons
- 1 Tea Pot and Stand wth. a set of the same
- 6 Coffee Cups
- 1 Milk Pot
- 1 Tea Jar
- 2 Plates belonging to the same
- 1 Boat for Spoons
- 1 Sugar Dish wth. a Cover
- 2 Small Plates for Butter
- 6 Coffee Cups
- 1 Sugar Dish
- 14 Dragon Saucers
- 10 Dragon Tea Cups wth. Handles
- 7 Large Dragon Tea Cups
- 6 Large Coffee Cups
- 1 Sugar Dish
- 35 Saucers
- 30 China Cups
- 3 Blue and White Coffee Cups
- 1 Small Cream Boat

White Ware

- 14 long Dishes
- 6 Round Do.
- 8 Soup Plates
- 2 Dozen large Plates
- 15 Small Do.
- 8 Butter Dishes
- 2 Pudding Potts
- 2 Candlesticks
- 1 Strainer
- 1 Bread Baskett
- 6 Leaf Stands for Pickles
- 2 Brown Punch Bowls
- 4 Brown Pudding Pans
- 3 Pint Mugs
- 3 Earthen Tea Potts
- 1 Sweet Meat Spoon

## Glass

- 11 Water Glasses wth. 11 Stands
- 3 Large Glasses
- 1 Large Sweetmeat Glass
- 2 Salvers
- 2 Dozen and 4 Jelly Glasses
- 10 Sullibub Do.
- 7 Short Punch Glasses
- 4 Patty Pans
- 4 Glasses for the Bird Cages
- 8 Small Sweet Meat Glasses
- 2 Dozen and 5 Wine Glasses
- 9 Ale Glasses
- 2 Long Cyder Glasses
- 1 Glass Turndish
- 2 Tumbler Glasses
- 1 Milk Pot
- 1 Glass Salt
- 6 Large Pickle Glasses
- 12 Small Do.

## Linen

- 5 Pair of fine sheets
  - 34 Pillow Cases
  - 9 Damask Table Cloths
  - 1 Do. Breakfast Cloth
  - 4 Napkin Do.
  - 37 Damask Napkins
  - 5 Diaper Table Cloths
  - 8 Napkins Do.
  - 2 Breakfast Do.
  - 2 Hugaback Table Cloths
  - 11 Do. Napkins
  - 8 Fine Towels - Do. Coarse
  - 4 Servants Table Cloths
  - 2 Bolster Pillow Cases
- Do. Coarse  
Do. Do. 6 pr.  
from Llantrithyd

Plate

- 16 Large Spoons
- 1 Soup Spoon
- 12 Tea Spoons
- 2 Pap Spoons
- 2 Tankards
- 1 Ring with Castors
- 2 Salts
- 1 Waiter
- 1 Little Boat
- 2 Candlesticks
- 1 Punch Ladle
- 1 Tea Tongs
- 1 Pontypool Tea Board
- 1 Waiter Do.
- 1 Mug Do.
- 2 Candlesticks
- 2 Long Mohogany Candlesticks wth. Silver Socketts

In the Servts. Hall

- 1 Large Settle
- 1 Skreen
- 1 Square Table
- 1 Cloth Press
- 1 Horse to Dry Cloathes

In the Brewhouse

- 3 Brewing Vats
- 2 Trandells
- 5 Pails
- 4 Brass Pans
- 1 Cleaver
- 1 Lade Pail
- 1 Large Wooden Bowl
- 1 Brass Boyler
- 1 Brass Do.
- 1 Iron Do. wth. Pot Hooks
- 3 Kettles Do.
- 1 Large Do.
- 2 Skilletts
- 3 Sauce Pans
- 4 Covers
- 1 Horse to Dry Cloaths

MEMORANDUM It is hereby covenanted and agreed between Thomas Edmondson of Landough Castle in the County of Glamorgan Esq. and William Brown of the Town of Cowbridge in the said County Esq. in manner following Vizt. The said Thomas Edmondson DOTH hereby Demise and let unto the said William Brown ALL that his Mansion House and Gardens with the appurtenances being ..... within the Town of Cowbridge aforesaid late in the Occupation of John Edmondson Esq. deceased Together with the use but not the property of the Goods and Things in the Schedule hereunder written ..... Except...reserved unto the said Thomas Edmondson ..... the following rooms in the said house Vizt. The Nursery, Little Room, and White Room ..... IN WITNESS whereof... This tenth day of June ...

1778

In the Hall

A walnut Bureau and Bookcase with Glass Doors	3	6	0
Two Walnut Elbow Chairs	0	7	0

In the Great Parlour

Mahogany Sopha and Two Pillows covered with red Damask and Two Coverings	2	2	0
Mahogany Card Table	1	3	0
Dutch Oak Side Board Table	0	12	0
A Do. Oval Dining Table	0	16	6
Red Moreen Window Curtains with a Rails, Lines, Tassil and Screws	1	4	0
One large Scotch Carpet	3	0	0
An Iron Cat	0	1	6
A Bath Stove, Fire shovel, Tongs Poker and Fender	2	18	6

In the Library

Six Mahogany Chairs covered with Crimson Damask and Linnen Coverings	4	0	0
A Mahogany Pembroke Table	0	12	6
A Glass in a Gilt Frame	3	3	0
A Bright Stove Grate and Fender Tongs Shovel and Pöker with Two China Candle Branches each side the Fire Place	1	11	6
Printed Cotton Window Curtains and a Red Wilton Carpet	2	10	0

In the Butler's Pantry

A Mahogany Dinner Tray One Glass Do. and One Small Do.	0	12	6
A Table and some Iron Hooks for Meat	0	3	6

In the Little Parlour

A Dutch Oak Bureau	0	12	0
An Oak Oval Table	0	4	0
Two Walnut Elbow Chairs a Windsor Chair and a Beech Do. with a red bottom	1	2	0

In the Kitchen

Large Dresser	0	12	6
An Oak Table one Old Cupboard Two Leather Bottom Chairs One Elbow Cane Do. and One Small Do.	0	9	0
One Linnen Press One Long Table with Drawers One Square Deal Do. One <del>Cage</del> Settle and One Bench	0	10	6
A Jack Weighter etc. <i>Large</i>	1	4	0
One Copper Coal Box One Do. Tea Kettle One Do. (?) a Warming Pan	1	11	6
A Bell Metal Kettle one Small Do. Brass Do. and cover and One Copper Ladle	0	18	0
A Tin Stew Pan Do. Dripping Pan One Do. Dutch Oven One Do. Drudging Box One Do. Candle Box Ten Do. Patty Pans One Do. Pudding Pan Two Do. Pint Porringers and Three Do. Cheese Toasters	0	5	0
Three Gridirons one Trippet One Frying Pan Two Cinder Shovels Two Iron Candlesticks and one Japan Do.	0	6	8
One Large Spit and Truss one Small Do. and Two Trusses One Pair of (?)add Irons One Ironing Box Two Heaters and a Stand One Tin Plate Warmer One Chopping Knife and Board	0	18	0

In the White Room

One Looking Glass	0	9	6
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In the Yellow Room

Four Post Bedstead with Blue and White Curtains Feather Bed Bolster four Pillows Mattrass Two Pair of Blankets a Counterpane and Two Bed Side Carpets	18	18	0
One Elbow Chair with a red Bottom One Do. with a Leather Bottom one Do. with a Rush Do. and a Mahogany Corner Cupboard	1	7	0
One Mahogany Night Elbow Chair and one small Square Stool	1	3	0

In the Brown Room

One four Post Bedstead with Green Haratan furniture	2	6	0
A Double Chest of Drawers	4	4	0
Seven Cane Chairs Two Window Curtains Tongs Poker Shovel and Brass Fender	1	3	0
A Looking Glass and One Oak Square Table and Drawer	1	10	0

In the Punch Room

One Four Post Bedstead with Red and White Curtains	0	18	6
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In the Best Room

A Mahogany Chest of Drawers and Cloaths Horse Six Mahogany Chairs with Crimson Damask and Cheque Cases	3	3	6
A Walnut Tree Dressing Table and One Do. Glass Gilt a bright Stove Grate Tongs Poker and Fender	3	9	0

In the Dressing Room

A Printed Cotton window Curtain Toilett of the same and a Dressing Table	0	14	0
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In the Red Room

One Four Post Bedstead with Printed Cotton Curtains  
and Window Curtains of the Same

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See also D/DE 689

Catalogue of Household Furniture to be sold by  
Auction by Mr John Cole Weds 3 Dec 1778

Hall (inc marriage à la mode, Kate's profess, Harlot's profess)

Gt Parlour

Library

Butlers Pantry

Little Parlour

Pantry

Kitchen

Brewhouse

Dairy

White Room

Little Room

Yellow R

Board

lunch R

best R

Dressing R

Reck

livergaller

Ante ferret

Greenhouse + pins

stable

room over stable

Cock house

(Notes of Jeff Alden)