

## W.E. Thomas – Estate Agent and Auctioneer.



In 1889 Frank Stearn, an important photographer from Cambridge and now living at Ringley Wells with his wife, celebrated the birth of a baby daughter christened Clarice Helen Stearn. He also opened a photography business at 56 Main Street – Cambridge House seen in the LHS photograph.



A hundred miles away in Cowbridge, 2 years earlier, William Evan Thomas was born. As a young man he went into the army, and in the years before WWI he was stationed with the Glamorgan Yeomanry at Penally. In 1912 William was to meet his future wife at a party in Manorbier, though the war intervened and they were not to marry until 1918. After the war William was fortunate to obtain a good post with the Pembrokeshire War Agriculture Committee responsible for farming decisions, employment of Prisoners of War, and the Land Army women too.



In 1922 the family moved to Penfro in Main Street where

William opened an Auctioneers business, then built a cattle mart on Colley land near Pembroke Railway Station. In 1930 their youngest son Tony was born, and he later successfully took over the business as W.E. Thomas and Son, Auctioneers, Valuers & Estate Agents. William, who died in 1956, had also been the pioneer of Young Farmers Clubs in the area and with Eddie Roberts of Loveston Farm set up the South Pembrokeshire YFC. This was a role also dear to Tony Thomas' heart and it was at a YFC dance he met his wife Carol.



*The Pembroke Story is grateful to Mr. Tony Thomas for sharing his father's story*