



Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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Please note that these reports are being updated as part of an ongoing programme of revision. Older reports sometimes refer to the old names of the Group. Between 2005 and 2012 also known as The Snowdonia Dendrochronology Project, then the N W Wales Dendrochronology Project and then the Dating Old Welsh Houses Group.

New reports will be added from time to time. Keep an eye on our website for updates.



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Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig **Discovering Old Welsh Houses**

Between 2005 and 2012 also known as The Snowdonia Dendrochronology Project, then the N W Wales Dendrochronology Project and then the Dating Old Welsh Houses Group.

CAERAU, Llanaber parish,
Merionethshire
NGR SH 638205

House History

Partial House History by Margaret Dunn,
revised 2020

Written in the language chosen by the volunteers and researchers & including information so far discovered

PLEASE NOTE ALL THE HOUSES IN THIS PROJECT ARE PRIVATE AND THERE IS NO ADMISSION TO ANY OF THE PROPERTIES



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DISCOVERING OLD WELSH HOUSES

HOUSE HISTORIES of FARMS once part of the EGRYN ESTATE

CAERAU, Llanaber parish, Merionethshire (at top of Cwm Sylfaen) NGR SH 638205

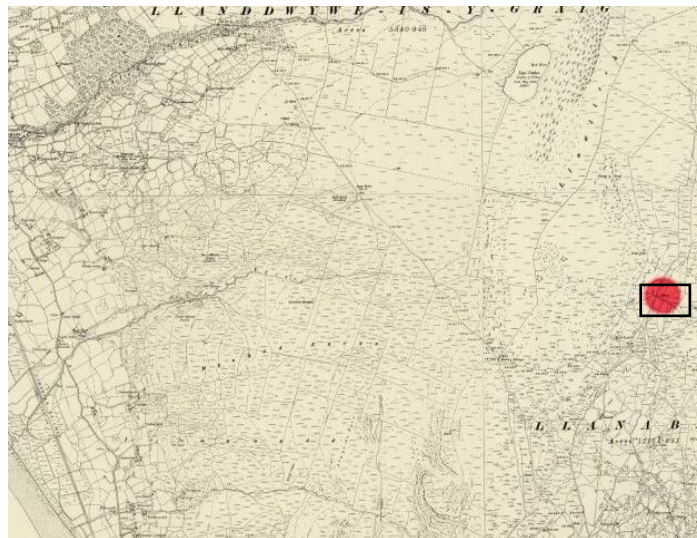
Partial House History by Margaret Dunn, revised 2020.

The house history material contained below was researched around 2006 as part of a detailed investigation into the farm holdings which had at some time been part of the EGRYN ESTATE, near Barmouth, Merionethshire. It does not always follow the format used in the house histories undertaken by the Discovering Old Welsh Houses heritage charity & its predecessors and in most cases is not a complete house history. Nevertheless, it may be a useful starting point for house histories for any of the properties named.

This document is a list of pieces of information (date; summary, full source) so far found about this house, and is not a prose history of the building & its families. It is hoped to include a detailed history of the Egryn & Caerberllan estates and their owners, families & tenants on the DOWH website as soon as possible.

Margaret Dunn 9 July 2020.

It is not known when and how the ancestors of the Tyddur family of Egryn acquired these scattered holdings. They may be the remnants of a divided family estate shared by partible inheritance, or may include lands acquired by marriage.



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1670s Jane Tudur, heiress of the Egryn estate, married Hugh Owen of Caerberllan, Llanfihangel y Pennant, Merionethshire, probably in the 1670s, being his second wife. After Hugh Owen's father's death, they moved to the larger & more modern mansion of Caerberllan, uniting the two estates.

26 October 1702.

1. Hugh Owen of Caer Berllan, gent.,
Edward Wynne of Llangower, gent. & Margaret his wife,
Jane Owen of Egrin, widow,
 Rowland Jones of Peniarth Ganol, gent. & Catherine his wife,
 William Roberts of Henre Vechan, gent and Susanna his wife,
William Pugh of Mathaven, Montgomery, Esq,
Richard Owen of Peniarth, Esq.,
Edward Owen of Gwastadfryn, gent.,
2. Richard Vaughan of Corse y Gedol, Esq &
 John Owen of Prothsaved, co Anglesey Esq;
3. Anne Williams of Glanalaw, co Anglesey, widow of David Williams.

AGREEMENT – covenant to levy a fine & to have to bar the estate tail, of a capital messuage called Cae'r Berllan and a water mill called Melyn Caer Berllan, and Tyddyn y Llechwedd, Tyddyn Nant Myddary, Tyddyn Rhiwerva, Tyddyn Du, Tyddyn y Triane, Tyddyn Pwll, Pen y Brynio, and Tyddyn Maes y llan ...

and for raising £914 by the sale of Ynys Gwertheirn, Llwyn Cadwgan, Rhyd yr Eirin, Gornant Issa and Gornant Uchaf

and for conveying Egrin, Melyn Egryn, Ymwlich, **Cayre**, Tyddyn Mawr & Caer Llwynne (B12)

(Draft incomplete)

1725 Nov 1: 1. Hugh Owen of Caerberllane, Co Merioneth Esq.

2. Jane verch Morris of Egrin, co Merioneth, widow.

LEASE for five years of messuages & lands called Egrin and **Caerey** in the parish of Llanaber, co Merioneth. (UWB, Plas Carreg, ms 42) Has signature of Hugh Owen.

1751/2 Jan 5: baptism of Grace, daughter of William Robert, Caerau, by his wife. (Merionnydd Archives, Z/PE/10/1)

1754 March 3, baptism of Catherine, daughter of William Robert, Caerau, by his wife. (Merionnydd Archives, Z/PE/10/1 & NLW, Bangor BT, Llanaber)

1756? June 3: baptism of Hugh, son of William Robert, Caerau, by his wife. (Merionnydd Archives, Z/PE/10/1)

1796 William Lewis Owen, Cae'r Berllan, Gent., died intestate. Administration bond & other documents filed. Mary Owen, widow relict of William Lewis Owen having renounced her claim to administer; John Richards, one of the Principal creditors / administrators of Caerberllan to be administrator. (Register of Bangor Diocese wills. 1797/111, Ref No 8022)

1796-1808: Egryn rent £112 recd from Robert Poole (UWB, Porth yr Aur ms 14,473-4; Cae'r Berllan & Egryn estates rentals; Agent Revd John Lewis)

1790 Feb	Caerau	John Richards	£10	
1790 Due Michaelmas	Llanaber	Caerau	John Richards	£10
1791 Dec & July		John Richards	£10	

1792	May & Dec	John Richards	£10
1793	May & Dec	John Richards	£10
1794		John Richards	£10
1795	Dec	John Richards	£10
1796	May	John Richards	£5
1796	Dec	John Richards	£5

1798 Land Tax Assessments (Dolgellau Archives IR/23/118) (No property names)
Llanaber Is mynydd

Proprietor	Tenant	Land Tax Assessment
John Owen Esq.	Richard Roberts	11/6d possibly Caerau

1801-02	John Richards	£5
1803	John Richards	£5
1805 Dec	John Richards	£5
Settled with the above John Richards £58-9-0 for Cae'rberllan £88, Nant £8-8-0, Caerau £10 & Penybrynna £10-10-0.		
1806 June & Dec	John Richards	£5 + £5
1807	John Richards	£10

1805 June 11: baptism of Robert, son of Harry Richards, Caerau, and Jane his wife. (Merionnydd Archives, Z/PE/10/1 & NLW, Bangor BT, Llanaber)

1808 Mar 2: baptism of Ishmael Richard, son of Evan Richard, Caerau, and Jane. (NLW, Bangor Bishops Transcripts)

1810 March 11: baptism of John, son of Harry Richards, Caerau, and Jane his wife. (Merionnydd Archives, Z/PE/10/1 & NLW, Bangor BT Llanaber)

1812 July 8: baptism of Evan, son of Harry Richards, Caerau, and Jane his wife. (Merionnydd Archives, Z/PE/10/1)

1810 Feb 10 Letter from Mr John Lewis, Trosymarian, to John Evans, Carnarvon.

"I see the name of Owen Morgan opposite **YMWLCH** in 1804 and 1805 and after that Jane Richards, his widow, and **CAERAU** Henry Richards – I believe his name is, but no relation of John's – Is Mr Humphrey Owen's bill to the late Mrs Owen amongst Grindley's papers? [then Miss Hughes' case]" (UWB, Porth yr Aur 23,644)

?1813 July 17: Draft Affidavit of Mr Lewis, In The matter of John Owen, a lunatic.

Caerau went in the name of John Richards in the late Mr Owen's lifetime. (UWB, Porth yr Aur ms 23,516)

1815 May 4: baptism of Eleanor, daughter of Henry & Jane Richards, Caerau, farmer. (NLW, Bangor Bishop's Transcripts, Llanaber)

1830: **Schedule to which the Abstracted Indenture refers: Rental of the Caerberllan Estate**

Nos	Tenant's Names	Tenements	Annual Rents
11.	<i>Robert Parry</i>	<i>Caerau</i>	£25 0 0

(GAS, XCV/74 49 p 25)

1836 Enclosure Award for Llanaber.

Caerau: Allotment 31 21 acres 2 roods 2 perches

Allotment 32 6 acres
 (Dolgellau Record Office, Z/QR/EN/3 page 34. Maps illegible)

1839 Llanaber is mynydd Tithe schedule (Dolgellau Record Office)

Owner: Edward Pugh Owen

Property	Tenant	Acreage
Cae ran = Caerau	Richard Vaughan	49 acres
Field	Name	Use
1452	Allotment	Mountain pasture
1454		Arable
1455		Arable
1456	house, garden & Cae tan y ty	Arable
1457		Arable
1458		Arable
1453		Meadow
1459		Meadow
1460		Meadow
1461		Pasture
1462		Arable
1463	Allotment	Pasture
1464	Allotment	Mountain pasture
Total		<u>49-2-5</u>

Summary

Mountain pasture	18 acres
Pasture	2 acres
Meadow	10 acres
Arable	19 acres

It is not known when the OWEN family sold this holding.

1841 census Llanaber Uwch mynydd ED 15, No 9 Golodd, No 10 Caerau

Catherine Jones 45 farmer born in Merioneth

1 uninhabited; No 11 Cae Tudur.

1851 census Not found

1861 census Not found

1871 census Llanaber Uwch mynydd ED 14 between No 1 Cae Tudur & No 2 Vron

heulog: Caerau: UNINHABITED

1881 census Not found

1891 census Not found

1901 census Not found

1910 Caerau etc & 56 acres. Owner See Llwyn Cadwgan, Dyffryn. Occupier: Ellis E Williams. (Dolgellau Record Office, Land Tax 1910, Llanaber, Z/QR/L/2 no 110)

1910 Llwyn Cadwgan & 85 acres: owner: Ellis E Williams. Occupier: Ellis Evans. (Dolgellau Record Office, Land Tax 1910, Llanenddwyn, Z/QR/L/? no 38)

1911 census not checked

1911 Sale Catalogue of Lord Harlech's Land. Sylfaen & Golodd sold for £4,000 to Robert (Humphrey) John & Richard Williams, Llwynwcws. Sylfaen lands almost surrounded **Caerau** which was owned by E E Williams Esq. (Dolgellau Record Office, ZF/29 lot 276 & 277)

Probably too early for this to be Ellis Ewart Williams of Ystumgwern. (pers comm Gwyndaf Williams)

c1920 Caerau: A small mountain farm, 900 ft above sea level. There are no appearances of banks or ditches. Tithe schedule No 1,456. (Merionethshire Inventory of RCAHMW vi.50)

Glyn Edwards thought that the large barn was roofless in the early 1900s, pre 1920; the slates were removed for use elsewhere. (Pers Comm. Glyn Edwards Aug 2007)

1921 census not checked

Glyn Edwards' father rented Caerau for grazing sheep & cattle. In 1947, a very snowy winter, young Glyn had to carry a bag of hay on his back over Bwlch Rhiwgyr every day. The snows started on 29 January 1947. The Williams of Llwyn Cadwgan owned Caerau. (Pers Comm Glyn Edwards 2007)

Born c1930s at Goetre Uchaf, below Caerau in Cwm Sylfaen: Mr John Lloyd Williams, 25.....Clayton, Newcastle, Staffs. Might remember Caerau (pers comm Gwyndaf Williams)

After Hendre Eirian rented Caerau in the 1940s, it was bought by William Williams who then lived at Sylfaen, before he retired in the late 1940s-early 1950s and left Sylfaen. Chains for prisoners were still there some years ago but not now.

There was said to have been a tavern there on the old road

There was a well-built well, good for rheumatism, above Caerau, through a gate in the *ffridd* wall. (per comm Emlyn Williams, Bryn Derw. 2007)

It is now a ruin, part of the Sylfaen estate, belonging to the Evans family of Islaw'r ffordd (?Cae Daniel Caravan Park). The son lives at Sylfaen now (2007).