



# Dating Old Welsh Houses Project

North west Wales Dendrochronology Project

## Dyddio Hen Dai Cymreig Prosiect

Prosiect Dendrocronoleg Gogledd Orllewn Cymru

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# House History Report

Number 12

**CREIGIR ISAF**



## Author

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# NORTH WEST WALES DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES – GWYNEDD

## CREIGIR ISAF

Llanengan, Pwllheli, Gwynedd

Grid Reference: SH3041228247

**House details:** A storeyed stair-passage farmhouse with end chimneys apparently incorporating the passage end of an earlier house. The entrance passage is flanked by (1) a single-chamfered and possibly re-used, weathered beam (which dated), and (2) a two-door post-and-panel partition with mason-mitred chamfers. The remainder of the house dates from the later C18th or earlier C19th. A possible roof-raising line is visible in the lower gable (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, <http://www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/413336/details/CREIGIR-ISAF%2C+LLANENGAN/>, as of 17 November 2011). The house is not noted in the RCAHMW *Caernarvonshire* Vol. III.

**Cantref:** Llŷn

**Commote:** Afloegion (*Atlas of Caernarvonshire* p 70); Commitmaen (Cymydmaen) according to the 1841 census.

**Dendrochronology results:** Tree-ring dating commissioned by North-West Wales tree-ring dating project in partnership with RCAHMW in 2010/11 (R.F. SUGGETT/RCAHMW/July 2011). Limited sampling was undertaken at this property, with just four timbers being sampled. A single timber dated, a ground floor ceiling beam on the west side of the entrance hall. The series dated to the period 1412–1488, and included the heartwood sapwood boundary, giving a likely felling date range of 1499–1531. The other three samples did not match this series, nor did they date independently. Caution needs to be taken in interpreting a whole phase on the basis of single timber, but this strongly suggests a construction date in the early 16th century of the original phase. Full report available in NMRW. (NJR, 07/04/2011). [Additional:] Tree-ring dating with site description reported in *Vernacular Architecture* 42 (2011): x. LLANENGAN, Creigir-isaf (SH 304 282) Felling date range: 1499-1531. Ceiling beam 1488(h/s). Site Master 1412-1488 cia02 (t = 7.3 NWTNNTTG; 7.1 BDGLRT17; 6.9 PENGWERN).

**Spelling:** The spelling of names was very variable. The spelling used in any source is generally followed here. Variants include Salmon/Solomon, Ellen/Elin/Elinor/Eleanor, Laura/Lowry/Lowri, Katerine/Katherine/Katharine/Catherine, Dafydd/David, Marry/Mary, Creigir Isaf/ Cregyrissa/ Creigir Isa, and so on.

**Summary:** The history of Creigir Isaf shows well the changes that have taken place in the Abersoch area. Until around 1700 it seems to have been part of a larger farm, Creigir. Between the putative subdivision and 1875 it was a holding sufficient to support a family, latterly of about 40 acres, and was largely arable. Different parts of the family lived in separate houses on the farm. Much of the land was sold in 1875, and more in 1887, leaving a small area of land around the house. In 1894 the house itself was sold (apparently for the first time since at least the early eighteenth century) to a retired master mariner from Aberdaron, who had presumably spare capital that he wished to invest in residential letting property. His heirs continued to let it, latterly to a butcher, who slaughtered in one of the buildings. The tenant also took advantage of the growing popularity of Abersoch with English visitors to let his home in the centre of the village in the summer, moving temporarily to Creigir Isaf. In 1929 it was bought by an Englishwoman, but she sold after a short time to a relative of one of the first English families to build holiday homes in the village. He let it to a Welsh couple, but came to stay in the summer, for which time they moved to the sheds. By the 1960s the demand for holiday accommodation had spread from the centre of Abersoch as far as this part of the district, allowing the tenants to sub-let in the season, when the landlord was not using the house. It has recently been recognized as containing ancient materials, but it is not yet possible to relate the current structure with any certainty to whatever house existed in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

## CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

**Date**                      **Summary of Information (reference in brackets)**

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1499-1531

Dendro date of beam flanking entrance passage. It seems likely that part of a sixteenth-century house survives in a now mainly C18th or C19th farmhouse, or that the timber from an earlier house elsewhere was reused here.

1659

The death of Katerine, wife of Hugh Owen of Creigir (inscription on stone inside Llanengan church: see Appendix 2 no. (9.)). There are traces of plaster on the face of the stone, suggesting that the damage to the inscription may have been caused by either getting a key or removing the plaster. This damage is too great to allow one to assert that Katerine was of the Williams family of Llandegai or Llandegwning or elsewhere. There were Williamses at both these places in the seventeenth century, and one possible identification of this Katerine is as the daughter of Griffith Williams of Llandegwning. (J.E. Griffith *Pedigrees* pp. 170, 186-7, 335). Her mother would then have been Lowry, daughter of Henry Humphreys of Plas Tan yr Allt Pwllheli and Pant Du, who was High Sheriff of the county in 1629. Hugh Owen was perhaps related to Hugh of Creigir and Cefn y Gaer, son of Owen (J.E. Griffith *Pedigrees* p. 328), who would seem to have been born too early to be this Hugh Owen. There is a farm called Cefn y Gaer near Rhos Botwnnog, at grid reference SH 273322, but the name may instead be a local one that has gone out of use, perhaps connected with the hillfort Pen y Gaer – compare Fron y Gaer at SH300283.

1662

There are two versions of the hearth tax assessment of Llanengan, and the relation between them is not clear. The National Archives version (E179/220/165) is hard to read, but three houses have two hearths each, and the rest one. The name attached to one of the latter might be Hugh Owen. The Gwynedd Archives version shows Humphrey Jones gent 1, William Jones gent 1, Hugh Owen gent 1, and 27 other single-hearth households, none claiming gentility. There is one two-hearth household, that of John ap William ap Richard. So whatever house existed at Creigir was not exceptionally large (Gwynedd Archives [GA]: Caernarfonshire Hearth Tax Roll [no reference number]).

1682

1. Elizabeth Jones of Llaneingan, widow.
2. William Owen of Llannor, yeoman.

DEED TO LEAD THE USES of a Fine to be levied upon messuages, tenements and lands called Creigir or Tythyn Creigir, Y Celler, and Ty yn y Pwll, pa. Llaneingan; and y Ty dû, pa. Llannor. Tenants given. (GA: XD2/538; (National Library of Wales Rug 401)). The effect of this deed is that Elizabeth Jones lets Creigir and other properties to William Owen.

The relation between the holding here referred to as ‘Creigir’ and Creigir Isaf is at present unknown, though the occurrence of the name ‘Crygyr Issa’ in 1728 suggests that a subdivision occurred around 1700. Whether the main house was on the site of Creigir Uchaf, Isaf, Goch or Wen, or of Hendy (‘old house’), or elsewhere, is unknown.

1688

Elizabeth Jones buried at Llanengan, March 29th (information from John Dilwyn Williams).

1690

The probate of the will of William Lewis of Ty Du, Llannor (B1690/74) mentions his brother-in-law, Thomas ap Hugh, sister Elizabeth Lewis, sister Dorothy Lewis and wife Margaret Evans.

1693 [4]

A deed executed by Elizabeth Jones’s daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and Thomas ap Hugh, mentions Elizabeth’s brother, William Lewis, dec. (Bangor University, Nannau 437).

1705

The freeholders residing in Llaneinion [Llanengan] parish were Humphry Jones gent, James Williams, and Thomas ab Hugh (GA: XQS/1704-1706/144).

1728

1. James Williams of Crygyr Issa, Llanengan, co. Caernarvon, gent.; William Williams of Llaneingan, gent.; eldest son and heir of the said J.W.
2. William Prichard of Caernarvon, gent., Robert Trygarne of Portholy, co. Caernarvon, gent.
3. William Griffith of Tu Hire, co. Caernarvon, gent.

Settlement: (after the marriage of William Williams, and Elizabeth, daughter of William Griffith) of Crygyr Issa, Y Weirglodd yn lan'ravon, Tu yn y llan, Tu ar tire yn y Morva and Cross Hednant, all in Llaneingan) (Bangor University Archives [BU], TYNYGONGL MSS .321).

1730

RETURN of Robert Humphrey, constable of pa. Llanengan, naming Hugh Owens of Creigir Ucha, James Williams of Creigir Issa, John Parry of Gwydryn, Michael Griffith of Cregir, Owen Jones of Cae dû, Hugh Roberts of Trevalleyn, John Hughes of Trevous, Lewis Prichard of Llanengan, William Williams of Towyn and Humphrey Jones of Ty Newydd, gent., as freeholders, Sept 1st (GA: XQS/1730/74).

1734

The administration bond of the estate of James Williams of Llanengan was granted to Lowry Jones, widow, of Llanengan in 1734 (B1734/120).

1762

Deeds of Crygir Issa at Glamorgan Archives (ex-Cardiff Free Library) under CL/Deeds/1/2318 - CL/Deeds/1/2321 and others not yet seen (Archif Melville Richards at [http://www.e-gymraeg.co.uk/enwaulleoedd/amr/cronfa\\_en.aspx](http://www.e-gymraeg.co.uk/enwaulleoedd/amr/cronfa_en.aspx), viewed 28/05/2012). The catalogue describes leases and mortgages relating to Crygir-issa, Werglodd yn glan'r afon, Tyn y llan otherwise Croes hadnant and Ty ar tir yn y morva, the property of James Williams.

1765

The will of Lowry Jones, widow, of Creigir Isa, was proven, in which she refers to the 'infirmities of old age' (information from John Dilwyn Williams).

1768

3rd Feb, baptism of Thomas, son of Owen Robert Evan, labourer, of Creigir Issa by Mary his wife. 14th Feb, burial of Thomas Owen of Creigir Isaf, infant (GA: XPE69/4).

1771

Elin the daughter of James Williams of Creigir Isa, farmer, by Elin his wife baptized 12th July (GA: XPE69/4).

1782

James Williams the owner and occupier of Cregir Isaf paid 2s 9d under Land Tax assessment. He continued to own it until at least 1818. At the former date he also owned Tyn y llan and Morfa (BU: Porth yr Aur Addit 1658 p114; GA: XQA/LT/8/5).

1782

Catherine the daughter of Evan Williams of Creigir Isa and Elizabeth his wife baptized (GA: XPE69/5).

1786

James Williams leased nine fields to Hugh Griffith of Trwyn y Garreg, Llanengan (GA: X/POOLE/3670).

1789

Marry, daughter of Henry Griffiths of Creigir Isa by Elizabeth his wife [baptized] (GA: XPE69/5).

1790

Creigir Isaf settled by the owner, James Williams, gentleman of Creigirissa, on his daughter Ellen on her marriage to Salmon (or Solomon) Jones, yeoman of Llangian (HD: F.P. Winterbotham to M.D. Morgan, 26/07/1933).

1791

James Williams leased Creigir Issa to Salmon Jones for the life of the lessor at £18 p.a. (GA: X/POOLE/3735).

1794

There was a dispute between Solomon Jones, lessee of Creigir Issa, and his brother-in-law Henry Griffith (husband of James Williams' daughter Elisabeth), who had been given Tyn y llan and Morfa in his marriage settlement. Each considered the meadow Gwerglodd Glanrafon part of his property. The result of the dispute does not appear (GA: X/POOLE/4721, X/POOLE/4734, X/POOLE/6604).

1799

Elizabeth, daughter of Solomon Jones of Creigir Isa by Elin his wife, baptized 17th June (GA: XPE69/6).

1802

William son of Solomon Jones of Creigir Isa, farmer, by Elin his wife, baptized 1st Jan (GA: XPE69/6).

1804

A person named James Williams owned and occupied Llwyndu, Llanengan (Grid reference SH 308273) (GA: XQA/LT/8/5).

1807

Llwyndu and Bwlch (Grid reference SH299273), Llanengan both owned and occupied by a person or persons named James Williams, until at least 1818 (GA: XQA/LT/8/5).

1809-11

Hyde Hall found Llanengan a very remote place, and was told that he was only the second person of his generation to visit for touristic purposes. The only house that he mentions is the Rectory, then recently built (Hyde Hall *Description of Caernarvonshire* 303).

1820

Anne, base daughter of John Roberts Creigir Goch, labourer, and Eleanor Jones Creigir Isaf, was baptized 18th March (GA: XPE/69/7). This Eleanor was perhaps a servant – William and Catherine's daughter had not been born yet.

1828

James Williams Creigir Isa buried April 24th, aged 88 (GA: XPE/69/11).

1833

William Jones and Catherine Thomas married 11th October. He signed his name, she made her mark, like most of the people married in the parish at this time (GA: XPE/69/9).

1836

William, son of William and Catherine Jones Creigir Isaf, was baptized 9th October (GA: XPE/69/7).

1838

Salmon Jones died. According to Winterbotham, he had inherited Creigir Isaf after the death of his wife Ellen but made no will, and Creigir Isaf passed to his son William Jones (HD: F.P. Winterbotham to M.D. Morgan, 26/07/1933; Land Tax records for Creigir Isaf GA: XQA/LT/8/5; date from Salmon Jones grave at Llanengan). But there appears to be some confusion, as according to their gravestone (Appendix 2, no. (6.)) and to the parish register, Salmon Jones died before his wife – he was buried on 18th Jan 1838 and she on 6th March 1839 (GA: XPE/69/6), so William may have inherited directly from his mother.

1839

Salmon Jones Bryn y Gwynt buried February 7th, aged a fortnight; Ellen Jones Creigir Issa buried 6th March, aged 67(GA: XPE/69/11).

1841

William Jones, who had just inherited Creigir Isaf, lived with his young family at Bryn Gwynt (or Bryn y Gwynt or Bryn Gwyn, SH301283), just beyond the northern corner of Cae Scwar (see Appendix 3). His unmarried brother and sisters lived in Creigir Isaf itself. Presumably the whole family worked the two farms cooperatively. The fact that the Creigir Isaf field called Cae Lloian (calves' close or field) was next to the house at Bryn Gwynt, where the calves could be watched, suggests unified management.

Census: Creigir Isaf

Salmon Jones, 30, M, Farmer, Caernarvonshire  
Elizabeth Jones, 35, F -, Caernarvonshire  
Mary Jones, 30, F -, Caernarvonshire  
Lowry Jones, 25, F -, Caernarvonshire  
Salmon Jones, 15, M -, Caernarvonshire  
Griffith Davies, 20, M, Servant, Caernarvonshire

The second Salmon Jones does not seem to have been part of the immediate family, but the census does not give enough information to be certain. It seems to have been one of the most frequently given names in Llanengan in the nineteenth century.

Bryn Gwynt

William Jones, 35, Farmer, Caernarvonshire  
Catherine Jones, 30, Farmer's wife, Caernarvonshire  
Eleanor Jones, 7 -, Caernarvonshire  
William Jones, 4 -, Caernarvonshire  
Salmon Jones, 1 -, Caernarvonshire  
Catherine Hughes, 15, Servant, Caernarvonshire

1842

Tithe survey shows Creigir Isaf a holding of 41 acres, 3 roods and 22 perches, owned and occupied by William Jones (GA: Microfilm IR 29/48/39). For details of the fields, see Appendix 3. The shape of the farm (quite oblong) suggests that it may have been subdivided from an older Creigir, with a range of land quality, including wet grazing by the river in Garth, all the other fields being at this date arable. William Jones also occupied but did not own Bryn y Gwynt, which was just over 13 acres.

1848

Salmon Jones, Hendŷ buried 7th Oct, aged 20 (GA: XPE69/6). It is not clear if he was related to the family at Creigir Isaf.

1851

Census: Creigir Isaf

Elizabeth Jones, Head, Farmer, 50, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Mary Jones, Sister, U, Farmer, 46, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Laura Jones, Sister, U, Farmer, 38, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Salmon Roberts, Servant, U, Farm Servant, 26, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
William Jones, Servant [? and nephew], U, Farm Servant, 14, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Salmon Jones, Servant [? and nephew], U, Farm Servant, 11, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan

## Bryn y Gwynt

William Jones, Head, 48, Farmer, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Catherine Jones, Wife, 40, Farmer's wife, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Eleanor Jones, Daughter, 17, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Griffith Jones, Son, 9, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
James Jones, Son, 7, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
John Jones, Son, 5, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Evan Jones, Son, 3, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan

The two eldest sons, William (14) and Salmon (11) seem to be living away from their parents, with their aunts.

1856

Elizabeth Jones buried December 12th.

1861

Census: Creigir Isaf

Salmon Jones, Head, U, 54, Farmer of 41 acres, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Mary Jones, Sister, U, 57-, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Laura Jones, Sister, U, 48-, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
William Jones, Servant [? and nephew], U, 24, Agricultural Labourer, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Mary Davies, Servant, U, 18, Domestic Servant, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan

## Brynhyfryd

William Jones, Head, M, 59, Master miller, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Catherine Jones, Wife, M, 52-, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Salmon Jones, Son, U, 21, Miller, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Ellen Jones, Daughter, U, 28-, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Evan Jones, Son, U, 13-, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan

Brynhyfryd was occupied by Hugh and Lydia Thomas and their family, who might have been related to Catherine Jones.

1861

Salmon Jones, Creigir Isaf, buried July 19th, aged 19 years (GA: XPE/69/12). It is not clear who this was – possibly a farm servant.

1868

William Jones died, and was buried 3rd June, leaving Creigir Isaf to his two sons William and Salmon in equal shares. Salmon Jones bought the half-share of his brother William, at which time the holding comprised 41 acres (HD: F.P. Winterbotham to M.D. Morgan, 26/07/1933; GA: XPE/69/12).

1871

Census: Creigir Isaf

Salmon Jones, Head, 30, [?Retired] farmer, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Mary Jones, Aunt, 66, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Solomon Jones, Uncle, 59, Retired farmer, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Laura Jones, Aunt, 58, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan

## Brynhyfryd

Catherine Jones, Head, W, 61, Retired farmer, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan

Evan Jones, Son, U, 22, Civil engineer, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
There are two households headed by men who might be Salmon Jones's brother:  
Hendy

William Jones, Head, U, 36, Farmer 34 acres, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Robert Roberts, Servant, U, 17, Labourer, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Mary Roberts, Servant, U, 18, General servant, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Catherine Jones, Visitor, M, 48, Labourer's wife, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Salmon Jones, Visitor's son, 7, Scholar, Caernarvonshire, Edern

Penlanfawr Inn, Pwllheli  
William Jones, Head, M, 34, Publican, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Jannett Jones, Wife, M, 37, -, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Dorothy Eames, Servant, U, 27, -, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Mary Jones, Servant, U, 18, -, Caernarvonshire, Llangian  
William Richard, Servant, U, 19, -, Deneio

1872

Solomon Jones, Creigir Isaf, was buried 6th February, aged 65 (GA: XPE/69/12).

1873

Mary Jones, Creigir Isaf, was buried 16th September, aged 69 (GA: XPE/69/12).

1875

Laura Jones, Creigir Isaf, was buried 14th April, aged 64 (GA: XPE/69/12).

1875 July 13th

Salmon Jones sold a portion of the farm to William Jones of Penlanfawr Inn, Pwllheli, Victualler, for £1300. The land retained by Salmon Jones (Caer Efail, Caer Skybor, Llain Talcenyf Hovel, Llain Tain-creigir, Llain Bach, Berllan, Yr-ardd) contained about ten acres (HD: F.P. Winterbotham to M.D. Morgan, 26/07/1933). This William Jones may have been Salmon Jones's brother from whom he bought the moiety of the farm in 1868, for the two parties to the 1875 sale are buried beside each other in the churchyard at Llanengan. William died aged 42, leaving a widow named Janet, who died at 81 in 1912, according to his gravestone (Appendix 2, nos (3.) and (4.)). The elder William died in 1877; Salmon had his only son christened William four years later; seven years after that the boy was buried next to the elder William (this may have been a coincidence, but it seems unlikely); and five years later his father went to the same grave.

1877

William Jones Penlan fawr Pwllheli died 16th January. Administration was granted to his widow Janet 24th February; effects under £200 (Index of Probate).

1881

William, son of Salmon and Anne Jones Creigir Isaf, was baptized 12th May (GA: XPE/69/7).

1881

Census:

Solomon Jones, Head, M  
Farmer of 12 acres, no servants, 42, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
Ann Jones, Wife, M, 42, Caernarvonshire, Abererch  
William Jones, Son, U, 2 months, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan  
William Thomas, Son-in-law, M, Mason, 24, Merionethshire, Gwynfryn  
Mary Jane Thomas, Wife [?Daughter or step-daughter], M, 20, Caernarvonshire, Pwllheli



William Thomas is listed as 'Son-in-Law (Head)' implying the existence of two households at Creigir Isaf. There is no indication of how the building was divided, if at all.

Tyddyncallod

Catherine Jones, Head, W, 71

Farmer of few acres maybe 18, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan,

Evan Jones, Son, U, 30, Cattle dealer and labourer, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan

Deucoch

Griffith Thomas, Head, U, 59, Farmer of 84 acres & [?] servants, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire

Jane Williams, Sister, U, 57, Housekeeper, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire

Owen Griffith, Nephew, U, 37, Thrashing machine owner,

Ellen Jones, Niece, U, 47, General servant, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire

Griffith Jones, Nephew, U, 39, Farm servant indoor, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire

Ellis Thomas, Servant, U, 18, Farm servant indoor, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire

Catherine Griffith, Servant, U, 30, Domestic servant, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire

There were also people named Salmon Jones living in the parish at Yr Office (Engine driver in lead mine, 24), Bryngole (scholar, 17), Penygwaith (12, scholar) and Hendy (son of Richard Humphreys and Anne Humphreys).

1887

Salmon Jones sold to Griffith Jones (no address or description given) four fields (not named or identified by acreage), Nov 1st (HD: F.P. Winterbotham to M.D. Morgan, 26/07/1933).

1888

BARQUE FORFARSHIRE, Captain COBDEN EVANS, From Antwerp. This barque has been reported at Custom-house. CONSIGNEES will please PASS ENTRIES for their goods, present bills of lading, and pay freight to the undersigned without delay. The vessel is berthed at Williamstown Railway Pier. Consignees wishing their goods lightered must please notify same in writing before noon THIS DAY (Wednesday), to JULES RENARD and Co., agents, [?133 Collins-street] west. BARQUE FORFARSHIRE – Captain EVANS will not be responsible for any debts contracted by his crew while in this port unless on his written authority. (*The Argus* Melbourne Wednesday 2 May, p.1.) The archives of the owners, Thomas Law & Co of Glasgow (Shire Line), 1874-1970 are in Glasgow City Archives at GB243/TD1407. The firm ran fast sailing-ships, mainly to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands.

1888

William Jones, Creigir Isaf, was buried 26th June, aged 7 (GA: XPE/69/12).

1891

Census: Creigir Isaf

Solomon Jones, Head, Married, 52, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire, Welsh

Ann Jones, Wife, Married, 53, Abererch, Caernarvonshire, Welsh

The following family was living at Caermur Mawr nearby, and resembles in some ways the household at Creigir Isaf ten years later, although the apparent ages of the parents are not consistent.

John Jones Roberts, Head, Married, 38, Lead Miner, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire, Welsh

Mary Jones Roberts, Wife, Married, 38-, Llandudwen, Caernarvonshire, Welsh

Richard Griffiths, Son, Single, 13–Llandudwen, Caernarvonshire, Welsh

Jane Roberts, Daughter, 2, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire

Morris Roberts, Son, 8 mnths, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire

## 6Deucoch

Griffith Thomas, Head, S, 69, Farmer, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire, Welsh  
Catherine Jones, Sister, W, 81, -, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire, Welsh  
Ellen Jones, Niece, S, 53, Domestic housekeeper, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire, Welsh  
Griffith Jones, Nephew, S, 48, [?House...] Llanengan, Caernarvonshire, Welsh  
Evan Jones, Nephew, S, 41, Farmer & cattle dealer, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire  
Welsh, Rowland Hughes, Servant, S, 20, [?Cowman ag.] Llanengan, Caernarvonshire, Welsh  
Laurah Richard, Servant, S, 24, Domestic servant, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire, Welsh

## 1893

Salmon Jones died, and was buried 11th March, leaving Creigir Isaf to his widow Ann for her life, with remainder to his brothers Griffith, John and Evan and sister Ellen, and charged it with a payment of £50 to his wife's daughter Mary Jane Thomas (HD: F.P. Winterbotham to M.D. Morgan, 26/07/1933; GA: XPE/69/12).

## 1894

The six persons named in the Will of Salmon Jones sold Creigir Isaf to Cobden Evans, retired Master Mariner, for £400 (HD: F.P. Winterbotham to M.D. Morgan, 26/07/1933, 29/10/1945).

## 1901

Census: Creigir Isaf

John Roberts, Head, Married, [27 deleted; ?37] ,, [Illegible; ?BURSHERT], Llanengan, Caernarvonshire, Welsh  
Mary Roberts, Wife, Married, 43 - Llandudwen, Caernarvonshire/Welsh  
Morris Roberts, Son, Single, 10 - Llanengan, Caernarvonshire, Welsh  
Ann Roberts, Daughter, Single, -, Llanengan, Caernarvonshire/Welsh  
Catherine Roberts' Daughter, Single, 5 - Llanengan, Caernarvonshire, Welsh  
Ellen Roberts, Daughter, Single, 3 - Llanengan, Caernarvonshire, Welsh  
Mary Roberts, Daughter, Single, 1 - Llanengan, Caernarvonshire, Welsh  
If the illegible word is 'butcher', this might be the J. Victor Roberts who was the tenant in 1930.

## 1901

The residents were:

John Roberts b Llanengan 1864

Mary Roberts b Llandudwen 1858

Morris Roberts b Llanengan 1891

Ann Roberts b Llanengan 1893

Catherine Roberts b Llanengan 1896

Ellen Roberts b Llanengan 1898

Mary Roberts b Llanengan 1900

(Pers. comm. 03/06/2012 to Margaret Dunn from Kenneth Hughes, grandson of Catherine Roberts; she, Ann and Ellen married men from Glasinfryn).

## 1902

'SUDDEN DEATH AT SEA. On the arrival of the four-masted barque Dumfriesshire at Sydney on November 9 from Algoa Bay, it was known that during the voyage her master, Cobden Evans, had died suddenly. On October 23, he gave some written instructions to his officers, and retired to his cabin in apparently good health, but when the steward went to call him the following morning he was found to be dead. His body was buried at sea the following afternoon. The Dumfriesshire visited Fremantle last year, but Captain Evans was not then in command.' (*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia, Friday 21 November 1902, p.1.)

1910

Creigir Isaf (5 Acres, 0R, 19P; original gross value £320) – Owner: Mrs [Capt Cobden, deleted] Evans, Dwyrhos, Aberdaron. Occupier: Robert Owen. Part of Creigir Isaf (6 acres, 3R; gross value £285) – Owner and occupier: Mrs Elizabeth [Rheidiol, deleted] Roberts, Tyddyncallad, Llanengan (GA: XLTD/30 Land Tax Valuation Book, Llanengan).

1911

Census: Creigir Isaf

Robert Owen, Penteulu, 37, Priod (married), 3 children, 3 living,, Ffarmwr, Gweithiwr (employed, Caernarvonshire, Rhiw, 1874, Welsh

Eliza Owen, Gwraig, 33, Priod (married) 12 years, 3 children, 3 living—Caernarvonshire, Llaniestyn, 1875, Welsh

Kate Owen, Merch, 11, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan, 1905, Welsh

Kate, John and William Owen farmed Ty Mawr Capel, Bryncroes, from about 1926 until about 1962, when they moved to Pencraig Bach, next door (information from Glyn Roberts, Murpoeth). Their gravestone at Bwlch, Llanengan gives dates of 1904-1977 for William, 1902-1985 for John, and 1899-1988 for Kate. On it is a picture of a house which is presumably intended for Creigir Isaf, perhaps during the time the Owen family lived there (Appendix 2, no. (2.)). Pencraig Bach has a very similar front aspect, but the sheds and the profile of Carn Fadryn fit Creigir Isaf better.



At Tyddyn Callod next door lived the Rev. William Rheidiol Roberts, who was a Congregational Minister at Abersoch, and was appointed an additional Land Tax Commissioner in 1906 (*London Gazette* Dec 28th, 1906 p. 9185). His wife Elizabeth was presumably the Mrs Roberts who owned part of Creigir Isaf in 1910, and the Elizabeth Williams who lived at Tyddyn Callod in the 1891 census. Her children living with their mother and stepfather were in 1911 William (36, joiner), Mary (34), Griffith (32, joiner) and Jane (30) Williams.

Bwlch

Evan Jones, Head, 57, Married, Farmer & cattle dealer on own account, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan, Both  
Emily [?M] Jones, Wife, 53, Married 7 years, No children born in present marriage, —, Caernarvonshire, Rhiw,  
Both

Griffith Jones, Brother, 69, Farmer's brother, working on farm, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan, Welsh

John Cyril Williams, Step-son, 19, S, Carpenter, Caernarvonshire, Llanengan, Both

Margery Jones, Servant, 19, S, General servant domestic, Caernarvonshire, Bryncroes, Both

1929 Mrs Dent (no further details) purchased Creigir Isaf from the executor of John Evans, the son of Cobden Evans, the son of Cobden Evans, Master Mariner, under the Will of Cobden Evans the elder (HD: F.P. Winterbotham to M.D. Morgan, 26/07/1933, 29/10/1945). Cobden Evans (1861-1902) of Dwyros was the son of Evan and Elizabeth Evans, Pwllheli (T. Ceiri Griffith *Achau Rhai o deuluoedd hen Siroedd Caernarfon, Meirionnydd a Threfaldwyn* 2003, p 169); with his wife Ellen he had a son Cobden (1887-1913), who had a son John (1905-1928) (pers. comm. Liz Evans, Afallon, Aberdaron to Margaret Dunn, 10/6/2012).

1930 Mrs Dent the new owner of Creigir Isaf wished to obtain possession from the tenant without paying compensation. He was J. Victor Roberts, a butcher, who used part of the buildings as a slaughter house. He resided at 'Iona', Abersoch, but let his residence to visitors in the summer and lived during that time at Creigir Isaf (GA: XD/35/159, correspondence between Yale and Hardcastle and Messrs Hill Dickinson & Co., a firm of solicitors in Liverpool).

1933, July 26th Creigir-isaf purchase by Maurice Morgan [?from Mrs Dent] completed (HD: F.P. Winterbotham to M.D. Morgan, 26/07/1933). Mr Morgan was a cousin of the solicitor F.P. Winterbotham, who was of the family that built Craig-y-Môr, Abersoch, in 1904 – one of the earlier English families to settle in the area (personal knowledge of author (JP)). Mr and Mrs William H. Winterbotham built Abersoch Hall in memory of their son Harold, who died in 1913 (inscription on Hall).

1933 Outgoings of Creigir Isaf:

Income Tax – assessable value £12.15.0 Tax £3.3.9

Land Tax – assessable value £15.0.0 Rate 1¼d Total 1s.7d.

Tithe Rent Charge – 18s.6 a year (HD: F.P. Winterbotham to M.D. Morgan, 26/07/1933).

1935 A neighbour at Hen-dy had without permission blocked the spring at Creigir Isaf and set pipes to take the water for his cattle (HD: F.P. Winterbotham to M.D. Morgan, 04/01/1935).

1939 The house and land were allegedly unoccupied from 11/11/1939 as Mr Morgan had not been able to get a tenant after R. Jones of [?Derlwyn] Abersoch. He tried to make the house (which had been empty 'for about twenty years') habitable by beginning to dig out the earth floors himself to replace them with concrete, but had been unable to finish the work. (HD: Draft of reply by M.D. Morgan 03/02/1940 on reverse of letter from H.M. Tax Collector, Portmadoc, 01/02/1940, requesting remission from payment of tax).

1952 Notice from MANWEB that the lines for the electricity supply for Llanengan and Llangian will cross the land of Creigir Isaf (HD: MANWEB to M.D. Morgan, 17/06/1952).

1954 The electricity board changed the consumer at Creigir Isaf from 'Jones and Costain' to D. Williams (HD: MANWEB to M.D. Morgan, 30/08/1954). This may be the beginning of the tenancy of Dafydd and Ellen Williams.

1960s Dafydd Williams (1916-1975) and his wife Ellen (1907-1971) leased Creigir Isaf from M.D. Morgan. They appear to have let the house to visitors in the summer, themselves moving to the sheds (HD: Yale & Hardcastle, chartered surveyors, land agents and valuers, Pwllheli, to M.D. Morgan, 02/05/1969, 20/05/1969, 27/05/1969, 14/05/1970; gravestone of Mr and Mrs Williams, Mynwent y Bwlch, Llanengan – Appendix 2, no. (1.)).

1970 The new owner of Pant-yr-Hwch next door apparently trespassed by moving a boundary and laying a water-pipe without permission (HD: Yale & Hardcastle to M.D. Morgan, 14/05/1970).

1998 Creigir Isaf listed Grade II (Design and Access Statement in Gwynedd Council application reference C10D/0293/39/LL).

2010 The present owners, Mr Gary and Mrs Sarah Williams, gained Planning Permission for the following works:

- Re-instatement of two twelve-paned, sash windows to ground floor south east (front) elevation.
- Erection of porch to south east elevation.
- Demolition of existing lean-to to south west elevation and erection of extension to comprise living space and utility area.
- A doorway to be added on the south west side of the house (Gwynedd Council application reference C10D/0293/39/LL, decided 06/12/2010). The works have not yet been carried out, as of March 2012.

**Appendix 2:** Inscriptions at Llanengan:

## Appendix 2: Inscriptions at Llanengan:

### *Mynwent y Bwlch*

1. ER COF ANNWYL AM / ELLEN WILLIAMS / CREIGIR ISAF, ABERSOCH / A HUNODD MEHEFIN 11<sup>EG</sup> 1971 / YN 63 MLWYDD OED. / 1907-1971. / YNO CAIFF MEDDYGINIAETH, - EI HESTYN / R'OL CYSTUDD MARWOLAETH, / NI BYDD CUR HWNT I'R BEDD CAETH, / YN AROS FEL EIN HIRAETH. / A.T.H. / HEFYD EI PHRIOD / DAFYDD WILLIAMS / A HUNODD HYDREF 29, 1975 / YN 59 MLWYDD OED. / 1916-1975.
2. I GOFION ANNWYL AM / WILLIAM OWEN / PENCRAIG BACH, SARN / (GYNT O CREIGIR ISAF) / 1904 – 1977 / HEFYD EI FRAWD / JOHN OWEN / 1902 – 1985 / HEFYD EU CHWAER / KATE OWEN / 1899 – 1988

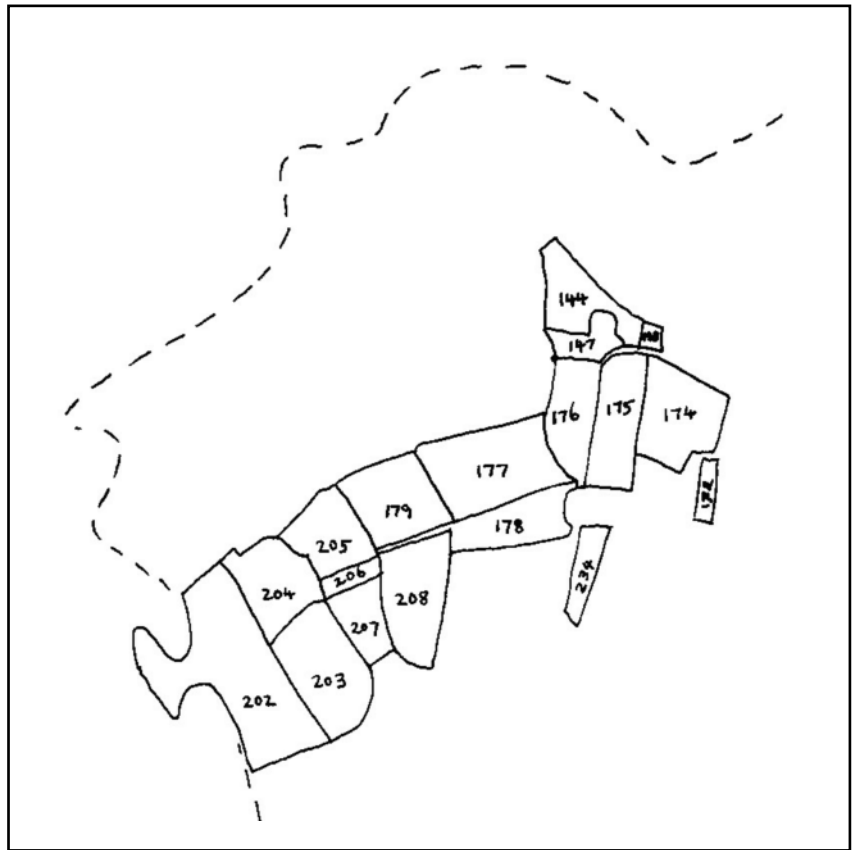
### *Parish Church*

3. (15m east of S door, next to the path) ER SERCHOG GOF AM / WILLIAM / ANWYL BLENTYN / Salmon ac Ann Jones, / Creigir isa, Llanengan, / Bu farw Mehefin 22, 1888 / Yn 7 mlwydd oed. / HEFYD Y DYWEDEDIG / SALMON JONES, / Bu farw Mawrth 8, 1893 / Yn 54 mlwydd oed.
4. (Immediately south of (3.)) ER CÔF AM / WILLIAM JONES, / Penlanfawr Inn, Pwllheli, / yr hwn a fu farw Ionawr 16<sup>eg</sup> 1877 / Yn 42 Mlwydd oed. / Hefyd JANET JONES, priod / y dywededig W<sup>M</sup> Jones, / Yr hon a fu farw Mawrth 14 <sup>eg</sup> 1912, / Yn 81 mlwydd oed. / “Hi a graffa ar ffyrdd tylwyth ei thy; / ac ni fwytty hi fara seguryd.”
5. (2m south of (4.)) In Memory of / WILLIAM JONES, Gent, of Creigirisaf / the eldest Son of SALMON And / ELLEN JONES, of Creigirisaf in the / Parish of Llanengan who died / the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May 1868, Aged 66 Years / Also / CATHERINE JONES, / Wife of the above named William Jones / Who died August 31st, 1893, / Aged 83 years.
6. (4m south of (5.)) In Memory of / SALMON JONES, Gent, of Creigirisaf, / in this Parish who died 12<sup>th</sup> / Jan<sup>y</sup> 1838 Aged 69 Years. / Also ELLEN the Relict of the said / S JONES, Creigirisaf. who died 28<sup>th</sup> / Feb<sup>y</sup> 1839 Aged 67 Years. / And Also ELIZABETH, the Daughter / of the said S. JONES, and ELLEN, / his Wife who died 6<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1856 / Aged [?57] Years.
7. (20m south of S door) This stone was erected / to the memory of Richard / Griffith[s *added*] of Creigir Ucha / ffarmer who departed this / life the 20<sup>th</sup> and was buried un / derneath the 25<sup>th</sup> of Septemb<sup>r</sup> / 1792 Aged 66 / Also the Body of Grace / Williams wife of the above / namd Richard Griffith who / was buried the 11<sup>th</sup> of June / 1803 Aged 69
8. (12m NE of the NW corner of the tower) Er Coffadwriaeth am / SALMON / Mab Salmon ac Ellen Jones / Hendy / Yr hwn a fu farw Hydref 5<sup>ed</sup> 1848 / Yn 20 mlwydd oed. / Hefyd am WILLIAM JONES eu mab / Yr hwn a fu farw Chwefror 16<sup>ed</sup> 1874 / Yn [?40] mlwydd oed
9. (Inside the church, against the N wall just E of the screen – although it is not in that position in the RCAHMW *Inventory* photograph, Vol. III Plate 15. If the arms be interpreted to show fleur-de-lys they might denote Collwyn ap Tangno; if Saxon's heads, Ednyfed Fychan (RCAHMW *Inventory* Vol. III, clxxxiii-clxxxv); they look rather little like either.) HERE LIETH YE BODY / OF KATERINE · THE / WIFE OF HVGH OWEN<sup>N</sup> / OF CREIG[?IR] GENT: / [...] S D [...] AVG / [...] T [...] / [?WILLIAMS] OF LLAN- / D [...] G [...] / WHO [?DIED] [...] 9<sup>th</sup> ~ / [?DAY OF JANVARY] / [?1659] AGED 36 / HERE LIETH THE BODY / OF HUGH OWEN GENT / DIED NOVEMBER THE 24<sup>TH</sup> / [...] [?100]. The Gwynedd Family History Society transcription reads as follows: [Arms of Collwyn ap Tangno] Here lieth ye body / of Catherine the / wife of HVGH GWEN / of Creg...r, Gent. / Y...LSD...WG / ... to GRIFFYTH WILLIAMS of Llan / Deg... / who died ye 9th / day of March / 1659 / aged 36 / Here lieth the body / of HUGH OWEN, Gent / Died November the 24th / E...100

### Appendix 3: Fields of Creigir Isaf



Upper and lower parts of inscription (9).



Plan of Creigir Isaf in the tithe survey of 1842. The dotted line represents the river Soch. At this date there was a lane between fields 175 and 176 which has now vanished.

Number on plan	Name in tithe schedule	Use in 1842	Suggested name in 1875
147/148	House, offices, yard and garden	Berllan, Yr-ardd (orchard, garden)	
144	Cae'r go (smith's close)	Arable	Caer Efail (smithy close)
172	Llain bach (small patch)	Arable	Llain Bach
174	Cae mawr (big close)	Arable	
175	Cae'r lon (lane close)	Arable	
176	Cae pengyl (pointed-end close)	Arable	
177	Cae drain (thorn close)	Arable	
178	Cae porfa (pasture close)	Arable	
179	Cae scwar (square close)	Arable	
202	Garth (ridge)	Pasture	
203	Bryn (hill)	Arable	
204	Cae pen y garth (ridge-head close)	Arable	
205	Cae lloiau (calves' close)	Arable	
206	Llain bach (small patch)	Arable	
207	Cae erthyl [?]	Arable	
208	Cae terfyn (boundary close)	Arable	
234	Dwylan (two banks)	Arable	

The other fields retained by Salmon Jones in 1875 were called Caer Skybor, Llain Talcenyr Hovel and Llain Tain-creigir, which appear to be new names. One of them probably refers to Cae pengyl ('Pointy-headed close'), as this was still part of the property in Mr Morgan's time (HD: undated plan of 'Proposed ditching scheme at Creigir Isaf'). All three names seem to imply buildings in the fields (barn, hovel-gable and houses, respectively), and inspection on the ground might reveal which they were.

## Appendix 4: Archival Sources

1. *Deeds of Creigir Isaf*, by courtesy of Mr and Mrs Gary Williams

2. *Gwynedd Archives*, Caernarfon Record Office

Llanengan Parish Registers

XPE/69/1	Baptisms, marriages, burials	1679-1714	No places given, so not very informative
XPE/69/2	Baptisms, marriages, burials	1730-1740	Not used
XPE/69/3	Baptisms, marriages, burials	1739-1752	Not used
XPE/69/4	Baptisms, burials	1752-1773	Consulted from May 1767
XPE/69/5	Baptisms, burials	1773-1790	Consulted
XPE/69/6	Baptisms, burials	1790-1812	Consulted to 1802
XPE/69/7	Baptisms	1813-1903	Consulted
XPE/69/8	Marriages	1755-1812	No places given, so not very informative
XPE/69/9	Marriages	1813-1837	Consulted
XPE/69/10	Marriages	1837-1967	Not used
XPE/69/11	Burials	1813-1859	Consulted
XPE/69/12	Burials	1859-1937	Consulted

Tithe schedules – microfilm IR 29/48/39

Censuses

Hearth Tax Assessment, 1662 (no reference number)

XD2/538 – 1682 deed, description unknown as the document does not appear on the online catalogue

XQA/LT/8/5 – Land Tax Assessments 1782-1818

XQS/1704-1706/144 – List of freeholders in Commitmaen

X/POOLE/3670, 3735, 4721, 4734, 6604 – Leases and dispute relating to Creigir Issa

XLTD/30 Land Tax Valuation Book, Llanengan, 1910

XD/35/159 Yale and Hardcastle Papers

3. *Bangor University Archives*

TYNYGONGL MSS .321 (Catalogue description only consulted)

Porth yr Aur Addit 1658 – Land Tax assessment

4. *Glamorgan Archives*

Deeds of Crygir Issa CL/Deeds/1/2318 - CL/Deeds/1/2321 (Catalogue description only consulted)

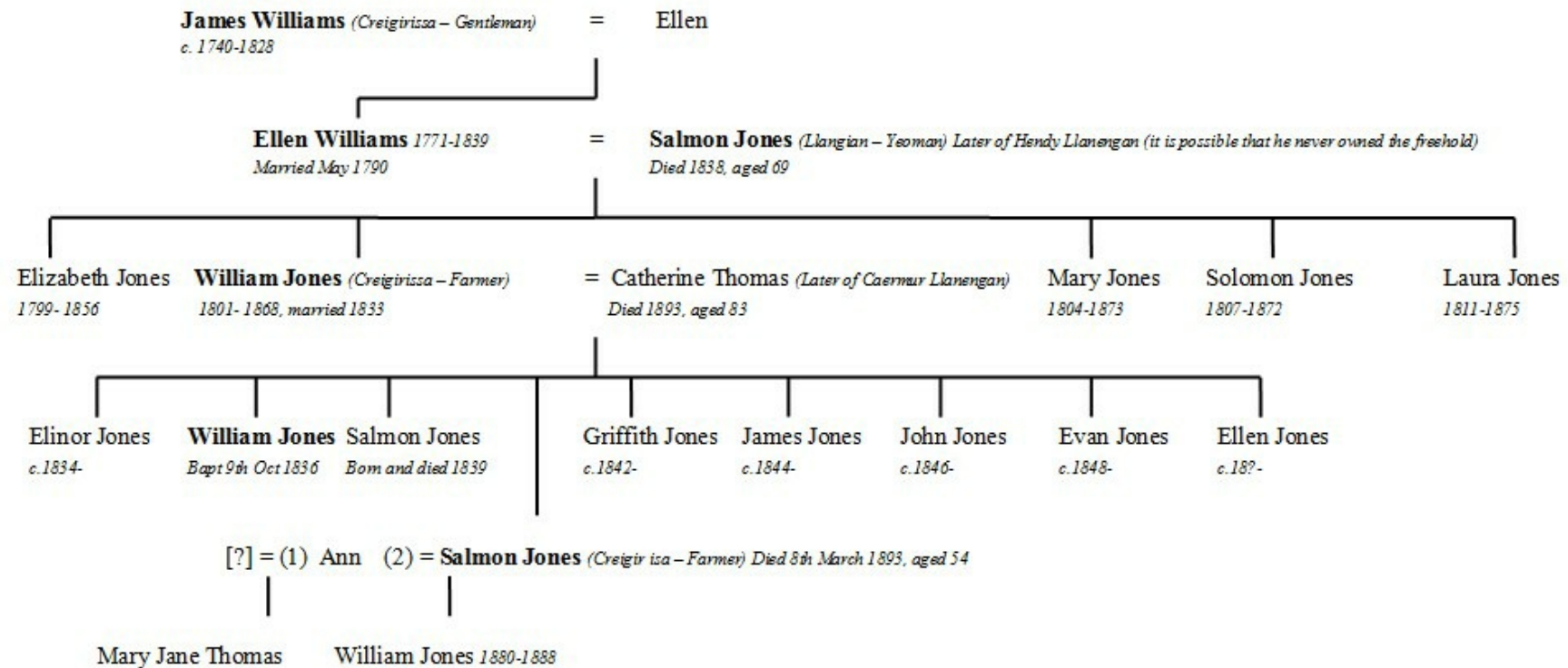
*Jean Pearson and Yi-Shan Lu, assisted by Tom David, and with help from Megan Benbow.*

*Latest revision 1 August 2012*



**Appendix 1: Owners of Creigir Isaf (in bold):**

**Appendix 1: Owners of Creigir Isaf (in bold):**



(HD: F.P. Winterbotham to M.D. Morgan, 26/07/1933; 1881 Census. Neither of these documents makes it completely clear whether Mary Jane Thomas was the daughter of Salmon Jones or of a previous marriage of Ann Jones. There are gravestones at Llanengan of those whose ages are given. There is too a gravestone (Appendix 2, below, no. (8.)) that perhaps shows that Salmon and Ellen Jones, Hendy, also had a son Salmon who died in 1848 and a son William who died aged 40 in 1874; but from the dates this must be a later generation – if indeed Winterbotham’s tree is correct in stating that Salmon Jones of Llangian, then Creigir Isaf, moved to Hendy; that may be a quite distinct family. His gravestone does not mention Hendy. To add to the uncertainty, there is a Hendy next to Creigir Isaf and another at Machroes, which in the tithe schedule of 1842 was occupied by a Solomon Jones).