



Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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CLENENNAU

Dolbenmaen,
Gwynedd



House History

Author: Margaret Dunn

Updated 16-04-2008

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

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SNOWDONIA DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

CLENNNAU

Dolbenmaen, Gwynedd

NGR 253200 342440

Grade II*

HOUSE HISTORY

“Remains of earlier domestic buildings survive ... An examination of one large outbuilding suggests that it may have been raised on the foundations of what would appear to have been one of the most important Tudor halls in south Caernarfonshire (Mr W J Hemp & Mr Raleigh-Radford) Some of the woodwork appears to be still in place, though much of the original oak panelling was removed to Glyn early in the 1800s” (T Jones Pierce. 1947, Clennau Letters & Papers part 1, p v)

1679 date in wall (Clennau, 1939 notes, RCAHMW Dolbenmaen green file)

IT 1720 ME at Clennau.

BLOCK A: (Barn) the largest building on the site; S gable and sidewall rebuilt or refaced in 19th C, but the N gable end and roof trusses are probably mid or late 17th C. Possibly a medieval hall, as the only extant woodwork which can be dated to the 15th C appears to fit the width of this building alone.

The existing queen post trusses cannot be earlier than 17th C and it seems probable that after block D had been built the great hall became neglected and was later rebuilt as a barn. There is no reason to suppose that the N gable end is earlier than this, but it retains the original steeper copings of the old roof before it was raised and flattened in the last century.

Inside, against the S gable is a (late 15th C) stop moulded beam with plain back, it is morticed to take a post and panel screen. The mouldings are stopped and at the ends are tenons formerly housed in a wall plate or posts. * Other sections of beams decorated with carved vine and rosettes now forming the frame of a doorway at Glyn Gywarch, are said to have come from Clennau. (RCAHMW typed notes)

* The length of the beam corresponds to the width of the barn and no other building on the site, suggesting that the barn **stands on the footings of the 15th C hall.**

1439 date at N end wall of hall (Clennau envelope at RCAHMW; Dolbenmaen green file)

RCAHMW Clennau envelope NPRN 26290

Detailed text & photos made by Douglas Hague in 1955.

WJH notes on old barn (Block A)

WoG 1838 on plaster under slates. 4 old trusses in pos. at N end. Parts of another over main doors. Old flat purlins gone. Some old rafters v plain. No chamfers.

Barn doors 12' high on S; 3'6" on N. E partition 4' drop on S, 1'9" on N. (ground slopes) Barn period stones blasted. (Clennau notes, RCAHMW; Dolbenmaen green file)

BLOCK B:

A ruined enigmatic structure is of large dry-built masonry. Although its last use has been that of an outbuilding. There are some parts which suggest that it may represent an early house. Blocked openings in the W gable and in the S wall are wide and have well built jambs; those of the W opening being splayed; both these suggest a domestic origin. It is also possible that the two arch braced trusses which have been used in the roof of block D since the 17th C may have come from this building. Their length fits the width of this block more satisfactorily than Block C, but the fact that only two were used suggests that only two were available. Unless a third truss, possibly of different design, over the screens existed; this would give an excessive purlin length, which might suggest that Block C, which divides nicely into three bays, was their original home. As far as can be ascertained the N wing is coeval, but it has been greatly mutilated.

A very questionable feature is the date 1432 in Arabic numerals which is inscribed in a large stone, possibly reset low down on the inner face of the W gable.

Trusses re-used in Block D suggest **Block B was constructed soon after 1500.**

BLOCK C: the smallest building of the group. The roof fell in recent times when used as an out-building. The original internal arrangements are not clear, two corbels survive in the side walls of the N half, but there is no evidence that there were ever two apartments. The walls are comparatively thin and the S gable has been rebuilt. The E part presents a confused number of blocked and altered openings. Unless the rebuilt S gable contained a fireplace, there is no evidence that this building was ever a home. The surviving original masonry suggests a date between the 17th / early 18th C.

The young couple lived apparently at Clennau, perhaps occupying for a time a third residence, the ruins of which are standing at right angles to the old plas and opposite the site of the great hall (built c1550), for William's parents and his grandfather Eliza, continued to live on at Clennau for the greater part of the next two decades. They produced a family of nine between 1559-1570) (T Jones Pierce. 1947, Clennau Letters & Papers part 1, p xix)

Block D: This is the present farm house; although the **main elevation is entirely 19th C** the structure of the **house is mid 17th C in date.** It is unlikely that any building would have taken place after the death of Sir John Owen (1666) and it would be reasonable to assume that he built it immediately after the Restoration (1660).

The house is L shaped in plan, although it is not absolutely clear, the wing appears to be coeval with the main block; it has later extensions on N and E. Restoration has destroyed any features of interest, but in the roof space the timbers throw some light on the development of the building.

There are 4 trusses over the main block, of which the two outer are of rough construction characteristic of late 17th C work. The two central ones are well made arch braced collar beam trusses, with chamfered soffits. The feet now 16'-9" apart on the inside are tenoned into a later tie-beam. These trusses and some old re-used purlins, both of which show evidence of having had wind braces when in their original position, cannot be closely dated but **could well be as early as 1500.** Comparison of their conjectured original span with the width of the existing building suggests that they must have been removed from Block B. A not insurmountable difficulty is that Block B would almost certainly have had 4 not three bays, and consequently a third truss of similar design would have been expected.

Condition: of house, good. Other buildings fair, or in ruins.

(Visited by D B H August 1955; RCAHMW files)

From CADW Listing Schedule: (c mid 1990s)

Clenennau was the principal holding of John ap Maredudd, b c1510, and his son Moris. It was consolidated as an estate in the later C15, and had taken precedence over its neighbours by 1575 under William Maurice, who had built up a considerable library here. His eldest daughter married John Owen of Bodsilin, and their son became the well-known royalist leader, Sir John Owen, great grandson of Sir William Maurice, who was knighted by the King at Oxford, and became Sergeant Major General of the Royalist forces in North Wales.

The present building, which was besieged for 4 weeks and later plundered at the end of the Civil War, appears to incorporate some fabric of the earliest phases of development from the C15 or early C16, and extended in Sir John's time. The main frontage was rebuilt c 1880. ...

The first bay of the rear wing adjoining the main range is an addition of the mid C17, probably built by Sir John Owen (d 1666).

Interior: The roof is however of 5 bays and retains work probably of the later C15 in the form of two central arched braced collar beam trusses with raking struts to the principal rafters, the joints 4 x pegged and the soffits chamfered, indicating three open bays at the centre. The two levels of purlins are splay scarfed. The S end truss has been replaced. No indications of smoke blackening suggests this may be a parlour wing. The main range is of 2 bays, with two pegged collar trusses with principals of blade-like section. A third bay is added beyond a stone wall. This section contains the stair and cross passage doors at the junction of the two ranges.

Exterior: ...

BARN, Clennau NGR 253170 342470

Grade II

From CADW Listing Schedule:

Probably of C16 origin, partially rebuilt in the C17 to which the roof trusses belong, and recovered in the C19 (1838 date).

Interior: Roof of 7 bays with queen post trusses, probably of the C17, with cambered collars and the principals trenched for two tiers of purlins, replaced by the present 3 tiers. On the soffit of the ties, a mortice for an angled brace suggesting that the **original structure was timber framed**. Torching under the slates dated WoG 1838 for the Griffiths family. [NO – was William Ormsby-Gore who in 1815 had married Jane Ormesby] Against the S end, a re-used moulded and brattished beam (said to be C15 RCAHMW). Internal division between the S end and the main barn.

SUMMARY

Meredydd (?d c1460)= Margaret, d & h of Einion ap Ithel, Rhiwaedog. Owned/inherited Ynysfor & Maes y cwm-gwyn in Llanfrothen & Dol Meuric in Nanmor.

John ap Maredydd (c1410-c1486)

There may have been a house in Y lenennau before the 1463 settlement. ?BARN ?TIMBER FRAMED HALL ON FOOTINGS OF BLOCK A. 1439 date in N wall,

John owned Ynysfor & Maes y cwm-gwyn in Llanfrothen & Dol Meuric in Nanmor.

Moris ap John (died c1512) =c 1490 Angharad, d of Elise of Gwyddelwern, Co M. & had many children:

Pre 1487 Moris, eldest son of John ap Maredudd, probably began to reside in the first plas yng nghlennau. (perhaps surviving as the oldest of the ruins and built on the land of Rhys ap Dicws Foel his foster father) ?BARN

?TIMBER FRAMED HALL ON FOOTINGS OF BLOCK A

*1. William Llwyd of Rhiwaedog, Penllyn. (Ped 234) Moved there pre 1516.

*2. **Elise Maurice of Clennau (c 1493-1571)** see below

*4. *Robert of Park, Llanfrothen* (Ped p 241)

*5. Margaret = 1 *Mareddydd ap Evan of Gwydir who died 1525* (Ped p 281)

*8. Elin = *John Wyn ap Meredydd of Gwydir who died 1559* (Ped p184, 281)

*2. **Eliza / Elise Maurice, (1493-1571)** HSM 1540.

1513 entail mentions a stone house at Plas yn y Clennau; some surviving stone walls may date back to his period (C A Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd p 104)

?Barn block A / Hall block B

+1. Maurice ap Elise/ Eliza of Clenneney, (1516-1575)

pre 1550

STONE GREAT HALL

1551 Morris ap Eliza an established family man aged 35 years, may well have been living in the **GREAT HALL of Clennau, which was almost certainly erected before 1550. [maybe soon after 1500 ?by his father]**

His father Eliza, then aged 58 years, died 1571, perhaps having retired to the **old plas standing within a stone's throw of the new mansion house.** ?BARN (T Jones Pierce. 1947, Clennau Letters & Papers part 1, p xv)

Dendrochronology results from the roof timbers now in the farmhouse (Block D) give felling dates as follows:

<i>Front range: rear principal rafter T2</i>	<i>Felled 1520-1550</i>
<i>Front range: rear raking strut T3</i>	<i>Felled 1522-1550</i>
<i>Front range: rear principal rafter T3</i>	<i>Felled 1551-1552</i>
<i>Front range: ridge bay 4</i>	<i>Felled 1574-1604</i>
<i>Front range: rear upper purlin bay 5</i>	<i>Felled 1577-1607</i>
<i>Front range: rear lower purlin bay 3</i>	<i>Felled 1581-1611</i>
<i>Rear wing: front lower purlin bay 6 (reused)</i>	<i>Felled 1571-1601</i>
<i>Rear wing: mean of 3 samples from front upper purlin bay 7 (reused)</i>	<i>Felled 1556-86</i>
<i>Rear wing: rear principal rafter T6</i>	<i>Felled Spring 1732</i>
<i>Rear wing: rear principal rafter T5</i>	<i>Felled Spring 1732</i>
<i>Rear wing: collar T6 (mean of 2 samples)</i>	<i>Felled Spring 1732</i>
<i>Rear wing: collar of T5 (mean of 2 samples)</i>	<i>Felled Spring 1732</i>

These date ranges may suggest that the two principal rafters were originally erected in Block B, the stone great hall, probably during the lifetime of Elise Maurice (died 1571) or his son Maurice ap Elise (died 1575). The remaining felling date-ranges fall within the adult life of Sir William Maurice (died 1622)

It has been thought that his grandson, Sir John Owen (1600-66) may have built Block 4, the current farmhouse, after 1648, reusing some timbers from the Great Hall plundered in the Civil War.

Alternately, the timbers may indicate that Block 4 was built c1550, a century earlier than had been surmised.

Situated across a slight rise on undulating land at 135m above O.D. The refaced front of house faces?SOUTH. Water supply?

Dolbenmaen, Clennau (SH 5320 4240)

(a) Front range Felling date ranges: 1520-1550; 1522-52; 1535-49; 1551-52; 1574-1604; 1577-1607; 1581-1611

(b) Rear wing: Felling date ranges 1556-86; 1571-1601

(c) Repair to both ranges: Felling date: Spring/Summer 1732.

Clenennau was the historic centre of one of the largest estates in Eifionydd, south Caernarvonshire, but was reduced to the status of a farmhouse by the eighteenth century and considerably modified. Tree-ring dating has shown the building sequences of this important house to be somewhat difficult to interpret, given the wide variety of felling date ranges. However the present stone-built L-plan structure has a sixteenth century origin; the front range retains two arch-braced trusses from a (parlour) cross-wing probably built c1550 and adjusted in the later sixteenth century. The hall (with gallery referred to c1600) was reconstructed in 1732, and this rear range is now the working kitchen of the farmhouse. Plan and description in RCAHMW, Caernarvonshire Inventory II (1960), 67-8, fig 58.

(Vernacular Architecture, vol 38, 2007, R Suggett, M Dunn & D Miles, List 193: Welsh Dendrochronology Project – Phase 10, p 135)

Clenennau, Dolbenmaen, Gwynedd. (NPRN 26290)

Clenennau was the historic centre of one of the largest estates in Eifionydd, south Caernarvonshire, but was reduced to the status of a farmhouse by the eighteenth century and considerably modified. Tree-ring dating has clarified the building sequence of this important house. The present stone-built L-plan range has a sixteenth century origin; the front range retains two archbraced trusses from a (parlour) cross-wing.. The hall was reconstructed in 1732, and this rear range is now the working kitchen of the farmhouse. For Plan and description see RCAHMW, Caernarvonshire Inventory II (1960), 67-8, fig 58. (R Suggett, RCAHMW Annual Review, 2006-7, p 57)

-1. **Sir William Maurice, (April 1542 - 10-8-1622)**; buried at Penmorfa; Kt, HSC 1581, 1593; MPC 1592. Aged 14 in 1557 =1 Margaret, (1544-71) The young couple lived apparently at Clennau, perhaps occupying for a time a **THIRD RESIDENCE, [block C] the ruins of which are standing at right angles to the old plas and opposite the site of the great hall (built c1550)**, for William's parents and his grandfather Eliza, continued to live on at Clennau for the greater part of the next two decades. They produced a family of nine between 1559-1570) (T Jones Pierce. 1947, Clennau Letters & Papers part 1, p xix)

“The (stone) HALL at Clennau was ... the most important residence in south Caernarfonshire during the later years of Elizabeth I and the early years of James I, when the 4th squire of the house, Sir William Maurice, shared with his

kinsman, Sir John Wynn of Gwydir, the leadership of affairs in the county of Caernarfon. (T Jones Pierce. 1947, Clenennau Letters & Papers part 1, p v-vi)

Clenennau Letters: 1580-1622: 1617 mentions “their hall at Clenennau” (ms No 341) and “the gallery” (ms No 343) (T Jones Pierce. 1947, Clenennau Letters & Papers part 1)

* 1. **William Wynn Maurice (1559-1606)** pre-deceased his father.
- 2. **Elin Maurice heiress of Clenenney & Brogyntyn (1578-1626) = 1 John Owen**, who died 1611. She remarried & became Lady Eure.
c1617 Lady Elin (Eure) returned home to Clenennau till her death in 1626.
1617 April 24: talk at Clenennau referred to in Clenennau letters Ms 341.
1617 May 26: the “GALLERY” at Clenennau is referred in Clenennau letters ms 343.

*1. **Col Sir John Owen, (1600-66** buried Penmorfa), “The celebrated Royalist”.
Sir John & Lady Owen were the last to use Clenennau as their permanent home. The ancient hall may have become uninhabitable when it was plundered in 1648 after the fight at Dalar Deg.
Sir John may have built a NEW HOUSE, now incorporated in the modern farmhouse.
1660 Restoration of monarchy
1662 Sir John was taxed on seven hearths at Clenennau, more than any other Eifionydd house. Were all these in Block D? Or were other houses still in use?

-1. **William Owen** (1624-1677 at Llangollen) of Porkington & Clenenney. On 25 March 1648 = Catherine, d & h of Lewis Anwyl, PARK;
William lived during the Interregnum on the Anwyl estate at Llanddyn. William inherited Clenennau in 1666 from his father & Porkington in 1670 from his uncle.

*1. **Sir Robert Owen**, (1658-1698) inherited Porkington & Clenennau, Although not resident in Eifionydd, was associated with great changes in the Clenennau estate. (Eifionydd p 118) 1681-85 MP M; 1689 HSM; MP C boroughs 1698. Sir Robert & Lady Margaret Owen lived at Glyn.
William Owen (1689–1768) inherited Porkington, Llanddyn & Clenennau, together with Glyn & Ystumcegid from his mother; he resided at Porkington. He put **Clenennau in the hands of a steward, Griffith Parry**, whose action infuriated the *Lloyds of Gesail Gyfarch*. William = Mary, d of Henry Godolphin.
Robert Godolphin Owen (1733-1792) unmarried; the estates passed to his eldest sister **Margaret Owen (1738-1806)** who in 1777 = **Owen Ormsby** (d 1804) of Ireland.
Their daughter **Mary Jane Ormsby (1781-1869)**, heiress of Glyn, Clenennau & Porkington in 1815 = **William Gore (d 1860)** added Ormsby on marriage.
BLOCK A (barn) : WOG 1838 on plaster under slates.
Their son, **John Ralph Ormsby-Gore (1816-76)** was created Lord Harlech in 1876.
His brother, **William Richard Ormsby-Gore (1819-1904)** succeeded as 2nd Lord Harlech. Married in 1850.
His son, George Ralph Ormsby-Gore (1855-?) married in 1881.

His son William George Arthur Ormsby-Gore (1885-?) married in 1913.

RHIWAEDOG, in Penllyn, Llanfor, Merioneth (Ped 232. 234, 394)

Rhirid Flaidd – Madog – Gwrgennau – Gwrgennau Vychan – Ithel – Einion:

Einion ap Ithel, of Rhiwaedog, Esq. of the body of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, 1395, and HSM for life. (Ped 232)

WHAT LAND IN (WEST) MERIONETH CAME WITH MARGARET?
Llanfrothen, Nanmor ?? & WHAT IN CAERNARVONSHIRE?

Margaret, d & co-h of Einion ap Ithel, Rhiwaedog (Ped p 234) = Meredydd (living 1442) & had John ap Meredudd, whose son Maurice of Clenenny was also “Of Rhiwaedog”.

His son William Lloyd, of Rhiwaedog, living 1511, =Ellin, d of Dafydd ap Meredydd ap Howel ap Tudur of Bala.

DETAILS:

J E Griffith's Pedigrees:

Meredydd, from Owain Gwynedd (probate of will 1416) = Morfudd

Evan = Lleuci of Nannau (Ped p 200)

Meredydd (living 1442 - ?d c1460) = Margaret, d & h of Einion ap Ithel, Rhiwaedog (Ped p 234) **Owned/inherited Ynysfor & Maes y cwm-gwyn in Llanfrothen & Dol Meuric in Nanmor.** Their son was

John ap Mareddydd (c1410-c1486) = Gwenhwyfer of Gwynfryn (Ped p164)

c1463 John ap Maredudd & Ieuan ap Maredudd, son of John's great-uncle, divided the inheritance & John ap Maredudd retained Cefn y fan. A rental containing 54 items drawn up for Maredudd ap Ievan (ap Maredudd) is the oldest manuscript in the Gwydir collection. (Wynn papers no 210) **CHECK ?Eifionydd only?**

There may have been a house in Y Clennau before 1463. One of John ap Maredudd's sons, Robert, was killed in the Wars of the Roses near Ruthin; of the remaining, Evan had Brynkir, Gruffydd had Isallt, and Owen the youngest had Ystumcegid all in Pennant. Moris settled in Clennau in Penyfed. (C A Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd, p 103)

John owned Ynysfor & Maes y cwm-gwyn in Llanfrothen & Dol Meuric in Nanmor.

Moris ap John (died c1512) =c 1490 Angharad, d of Elise of Gwyddelwern, Co M. & had many children:

Pre 1487 Moris, eldest son of John ap Maredudd, probably began to reside in the first plas yng nghlennau. (perhaps surviving as the oldest of the ruins and built on the land of Rhys ap Dicws Foel his foster father) He had also inherited Rhiwaedog. (T Jones Pierce. 1947, Clennau Letters & Papers part 1, p xii-xiii) Moris was probably settled at Clennau when he married Angharad, daughter of Ellis ap Gruffydd ab Einion. (C A Gresham, Eifionydd p 103)

*1. William Llwyd of Rhiwaedog, Penllyn. (Ped 234) Moved there pre 1516.

*2. **Elise Maurice of Clennau (c 1493-1571)** see below

*3. John died young

*4. *Robert of Park, Llanfrothen* (Ped p 241)

*5. Margaret = 1 *Mareddydd ap Evan of Gwydir died 1525* (Ped p 281)

= 2 Sir Rhys Gruffydd of Penrhyn, Kt, (Ped p185, 345)

*6. Gwen = 1 Dafydd ap William ap Gryffydd ap Robin (Ped p186)

= 2. Hugh ap Owen ap Meyrick of Bodeon (Ped p 58)

*7. John

*8. Elin = *John Wyn ap Meredydd of Gwydir died 1559* (Ped p184, 281)

*9. Ann = Rowland ap Griffith of Plas Newydd (Ped p 56)

*10. Lowri = John Owen ap John ap Robin ap Gruffydd Goch of Rhos

***2. Eliza / Elise Maurice, (1493-1571) HSM 1540.**

1513 entail mentions a stone house at Plas yn y Clennau; some surviving stone walls may date back to his period (C A Gresham, Eifionydd p 104)

In 1516 his father entailed lands (Clennau Deeds 24A) to Eliza, in Pennant, 4 in Penefed.

c1512-14 Eliza ap Morus was Morus' second son, succeeding his father. (T Jones Pierce. 1947, Clennau Letters & Papers part 1, p xiii)

1527 & 1539 Elise bought Melyncoed & Y Ddol Fawr, which with Braich y Dinas Fawr, he passed to his brother Robert of Park, Llanfrothen.

By 1545 Elise completed the consolidation of the estate with a lease from his nephew & neighbour *Humphrey ap Maredudd ab Ifan of Gesail Gyfarch* of lands in Y Clenneney. (C A Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd p104-5)

1551 rental for ***Elise; he had retained in his hands part of the large inheritance in Merioneth lying in Nanmor, Llanfrothen and Llanfihangel y Traethau which brought in a considerable income.*** (C A Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd p 109)

1551 Rental of Clennau estate: £77. The Morris family had secured a foothold in Merionethshire by the accumulation of some scattered tenements in Llanfrothen & Llanfihangel y Traethau. (T Jones Pierce. 1947, Clennau Letters & Papers part 1, p xv)

Elise & his son Maurice lived side by side at **Clennau in two establishments** there. (Eifionydd p109) (see below: 1551)

=1 Catherine, d of Pierce Stanley of Ewloe Castle. They had

+1. Maurice ap Elise/Eliza of Clenneney, (1516-1575)

+2. Gruffydd Llwyd of Plas Chwilog

+3. Rowland ap Eliza (1550 fight at Gest)

+4. Robert ap Eliza = Margaret d of David ap Howel. Their daughter Jane = Robert Wynn of Rhwng y ddwyrid, & their son Ellis Wynn = Jane, d of Robert Price, Plas Iolyn (Ped p 204)

+5. James

+6. Angharad = 1 Robert Griffith, Plas Newydd (Ped p56); = 2 William Glynn of Glynllifon (Ped p 218)

+7. Annes = Humphrey ap David ap Thomas of Llandecwyn. (Ped p283, 394)

+8. Gwen = 1 Owen ap Morris ap Griffith ap Ieuan ap Rhys of Eifionydd; = 2 Rowland ap Robert of Meyllteyrn (Ped p54, 269)

+9. Catherine = Robert Wynn ap Robert ap Ieuan ap Rhys of Pentre Ieuan, Pembroke

+10. Mary = Morris ap Robert ap Morris of Llangedwyn

Elise M =2 Jonet, d of Sir James ap Owen of Pembroke; they had James Maurice, LL D., Catherine & Mary.

+1. Maurice ap Elise/ Eliza of Clenneney, (1516-1575) = Elin, d of Sir John Puleston, Kt, of Bersham; Maurice died 1577, only 4 years after his father, so he played little part in developing the estate.

In 1536 Moris ap Elise was a tenant of Maes y llech by a lease from the prior of Beddgelert (Eifionydd p 37)

1551 Morris ap Eliza an established family man aged 35 years, may well have been living in the great hall of Clennau, which was almost certainly erected before 1550. His father Eliza, then aged 58 years, perhaps having retired to the old plas standing within a stone's throw of the new mansion house. (T Jones Pierce. 1947, Clennau Letters & Papers part 1, p xv)

They had many children.

- 1. **Sir William Maurice**, (April 1542-died 1622, buried at Penmorfa), SEE BELOW
- 2. **John Wynn Maurice of Beddgelert (Ty Isa) (Ped p 218)** In 1574 he bought Maes y Llech & entailed it as Llaeth fynydd & Yr Ynys-dreiniog. Later it was sold to Clennau (except Cae Tindew) & rearranged to form the modern farms of Ereiniog, Ynys Wen, Caeau Gwynion & Maesyllech. (Eifionydd p 37)
- 3. **Eliza = Ellin, d of Griffith ap Robert ap Evan of Dinas Moch, Beddgelert**
- 4. Ann (Wen) = Robert ap Ellis of Bryn kir, living 1576 (Ped p251)
- 5. Margaret (Ped p185)
- 6. Elin
- 7. Rhys 1545-1572
- 8. Jane died 1572 = Thomas Owen of Plas Du (Ped p 205) & had Owen Thomas Owen, the last of the squires of Plas Du.
- 9. Gaynor died 1572 = Robert Sonlli, of C Denbigh, living 1575.

-1. **Sir William Maurice, (April 1542 - 10-8-1622)**; buried at Penmorfa; Kt, HSC 1581, 1593; MPC 1592. Aged 14 in 1557 =1 Margaret, d & h of Sir John Wynn Lacon, of Porkington, Shropshire; she died Feb 1571 aged 27 years, having borne nine children.

The young couple lived apparently at Clennau, perhaps occupying for a time a third residence, the ruins of which are standing at right angles to the old plas and opposite the site of the great hall (built c1550), for William's parents and his grandfather Eliza, continued to live on at Clennau for the greater part of the next two decades. They produced a family of nine between 1559-1570) (T Jones Pierce. 1947, Clennau Letters & Papers part 1, p xix)

1572 His grandfather Eliza Morris died.

W M in 1575 = 2 Ellin, widow of John Lewis of Chwaen Wen, Anglesey, having a son who died in infancy;

1575 His father Morris ap Eliza died.

1577 Clennau rents now increased from £77 to £105; (*Merioneth rents had increased from £26 in 1551 to £43 in 1577) (T Jones Pierce. 1947, Clennau Letters & Papers part 1, p xv-xvi)*

Clennau Letters: 1580-1622: 1617 mentions "their hall at Clennau" (ms No 341) and "the gallery" (ms No 343) (T Jones Pierce. 1947, Clennau Letters & Papers part 1)

Ruthless antagonism against neighbours, *especially kinsmen at Gesail Gyfarch*. HSC twice, HSM; from 1587 was Deputy Lieutenant of Caernarfonshire; Deputy Vice Admiral for North Wales. Member of Parliament 1593 till 1611; knighted in 1603 at the coronation of James I. (Eifionydd p 110-1)

and WM in 1605 = 3 Jane Puleston, widow.

By Margaret he had

* 1. **William Wynn Maurice** 1559-1606, MPA 1601; SEE BELOW:

* 2. John d pre 1662= Elizabeth of Gwynfryn (Ped p164) (attacked John Wynn outside Penmorfa church)

- *3. Capt Eliza/Ellis Maurice 1568-?pre 1662 = Jane & had heiress Margaret. (attacked John Wynn outside Penmorfa church)
- *4. Gaynor 1570-? = Sir William Thomas of Aber, he died 1653 (Ped p202)
- *5. Ellin = William Lewis, Chwaen Wen, he was living 1662 (Ped p 16)
- *6. Thomas (1566-pre 1662); in 1583 made forcible entry into Eisteddfa.

* 1. **William Wynn Maurice (1559-1606)**, MPA 1601; in 1583 made forcible entry into Eisteddfa. = Mary, d of John Lewis, of Chwaen Wen (1555-?). They had 3 children:

- 1. Eliza (1582-1594) / William (1582-85)
- 2. **Elin Maurice**, heiress of Brogyntyn & Clenneney (1598-1626)
- 3. Margaret, (post 1585-living 1641), =1 Ellis Brynkir (Ped p251); =2 William Glynn of Lleuar, no children. (Ped p270)

- 2. **Elin Maurice heiress of Clenneney & Brogyntyn (1578-1626) = 1 John Owen**, who died 1611, 4th son of Owen ap Robert of Bodsilin; Sir Francis Walsingham's secretary. (Ped p 136). They had 8 children; see below
[She = 2 Sir Francis Eure, son of Lord Eure, Chief Justice of North Wales Circuit, buried at Selattyn, Feb 1617/8; their son Compton Eure was baptised at Selattyn Feb 1617] 1617 Lady Eure returned home to Clenneney till her death in 1626.

*1. **Col Sir John Owen, (1600-66** buried Penmorfa), "The celebrated Royalist". = Jonet, d of Gruffydd Vaughan of Cors y Gedol, relict of John Griffith of Caernarfon (Ped p 125, 279).

1626 John Owen inherited the Clennau estate & held the estate in the 1631 Rental.

1630-1 HSC

1632-3 HSM

1642 Commissioner of array for C in Civil War;

1463 fought at Oxford, Bristol, Newbury

1644 HSC; governor of Conwy Castle for Charles I; Knighted in Dec 1644.

1646 Owen held Conway & in April 1467 retired to Clennau on honourable terms

1648 2nd Civil War, was captured at Y Dalar Hir, sentenced to death in London, reprieved & returned to Clennau in 1469.

Sir John & Lady Owen were the last to use Clennau as their permanent home. The ancient hall may have become uninhabitable when it was plundered in 1648 after the fight at Dalar Deg. Sir John may have built a new house, now incorporated in the modern farmhouse. In 1662 Sir John was taxed on seven hearths at Clennau, more than any other Eifionydd house.

1660 on the King's return, Vice-Admiral of North Wales, Deputy Lieutenant of C

They had 3 children: see below.

*2. Capt William Owen, in 1656 = Mary Kemp. He inherited Porkington. No children

*3. Elizabeth (?-pre 1626) = Richard Vaughan of Cors y Gedol (Ped p179, 179)

*4. Maurice baptised 1610.

*5. Penelope died unmarried 1671

*6. Ann baptised 1604 = Olave Buck

*7. Ellen

*8. Margaret, died 1670 =Rhys Tanat ofAbertanat (1608-1661)

Col Sir John Owen (1600-66) & Jonet had:

* 1. **William Owen** (1624-1677 at Llangollen) of Porkington & Clenenney. On 25 March 1648 = Catherine, d & h of Lewis Anwyl, PARK; she died at Llangollen 1685. (Ped p241) Their son Robert Owen inherited the Anwyl Library, which later went to Brogyntyn. William Owen lived during the Interregnum on the Anwyl estate at Llanddyn. William inherited Clennau in 1666 from his father & Porkington in 1670 from his uncle. They had 8 children; see below.

* 2. **Catherine = Robert Anwyl of PARK, HSM 1650**, (Ped p241)

* 3. Jane died.

William Owen & Catherine Anwyl had:

* 1. **Sir Robert Owen, (1658-1698)** inherited Porkington & Clennau, Kt, MPM 1681-5; buried at Selattyn =1683 Margaret, (1663-1727) d of Sir John Wynn of Glyn & Ystumcegid. (Ped p217) Their son & heir was **William Owen**. Sir Robert was educated at Oxford & entered the Inner Temple; knighted in 1678 & a loyal supporter of James II, offering active resistance against William of Orange. Although not resident in Eifionydd, was associated with great changes in the Clennau estate. (Eifionydd p 118) 1681-85 MP M; 1689 HSM; MP C boroughs 1698.

Sir Robert & Lady Margaret Owen lived at Glyn.

* 2. Elin Owen (1651-1702) unmarried

* 3. Jane, born 1653

* 4. **Frances (1655-1718) = John Rowlands of NANT**. (Ped p289)

* 5. John (1656 died an infant)

* 6. William died 1687.

* 7. Griffith died 1666.

* 8. Lewis

William Owen (1689–1768) inherited Porkington, Llanddyn & Clennau, together with Glyn & Ystumcegid from his mother; he resided at Porkington. He put Clennau in the hands of a steward, Griffith Parry, whose action infuriated the **Lloyds of Gesail Gyfarch**.

William Owen = Mary, d of Henry Godolphin, & William's estates were inherited by

Robert Godolphin Owen (1733-1792) unmarried; the estates passed to his

eldest sister **Margaret Owen (1738-1806)** who in 1777 = **Owen Ormsby** (d 1804) of Ireland.

Their daughter **Mary Jane Ormsby (1781-1869)**, heiress of Glyn, Clennau & Porkington in 1815 = **William Gore (d 1860)** who added Ormsby on marriage.

Their son, **John Ralph Ormsby-Gore (1816-76)** was created Lord Harlech in 1876.

His brother, **William Richard Ormsby-Gore (1819-1904)** succeeded as 2nd Lord Harlech. Married in 1850.

His son, George Ralph Ormsby-Gore (1855-?) married in 1881.

His son William George Arthur Ormsby-Gore (1885-?) married in 1913.

Researched by Margaret Dunn, 16 April 2008 _____