



## Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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

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Darganfod Hen  
Dai Cymreig



Discovering Old  
Welsh Houses



**Llanerch**  
Faerdref, Llandrillo,  
Denbighshire,  
LL21 ONB

Janice Dale  
2018

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

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## LLANERCH, Faerdref, Llandrillo

There are 2 llanerchs – Bryn Llanerch and adjacent to the main road, and the other Llanerch also called Ty Llanerch – it is this latter house being researched



<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/records/#zoom=17&lat=52.9370&lon=-3.4240&layers=25inch&b=7&point=0,0>

Also cropped up in PR is Llanerch y bedd [Pers comm. Llanerch used to keep the boars for Plas y Faerdref hence –baedd rather than bedd]

Timbers of the primary phase were all felled in the winters of 1501/2 and 1502/3

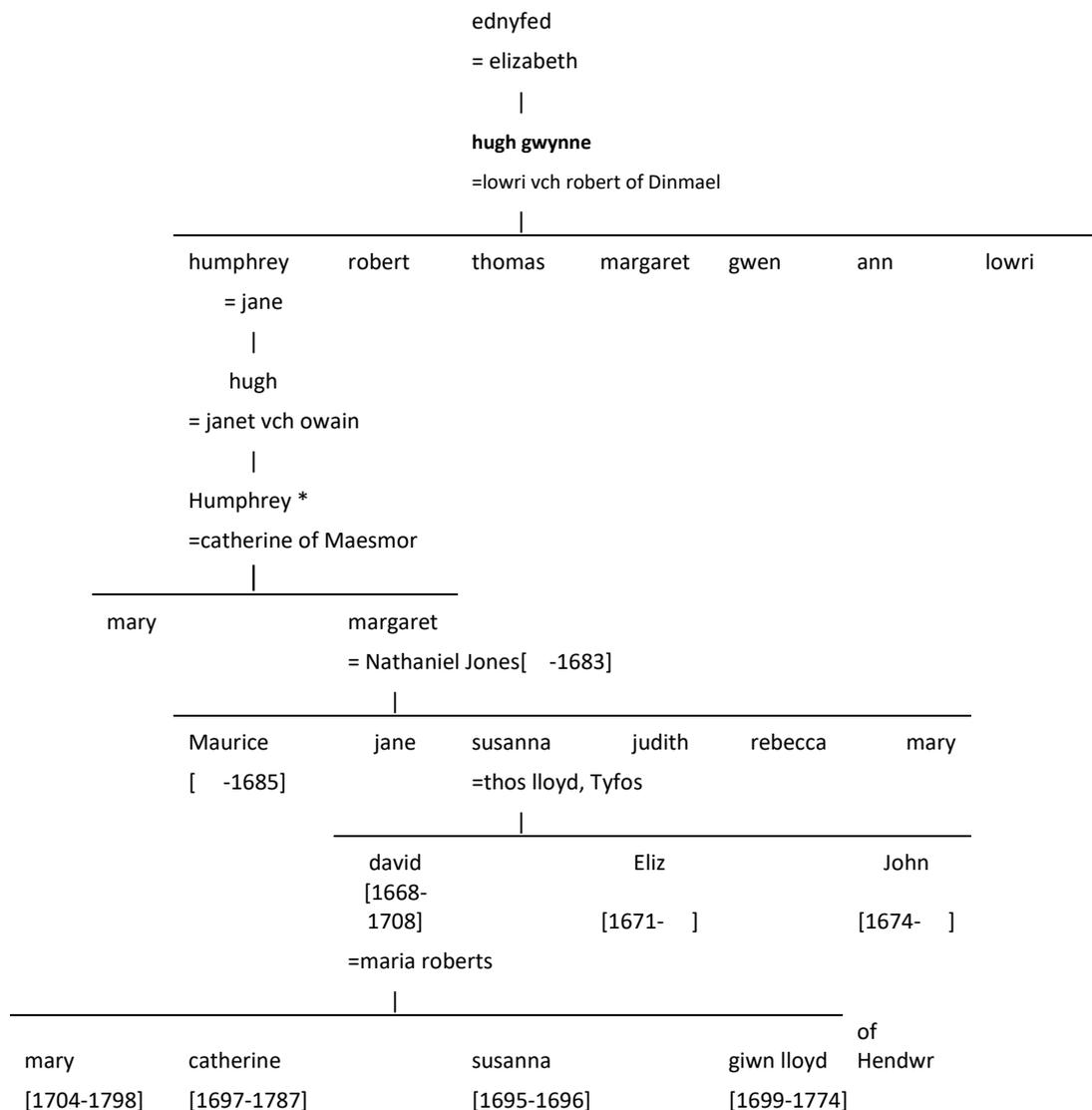
2 timbers from the inserted floor dated from a tree felled in the winter of 1614/15

Carved outside stone on chimney gable end '1661'. It is tempting to link this date to the coronation of Charles II [23<sup>rd</sup> April 1661], as it is said that Nathaniel Jones and his son Morris of Hendwr were royalists. [Morris appears along with William Salusbury as co-executor of Morris's uncle's will in 1636, and of course William Salusbury was the Governor of Denbigh Castle, who fought on the Royalist side in the English Civil War and held out for over six months until the final days of the war and only surrendered on the written instruction of Charles I.]

The 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century dates place Llanerch firmly in the time of the Barons of Edeyrnion. With this part of Edeyrnion being part of the -

## HENDWR ESTATE

descendants of Owain Brogyntyn



[based on AD Carr 'The Barons of Edeirnion 132-1435' unpublished thesis, Bangor University 1962.7 & History of Powys Fadog & Wynnstay Estate Records:Trials of Estates, NLW]

\*"Humphrey ap Hugh Gwyn gent. of Villa de Vderdre Ucha, Co. Merioneth, living 20 June 24 Elizabeth 1582 "

[[https://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=d\\_star&id=12773](https://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=d_star&id=12773)]

1546 Feoffment to uses. By **Hugh Gwyn** ap Eden ap Gruff ap Ieuan ap Eign 'liber tenens domini regis' [?registered free domain?] in the vill of Y Vairdreff, commote of Edurneaon to Lewis Gethin, Clerk adn Gruffin Glyn gent of his capital messuage of Y Plas yr Hendwr in the said vill and all messuages etc in the vills of Vayrdreff, Llandrillo and Kynoid and elsewhere in Mer., reserving to his use the tenement called Y Crenarth and land acquired from richard ap Hoell ap Ed ap Eign in the vill of Cadlis, and after his death to his s. Hunfrid and his heirs on the body of Johanna vergh Rithergh ap Ed ap Mared

*Dolgellau RO. Z/DD/1.*

1616/17. Feb 25. X/DD/1203

1. Hugh Gwynn ap Humffrey of Hendwr, gent & Humffrey ap Hugh Gwynn, his son and heir
2. William Salesbury of Rug.esq

Bond in the sum of £80 for quiet possession of Kil y llidiart, y Dalrhen, yr erwi yn y buarth, yr erwi yn y talare Dyrn, half the parcel caked gweurgkidd y dderwen, yr erow yn hir y Klawdd, a parcel in a meadow called gweirglodd lewis y gwartheg, half the parcel called y bedren and two parcels of land in ten. Of Hugh ap Watkyn, Ellis ap Morgan, Gruffith ap John ap Owen and Pierce ap Rutherch, all in Gwnodl

1617. Feb 25.

1. Hugh Gwynn ap Humffrey of Hendwr, gent & Humffrey ap Hugh Gwynn, his son and heir
2. William Salesbury of Rug.esq

Feoffment. Of closes and parcels of land called Kil y llidiart, y Dalrhen, yr erwi yn y buarth, gwerglodd y dderwen, yr erow yn hir y clawdd, a parcel in the meadow called gweirglodd lewis y gwartheg, half a parcel there called y bedd ....., t'ship Gwnodle, commote Edeirnion. Consideration: £35

*Dolgellau RO. X/DD/1202*

PR:1735. Lewis Edwards, churchwarden

Bap 1736 March. Edward s/o Lewis & Margaret Edwards, Llannerch

Bur 1752 June 14. Robert Edward. Llannerch

1772 will Lewis Edward, Faerdre [assume Llannerch]. Dtr Eliz £4, bedstead, a feather bed & bed close; dtr Mary £2, dtr Ann £2, son Edward £5, dtr Sara £1 & cupboard, a dresser and my close and bedstead, feather bed and bed close, Dtr Catherine 5/-, Margred £4, a bedstead, feather bed and bed close. The £20 my brother Griffith Edward borrowed to be divided equally including granddtr Margred Roberts when she reaches 21 yrs. Residue & executrix Lane Lewis

*[NLW.SA/1772/63]*

Bap 1790 July 25 Margaret d/o David & Margaret Jones. Llannerch

*Clwyd FHS PR transcriptions*

Bur 1823 14 March. Robert Jones, aged 90

*All births, marriages & deaths from Clwyd FHS PR transcriptions*

At this point it is necessary to explain how the Hendwr Estate came into Passingham hands – see appendix.

1827 Poor Rate: Owner – Jonathan Passingham, tenant Robert Jones. 20 acres  
*record in private hands*

1834 Hendwr estate sale. Ty Llanerch. Robert Roberts.

E15 house, outbuildings, garden and Cae Llanerch	4a 1r 8p
16 Erw ysgubor	1a 1r 16p
19 Plas ander	2a 0r 30p
5 Part of Ffriddfawr	7a 0r 13p
35 Cae yr aber	2a 0r 15p
41 Patch isaf	3a 3r 34p
18 Erw y Bont	1a 1r 20p
	-----
	22a 1r 16p

*Dolgellau RO. Z/F/126*

1841 census:

Robert Roberts	60	farmer
Jane	55	
Robert Smith	7	Ind

*www.Ancestry.co.uk – all following census data*

1843 Tithes, owner Lord Ward and occupied by Robert Roberts farming 41 acres

<b>Ty Llannerch</b>					
30	house garden cae llanerch	arable	4	1	8
31	erw ysgubor	arable	1	1	16
32	plas ander	arable	2		30
33	part of ffridd fawr	pasture	7		13
34	car yr abor	arable	2		15
35	patch issa	arable	17		2
36	erw y bont	arable	3	3	34
37	ffridd	pasture	17	3	27
69	quillet in ddol faerdre	meadow		3	30
			41		33
	payable to rector		£3	10s	

*NLW – Places of Wales*

1845 Poor Rate: Owner – Lord Ward, tenant – Robert Roberts 20 acres

*record in private hands*

1851 census:

Robert Roberts	head	mar	74	farmer 20 acres, 1 lab	Llandderfel
Jane	wife		70		Llan
John Jones	serv	unm	18	labr	Corwen

1858 Poor Rate. Owner – Lord Ward. Tenant – David Hughes. 20 acres

1861 census missing

1877 Bur. PR. 24 sep. Ellen Hughes aged 59

1881 census:

David Hughes	head	wdr	55	farmer 36acres	Llan
David Hughes	son		28		Llan
Ann Jones	serv		25	housekeeper	Cynwyd
Robert Roberts	serv		15	farm serv indoor	Cynwyd

1881 Poor Rate: Owner – Earl Dudley. Tenant David Hughes 1a 1r 3p  
*record in private hands*

1887 Bur. PR. 12 dec. David Hughes. Aged 35

1891 census:

David Hughes	head	wdr	65	farmer	Llan
Jane C Jones	serv	unm	21	dom serv	Llan
John Davies	serv	unm	17	farm servant	Llan

1895 Bur. PR. 18 jan. David Hughes. Aged 69. Died at Royal hospital Liverpool

1901 census:

John L Roberts	head	mar		36	farmer	Minera
Grace Hughes	sister in law		unm	19		Minera
Ethel Roberts	dtr			3		Llann

1901 27 Sep. EDEYRNION AGRICULTURAL SHOW. Best cow in milk or calf: 1 J L Roberts, Llanerch, Llandrillo

1911 Register of electors: John Lewis Roberts  
*transcription record in private hands*

1911 census. Llanerch. 6 rooms. Married 19 years. 6 children born, 5 living, 1 dead

Edward Evans*	head	mar	69	Farmer	Llandrillo
Mary	wife		45		Cerrig
Eliz Winifred	dtr		17	works on farm	Llan
David Edward	son		16	works on farm	Llan
Mary Margaret	dtr		14	works on farm	Llan
John Lewis	son		10	school	Llan
Robert William	son		7		Llan
Margaret Evans	sister	unm	62		Llandrillo

*\*Edward and family in 1901 at Moelisgoedwig isaf, & s/o David Evans, who was s/o Evan Roberts of Syrior*

1916 Bur. PR. 16 Oct. Edward Evans. Aged 74

Adsain 1917 18 Dec

Private David E. Evans, son of Mrs. Evans, **Llanerch, Llandrillo**, has again been seriously wounded, and is now in hospital at Bristol. Mrs. Evans received the following letter from her son's friend- I have just received the news that Private, David, E. Evans, **Llanerch, Llandrillo**, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, has been wounded for the second time, and is in hospital at Bristol. As I read the news my thoughts wandered back to the time when I first met David. E he was lying in bed in a St. John's V.A.D. Hospital, when he was brought in and put in the next bed to mine. When he had been made comfortable, I asked him his name and where he came from, and this was the beginning of a friendship with David Evans. He had received, whilst sniping, a terrible wound in the leg, which caused him a great deal of pain, but he was very patient, and soon became a great favourite both with the Nurses and the other wounded men in the ward. I sometimes think that those who are left behind in the towns and villages hardly realise what sacrifices such young men as David E. Evans have made, and what hardship- and suffering they have to bear. Quite candidly he told me that after he was wounded he lay for some hours before he could receive- any attention, and his agony must have been awful. And now he is back again, wounded a second time, having made more sacrifices in a determined fight for freedom. I have the greatest admiration for him. Young men like him bring glory "to their regiment and his family, and the people of Llandrillo must feel proud of such young men. I sincerely trust that he will soon be restored to health and strength again and return to those who are dear to him. Yours faithfully, Lance-Corp. W. PARRY., Southport, > 6th December, 1917

1920 Register of Electors: David Edward Evans & Mary Evans

1930 Register of Electors: John Evans, Mary Evans, Robert William Evans

1944 11Dec – 31 Dec 1945. School Admissions: Goronwy Owen Jones, S/o Owen Jones, Llanerch, from Pennant, Llanbrynmair, Montgoms. DOB 12 Nov 1931. Transferred to post SA register

1944 11Dec – 26 July 1946. School Admissions: Mair Awenna Jones, d/o Owen Jones, Llanerch, from Pennant, Llanbrynmair, Montgoms. DOB 10 April 1933. To Bala Grammar School.

1956 22 Oct – 7 April 1957. School Admissions: Sarah Elizabeth Hughes d/o Edward, from Llwydyped. DOB 28 May 1948

*School admission transcription record in private hands*



## Appendix:

Hendwr, like so many other places became a small estate in its own right, but it is possible to trace this place directly to the original Barons of Edeyrnion

The farm we see today is not the original house of that name. The original 'old tower' is reputed to be on a lump on the other side of the B4401 in a field called Cae'r Bont. It was probably this that was burnt down in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by Llewelyn as the Hendwr family had sided with Edward I during his conquest of Wales – the family moved to Crogen, staying there for some considerable time until Hendwr was rebuilt.

There are a couple of wills of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, which list 15 rooms of Hendwr – so it was certainly a substantial and wealthy place, as the inventory records a lot of furniture, pewter, silver and books.

By the end of 17<sup>th</sup> century the family living at Hendwr are called Lloyd . Head of household is David Lloyd, wife Maria and 3 children – Catherine born 1697, Giwn in 1699 and Mary in 1704. It is Giwn who becomes the central character in the following drama.

Giwn is just 8 years old when his father dies, I assume brought up by his mother at Hendwr. When his mother dies in 1727 he is 28, and finds himself owner of the Hendwr estate, now whether as a result of growing up without a father, or by finding himself a wealthy young gentleman with plenty of leisure time we will probably never know, but it would seem the London life was an attraction hard to resist.

So now in London in 1740 in the precincts of the Fleet, Giwn Lloyd allegedly marries Elizabeth Taylor, a barmaid of the Thatched Tavern in St James Street

The Fleet marriages - were ceremonies conducted in and around the Fleet Prison in London, with many taking place in local taverns and coffee houses. As clergymen were often confined to the Fleet as debtors, they performed marriage ceremonies for other inmates for a fee without licence or other formalities. Although this practice was stopped in 1711, clergy ignored this and carried on conducting irregular marriage ceremonies in nearby taverns. These so called 'marriage shops' could also be found in the grounds of the May Fair Chapel and the King's Bench prison and other centres such as the Holy Trinity, Minories and St. James, Dukes Place..

It is estimated that in the 1740s over half of London's marriages took place in 'marriage shops' with about 800,000 people named in the marriage records

The authorities had effectively lost control over the marriage registration process so the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hardwicke, pushed through much needed reforms The resultant Hardwicke Act of 1753

Following Giwn's marriage to Elizabeth in 1741 a daughter is born in London, but shortly after her birth, her mother, Elizabeth dies. This daughter, also named Elizabeth is fostered out to a Mr & Mrs Honeywell in Teddington, Middx, and it would appear that Giwn returns to Merionethshire.

In 1746 Giwn remarries – to Sarah Hill, sister of Sir Rowland Hill, Bart of Hawkestone in Shropshire [the Hill family becoming famous for inventing the single transferable vote and originator of the postal system]

So it seems that Giwn settles down in a respectable marriage. Unfortunately he does not make a will before he dies in 1774, but only a has a deed drawn up to the effect that if he dies without children, his wife Sarah can enjoy his estates for her lifetime, but after her death [and she does die in 1782] the estate goes to his sisters Catherine and Mary. On receiving their inheritance the sisters have to sell some parts of the estate to clear some outstanding debts and mortgages

On Catherine's death in 1787, Mary inherits everything and when she dies [in 1798] the Hendwr estate is to go to John Lloyd of Gwerclas. However before this happens, two brothers turn up Jonathan & Robert Passingham serving an ejectment notice on the grounds they are the grandsons of Giwn Lloyd and Elizabeth Taylor, and sons of their only daughter Elizabeth.

And this is the start of many years of court cases, first going to trial at the Shropshire assizes in 1794 when the story of the intervening years comes out,.

It would seem that Giwn Lloyd's daughter remained with her foster parents, till the age of 10 when she then went to a school for young ladies in Heston, with her father paying the school fee. She subsequently left the school and married Robert Passingham of Heston.

Two sons were born Jonathan in 1768 and Robert about 1770. The brothers claimed that Giwn and his sisters were well aware of themselves and had in fact shown them great kindness.

At the preliminary court session, the fleet register was produced to prove that the marriage of Giwn Lloyd and Elizabeth had taken place, together with birth and death registers to prove that what had happened was true, although the judge questioned the authenticity of this fleet register. By coincidence in a completely different court case Lord Kenyon ruled that fleet registers could not be allowed as evidence, but as this critical piece of information did not filter through, the legitimacy of the brothers' claim was upheld. And so the estate was surrendered to Jonathan & Robert Passingham with the addition of £10,000 for the lands that had been sold.

In 1806 the Lloyds found out the registers were forgeries and started proceedings to recover Hendwr – the case goes to chancery, where the Lord Chancellor ruled that as the Lloyds were tenants for life they could not start proceedings till that expired. So as soon as John Lloyd died in 1825 Richard Walmsley Lloyd started proceedings to get the estate back. And the case went to court again in 1826 where it came out that the registers had been forgeries all along and that the Passingham brothers had paid for this forgery.

Further details of their earlier life also came out, and it was claimed that Jonathan and Roberts mother, contrary to earlier revelations, that Giwn Lloyd refused to have anything to do with his daughter, and being a widow by this time, had to take a job as a housekeeper to a surgeon in Southwark, though she fervently believed that her father would not abandon her, and would tell anybody who would listen that she would one day receive her inheritance, however when she heard he died without making a will, she was "seised with a fever and in a fit of delirium threw herself naked from a window and was killed instantly"

In the 1826 court case, of Lloyd vs Passingham, the jury found for the plaintiff – ie the Lloyds, subject to the effect of a fine relating to how the estate was listed over a number of parishes, and how ownership was devised, which would require a separate action by the plaintiffs. So the next court

case went ahead in the following year, when the court found in favour of the defendants this time, ie the Passinghams

Again in the following year – 1828 Richard Walmsley Lloyd took action again to gain a share of the Hendwr estate, but the Passinghams compromised the case by offering a considerable amount of money to drop the case – the Lloyds of Gwerclas must have been struggling to finance this costly process – they had to sell their estate, and so the offer from the Passinghams must have had the desired effect.

And the Passinghams retained Hendwr till put it up for sale in 1834.

But, there is still more to tell about Jonathan and Robert Passingham.

Jonathan, the eldest, took up a military career, and aged 15 was an ensign in the 37<sup>th</sup> Foot serving in America in their war for independence, eventually rising to a captain. He marries Prudence Johns of Cornwall and settles in Cornwall and settles down as the local squire . Jonathan & Prudence have 10 children in all, and not averse to 'keeping it in the family' with sons marrying their cousins, one of the twin daughters of Robert, and one marrying one of his Heston cousins, Ellen. When Ellen's father dies he leaves his estate in trust for Ellen and her sister, however in 1836 the trustees are accused of fraud misconduct and breaches of trust – it seems that the name of Passingham attracted litigation !

Meanwhile Robert Passingham, who also followed his brother into the army and then a Cheshire territorial unit based near Chester. He marries Elizabeth Ince of Cheshire, and he settles down, splitting his time between Tyfos and Heston.

Unfortunately Elizabeth dies after 7 years of marriage in 1802, following this Robert becomes involved in an affair which leads to yet another court case.

In 1805 in London the trial – described as “the trial of Col Robert Passingham and John Edwards for a conspiracy against George Townsend Forrester, barrister, with intent to deprive the said George Forrester of his wife and property and charging him [GF] with many unnatural crimes -- all this published in a pamphlet costing one shilling.

It would seem that Robert became a trusted friend Mrs Patten the mother of Mrs Anne Forrester, and before she dies the mother makes Robert a trustee of her daughter's inheritance. Robert enveigles his way into the Forrester household and takes the opportunity to seduce the daughter and then, enters into a conspiracy with John Edwards to defame her husband allegations of unnatural acts thereby compelling him to let his wife and her fortune run off with Robert,

Robert Passingham and John Edwards were both found guilty and sentenced to 3 years in Newgate prison in London– which brings us back in full circle to London, where this tale all started