

DYDDIO HEN DAI CYMREIG

DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES

PROSIECT DENDROCRONOLEG  
GOGLEDD ORLLEWIN CYMRU



NORTH WEST WALES  
DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

## **BODWRDDA,**

**Aberdaron, Gwynedd**



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Pwllheli.

June 2012

Updated -2015

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

# NORTH WEST WALES DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

## DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES - LLŶN

### BODWRDDA,

Aberdaron, Gwynedd

NGR SH 188272

Grade II

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RCAHMW, Inventory of Caernarfonshire, 1964, Vol 3 Monument 1461, fig 41 and several plates.

R Haslam et al, The Buildings of Wales : Gwynedd, pp 228 – 9: “*this minor mansion is perhaps the most important house in Llŷn*”

#### SUMMARY:

**Name:** The first recorded version is Bodurtha in 1352 – (source cited as Record of Caernarvon 37 in Royal Commission). It was Bodwrda consistently in C16 and 17. The house was divided into two houses c1800 but was kept under the one name. It had become Bodwrdda by time of first OS map 1840. It was briefly Bodwrdda Hall in 1960s and 70s (under the present tenants’ grandfather– while the adjoining farm (held by the same tenants) became Bodwrdda.

There are records of an early settler in the United States called Reice Bodurtha, said to be born in Wales, and present in Springfield, Mass in 1645. See *Record of the Doburtha family 1645-1896*, Hannah Maria Bodurtha, privately published. She commented: “Much discussion has prevailed over the correct spelling of the name, but the earliest signatures yet found give the name unequivocally Bodurtha. In the town records it is spelled Bedorden, Bedorda, Bedortha, Bodurtha, Bodortha, and Bedurtha.

See <http://www.tributaries.us/secondsite/founders2-o/p140.htm> .

It has often been suspected that there is a connection with the family of Bodwrda, but see: “The spellings of Bodurda/Bodwrda (the commonest local spellings in the C17th) that were thrown up included Bodarda, Byderdo (this is a doubtful one), Bodorday, bodurd and Boudderdda but Bodortha/ Bedortha were not encountered at all in the UK apart from [exceptions not relevant here]”: Ian R Thompson, “A Bodurtha from Bodwrdda?” *Gwyreiddau Gwynedd* 54 p 40, gwanwyn/haf 2008. This, however, does not deal with the coincidence of the name of Reice Bodurtha with a recorded Welsh birth and the oldest recorded written version of the place name.

The most likely explanation for the name is that it is a conflated version of Bod Dwrddan, linking it with Ffynnon Ddwrddan or the well of Dwrddan/Durdan. This explanation is offered in Arch Cam voll (1846) at 466, and see same source (1847) 63 and (1849) 210. Ffynnon Dyrddan or Ffynnon Ddwrddan as it is referred to there is just to the north of Bodwrdda. It is a scheduled monument (NPRN 32201) under the name of Ffynnon Ddwrddan. Grid ref SH19252792. See Francis Jones, *The Holy Wells of Wales* (1954) at 149 where sources are noted as Rees, *Lives of the Cambro-British Saints* (1853) 224 and Myrddin Fardd (1907) 187. Dwrddan/Durdan is documented as one of the “saints” who accompanied Cadfan to Enlli from Armorica/Brittany.

This suggests that the name used to be Bod Dwrddan (or Bod Durddan). Hence the earliest Bodurtha? The terrain, if as now, suggests that the site of Bodwrddan is downstream of what would have been a rather marshy area where the *ffynnon* came from the ground, and on better ground as the immediate area of Bodwrddan confines the edges of the nant more than the area above. If so, did the origins lie in a small hut for the saint? If it did, that suggests the saint's residence there would have been in C12 or C13. The other locational factor is the mill to the north of Bodwrddan, which has clearly been there for several centuries.

**Location :** Bodwrddan is a fascinating house in an intriguing but largely hidden location. It is built on a flat area just above the Afon Daron where it emerges from a small steep-sided gorge through which it descends 20 metres in a short distance. Unsurprisingly, ruins of a watermill stand where the river emerges. The mill, still occupied as such in the 1850s, is recorded as being there since the 1350s, when it was called Bodurtha. Upstream of the gorge the river meanders through pasture. In the centre of the pastureland is an old spring, Ffynnon Dwrddan. It is now a small artificial pond beside the river but even today you cannot see it from any public road, track or path, and no building or other manmade structure (apart from fencing) is visible from it! The *ffynnon* is named after Dirdan or Dwrddan, one of Cadfael's fellow saints so may date back to the C5th. The house is reputedly named after the saint – it was long known as Bodwrddan: abode of Dwrddan. Downstream one mile is Aberdaron, and a path still runs from Bodwrddan to the sea alongside the river. It is unlikely not to have been used for smuggling – there is a local tradition of it being used to avoid the former salt tax. The farm holding is today 550 acres, including the hill fort Castell Odo.

**History:** The current main house was built in three phases: a stone built hall house with a large hall and lateral chimney was the first phase. A major stone built extension was then added to the east (uphill) side. Then two brick built wings were added to the north side. A small extension at the back was added in the C19th. Dendrochronology dates for the house are 1536-74 for the first phase and a definite felling date of 1575 in the second phase. The third, brick, phase was dated at 1621 on the (now obscured) plaques at the top of each wing. The house clearly has major storage capacity. A crane still exists on the east face. There was another to the centre top north window in 1849. There is a significant cellar.

The first phase probably dates from the time (1537 -42) when the Abbey on Enlli was dissolved. Bodwrddan never stood on abbey land, unlike much of the land to its west. Its land was within the Gwely Rhys of Bodrydd. There is no clear documentation but the effect of the Act of Union 1542 may have been that Bodwrddan land went to the local main families in the Norman style. The abbey land was granted to the Wynn family of Bodvel in 1553 (reputedly by the Duke of Northumberland, but possibly they just seized it as no documentary evidence survives of the grant said to have been made a short while before Northumberland was executed and there is a 1554 record in the Court of Augmentations alleging that the land was seized by them from tenants of the King).

At that time Bodwrddan house was occupied by Richard ap John, nephew to Sir John Wynn of Bodvel. The family adopted the name of Bodwrddan and rose rapidly in wealth and repute. In 1584 John Wynn of Bodwrddan (John ap Huw ap Richard) became High Sheriff of Caernarvonshire. His son Hugh served as Sheriff in 1604. He was responsible for the two brick wings in 1621. The local story is that he intended to build an "H" house but died too soon (in 1622). His son Griffith, born 1621, became a Cromwellian MP. (But his brother William was thrown out of his ministry for refusing to adopt the protestant approach – later becoming Vicar of Aberdaron in 1651. It just happened to be in the gift of St John's Cambridge, and the master just happened to be his uncle!) Why brick? Perhaps it was ship ballast from the ships said to ply their illegal trades through Enlli.

The family came to own a large area of the surrounding farm land. However, the line died out in 1703, the land passing to the Edwards family. It is now held as part of the Nanhoron estate. It has been held by the current family as tenants for over a century.

### CHRONOLOGY OF DATES:

1500? Richard ap John (the first to have the name Bodwrda attributed to him in the records) born?

[Griffith has Bodwrda line as follows: John Bodwrda (ap Evan ap Meredydd ap Evan Goch ap Dafydd Gocvh ap Trahaiarn Gogh of Penllech) m. Janet with no male heirs and with estate passing to Elizabeth (daughter or sister?), who married Richard ap John of Bodvel (3<sup>rd</sup> son of John and nephew to John Wynne of Bodvel who purchased Enlli), with estate passing from him to Hugh (there were 8 siblings) who married Catherine (d. of William Norris) , with estate passing then to their son Hugh who was sheriff in 1584, and then to Hugh Gwyn (d. 1622), then to John Bodwrda of Cefnamwlch, then to John b. 1614/1615 then to his brother Hugh then to Mary his sole heiress and so to George Coetmor of Coytmor] .

1530? Hugh ap Richard of Bodwrda born.

#### 1536-1574 Dendrochronology main date range from Bodwrdda

(1536) *(John ap Madoc ap Poel, [gf of John Wyn ap Huw of Bodvel], resident at Bodvel – Leland 85 – and see description of “Abredaron” of that year:*

“The smaule townelet of Abredaron, wher is a 30. or mo housis, is on the very farther ripe of Daron. The se is about a quartre of a myle of. The paroche chirch is above almoste a mile on the shor as the salt water cumpasith aboute with a hedde. The chirche is caullid in Walsch Llan engan Brening, 1 id est, Fanum Niniani Reguli ....

1 Llan Engan Vrenhin. A passage must be missing here as Llanengan is about eight miles east of Aber Daron.” (1906 edition of Lucy Toulmin Smith and her footnote)

Holinshed (1577) follows Leland explicitly and adds nothing – vol 1, p 35)

**1537 *Suppression of Abbey on Enlli (“Ennisenthle”). Lands forfeit to the King***

**1542 *Laws in Wales Act took effect for land titles***

**1547 *Edward VI ?? Bardsey passed by Edward VI to Thomas Seymour***

1549 *Thomas Seymour sold Bardsey and adjoining lands to John Earl of Warwick (or did he? – no original source extant)*

(1550) *11. 11. 1550 John Wynne ap Hewe of Bodvel appointed Sheriff of Caerns 1550-1 (CG)*

1550?? John Bodwrda, oldest son of Huw, b.?? – died 1648 or 1649 – High Sheriff 1584. Md. Margaret d. of John Griffith of Cefnamwlch (DWB)

?? Griffith – married daughter. of Rhys Thomas of Coed Helen

Sons: Hugh (b.1573), Guffydd, William

**1553 *Mary and Philip and Mary***

(1553) *Alleged date of grant by Duke of Northumberland to John Wynne of Bodvel of Enlli and surrounds including Cwrt. John Wynne was the standard bearer to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, later Duke of Northumberland at Battle of Norwich 1549 (the Norwich rebellion). Duke of Northumberland executed 22 08 1553. He was Lord President of Wales from 1548 (CG)*

(1553) 25. 01. 1553 John Wynn ap Hugh (of Bodvel) elected Shire MP for Caerns.  
Replaced by Maurice Wynne of Gwydir on 6 09 1553 under Mary (CG).

(1554) *Court of Augmentations record p 60 33/19 suggesting prior lease of property of Bardsey and Cwrt by Henry VIII to tenant David Jones and forcible exclusion of tenants by John Wyn ap Hugh “on 27 October last”*

**1558 *Elizabeth***

(1559) *John Wynne ap Hugh of Bodvel appointed Sheriff of Carns for 1559-60 (CG)*

1573 (- 1622) Huw Gwyn Bodwrda born.

son of John Wynne ap Hewe of Bodvel, High Sheriff 1550- 1551 and 1559-60 (see DWB entry)

See englyn by Owen Gruffydd in *Enwogion Sir Caernarfon*, Myrddun Fardd, Pwllheli, 1922, p 5 (written on his death) (38 CHST (1978) 160)

**1575 *Bodwrdda Hall extension – dendrochronology date***

1578 (- 1649) Gruffydd Bodwrda born – younger brother to Huw?

1584-5 John ap Huw ap Richard of Budorda; John Wyn of Bodurda: High sheriff of Caerns.  
Appted 19 11 1584 (CG)

(1588) 25. 11. 1558 Hugh Gwynne Bodvel of Bodvel appointed Sheriff of Caerns. and 12. 11. 1558 elected Shire MP for Caerns, and again in 1589 to 1592 (CG).

1593(-1670) William Bodwrda: vicar of Aberdaron; poet (under name Sion Wyn);

4<sup>th</sup> son of Hugh Gwynne /Gwyn (DWB says 2<sup>nd</sup> son) St Johns Cambridge : matriculated 1609, MA 1612 Hart Hall, Rector, Witton, Norfolk, 1624 - deprived of livings 1646 after refusing Solemn League and Covenant – presented to Aberdaron 1651 (in gift of St John’s) (*Cyffeirdd Lleyrn 1500 – 1800*, Myrddun Fardd, p 225).

(1596) 22. 11. 1596 Hugh Gwinne of Bodvel appointed Sheriff of Caerns.

1598 Dispute over “tir yn y penrhyn llwin” ultradaron Kemittin

John ap Hugh Lewis v Hugh Bodwrda – was this the Huw Bodwrda born in 1573? - Star Chamber 1598 – 99 - Caerns B 75/39 (41)

Attempting poisoning, assaults upon ploughman and stealing growing barley on land called Tir yn Penrhyn Lwin Ultradaron (B A Addit – B 20/14/1.Dn) (Ultradaron is the land between Aberdaron and Rhiw, so south of Bodwrdda land. This land, if not then, later became part of the Bodwrdda landholding.)

## James I

- 1605 DWB states name first adopted as surname (but wrong? – see above)
- 1605 Hugh Bodwrda Sheriff of Caerns (1606 Pevsner) – Griffiths states Hugh Gwyn High Sheriff 1605 and d. 1622 (DWB gives 1605). *CG* shows him appointed as High Sheriff for 1605-06 but (unusually) gives no date of appointment. This is presumably the Huw born in 1573.
- 1615 John Bodwrdda born (38 CHST). (grandson of Hugh) Md. Catherine (no direct surviving heirs as on his death estate went to Hugh (High sheriff 1686-87). Catherine was daughter of Sir Griffith Williams of Penrhyn and Gwen d. of Hugh Bodwrdda. Md. John Bodwrda – so they were first cousins.
- 1617 Request to Mr Bodwrda to attend Quarter Sessions (*AG:XQS 1617 8*)
- (1620) *Note from Sir John Wynn that many freeholders in Lleyn are making their eldest sons freeholders of part of their lands: Wynn Papers 940*
- 1621 date painted on each gable end of Bodwrdda, believed to be contemporary** - also inscription HB/1621 internally (but probably not authentic) (*Royal Commission; Vol III; 1461*)
- ? House extended then by Hugh Bodwrdda (*Pevsner*). The extension consisted of the two brick wings, then unique to that house in North Wales. Why? Was the brick ballast from ships trading with other areas (the Old Rectory at Llanbedr, near Ruthin, was built in part of brick in 1692, the brick being carried as ballast by ships from Holland returning to Denbigh: [www. Countrylife.co.uk/propertynews](http://www.Countrylife.co.uk/propertynews)). Why did they use brick? Why was the house extended in that way at that time? Who did the building work? To date there is no analysis of the brickwork to establish date or origin.
- 1621- 1679 Gruffydd Bodwrda (later MP) (DWB and other sources)
- 1621 Moves to put Hugh Bodwrda, along with John Gruffuth and Henry Bodvel out of the Commission of Subsidies: Wynn Papers 968.
- 1622 Hugh Gwyn Bodwrda d. – succeeded by John Bodwrda (Griffith)

## Charles I

- 1625 Sir John Wynn reports to Chief Justice North Wales that Thomas Glynne to stand against him (the CJ) in the election, with support of John Bodwrda: *Wynn Papers*, 1322. Confirmed by paper 1329 (17 04 1625), stating that “John Bodwrda has some three-score beggars, living in Aberdaron, who will vote with him”. (*CG* show both as MPs in 1624 (Thomas Glynne of Glynllifon as KS, CJNW Sir Peter Mutton as burgess) with Glynne re-elected in 1625 but not Mutton).

- 1625 13 11 1625. Gr. Bodurda (b. 1578?) appointed under-sheriff to Sir Thomas Williams of Vaynol, Sheriff of Caerns: Calendars of Gwynedd.
- 1625 Record of levy of 17 Ch I show for Kemyttmaen: John Bodwrda ar. 40/-
- 1627 John Bodwrda appointed a Commissioner to collect the Caernarvonshire “loans” to the Crown: Dodd, *History*, 93.
- 1629-30 10 11 1625. John Bodwrda Esq appointed Sheriff of Caerns. (died 1649 – Thompson, *Gwyreiddiau Gwynedd* 52 p 19)
- 1637 John Bodwrda writes from Bodwrda to cousin Owen Wynn at Gwydir about a levy ordered by the Lord President for £150 which the writer considered unwarrantable: Wynn Papers, 1597.
- 1641 29. 12. 1641. John Bodwrda at Bodwrda reports shipwrecks including 200-300 ton Dutch ship in Nigell [Porth Neigwl] to Owen and Maurice Wynn: Wynn Papers 1701.
- 1642 John Bodwrda put under arrest with Thomas Glynne and William Lloyd of Talhenbont by Thomas Cheadle (the High Sheriff): Dodd, *History* 103. – Back in post as magistrate or deputy lieutenant by 1643 and restrained action by holding on to the county funds: Dodd, *History*, 109.
- 1643 Englyn by Griffith Bodwrda about the hungry arrivals from Ireland to Aberdaron: Dodd, *History*, 113. He was clearly trilingual in Welsh, English & Latin. See Gwaith Gruffydd Bodwrdda in *Cyffeirdd Lleyl 1500-1800*, Myrddun Fardd, Pwllheli, 1905, p 219. .
- 1645 “Honest Mr John Bodurda is visited by the smallpox”: Wynn Papers 1762.
- 1645 *First record of Reice Bodurtha in Massachusetts (see above) but no contemporary record with that name or similar in UK sources.*
- 1646 Death of Mr Bodwrda (? which one – presumably not John or Gruffydd (b. 1621) – see 1647 ?) reported to Sir Thomas Fairfax as – with the Governor of Carnarvon – the only man faithful to the Parliament in the country (around Bangor): Wynn Papers 1811; paper 1817 refers to “Mr Bodwrda’s little island hard by Bardsey” in the context of a complaint about taxation on islands. This can only be the Ynysoedd Gwylan or Seagull Islands (still held by the Nanhoron estate), confirming the addition by that date to the holding of Bodwrda of land in the former Ultradaron (see above).
- 1647 John Bodwrda appointed to the Commission of Assessment for Carnarvonshire along with the others charged in 1642, and his brother Griffith who changed sides in 1646: Dodd, *History*, 129

### Commonwealth

- 1651 01 04 1651. William Bodwrda (b. 1593) at Penrhyn asks Maurice Wynn to lend him a manuscript copy of Jeffery of Monmouth in Welsh. *Wynn Papers* 1952. A book (same book?) returned on 29 06 1652 by William Bodwrda again from Penrhyn which “he has not been able to make use of owing to sickness”.

- 1652 Sir Owen Wynn of Gwydir refers to cousin Hugh Bodwrda as a go-between in a land dispute: *Wynn Papers* 2003.
- 1652 Robert Bodwrda gives note of surety for Mary Sparrow: AG: XQS/1652/60
- 1657 Griffith Bodwrda (b. 1621) established in a legal office under the influence of John Glynne, Chief Justice to Cromwell. (Robert Coytmor was Secretary to the Navy): Dodd, *History*, 145.
- 1657? Birth of George Coytmor. Matric from Christ Church Oxford 14 05 1674, aged 17, called to bar, Inner Temple, 1675 died 1738.
- 1659 Griffith Bodwrda Esq (b.1621) elected burgess MP for Anglesey (Beaumaris) on 13 01 1659. CG. This also reports election again in 1660 (as Griffyth Bodwrda) , but sources inconsistent on this. (Dodd, *History*, puts this at 1656 – pp 148-9 – describing him as “although a placeman ... by no means a rubber stamp” and commenting that Bodwrda swapped to the Borough in 1659 and that he was returned again in 1660, but for Caernarvonshire: *History*, 152. Later in 1660 he was one of the delegation that went to Holland to invite the exiled prince home: *ibid* 153. He was associated with the order to dismantle Caernarvon Castle after the Restoration, but this was never carried out: *ibid* 154.) )

## Charles II

- 1660-1** List of those liable to the levy of this year include for Kemyttmaen:
- John Bodurda of Bodurda 40/-
- Hugh Bodurda ar. 20/- (transcript of PRO records held in Bangor U. archives)
- 1663 Oldest document in the Nanhoron papers referring to Bodurda – a release of “tir’r edglwys in rhiw” signed by several parties including Hugh Bodurda of Bodurda and Richard Edwards of Nanhhoron to release the land to use the proceeds for repairs to Rhiw Church. (Nanhoron doc 617: 9 08 1663)
- 1671 Will of Ellin Bodurda of Bodurda proved in Bangor Diocese (copy at NLW)
- 1672 John Davies of Pandy, fuller, died and his will was proved that year – he states that he lived at “Bodwrda” not Bodurda.
- 1675 A list of the freeholders of Kemitmaen living in the commote (published in *CG*, p 140 from papers at Gelliwig) shows:  
 Mrs Katherine Bodwrda,  
 Hugh Bodwrda and  
 Griffith Bodwrda  
 as joint holders of an estate worth £300
- 1678 Griffith Bodwrda (b. 1621) died in Dublin: Dodd, *History*, 169. Date also given as 1679 – buried in Llangwnadl.



1678 Hugh Bodurda “of Pullhely” Esq mortgaged Ysgo, Llawenan and other messuages in Llanvaelrhys, Aberdaron and Llanllyfni to Ann Wood of Rhosmor, Anglesey, widow and Edmund Glynne of Llangwyfan (Nanhoron doc 654: 14 08 1678)

1683 Quakers who held a meeting a little north of Aberdaron taken before Hugh Bodwrda, the nearest magistrate, and fined: Dodd, *History*, 172.

### **James II**

1686-87 25. 11. 1686. Hugh Bodwrda Esq appointed Sheriff of Caerns (younger brother to John)

### **William and Mary**

1691 Dorothy, wife of Hugh Bodwrda, daughter of Thomas Madryn , died aged 61; buried at Llanbedrog.

### **William III**

1694 Death of Hugh Bodwrda. End of direct male line. Bodwrda passed to his daughter Mary, wife of George Coetmor: 21 CHST (196) 71; 43 CHST (1982) 116. George Coetmor (or Coitmore, or Coytmer) was Sheriff of Caerns 1708-9. George was a son of Ellen Williams, sister to Catherine Bodwrdda wife of John b. in 1615 (predeceased by his only son?). But did Catherine hold and retain some estate in her own name? See her listing as a freeholder in 1675 above. Was the house split at this time? But see 1695. Will proved in Bangor Diocese – copy held at NLW

1695 Nanhoron papers contain some documents of a major land transfer from George Coytmer and Mary his wife to William Madryn and Thomas Fletcher by way of recovery of lands consisting of 50 messuages, 80 gardens and 2,602 acres of land in Aberdaron, Rhiw and Llanvaelrhys (doc 619 Final accord of 24 08 1695; doc 775 transcript of recovery dated 29 08 1695).

### **Anne**

1705 Will of Catherine Bodwrda (on LL G C website – properties in Aberdaron area). Her estate inventory is at 21 CHST (1960), 70.

Not likely that she occupied the entire house at Bodwrda, but she still farmed part of the holding. She gave her share of the tenement to Gwen Fletcher, daughter of her sister Ellen, and wife of Thomas Fletcher of Treborth (Gwen being also sister of George Coetmor, who married Mary Bodwrda: 21 CHST 71).

The inventory details:

- Bed and bedchamber furnishings
- Parlour with further bedchamber furnishings
- Hall – 2 chests and 2 trunks
- Buttery – full furnishings
- “The out ... “ chest
- Kitchen ...
- Lime house
- Stoer
- Stable

(and similar at a house in Caernarvon)

This suggests house was split at that date.

The will trusts established for Catherine are still in operation (2012) for the benefit of young people of Penllyn (including Rhiw).

1705 Timothy Edwards of Madryn Isaf became tenant of Bodurda, Melin Bodurda and Melin Ucha as tenant of George Coytmor. (Nanharon doc 713: 2 11 1705).

### **George I**

1717 Timothy Edwards of Bodwrda and his oldest son Richard Edwards agree with John Griffith of Cefnamwlch about a disputed will of William Griffith of Cefnamwlch leading to a lease to the Edwards family of lands in Tydweiliog, Penllech and Llandidwen (Nanharon docs 700, 702, 703 and 717; 1717 29 05 and 1 06)

### **George II**

1731 Timothy Edwards freeholder of Bodwrda (AG: XQS 1731 281)

1734 Jane Bodwrda died – resident in Llanfihangel–y–pennant

1738 Death of George Coytmor. Mary his widow married Owen Bulkeley.

1744 Edward Phillip Pugh of Penrhyn and Mary his wife mortgage Bodwrda to Margaret Jones of Caernarvon (Nanharon doc 557 11 04 1744)

1748 Property passed to Edwards family of Nanharon (Royal Commission; III 1461) – date was “1849” in Arch Camb 1926, 469 – RC claims misprint and should be 1749. Date is put at 1748 by 43 CHST (1982) 116, where stated that the estate was purchased by them. Nanharon documents show that the land was transferred by a series of transactions (to avoid stamp duty?) with doc 535 of 29 08 1748 recording a lease for a year of Bodurda, Ynis y Gwilain, Melin Bodurda, Pand y Bodurda and other messuages in Aberdaron, Llanvaelrhys and Rhiw by Mary Bulkley of Coytmor and Edward Phillip Pugh of Penrhyn and Mary his wife to Richard Edwards of Lincoln’s Inn Fields, one of the Masters of the High Court of Chancery. Doc 540 of 30 08 1748 is the release of that land. Doc 562 of 4 10 1748 records the assignment of a judgment against George and James Coytmor with the parties including 1: Owen Philip Pugh of Penrhyn, 2: many parties, 3: Richard Edwards of Lincoln’s Inn, 4: Lewis Nenny. Doc 772 of 10 10 1751 is an account showing how the purchase of Bodwrda estate was paid (by the Edwards family of Nanharon).

Held by Lewis Edwards, then Richard Edwards of Lincoln’s Inn (the probate of his will being granted on 14 03 1765: Nanharon doc 549), then William Edwards (see below for 1784).

Bodwrdda tenanted by Thomas Jones and Lowry Griffith his wife.

1753 Thomas Jones, Bodwrda, farmer, buried – Aberdaron church register

1754 Sarah Williams, d. of William Lewis of Bodwrda m. John Thomas, bchr, by licence 14 05 1754 (Aberdaron church register). John was son of Thomas Jones (43 CHST (1982) 116).

- 1756 Lowry (widow of Thomas Jones), md. Thomas Roberts – led to split of Bodwrdda. Lowry was 50 and TR, previously a servant at Bodwrdda, 30. Lowry was main tenant.
- 1757 Thomas s. of John Thomas and Sarah his wife of Bodwrda baptised 25 01 1757 (Aberdaron church register)
- 1758 William Lewis drover of Bodwrda buried at Llanfaelrhys (Aberdaron church register)
- 1759 Thomas Roberts of Bodwrda, main tenant with his wife, fit to serve as High Constable (*AG XQS: 1759*)

### **George III**

- 1784 Release in fee to William Edwards [complicated deed of smt (in *AG – XM/1786/9*) – 7 parties of which William Edwards of Bodwrda = party 1 as heir of his brother Richard Edwards of Lincoln’s Inn Fields (Master in Chancery) – (see recital 11 – RE died leaving Lewis E (brother) (of Cefnmine) as heir and 11 – Lewis E died leaving William E as heir - basically settles a 60 year dispute (started in 1724) between Richard Lloyd Thomas and Margaret Rowlands under which he purchased land in Llanystumdwy with a mortgage from her and then defaulted – went through Great Sessions
- 1787 Lowry Griffiths, main tenant, died. Bodwrdda was divided at the time with Thomas Roberts, her widower having the larger part and John Tomas her son the smaller part: 43 CHST (1960) 116 [*Note: chronology from here based on excellent definitive article in 43 CHST*]
- 1788 Thomas Roberts, main tenant, married Mary Lewis.
- 1793 John Thomas, part tenan, Bodwrdda, died. Inventory of John Thomas’ part of Bodwrdda shows he held 3 rooms upstairs (west wing) kidgin and one other room downstairs: 43 CHST p 116. His tenancy passed to his son Timothy Jones.
- 1800 Timothy Jones, part tenant Bodwrdda died. His widow, Catherine Griffith became part tenant.
- c 1800 Brick partition dividing first floor to make two households (RC III 1461) – why that date???
- 1804 Catherin Griffith, part tenant, married John Thomas of Morfa Trwyn Glas. (43 CHST p 116)
- 1805 Thomas Roberts, main tenant, died, leaving Mary Lewis as main tenant; (43 CHST p 116).
- 1806 Catherine Griffith moved with her husband to Morfa. Part tenancy surrendered. New part tenant is William Griffith (unrelated to other Griffith tenants): 43 CHST p 116.
- 1806 Mary Lewis, main tenant, married Hugh Griffith – 3 children: 43 CHST p 116
- 1808 AG X/POOLE/6081 letter of 23 11 1808 re pedigree of Edwards of Bodwrda

- 1813 Painting of Huw Griffith painted by Hugh Hughes on tinplate (private collection, exhibited at Plas Glyn y Weddw exhibition of artisan painters 2011). He is shown as a well dressed man in his 30s/40s with two young children, a girl and younger boy, but no wife. Exhibition notes suggest that Griffith may have met Hughes at the Bala Sesiwn in 1811 when the Methodists broke away from the established church.
- 1817 Mary Lewis, main tenant, died. Hugh Griffith became main tenant: 43 CHST p 116.
- 1818 Hugh Griffith, main tenant, married Jane Williams: 43 CHST p 116. On death of Hugh Griffith, main tenant, Bodwrdda became a single household again with single tenant his son Hugh Griffith. Was the Hugh Griffith below at 1849, the son?

## Victoria

- 1840 OS map 1" series first edition – “Bodwrdda” – Pandy also marked – road past house then linked to Aberdaron-Rhiw road (not the present road to the north).
- 1841 List of occupants from census (AG)  
Head of household: Hugh Griffith farmer 60  
Head of second household: William Griffith 60
- 1848 Local revival started in session taken by Hugh Griffith, elder of Penycaerau on 3 12 1848 – see <http://ukwells.org/locations/display/locations/837> and 43 TCHS 116. ‘It is considered that this revival started with a sermon of Cadwaladr Owen in a vigil of Hugh Griffith, Bodwrdda, who was an elder in Penycaerau, Lleyrn. This took place on December 3, 1848, and his text was Rev. 14:13, - “Blessed are the dead, etc.” Thus it is said in the memoir of Hugh Griffith in the Drysorfa, which was written by Robert Evans, Methlam, an elder in Rhydlios, - “The effectual preaching of the brother on this occasion was in a great part instrumental in starting the religious revival which broke out in the region afterwards, the like of which has not been for 30 years.”’ [DCC p.372] The Revival extending later to Rhydlios, Pencaerau, Pengraig and Ty Mawr. 1
- 1849 Drawing of house (Royal Commission III 1461). Article in Arch Camb 1849 - H Longueville Jones pp 208-210. Based on a site visit. Arch Cam (1849) includes a superbly detailed etching of the west face of Bodwrdda showing granary door and crane at centre of second floor, and variant windows (now replaced by copies of those assumed to be original).
- 1849 Will of Hugh Griffith (made 16 09 1848) proved in Bangor. Left wife Jane and five children: Anne, Hannah, Hugh, Elizabeth, Esther
- 1851 List of occupants from census(AG)  
Head of household: William Griffith farmer 71 (123 acres)  
Head of second household: Jane Griffith 57 (430 acres)
- 1853 Will of Elizabeth Davies of Pandy, Bodwrdda
- 1859 Jane Griffith late of Bodwrdda d 3 1 59 – estate under £450  
Exrs Hugh Griffith farmer  
Eliz G spinster  
Esther G spinster AG XM 7744 3 1

- 1861 List of occupants from census (AG):  
Hugh Griffith 33 farmer 500 acres head of household  
(now only 1 household)
- 1871 List of occupants from census (AG)  
Jeremiah Griffith 54 farmer 496 acres head of household  
Jeremiah Griffith (unrelated to previous tenants) was new tenant in 1871 (43 CHST  
p 116).
- 1888 OS Caerns Sheet XLIII.2 property identified as “Bodwrdda” – map shows Melin and  
Pandy
- 1891 List of occupants from census (AG):  
Jeremiah Griffiths , 74, farmer (born Clynnog as was s. Richard (36) and d. Margrate  
(29). Wife Margery, 64, b. Llanfaelrhys.; 7 servants and a quarryman visiting.
- 1901 List of occupants from Census shows:  
Margery Griffith, widow, as farmer and employer with Richard (45) son, married to  
Ellen (370, and daughter Janet (45), unmarried with 6 servants.
- 1903 OS map 1” new edition – clear road through past Bodwrdda to Aberdaron- Rhiw  
road
- 1904? Tenancy passed to the Roberts family, see 1911
- 1911 Census return shows:  
  
Emyr Ellis Roberts (58, born in 1853 in Tremadoc, Welsh speaking) farmer and  
employer; his wife Ellen, 35 (born Pwllheli, 1876, welsh speaking) with her father  
(William Jones, 84 born Pwllheli) and their 8 children (Ann Edith, 22; Mary  
Pennant, 16; Emyr Glynn, 9; Katie, 8; Gwelyn, 6; Edith, 2, and twins Dorothy and  
Blodwen aged 9 months; with 8 servants.
- 1918 OS Caerns Sheet XLIII.2 – as above - Indicates addition to south side centre of main  
house made after 1888.
- 1926 Arch Camb p 469 (noted above)
- 1956 Gresham, CA and Roberts, G 1956 ‘Bodwrdda House’ *Arch Camb* 105 153-4
- 1964-1974 Emyr G Roberts of Bodwrdda Hall elected Alderman of Caerns CC AG : XM  
4558/1/15-17
- 1973 Emyr Roberts retired as chairman of magistrates
- 1979 Emyr Glynne Roberts died, tenancy passing to his youngest daughter, Haf Gwynne  
Jones.
- 1979-2005 Brian & Haf Jones were the Nanhoron estate tenants
- 1982 Caerns Hist Trans: “*Tenants of Bodwrdda C18-19*” by Roy Benwell (followed  
above)

2002-12 Bodwrdda tenancy now held by Brian & Haf's son, Dylan Jones (inherited from his grandfather Emyr). Dylan & Nia Jones, with Gethin, Megan & Osian currently live at Bodwrdda

#### SOURCES:

- AG Archifdy Gwynedd: documents held there by catalogue number.
- CG Calendars of Gwynedd (the source of all dates used for MPs, Sheriffs and other officials).
- Dodd A History of Caernarvonshire, Caernarvonshire Historical Society, 1968.
- Griffith J E Griffith, Pedigrees of Anglesey and Caernarvon P 168, 171: First mention of Bodwrda is of John Bodwrda, married Janet who was wife of John Bodvel – no male heir: [male succession: Trahairon Lord of Cydmydman – Dafydd Goch – Evan Goch – Meredydd – Evan →] Estate went to Elizabeth as heiress: she married Richard ap John ap Madog of Bodvel; Then to Hugh = Catherine - and 8 siblings; Then to John Wynne, who was High Sheriff 1584; Then to Hugh Gwyn (died 1622); Then to John Bodwrda (of Cefnamwlch); Then to John b. 1614; Then to his brother Hugh; Then to d. Mary – sole heiress = George Coetmor of Coytmor. She d. 9 02 1755

Wynn Papers: Calendar of Wynn Papers 1515 – 1690, National Library of Wales, 1924.

The catalogues of NLW (online), Bangor University Archives and Archifdy Gwynedd and their collections were all consulted fully for this note together with the Ancestry.co.uk website and public websites.

**Researcher: David Williams, Yr Hen Rhiordy, Rhiw, Pwllheli.**

**June 2012**

#### BODWRDDA: GENERAL SOURCES:

Royal Commission Caerns III 1461:

1352 Place name first noted as "Bodurtha" Rec Caern 37

See Dwinn II 248

Griffith Ped 14, 168

Rec Caern 37

Cal Caerns Q Sess 85 (121)

Arch Camb 1849

Arch Camb 1926

G F Griffith

Pedigrees of Anglesey and Caernarvon, P 168, 171:

first mention of Bodwrda is of John Bodwrda, married Janet who was wife of John Bodvel - no male heir

[male succession: Trahairon Lord of Cydmydman - Dafydd Goch - Evan Goch - Meredydd - Evan →]

Estate went to Elizabeth as heiress: she married Richard ap John ap Madog of Bodvel

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Then to John Wynne, who was High Sheriff 1584

Then to Hugh Gwyn (died 1622)

Then to John Bodwrda (of Cefnamwlch)

Then to John b. 1614

Then to his brother Hugh

Then to d. Mary - sole heiress = George Coetmor of Coytmor

She d. 9 02 1755

### **Dictionary of Welsh Biography**

States name adopted 1605 (but see Star Chamber records!!) by John Wynne, sheriff 1584 (confirms date)

Hugh Gwyn : Sheriff 1605 (wife's brother Owen Gwyn was Master of St Johns Cambridge)

Son William (1593-1670?)

- 1612 St Johns Cambridge
- refused Solemn League and Covenant 1644
- deprived of livings 1646
- presented to Aberdaron 1651 (in gift of St Johns!)

William was 4<sup>th</sup> son: he shared legacy with brother Henry of Owen Gwyn

Griffith Bodwrda 1621-1679 - Cromwellian MP (for Beaumaris)

TO CHECK: Land tax assessment for Aberdaron XQA LT8/1

**BODWRDDA**                      **Source notes by date**

*Notes on name:*

*First recorded version Bodurtha in 1352 – see Sources*

*Was Bodwrda in C16 and 17*

*Divided into two houses ?1800 (was divided at time of first census in 1840) but both under the same name*

*Had become Bodwrdda by time of first OS map 1840*

*Briefly Bodwrdda Hall in 1960s and 70s – see below*

**Dates:**

1536-1574 *Dendrochronology range*

1575              *Hall extension – dendro date*

1584              John Wyn: High sheriff of Caerns.

1593-1670 William Bodwrda: vicar of Aberdaron; poet; son of John Wyn

1612 St Johns Cambridge – deprived of livings 1646 after refusing Solemn League and Covenant – presented to Aberdaron 1651 (in gift of St John's!)

1598              Dispute over “tir yn y penrhyn llwin” ultradaron Kemittin

John ap Hugh Lewis v Hugh Bodwrda

Star Chamber 1598 – 99

Caerns B 75/39 (41)

Attempting poisoning, assaults upon ploughman and stealing growing barley on land called Tir yn Penrhyn Lwin Ultradaron

(B A Addit – B 20/14/1.Dn)

1605              Dic Welsh Bio states name adopted as surname then (but wrong? – see above)

1606              Hugh Bodwrdda High Sheriff of Caerns (Pevsner) – see Griffiths Pedigree – states Hugh Gwyn High Sheriff 1605 and d. 1622 (also ~Dic Welsh Bio gives 1605)



- 1617 Request to attend ¼ sessions AG: XQS 1617 8
- 1621 date painted on each gable end - also inscription HB/1621 (but probably not authentic) (Royal Commission; Vol III; 1461)
- House extended then by Hugh Bodwrdda (Pevsner)
- 1621-79 Griffith Bodwrdda Cromwellian MP for Beaumaris (dates?)
- 1622 Hugh Bodwrdda d. (Griffiths)
- 1705 Will of Catherine Bodwrdda (on LL G C website - not yet read in full - properties in Aberdaron area)
- 1731 Timothy Evans freeholder of Bodwrdda (AG: XQS 1731 281)
- 1734 Jane Bodwrdda d. - resident in Llanfihangel - y - pennant (ref?? Griffith)
- 1749 Property passed to Edwards family of Nanhoron (Royal Commission; III 1461) - date was "1849" in Arch Camb 1926, 469 - RC claims misprint and should be 1749 (but was it 17\*9??)
- 1753 Thomas Jones, Bodwrdda, farmer, buried - Aberdaron church register
- 1754 Sarah, d. Of William Lewis of Bodwrdda m. John Thomas, bchr, by licence 14 05 1754 (Aberdaron church register)
- 1757 Thomas s. Of John Thomas and Sarah his wife of Bodwrdda baptised 25 01 1757 (Aberdaron church register)
- 1758 William Lewis drover of Bodwrdda buried at Llanfaelrhys (Aberdaron church register)
- 1759 Thomas Roberts of Bodwrdda fit to serve as High Constable (AG XQS:1759)
- 1784 Release in fee to William Edwards
- [complicated deed of smt (in AG - XM/1786/9) -
- 7 parties of which William Edwards of Bodwrdda = party 1 as heir of his brother Richard Edwards of Lincoln's Inn Fields (Master in Chancery) - (see recital 11 - RE died leaving Lewis E (brother) (of Cefn?mine) as heir and 11 - Lewis E died leaving William E as heir - basically settles a 60 year dispute (started in 1724) between Richard Lloyd Thomas and Margaret Rowlands under which he purchased land in Llanystumdwy with a mortgage from her and then defaulted - went through Great Sessions
- c 1800 Brick partition dividing first floor to make two households (RC III 1461)

- 1840 OS map 1" series first edition – "Bodwrdda" – Pandy also marked –  
road past house to Aberdaron-Rhiw road
- 1841 List of occupants from census (AG)  
Head of household: Hugh Griffith farmer 60  
Head of second household: William Griffith 60
- 1848 Local revival started in session taken by Hugh Griffith, elder of Penycaerau  
on 3 12 1848 – see <http://ukwells.org/locations/display/locations/837>
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(now only 1 household? Following death of Jane above?)
- 1871 List of occupants from census (AG)  
Jeremiah Griffith 54 farmer 496 acres
- 1888 OS Caerns Sheet XLIII.2 "Bodwrdda" – shows melin and pandy
- 1891 List of occupants from census (AG)  
Jeremiah Griffiths , 74, farmer (born Clynnog as was s. Richard (36) and d. Margrate (29). W Margery, 64, b. Llanfaelrhys. – 7 servants and a quarryman visiting.
- [1893] [No relevant mention in Royal Commission report or proceedings]

- 1903 OS map 1" new edition "Bodwrdda") - clear road through to Aberdaron-Rhiw road
- 1918 OS Caerns Sheet XLIII.2 - as above  
Indicates addition to south side centre of main house made after 1888
- 1926 Arch Camb p 469
- 1964-1974 Emyr G Roberts of "Bodwrdda Hall" elected Alderman of Caerns CC  
AG : XM 4558/1/15-17
- 1973 E GRoberts retired as chairman of magistrates
- [1982] Caerns Hist Trans - tenants of Bodwrdda C18-19 by Roy Benwell