



Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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

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Darganfod Hen
Dai Cymreig



Discovering Old
Welsh Houses

HOUSE HISTORY RESEARCH

SEBONIG, Llanaber parish. (NGR SH 591208)
in Dyffryn Ardudwy, Meirionydd, Gwynedd,
later in joint ownership with other local farms.



Sebonig

Researched and written by Margaret Dunn in 2008,
recently revised. With thanks to all who have contributed information

PLEASE NOTE ALL THE HOUSES IN THIS PROJECT ARE PRIVATE AND
THERE IS NO ADMISSION TO ANY OF THE PROPERTIES

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

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DISCOVERING OLD WELSH HOUSES

HOUSE HISTORIES of some FARMS in Dyffryn Ardudwy, Merionethshire.

SEBONIG, Llanaber parish, Merionethshire. NGR SH 591208.

Sebonig is located to the west of the A496 main north / south road between Talybont and Llanaber, north of Barmouth. It is situated just inland of the coastal strip of poor pasture on land starting to rise from the narrow coastal plain to the mountain land to the east.

Introduction.

The house history material contained below was researched around 2006 as part of a partial investigation into some farm holdings in Dyffryn Ardudwy, Merionethshire. Many references are noted which have not been looked up or copied. This document is a list of pieces of information (date; summary, full source) so far found about this house, and is not a prose history of the building & its owners or families. In early documents it is often not clear whether the area, farm holding or actual farmhouse is referred to; this can make it difficult to be sure when the farmhouse was first built. Building styles alter over time and buildings may be extended, modernised or totally replaced.

The notes do not always follow the format used in the house histories undertaken by the Discovering Old Welsh Houses heritage charity & its predecessors, and is not a complete house history. Nevertheless, it may be a useful starting point for house histories for any of the properties named. Those interested in old houses in old Merionethshire (now part of Gwynedd) could look at the DOWH website : www.discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk. Many reports researched by members & volunteers can be seen in the English section, under Library - House Histories – Merioneth.

Margaret Dunn secretary@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk. 12 July 2020

1587/8 document names **Sebonig**, Llanthoywey. 1. Lewis ap Edward ap Robert of Llanthoywey, co Merioneth, gent, 2. Griffith Vaughan of Corsygedol, Esq
QUITCLAIM of a tenement or messuage called Llanveckwyn and appurtenances from a certain stream called Avon Talpont to a place called SEBONIG in township of Llanthoywey, co Merioneth. (UWB, Mostyn 3684)

1623: Crown Rental, Llanaber:

Edward ap John David ap Jenkin, for his lands Sebonig 2s 6d.
(NLW, Ms 12731E, D E Jenkins 1, p 28-39)

1724 Sebonig, Llanaber: (See Deeds at Cardiff Free Library, Merioneth)

1747 Easter. Case re receiving stolen goods worth tenpence the property of Robert Owen of Tu Gwyn, gent, stolen from **Robert Owen's house called Sebonig**, parish of Llanaber on 18 February 1747. (Cal of the Merioneth Quarter Sessions Rolls, i.52)

Was this Robert Owen, Ty Gwyn, Dolgelly (1701-1767), descendant of Baron Owen?

(Pedigrees, p 364)

1772 Richard Edwards, Sebonig, yeoman, was church warden at Llanaber. (Merionnydd Archives, Z/PE/10/1)

1786 Sebonig & 4 other properties being mortgage by

1. Thomas Williams, Llanidan, co Anglesey, Esq;
2. Maurice Owen, Tygwyn, co Mer, Esq;
3. William Hughes, Plas Coch, co Anglesey Esq.

Draft Assignment of mortgage of capital messuage, mill & lands in Dolgelley, Llanaber & Llanenddwyn, co Mer called Ty gwynn, Melyn y Tygwyn, Caenycoed, **Sebonig**, Gellilas (Tenants given) To secure £1,800 + interest. Mentions that a farm called Gellilas was sold to Evan Lloyd Vaughan. (GAS, X/Poole/ 3672)

CHECK OWNER

1797 Aug 8: burial of **Richard Edward**, Sebonig, yeoman. (Merionnydd Archives, Z/PE/10/1)

1816 **Edward Richard** & his wife and his niece Mary, who married **Richard Vaughan, one of the sons of Tyddyn Mawr**, attended Sunday School at Hendre Eirion. ...(Y Lladmerydd, 1900-02, ed Rev Evan Davies, Trefriw, vol XVI, 1900, Dolgellau)

1827 Jan 12: Marriage of **Richard Vaughan**, Llanddwywe and Mary Jones, Llanaber. (NLW, Bangor Bishop's Transcripts, Llanaber)

1827 July 29: baptism of Edward, son of Richard & Mary Vaughan, Sebonig, labourer. (NLW, Bangor Bishop's Transcripts, Llanaber)

1830 Sept 26: baptism of Lewis, son of Richard & Mary Vaughan, Ysbonig, farmer. (NLW, Bangor Bishop's Transcripts, Llanaber)

1833 Jan 23: baptism of Elizabeth, daughter of Richard & Mary Vaughan, Sebonig, farmer. (NLW, Bangor Bishop's Transcripts, Llanaber)

1836 Oct 20: Award for inclosing lands in the parishes of Llanaber, Llanddwywe, Llanenddwyn, Llanbedr & Llanfair in the county of Merioneth.

To **William Griffith as purchaser from Miss Mary Owen deceased** for whom the same was originally set out and allotted in respect of Sebonig

Allotment 58 37 acres 2r 39p

 59 21 acres 33p (Dolgellau Record Office, Z/QR/EN/3 pages 65)

(Was Miss Mary Owen a descendant of Robert Owen who owned Sebonig in 1747 ?)

1838 Sept 2: baptism of Mary, daughter of Richard & Mary Vaughan, Sebonig, farmer. (NLW, Bangor Bishop's Transcripts, Llanaber)

1838 Aug 13: burial of Edward Richards, 69 years, Sebonig. (NLW, Bangor Bishop's Transcripts, Llanaber)

1840 Sept 30: baptism of Ellin, daughter of Richard & Mary Vaughan, Sebonig, farmer. (NLW, Bangor Bishop's Transcripts, Llanaber)

1840s tithe map **Owner: William Griffith**, Gotref (uchaf) (Llanaber)

Tenant: Elizabeth Williams acreage: 132a 1r 30p.

LAND OWNERS of Egryn freestone quarry site: It is possible that the putative quarry site was above the mountain wall and in open moorland (Crown / Forest of Snowdon land) prior to the c1810 enclosures and allotment of the mountainside.

SEE NLW MAPS.

The 1839 Tithe map for Llanaber shows the putative quarry site as field 89, Ffridd, which along with allotments 902 and 983 were part of **Sebonig** land, owned by William Griffith, Go(e)tref, (Llanaber?) As was Y Wern, field 114.

Check earlier owners. 1623 owner: Edward ap John ap Jenkin.

1841 census schedule Llanaber is mynydd ED 13. No 2. Esponic

Richard Vaughan	40	farmer	born in Merionethshire
Mary	“	35	“
Edward	“	12	“
Lewis	“	10	“
Jane	“	5	“
Ellinor	“	10 months	“
+ 4 servants			
Elizabeth Jones	70	Independent	“

c1844 **Morgan Owen, Egryn**, moved to Sebonig, and then c1849 to the Glyn, Talsarnau. (Y Lladmerydd, 1900-02, ed Rev Evan Davies, Trefriw, vol XVI, 1900, Dolgellau)

c1849 Morgan Owen, Egryn, moved from Sebonig to the Glyn, Talsarnau.

1847: Owner William Griffith, Goetre, died & left Sebonig to his younger son **Robert Griffith**. (See 1875 entry)

1851 Census Schedule Llanaber Is Mynydd ED 4c. No 8 Sebonig

Evan Jones	serv	U	37	ag lab	born Dolgellau
Robert Jones	serv	U	29	“	Llanelltyd
Edward Morris	serv	U	15	“	Llanaber
Mary Williamsserv	U	31	house servant	“	

1854 Owner Robert Griffith died & left Sebonig to his son & heir **John Jones Griffith**. (see 1875 entry)

1861 census schedule Llanaber is mynydd ED 11. No 43 Sebonig

Evan Evans	H	M	48	farmer of 152 acres + 2 labs	born Yr Ynys. C
Jannet	“	W	M	50	“
Thomas Owen	serv	U	48	labourer	Llanenddwyn
David Lewis	serv	U	14	carttle lab	
Janet Davies	serv	U	19	house servant	

1867 **Owner John Jones Griffith** takes out mortgages on Sebonig. (see 1875 entry)

1871 No 2 Sebonig

John J Griffith	H	M	31	farmer 131 acres 2 labs	born Llanenddwyth
Margaret	“	W	M	wife	Llanaber
Eliza	“	dau	U	7	“
M C	“	dau	U	5	“
William	“	son	U	3	“
Catherine Evans	m in law	W	57		“

William Morris serv	farmer's servant	Llanelltyd
Jane Williams serv	domestic servant	Llanfair
(1871 census schedule Llanaber Is Mynydd, ED 11)		

1873-1875 **Owner John Jones Griffith** takes out further mortgages on Sebonog. (see 1875 entry)

1875 May 9: Conveyance of Crown Rents charged to Sebonig, Llanaber, co Merioneth: £3 2s 0d. from James Kenneth Howard, Crown Commission, to Charles Williams, Esq., Castleton, Northwich, Co Chester, Surgeon. (pers. Comm L Donnelly, Hengwm)

1875 Nov 15: Conveyance of Sebonig from Messr John Jones, Ynysfor, John Evans & others to Charles Williams Esq.

1. John Jones, Ynysfor, Esq, & John Evans, Barmouth, gent, (TRUSTEES)
2. Watkin Anwyl of Pwllheli Esq & Mary his wife (1st MORTGAGEES)
3. Owen Griffith, Cefncoch, co C Esq, John Roberts, Talawen, co Carn, Doctor of Medicine; Thomas Jones, Portmadoc, co C, gent. (2nd MORTGAGEES)
4. **John Jones Griffith**, late of Sebonig, now of Fronoleu Terrace, Llanaber, co M, gent,
5. Charles Williams, Castleton, Northwich, Co Chester, Esq.

WHEREAS **William Griffith**, late of Barmouth, co M Esq, deceased, being seized in fee simple of the farm, lands ... described in his will, **22 June 1847**, did give the same to Richard Humphreys of Faldre, Llanenddwyn, co M gent his executor, for 500 years, from his decease on trust – give the same to the use of his son **Robert (Griffith)** for his natural life, then to his son's sons in order, then to his daughters ... Mortgage for £1,000 & pay to the **younger children of Robert Griffith** as tenants in common – interest at 21 years.

WHEREAS William Griffith died 23 September 1847; will was proved 29 Nov 1847 by William Griffith the son and Ann (wife of Richard Humphreys) and Jane Cooper (wife of Ebenezer Cooper), the daughters of the said deceased, the executors named in the said will

WHEREAS Robert Griffith died 2 August 1854 & buried at St Peter, Jersey, having had Mary (died in his lifetime); William (died 25 February 1856 under 21 years with no issue; Catherine died 4 Jan 1861 with no issue, the said John Jones Griffith, his eldest son & heir at law, and Robert Griffith

AND WHEREAS by INDENTURE 21 Oct 1861 duly enrolled in High Court of Chancery between 1. John Jones Griffith and 2. Evan Evans of Barmouth, gent, was witnessed the barring every estate in tail of the said J J Griffith in the said hereditaments & all remainders etc to take effect, he (J J Griffith) did grant to Evan Evans & heirs the hereditamants & premises aforesaid, to hold the same unto E Evans & his heirs to the use of J J Griffith & his heirs

WHEREAS by INDENTURE 27 December **1861** between 1. J J Griffith & 2. William Griffith gent, the said hereditaments were conveyed to 2. his heir for securing £500 + interest

WHEREAS by INDENTURE 16 March **1867** 1. William Griffith; 2. J J Griffith; 3. Robert Griffith, the younger; 4. The Rev Henry Richards, in consideration of £500 to William Griffith & of £700 to the said J J Griffith paid by Rev Henry Richard, hereditaments conveyed to Henry Richards by mortgage for the £600,

WHEREAS by INDENTURE 25 August **1869 between** 1. Rev Thomas Jones (executor of will of Rev Henry Richards, deceased, will proved Bangor 1 March 1869; 2. J J Griffith; 3. Robert Griffith the younger, 4. 1st Mortgagees. After reciting Henry Richards will of 5 September 1868 in which he devised & bequeathed his property including this mortgage, debt & security to Thomas Jones, it is witnessed that in consideration of £600 to Thomas Jones, paid by the 1st mortgagees & also a sum of £700 to said J J Griffith also paid by the 1st mortgagees, that all the sum of £600 then owing to Thomas Jones on the security aforesaid was assigned,

also all that farm, lands etc was granted to the 1st mortgagees; can be redeemed for £600 + £700 on 25 February next.

WHEREAS by INDENTURE 27 March 1873 1. Robert Griffith; 2. J J Griffith, £1,000 + all interest having been paid to 1, (as the younger son of Robert Griffith deceased) was entitled to under the will of William Griffith, the said Richard Humphreys died in 1862 without having raised the £1,000 for the younger children, he the said Robert Griffith discharged J J Griffith & his heirs of & from all actions, claims etc & covenanted to indemnify J J Griffith lands etc re trust in will of William Griffith deceased

WHEREAS by INDENTURE 28 March 1873 between 1. J J Griffith; 2. 1st mortgagees; £500 paid by 2. to 1. J J Griffith charged premises with payment of £500 redeemable only on payment of £500 + £1,300 + interest

WHEREAS by INDENTURE 3 July 1874 between 1. J J Griffith & 2. 1st mortgagees in consideration of (a new) £500, J J Griffith covenants to pay 2. £500 lent 3 January extent + interest

WHEREAS by INDENTURE 18 February 1875 between 1. J J Griffith; 2. 2nd mortgagees for £500 to J J Griffith to us, see Indentures dated 25 August 1869, 25 March 1873 & 3 July 1874 and subject to provision for redemption of premise to £500 + interest paid back

WHEREAS by INDENTURE 19 February 1875 between 1, J J Griffith; 2. Trustees, witnessed that J J Griffith granted the farm aforesaid to the Trustees subject to mortgagees

WHEREAS SOLD 5 lots of 31 July last.

Lot 1 purchased by Charles Williams, highest bidder: £2,300

Lots 2-5 for £2,000 to Charles Williams, making total of £4,300.

WHEREAS the 1st mortgagees were owed £1,300 + £500 + £500 = £2,300, interest having been paid; the 2nd mortgagees were owed £500, interest having been paid, they agreed to £2,300 + £500 to be paid out of the purchase money. Witnessed & agreed by J J Griffith, 25 August 1869; 23 March 1873; 3 July 1874; 18 Feb 1875, the £2,300 + £500 + £1,500 ... Watkin Anwyl, for Mary his wife, covenants with Charles Williams.

1875 Sebonig is occupied by Richard Edwards. (Pers. Comm L Donnelly, Hengwm)

Between 1875 – 1881 census: Richard Edwards, tenant of Sebonig, died

1881 No 4 Sebonig

Elizabeth Edwards	H	W	66	farmer 65 acres	born Llanenddwyn	
Griffith	“	son	M	31	farmer's son	Llanaber
Sarah	“	dau	M	35		Llanwnda, C'fon
Richard	“	son	U	4		Llanaber
Watkin Owen		serv	U	21	farm servant	Llanenddwyn
Margaret Hughes		lodger	U	21		?Llandisibr, Denbigh
Margaret Hughes		dau	U	7mths		Llanddwywe

(1881 Census schedule Llanaber Is Mynydd ED 11)

1881 Aug 4 The will of Charles Williams, Hengwm, Surgeon, states that he then owned freehold Sebonig farmhouse and lands now in the occupation of Elizabeth Edwards. (GAS/X/D8/4/1424)

When did the Edwards family leave Sebonig?

1891 No 39 Sebonig

Lewis P Vaughan	H	M	62	farmer	born Llanenddwyn	W
Mary	“	W	M	37	Llanaber	W
3 servants						W

(1891 census schedule Llanaber Is Mynydd Fiche 26)

1901 census schedule Llanaber Is Mynydd Fiche 26. No 1 Sebonig

Lewis P Vaughan	H	M	66	farmer, employer	born Llanaber
Mary P	“	W	M	47	“
Ann	“	mother in law	W	91	living on own means Llangelynin
Elizabeth Owen	serv	U	27	gen servant domestic	“
Griffith Jones	serv	U	23	ag lab	Llanenddwyn
Edward Williams	serv	U	14	coachman domestic	Llandanwg

1910 – Sebonig 131 acres of land. Owner: Mrs Williams, Hengwm. Occupier: Lewis P Vaughan. (Dolgellau Record Office, Land Tax 1910, Llanaber, Z/QR/L/2 no 6)

1911 census not checked

? Robert Davies from Corsygedol moved to Sebonig and then to Taltreuddyn Bach. (Elwyn Evans, Gerddi bluog)

c1915 Robert Jones moved from Eithinfynydd to Sebonig (he was the grandfather of Elwyn Evans, Gerddi bluog)

Robert Jones who owned Eithinfynydd, moved to Sebonig as tenant of the Carsons, Hengwm; bought Eithinfynydd c 1915 for £3,000. Had at least 3 children:

i) Robert Jones who married, moved to Dyffryn and had Elinor Jones.

ii) Catrin who bought Eithinfynydd for £3,300 after her father's death in 1941.

iii) Jane who c1930 married William Evans, son of Gaynor Evans of Capel Egryn. Their son Alun Evans married Maggie Edwards & in 2007 lived at Bryn y Bwyd. (Alun Evans 23/7/2007)

1927 Income Tax: Sebonig £69 15-0d. Also Hengwm £56, Lodge £8 15-0, fields £8 10-0, Egryn £164 & Ropeway £24 15-0. (Pers comm. L Donnelly, Hengwm)

1940s: Landgirl/Maid from Tyddyn Mawr fetched milk daily; given egg for her tea. (pers. comm. Mrs Betty Parry, Uwch y Nant, Dyffryn, July 2007)

?: owned by the Carson family descendants. Two aunts lived there – Mrs Carson & another lady. (pers comm Meirion Williams, Hendre Eirian, 3-3-07)

1986 Sebonig farmhouse was sold to Mr & Mrs James, local people. (Mr James died c2006)

c1988 The James sold Sebonig to ?

c1990 Sebonig was sold again

early 1990s: Sebonig was bought by Mr & Mrs Hitchman.

2008: There is the house, converted outbuildings, and a caravan on site which are usually all let out as holiday lets. The family sometimes stays.

The family of Col Carson at Hengwm have information / photographs etc

Sebonig Owners:

1587/9 see Deeds

1623 Edward ap John David ap Jenkin

1724 see Deeds

1747 Robert Owen, Yr Gwyn

1786 check

c1830s Miss Mary Owen sold Sebonig to William Griffith, Gotre, gent

1847 William Griffith died leaving Sebonig to his younger son, Robert Griffith

1854 Robert Griffith died in Jersey, leaving Sebonig to his son John Jones Griffith
1867-1875 J J Griffith takes out mortgages totalling £2,800
1875 Sebonig is sold to Charles Williams for £4,300 to pay off the debts.
HENGWM with a Lodge was built on four fields.