



Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig

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Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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Llenyrch Farm Llandecwyn, Gwynedd SH662380



House History

A Part History of the House & its Families

Authors: Jenny Lees & Pam Buttrey

April-2024

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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Llennyrch Farm, Llandecwyn, Talsarnau, Gwynedd. (OS Grid: SH662380).



Llennyrch front with older part containing spiral staircase to the right (Jenny Lees 2023)

Llennyrch (also previously spelt *Llenyrch*) belongs to the Woodland Trust ¹ and is currently under a sympathetic programme of maintenance following their purchase of this historically important property that had been unoccupied since c.2009. The Trust hope to work with local partners interested in the property's restoration.

16th Century

Dendrochronology² commissioned by DOWH revealed felling dates for the main house timbers as being within the **c. 1542-69 range**. (**Appendix One**, p.17), but no architectural building report was done by DOWH at the time. Listing details (**Appendix Two**, p.18) had suggested that it originated as a 'Typical Snowdonian 2-unit plan of hall, outer room and service room with fireplace stair, post and panel partition between entrance passage and outer room, and rear kitchen wing. Remodelled in the C19 with the hall becoming kitchen, the creation of new partitions including a substantial slate wall between the parlour (former outer room) and service room'.³ However, it should be noted that later dendro-dating revealed dates earlier than the c.1700 date suggested in the above assessment.

1569: Date of the earliest inscribed date stone uncovered during *Llennyrch* annexe repairs.

We know from the **1840** tithe assessment (**Appendix Four**, p.19) that 'Part of *Llennyrch*', including a 'cottage', was by then owned by a **Mary Priestley**, and thanks to the *Hafodgaregog and Trefan Estate Records* (**Appendix Three**, p.19) it may be able to work back to trace *Llennyrch*'s earlier ownership to the 16th century - when DOWH dendro-dating indicates the present house was built. The 'trail' in these records indicates that the *Trefan* estate, based in Llanystumdwy parish, Caernarfonshire, was

¹ <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

² See report on <https://discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk/library/ODL/mer%20070%20ODL%20Llennyrch.pdf>

³ See https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/300087757-llennyrch-farm-talsarnau#google_vignette

established by C16th and subsequently inherited by a **Hughes family** when **Zacheus Hughes** married **Elizabeth**, oldest daughter of *Trefan*'s John Owen and Jane. ⁴



Fireplace stair and left part of huge bressumer at *Llennyrch* (Jenny Lees 2023)

17th Century

1620s: *Llennyrch* was named in an Ardudwy **1623** Crown Rental: a **Humphrey Jones** paid 6d tax for each of *Llennyrch ycha* and *Llennyrch isa*.

18th Century

1731: The Bond of **Evan Cadwalader** of Llandecwyn parish⁵ mentions **Catherine** vch [daughter of] **Edward** and widow of **Evan Cadwalader**. *Llennyrch* is not mentioned, but Catherine was ‘*of Llennyrch*’ when she died in 1763.

1734: Birthdate of **Edward Evans** (1734-1836), who was the 5th great grandfather of Michelle Evans, wife of **Colin Hanson**. (Burial record below).

1759? The *Hafodgaregog* estates, which included lands in Nantmor and Llandecwyn, Merioneth, fell to **Zaccheus Hughes**,⁶ grandson of John Owen and Jane of *Trefan*, who died in 1796. He had married **Jane** (1736-1765), daughter and eventually sole heiress of **Morris Wynne** (died 1739) of *Hafod*

⁴ <https://archives.library.wales/index.php/hafodgaregog-and-trefan-estate-records>

⁵ Bangor Probate Records, B1731/187, <https://viewer.library.wales/493180#?xywh=-300%2C0%2C2379%2C2623>

⁶ Zaccheus was listed among the *alumni* of Jesus College, Oxford University,

Garegog, but did not inherit *Hafod Garegog* from his wife immediately, as the inheritance initially went down the male line.⁷

1763: Bond⁸ of **Catherine Edwards**, '*lately deceased*', of *Llenyrch, Llandecwyn, Merioneth*. Signed 25th July by son **Ellis Evan**, Llandecwyn parish, and **Robert Lloyd** of Yynys parish. Her Inventory included just *Two cows* valued at £4; *Goats* at 12 Shillings, and *Household stuff and wearing apparel* at £5 -14 s. It was signed with the *marks* of **John Robert** and **Humphrey John** on 22nd July 1763.



Above: Top of Llenyrch spiral staircase, with small window lighting it (Jenny Lees 2023)

1766: Bond of Cadwalader Evan,⁹administration granted 3rd November. Mentions **Catherine Humphrey**, widow and relict of **Yeoman Cadwalader Evan** from the parish of Llandecwyn and is also signed with the mark of **Edward Humphrey**. Inventory worth £265-06-00, including a large number of sheep. (The document is catalogued as 'faded').

1782: Hugh Evans was baptised in February 1782 at Llandecwyn.

⁷ <https://archives.library.wales/index.php/hafodgaregog-and-trefan-estate-records>

⁸ Bond of Catherine Edwards, Bangor Probate Records, B/1763/275 B, <https://viewer.library.wales/360013#?xywh=524%2C777%2C1761%2C1942>

⁹Bangor Probate Records, B1766/159 B, <https://viewer.library.wales/1013671#?xywh=-182%2C0%2C3159%2C3483>

1795: John Wynn Hughes, son of Zaccheus Hughes, made his PCC will on 20th January 1795 and died on the 23rd. On 1st January 1796 Rev. Zaccheus Hughes died,¹⁰ and was buried, as was his son, at Llanystumdwy. Although Zaccheus's heir was son John Wynn Hughes (1760-1795), John's wife Jane Jones was a minor when married, and after John's death an acrimonious inheritance dispute¹¹ resulted in their marriage being declared void in 1808, making their daughter Jane Wynne Hughes illegitimate. Therefore the Hughes inheritance went instead by 1809 to Samuel Priestly via his wife Mary Priestly, niece of Zaccheus Hughes. The Priestleys now owned both *Trefan* and *Hafodgaregog* estates, so *Llenyrch*, which was owned by Mary Priestley in 1843 (below), could either have already been part of these inherited estates, or been acquired by them as their property empire expanded.



Roof timbers in rear part of Llenyrch (Jenny Lees 2023)

19th Century:

1803-1919: ‘Papurau [Papers] of Pierce O. Evans, Maentwrog’;¹² created by him in English and Welsh. ‘Relating mostly to Maentwrog and Llandecwyn, Merionethshire, 1803-1919, including miscellaneous rate and account books, 1803-1877 letters, 1859-1909 probate records, 1842-1875 rent book of *Llenyrch Farm*, Llandecwyn, 1846-1861 deeds relating to *Llenyrch*, 1885-1919 school

¹⁰ Monumental Inscription for Llanystumdwy. He was alive when his son made his PCC will dated 20 January 1795; dying on January 23rd.

¹¹ The lawsuit *Priestley v Hughes, Priestly, and Mary his Wife, against Jane Wynne Hughes, an Infant, and Others - Case Law - VLEX 802111817*

¹² Gwynedd Archives Service - Meirionnydd Record Office, Reference: gb220-zm/658, Alternative ID: ZM/658. (These papers at Dolgellau Archives are not yet accessed but appear very interesting).

exercise books, [1840]-1857 printed matter, 1853-1888 and balance sheets for Porthmadog ships, 1884-1901. Biographical History: **Pierce O. Evans**, of *Felenrhyd Fawr*, Maentwrog, Merionethshire, accumulated documents relating to the parishes of Maentwrog and Llandecwyn, Merionethshire, including *Llenyrch Farm*, Llandecwyn, which was farmed by **John Evans** (fl. 1846-1898) and **William Evans** (fl. 1898-1919), and the schooner G. & W. Jones and brig Martha Perceival, based in Porthmadog, Caernarfonshire’.

1815: Birth at ‘*Rhegau Duon*’ [Creigiau Duon], Maentwrog of **John Evans**, son of Edward Evans and wife Anne,¹³ who headed *Llenyrch* in the censuses from 1851 to 1901.

1818-19: Birth of **Edward Evans**, son of **Hugh Evans** and **Gwen**, at *Llenyrch Farm*, Llandecwyn. In 1823 Edward Evans’ family moved from *Llenyrch* to *Meillionen* farm, Beddgelert, where Edward lived until marriage on 4th February 1840 to **Jane Jones** of Criccieth (1815-1875). The couple initially set up home at the family farm at *Llenyrch*, but in about 1847 moved to a nearby farm, *Cefn Trefor Fawr*, in Llanfihangel y Traethau. Their 6 children were: John W. Evans (1840-1876), Hugh Evans (1842-1871), Ellen Evans (1845-1873), Gwen Evans (1847-1875), William Evans (1848-1885) and Edward Evans (1850-?). (Information from Colin Hanson on website).¹⁴



Above : Inside gable wall of rear part of Llenyrch (Jenny Lees 2023)

1823, May 12: **Hugh Evans** took possession of *Meillionen* when W. Williams gave up his taking (NLW B/LET 13, 755); Hugh Evans, yeoman & farmer, was baptised in 1782 at Llandecwyn. He was

¹³ Maentwrog Parish Records.

¹⁴ Information from <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/144063872/edward-evans>

of Llennyrch and Meillionen (TCGriffith2[134]; *Meillionen* is also the subject of a fascinating and very detailed DOWH house history by Margaret Dunn.¹⁵

1833, 15th June: Burial of **Margaret Evans**, *Llennyrch*, aged 88 (Llandecwyn parish records).

1836, 13th December: Burial of **Edward Evans**, *Llennyrch*, aged 102 (Llandecwyn parish records).

1836: Below: Newspaper excerpt courtesy of Colin Hanson. It is interesting that here the name is spelt *Lllynyrchfawr*.

On the 8th inst. Mr. Edward Evans, of Lllynyrchfawr parish of Llandecwyn, Merionethshire, in his 103rd year: three yeas and a half ago his wife died; he married her when she was but 16. They had 10 children, 36 grand-children, 61 great-grand-children, and 2 great-great-grand-children. He had been all his lifetime an industrious and temperate man, seldom drinking malt liquor, his usual beverage being milk.

1837, 2nd December: Death of **William Evans** of *Llennyrch* while en route home via Coed Felinrhyd. The inquest reported in *The North Wales Chronical and Advertiser for the Principality* on 16.1.1838 recorded a verdict of accidental death, though local rumours suggested possible attacks upon him, and Ywain Meirion composed 'Lamentations' in memory of William Evans. (**Appendix Thirteen**, p.24).



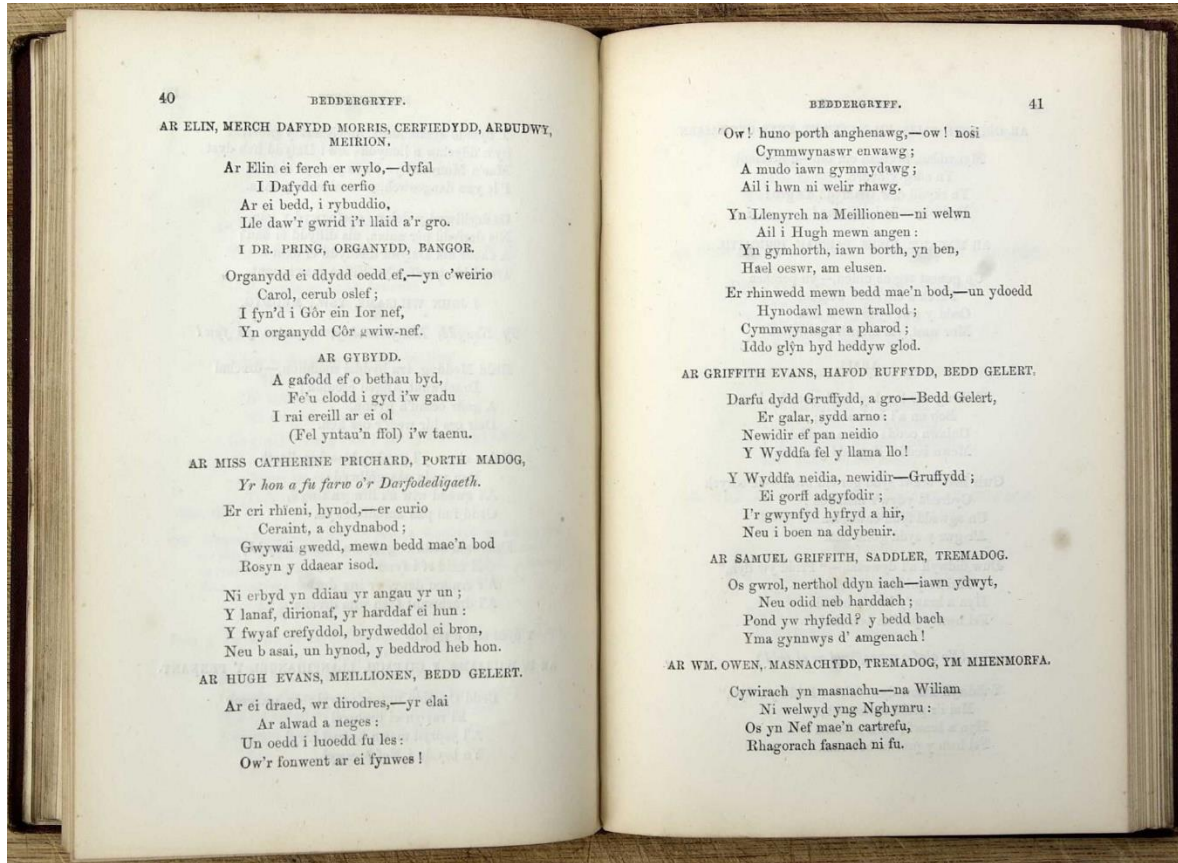
Above: Llennyrch - gable end of attached barn and granary (Jenny Lees 2023)

1837: Bond of **William Evans**, *Llennyrch*, *Llandecwyn*, *Merioneth*, *Farmer*¹⁶ (Diocese of Bangor). **Cydwaladr** [sic] **Evans** of *Pen y bryn*, *Maenturog*, and **Hugh Evans**, both *yeoman* brothers and 'next

¹⁵ DOWH house history https://discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk/library/HH-SNP/SNP-050_HH_Meillionen.pdf

¹⁶ Bond of William Evans (B/1837/175/B), online at: <https://viewer.library.wales/410580#?xywh=961%2C1682%2C985%2C1086&cv=3>

of kin' of William (who had died without a will), attested that William's *Goods, Chattels and Credits* did not amount to more than £2,000 – a substantial sum at that time! This declaration was signed by **David Williams** as *Surrogate* and Administration was granted on 30th December 1837. There is also an Inventory for £1506-19-0 from April 1838,¹⁷ including a share of boats and a lease of houses at Port Madog.



Above: 1877 first edition of book with poet Ellis Owen's Englyn for Hugh Evans (Courtesy of Colin Hanson). Hugh is also mentioned in *Beddgelert: Its Facts, Fairies, and Folk-Lore*, published in 1899. (Image page 13 below).

1840: Tithe Apportionment:

Llenyrch land appears in two different parishes. In the (joint) Tithe Apportionment for Llanfihangel y Traethau and Llandecwyn, **Hugh Evans** was listed as occupant of 272 acres under 'Part of *Llenyrch*',¹⁸ with field numbers 79 to 106 on the tithe map and No.99 being 'Cottage etc.' (Appendix Four, p.19). Both *Llenyrch* and *Cae'n y Coed Uchaf* were owned by **Mary Priestly**.

But in addition, a **Hugh Evans** was the occupier of the 274 acres also listed for *Maentwrog* parish as 'Part of *Llenyrch*' and owned by **Trustees of the late Richard Parry Esq.** This is just marked with 'field' number 66 in the *Apportionment*, and a 'Rent-charge' payable to the Rector of £1. (Page 7 of the online document for this parish).¹⁹

¹⁷ <https://viewer.library.wales/410580#?c=&m=&s=0&cv=3&z=-0.1081%2C0%2C1.2162%2C1.2534&xywh=1216%2C984%2C1036%2C1142>

¹⁸ <https://places.library.wales/viewer/4571409#?cv=55&h=495&xywh=384%2C677%2C698%2C432>

¹⁹ <https://places.library.wales/viewer/4532461#?cv=6&h=66&xywh=418%2C292%2C1011%2C627>

Hugh, son of Edward Evans, became administrator of *Llenyrch* after his brother's death -managing it along with his other farm at *Meillionen* near Beddgelert. He was reputed to be quite an important figure locally, and the subject of an *englyn* (Image p.7 above) by poet Ellis Owen.²⁰



Estuary view from Llandecwyn church (Jenny Lees 2023)

1841 Census for Llandecwyn Parish: Includes separate 'households' for *Llenyrch*, *Llenyrch Out Build* and *Llenyrch Bach*. *Llenyrch* was 'headed' by Farmer **Edward Evans** (20), with **Jane Evans** (25), **John Evans** (1?), *House Servant* Ellinor Williams (20), and *Servant* Alice Williams (15).

Llenyrch Out Build included *Agricultural Labourers* David Lloyd (20) and Harry Hughes (14).

Llenyrch Bach included *Labourer* **Richard Evans** (20), with **Jane Evans** (25), **Evan Evans** (2), **Elizabeth Evans** (8 months), *Poor Widow* **Elizabeth Griffith** (80), **Griffith Williams** (14), *Labourer* **William Roberts** (40), **Catherine Roberts** (35), **Ellinor Roberts** (12), **Griffith Roberts** (11) and **Robert Roberts** (1). (Appendix Five, p.20)

1841: Farmer **Hugh Evans** (55) now headed the 1841 census for *Meillionen*, Beddgelert, with wife Gwen (50), daughter Catherine (20), sons David (15) and William (12), *Agricultural labourers* Owen Jones (25) and Hugh Evans (20) and female servants Lowry Jones (25) and Catherine Owen (20). (HO 107/1391/1/6).

1846: After **Mary Priestly** died in 1845 her estate was split between two sons: Samuel Owen Priestley receiving her home of *Trefan*, Caernarfonshire and bordering lands, and **John** inherited *Hafodgaregog* estate, perhaps including *Llenyrch*, and 3 farms in Cwm Ystradllyn.²¹

²⁰ Information from Colin Hanson.

²¹ Will of Mary Priestley (B/1846/170/W), 'Under £3,000': <https://viewer.library.wales/193043#?xywh=-427%2C-216%2C3900%2C4301>

B1847 / 99 / I 10

A True and Perfect Inventory of all the goods Chattels
wares and Merchandize, as well moveable as not moveable and
Other Personal Estate and Effects of Hugh Evans late of Meillionen
in the Parish of Beddelert in the County of Carnarvon in the
Diocese of Bangor formerly deceased, Made by us whose names
are hereunto subscribed the 23rd day of February 1847 -

| | L | s | d |
|---|---|----|----|
| Wearing Apparels and Saddle | 7 | 10 | -- |
| 96 Head of Cattle | 554 | 10 | -- |
| 8 Horses | 74 | -- | -- |
| 2 Small Ponies | 7 | -- | -- |
| 2 Carts and Waggon | 15 | -- | -- |
| Gears | 3 | -- | -- |
| Husbandry implements Ladders & Wheel barrows | 5 | -- | -- |
| 5 Pigs | 3 | -- | -- |
| 716 Sheep at 9/4 Head | 322 | 4 | -- |
| Household Furniture | 61 | 10 | -- |
| Corn oat meal and Flour | 20 | -- | -- |
| Wool | 20 | -- | -- |
| Hay | 88 | -- | -- |
| Shares of Vessels | 30 | 10 | -- |
| Money on Interest | 220 | -- | -- |
| Money in Hand | 22 | -- | -- |
| | £1453 4 | | |
| Debts | L | s | d |
| To Evan Evans Plaslandegwyn | 50 | -- | -- |
| 8 ^o Rice Williams Hafodylain | 50 | -- | -- |
| 8 ^o Rents due 25 th March next | 70 | -- | -- |
| 8 ^o Wages | 15 | -- | -- |
| 8 ^o Rates on Taxes | 8 | -- | -- |
| | 193 -- -- | | |
| | £1260 4 -- | | |
| Taken and appraised the day and year first above written | | | |
| | Griffith Griffiths David Williams Morgan Thomas | | |
| W. Thomas surrogate. | | | |

Above: 1847 Inventory of Hugh Evans of Meillionen (Image courtesy of Colin Hanson)

1846, 28th November: **Hugh Evans** of Meillionen (and Llenyrch) died aged 64 and was buried at Beddelert as son of Edward and Margaret Evans. (Grave inscription).

1847: Bond of **Hugh Evans** of Meillionen, parish Beddelert. Administration was granted 24th April to his widow **Gwen Evans**. Under £1,500. (Bangor Probate Records, B1847 – image above).



Grave of Jane Evans (d. 1875 aged 59 and husband Edward (d. 1881 aged 62) -Jenny Lees

1851 Census for Llandecwyn Parish: *Llenyrch* was now headed by *Farmer of 200 acres John Evans* (36,) with wife **Gwen Evans** (34), *Day scholar* daughters **Ann** (9) and **Jane** (7); son **Edward**, and daughter **Gwen** (1). Also listed were *Waggoner* Evan Jones (21), *Cowman* Thomas Edward (18), and *House servant* Mary Jones (28) – all unmarried *Servants*. (**Appendix Six**, p.21)). John Evans had taken over *Llenyrch* when his cousin Edward had moved to *Cefn trefor fawr*,²²Talsarnau, in around 1848.

Also listed were *Ty Newydd mawr*, headed by *Slate Boat man William Roberts* (50), with wife Cathrin (47) and unmarried daughter Ellin (22), and *Ty Newydd bach*, headed by *Slate Quarry labourer Simon Hughes* (29), with wife Ann (32) and son Hugh (4). (**Appendix Six B**, p.21).

1861 Census for Llandecwyn Parish: *Llenyrch* was still headed by *Farmer John Evans* (46) with wife **Gwen** (44), *Farmer's daughters Ann* (19), **Jane** (17) and **Gwen** (11); Farmer's sons **Edward** (14) and **William** (9), *Scholar* daughter **Catherine** (7), daughter **Margaret** (4) and son John (1). Also listed was just one unmarried *Farm Servant* Robert Rolands [?], aged 27. (**Appendix Seven**, p.21).

²² <https://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk/placenames/recordedname/481ec8d8-2815-4ae8-ae33-01998e97ddc6>

Also listed were two entries each headed *Ty Newydd Llenyrch*. The first was headed by *Labourer William Thomas* (54), with wife **Margaret Thomas** (38), *Scholar* sons Samuel (12), William (11) and Owen (8), and daughter Gwen (5). (**Appendix Seven B**, p.22).

The second *Ty Newydd Llenyrch* was headed by *Agricultural labourer Morris Jones* (35), with wife **Cathrina** (36), *Scholar* daughters Jane (11) and Cathrina (8) and sons Richard (4) and William (1).

1871 Census for Llandecwyn Parish, Llenyrch:

Farmer John Evans (56) still headed *Llenyrch* with wife **Gwen** (54), *Farmer's daughters Jane* (27), **Gwen** (21), **Catherine** (17) and **Margaret** (14); *Farmer's sons Edward* (24) and **William** (19), *Scholar son John* (11), and *Grandson Richard Evans* (4 months?) (**Appendix Eight**, p.22).

Also listed separately in the **1871 Census for Llandecwyn Parish** is *Ty Newydd, Llenyrch*, headed by *Quarryman Robert Roberts* (36) with wife **Ann** (29), the couple both born in Maentwrog; daughter **Ann** (2?) and son **Richard** (8 months) -both children born in Llandecwyn. (**Appendix Eight B**, p.22)



Llenyrch front with former outbuilding part on left (Courtesy of John Townsend)

1877, 21st August, saw the sad burial of **Gwen Evans**, *Llenyrch*, aged only 28. (Maentwrog Parish records – the previous *Llenyrch* burials listed above were in Llandecwyn Parish Records).

1881 Census for Llandecwyn Parish, *Llenyrch*: *Head John Evans* (66) now farmed **550 acres** at *Llenyrch* with wife **Gwen** (64), *Farmer's daughters Jane* (37), **Catherine** (27) and **Margaret** (24), *Farmer's sons Edward* (34), **William** (29) and **John** (21), and *Grandson Richard Evans* (10); all the adult children being unmarried. (**Appendix Nine**, p.23)

Also listed separately in the 1881 Census was *Ty newydd Llenyrch*, headed by **Owen Davies** (50), *Slate Labourer* in the Quarries, with wife **Elizabeth** (46), son John (20), also *Slate Labourer*-Quarries; daughter Marry (15), and sons Owen (11) and Robert (9). (**Appendix Nine B**, p.23)

1881, 22nd December: **Edward Evans** (previously at *Llenyrch*) died at *Cefn trefor fawr* and was buried in the family plot at St. Tecwyn's Church on December 26th.

1884, 10th September: The publication *Baner ac Amserau Cymru* advertised the farm sale shown on page 11 below (Image courtesy of Colin Hanson).

COUNTY OF MERIONETH.

LLENYRCH FARM.

**IN THE PARISHES OF MAENTWROG AND
LLANDECWYN.**

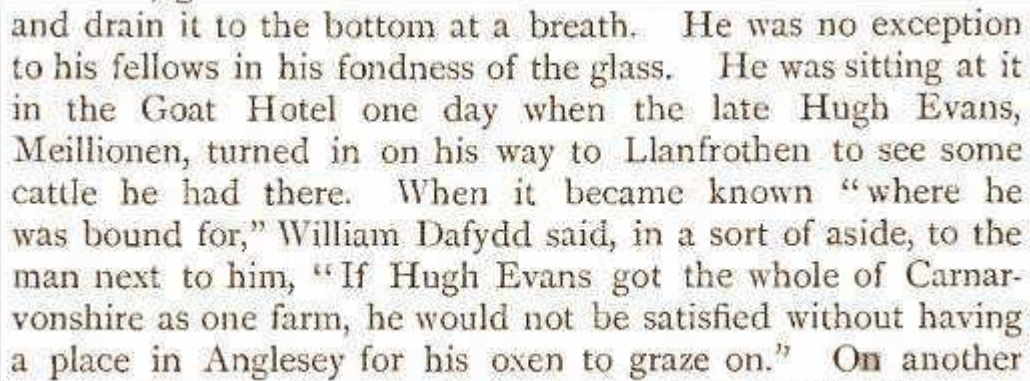
**To be Sold by Public Auction, by
MESSRS. WILLIAM DEW AND SON
AT THE
OAKELEY ARMS HOTEL, TANYBWLCH,
On FRIDAY, the 19th day of SEPTEMBER, 1884.
At 2 o'clock p.m., subject to Conditions then
and there produced; this VERY SUPERIOR
UPLAND FARM,**

Comprising 586a. 0r. 23p. of Land, with rights of Sheep Walks over 135a. 3r. 15p. It is composed of Fertile, Arable, Pasture, Meadow, and Woodland. The Ffriths are good Pasture, and the Arable and Meadow Land of superior character. The Covers are composed of good Oak and Ash Timber, covering an area about 60 Acres. The Turbary is Productive. The Sporting Excellent. The River Rhydfach forms the Western, and Llyn Llenyrch adjoins and forms part of the Eastern Boundaries, affording fine Sport for the Angler. The Scenery from several parts Magnificent. The Dwelling House and Outbuildings are Commodious and Convenient. It is distant 2½ miles from Maentwrog Road Station, 3 miles from Tanybwllch, and 3 miles from Trawsfynydd and Talsarnau.

Lithographed Plans and Particulars may be obtained on application at any of the principal HOTELS in the Counties of Merioneth and Carnarvon; of Messrs. TYLER, WICKHAM, and MOBERLEY, 14, Essex Street, Strand, London; and the AUCTIONEERS, Bangor, Rhyl, and Denbigh.

1891 Census for Llandecwyn Parish, Llenyrch:

Head **John Evans** was now 76, with wife **Gwen** being 74 and daughters **Jane** (47), **Catherine** (36) and **Margaret** (33) listed as *Domestic servants*. Son **William** (38) and Grandson **Richard Evans** (20) were listed as *Agricultural labourers*, with *Farm servant* Evan Williams (18). All except the two parents were unmarried, and the language listed as spoken was Welsh. (**Appendix Ten**, p.23). In this census *Ty Newydd Llenyrch* was listed as Unoccupied.



and drain it to the bottom at a breath. He was no exception to his fellows in his fondness of the glass. He was sitting at it in the Goat Hotel one day when the late Hugh Evans, Meillionen, turned in on his way to Llanfrothen to see some cattle he had there. When it became known "where he was bound for," William Dafydd said, in a sort of aside, to the man next to him, "If Hugh Evans got the whole of Carnarvonshire as one farm, he would not be satisfied without having a place in Anglesey for his oxen to graze on." On another

Above: Image from *Beddgelert: Its Facts, Fairies, and Folk-Lore*, 1899 (Courtesy of Colin Hanson)

1899, 24th August: Burial of **Catherine Evans**, *Llenyrch Farm*, aged 45. (Maentwrog Parish records)

1899, 15th December: Burial of **Jane Evans**, *Llenyrch Farm*, aged 55. (Maentwrog Parish records)

At some point in late C19th century a horse gin was apparently in use at the farm. Those in-field hay barns where dates are recorded in the stonework all date from the later 19th or early 20th centuries.²³

20th Century

1900, 29th January, Burial of **Gwen Evans**, *Llenyrch Farm*, aged 84.

Around 1900: An article in *Llais Arduwy* recalls that two families were resident in *Ty Newydd* around this time, one of whom grew up to be the poet **Rolant Wyn**, but once his family moved away to Trawsfynydd, *Ty Newydd* was simply used as a farm building by *Llenyrch* farm below.

1901 Census for *Llenyrch*, Maentwrog, Merioneth: Headed by *Widowed John Evans* (86), *Employer*, with unmarried son **William Evans** (49), *Head of the Servants*; unmarried daughter and *Housekeeper Margaret Evans* (42); Grandson **Richard Evans** (30), *Carter on farm*, and unmarried *Servant Howell Parry* (45), *working on the farm*. All listed as speaking only Welsh (**Appendix Eleven**, p.24). *Ty Newydd* was no longer listed and may have been already used as a farm building by *Llenyrch*.

1902, 1st September: Burial of **John Evans**, *Llenyrch Farm*, aged 87, Maentwrog Parish records.

Early 20th Century: Nel Griffiths has written a fascinating account of her time in service at *Llenyrch* when elderly **Richard** and **Margiad Evans** lived there. She talks of a peat fire with rush candle lighting, and sitting under the big chimney with an ember crane holding the porridge pot over the fire. She also remembered going with one of the *Llenyrch* family to visit their relations at *Plas Ffarm Llandecwyn*; old **Richard, Edward, Mary** and **Gwen Roberts**.²⁴

²³ Information from the Woodland Trust.

²⁴ <http://www.talsarnau.com/index.php/cy/hanes/atgofion-am-llenyrch>

1911 Census: Following his father's 1902 death, *Farmer and Employer William Evans* (59) now headed *Llenyrch*, with his unmarried sister **Margaret Evans** (53) now listed with occupation *Dairy work* at home; unmarried nephew **Richard Evans** (40) now *Horseman on farm*; unmarried *Servant* William Jones (45) *Cowman on farm* and *Farm Labourer* Morris Hughes (17) – the last two speaking both Welsh and English. Although the census was completed in English by Richard Evans, he and other family members were listed as only speaking Welsh. (**Appendix Twelve**, p.24). *Ty Newydd* was no longer listed and may have already been just used as a farm building by *Llenyrch*.



Elegant later development at Llenyrch (Jenny Lees 2023)

1921, 8th April: Burial of **William Evans**, *Llenyrch Farm*, aged 69. (Maentwrog Parish records).

1939 Register: shows **Margaret**, daughter of **John Evans** (1815-1902) still living at *Llenyrch* aged 82.

Date uncertain: **Allan Tudor**, whose grandfather, **John Tudor** was a servant in *Llenyrch*, talked of crossing when young a very narrow old *Llenyrch* bridge on the cart road running from Gellilydan across a gorge to *Llenyrch*, via Gellilydan Methodist Chapel.²⁵ (The packhorse bridge that carried the original drovers' road between Maentwrog and Harlech?). But this bridge collapsed and no longer exists.

1942, 3rd January: Burial of **Richard Evans**, *Llenyrch*, aged 71 (Maentwrog Parish records). On 19th January 1942 the *Herald Cymru* paper reported (in Welsh) this burial in Maentwrog cemetery,

²⁵ <http://lafar-bro.blogspot.co.uk/2016/07/o-lech-i-lwyn-ceunant-llenyrch.htm>

describing farmer Richard as the last of the sons of a well-known old family, and having been a member of a *Maentwrog Uchaf* chapel (Image page 16 below, courtesy of Colin Hanson).

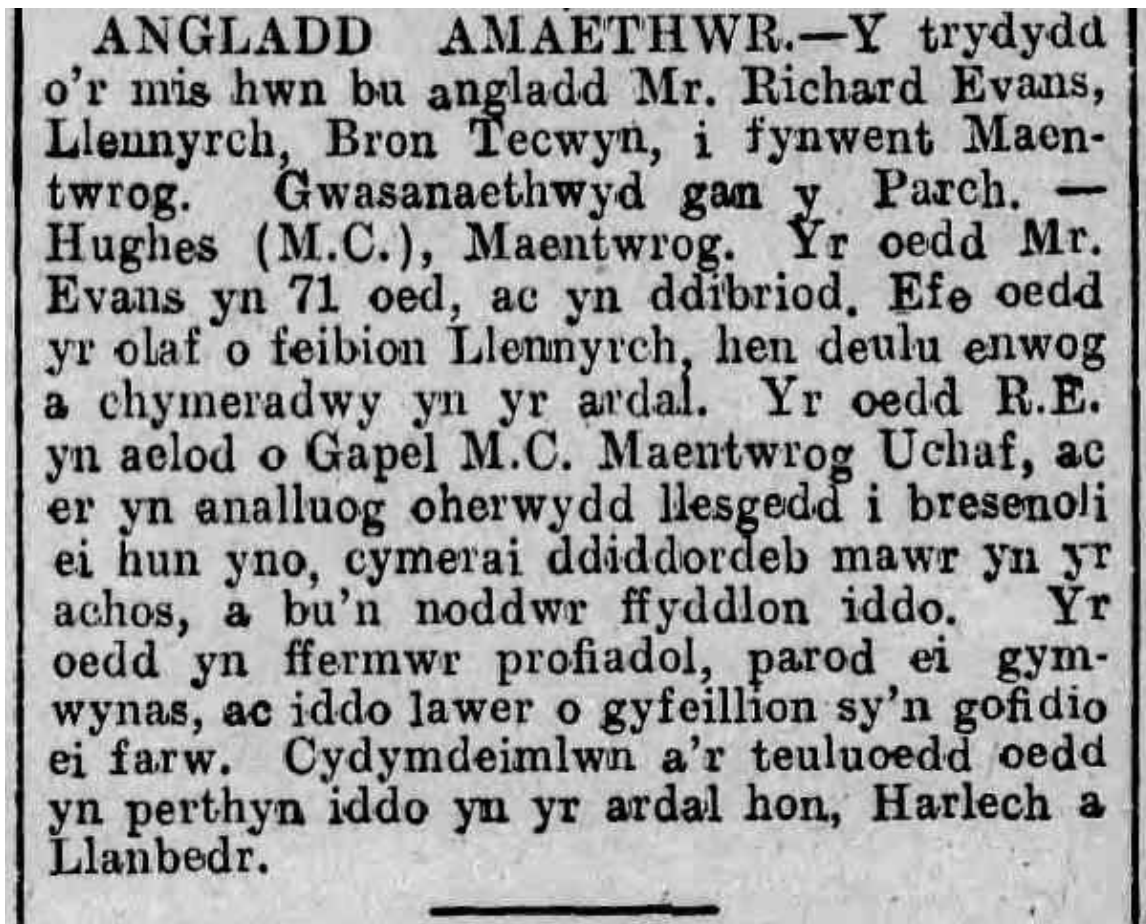


The image above, courtesy of **Cerian Lloyd Jones**, is of *Llenyrch* by her grandfather **Edward Lloyd Evans** (born 1910) in about the 1930s, and probably features **Margaret Evans**. Cerian is a direct

descendant of **Cadwalader Evans**, who was brother of William who died in 1837 in mysterious circumstances (page 6 above), and moved from Llenyrch to *Penbryn Llan*, Maentwrog, next to the cemetery. He was buried there in 1842, with his son **Robert Evans** then buried next to him in 1843.

Early 1940s (1946?). The **Williams brothers** moved with their mother from Trawsfynydd Ranges to *Llenyrch* (renting initially). Excerpts from diaries from the early 1940s found at the farm record details of the live firing exercises on the range, including disturbance and loss of livestock to blasts - perhaps making a move to Llenyrch appealing! ²⁶

1970s? The **Williams family** had purchased *Llenyrch* from the nuclear authority. (Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station had been operating from about 1965, and closed for decommissioning around 1991).²⁷ On 1st November 1972 the *Daily Post* recorded that the **Williams Brothers** of *Llenyrch* had 'the best bunch of 4 or more bullocks' at a Gaerwen show.



ANGLADD AMAETHWR.—Y trydydd o'r mis hwn bu angladd Mr. Richard Evans, Llenyrch, Bron Tecwyn, i fynwent Maentwrog. Gwasanaethwyd gan y Parch. — Hughes (M.C.), Maentwrog. Yr oedd Mr. Evans yn 71 oed, ac yn ddibriad. Efe oedd yr olaf o feibion Llenyrch, hen deulu enwog a chymeradwy yn yr ardal. Yr oedd R.E. yn aelod o Gapel M.C. Maentwrog Uchaf, ac er yn analluog oherwydd llesgedd i bresenoli ei hun yno, cymerai ddiddordeb mawr yn yr achos, a bu'n noddwr ffyddlon iddo. Yr oedd yn ffermwr profiadol, parod ei gymwynas, ac iddo lawer o gyfeillion sy'n gofidio ei farw. Cydymdeimlwn a'r teuluoedd oedd yn perthyn iddo yn yr ardal hon, Harlech a Llanbedr.

21st Century

2009: The last of the **Williams brothers** of *Llenyrch* died with no will, with the estate passing to a number of distant relatives as joint beneficiaries. The land was tenanted by Arwel Evans of Tallin.²⁸

²⁶ Information from the Woodland Trust.

²⁷ Information from the Woodland Trust.

²⁸ Information from Woodland Trust.

2015: *Llennyrch* was purchased and rescued from many years of dereliction by the Woodland Trust, as²⁹ part of the area of Coed Felenrhyd and Llennyrch rare Atlantic oak woodland which covers 310 hectares (765-acres) in the Snowdonia National Park.

2023, September: Brian Palmer for the Woodland Trust arranged a visit to *Llennyrch* and Llandecwyn church by descendants and relatives of *Llennyrch*'s previous occupants, including Colin Hanson and Cerian Lloyd Jones: accompanied by Jenny Lees who writes house histories and articles for *Discovering Old Welsh Houses* and other publications. (See page 29 for their family group photo).



Llennyrch from rear with window lighting spiral staircase on gable to left (Jenny Lees 2023)

Huge thanks are due to Colin Hanson, who sent photographic images of many of the censuses, parish records and newspaper articles used in the compilation of this house history!

Jenny Lees and Pam Buttrey, April 2024

Appendix One

The full report on dendrodating by Ross Cook is available on:

https://discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk/library/ODL/mer%20070%20_ODL%20_Llennyrch.pdf

‘Summary A total of eleven samples were taken from the main range and rear wing of this property. Unfortunately the damp conditions which this property has endured for several years meant that no complete sapwood could be obtained, as the sapwood had degraded on all timbers where it was present. There appears to be little or no difference in the age of the two ranges, and more samples would be needed to differentiate between the two on

²⁹ <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/coed-felenrhyd-llennyrch/>

dendrochronological grounds, but with only one truss in the rear range, this was not possible. If there is any difference, there is a hint the rear range may be a few years earlier. The mean h/s boundary date for all samples is 1528, giving a likely felling date range of 1539–69, which can be modified in view of the rings present to **1542–69**. Bayesian modelling of the sapwood was attempted, but too many individuals did not conform to the model to give a better estimate of the felling date range. Authors: Dr M. C. Bridge FSA and Ross Cook Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory Mill Farm Mapledurham Oxfordshire RG4 7TX’

Appendix Two

https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/300087757-llennyrch-farm-talsarnau#google_vignette

‘**Llennyrch Farm**: A Grade II Listed Building in Maentwrog, Gwynedd OS Grid: SH662380. Listing Date 4 December 2017, Grade: II. Cadw Source ID: 87757. At the end of a track off a minor road approx. 5.5km NE of Talsarnau, near to the N end of Llyn Trawsfynydd. County: Gwynedd. Community: Maentwrog. Community: Talsarnau. Locality: Llandecwyn [The traditional parish]. Traditional County: Merionethshire. History: Farmhouse constructed c.1700. [But note that dendrodating results were **1542–69**]. **Typical Snowdonian 2-unit plan of hall, outer room and service room with fireplace stair, post and panel partition between entrance passage and outer room, and rear kitchen wing. Remodelled in the C19 with the hall becoming kitchen**, the creation of new partitions including a substantial slate wall between the parlour (former outer room) and service room. The in-line cow house and adjacent barn also probably date to this period, as does the masonry of the front elevation of the house. Shown in its current form on the 1st edn. OS map of 1888. Windows and roof cover replaced late C20, acquired by the Woodland Trust c.2015. Exterior: Farmhouse, squared rubble stone with stone gable chimney stacks, rough projecting cills and slate roof. 2 storeyed, 3 window range offset, with entrance to left of centre. Windows replaced in original C19 openings. Right hand gable plain except **for small deeply recessed 2-light timber mullion window high up on the right**. 2 storey single bay kitchen wing attached to rear, with door at junction with house, wide window to ground floor, smaller window above. Small window to first floor in rear elevation of house. Plain gable and left hand elevations to kitchen wing. Single bay cow house in line to left of house, with door to ground floor and window above, and upper doorway in left gable with external stone steps. Cat slide extension against rear with end door. Gap in between cat slide extension and kitchen wing with square windows to both ground and first floor. Group value with ‘L’ shaped barn and cart shed immediately to the north, which are also of special interest. Interior: **Central entrance hall with former hall now kitchen to right, parlour front left and service room (now bathroom) to rear left**. Boarded doors to both parlour and kitchen. Flagged floor throughout ground floor. Kitchen with large fireplace with plain chamfered beam and later range. Stairs to left of stack. Small cupboard built into wall to right of fireplace. Heavy ceiling framing, all timbers with plain chamfer stops. Parlour with late C19 slate fireplace surround. Partition of massive upright slate slabs between parlour and rear service room, now converted to bathroom. Passage to side of stairs through to the kitchen wing at rear with large fireplace with range, heavy ceiling framing as before. Central dog leg stairs to first floor with wide landing and two bedrooms to either side, room to rear on right side with gable stairs and panelled partition at head of stairs. Access through to room over rear kitchen with blocked fireplace and windows in gable. Collar and strut truss over notched heavy ceiling beam.

Reasons for Listing: Included for its special architectural interest as a good surviving example of a c1700 Snowdonian farmhouse retaining form and significant elements of its original construction. The later alterations carried out with the remodelling of the interior are also of architectural and historic interest and show the development of the house through the C19. Group Value with barn and cart shed.'

Appendix Three:

<https://archives.library.wales/index.php/hafodgaregog-and-trefan-estate-records>

GB 0210 HAFFAN

Title

Hafodgaregog and Trefan Estate Records,

Date(s)

1448-1841 / (Creation). [Catalogue summary]:

'The *Trefan* estate based in the parish of Llanystumdwy, Caernarfonshire, was established by the 16th century. The estate was subsequently inherited by the Hughes family when **Zacheus Hughes**, the youngest son of Nanhoron Isaf, married Elizabeth, oldest daughter of John Owen and Jane of Trefan. Their grandson, **Zaccheus Hughes** (d. 1794) married Jane (1736-1765), daughter and sole heiress of **Morris Wynne** (d. 1739) of Hafodgaregog.

The *Hafodgaregog* estate, containing lands in Nanmor and **Llandecwyn**, Merioneth, and in Llangian, Caernarfonshire, descended in the male line of the Williams family until Morris Williams's heiress, Luce, died an infant in 1723. The estate then passed to her cousin Morris Wynne (d. 1739) from where it passed to the Hughes family.

Zaccheus Hughes, as well as owning *Trefan* as heir of his father, also owned three farms in Cwm Ystradllyn, the small estate of Braich-y-bib, and the larger estate of Cefn Isaf to the north of Trefan; adding Hafodgaregog to his properties on his marriage to Jane. **Zaccheus and Jane's heir was their son, John Wynn Hughes** (1760-1795) who married Jane Jones. Jane was a minor when she married and after John Wynn's death the marriage was declared void in 1808 following a lawsuit between Samuel Priestley, whose wife Mary was a cousin of John Wynn Hughes, and the Hughes family. John Wynn and Jane's daughter, Jane Wynn Hughes was deemed to be illegitimate and **Mary Priestley** became the rightful heir of Trefan. Mary had already inherited the land of Tyddyn Madog Goch on succeeding her father, Owen Jones. Samuel died relatively young and the estates came into the possession of his wife, Mary. In 1821 Mary purchased Bryndu from William Wynne of Peniarth. When Mary died in 1845, the estate was split up between her two sons. Samuel received Trefan and the bordering lands, while John inherited the Hafodgaregog estate and the three farms in Cwm Ystradllyn'

Deposited by Mrs Lloyd Priestly, Cricieth, in 1954.

Deeds, 1448-1841, including wills and marriage settlements; legal papers, [c. 1570]-1756; and accounts, 1731-1744, of the Hafodgaregog and Trefan estates mainly lying in Caernarfonshire and Merionethshire, together with the correspondence of Maurice Williams of Hafodgaregog, 1620-1666.

Appendix Four: 1840 Tithe Apportionment for Llanfihangel y Traethau and Llandecwyn, occupier Hugh Evans, listed under *Part of Llenyrch* with owner Mary Priestley.

<https://places.library.wales/viewer/4571409#?cv=55&h=495&xywh=527%2C699%2C698%2C432>

| | | | | Acres | | | [Translation by J.L.] |
|-------------------|-----|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------|----------|-----------|--|
| Hugh Evans (p.43) | 79 | Part of Coedmawr | Woody pasture | 31 | 3 | 38 | Large wood |
| | 80 | Part of ? Arloes | Pasture | 1 | 3 | 11 | |
| | 81 | Bryn y? Batten | Arable | 1 | 1 | 32 | |
| | 82 | Part of Glyn y Cludoï? | Arable | 3 | 1 | 23 | |
| | 83 | Part of Cae Ysgubor | Arable | 6 | 2 | 15 | Field of the barn |
| | 84 | Part of Cae Lloi | Arable | 2 | 2 | 14 | Field of the calves |
| | 85 | Part of Coed Cae Bach | Woody Pasture | 1 | 3 | 50 ? | Wood of the small field |
| | 86 | Cae Ffynon | Arable | 6 | 1 | 10 | Field of the well or spring |
| | 87 | Cefn Gwyn | Arable | 14 | 1 | 6 | White ridge/back |
| | 88 | Cae'r Odyn | Arable | 4 | 1 | 16 | Field of the lime kiln |
| | 89 | Cae Cludoï? | Arable | 6 | 3 | 37 | |
| | 90 | Llwyn | Wood | 8 | 1 | - | Grove |
| | | Carried forward | | 89 | 3 | 32 | |
| Hugh Evans (p.44) | 96 | Llwyn Dafydd | Meadow | 7 | 3 | 32 | Dafydd's grove |
| | 91 | Gors fawr | | 8 | - | 34 | Large bog |
| | 97 | Cae cefn y ty | Meadow | 10 | 2 | 25 | Field at back of the house |
| | 100 | New Piece | Meadow | - | 1 | - | |
| | 92 | Bryn y Polion isa | Meadow | 7 | 2 | 1 | Lower hill of poles |
| | 102 | Cefn bach | Meadow | 2 | 1 | 36 | Small ridge/back |
| | 93 | Bryn y Polion uchaf | Meadow | 4 | 2 | 22 | Upper hill of poles |
| | 103 | Rhos fach | Meadow | 11 | - | 26 | Small moor (land) |
| | 94 | Buarth Llwyn Dafydd | Arable | 2 | - | 36 | Yard of Dafydd's grove |
| | 98 | Rhos y Llyn | Pasture | 6 | 2 | 20 | Moor of the lake |
| | 99 | Buildings & New Piece | Cottage etc. | - | 2 | - | |
| | 101 | Cae'r y ty | Arable | 2 | - | 28 | Field of the house |
| | 104 | Cefn canol | Pasture | 11 | 1 | 12 | Middle ridge/back |
| | 105 | Yr Hen Ffrith | Pasture | 19 | 2 | 11 | The old ffridd (mountain pasture/ sheepwalk) |
| | 106 | Ffrydd fawr | | | | | Large ffridd |
| | | [Total] | | 272 | 1 | 25 | |

Appendix Five: 1841 Census for for Llandecwyn Parish (HO107/1427/11/8)

| Llenyrch | | | | |
|----------|------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| | Edward Evans | 20 | Farmer | Born in same County |
| | Jane Evans | 25 | | Not born in same County |
| | John Evans | 1 year? | | Not born in same County |
| | Ellinor Williams | 20 | Female/House Servant? | Not born in same County |
| | Alice Williams | 15 | Female Servant | Not born in same County |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Llenyrch Out Build | David Lloyd | 20 | Agricultural Labourer | Born in same County |
| | Harry Hughes | 14? | Agricultural Labourer | Born in same County |
| Llenyrch Bach | Richard Evans | 20 | Labourer | Not born in same County |
| | Jane Evans | 25 | | Born in same County |
| | Evan Evans | 2 | | Born in same County |
| | Elizabeth Evans | 8 mths | | Born in same County |
| | Elizabeth Griffith | 80 | Poor Widow | Not born in same County |
| | Griffith Williams | 14 | | Born in same County |
| | William Roberts | 40 | Labourer | Not born in same County |
| | Catherine Roberts | 35 | | Born in same County |
| | Ellinor Roberts | 12 | | Born in same County |
| | Griffith Roberts | 11 | | Born in same County |
| | Robert Roberts | 1 | | Born in same County |

Appendix Six: 1851 Census for Llandecwyn Parish (HO07/2512/128)

| Llenyrch | | | | Occupation | Where born |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|----|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| John Evans | Head | Married | 36 | Farmer of 200 acres | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Gwen Evans | Wife | Married | 34 | Farmer's wife | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Ann Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 9 | Day scholar | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Jane Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 7 | Day scholar | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Edward Evans | Son | Unmarried | 4 | | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| Gwen Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 1 | | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| Evan Jones | Servant | Unmarried | 21 | Waggoner | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| Thomas Edward | Servant | Unmarried | 18 | Cowman | Merioneth, Trawsfynydd |
| Mary Jones | Servant | Unmarried | 28 | House servant | Merioneth, Llanfihangel y traethau |

Appendix Six B: 1851 Census: (HO107/2512/127)

| Ty Newydd mawr | | | | | Where born |
|------------------------|------|----|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| William Roberts | Head | 50 | | Slate Boat man | Caer Penmorfa |
| Cathrin Roberts | Wife | 47 | | | Merioneth Llanfair |
| Ellin Roberts | | 22 | Unmarried | | Maentwrog |
| Ty Newydd bach | | | | | |
| Simon Hughes | Head | 29 | | Slate Quarry labourer | Merioneth Llandecwyn |
| Ann Hughes | Wife | 32 | | | Trawsfynydd |
| Hugh Hughes | Son | 4 | | | Trawsfynydd |

Appendix Seven: 1861 Census for Llandecwyn Parish (RG9/4323/7)

| No.35: <i>Llenyrch</i> | | | | Occupation | Where born |
|------------------------|------|---------|----|---------------|----------------------|
| John Evans | Head | Married | 46 | Farmer | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Gwen Evans | Wife | Married | 44 | Farmer's wife | Merioneth, Maentwrog |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|-----|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Ann Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 19 | Farmer's daughter | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Jane Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 17 | Farmer's daughter | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Edward Evans | Son | Unmarried | 14 | Farmer's son | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| Gwen Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 11 | Farmer's daughter | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| William Evans | Son | Unmarried | 9 | Farmer's son | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| Catherine Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 7 | Scholar | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| Margaret Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 4 | Daughter | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| John Evans | Son | Unmarried | 1 | Son | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| Robert Rolands? | Servant | Unmarried | 27? | Farm Servant | Merioneth, Maentwrog |

Appendix Seven B: 1861 Census for Llandecwyn Parish (RG9/4323/7)

| Ty Newydd Llenyrch | | | | | Where born |
|---------------------------|----------|----|--|-----------------------|------------------------|
| William Thomas | Head | 54 | | Labourer | Merioneth Llandecwyn |
| | | | | | |
| Margaret Thomas | Wife | 38 | | | Caernarfonshire Llyn |
| Samuel Thomas | | 12 | | Scholar | Merioneth Llandecwyn |
| William Thomas | Son | 11 | | Scholar | Merioneth Llandecwyn |
| Owen Thomas | Son | 8 | | Scholar | Merioneth Llandecwyn |
| Gwen Thomas | Daughter | 5 | | | Merioneth Llandecwyn |
| Ty Newydd Llenyrch | | | | | |
| Morris Jones | Head | 35 | | Agricultural labourer | Merioneth Llanfihangel |
| Cathrina Jones | Wife | 36 | | | Caer. Penmorfa |
| Jane Jones | Daughter | 11 | | Scholar | Merioneth Ffestiniog |
| Cathrina Jones | Daughter | 8 | | Scholar | Merioneth Ffestiniog |
| Richard Jones | Son | 4 | | | Merioneth Ffestiniog |
| William Jones | Son | 1 | | | Merioneth Ffestiniog |

Appendix Eight: 1871 Census for Llandecwyn Parish

| No.21: <i>Llenyrch</i> | | | | Occupation | Where born |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|----|-------------------|-----------------------|
| John Evans | Head | Married | 56 | Farmer | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Gwen Evans | Wife | Married | 54 | Farmer's wife | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Jane Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 27 | Farmer's daughter | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Edward Evans | Son | Unmarried | 24 | Farmer's son | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| Gwen Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 21 | Farmer's daughter | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| William Evans | Son | Unmarried | 19 | Farmer's son | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| Catherine Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 17 | Farmer's daughter | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| Margaret Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 14 | Farmer's daughter | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| John Evans | Son | Unmarried | 11 | Scholar | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|-----------|-----------|--|----------------------|--|
| Richard Evans | Grandson | Unmarried | 4 months? | | Merioneth, Maentwrog | |
|---------------|----------|-----------|-----------|--|----------------------|--|

Appendix Eight B: 1871 Census for Ty Newydd, Llenyrch:

| Ty Newydd Llenyrch | | | | | Where born |
|--------------------|----------|----------|--|-----------|-----------------------|
| Robert Roberts | Head | 36 | | Quarryman | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Ann Roberts | Wife | 29 | | | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Ann Roberts | Daughter | 2? | | | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| Richard Roberts | Son | 8 months | | | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |

Appendix Nine: 1881 Census for Llandecwyn Parish (RG11/5549/23)

| No.20: <i>Llenyrch</i> | | | | Occupation | Where born |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|----|---------------------|-----------------------|
| John Evans | Head | Married | 66 | Farmer of 550 acres | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Gwen Evans | Wife | Married | 64 | | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Jane Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 37 | | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Edward Evans | Son | Unmarried | 34 | Farmer's son | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| William Evans | Son | Unmarried | 29 | Farmer's son | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| Catherine Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 27 | | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| Margaret Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 24 | | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| John Evans | Son | Unmarried | 21 | Farmer's son | Merioneth, Llandecwyn |
| Richard Evans | Grandson | Unmarried | 10 | | Merioneth, Maentwrog |

Appendix Nine B: 1881 Census for Ty Newydd Llenyrch

| Ty Newydd Llenyrch | | | | | Where born |
|--------------------|----------|----|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Owen Davies | Head | 50 | | Slate Labourer Quarries | Merioneth, Llanfachraeth |
| Elizabeth Davies | Wife | 46 | | | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| John Davies | Son | | | Slate Labourer Quarries | Merioneth, Trawsfynydd |
| Marry Davies | Daughter | 15 | | | Merioneth, Trawsfynydd |
| Owen Davies | Son | 11 | | | Merioneth, Maentwrog |
| Robert Davies | Son | 9 | | | Merioneth, Maentwrog |

Appendix Ten: 1891 Census for Llandecwyn Parish (RG12/4644/82)

| No.18: <i>Llenyrch</i> | | | | Occupation | Where born | Language spoken |
|------------------------|------|---------|----|------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| John Evans | Head | Married | 76 | Farmer | Merioneth, Maentwrog | Welsh |
| Gwen Evans | Wife | Married | 74 | | Merioneth, Maentwrog | Welsh |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|----|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| William Evans | Son | Unmarried | 38 | Agricultural labourer | Merioneth, Llandecwyn | Welsh |
| Richard Evans | Grandson | Unmarried | 20 | Agricultural labourer | Merioneth, Llandecwyn | Welsh |
| Jane Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 47 | Domestic servant | | Welsh |
| Catherine Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 36 | Domestic servant | Merioneth, Llandecwyn | Welsh |
| Margaret Evans | Daughter | Unmarried | 33 | Domestic servant | Merioneth, Llandecwyn | Welsh |
| Evan Williams | Servant | Unmarried | 18 | Farm servant | Merioneth, Llandecwyn | Welsh |

(In 1891 *Ty Newydd Llenyrch* was now listed as Unoccupied)

Appendix Eleven: 1901 Census for Llanfihangel y Traethau with Llandecwyn Parish (RG13/5256/83)

| No.15: <i>Llenyrch</i> | | | | | Where born | Language spoken |
|---------------------------|----------|---------|----|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| John Evans | Head | Widowed | 86 | Employer | Merioneth, Maentwrog | Welsh |
| William Evans | Son | Single | 49 | Head of the [?] Servants | Merioneth, Llandecwyn | Welsh |
| Margaret Evans | Daughter | Single | 42 | Housekeeper | Merioneth, Llandecwyn | Welsh |
| Richard Evans | | Single | 30 | Worker | Merioneth, Llandecwyn | Welsh |
| Howell Parry | Servant | Single | 45 | Worker | Trawsfynydd | Welsh |

Appendix Twelve: 1911 Census for Llanfihangel y Traethau with Llandecwyn Parish (RG14/628/14)

| <i>Llenyrch</i> | | | | | Where born | Language spoken |
|-----------------|---------|--------|----|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| William Evans | Head | | 59 | Farmer and Employer | Harlech | Welsh |
| Margaret Evans | Sister | Single | 53 | Dairy work | Harlech | Welsh |
| Richard Evans | Nephew | Single | 40 | Horseman on farm | Harlech | Welsh |
| William Jones | Servant | Single | 45 | Cowman on farm | Ffestiniog | Welsh and English |
| Morris Hughes | | | 17 | Farm Labourer | Merioneth, Penrhyn | Welsh and English |

The house was listed with 6 rooms and the form completed in English by Richard Evans, *Llenyrch*, though he listed himself as only speaking Welsh.

Appendix Thirteen: Pages of Ywain Meirion's 'Lamentations' for William Evans. (Images below courtesy of Colin Hanson)

GALARNAD
 ER COF AM
 AMAETHWR PARCHUS
 AG OEDD YN BYW YN
 NGOGLEDD-BARTH
SIR FEIRIONYDD,

YR HWN A GAFWYD WEDI MARW
 RHWNG MAENTWROG A LLANDECWYN,
 Dydd Sadwrn Tachweedd, 25ain, 1837.

Cenir ar Diniweidrwydd.

*"Nid all da byd enyd awr;
 Estyn einioes dyn una wr".*
 D. NANMOR.

*Rhyw filain ddamwain a ddaeth,—gan
 Gwn ing a marwolaeth, [angau
 Yn Meirion bu'n ymyraeth,
 Blin yw son fe blanaï Saeth.*



Caernarfon;

ARGRAPHWYD GAN LEWIS EVAN JONES.

1. Gwrandewch yn syn ar hyn o hanes
 Mae gynyf gyffes drist i'r chael,
 Mae wedi bod yn nod anedwedd,
 Yn Sir Feirionydd helwydd hael ;
 O bob hanesion trymion welais
 Neu a glywais a'm dwy glyst
 Dyma'r ddamwain fwyaf chwerw,
 Mi ddweda'n groew Duw sy'n dyst.
2. Mae einices dyn mor anserenol,
 Fel nas gwyr neb o ddynol ryw,
 Pa awr pa funyd y terfyna,
 Pa beth a'i bwria o blith y byw
 Ein dyledswydd yw gweddio
 Ar Dduw tra byddo ni'n y byd,
 Am iddo gadw meibion dynion,
 Rhag peryglon ar bob pryd,
3. Yr oedd yn byw getllaw Maentwrog
 Wr cyfoethog enwog iawn,
 A chanddo dai ac aur ac arian,
 A meddianau llydain llawn,
 A'i berth'nasau yn gysyrys
 Yn bobl barchus yn y byd,
 Roedd ganddo ddigon ar ei gyfer
 Heb ofni prinder ar un pryd.
4. Y pedwerydd dydd ar hugain
 O Dachwedd ydoedd yn ddi os,
 O dy Tafarn y cychwynodd
 Adre am un or ddeg o'r nos,
 P'run bynag oedd a'i meddw a'i sobor
 Fe gadd ei wobwr am ei waith,
 Daeth cenad angau yn ddychrynlyd
 I'w yru i Dragwyddolfyd maith.

5. Rcedd ei ffordd i fyned adre'
 Trwy goed a chreigiau siwrnau syn,
 A cholli'r llwybr ddarfu a moedro,
 Mae'n hawdd i ni ddarlynio hyn,
 Rhwng Maentwrog a Llandecwyn
 Mae lleoedd gerwin bron i gyd,
 Tryw ryw foddion anarferol
 Cadd fyned i'r anfarwol fyd.
6. O herwydd na chyrhaeddodd adre,
 Ei nith y boreu'n ddiâu ddaeth
 I'r Ty Tafarn lle cychwynnodd,
 Am ei Hewythr holi a wnaeth,
 Ni wyddai rhai'ny ddim o'i hanes
 Nad oedd ef gartref, Dyma'r gwir
 Wrth chwilio am dano ei gorff a gafwyd
 Er braw a syndod i bob Sir.
7. Ei gorff ai ddillad ydoedd yno
 Wedi eu dryllio 'n arw eu trefn,
 Yn ochr ceunant 'roedd yn waeledd
 Fel yn gorwedd ar ei gefn,
 A'i bocedau ddarfynt chwilio,
 A chaed ei arian ganddo i gyd
 A ffaelodd cwest y *Coroner* farnu
 I ddynion ei ddibennu o'r byd.
8. Yr oedd hi'n galed yn ddi gelu
 Ar bawb gadd brofi'r culni caeth
 Fu yn y golwg gyda'r gelain
 Wrth feddwl am y ddamwain ddaeth
 Wrth iddynt gario'i gorff i'r gweryd,
 O! mor drymlyd oedd y tro,
 Roedd yno bawb mewn braw a dychryn
 Wrth gofio hyn mewn bryn a bax

9. Yn awr mae pawb a'i reswm ganddo
 A mawr y swm am dano sy',
 A phawb yn siarad 'nol ei anian
 Am yr erchill ddamwain ddu,
 Pa fodd y trengodd pwy all dysdio,
 Pa beth fu'n darnio corff y dyn,
 A pha hyd y bu yn poeni
 'Does neb wyr hyny ond Duw ei hun.
10. Nid wyf i am arfer cabledd
 Na chodi'r un ddi sylwedd sen,
 Ond wrth ei ffrwythau medd'r Ysgrythyr
 Felly y profir beth yw'r pren :
 O herwydd hyn o hanes hynod
 Mawr yw'r braw ar syndod sydd,
 Mae ei geraint a'i berth'nasau
 Yn wylodagrau a'u bronau'n brydd.
11. Megys tarth neu wlith y boreu
 Ydyw dyddiau einioes dyn,
 Pa awr pa funud gwna derfynu,
 'Does neb wyr hyny ond Duw ei hun
 Boed i ni geisio gras yn groeso
 Trwy weddio ar Dduw yn ddwys
 Am i'n eneidiau gael trugaredd
 Cyn rhoddi'n cyrff i'r genfedd gwys.
12. Mae'n bryd is wybren i ni sobri,
 A throi o ddifri i greffu ar Grist
 Am ein pyro a'n gwneyd yn barod
 Cyn marwol-ddyrnod trallod trist,
 Yr arglwydd nefol a'n cymhwysu,
 Fel y byddo ei waith yn ben
 I fyn'd i ganu i wlad gogoniant
 Yn y mwyniant, byth AMEN.

YWAIN MEIRION.

Llennyrch 'diaspora' in 2023

Colin Hanson kindly contributed his photo (below) of Evans family relatives - mostly direct descendants with their spouses and children - on a further 2023 visit to *Llennyrch*:

Standing, to rear (L-R): Michelle Evans, John Evans, Karen Evans (née Temte), Michael Carmichael, Rachel Carmichael (née Evans). Seated, centre (L-R): Gunnar Evans, Ameila Evans, Hugh Carmichael, Owain Evans-Hanson, Ivan Carmichael. Standing, front (L-R): Luke Evans, Lindsay Evans (née Clement).



Appendix Fourteen: Woodland Trust information from the website:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/47023/4462-coed-felenrhyd-and-llennyrch.pdf> : ‘The farmhouse [Llennyrch] will be retained and its use will be in-keeping with the Woodland Trust's charitable purposes, charitable aims and specific objectives for the wood’.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/coed-felenrhyd-llennyrch/>

‘Industry at Coed Felenrhyd: The local timber trade in the area dates back to 1739. At the time, timber was the most important local industry, but by 1760 it was joined by quarrying for slate. Shafts and sink holes in the wood are clues to its industrial past. The scale of the timber business is reflected in a report from 1763 that sounded a note of concern about deforestation in the Vale of Ffestiniog. It said that Meirionnydd ‘has been much drained of her timber. Some 25 years later, the stock of oaks in Meirionnydd and three neighbouring counties were said to be decreased by two-thirds. Advertisements selling timber worth up to £900 appeared in local newspapers.’

‘As well as Llennyrch itself, a number of small farmsteads, the remains of which are still visible today, were established on pockets of open land. A further farm or small holding is recorded at Ty Newydd, now a ruin standing in a prominent location just south of Llennyrch farm.’



Llenyrch from the rear with outbuilding ranges (Image courtesy of Colin Hanson)