



# Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig

## Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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## BWLCHGWERNOG

Nanmor, Beddgelert  
Gwynedd



## House History

A Part History of the House & its Families

Author: Margaret Dunn

Updated 21-01-2006

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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# **BWLCHGWERNOG: A History of the House & its Families**

Nanmor, Beddgelert, Gwynedd

update 21-1-2006

NGR 26116 34527

Grade II

From CADW Listing Schedule:

Small cottage, probably late C18, its roadside location suggesting its origin as an encroachment small-holding. Its site is at the cross-roads where the old coach road from Caernarfon to Dolgellau crosses the Nanmor valley.

Single storeyed whitened rubble cottage; two unit plan with later additions to R and L; four squat chimneys. Interior not inspected.

RCAHMW CA Beddgelert Parish Box:

Probably mid C18 on earlier footings. A rubble cottage with ;loft and later buildings in same range. Timbers poor.

The beam adjacent to the front door has a groove for an in and out partition. The present building is probably C18. Existence of a wide plinth & proximity of a large quantity of loose stone suggest thsat it replaced an earlier building. Fair condition. 19-10-1953 P S.

Bressummers and roof trusses & purlins surviving in 2005.

Two crogloft type cottages, with third open-to-roof cottage to right unmodernised with original fireplace plus built structure similar to Fridd Isa & Gelli..

Middle cottage has post & panel slots in beam to right of entry.

## **OWNERS**

It is not known when & how Bwlchgwernog became part of the estate of Hafod Garegog. It may have been one of the purchases of Maurice Williams in the early 1600s.

**1732** Catherine Wynn, Hafod Garegog, made a pre nuptial settlement on her son Maurice Wynn of her whole estate including **Bwlchgwernog** (C Gresham, JMHS,1978, Nanmor Deudraeth p 110 & NLW Dolfriog 187) **This seems to be the earliest document naming Bwlchgwernog.**

1798 Nantmor Land Tax Assessment (Dolgellau IR/23/118)

Gives owners, tenants & tithe but not property names.

Owner Mrs Jane Wynne Hughes. Tenant? Thos Roberts 2d.

By 1839 the Priestley family of Trefan owned much of Nanmor including Bwlchgwernog

1845 Mrs Mary Priestley died & left the Hafod Garegog estate to her second son John Priestley.

Major John Priestley inherited from his father & on his death in 1893 his only son Samuel Wyne Priestley inherited. He died in a hunting accident in 1897 aged 22 years.

The Nanmor estate went to his brother Rev Frances John Loyd Priestley, son of the Rector of Heneglwys.

1920 Colonel John Lloyd Priestley sold much of his estate.

Roger Lewis inherited the remaining estate & gradually sold off properties.

Late 1970s: Alan Jinks & Roger Archer jointly bought Bwlchgwernog 1.

1980s: Roger Archer bought Bwlchgwernog 2  
c1991 Roger Archer bought Alan Jinks share of 1.

Mr Archer & family have used Bwlchgwernog as a family holiday home since the c1960s.

## TENANTS

There may well have been two families living at Bwlchgwernog from the time the cottages were first built, A third dwelling nearest the road may be of a different period.

The Merioneth Turnpike Trust was established in 1777. The old coach road from Pont Aberglaslyn passed Bwlchgwernog to Croesor follows the route of an earlier pack-horse trail.

1759 Apr 13 baptism of Owen, son of William Befan, *Pwllgwernog*, tailor, & Mary Roberts his wife (Beddgelert Bishops Transcripts)

1764 Dec 16 burial of Richard Griffith, Bwlchgwernog, farmer (Beddgelert BT)

1764 Dec 20 burial of Ellin Owen, wife of Robert Roberts, Bwlchgwernog, labourer. (Beddgelert BT)

1769 Jan 17 will of Frances Humphrey, Bwlchgwernog. Proved 1773 (TCGriffith 1 38)

1771 Jan 2 burial of Frances Humphrey, Bwlchgwernog, widow (Beddgelert BT)

1771 Apr 28 burial of Thomas Roberts, Bwlchgwernog, infant (Beddgelert BT)

1772 Feb 3 baptism of David Griffith, son of Owen Griffith, Bwlchgwernog, labourer & Ann. (Beddgelert BT)

1772 Apr 10 burial of David Owen, Bwlchgwernog, infant (Beddgelert BT)

1773 May 20 baptism of Richard, son of Owen Griffith, Bwlchgwernog, labourer & Ann. (Beddgelert BT)

1775 Mar 24 baptism of Elizabeth, daughter of Owen Griffith, Bwlchgwernog, labourer & Ann. (Beddgelert BT)

1778 May 24 baptism of Robert, son of Owen Griffith, Bwlchgwernog, labourer & Ann. (Beddgelert BT)

1780 Jan 2 baptism of Margaret, daughter of Owen Griffith, Bwlchgwernog, labourer & Ann. (Beddgelert BT)

1783 Jan 5 baptism of Rebecca, daughter of Owen Griffith, Bwlchgwernog, labourer & Ann. (Beddgelert BT) 1810 Rebecca married John Williams son of Hafodruffydd & had 8 children. She died in 1851. (TCGriffith2 [139])

1786 Jan 22 baptism of David, son of Owen Griffith, Bwlchgwernog, pauper & Ann. (Beddgelert BT)

In 1799 Owen Gruffydd, poet, lived at Bwlch Gwernog, Nanmor. A poem is quoted in "The Ynysfor Hunt", by B Dew Roberts, Trans. Cymmrodorion, 1940 p200)

1792 Jan 22 baptism of Robert, son of Thomas Robert, Bwlchgwernog labourer & Margaret (Beddgelert BT)

1798 Nantmor Land Tax Assessment (Dolgellau IR/23/118)

Gives owners, tenants & tithe but not property names.

Owner Mrs Jane Wynne Hughes. Tenant? Thos Roberts 2d.

1803 Apr 21 burial of Margaret Roberts, Bwlchgwernog

1804 May 6 baptism of Hugh Hughes, son of Emanuel Griffith, Bwlchgwernog & Mary (Beddgelert BT)

1808 May 1 baptism of Thomas, son of William Thomas Bwlchgwernog & Margaret (Beddgelert BT)

1811 Dec 29 baptism of Alice, daughter of William Thomas Pwllgwernog & Margaret (Beddgelert BT)

c1830s Jane Jones, Bwlchgwernog, daughter of John Prichard (1764-1836) Corlwyni, & Catherine, married \*Robert Thomas (stone mason) & had children. (TCGriffith2 [177])

1839 Tithe schedule Owners; the Priestley estate – Mary Priestley of Trefan tenant \*Robert Thomas 7 acres 3r 32 p

1841 census Bwlch gwernog

Robert Thomas	45	stonemason	Born in Merioneth
Jane “	40		“
Margaret Robert	14		“
Catherine Robert	12		“
Bwlch gwernog			
David Owen	55	copper miner	Born in Merioneth
Mary “	55		Not born in Merioneth
Owen Griffith	15	quarryman	Born in Merioneth
Rebecah Owen	13		“
Catherine Hugh	55	pauper	Not born in Merioneth
Michael Mican	25	Ag lab	?
Catherine Jones	2		?

1851 census

1861 census

1861 census

1863 Aug 23 death of Jane, daughter of +John & Catherine Jones, Bwlchgwernog aged 4, (Beddgelert MI A305)

1869 Jan 22 death of ^David Owen Bwlchgwernog aged 82 (Beddgelert MI A325)

1870 Oct 8 death of \*Robert Thomas, Bwlch gwernog, Nantmor aged 79. (Beddgelert MI A147)

1871 census

1876 Jul 9 death of +John Jones (Bwlchgwernog) aged 50 (Beddgelert MI A 305)

1881 census

1883 Mai 2 death of ^Mary Owen Bwlchgwernog aged 99, (Beddgelert MI A 325)

1884 May 6 death of \*Jane Thomas, widow of Robert Thomas, Bwlchgwernog, aged 86. (Beddgelert MI A 147)

1891 census

1901 census

1901 May 8 death of Mary Owen, daughter of David Owen & Mary Parry, Bwlchgwernog aged 76 (Beddgelert MI A701)

1906 Jan 1 death of John Owen, Bwlchgwernog aged 40 (Beddgelert MI A684)

1915 Nov 11 death of William, son of John Owen (Bwlchgwernog) aged 9 (Beddgelert MI A 684)

1933 Aug 10 death of Margaret Owen (widow of John Owen Bwlchgwernog) aged 67 (Beddgelert MI A684)

late 1950s: No 1: grandfather of Mr Richardson lived there; one-armed man.

No 2: Dafydd Owen lived there with his elderly mother.

Then Mary Priestly let No 1 to Alan Jinks, & No 2 to Charlie Roberts. ( Roger Archer pers comm.)

Mr Archer & family have used Bwlchgwernog as a family holiday home since the c1960s.

Local memories

House deeds

Researched by Margaret Dunn \_\_\_\_\_