

The Public Houses and Inns of Brynmawr in 1859.

Quite a few unkind remarks have been made about the numerous public houses that once existed in Brynmawr though to be fair it was the same in many of the towns of the industrial valleys. Brynmawr did not have any heavy industries; it was mainly a dormitory town for the workers of the iron works of Nant y Glô, Beaufort and Clydach and those that worked the many quarries and patches of the area. In 1859 the directory for Brynmawr lists only 28 Inns and Public Houses (up from 14 in 1845) but read further and an additional 49 retailers of beer are listed, (up from 21 in 1845). It is quite possible that some retailers also ran an Inn or Public House but if not it does give a staggering 77 places where alcohol could be bought. The population at that time would be around 5,000 which make roughly 64 people per retailer. Take away children and the many who were members of the Temperance movement (curiously very strong in Brynmawr) and the number probably come down to around 30.

Below I give a list of the Inns and Public Houses in 1859 and their publicans and where possible I have also given the street address. Sadly some have been demolished but many are today private houses. Beer retailers or Beer House of 1859 are not listed.

Name of Inn or Public House	Name of Publican	Address
The Alma Inn	J. Porter	Alma Street
The Bear Inn	David Price	Bailey Street/Davies Street
Beaufort Arms	William Bowen	King Street
Bee Hive	Llewellyn Williams	Somerset Street
Black Lion	George Cutler	Market Square
Bridge Inn	David Aubrey	King Street
Britannia	William Jones	King Street
Bryn Cottage Inn	David Thomas	Unknown
Cambrian	Ann Burfield	King Street
Castle	John Lloyd	Beaufort Street
Clarence Inn	David Price	Clarence Street
Colliers Arms	Phineas Phillips	Somerset Street

Fireman's Arms	John Shore	Worcester Street
Greyhound	George Thomas	Worcester Street/Beaufort Street
Griffin	John Lewis	Beaufort street
Heath Cock Inn	William Pritchard	Bailey Street
King David	Roger Lewis	Bailey Street
King William the Fourth	Thomas Thomas	Glamorgan Street
King's Head	William Morgan	Beaufort Street
Mitre Hotel	Charles Burgess	Worcester Street
Mount Pleasant	Mary James	King Street
New Inn	William Jeffreys	Off King Street, Pont y Gôf
Prince of Wales	George White	King Street
Red Lion	Thomas A. Bevan	Beaufort Street
Rising Sun	Thomas Jones	King Street/Hill Street
Salutation	John Williams	Glamorgan Street
Shoulder of Mutton	Ann Morgan	Glamorgan Street
White Lion	William Thomas	Worcester Street

In 1854, there was a pub named Queen's Head which I believe was on Glamorgan Street, I have a photograph clearly showing the name painted on the wall. It was probably where the Salutation stood or at least next door to it, opposite the King William VI.

There is a very good map done by Adrian Drew available in the Brynmawr Museum of **Brynmawr Public Houses, Inns, Hotels and Clubs** over the last 210 years.

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