



Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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New reports will be added from time to time. Keep an eye on our website for updates.



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SYGUN BACH / SYGUN GANOL BEDDGELEERT,



House History

A Part History of the House & its Families

Author: M Dunn

Updated 29-09-2023

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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**SYGUN BACH / SYGUN GANOL
BEDDGELERT, Caernarfonshire, now Gwynedd**

National Grid Reference: SH 596483



1 SYGUN BACH / SYGUN GANOL



2 " Mapping reproduced with permission of the National Library of Scotland."

**Research first undertaken by Margaret Dunn in 1996 (nee Griffith)
Revised September 2023.**

Introduction.

This farm holding, variously named Sygun Bach and Sygun Ganol, was part of the Jones' and later Parry families' Craflwyn Hall estate, much in the parish of Beddgelert, Caernarfonshire, but thus was situated across the Afon Glaslyn from Craflwyn, in Merionethshire. The early history and ownership of this farm is at present uncertain and it is not yet known when it became part of the Craflwyn estate. It was in the medieval township of Nanmor, in Ardudwy, in the county of Merioneth and was not former monastic land as were the other Craflwyn properties in the parish of Beddgelert. It may have been part of what became the estate acquired by Morris Jones by marriage into the Craflwyn estate when he married the heiress Annes / Agnes around 1580. His family also held other properties in Nanmor township.

At that time there were only horse tracks along the valley bottoms. In 1688 a hoard of around 50 leaf-shaped rapiers and short daggers was discovered near the ground surface "by removing a great stone" amongst rocks near Sygun Ganol, (NGR SH 594483) possibly indicating the importance of this ancient routeway through the mountains eastwards from the sea then reaching to Aberglaslyn bridge. The finds were noted by Edward Lhuyd, who refers to them in 1690. He was Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, where several items are still located. In 1964 it was noted that "the great hoard of rapiers from Beddgelert - in the heart of one of the richest copper-ore districts of the county - may conveniently be taken to mark the commencement of the Middle Bronze Age in Caernarfonshire". (1)

The National Trust obtained Craflwyn Hall and part of the Craflwyn estate in Beddgelert in 1994, excluding Sugun Bach. It was soon realised that little was known about the history of the ownership of Craflwyn and its estate houses or of the families who were their tenants. This research was undertaken from the late-1990s by the author as a National Trust volunteer, with their full support. The research is now gradually being revised and added to the Discovering Old Welsh Houses website to give wider public access to the information gathered on the numerous houses across Wales (and England) belonging to the Craflwyn estate and their families.

Below is the sequence of owners of the Craflwyn estate; for some owners no references have yet been found naming Sygun Bach. In the future the details of each owner and their families will be found on the Discovering Old Welsh Houses website when each volume of the estate's long history is revised and put online, along with research on the other houses and quarries which were also once part of the estate. (2)

Detailed House History.

The name of the property varies between Sygun Bach and Sygun Ganol, with a range of spellings.
1604 death of Morris Jones I of Craflwyn.

The details of the owners of the Craflwyn estate and its associated farms were researched in the 1990s and are now gradually being revised and prepared for publication on the Discovering Old Welsh Houses website. Sygun Bach is one of the first to be revised.

1623 The house is named in the 1623 Crown Rental of Arduwly under Nanmor, as Sugun Ganol, owned by Humffrey Jones (rental 8d) who also owned Cae Du (rental 4d) (3)

It is not yet known when the MILL was built. It is first noted in 1809-11 as will be seen later.

1649 death of owner, Humffrey Jones I of Craflwyn (Cravoloen).

1653 death of owner, Maurice Jones 2, his eldest son, of Craflwyn & Plas yn ddol.

1676 death of owner, Humphrey Jones 2, his eldest son, of Craflwyn & Plas yn Ddol.

1744 July death of owner, Humphrey Parry; estates inherited by his son Robert Parry of Pwllhalog.

1745 Mar 6/7 Lease & release to make a tenant to the Precipe for the suffering of a recovery of (numerous) lands county Caernarfon. Beddgelert -5: also **Sygin bach, occupied by David Samuel.**

1. Robert Parry of Pwllhalog, county Flint Esq 2. William Price of Rhewlas, county Merioneth Esq

3. Edward Owen the elder of Garthyngarad, county Merioneth, Gent. & Lewis Meyricke of Dolgelley Gent. (ie transferring the lands to the Trustees) (4)

1759 death of owner, Robert Parry; estates inherited by his son Richard Parry 1.

1770 Mar 19: Lease for a year -rent one peppercorn- of messuages in county Merioneth. (in 13 parishes) in Bethgelert: **Sugin bach** [added to document later in a different hand]

1. Richard Parry, owner, of Llanrhaiadr Hall; 2. David Shuckforth of Berth, county Denbigh. (5)

1777 Jun 28: David Roberts, **Sygun Bach** (tenant) is mentioned in a local will. (6)

1793 Apr: Will of David Roberts, tenant, **Sygun Bach**, Nantmor. Wife: Dorothy Williams, Children: Elinor, David, Richart, William, David [at Sygun Fawr in 1782 (7) & Gwen. Value of animals & contents of house & farm: £43. (8)

1809-1811 In "A description of Caernarvonshire", under Beddgelart: Mills - it is noted that within the parish are three mills, one dilapidated in Nanwhynen, a second close upon the village, and a third of recent erection below Pont Aber Glasllyn ." The sketch in Figure 24 in that book confirms that the second mill is that on **Sygun Bach** land. (9)

1828 Apr 10: will of Richard Parry 1, owner, leaves in trust for his four unmarried daughters all his lands in Caernarvonshire including also a **small farm and mill** near or attached to a house which is situated in Merionethshire ... There is a condition to his son Richard Parry 2 to let his unmarried sisters have (?rents from) the little farm and mill in Merionethshire with their estates in Caernarvonshire. (10)

1828 July 23: Richard Parry 1 owner, died.

1829 Lady Day: **Sugan**...taken possession of by Mr Parry, owner (11)

1829 Oct 9: Letter to John LL Dukinfield (Trustee) from John Hughes (new agent) re tenants..."The tenant of **Sugan bach** had also some dispute as to the arrears due but to what amount I did not exactly hear..." "With respect to this farm & mill my attention was more particularly called to a circumstance that probably has not yet reached you - namely John Williams, the tenant, having been compelled by Mr Parry, owner, a short time back to disclaim these titles of the Trustees & to affirm tenants to Mr Parry .. not to pay the Trustees or their agent a farthing of the future rents ..." (re

Sugan & mill being in Merionethshire & the Misses Parry's lands, owner, only in Carnarvonshire) (12)

1829 Oct 16: Letter from J Lloyd Duckinfield to J Hughes re ...Sugan bach farm & mill

"I can explain the cause of Mr Parry, owner, having claimed the rents of the Sugan Bach farm & Mill in Merionethshire. The late owner, Mr Parry left his Carnarvonshire properties to his daughters, together with this small farm & mill in Merionethshire which he wished them also to possess - saying at the same time that if his son should claim it, then that his daughters were to be compensated out of the Land Tax. As Mr Parry never made known to me his intention of taking advantage of this clause, I had supposed he did not intend doing so - & it was not necessary to explain to you that he had this option. It now becomes the business of the Trustees in what manner the daughters are financially to be compensated out of the Land Tax, in case the brother objects to pay them the equivalent to the rent of the farm which I apprehend will be the case. I have the Land Tax Receipts, but I should fear that to raise the money upon the land in virtue of these Receipts would be next to impracticable, & the possibility of selling them not less. I must first apply to the brother to know what he is disposed to do. (13)

1829 Oct 24: Letter & rental to Sir J LL Dukinfield from J Hughes. " Sugan & Mill possessed by Mr Parry & tenant does not appear (14)

1830 Jun 17: Letter to Sir J LI Dukinfield from J Hughes." I will with great pleasure give Mr Parry, owner, the moiety at Sugan Bachbut my engagements with the clergy are so numerous at this time of the year, that I cannot find an earlier day for that purpose, than about the 7th or 8th of July. I find that if we are asking not only to have an estimate of the repairs now required upon the mill but also a valuation of the annual rent of the mill & lands- deducting a certain sum for annual repairs etc- . The first estimate in particular is as foreign to my ordinary ?ions that ... I hope the Trustees ... will allow me to appoint a substitute not only more competent to the task ... & to protect the Miss Parrys' , owners, interest as myself" (15)

1830 July 10: Letter from Sir J Lloyd Duckinfield to J Hughes ... re Mr Parry having estimate of repairs of mill & farm near Beddgelert. "He is apt to be dilatory in business & may perhaps not have written yet." (16)

1830 Sept 10: Letter from Sir J Lloyd Duckinfield to J Hughes ... you were absent when Mr Parry wished to have fixed for the survey of the small Merionethshire farm & mill (17)

1831 Mar 13: Paid Mr Robert Williams' bill altering Sugan bach & mill etc £4-4-0. (18)

1831 Oct 21: Letter from J Hughes to J LI Dukinfield re rentals ..."Some time back Messrs. Dunn & Wordsworth (Solicitors) requested me to apply to one John Williams of Trawsfynydd (a tenant of the late Mr Parry) for £34 arrears due to the Exors to John Williams, Sugan bach for £9-9-0 died in like manner ..." (19)

1832 Jan 12: Mr J Jones overseer of Beddgelert re rate for church repairs: to Mr Parry Esq for Sygyn bach, owner. (20)

1832 Jan 12: re church repairs. Gentlemen who have paid Mr Parry Esq Sygyn bach: £4.

1832 June 7: Church wardens of Beddgelert writing re seats in church. To R Parry, Esq re Sygyn £4. (21)

1834 Feb 5: re payment towards seat in church Mr Parry Esq, owner, Pwllhalog.

1834 April 12: Richard Parry, owner, II died unmarried & left his Merioneth estate in Trust to his nephew Francis Haygarth. The Trustees repeatedly mortgaged the estate to cover Richard Parry II's debts and legacies. (22) However, Richard Parry I had in 1828 devised Sygun bach along with all his Caernarvonshire estates upon trust to his four maiden daughters.

1835 Sept 12: Letter from G M Jackson, Pen y Bryn (Nantgwynant) to J Hughes re possible sale or lease of Bwlchmwlchan & the mill with other farms near Beddgelert (23)

1837 Apr 11: Letter from John Prichard, Beddgelert to J Hughes re cutting turf at Hafodryffydd. "I write at the request of John Williams, **Miller**, of this place, tenant of the late Mr Parry but now to the Trustees of somebody. His farm is called **Sygyn**. It is in Merionethshire. He used to cut turf on Hafodryfydd, but it appears he is not now allowed to do so & he begs the favour of your permission to cut a few on his paying to the tenant 10/- annually to procure ??lime. I told him that probably you could not grant the leave he asks but he says both Sygyn & Hafodryfydd will again become the property of the same person on the death of the Miss Parry's." (24)

1837 Nov 22 Letter from Messrs. Dunn, Wordsworth & Dunn (solicitors) re £18 annuity payable by the late Mr Richard Parry to his sisters, the four Miss Parry, in lieu of a water mill which you remember was devised to them by the will, but which being part of the settled property Mr Richard Parry claimed himself should in future be paid to you - Due from Michaelmas. We have written to remind Mr Harris's solicitors of the arrangement - we do not know who is Mr Parry's Trustees' agent. (25)

1838 April 22: J Hughes to Mr J G Harris re ... £18 annuity payable to the Misses Parry by the Trust of their late brother. (26)

1838 Sept 12: Letter from Mr Robert Byers re Tacknote ..." Understanding that you act on behalf of Mr Parry of Pwllhalog I beg to apply to you for a tack note on his property at Sygun Bach near Beddgelert to search for ores on those terms usually granted. ... As I have been elected Resident /Residual Director of the Sygun Mine Co I shall superintend the trials myself ... Beddgelert where I now reside. (27)

1838 Aug 25: Capt Garth to J Hughes: The compensation for the Mill in Merionethshire is I believe paid annually to the Miss Parrys by the Trustee of the late Mr Parr Esq, but whether you receive it or Messr Dunn, Wordsworth & Dunn, I am not this moment aware. (28)

1838 Oct 5: J G Harris to J Hughes re annuity of £18 p a to the Miss Parrys' from the estates in Merionethshire, late the property of their brother ... can you give a receipt? (29)

1838 J G Harris Esq 1 year & a half's annuity issuing out of Sugan due at Michaelmas & received 17 Oct 1838 £27. (30)

1838 Dec 19: Dunn, Wordsworth & Dunn to J Hughes. No annuity received lately on account of the annuity in respect of the mill in Merionethshire. Mr Harris was to pay J Hughes ... why a delay? (31)

1838 Dec 22: J Hughes to Dunn, Wordsworth & Dunn. Annuity to be included in the next rental (32)

1839 Sygyn Ganol: Trustees of the late Richard Parry; occupier : John Williams 85 acres (33)

1840 J G Harris Esq. 1 year's annuity due to the Misses Parry at Michaelmas 1839 & received 21 March 1840. £18. (34)

1841 Copy of Apportionment of the expenses of commuting the tithes of the parish of Beddgelert Number 12 (Sygun Ganol). Rep of Richard Parry (35)

1841 Mar 21: Letter from Thomas Ellis to J Hughes requiring ... name of proprietor of Sygyn ganol, which formerly belonged to Richard Parry Esq. (36)

1841 Apr 1: Letter from J Hughes to T Ellis Solicitor, Pwllheli, in reply to previous letter. "Sygyn ganol is now vested in Mr Harris the Insolvent Debtor Commissioner as sole Trustee of young Haygarth, the proprietor of the last Mr Parry's estate, who is a minor & whose Christian name I do not know." (37)

1841 census: Sygun Ganol

John Williams	60 farmer	NOT born in	Carnarvonshire
Gaynor "	55	"	"
Griffith Prys Williams	35 Ag lab	"	"
Mary Williams	30	Born	"

William Jones	15 Ag lab	NOT	"
John Williams	7	Born	"
Jane Roberts	15	NOT	"

John Williams of Sygun, Beddgelert married Gainor Prys, baptised 24 August 1781, one of 11 children of Griffith Prys [1724-1803], Tyddyn Mawr, Llanfihangel y Pennant, and Margaret Evans, his second wife. His great grandfather William David, yeoman, of Tyddyn Mawr, Pennant had died in 1685. Griffith Prys had 8 children by his first wife. (38)

1841 Sept 16: J G Harris at Llwynynn to J Hughes ... a year's annuity due to the Miss Parry's, which I would settle ... next week. (39)

1841 Sept 22: Laura Parry to J Hughes. Capt. Garth is too ill to trouble. We make no objection to the erection of the bridge at Beddgelert if you think that the facility thus afforded to the transport of ore from another copper mine will not be prejudicial to our interests. (40)

1842 Apr 25: £45 annuity from Michaelmas 1839 to date. (41)

1842 Sept 12: J Hughes to J G Harris, 2, Old Palace Yard, Westminster, re 3 year's annuities due to the Miss Parry. 3 x £18 due up to the ensuing Michaelmas. Miss Louisa & Miss Emily Parry are now here [in Bangor]. (42)

1842 Sept 16: J G Harris to J Hughes re annuity

1838 Oct 15: John Hughes £27-0-0

1840 March 26: John Hughes £18-0-0 (up to Michaelmas) (43)

1842 Sept 19: J Hughes to J G Harris re 3 years annuity due. (44)

1842 Sept 20: J G Harris to J Hughes. Credit J Hughes £45 on account of Lord Mostyn & others, devisees in trust of the real estates of the late Richard Parry, Esq. (45)

1842 Sept 20: J G Harris to J Hughes re annuity.

£45 is two & one half year's annuity due to the Miss Parrys to Lady Day last. Annuity will now be paid on 15 April, deducting Property Tax of [7 ?or] 9d in the pound. If the ladies would like to see the old house at Llwyn Ynn in the course of their journey, orders are given to shew them every attention on their calling there. (46)

1843 March 20: J G Harris, Gloucester to J Hughes. He has arranged for annual payments on the annuity. (47)

1844 Feb 29: Laura Parry to J Hughes re Mill payments since April 1842? (48)

1844 Lady day: 2 year's annuity £36; J G Harris. (49)

1844 June 1: Laura Parry to J Hughes re mill money. (50)

1844 June 24 Letter to Mr Hughes (agent) from Miss Laura Parry

"Dear Sir, I ought sooner to have acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 14 inst. including a draft on Messrs. Roberts & Curtis for £34-19-0 from two years rent of the Mill.....which I immediately divided amongst the four sisters to all of whom it was acceptable ..." (51)

1845 Apr 1: year's annuity £18 J G Harris (52)

1848 Lady Day Annuity half year £9 Mr Harris (53)

1848 Michaelmas " " " " " (54)

1851 census (1) Sygun Ganol

John Williams	73	farmer, 85 acres employing 1 labourer	Born C Beddgelert
Gaunor Williams	70	wife	Born C Beddgelert
(Griffith P Wms son	45	U flour dealer	Born C Beddgelert)
John P Wms nephew	17	U	Born M Beddgelert
Griffith P Wms	"	12 U	Born M Beddgelert
Catherine Roberts	20	U house servant	Born M Beddgelert

Ruth Williams 32 U visitor Born C Beddgelert
 Robert Jones 11 Born C Beddgelert
 1856 Oct 26: John Williams, Sygun Ganol, died aged 78 years. } joint Beddgelert Memorial
 1860 April 6: Gaenor Williams his wife, died aged 78 years. } Inscription booklet. No. A082

1861 census (67) Sygun Ganol

Robert Williams	40 copper miner	Born C Beddgelert
Elizabeth Williams	48 wife	Born C Pwllheli
Catherine Williams	7 scholar	Born C Beddgelert
(68) William Davies	16 lodger U copper miner	Born M parish not known

1866 Mar 26: Law, Hursey & Hulbert, 10. Lincoln's Inn, London to H Beaver Roberts, Diocesan Registry, Bangor re Parry Trust. Cheque for £17-14-0 being a year's annuity less tax due 25 March to Miss C Parry, who we believe is the survivor. (55)

1867 Nov 2: Caroline Parry, the last of the unmarried daughters of Richard Parry I died and that estate passed to her nephew Richard Parry III whose father Edward Parry had died in 1850. (56)

1868 Oct 5: Indenture enrolled at the High Court of Chancery between 1. Richard Parry, son of Edward Parry (deceased) and

2. Edward Mostyn Lord Mostyn & Thomas Hughes (Trustees of the estate of Richard Parry II) in which 1. granted and released Sygun bach to 2.

1869 Aug 9 Deed of Covenant between 1. Richard Parry Esq of The Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall, Middx. and 2. Mrs Ann McKellar, of Upper Tooting, Surrey, widow. re SALE of c60 acres + dwellinghouse, mill, drying kiln & buildings called SYGUN BACH, parish Beddgelert, county Merioneth. (57)

1869 Aug 9: Indenture of sale between 1. John Henry Elwes & George Law;

2. Rt. Hon Edward Mostyn Lord Mostyn & Thomas Hughes

3 Francis Haygarth; 4. Rev Henry William Haygarth; 5. Ann McKellar

Elwes & Law consent to sale to Ann McKellar for £1400.

1869 tenant: Griffith Price. (58)

1871 census (10) Sygyn BACH

John Griffith	28	labourer	Born Caernarfonshire Dolbenmaen
Laure Griffith	25	wife	Born Caernarfonshire Llannor
John "	5		Born Caernarfonshire Beddgelert
Richard "	3		Born Caernarfonshire Beddgelert
Mary "	2		Born Caernarfonshire Beddgelert

1881 census (18) Sygyn BACH

David Owen	51	farmer	Born Caernarfonshire Llanystumdwy
Margaret Owen	53	wife	Born Caernarfonshire Llanfihangel
Margaret Owen	17	daughter	Born Caernarfonshire Beddgelert
Ann Owen	15	daughter	Born Caernarfonshire Beddgelert

1890 Mar 24 Conveyance of farm & premise known as Sygyn Bach farm & Mill

1. Samuel Wix of Broad water Down, Tunbridge Wells, Sussex Esq; [son in law & heir of Mrs Ann McKellar]; 2. David Owen of Sygun Bach farm, Beddgelert, co Merioneth, farmer for £877.

Refers to Indenture of lease 5 Dec 1882 between 1. Ann McKellar (lessor) & 2. Henry Maudslay (lessee) (59)

1890 25: Mortgage on Sygun bach otherwise Sygun ganol farm & Mill together with sheepwalk to secure the payment of £800 & interest between 1. David Owen of Sygun bach farm, farmer & 2. Pierce Roberts of Perthi Farm, farmer. 1 to pay 2. £30 rent half yearly. David Owen affixed his mark. (60)

1891 census (68) Sygun Bach

All spoke Welsh only

David Owen	60	farmer	Born Caernarfonshire Llanystumdwy
Margaret Owen	63	wife	Born Caernarfonshire Llanfihangel
Margaret Owen	26	daughter	Born Caernarfonshire Beddgelert
Owen Jones	16	farm servant	Born Anglesey

Griffith Jones of Tan R'allt died at Sygun Bach where he had made his home with David & Margaret Owen. (61)

1901 Census Schedule No 17 W

David Owen	H Married	70	Farmer Employer	Born Caernarfonshire, Criccieth	W
Margaret Owen	wife	63		Born Caernarfonshire, Beddgelert	W
Margaret Owen	Dau S	30		Born Caernarfonshire, Beddgelert	W

1901 census Sygun Bach mill In occupation

1909 Oct 6 Indenture between 1. Margaret Owen of Sygun Bach, spinster & 2. Pierce Roberts of Perthi, farmer. David Owen died in 1908 and left his real property to his daughter Margaret Owen who now agrees to sell to 2. for £880. As the principal sum of £800 + £30 interest was still due, 2. paid 1. £50. (62)

1910 Sygyn GANOL (BACH)

Owner: Margaret Owen 85 acres; Occupier: Henry Pritchard (63)

1911 Census Enumeration District 12 Schedule No 117 Sygun Bach

Mr Henry Prichard	married	33	farmer employee	Born C, Llanystumdwy	Welsh
Mary Prichard	wife	34		Born Mer, Llanbedr	Welsh
Bessie Jane May P	dau	2 weeks		Born C Beddgelert	-
Ann Jane Pritchard	single	42	Nurse Tender	Born C Penmorfa	Welsh

1918 Tenant: Joseph Richards (of Traws(fynydd)). (64)

1919 Dec 31 Conveyance of Sygun bach farm & Mill

whereas Pierce Roberts died 22 January 1916, leaving the estate to his wife Elizabeth Roberts. She died 14 March 1916 and devised her properties to Richard Jones her nephew. By Indenture 28 July 1919 between 1. Richard Jones & 2. Owen Humphreys on redemption of £1000, all interest paid but £1000 remains owing.

Richard Jones agreed to sell to Joseph Richards of Sygun bach for £ 530 to be paid to Owen Humphreys to reduce the mortgage debt. (65)

1919 Dec 31: Mortgage. Indenture between 1. Joseph Richards of Sygun bach, farmer; 4 Thomas Humphreys of Pengelli, town & county Caernarvon, farmer, wherein 2. agrees to lend 1. £400 (66)

1921 Census Enumeration District 13. Schedule No 78 Sygun Bach

Maggie Richard	Head	36	home duties	Born C, Beddgelert
Nell Richard	niece	9		Born Mer, Llanelltyd
Hugh H Richard	nephew	8		Born Mer, Llanelltyd

1922 June 5 Joseph Richards of Sygun bach died there [aged 44 years- Beddgelert memorial Inscription no B441] and left his estate, valued at £275-0-0, to his widow Maggie. She then married William Jones, roadman and they were living at Dolafon, Nantgwynant by 28 February 1927, when she repaid the £400 plus interest. (67)

1930s Owner: 'auntie Maggie' of Dolafon, Beddgelert, whose son was Edmund.

Tenant was Daniel Jones + brother Elias Jones & housekeeper. Their mother Ellen Jones was said to be a witch. (68)

1931 John & Mary Morris rented Sygun bach & moved there from Tanrhiw whilst Daniel Jones moved to Tanrhiw. (69)

1939 No 69	Sygun Ganol Bach house & buildings
Owner	Margaret Owen, Sygyn Fawr, Beddgelert
Occupier	Henry Pritchard (70b)

1940 January 14: Maggie Jones died at Dolafon and left her estate, valued at £566-14-6 gross to her husband William Jones, road foreman ... (71)

1940 Nov 1: William Jones died at Dolafon and Letters of Administration were granted to Edmund Richard Jones, farm labourer his son. (72)

1944 May 1: Conveyance for £550 of Sygun bach & mill by 1. Mrs Jane Richards, Bryn Eden, Trawsfynydd, widow to 2. Mr John Morris & Mary his wife of Sygun bach, farmer, whereas Edmund R Jones of Dolafon had died intestate 18 Oct 1943, [aged 34 years- Beddgelert memorial Inscription No B441] & Letters of Administration had been granted to 1. (73)

Family of John & Mary Morris: (73b Pers Comm. Mair Rowley, Beddgelert 2023)

Owen Morris; John Morris married Olwen & moved to Ganllwyd; Emyr Morris married Hannah & lived in Cefn Mawr; Alun Morris killed in action in World War II; see Beddgelert cenotaph; Dafydd Morris (1978 *David Morris died 1978 Mar 31 aged 72 years (70)* married Jessie (1936 Oct 31: Jessie Morris wife of David Morris died at Sygun bach, aged 31 years (70) & had three children- Evan, Elfed (1977 *Elfed Morris died 1977 Mar 3 aged 46 years;(70)* & Beryl; later he married Jess's sister Nell; 1974 *Helen (Nel) Morris died 1974 Apr 24 aged 71 year (70)* Mary Morris married Albert & lived in Caethro; Madge Morris had Eira (Mark Taylor's mother & Idwal, father of Llinos Angharad, Cwm Cloch & Madge later married Arthur Hughes.

1950 Their daughter Madge Morris married Arthur Hughes (of Oerddwr & Cwm Caeth family) They moved to Bwlchmwlchan in 1956 until 1970.

1953 January 2: John Morris retired & sold Sygun bach to Tom Askin for £1000 when Tom Askin sold Cwm Caeth, & he farmed it for Tom Askin. John Morris was also the annual tenant of Tanllwyn & part of Sygun Fawr. (74)

1955 July 20 Lease & counterpart lease between 1. T E Askin of Craflwyn, farmer & 2. Secretary of State for Air re erection of hut for Royal observer Corps Post for 21 years. (75)

1957 Nov 27: 1. Tom Askin of Ty Glanllyn, farmer, sold Sygun bach to 2. Dr George Byng Grayling, tenant, (of Leicester) for £1100. 2. was to relet the land to 1. for £15 pa for 5,10,15 years. (76)

1964 April 15 MANWEB supply of electricity.

1990 January 18: G B Grayling died and the executors agreed to the assenting of Sygyn bach to George Grindley Grayling [& Patricia Anne his wife] (77) in 1990 they visited regularly for holidays.

The house has changed ownership since 1990

1993 January: Water Mains access to Sygun Bach Access granted by T J Porter & S J Porter, Cae Du, To George Grindley William Grayling & Patricia Anne Grayling.

2002 November Listed Buildings Approval Notice with plans & elevation (current owners)

2023 August **Notes** from Land Registry (added, from current owners).

Sygun Bach, Beddgelert, Caernarfon LL55 4NE.

2017 July 31 Purchaser: Jason **** & Melony ****.

1. 1993 March 29: mentions the freehold land shown in red. Note, as to the part hatched in blue **on the filed plan**, the bridge supporting structures are excluded from the title.
2. 1993 March 29: There are excluded from this registration the mines and minerals excepted by a Conveyance OF THE LAND IN THIS TITLE DATED 15 January 1958 made between 1) Thomas Eric Askin (Vendor) and 2) George Byng Grayling (Purchaser) in the following terms:- “EXCEPTING AND RESERVING unto Samuel Wix all minerals under the said premises”.
3. 1993 March 29: The land has the benefit of the rights granted by but is subject as mentioned in the Conveyance dated 13 January 1958 referred to above in the following terms:- “TOGETHER also with the right of foot and cartway in common with the owner or owners and his or their tenants for the time being of Sygun Fawr and Sygun Bach estates and of the copper mines thereunder over and premises known as Caermoch AND TOGETHER with and SUBJECT to all such rights easements and appurtenances as appertain or belong thereto or to which the same is now subject”.
4. 1993 March 29: The land has the benefit of the rights granted by a Deed of Grant dated 7 January 1993 made between 1) Tony Johnson Porter and Sheila Jean Porter (First Owner) and George Grindley Grayling (Second Owner).

REFERENCES:

- (1) Camden, Britannia, ed Gibson, 1695; Hemp, W.J.1918, Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society, p169; RCAHM, 1960, Caernarvonshire vol II, p I, liv; RCAHM, 1964, Caernarvonshire vol III, p I, lxxviii.
- (2) See www.discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk/Caernarfonshire reports
- (3) NLW MS 127831E
- (4) NLW Rawley 31-2
- (5) NLW Rawley 10
- (6) T C Griffith, Achau ac Ewyllyisiau Teuleodd De Sir Gaernarfon. 1989, p 40
- (7) T C Griffith Achau ac Ewyllyisiau Teuleodd De Sir Gaernarfon. 1989. p 43
- (8) T C Griffith Achau ac Ewyllyisiau Teuleodd De Sir Gaernarfon. 1989. p 47
- (9) Edmund Hyde Hall, "A description of Caernarvonshire (1809-1811)" under Beddgelart: Mills. Pub. by Caernarvonshire Historical Society Record Series Number Two, p 220.
- (10) PRO references mislaid.**
- (11) NLW B/EP 726 Church in Wales Records
- (12) NLW Church in Wales B/LET 13,745
- (13) NLW B/LET 13,747
- (14) NLW B/LET 13,748
- (15) NLW B/LET 13,756
- (16) NLW B/LET 14,118
- (17)NLW B/LET 13,764
- (18) NLW B/EP 726 Rental of the Miss Parry's Estate
- (19) NLW B/LET 13,785
- (20) NLW B/LET 14,122
- (21) NLW B/LET 14,121
- (22) Private possession of owners; No 2
- (23) NLW B/LET 13,843
- (24) NLW B/Let 13,864
- (25) NLW B/LET 13,884
- (26) NLW B/LET 14,175
- (27) NLW B/LET 13,923
- (28) NLW B/LET 14,198
- (29) NLW B/LET 14,210
- (30) NLW B/EP 726
- (31) NLW B/LET 14,224
- (32) NLW B/LET 14,225
- (33) Beddgelert Tithe Returns
- (34) NLW B/EP 676
- (35) NLW B/EP 680
- (36) NLW B/LET 13,942
- (37) NLW B/LET 13,943
- (38) T C Griffith 1989, Achau ac Ewyllyisiau Teuluodd De Sir Gaernarfon p [2]
- (39) NLW B/LET 13,952
- (40) NLW B/LET 13,9** (unclear)
- (41) NLW B/EP 682
- (42) NLW B/LET 13,982

- (43) NLW B/LET 13,983
- (44) NLW B/LET 14,256
- (45) NLW B/LET 14,257
- (46) NLW B/LET 13,984
- (47) NLW B/LET 13,994
- (48) NLW B/LET 14,278
- (49) NLW B/EP 686
- (50) NLW B/LET 14,285
- (51) NLW B/EP 687
- (52) NLW B/EP685
- (53) NLW B/EP 695
- (54) NLW B/EP 696
- (55) NLW B/LET 14,331
- (56) Private possession of owners No2
- (57) Private possession of owners No 1
- (58) Private possession of owners No 2 + PLAN
- (59) Private possession of owner No 3 + PLAN
- (60) private possession of owner No 4 + PLAN
- (61) Written c 1903. Bangor Ms 33242
- (62) private possession of owner No 5
- (63) GAS XLT D/2
- (64) Carneddog.1927: Cerddi Eryri p 112
- (65) private possession of owner No 6
- (66) private possession of owner No 7
- (67) private possession of owner No 8
- (68) Local memories
- (69) Local memories
- (70) Beddgelert Inscription no B 649
- (70b) GAS XLTD/2
- (71) private possession of owner Nos 9, 10 & 11
- (72) private possession of owner Nos 12 & 13
- (73) private possession of owner no 14
- (73b) Pers Comm. Mair Rowley, Beddgelert 2023)
- (74) private possession of owner No 15
- (75) private possession of owner Nos 16 & 17
- (76) private possession of owners Nos 18 – 29
- (77) private possession of owner Nos 31 & 32

Researched by Margaret Dunn in 1996 (Margaret Griffith at the time)
 Craflwyn Estate files ref. NN5. Reviewed 20 August 2023.

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SYGUN MILL, Beddgelert parish, Caernarfonshire, now Gwynedd

National Grid Reference SH 594483

Introduction.



3 Sygun Mill shown in "View in the Vale of Beddgelert"
Engraving by J.C Varrall c 1812,

It is not yet known when Sygun mill was built. It was frequently shown in paintings & sketches by visiting artists seeking the picturesque from the early 19th century onwards. Until the 20th century it seems to have always been part of the mountain farm of Sygun Bach, which was also called Sygun Ganol. A history of that farm and those who lived there from the early 1600s is described separately on the website www.discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk.

1809-1811: There is a description under Beddgelart - Mills that "within the parish are three mills, one dilapidated in Nanwhynen, a second close upon the village, and a third of recent erection below Pont Aber Glasllyn ." The sketch in Figure 24 in that book confirms that the second mill is that at Sygun Bach. (1)

1828 Apr 10: will of Richard Parry 1 leaves in trust for his four unmarried daughters all his lands in Caernarvonshire including also a small farm and **mill** near or attached to a house which is situated in Merionethshire ...There is a condition to his son Richard Parry 2 to let his unmarried sisters have (?rents from) the little farm and mill in Merionethshire with their estates in Caernarvonshire. (2)

1829 Oct 24: Letter & rental to Sir J LL

Dukinfield from J Hughes. " Suga & Mill possessed by Mr Parry & tenant does not appear (3)
1830 Jun 17: Letter to Sir J LI Dukinfield from J Hughes." I will with great pleasure give Mr Parry the moeity at Suga Bachbut my engagements with the clergy are so numerous at this time of the year, that I cannot find an earlier day for that purpose, than about the 7th or 8th of July. I find that if we are asking not only to have an estimate of the repairs now required upon the **mill** but also a valuation of the annual rent of the mill & lands- deducting a certain sum for annual repairs etc- . The first estimate in particular is as foreign to my ordinary ?ions that ... I hope the Trusteeswill allow me to appoint a substitute not only more competent to the task ... & to protect the Miss Parys' interest as myself" (4)

1830 July 10: Letter from Sir J Lloyd Duckinfield to J Hughes ...re Mr Parry having estimate of repairs of mill & farm near Beddgelert. "He is apt to be dilatory in business & may perhaps not have written yet." (5)

1830 Sept 10: Letter from Sir J Lloyd Duckinfield to J Hughes...you were absent when Mr Parry wished to have fixed for the survey of the small Merionethshire farm & **mill** (6)

1831 Mar 13: Paid Mr Robert Williams' bill altering Sugan bach & **mill** etc £4-4-0. (7)
 1838 Aug 25: Capt. Garth to J Hughes. The compensation for the **Mill** in Merionethshire is I believe paid annually to the Miss Parrys by the Trustee of the late Mr Parry Esq, but whether you receive it or Messrs. Dunn, Wordsworth & Dunn, I am not this moment aware. (8)
 1838 Dec 19: Dunn, Wordsworth & Dunn to J Hughes. No annuity received lately on account of the annuity in respect of the **mill** in Merionethshire. Mr Harris was to pay J Hughes ... why a delay? (9)
 1844 Feb 29: Laura Parry to J Hughes re **Mill** payments since April 1842? (10)
 1844 June 1: Laura Parry to J Hughes re **mill** money. (11)
 1844 June 24: Letter to Mr Hughes (agent) from Miss Laura Parry
 "Dear Sir, I ought sooner to have acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 14 inst. including a draft on Messrs. Roberts & Curtis for £34-19-0 from two years rent of the **Mill**.....which I immediately divided amongst the four sisters to all of whom it was acceptable ..." (12)

1851 census (1) Sygun Ganol

John Williams	73 farmer 85 acres employing 1 labourer	Born C Beddgelert
Gaunor Williams	70 wife	Born C Beddgelert
Griffith P Wms son	45 U flour dealer	Born C Beddgelert

1869 Aug 9: Deed of Covenant between 1. Richard Parry Esq of The Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall, Middx. and 2. Mrs Ann McKellar, of Upper Tooting, Surrey, widow. re SALE of c60 acres + dwellinghouse, **mill, drying kiln** & buildings called SYGUN BACH, parish Beddgelert, county Merioneth. (13)

1890 Mar 24: Conveyance of farm & premise known as Sygyn Bach farm & **Mill**

1. Samuel Wix of Broadwater Down, Tunbridge Wells, Sussex Esq; [son in law & heir of Mrs Ann McKellar];

2. David Owen of Sygun Bach farm, Beddgelert, co Merioneth, farmer for £877.

Refers to Indenture of lease 5 Dec 1882 between 1. Ann McKellar (lessor) & 2. Henry Maudslay (lessee) (14)

1890: March 25: Mortgage on Sygun bach otherwise Sygun ganol farm & **Mill** together with sheepwalk to secure the payment of £800 & interest between 1. David Owen of Sygun bach farm, farmer & 2. Pierce Roberts of Perthi Farm, farmer. 1. to pay 2. £30 rent half yearly. David Owen affixed his mark. (15)

1919 Dec 31: Conveyance of Sygun bach farm & **Mill** whereas Pierce Roberts died 22 January 1916, leaving the estate to his wife Elizabeth Roberts. She died 14 March 1916 and devised her properties to Richard Jones her nephew. By Indenture 28 July 1919 between 1. Richard Jones & 2. Owen Humphreys on redemption of £1000, all interest paid but £1000 remains owing. Richard Jones agreed to sell to Joseph Richards of Sygun bach for £ 530 to be paid to Owen Humphreys to reduce the mortgage debt. (16)

1944 May 1: Conveyance for £550 of Sygun bach & **mill** by 1. Mrs Jane Richards, Bryn Eden, Trawsfynydd, widow to 2. Mr John Morris & Mary his wife of Sygun bach, farmer, whereas Edmund R Jones of Dolafon had died intestate 18 Oct 1943, [aged 34 years- Inscription No B441] & Letters of Administration had been granted to 1. (17)

It has been a ruin since at least the 1940s with the wheel and the water leet now having been mainly removed. At one time it became a slaughter house for Hugh Jones, the local butcher.

References:

- (1) Edmund Hyde Hall, "A description of Caernarvonshire" p 220, under Beddgelart: Mills. Pub. by Caernarvonshire Historical Society Record Series Number Two.
- (2) PRO (reference lost)
- (3) NLW B/LET 13,748
- (4) NLW B/LET 13,756
- (5) NLW B/LET 14,118
- (6) NLW B/LET 13,764
- (7) NLW B/EP 726 Rental of the Miss Parry's Estate
- (8) NLW B/LET 14,198
- (9) NLW B/LET 14,224
- (10) NLW B/LET 14,278
- (11) NLW B/LET 14,285
- (12) NLW B/EP 687
- (13) Private possession of owners No 1
- (14) Private possession of owner No 3 + PLAN
- (15) Private possession of owner No 4 + PLAN
- (16) Private possession of owner No 6
- (17) Private possession of owner no 14

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Revised 20 August 2023