



Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig

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Rhif Elusen Gofrestredig: No: 1131782: Registered charity

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BLAENYCWM

Llanelltyd, Dolgellau



House History

A Part History of the House & its Families

Author: Dinah Pickard

Updated: 30-03-2023

Written in the language chosen by the volunteers and researchers & including information so far discovered

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Blaenycwm NGR SH711219 SUMMARY

Little is known of the early history of this house. From 1760 to the present day most of the information comes from the parish records of Llanelltyd, the electoral rolls and censuses. It is known to have been in the possession of the Cefndeuiddwr cadet branch of the Nanney family from before 1798 until sometime after 1863. The only other known owners were S Sanderman in 1910 and William Ellis who sold it to the present owners' family in 1969. There have been at least 13 tenants since 1763 until 1960.

C 1696 - The earliest documentary reference is in Edward Llyud's "Parachialia" as "Kae Gwernogh a blaenykwn" as "houses of note".

1735 – Evan Richard Blaenycwm was third party to a marriage settlement [Z/DBC/2 Dol RO].

The next records for this house are the Llanelltyd parish records when they begin to include the names of properties about 1750s.

Baptisms:

10 February 1760	Hugh son of Hugh William and Elizabeth
31 October 1762	Peter son of Hugh William and Elizabeth (Peter Hugh at Llan Llanelltyd 80 years old in 1841 census)
8 February 1770	Elinor daughter of Lewis Thomas and Catherine
18 February 1772	John son of Lewis Thomas and Catherine
9 August 1774	Rees son of Lewis Thomas and Catherine
12 March 1777	Gwen daughter of Lewis Thomas and Catherine (Gwen buried 6 October 1777)
24 January 1790	Catherine daughter of Evan Robert and Elizabeth
2 February 1797	Dorothy daughter of Evan Robert and Ann
5 January 1800	Edward son of Evan Robert and Ann
4 March 1803	Evan son of Evan Robert and Ann
29 June 1806	William son of Evan Robert and Ann
10 September 1809	Gwen daughter of Evan Robert and Ann
6 July 1816	Elizabeth daughter of Evan Robert and Ann
24 March 1820	Anne daughter of Maurice Jones and Dorothy

12 September 1824	Hugh illegitimate son of Hugh Pugh of Blaen y cwm labourer and Lowry Lewis of Cesalgwm mawrisa [is he related to Hugh Pugh born 1760
19 October 1832	Baptism at Congregational chapel Dolgellau records birth September 1832 at Blaen y cwm of Morris son of Morris Jones and Dorothy
4 March 1878	John son of Cadwalader Richards and Jane
25 July 1878	Jane daughter of Ann Jones

Burials:

1 February 1763	Evan Richard gent (nothing known)
2 September 1791	Elizabeth Lewis wife of Evan Robert
26 June 1823	Ann Edwards 52 years [NB. Wife of Evan Robert]
28 March 1836	Evan Robert 86 years
5 October 1857	Dorothy Jones 60 years
7 April 1858	Morris Jones 63 years

Marriages:

7 June 1760	Lewis Thomas and Catherine Jones
27 May 1774	Evan Robert and Margaret William
13 August 1785	Evan Robert and Elizabeth Lewis (witness Lewis Thomas of Blaen y cwm)
17 August 1793	Evan Robert widower and Anne Edwards

“This is the fourth time I have married him within 20 years.”

A search of Llanelltyd records did not reveal the 4th marriage of Evan Robert, but I found his will (Bangor 1836) made 16 May 1835 probate 3 May 1836. He left £67.12.0:

To my daughter Mary by my wife Margaret William £1

To my son Robert by my wife Jane Cadwalader £1

To my daughters Elizabeth and Catherine by my wife Elizabeth Lewis 1s

To each of my children by wife Ann Edwards £4 each, namely Anne, Edward, Evan, William and Gwen.

Residue to my daughter Dorothy by my wife Anne Edwards.”

This led to finding the marriage:

3 March 1783 Evan Robert of Nannau widower and Jane Cadwalader in Llanfachreth

15 September 1774 Baptism – Mary daughter of Evan Robert and Margaret of Abedhengae

28 February 1787 Baptism – Elizabeth daughter of Evan Robert and Elizabeth of Abedhengae

[Missed because not living in Blaen y cwm]

No baptism for Robert has been found.

From this data it would seem Lewis Thomas took the tenancy between 1763 and 1766 soon after his marriage in 1760. His oldest daughter Elizabeth (baptised 15 June 1763 from Caeboudy) married Evan Robert in 1785 and they probably moved into Blaen y cwm between 1787 and 1790.

Lewis Thomas died in 1791. Evan Robert was tenant until his death in 1836. However, his daughter Dorothy born 1797 had married Morris Jones in 1819 and since their daughter Anne 1820 and son Morris 1832 were baptised from Blaen y cwm they could have moved in around either dates. Dorothy inherited the residue of her father's estate in 1836 and presumably the tenancy since they were there in 1841 and 1851.

Morris died in 1858 but his son Morris took the tenancy and was there in 1861 and 1871 moving out to Bryndu, Llanelltyd by 1881.

Thus, the tenancy stayed in the same family for about 120 years.

In 1798 a Tax Redemption gives Evan Robert as a tenant of Rev. Mr Nanney [Ancestry].

Census 1841	Morris Jones	40 farmer
	Dolly Jones	40
	Margaret Jones	15
	Morris Jones	5
	Evan	1

Tithe [Dol.R.O and on-line] 1843 Morris Jones was a tenant of Owen Jones Ellis Nanney (who was the largest owner of property in Llanelltyd of over 633 acres).

Rev. Mr Nanney was Richard Nanney 1739-1812 (son of Rev Richard Nanney 1691-25 December 1768 (77 years) he had no issue and left his estate to his nephew David Ellis who took the name Nanney but died without issues in 1819 and left his estate to his nephew Owen Jones Ellis Nanney. He died at Gwynfryn near Criccieth in 1870 aged 80 years leaving £35,000 and his son Hugh inherited. He rebuilt Gwynfryn which after his wife's death in 1928 became a retirement home for clergy, WWII hospital, orphanage and hotel but after a fire in 1982 was abandoned. Since 2021 it is being converted to apartments.

Thus, Blaen y cwm was owned by the Nanney family probably from very early until before 1910 about 200-300 years.

1863 [Z/DCA/19 - Dol RO] A copied map of common land enclosure total 430 acres allotment awarded to OJE Nanney

1910 [Z/QR/L/4 - Dol RO] S Sanderman was owner. Nothing is known about him/her.

Next known owner is Gresham Dodd and William Ellis who is reputed to have bought it off 2 brothers, probably Percy and Harold Roberts (see "census" of 1939) and who sold it to the present owners' family in 1969

Census 1851	Morris Jones	57	farmer 55 acres	Dolgellau
	Dorothy Jones	54		Llanelltyd
	Margaret Jones	27		Llanelltyd
	Evan Jones	11		Llanelltyd

Morris Jones, 19, servant is at Bryn Celyn Fawr Trawsfynydd.

Census 1861	Morris Jones	28	farmer 30 acres	Llanelltyd
	Jane Jones	30		Llanelltyd
	Morris Jones	5		Ffestiniog
	Jane Jones	4		Ffestiniog
	Dorothy Jones	3		Ffestiniog
	Ann Jones	1		Llanelltyd

Census 1871	Morris Jones	38	farmer 58 acres	Llanelltyd
	Gwen Jones	37		Trawsfynydd
	Dorothy Jones	12		Ffestiniog
	Anne Jones	10		Llanelltyd
	Gwen Jones	9		Llanelltyd
	Griffith Jones	8 months		Llanelltyd

Census 1881	Owen Jones	54	farmer 49 acres	Bala
	Eliza Jones	22	(wife)	Llanfachreth
	Owen Jones	1		Llanfachreth

Owen Jones was a farm servant but in 1879 he married Elizabeth Griffiths 32 years younger than himself and had 3 children, she died in 1889 he in 1908 or 1909.

Census 1891	Blaen y cwm is not listed			
Census 1901	Samuel Williams	52	gold miner	Llanaber
	Catherine Williams	50		Llanfachreth
	Llywelyn Williams	22	Sheep attendant	Llanfachreth
	Charles Williams	18	Cattle attendant	Llanfachreth
	Ivor Williams	16	Labourer	Llanfachreth
	Kate Williams	14		Llanfachreth
	Henry G Williams	11		Llanfachreth
	Jane E Williams	9		Llanfachreth
Census 1911	Catherine Williams	61		Llanfachreth
	Llywelyn Williams	32	Labourer	Llanfachreth
	Charles Williams	28	Farmer	Llanfachreth
	Ivor Williams	26		Llanfachreth
	Henry G Williams	22		Llanfachreth

Llanelltyd memorial inscriptions [Dol RO]

A398a Samuel Williams died 5 March 1911 64years

Catherine Williams died 9 June 1919 68years

A398 Charles Williams son of Samuel and Catherine died 14 January 1927 47years.

A317 Llewelyn Williams son of Samuel and Catherine died January 1962 82 years; also, Jane Ellen Pugh 79 years (sister), Eira May Pugh 73 years (niece).

According to a family tree on Ancestry, Samuel and Catherine had two other children Dorah 1813 and Mary 1816.

Samuel Williams married Catherine Pugh 25 December 1871 Llanfachreth, he died 5 March 1911 leaving £210.8s 6d.

Llewelyn Williams took over the tenancy and was unmarried and was there until 1920.

Electoral Rolls:

1914	Not Listed
1920	Llewelyn Williams

1921	Llewelyn Williams
1922 - 1929	David Owen and Margaret Owen
1931	Not Listed
1932	William Edward Jones and Rosina Hones
1934	William Edward Jones and Rosina Hones + Dolmelynllyn stables + Gwnin
1935	Not Listed
1936	Not Listed
1937	Percy Roberts and Harold Douglas Roberts
1939	Percy Roberts and Harold Douglas Roberts
Census 1939	Percy Roberts b 26 June 1898 gamekeeper Harold Roberts b 30 May 1908 clerk in butcher's shop Lewis Ellis b 14 May 1915 general farmer + 2 closed
1945	Lewis Ellis
1960	Lewis Ellis
1961	Not listed
Census 1921	David Owen 27.2 farmer Dolgellau Margaret Owen 32.8 Brithdir David Wynn Owen 3.1 Brithdir Evan Glyn Owen 10 months Brithdir

David Owen married (Margaret) Maggie Williams in 1917.

William Edward Jones 1907 married Rosina Griffith 1908-1936 in December 1929 and had issue.

Percy and Harold Douglas Roberts were brothers and children of David Roberts and Ellen Ann Pierce, daughter of John Pierce and Anne Hughes. Neither brother married or had issue. Harold died in 1945 at Blaen y cwm and Perry in 1962 in Wrexham.

Lewis Ellis was the son of William Ellis 1887-1976 who probably bought Blaen y cwm for him from Percy and Harold Roberts for whom he had been working the farm see 'census 1939'. Lewis was in Foel Isaf 1961-1963 when he moved in to Foel ucha with his sister Catherine M and his father William (electoral rolls).

Lewis Ellis died at Y Foel Llanelltyd 10 March 1984 aged 68 years [MI Llanelltyd B110] – his father William owner of Blaen y cwm died in 1976. He had lived at Foel ucha since birth in 1887.

MI in old Llanelltyd churchyard (not in R.O) with Blaen y cwm inscription:

- Dorothy Jones died 1 October 1857 60 years
- Morris Jones died 4 April 1858 63 years
- Jane Jones died 14 March 1863 32 years
- Gwen Roberts died 25 March 1876 66 years (sister to Dorothy Jones nee Roberts).

Dinah M Pickard

30.03.2023

APPENDICES

Blaen y cwm, Blaencwm

	Owners	Tenants
Before 1735 to 1763	Evan Richards, gent	
1760		Hugh William
Probably 1763-1766		Lewis Thomas
Probably 1788		Evan Roberts (Son in law)
1798	Rev. (Richard) Nanney d.1912	
	David Ellis (nephew) – Nanney d.1819	
	Owen Jones Ellis Nanney (son) d.1870	
	Hugh Ellis Nanney d.1920	
1820 or 1832		Morris Jones (son in law) and Dorothy
1843-1863	O J E Nanney	Morris Jones (son) and Jane
1871-1881	O J E Nanney	Owen Jones
		Not listed 1891
Probably after 1892		Samuel Williams d.1901
1910	S Sanderman	Catherine Williams (widow) 1911
1920		Llewelyn Williams (son)
1921 census		David Owen
1931		Empty
1932		William Edward Jones d.1934
1935-36		Empty
1937		Percy Roberts and Harold Douglas Roberts
1939		Percy Roberts and Harold Douglas Roberts and Lewis Ellis
1945		Lewis Ellis until 1960
1961	William Ellis	Empty
21 January 1969	Gresham Dodd	

APPENDICES

Blaenycwn

1841 Llanelltyd	1851 Nannau Isafon	1861 Nannau Isafon	1871 Llanelltyd	1881 Llanelltyd
Morris Jones 40 Labourer Dolly Jones 40 Margaret Jones 15 Morris Jones 5 Evan Jones 1	Morris Jones 57 Farmer Dolgellau Dolly Jones 54 Llanelltyd Margaret Jones 27 Dolgellau Evan Jones 11 Dolgellau [Morris Jones 19 shown at Bryn Clyd Fawr as a servant]	Morris Jones 28 Farmer Llanelltyd Jane Jones 30 Llandanwg Morris Jones 5 Ffestiniog Jane Jones 4 Ffestiniog Dorothy Jones 3 Ffestiniog Anne Jones 1 Llanelltyd	Morris Jones 38 Farmer Llanelltyd Gwen Jones 37 Trawsfynydd Dorothy Jones 12 Ffestiniog Anne Jones 10 Ffestiniog Gwen Jones 9 Ffestiniog Griffith 8 months Llanelltyd	Owen Jones 54 farmer Bala Eliza Jones 22 Llanfacharth Owen Jones 1 Llanfacharth Below moved to Bryndu Llanelltyd: Morris Jones 49 Llanelltyd Gwen Jones 48 Trawsfynydd Griffith 10 Llanelltyd Sarah E Jones 3 Llanelltyd

1891	1901	1911 Blaen y cwm Blaencurmgwnin	1921 Blaenycwm	1939 Blaenycwm
Blaen cwn not listed	Samuel Williams 52 Gold miner Llanbedr Catherine Williams 50 Llanfacharth Llewelyn Williams 22 Shop attendant Llanfacharth Charles Williams 18 Llanfacharth Ivor Williams 16 Llanfacharth Kate Williams 14 Llanfacharth Henry G Williams 11 Llanfacharth Jane G Williams 9 Llanfacharth	Catherine Williams 61 Widow Llanfacharth Llewelyn Williams 32 labourer Llanfacharth Charles Williams 28 farmer Llanfacharth Ivor Williams 26 Llanfacharth Henry G Williams 22 Llanfacharth	David Owen 27.2 Farmer Dolgellau Margaret Owen 32.8 Brithdir David Glyn 3.1 Brithdir Evan Glyn 10 months Brithdir	Percy Roberts b 26 June 1928 Harold Roberts b. 30 May 1908 Lewis Ellis b. 14 May 1915