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## NORTH WEST WALES DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES

### The History Of The House Called Ucheldref



### Ucheldref J Billington

2019

#### HOUSE HISTORY RESEARCH

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

# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

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## **UCHELDREF, Corwen. - Late medieval township of Ucheldref.**

- 1283** Nant Ucheldref named in grant of lands (In Gwyddelwern parish) by Elisse ap Madog to the Cistercian abbey of Strata Marcella (near Welshpool). (*NLW Wynnstay estate records; Strata Marcella Charters; Montgomery Collections vol IV, 1871, p234*)
- No date** The lordship of Rûg Estate contains the townships of Gwernol, Bod Heulog, Ucheldref, Trewyn, Cynwyd Fawr, Cynwyd Fechan, Y Faidref, Bryn Saeth Marchog Aelhaearn, Meiarth, Clegyr and Aber, Alwen, in the parish of Corwen. (*Powys Fadog VI, 1887, 9 24*)
- No date** The manor of Ucheldref, in the parish of Gwyddelwern formerly belonged to Llewelyn The Great, Lord of Iâl at Llanarmon-yn-Ial. Ucheldref consists (present tense in 1887) of 16 farms and very extensive moors, affording good grouse shooting. Llewelyn ap Dolffin was lord of 7 manors: Aelhaearn, Llygadog in Gwyddelwern, Ucheldref, Garth Haiarn Llandderfel in the commote of Is Meloch in Penllyn, Caer Gelor, and Y Saeth Marchog, in the parish of Derwen in the Commote of Coleigion. (*Powys Fadog VI p 5-6*)
- No date** Ucheldref was in the Barony of Glyndyfrdwy. (*Arch Camb., April 1876*)
- 1509** King Henry (VIII) Crowned
- 1530** Birth of Edmund Meyrick (I) at Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey (*see death 1605*)
- 1535** The six commissioners of King Henry (VIII) recorded the land holdings of Strata Marcella when it was forcibly closed down by King Henry.
- 1536** Dissolution of Strata Marcella abbey. Strata Marcella (Sanctamarchel near Welshpool) lands in Gwyddelwern parish were leased by the Crown to the Salisbury's possibly
- 1542** Acts of Union: The Commote (Hundred) of Edeirnion was added to Sir Merioneth. This is an area of the county of Denbighshire and an ancient Commote of medieval Wales. Edeirnion was nominally a part of the Kingdom of Powys but was often subject to border intrusions by the neighbouring Kingdom of Gwynedd. These rumbling border disputes caused a great deal of friction between the two realms. Edeirnion was occupied and annexed by Gwynedd in the reign of Llewelyn the Great but briefly returned to Powys following a treaty forced on Gwynedd by England after Llywelyn's death in 1240. The territory was again occupied by Gwynedd after 1267 before being returned again to Powys. This continuing dispute and the appeal by Llewelyn the Last to Edward I of England to see the resolution of this dispute settled by Welsh Law was one of the reasons the principalities in the north of Wales were unable to unite in opposition to English hegemony and was a contributing factor to the final war between the Principality of Wales and England, which ultimately saw the end of Welsh independence.

**The Meyrick Family of Ucheldref** was founded by Edmund Meurig ap Llewelyn (born about 1470-1537) whose father Llywelyn ap Heilin, and mother Angharad ferch/daughter of Gwilym, of Llanfigel, Llanfachreth, Anglesey owned the Bodorgan estate, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey. They had the following children:-

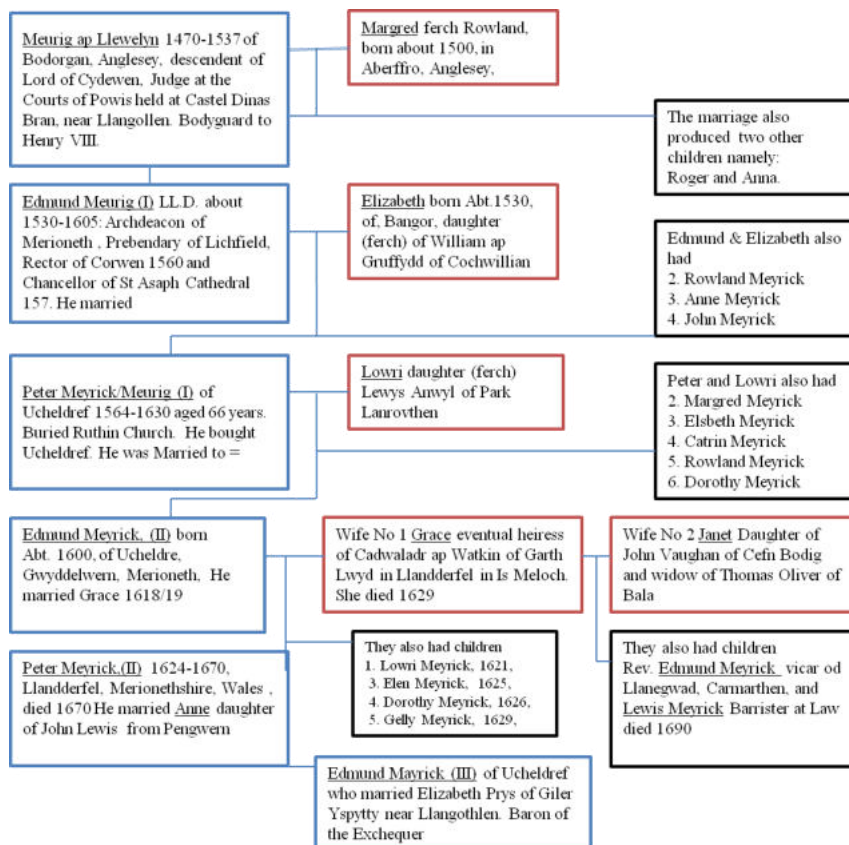
- i) Richard Meyrick (alias Richard ap Meurig), born about 1500, of Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales, Died After 1559



# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

- ii) Rowland Meyrick (alias Rowland ap Meurig), Bishop of Bangor, born 1505, of Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales , Died 27 Sep 1565
- iii) William ap Meurig, born about 1500, of Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales , Died before 1609
- iv) Owain ap Meurig, born about 1500, of Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales , Died before 1609
- v) Syr John Meyrick (alias John ap Meurig), born about 1500, of Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales , Died , date unknown
- vi) Rheinallt Meyrick (alias Rheinallt ap Meurig), born about 1500, of Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales , Died After 1561
- vii) Edmund Meyrick (alias Edmund ap Meurig), born about 1530, of Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales , Died 1605
- viii) Alice Meyrick (alias Alice ferch/daughter of Meurig), born about 1500, of Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales , Died After 1574.
- ix) Annes Meyrick (alias Annes ferch/daughter of Meurig), born about 1500, of Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales , Died , date unknown
- x) Jane Meyrick (alias Jane ferch/daughter of Meurig), born about 1500, of Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales , Died , date unknown

## ■ 1547-1747 MEYRICK family at Ucheldref.



# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

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- 1530**      **EDMUND MEYRICK (I) (alias Meurig) 1530-1605** was born at Plas Bodorgan, Anglesey, Wales a son of Meyrick ap Llewelyn, Lord of Cydewen, and Judge of the Courts of Powys, then held at Castell Dinas Bran near Llangollan (1470-1537) shows him to be Captain of the Guard to King Henry (VIII) ) married to Margaret, daughter of Rowland ap Howel, Rector of Aberffraw, Anglesey. Edmund was one of ten children, his eldest brother Richard Meyrick, inherited Bodorgan; his 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest brother Rowland Meyrick LL.B (1505-1566) was Bishop of Bangor (Consecrated 21<sup>st</sup> December 1559; died 24<sup>th</sup> January 1566). Rowland Meyrick was the first Protestant Bishop of Bangor and is buried under the Cathedral (*J E Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, page 308*)
- 1540**      Edmund Meyrick (I) entered Oxford University and was awarded LL.D (Doctor of Civil Law.) (*Dwnn, Heraldic Visitations of Wales, vol. 2 p. 297*)
- 1547**      King Edward (VI) Crowned
- About 1550**      Edmund Meyrick (I) LL.D, had a remarkable career and many interests:-
- Doctor of Civil Law. (*Dwnn, Heraldic Visitations of Wales, vol. 2 p. 297*)
  - Rector of Corwen 1560. (*Lloyd, History of the Princes, the Lords Marcher and the Ancient Nobility of Powys Fadog, vol. 6 p. 8*)
  - Archdeacon of Merioneth born about the years 1560. (*Dwnn, Heraldic Visitations of Wales, vol. 2 p. 127 fn. 2*)
  - Prebendary of Lichfield (*Lloyd, History of the Princes, the Lords Marcher and the Ancient Nobility of Powys Fadog, vol. 6 p. 8*)
  - Canon of Lichfield (*Dwnn, Heraldic Visitations of Wales, vol. 2 p. 126*)
  - Archdeacon of Bangor. (*Dwnn, Heraldic Visitations of Wales, vol. 2 p. 126*)
  - Chancellor of St. Asaph 1570. (*Lloyd, History of the Princes, the Lords Marcher and the Ancient Nobility of Powys Fadog, vol. 6 p. 8*)
  - Justice of the Peace. (*Dwnn, Heraldic Visitations of Wales, vol. 2 p. 126*)
- 1553**      Queen Mary (I) Crowned
- 1558**      Queen Elizabeth (I) Crowned
- 1560 Aug 20**      Deed of lease by Edmund Meyrick, Archdeacon of Bangor, (recently appointed and propriety of the parish church of Llandegai near Bangor) to Sir Rees Griffith of Penrhyn, High Sheriff for Caernarvon (*Gwynedd Record Office, Penrhyn Castle Mss 1-463; Ms 184; mss 193-196*)
- No date**      Sir Richard Pryse, of Bwch y Beudy was parson of Cerrig-y-Drudion who married wife Lowri. They had the following children:-
- i) Thomas of Bwlch y Beudy;
  - ii) Gruffydd ap Sir Richard Bulkeley Baron of the Exchequer to the Crown at Chester
  - iii) Maurice.
  - iv) **Davydd of Ucheldref** in Edeirnion, which place with Bryn Brith he sold to Dr Meurig, vicar of Corwen, whose descendant bequeathed Ucheldref to the Kyffins of Maenan Hall in 1747. Ob s. p.
  - v) Ieuian
  - vi) John of Y Ddol in Llanwrchllyn. (*Powys Fadog VI, 1887, p 448*).

# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

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Edmund Meyrick (I) did not own Ucheldref but rented it from Davydd (↑above↑). The manor of Ucheldref subsequently became the property (by purchase) of Peter Meyrig (I), Esq., son of Edmund Meyrig (I) (*Powys Fadog VI, 1887, p 8*).

- 1564** Edmund had two wives both called Elsbeth 1st Wife Elspeth ferch/daughter of William had the following children
- i) Peter Meyrick, (1564-9<sup>th</sup> November 1630), of Ucheldref, Gwyddelwern,
  - ii) Rowland Meyrick, (born about 1570-After. 1608), Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales
  - iii) Anne Meyrick, (born about 1570), Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales
  - iv) John Meyrick, (born about 1570-After. 1608), Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales
- After 1570** 2nd Wife Elspeth Conwy, born about 1550, of Bodrhyddan, near Rhuddlan, Flintshire, They had two children:-
- v) Elspeth Meyrick, (born about 1570-unknown date), of Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales
  - vi) Margred Meyrick, (born about 1570 – unknown date), of Bodorgan, Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, Wales
- Early 1560s** Edmund Meyrick (I) married his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of William ap Gruffydd ap Thomas ap Robin of Cochwillan, near Bangor.
- 1564** Birth of Peter Meyrick (I), son and heir of Edmund Meyrick (I) Edmund also had Rowland and Anne who married Richard Evans, (d c1619) of Edeirnion, Rector of Llanaelhaearn in Gwynedd and later of Hendon. (*J E Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, page 308, 174*)
- 1570** Edmund Meyrick (I) was Chancellor of St Asaph where he was a keen determined advocate of the new Protestant thinking. (*J E Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, page 308*)
- He was also amongst several clergy associated with Merioneth who received due accolade for their spiritual ministrations and intellectual prowess. (*JB and LB Smith, History of Merioneth, Vol II, 2001, Government and Society, p 684; Davies, Noddwyr Beirckl ym Meirion, p218-22*)
- 1573/4/5** Spot dates for timber felled for use in the hall range of Ucheldref (*Dr D Miles, Dendrochronology report for Ucheldref, ODL, 2010*)
- 1581** John Salisbury (of Llanrwst??) died in Rûg. Edmund Meyrick (I) rented Ucheldref from the Rûg Estate in Edeirnion.
- 1586-1613** Lewys Dunn Heraldic made a tour of Wales to write a record called “Visitations of Wales” and in 1594 Lewys Dwnn recorded a visit to Dr Edmund Meurig at Ucheldref, Gwyddelwern. This is the first dated reference to the Meyricks living at Ucheldref.
- Pre 1587/8** William Cynwal (Died 1587/8) addressed a poem of praise to Dr Edmund Meyrick, Archdeacon of Bangor and parson of Corwen, includes 40 lines of heraldic description. (*JB and LB Smith, History of Merioneth Vol II, 2001 Heraldry p 645*)

# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

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- 1564**     **PETER MEYRICK (I)** (est.1564-1630) married Lowry, daughter of Lewis Anwyl, Park, Llanfrothen. (*J E Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, p 308*) (*Powys Fadog VI, 1887, p8*).
- They had children:-
- i)     Edmund Meyrick(II) , son and heir (*see below*)
  - ii)    Margaret who married Morgan Lloyd of Crogan; they had David Morgan 1606, Edmund 1610, Elizabeth 1611, Meyrick 1614, Lowry 1620, Humphrey 1625. (*Powys Fadog VI, 1887, p104*)
  - iii)   Elizabeth who married Ffoulk Price (bard died 1625, of Tyddyn Du, Maentwrog and they had 2 girls. (*T C Griffith, Achau Rhai o Deuluoedd hen Siroedd Caernarfon, Meirionnydd a Threfaidwyn, 2003,[73]*;
  - iv)    Catrin Meyrick, born about 1600, of, Ucheldref, Gwyddelwern, Merionethshire, Wales
  - v)     Rowland Meyrick, born about 1600, of, Ucheldref, Gwyddelwern, Merionethshire, Wales ,
  - vi)    Dorothy Meyrick, born about 1600, of, Ucheldref, Gwyddelwern, Merionethshire, Wales
- 1599-1600**     Peter Meyrick: £10 paid in Merioneth Subsidy Roll under Commote of Edeirnion. (*JMRHS, 1954. p153 ; PRO E. I 79.222/325*)
- 1600**            Peter Meyrick of Ucheldref, deputy sheriff of Merioneth, was accused of committing a variety of offences in office. (*JB and LB Smith, History of Merioneth Vol II, 2001, Government and Society, p 676*);[*St Ch.8 28/23 S LISO 135/16; 10/8; Star Chamber Proceedings, 94*]
- 1603**            King James (I) Crowned
- 1605**            Death of Edmund Merrick (I) October 23, 1605 at Ucheldref. His Will is dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 1606 and is in the Prerogative Court Registry. The Will was proved in 1613 long after his death. There are letters of administration of goods granted in 1617 to William Green in the County of Warwickshire during the minority of Gely and Elizabeth Meyrick. His executors were Roland Meyrick, son and heir of Gely Meyrick KT., Sir Simon Weston Kt., Sir John Conwy Kt., Rev. Harry Meyrick, the Countess of Essex and others.
- His children surviving were Peter, George, Gely, Elizabeth and Grace and were all mentioned in the Will. (*J E Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, p 308*)
- 1606/7**           Spot dates for timber felled for use in the west range (parlour) of Ucheldref (*Dr D Miles, Dendrochronology report for Ucheldref, ODL, 2010*). It is surmised that the extension was built by Peter Meyrick (I) maybe after he had bought or inherited Ucheldref. (*ref Lloyd, History of the Princes, the Lords Marcher and the Ancient Nobility of Powys Fadog, vol. 6 p. 8*)
- 1598-1608**     Date range for timber felled for use in “kitchen “. (*Dr D Miles, Dendrochronology report for Ucheldref, ODL, 2010*)

# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

The floor plan of the entire property of Ucheldref is laid out below. The corridor to the east of the ground floor would not have been included, since the whole of the floor would have been basically one room with the exception of the north end where the ceiling supports run in a different direction (north to South).

The stair case was added at a later date 1686 according to a date found on the stairs. These must have replaced an earlier stair (possibly circular) at the southwest corner which extends to the room above.



**1615** A final concord was arranged between Owen Vaughan, Robert Vaughan plaintiffs and William Salisbury and Thomas Lloyd of Llanderfel about 60 messuages (legal definition:- a dwelling-house including outbuildings, orchard, curtilage or court-yard and garden)

**1600** **EDMUND MEYRICK(II)** Born about 1600 death unknown - Sheriff of Merioneth 1633 (Esquire, of Garthlwyd). (*Nicholas, Annals and Antiquities of the Counties and County Families of Wales, vol. 2 p. 692*)

He married 1<sup>st</sup> wife Grace, at Llanderfel. She was the daughter and eventual heiress of Cadwalader Watkins, Garthlwyd in Llanderfel. They had children as follows:-

- i) Lowri 8<sup>th</sup> January 1621
- ii) Peter Meyrick (II), born 12<sup>th</sup> February 1624
- iii) Ellen born on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1625;
- iv) Dorothy born in May 1626 buried 11<sup>th</sup> May 1626
- v) Gelly in 12<sup>th</sup> August 1629.

Grace (1st wife) died in 1629. She is buried August 25<sup>th</sup> at Llanderfel, Anglesey. (*Powys Fadog VI 1887,pS,l09*) (*J L Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, p 308. (Powys Fadog VI, 1887, p8)*)



# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

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Edmund(II) remarried 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Janet who was the daughter of John Vaughan, Cefn Bodig. She was also the widow of Thomas Oliver, Bala.

- i) Reverend Edmund Meyrick, (11.Jun.1636-24Apr.1713), Llandderfel, Merionethshire,
- ii) Lewys Meyrick, Est.1638, of Ucheldref, Gwyddelwern, Merionethshire, buried 6 Jun 1690, Llanbeblig, Caernarvonshire, Wales
- iii) John Meyrick, Est.1630, of Ucheldref, Gwyddelwern, Merionethshire,
- iv) Captain [unknown] Meyrick, Est.1630-1670, of Ucheldref, Gwyddelwern, Merionethshire
- v) Elsbeth Meyrick, Est.1630, of Ucheldref, Gwyddelwern, Merionethshire
- vi) Rebecca Meyrick, Est.1630, of Ucheldref, Gwyddelwern, Merionethshire

**1625** King Charles (I) Crowned

**1628** 31<sup>st</sup> July a marriage settlement was made between William Humphreys of Gwyddelwern and Dorothea, daughter of Peter Meyrick (I), of £300 touching upon messuages, mills and townships of Gwyddelwern, Llangar, Llansarffraid, Gynwyd Aberalwyn, Kymer and Aythaiarn. (*ref MS 12 GAS*) There is also mention of an agreement for further insurance of properties as specified by Salisbury of Rûg Estate and other. (*ref MS13*)

**1630 •** Death of Peter Meyrick (I) He was buried in Ruthin parish church. There is a Memorial to him in the church He was aged 66 years (*died 9<sup>th</sup> November aged 66, buried 15<sup>th</sup> Nov at Ruthin. Powys Fadog VI, 1 887, p8*); (*J E. Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, p 308*).

On a flat stone, raised on six pillars in the churchyard, “ Hic jacet corpus Petri Meuricke nup’ de Veheldre in corn’ Merionet’, Armiger, qui obiit an’o d’nî 1630 nono die Novembris, sepult 15 aetat ante quae 66.” “In oditurn ejusdem chronogramma hic sua deseruit ut-in desinenter suo serviret deo”.(*Powys Fadog VI, 1 887, p380*) *Copy of the inscription on his tombstone (Karl ins 2129)*

Edmund Meyrick (I)’s son Peter Meyrick (I) (1564-1630; buried at Ruthin) bought the mansion of Ucheldref in Corwen parish (It seems to date from 1686 in its present form). It is sometime thought that it is build as a successor of the old “Baronial” castle there. There are monuments to Ucheldref Meyricks in Cerrigdrudion church.

**1630-?1660s** Edmund Meyrick(II) running Ucheldref. Note: Edmund lost his first wife Grace on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1629, his father in 1630 and had 4 young children.

**1632-3** Edmund Mericke, of Ucheldref, Esq, sheriff of Merioneth (*TI F Richards, The New Kalendars of Gwynedd, 1994, p 90*). “Prii iawn, iawn yw’r llithriadau yn y gyfrol. Nid cywir yw’r honiad ar D. 2 1 5 fod y canu î daid Edmwnd Meurig o Ucheldref (Corwen), siryf Merionnydd ym 1632, wedi ei colloid. Y taid, wrth gwrs, oedd EDrnwnd Meurig, Canghellor Bangor, y rhestrir y cerddi iddo yn y adran ar a noddwyr eglysig (t 218) *G A Williams, review of Noddwyr Beirdd ym Meirion, Glenys Davies, 1974 in JMHS Vol Vil, 1 975, p 334*)

**1636** Edmund’s 2nd wife Jonet gave birth to a son Edmund(III) who was baptised 11th June 1636

# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

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- 1640** Edmond Meyrick Esq of Ucheldref, Merioneth July 22<sup>nd</sup> versus John Lewis of Festiniog, Co M, Esq acquittance of a sum of £100 in part payment of the marriage portion of Peter Meyrick, son of Edmund (II) and Anne, daughter of John Lewis (below), paid in accordance with a covenant date 10<sup>th</sup> July 1640. (NLW, *Elwes ms 780*)
- 1640** Edmund Meyrick; Nov 16<sup>th</sup> v. John Lewis Esq of Pengwern, Merioneth. acquittance of a sum of £100. (NLW, *Elwes ms 784*) and acquittance, of a sum of £50. (NLW, *Elwes ms 78?*)
- 1641** Acquittance of a sum of £150 July 22<sup>nd</sup> in full discharge of a sum of £700 being the marriage portion of Peter Meyrick (II), son of (I) (above). (NLW, *Elwes ms 789*)
- 1624** **PETER MEYRICK (II) 1624-1670**
- Edmund (II)'s eldest son, Peter (II), continued the Ucheldref line, which after about 1747 took the surname Roberts. (*R T Jenkins, A Sketch of the History of Bala Grammar School, JMI-IRS, Vol 1, 195 1, p 133-137*)
- 1640s** Peter Meyrick (II) of Ucheldref married Ann, daughter of John Lewis, (d 1649), Pengwern, Ffestiniog. They had only one child
- i) Edmund Meyrick (III) . (*J E Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, p 308*).
- 1642-48** Civil Wars - no references yet found to the family at this time. Ancestors of Edmund Meyrick (I) and Elizabeth his first wife were Royalists (*J E Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, page 126, 186*)
- 1649-60** Execution of King Charles (I) followed by the Commonwealth. Many were clergy removed from their livings. Strict puritan regulations were upheld now!. If the Meyricks were Royalists, they would have tried to live a quiet life.
- 1660** Restoration of the monarchy — King Charles (II)
- 1661** Restoration of Parliament May 8<sup>th</sup> at Westminster (King Charles (II)) member for Merioneth: Edmund Meyrick, Esq, (*Powys Fadog VI, I 887, p174*)
- This Edmund Meyrick (II) must have been a trusted Royalist to be a member of the 1660 parliament. Edmund Meyrick (II) born c1580/90s would have been in his 70's or 80's — probably too old to ride to London. Edmund Meyrick (III) born early 1640s would have been around 20 years old which would have been very young for parliament?
- 1666** Death of Edmund Meyrick (II) and he was buried at Gwyddelwern on 9 Nov. 1666
- Peter Meyrick (II) running Ucheldref (born 1624 died pre 1662, unless Edmund Meyrick (II) was still living
- 1660s** **EDMUND MEYRICK (III), 1650 – after 1682**
- Was probably in his 20s, when he married Elizabeth Prys, daughter of Robert Price (died 1664) Baron of the Exchequer (*vol. v, p. 371*) from Giler, Yspytty. County Denbigh. Elizabeth's sister Jane Price (d 1684) married Richard Kyffin of Maenan (1659-1693) (*J E Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, p 308, 189 and ref <http://histfam.familysearch.org>* ). He married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir

# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

Robert Price of Giler, Baron of the Exchequer (*Powys Fadog VI, 1887, p9; Powys Fadog V p371*)

**1660s**

Edmund Meyrick (III) and Elizabeth had children:-

- i) Robert Meyrick,
- ii) Lewis
- iii) Elizabeth. (*J E Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, page 308 and <http://histfam.familysearch.org>*)

**1662**

The Hearth Tax of 1662 forms an interesting chapter in the chequered financial history of King Charles II's reign. In its task of settling the national revenue the Restoration Parliament was faced with the fact that the sources of wealth for the maintenance of the crown and its dignity had become seriously impoverished. Many ancient feudal dues, such as wardship and marriage, had disappeared. Much of the ancient royal demesne (income) had been alienated during the previous half century—in 1663 this was only valued at £100,000. For these and other reasons it was necessary to establish other sources of revenue for the better support of the sovereign, and it is in the light of this need, that the greatly maligned financial policy of King Charles is to be explained.

The following is an extract from Page 25 of the Hearth Tax Records Book of 1662 and monies collected at two shillings per year per hearth/chimney

## **The Hearth Tax of 1662 in Merioneth**

| <u><b>Clegir and Bodgynvel</b></u>  |                                                                                                                                                         | Cash Collected |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| One Hearth -                        | William David: Moris William:<br>Humffrey Morris: Robert Hughes:<br>(Owen) Evans: David Hughes: Jane<br>verch Jenkins: Evan Thomas:<br>Edmond ap Thoams | 18/-           |
| signed Rees Evance , Constable      |                                                                                                                                                         |                |
| <u><b>Ucheldre and Llygadog</b></u> |                                                                                                                                                         |                |
| Eight Hearths                       | Edmund Meyrick                                                                                                                                          | 16/-           |
| Two Hearths                         | David Lloyd                                                                                                                                             | 4/-            |
| One Hearth                          | Richard ap Robert: Ales verch<br>Jenkin: Jenkip ap Rrichard: David ap<br>Robert: David ap Rees: Moris ap<br>Hugh: Moris ap Rpbert: Edwrad<br>Piers:     | 16/-           |
| Signed Hugh Piers, Constable        |                                                                                                                                                         |                |
| <u><b>Rûg</b></u>                   |                                                                                                                                                         |                |
| Fourteen Hearths                    | William Salesbury Esq.                                                                                                                                  | £1 - 8s - 0d   |
| Signed Hugh Piers, Constable        |                                                                                                                                                         |                |
|                                     |                                                                                                                                                         | £4 - 2s - 0d   |

In 1661 Parliament granted the sovereign a perpetual excise on ale and beer to raise a yearly income of £1,200,000, but as the estimates of the yield of this tax were faulty, supplementary additional taxes had to be imposed. Among these was

# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

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the Hearth Tax of 1662 which levied a tax of two shillings per annum, to be paid in equal instalments half yearly, on any hearths, and stoves, in all the houses, edifices, lodgings and chambers in the country except those of the very poorest.

It will be noted that the Ucheldref house/manor was listed as having eight hearths to be taxed at two shillings a year per hearth - which was indeed an unusually large number, until you note that William Salisbury of Rûg Estate, had fourteen hearths to pay for. The Tax was repealed in 1667-8 because it became so unpopular. It was replaced by the Window Tax – also so unpopular that many households resorted to blocking up some windows in their properties to avoid the tax.

- 1670** There is a reference to Peter Meyrick (II)'s Will at this web page. One must speak Welsh to understand. (<http://dams.llgc.org.uk/object/llgc-id:454646>)
- 1681** Edmund Meyrick. (III) was baptised (*JE Griffith. Pedigrees. 1914, page 308*)
- 1681** Edmund Meyrick (III) of Ucheldref was High Sheriff and Member of Parliament for Merioneth. (*J E Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, page 308*) (*Powys Fadog VI, 1887, p9*) *NOT IN H F Richards, The New Kalendars of Gwynedd, 1994.*
- 1712** Edmund (III)'s Will, dated 25 March 1712, said: "I always intended to bestow a good part of what God should please to bless me with for the encouragement of learning in Jesus College, in Oxford."

He left family property in Denbighshire and Merionethshire, as well as his Carmarthen property after expiration of some life interests, to the college to provide six scholarships of £10 and six exhibitions of £8. The scholarships and exhibitions were to be awarded to Jesus College students from North Wales, until they obtained their Master of Arts degree or were receiving more than £40 per year from a parish appointment. Any surplus was to be used to buy advowsons so that the College might present one of the scholars (or in default of a suitable scholar, a Meyrick exhibitioner or a North Wales fellow of the College) to a parish position. Whilst the estate produced a surplus, only one living was purchased by the trustees, that of the rectory of Llandow in 1735. Further increases in the surplus led to an increase in payments to Bala School and to the scholars and exhibitioners, and to the purchase of other property in Cheltenham and Carmarthen. This proved to be a profitable investment since, by 1840, the college had received more than £10,000 through the sale of trust land near Cheltenham for railway purposes. Payments to Bala School ended in 1862, when the annual payments were commuted for a lump-sum payment of £5,333.[4]

Meyrick scholarships and exhibitions are still awarded to students at Jesus College, Oxford, based on academic merit. Students performing consistently at a first-class standard during the year in the opinion of their tutors may be awarded a Meyrick scholarship, with consistent performance at upper second to first-class standard potentially leading to the award of a Meyrick exhibition. The restriction in Meyrick's bequest that the scholarships were for students from North Wales only was relaxed in 1857 to cover students from all of Wales and Monmouthshire.

Edmund Meyrick (1636-1712/3) was born at Garthiwyd, the house of his father's first wife, and christened at Llanderfel. He went to Jesus College, Oxford in 1656 and became Fellow in 1662, but resigned almost immediately to marry (Sarah West, of Bucks) and to become vicar of Eynsham, Oxon. He held many ecclesiastical positions in west Wales.. His wife and only child predeceased him;



# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

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he died in Carmarthen. He endowed Bala Grammar School and left property to Jesus College, Oxford. (*Dictionary of Welsh Biography*, 1940, p 631; *JMHS* 1, 133-141)

His only child died at birth and his wife predeceased him. A 1712/3 codicil to his Will endowed a school at Bala. He appointed (amongst others) his nephew Robert Meyrick, and after his demise, the heir of Ucheldref to be visitors and trustees of the said school". (*R T Jenkins, A Sketch of the History of Bala Grammar School, SMIRS, You, 1951, p 133-137*)

**1685** King James(II) Crowned

**1686** The date on the Ucheldref staircase as shown in the dendrochronological dating report attached. Thirteen samples were taken from this house. Seven of these were from the main range, four from the trusses of the southern wing and two from the ceiling timbers of the linking passage between the main range and the northern wing.

Tree-ring dating has closely dated three principal phases:

- Hall (west) Felling dates: Winter 1573/4 and Spring 1575. A house of direct-entry type dating to 1575 with back-to-back fireplaces heating an outer kitchen and central hail (floored) with inner room beyond;
- Kitchen reconstruction Felling date range: 1598—1608;
- Parlour (south) wing Felling date: Winter 1606/7. a parlour wing with post-and-panel partition added at right-angles to the kitchen in 1606/7;
- A further phase of re-planning is represented by the stair dated 1686 on the newel-post.
- The sixteenth-century detail includes framed ceilings with joists running in alternating directions at ground- and first-floor levels. The trusses are of plain collar-beam type apart from the original framed gable-end.

**1686** Edmund Meyrick (III)'s brother in law, Sir Robert Price of Giler, became Treasury Baron and High Sheriff of Merioneth (*ref in JE Griffith p189*)

**1689** King William and Queen Mary rulers

**1702** Queen Anne Crowned

Reverend Edmund Meyrick (III) died in Carmarthen, where he was then living, on 24 April 1713, and was buried in St Peter's Church; a memorial to him was placed on the north wall of the chancel.

**1714** King George(I) Crowned

**1727** King George(II) Crowned

**1729** **ROBERT MEYRICK 1670 - 1747**

**1729-30** Ucheldref belonged to Mr Robert Meyrick. (*A Report of the Deanery of Penllyn and Edeirnion, 1729-30. (St Asaph) in Merioneth Miscellany I, MHRS, 1955, p 38-9*)

In 1690's Robert Meyrick had married Ann Brigdall, widow of Robert Salusbury of Rûg, They had no children.

# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

**1722** Robert's sister Elizabeth married and had two boys. Her son was Harry Roberts of Rhydonen, county Denbigh. He was High Sheriff of Denbighshire in 1722. His two daughters were co-heiress after their grandfather Robert Meyrick (III). In 1729 Catherine married John Ffoulkes (1699-1758) of Ereiviatt, Henllan, county. Denbigh. (J E Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, page 308, 188)

**1733 April 5<sup>th</sup>** Easter Quarter Sessions at Bala: summoned to attend: Thomas Humphreys, gentleman, Chief Steward of Robert Meyrick, Esquire of his manor of Gwyddelwern. (*H J Owen, Merioneth Quarter Sessions, IMI-IRS, Vol 1, 1951, p 187*)

**1737-8** Robert Meyrick Esq, of Ucheldref, High Sheriff for Merioneth (*The Lordship of Bromfield, Powys Fadog VI, 1 887, p8*)

**1747** Will of Robert Meyrick, dated Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> leaving Ucheldref to Thomas Kyffin of Wrexham born 1710. (*Powys Fadog Vol VI, p279*)

The estate continued in the Meyrick family until about the middle of the eighteenth century, "when it became, as is supposed, a bequest, the property of the Kyffins of Maenan Hall in Denbighshire. From them, it passed by marriage to the Kenricks of Nantclwyd.

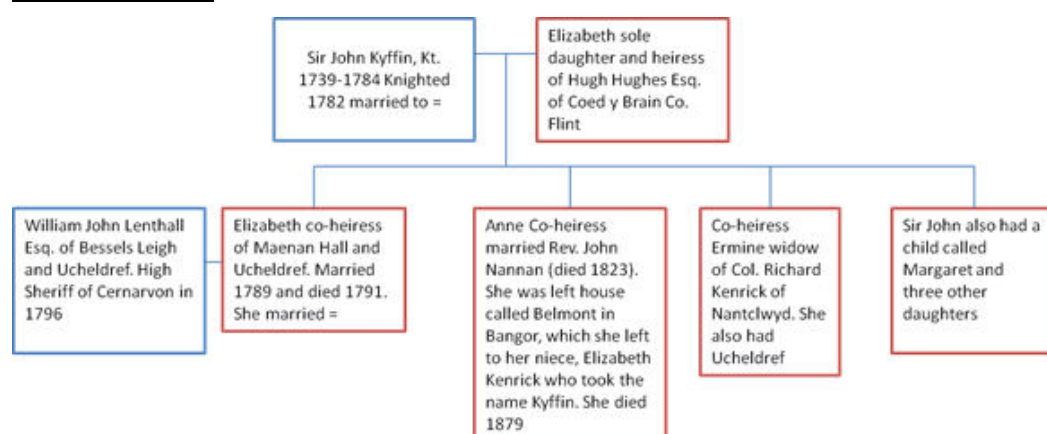
Robert Meyrick left his manor, messuages etc. in the several parishes of Corwen, Gwyddelwern, Bettus, Llandderfel and Llanfawr and elsewhere in the county of Merioneth to Thomas Kyffin of Maenan.

He also bequeathed £30 per annum to Nephew, Harry Roberts of Rhyd Onnen. Co. Denbigh, and to his mother Elizabeth Roberts. The rest to his dear wife during her lifetime; then to Harry Robert for his lifetime..

To Thomas Kyffin and to John Kyffin, second son of Thomas Kyffin. All household goods to his dear wife during her lifetime.

Thomas Kyffin to be his executor. Witnesses: William Price, Rhiwlas; Guion Lloyd, Hendwr; Maurice Roberts, Bala. (*Powys Fadog VI, 1 887, p 27942*)

**1789** **Ucheldref moves from Meyrick Family to the Kyffin family of Maenan Abbey, Conwy**



**1789**

**1747-1839** Kyffin family owned Ucheldref but they did not live there, but rented it to different farmers it seems. Thomas Kyffin, Maenan, had Sir Thomas Kyffin (1739-1784) and John (Will 1773). Sir Thomas Kyffin had 4 girls, including Elizabeth and Ermine who became co-heiresses of Ucheldref. (*J E Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, page 197*) (*1839 Tithe Map and schedule*)

# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

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**1760** King George(III) Crowned.

**1773** Will of John Kyffin. (*see J E Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, page 197*). (*of Ucheldref, Powys Fadog Vol VI, p 276, 283*) Leaves his manor, messuages etc. in the several parishes of Corwen, Gwyddelwern, Bettus, Llandderfel and Llanfawr and elsewhere in the county of Merioneth to his brother Thomas Kyffin.

He also leaves his loving Aunts, Margaret Salisbury and Catherine of Ruthin (and Rûg Estate?) £20 per year during the terms of their natural life. He gave his three sisters, Catherine, Margaret and Elizabeth Kyffins the sum of £1000 each. Any remainder was left to his brother Thomas. £1000 is worth about £64,000 today in 2012

Ermine, co-heiress of Sir Thomas Kyffin of Maenan, married Colonel Richard Hughes Kenrick of Nantclwyd and Cerniogau. They had Richard Kyffin Kenrick, Thomas, Henry, and three girls. (*J E Griffith, Pedigrees, 1914, page 300*)

## **Ucheldref moves from Kyffin family to the Kendrick Family**

The Kenrick Family seem to have come from Woore Hall in Shropshire. Hence the family service in the Battle of Bloor Heath under Henry 7<sup>th</sup> and connection with Henry 8<sup>th</sup> reign a Kenrick married a niece of Archbishop Cranmer.

The earliest authentic record of the Wynn Hall branch of the Kenricks is found in the Denbighshire Roll for hearth-tax collected in the time of Charles II in which the name of "Edward John Kynrhicke appears as having paid tax on two hearths in Gwersyllt in 1670, and in 1671 on two hearths in Walk Mill. He possessed also 2 houses in Hope St., Wrexham, one of which was afterwards known as the "Talbot Inn". In the barn belonging to "The Talbot" the independent congregation met regularly for worship from the accession of William III until 1672. Edward Kenrick's grandson, John, was a Presbyterian minister at Wrexham.

The pedigree of the Wynne family, through which by marriage Wynn Hall came into possession of the Kenricks, goes far back into the misty past of North Wales history. William Wynne was a captain in Cromwell's army, and like all Cromwell's officers carried a Bible buttoned inside his coat which by stopping a bullet (which penetrated as far as the 12th chapter of Ecclesiastes) saved his life. This Bible was preserved at Wynn Hall for many years until stolen, when she was at school, from his grand-daughter, Sarah Hamilton who married the Rev. John Kenrick of Wrexham..

Sir John Kenrick<sup>1</sup> who was Lord Mayor of London (1651-1652) during the Commonwealth belonged to the Denbighshire Kenricks and was a very wealthy City merchant and a great admirer of Cromwell. He married Catherine Evelyn, a cousin of John Evelyn, the diarist, who refers to him in his diary as Alderman Kenrick. he died in 1660, leaving a large sum of money and much valuable landed property in both England and Ireland to his son John on condition he settled in Ireland and cultivated his estate there.

**1793** William John Lenthall of Maenan Hall and Ucheldref was High Sheriff for Merioneth. (*Powys Fadog VI, 1887, p9*)

**1820** King George 4<sup>th</sup> Crowned

**1830** King William 4<sup>th</sup> Crowned

**1837** Queen Victoria Crowned

# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

## Ucheldre Methodism

Moeladda chapel was opened in 1877 but before that time meetings were held in various properties in the district. Around 1837 they started meeting in a large room in Ucheldref. In a footnote the author states that about 300 years ago (this would be 400 now), Ucheldref the manor and mansion became the property of a branch of the Bodorgan family in Anglesey, Wales and remained in their hands for about 200 years. In 1560 Edmund Meurig of Bodorgan was Archdeacon of Merioneth, and about the same time was Rector of Corwen, Prebendary of Lichfield and Chancellor of Bangor, and his brother Rowland Meurig was Bishop of Bangor from 1559 to 1565. Edmund Meurig came to live in Ucheldref, and the inheritance became the property of his son Petër Meurig, born 1564 and who died November 9 1630, aged 66, and who was buried in Ruthin. This Peter Meurig had a son and grandson named Edmund Meurig, so that we have three Edmund Meurigs who have a connection with Ucheldref, although the first named did not own the place. Edmund Meurig 2nd, son of Peter, married Grace, heiress to Garthilyd, Llandderfel on February 5, 1618. He married his second wife Janet, daughter of John Vaughan, Cefnbodig., who was the MP for Merioneth in 1660. Edmund Meurig 3rd was baptised June 11, 1636, and he married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir Robert Price of Giler, Treasury Baron and High Sheriff of Merionethshire, in 1686. It was during this period that the oak staircase which can be seen in Ucheldref today was made with the carved date 1686.

From 1837 on there were regular preaching services and Sunday School in Ucheldref. The tenant at that time was Ellis Jones, who gave the free use of a large room which was part of the house for about 8 years. He provided visiting preachers with food, tobacco and drink. When there was a morning service there was a big cauldron on the kitchen fire and enough meat boiling in it to supply everyone, not only on the Sunday but for several days after that. There were regular services, with a Sunday school and occasional prayer meetings for nearly 20 years before a church was established there. When Ellis Jones left, the new tenant John Parry let the room for payment of rent, and his successor, Morgan Edmunds did the same but at a reduced rent.

It appears that in 1868 there were 43 full members, 90 listeners, 60 in the Sunday school and the annual collection was £10. 15s .9d (*"Methodistiaeth Dwyrain Meirionnydd"* (EastMerioneth Methodism) by William Williams, published in 1902)

**1839** 1839 Ucheldref passed from the Kyffin family to the Kenrick family of NantClwydd Hall just up the road towards Ruthin through Marriage

**1841-1881** Census returns giving details of tenants. It shows interesting details about the changes occurring every ten year, such as the farmer's name and family.

| <u>1841</u> <u>UCHELDREF CENSUS Records</u> |                 |               |            |                   |                          |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Name</u>                                 | <u>Position</u> | <u>Status</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>Born in Merioneth</u> |
| John Parry                                  | Head            | Husband       | 25         | Farmer            | Yes                      |
| Catherine Parry                             |                 | Wife          | 25         |                   | Yes                      |

# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

|              |  |          |          |  |     |
|--------------|--|----------|----------|--|-----|
| Martha Parry |  | Daughter | 13months |  | Yes |
|--------------|--|----------|----------|--|-----|

1851

## Note the change of Tenant

| <u>1851</u> <u>UCHELDREF CENSUS Records</u> |                 |               |            |                     |                          |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Name</u>                                 | <u>Position</u> | <u>Status</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Occupation</u>   | <u>Born in Merioneth</u> |
| Morgan Edmunds                              | Head            | Husband       | 42         | Farmer of 125 acres | Llandecwyn               |
| Jane Edmunds                                | Wife            | Wife          | 32         | ditto               | Liandrillo               |
| Edward Edmunds                              | Son             |               | 5          | child               | Gwyddelwern              |
| John Edmunds                                | Son             |               | 4          | child               | Gwyddelwern              |
| Margaret Edmunds                            | Dau             |               | 2          | child               | Gwyddelwern              |
| Elizabeth Jones                             | Widow           |               | 74         | Retired             | Liandrillo               |
| Anne Vaughan                                | Visitor         |               | 42         | Visitor             | Gwyddelwern              |
| Elinor Williams                             | Serv,           | UnMar         | 12         | House servant       | Llandderfel              |

| <u>1861</u> <u>UCHELDREF CENSUS Records</u> |                 |               |            |                     |                          |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Name</u>                                 | <u>Position</u> | <u>Status</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Occupation</u>   | <u>Born in Merioneth</u> |
| Morgan Edmunds                              | Head            | Mar           | 52         | Farmer of 120 acres | Llandecwyn               |
| Jane Edmunds                                | Wife            | Mar           | 42         | wife                | Llandrillo               |
| John Edmunds                                | Son             |               | 14         | son                 | Gwyddelwern              |
| Thomas Jones Edmunds                        | Son             |               | 6          | son                 | Corwen                   |
| Edmund?Edmunds                              | Son             |               | 4          | son                 | Corwen                   |
| Robert Edmunds                              | Son             |               | 11month    | son                 | Corwen                   |
| Elizabeth Edmunds                           | Dau             |               | 10         | daughter            | Corwen                   |
| Jane Edmunds                                | Dau             |               | 8          | daughter            | Corwen                   |
| Elizabeth Jones                             | Mother in Law   |               | 85         | Retired             | Llandrillo               |

| <u>1871</u> <u>UCHELDREF CENSUS Records</u> |                 |               |            |                                                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Name</u>                                 | <u>Position</u> | <u>Status</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Occupation</u>                                                     | <u>Born in Merioneth</u> |
| Jane Edmunds                                | Head            | Widow         | 52         | Farmer of 120 acres                                                   | Llandrillo               |
| Sons and 2 servants                         |                 |               |            |                                                                       | Gwyddelwern              |
| John Edmunds                                | Son             | UnMar         | 23         | Farmer's son                                                          | Corwen                   |
| Elizabeth Edmunds                           | Dau             | UnMar         | 19         | Farmer's daughter                                                     | Corwen                   |
| Jane Edmunds                                | Dau             | UnMar         | 17         | Farmer's daughter                                                     | Corwen                   |
| Thomas Edmunds                              | Son             | UnMar         | 15         | Farmer's son                                                          | Corwen                   |
| Edward Edmunds                              | Son             | UnMar         | 13         | Farmer's son                                                          | Corwen                   |
| Humphrey Ellis                              | Lodger          | UnMar         | 52         | Independent Minister at Treddol and Rhydywernen Chapels, Denbighshire | Denbigh, Llanwrn         |



# The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

**1881**

| <u>1881</u>       | <u>UCHELDREF CENSUS Records</u> |               |            |                   |                          |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Name</u>       | <u>Position</u>                 | <u>Status</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>Born in Merioneth</u> |
| John Edmunds      | Son                             |               | 33         | Farming 156 acres | Gwyddelwem               |
| Elizabeth Edmunds | Dau                             |               | 29         | Farmer's daughter | Corwen                   |
| Jane Edmunds      | Dau                             |               | 27         | Farmer's daughter | Corwen                   |
| Thomas Edmunds    | Son                             |               | 25         | Farmer's son      | Corwen                   |
| Edward Edmunds    | Son                             |               | 23         | Farmer's son      | Corwen                   |

**1901**

Edward 7<sup>th</sup> Crowned

Ucheldref was bought by the Wynne family (Newborough) of the Rûg estate

**1910**

King George 5<sup>th</sup> Crowned

**1910**

Land Tax Returns census

**1936**

Edward (VIII) abdicated

**1936**

King George (VI) Crowned

**1952**

Queen Elizabeth (II) Crowned

**1968**

Lord Newborough sold Ucheldref to Ray

**1975**

Ray sold Ucheldref to Crouch

**1980**

Crouch sold Ucheldref to Owen

**1984**

Owen sold Ucheldref to Billington (present owners)

**2010**

research undertaken

## **Résumé of the Meyrick Family of Anglesey**

"The Meyricks are descended from Cadfael, lord of Cedewain in Powys, but it was in the Tudor period that they first came into prominence. Llywelyn ap Heilyn fought under Henry Tudor [1457-1509; later King Henry VII] at the battle of Bosworth [22 Aug 1485]; his son Meyrick [ap Llywelyn] served under Henry VIII [1491-1547], was promoted to be captain of the bodyguard, and was given the Crown Lease of the manor of Aberffraw.

In the late sixteenth century trouble erupted between Richard Meyrick II (d. 1596) and Hugh Owen of Bodeon concerning part of the Aberffraw manor lands. The Bodorgan estate was crushed by the cost of the litigation, and by 1590 a substantial portion had been sold to discharge Meyrick's debts.

Richard Meyrick III (d. 1644) was the first of the family to be appointed sheriff of Anglesey. It was Owen Meyrick (1682-1760) who was the real founder of the later fortunes of the family. He was the second son of William Meyrick (1644-1717), and grandson of Richard Meyrick IV (d.1669). He was a keen supervisor of his estates and set it on a strong foundation. He looked after it ceaselessly and carefully, and considerably enlarged its boundaries. In the parliamentary election

## The History Of The House Called Ucheldref

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of 1708 for the county of Anglesey, he very seriously and almost successfully challenged the supremacy of the Bulkeleys and, although unsuccessful on this occasion, effectively challenged the Bulkeley supremacy on the island. For some years he did represent the county in Parliament (1715-1722). He was also High Sheriff in 1706, and Custos Rotulorum of Anglesey from 1715 till his death in 1759. Interestingly, he also commissioned Lewis Morris, the most famous of the three Morris brothers, to make a survey of the Bodorgan lands.

Owen Meyrick was succeeded by his son Owen Meyrick (1705-1770), who married a wealthy heiress, the daughter of John Putland of London. His grandson, Owen Putland Meyrick (1752-1825) was also equally fortunate in his marriage to Clara, daughter and heiress to Richard Garth of Morden, Surrey. The estate acquired additional wealth through the marriage of the latter's daughter and co-heiress, Clara, to Augustus Elliot Fuller of Ashdowne House, Sussex. Their son Owen Augustus Fuller (1804-1876) adopted the name Meyrick when he inherited the Bodorgan estate on the death of his grandfather.

In the course of time three other branches of the family were established at Gwyddelwern, Merioneth, at Cefn Coch, Llanfechell, co. Anglesey and at Monkton in Pembrokeshire. The strongest of these was the last, of which the founder was Rowland Meyrick (1505-1566), second son of Meurig ap Llywelyn and brother of Richard Meyrick I.

*Archives Network Wales - Bodorgan Manuscripts (University of Wales Bangor GB0222 BOD):*

Throughout this research I have used the following web page for information, which I found most useful.

<http://wbo.llgc.org.uk/en/index.html>

[http://www.ffish.com/family\\_tree/pedigrees/635.htm](http://www.ffish.com/family_tree/pedigrees/635.htm)

<http://histfam.familysearch.org/index.php>