



Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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DERWIN BACH

Dolbenmaen,
Gwynedd



House History

A Part History of the House & its Families

Author: Margaret Dunn

Updated 14-09-2008

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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SNOWDONIA DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

DERWIN BACH

(former parish Llanfihangel y Pennant) Dolbenmaen, Gwynedd

NGR SH 4765 4520

NOT listed

HOUSE HISTORY

RCAHMW, Carnarvonshire, Vol II, 1960, p 71 (893) Fig 63: visited March 1955.

A two-storeyed C16 house. The walls are of boulder rubble with massive quoins and bonding stones and lintel of columnar basalt. The openings are original consisting, on the E front, of a splayed rebated doorway with a rounded head of roughly cut voussoirs. On either side on both ground and first floor are two small square windows. The W front is similar except that the door has a square head with lintel. The N gable has the base of a square chimney, *the shaft of which has been destroyed*, and a slit window on the first floor lighting the stair. There are rounded kneelers to the eaves, and roughly tooled eaves courses. The roof is slate covered.

The ground floor interior is divided by a *modern stone partition probably on the site of* an earlier partition of wood. Beside the fireplace, which has a roughly chamfered bresummer, is the blocked opening to a winding stone stair. The ceiling has stop-chamfered beams and joists, some of the joists being reset; the centre ceiling beam and that against the N wall have broken, and are carried on later supports.

The first floor, *now reached by a modern flight of steps*, is divided by a modern partition but retains its original wide floor boards. The roof is carried on two collar-beam trusses, the collars of which are mortised flush with the principals; most of the purlins and rafters are original.

Finds: i) fragment of stone mullion with quarter-round moulding probably C16; from farmyard; ii) said to have come from nearby farm, domestic mortar of worked stone with bowl of a ca. 12 inches diameter rounded at lip, on a square base, the corners rounded at top, and indented; inscribed on one side 1664.

RCAHMW many drawings, plans & photos in Orange folder:

Caernarvonshire Domestic SH44 NW / NE. Welsh article & photos in "PAIS" Chwefror 1982 pp 20-21

RESTORED BY THE OWNERS

DENDROCHRONOLOGY results as following:

2nd rafter N of S truss, E side

felling date range 1527-57

1st rafter n of N truss, E side

felling date range 1540-57

ex situ half-beam

felling date range 1549-59

ex situ half-beam

felling date range 1531-61

collar south truss

felling date range 1531-61

5th joist from east middle bay

felling date range 1536-66

These suggest that the house was built around 1557.

Situated chimney gable-end into a slight slope in an open valley at 110m above O.D.

Front of house faces ...? SOUTH

A stream now runs parallel to the rear wall.

Derwyn bach, Dolbenmaen, Gwynedd. (NPRN 26396)

A storeyed house of classic Snowdonian type, having a cross-passage doorway with a head of voussoirs, gable-end chimney and stone fireplace stair, and collar-beam trusses. The mid-sixteenth-century felling-

date range of 1549-52 shows that this is one of the earliest identified Snowdonian houses. For Plan and description see RCAHM, Caernarvonshire Inventory II (1960), 71, fig 63, plate 60
(R Suggett, RCAHMW Annual Review, 2006-7, p 57)

Dolbenmaen, Derwyn bach (SH 4765 4520) Felling date range (OxCal modelled 1549-52 (unrefined 1549-61)

A storeyed house of classic Snowdonian type situated in an open valley at 110m above OD. It has a cross-passage doorway with voissoired head, gable-end chimney and stone fireplace stair, and collar-beam trusses. The mid-sixteenth-century felling date range identifies this as one of the earliest Snowdonian houses. Plan and description in RCAHM, Caernarvonshire Inventory II (1960), 71, fig 63, plate 60 (Vernacular Architecture, vol 38, 2007, R Suggett, M Dunn & D Miles, List 193: Welsh Dendrochronology Project – Phase II, p 135)

NOTE slit gable-end window lighting stone fireplace stair is NOT mentioned.

HOUSE HISTORY

The early history of the house and holding have not yet been successfully traced.

Derwin Isaf is in Llanfihangel y Pennant, not Clynnog, or near its boundary.

Name was changed to Derwin Bach after Derwin Fawr was built. (Enwogion Sir Caernarfon, John Jones, (Merddyn Fardd, Caernarvon, 1922, p 52)

Derwin bach is halfway between Clynnog and Penmorfa, when there was a ford over the river.

Catherine (1786) recalled that an extra place was laid at table for those who used the ford on this journey. (Pers, Comm. Present owner, 2008)

Derwin bach was in Derwin township, not Llecheiddior [MAY NOT BE CORRECT] (C A Gresham, Eifionydd, 1973p 306); 80 acres; in late C18 it did not belong to Sir Watkin Williams Wynne of Wynnstay (from Wynn of Gwydir), but to a William Williams. (C A Gresham, Eifionydd, 1973, p 210, 306-7)

In 1654 Hugh ap William ap Evan, his wife Ellen verch Robert Wynn & family arrested for holding an “Interlude” at Derwynfechan. (TCHS, 1983, Gareth Haulfryn Williams, p 53-58) (GAS, XQS/1654/96, 100)

Derwin Issa, Clynnog (T C Griffith, Achau rhai o deuleodd hen Siroedd Caernarfon, Meirionnydd a Threfaldwyn, 2003, [212], [140])

Richard Cadwalader of DERWIN ISSA, [born c 1644] Clynnog, married ?? & had 2 sons:

i) Cadwalder ap Richard, [probably born in Derwin Issa c 1670s] (of Llwyn'r eryr, Llanystumdwy, d 1743 buried in Llanystumdwy) = Elin Morris & had 8 children born from 1703 to 1743;

& ii) Elias ap Richard, [probably born in Derwin bach], baptised 1674 =1 in 1698 Ann Williams & had 6 children, & =2 in 1714 Gaynor Roberts, no children. Elias ap Richard was later a smith at Talhenbont. Elias ap Richard had two sons who reached adulthood: William Elias, (1708-1787), a famous literary figure, friends with Goronwy Owen; and John Elias (1706-?)

[...] (Pers Comm, owner 2008) *What proof is there for these dates & when Richard Cadwalader lived at Derwin bach. His sons seem to have moved away. Maybe a daughter married the next owner / tenant. Maybe a new family of owners / tenants arrived.*

DOLWGAN

Thomas Griffith, Dolwgan, (will 1680) = ???

(T C Griffith, 2003, [23] [24] [29])

I Owen Thomas Griffith, Dolwgan (1600s) = ??? I John Thomas, Cwm Pennant (d 1673) = Dorothy verch Robert Griffith; (d 1672 (B))

I Humphrey I Hugh I John I Rees I Edward I Jane = John Pritchard (d 1688)
4 sons

Morris ap Rhydderch, Blaenpennant = ?? T C Griffith, 2003, [32] [29] [165]

I Griffith Morris ap Rhydderch = ??

I John Griffith Morris ap Rhydderch = Margaret verch Owen ap John Owen = Jane
Blaenpennant, died 1663 I Richard (living 1672) (d 1640) I 1611

I Jane John Griffith, DOLWGAN (will 1703) [30] = John Owen, Brithdir Mawr (d 1677)

*Catherine Ellis in 1718 2 = William John OWEN = 1 Catherine Jones
[155] (d post 1737) I DOLWGAN (1668-1737) I 1686-1718

*David, *Robert, *Richard, *Jane owned Derwin bach *Will I

I *John Williams, gent. I *Jane. I Ellin Jones 1 = *William Williams = 2 Margery Owen Robert Owen
DERWIN BACH London I d 1743 DOLWGAN (1717-82) I 1723-1812 Aberkin
(1708-68) 1703- I owned Derwin bach I

I Humphrey = Ann [32] I Dorothy John Owen Lowry Margaret Robert William = Mary Robert Eleanor
Williams I dau Ellis David. 1746- 1749- 1752- Jones & Jonnet 1760 1760 I Wms 1762 1765-87
Yeoman, I (1737-1807) 1837 1781 1837 1754- 1757-1805 8days 1847 I 1764- 1817

Dolwgan I =Hugh Roberts, Brynkir children **DerwinI**
(pre1742-1823) I **bach** I

I I Jonnet etc I Robert William I Ellin John Wms = Jane William Wms = Jonnet Owen
William = 2 Margaret 1791- 1792-1876 I Ymwloch 1795- I 1790-
Williams Williams I bach I
(1778-1856) [32](1788-1874) 10 children I I

I Catherine I Mary I William I Jonnet I Robert
1822- 1823- 1825- 1828- 1831-

William Williams, Dolwgan & Derwin bach = Dorothy, Isallt Fawr 1783-1870
Owens family, Abercain. d 1870 [32] They had no children. (T C Griffith 1989 [1])
WHICH WILLIAM WILLIAMS???

By 1737 it was owned by **William John Owen**, Dolwgan, Dolbenmaen.
T C Griffith 1989 P103 *1737 **William John Owen, Dolwgan**, [32] His wish was to transfer his
lands buildings & holdings in Llanfihangel y Pennant called **Derwin Bach** & all that belongs to them to

John Williams his eldest son from his **first marriage with his deceased wife Catherine Jones** for the period of his natural life.

Then, at his death, to his second son, ***William Williams**, also from his first marriage, or his descendants. He gives £30 each to his children from his **second marriage with *Catherine Ellis** his current wife: *David Williams, the eldest; *Robert Williams, 2nd son; *Richard Williams, 3rd son & daughter *Jane Williams.

His wife Catherine Ellis is to get £30 & all his current personal possessions including the money that was owed him by his brother in law, the Rev David Ellis, Clerk, to save them being drawn from the estate.

He gives £10 each to his son in law Robert Owen, Llanberis, & to his grandson William Owen.

His daughter *Jane Williams from his first marriage with Catherine Jones, who was in London or somewhere in England, was to have 1/-. His second son *William Williams is given responsibility as his sole executor & he is to get the rest of his possessions.

14 March 1737 with Evan Griffith, Clerk, Robert Anwyl & Owen Ellis witnesses.

His wish was that his neighbour Griffith Parry of Clennau was to stand as guardian over his 2nd son William Williams.

1745 Nov 6: baptism of Robert, son of Samuel Williams, Derwyn bach, labourer, by Elizabeth his wife. (BT)

1756 May 31: baptism of Jane, daughter of John Griffith, labourer, Derwyn bach, and Ann his wife. (BT)
These were during the period when John Williams was owner of Derwin bach; it seems that either John Williams did not live at Derwin bach himself, or that these labourers lived elsewhere on the farm, probably the latter.

Ann Roberts, Derwin bach d 1756 LP =1754 Thomas Roberts (1715-1762) Tu hwnt i'r mynydd, Cennin (T C Griffith 2003 [66] [129])

Ann Roberts appears to have been from Derwin bach before she married in 1754.

1768 May 23: death of John Williams, Derwyn bach, Gent, aged 60 years. (BT)

[Son of William John Owen & Catherine Jones; had been left Derwin bach in his father's will of 1736 for life; then Derwin bach went to John William's brother, William Williams, Dolwgan]

1771 Derwin bach owner not given; tenant **Owen Roberts** (GAS XQA/LT 7/5 Llanfihangel y Pennant)

1771 June 14: Indenture:

1. William Williams, Dolwgan, Dolbenmaen, co C, yeoman;

2. Robert Owen, Aberkine, Llanystumdwy, co C, yeoman; & Henry Jones of Carnarvon, Co C, mercer; whereas a marriage was solemnized between 1. and Margery his wife,

Indenture witnesses, in consideration of the marriage & considerable great estate which he had received as her marriage portion, and his great love for her,

Providing a jointure by way of a Rent charge for Margery for life if she survives William Williams, and in consideration of the 5 shillings paid by R Owen and Henry Jones before the sealing of these, William Williams hath granted to R Owen & H Jones in their actual possession of messuage lands etc herein mentioned now being by virtue of a Bargain and Sale to them thereof presents for 5 shillings in Indenture bearing the date (13 June 1771)

- **Derwen bach, late in possession of Owen Probert and Margaret Williams**, in Llanfihangel y Pennant, ... and all other messuages in Llanfihangel y Pennant sold by William Williams to Robert Owen & Henry Jones – to the purpose and intent that Margery, wife of William Williams, if she survives him, shall have an annuity of £10 p.a. to be her jointure / dowry third Freehold inheritance. ... to be paid on 12 May and 12 November after the decease of William Williams. (pers comm. Present owner, 2008)

This was written soon after the death of John Williams in 1768, and suggests that Derwen bach was tenanted and was to be part of the jointure for Margery should William Williams die first, which he did.

Owen Williams, Cwm Mawr (1734-1811) = in 1761 Catherine Humphreys, Ynyscynhaiarn (1739-1806)

I + 10 children

I 1807 Henry Owen = Margaret Owen Tyddyn Adi I Penmorfa 1771-1835 I + 7 children	I Richard Williams Dolwgan, DROVER 1783-
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I Richard Owen = Dolwgan & I Mynydd Ednyfed I (1824-1902) [171] I I Lady Margaret Lloyd George (1864-1941) [147] [167] [171]	I Mary Jones (1825-1907) [27]	I William Jones = Elizabeth Owen, Gwynus Derwin Fawr
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(T C Griffith 1989 P85) **TENANT 1772 Margaret Williams, Derwin bach** will, signed 5 Feb 1772.
Bequests: £10 to her daughter +Ellin Roberts; £10 & her best cloak to her daughter +Elizabeth Roberts;
£10 to her daughter +Jane Roberts; £10 & her best horse to her daughter +Jonnet Roberts;
£10 to her daughter +Margaret Roberts.
3 blankets to her niece+ Elizabeth Samuel; her niece +Margaret Williams to have the rusty-black cloak.
When all her debts were paid & bequests shared, she leaves the rest of her property to her daughter
+Catherine Roberts, her only executor. Will proved 13 March 1772

<i>Margaret Williams</i>	=	<i>? Owen Probert</i>			
<i>Died 1772</i>		<i>I</i>			
<i>I</i>		<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>
<i>Catherine Roberts</i>	<i>Ellin Roberts</i>	<i>Elizabeth Roberts</i>	<i>Jane Roberts</i>	<i>Margaret Roberts</i>	
<i>Executor</i>	<i>£10</i>	<i>£10 + best cloak</i>	<i>£10</i>	<i>£10</i>	

Nieces: Elizabeth Samuel (3 blankets) & Margaret Williams (cloak).

(T C Griffith 1989 P86) **TENANT 1778** detailed will Hugh Jones, yeoman, Derwin bach.
Signed 1 Sept 1778; proved 5 Oct 1778.
Bequests: 1 shilling to each of his sons Richard & John Hughes;
£5 to his son Robert Hughes;
His son Griffith Hughes to have £5 upon reaching 21 years;
1 shilling to his daughter Mary Hughes;
Appoints his wife *Margery Prichard* & his son William Hughes as co-executors & gives them the remainder of his assets.
Valuation: £74 15s including 6 cattle £21; 3 heifers £7 0s; 4 yearlings £8; mare £3; 37 sheep £5 11s; pig £1; 22 yards of hay £13 14s; corn £10; household furniture £5; agricultural implements 10 s. Valued by Robert Jones & William David.

Hugh Jones = Margery Prichard (still tenant in 1781 see below)

Died 1778 I

I

I	I	I	I	I
Richard Hughes	John Hughes	Robert Hughes	Griffith Hughes	Mary Hughes

1782 Derwin bach: owner not given; tenant William Hughes (GAS XQA/LT 7/5 Llanfihangel y Pennant)

*1782 William Williams Dolwgan [32] names **Derwin bach in will** signed 2 October 1781.

After Margery his wife has had her dowry & third, his wish is to transfer his lands, holdings & buildings in Llanfihangel y Pennant called Derwin bach which was the holding of *Margery Prichard*, widow, to his friend and brother in law Robert Owen, Aberkin, Llanystumdwy and his friend William Griffith, gent., Cefn coch, Penmorfa, IN TRUST on behalf of his second son William Williams or his descendants.

The other lands & holdings were to be transferred in trust to Owen Williams, Hendre Ddu, Dolbenmaen and Cadwalader Owen, Dolbenmaen, on behalf of his second son William Williams or following, if there are no issues, to the following:

Owen Williams his eldest son, his youngest son Robert Williams, his second daughter Lowry Jones Williams, his daughter Ellin Williams,

his eldest daughter Dorothy Williams, that is the wife of Hugh Roberts, Brynkir, parish Llanfihangel y Pennant,

his grandson Robert Hughes, that is eldest son of his daughter Dorothy,

his grandson William Hughes, second son of his daughter Dorothy,

Jonet Williams, third daughter of his eldest son Humphrey Williams of his first marriage.

Then his grandson Owen Humphrey, eldest son of Humphrey Williams, or his descendants.

Take note that Humphrey Williams was the only child of his first marriage and that it was Margery who was the mother of the other children.

See also other bequests: £60 each to his sons Owen & Robert Williams;

£40 each to his daughters Lowry Jones, Janet & Ellin;

2/6d to Humphrey Williams from his first marriage;

2/6d to his daughter Dorothy Williams;

He appoints his wife Margery & his son William Williams as co-executors & he leaves the rest of his estate to them.

The estate was valued at £275 9s, included mainly animals; valued by Robert Owen & Owen Williams. (T C Griffith 1989 P107)

1805: Mary Williams, late wife of William Williams (of Dolwgan, gent.) died 26 Oct 1805 in the 41st year of her age.

William Williams was buried 12 March 1847, aged 86 years.

William Williams of Ymwelch fach, grandson of William Williams above, died 30 Oct 1864, aged 45 years. (Dolbenmaen churchyard in Gleanings from God's acre. John Jones, Pwllheli, 1903, p 172)

1815 William Hughes, Derwin bach will signed 13 Jan 1814; proved 5 April 1815.

Half his assets to his daughter Sarah Williams;

£10 to his eldest son William Williams, & £10 each to his daughters Sarah and Mary.

Wife Ann Hughes appointed his executor & gives her the remainder of his possessions.

Value of estate £93 15s. Cattle £36; 2 year old cattle £12 10s; 3 18month old cattle £9;

1 horse £14; 2 pigs £1 15s; hay £4 5s; Corn £2 15s, cart & tools £3 15s. (T C Griffith 1989 P94)

Sarah Williams married Owen Evans who died at Derwin bach in 1841. Sarah died in c1840, buried in Llanfihangel y Pennant, pre-deceased her mother.

William Hughes = Ann, outlived her daughter Sarah

Derwin bach I

Died 1815 I

<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>
<i>William Williams</i>	<i>Mary Williams</i>	<i>Sarah Williams = Owen Evans (55 in 1841 census)</i>
<i>£10</i>	<i>£10</i>	<i>£10 d c1840 I died at Derwin bach 1841</i>

<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>
William (26 in 1841)	Evan (22 in 1841)	Owen (10 in 1841)

(T C Griffith 1989 [70])

1785-1814 Derwin bach: **owner William Williams**; tenant William Hughes (GAS XQA/LT 7/5 Llanfihangel y Pennant)

1818-1819 Derwin bach: **owner William Williams**; tenant Owen Prichard (GAS XQA/LT 7/5 Llanfihangel y Pennant)

WAS Derwin bach sold by William Williams, or did it pass by marriage to Hugh Owen, Pennarth?

1829: will of Hugh Owen, Pennarth, Clynnog, farmer:

1. I give **Derwin bach** to wife Elizabeth Owen for her natural life; I bequeath the same to my son Richard Hughes

2. I give house furniture to my wife and then to daughter Elizabeth Hughes

3. Give to grandchildren, the children of my daughter Dorothy Hughes of Brysgol, £20 which I borrowed to their father Humphrey Lloyd, to be divided equally between the three.

Also as Robert Lloyd, Brynadda, are indebted to me for £19, I give and bequeath the same unto my daughter Mary Lloyd for her own use and benefit;

I give £4 p.a. for 10 years to be paid to my executors who shall be hereafter named

Lastly I give all my farming stock – cattle, chattels and farming implements and utensils, one half to my dear wife Elizabeth Owens, and my daughter Elizabeth Hughes, and the other half to my son Richard Hughes.

I nominate my wife Elizabeth Owens and daughter Elizabeth Hughes and Son Richard Hughes joint executors.

Signed 30 April 1829. Witnesses: Wm Roberts, Hendrebach, Owen Prichard, Tynlon, David Owen, Pennarth.

3 Nov 1829. Effects sworn at under \$350. (Pers comm.. present owner, 2008)

Hugh Owen, Pennarth, Clynnog = Elizabeth Owen

1829 will

<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>
<i>Richard</i>	<i>Elizabeth</i>	<i>Dorothy = Humphrey Lloyd</i>	<i>Mary Lloyd</i>
<i>Hughes</i>	<i>Hughes</i>	<i>Hughes I Brysgol</i>	
		<i>3 children</i>	

1839 Llanfihangel y Pennant Tithe Commutation schedule **CHECK AGAIN**
 Derwyn Bach **owner: John Roberts**; tenant: Owen Evans **ACREAGE ?**

1841 census Derwin bach

Owen Evans	55	farmer	born in Caernarfonshire
William “	26	“	“
Evan “	22	“	“
Owen “	10		“
Margaret Williams	41	farm servant	“

WHEN / WHY / WHERE did the Evans family go?

From c 1845:

Catherine, d Robert Prichard & Margaret Pierce = David Roberts
(1804 CG -) I Tan y bryn, Penygroes, then **Derwin bach c 1845**

I (1805-1854 Feb 10, died in field)

I	I	I	I	I
Anne	Margaret = John	Robert Owen	= Mary Hughes	Owen Roberts
1833- CG	1836- LI	Jones (smith) (1840D-) [68]	Roberts, family of Eben Fardd. Derwin bach I	I Brynengan (1846-) LI

Daniel Pritchard, Suntir, (1811-)

I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Robert	Owen	Mary	David	Margaret	Catherine Owen = Thomas Pritchard	[117]
Tanybryn					Derwin bach	I Waunfawr [117]
Penygroes						I

I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Gwilym	Robert	Thomas Sheldon Prichard = Eira			girl	Mary = John A
Pwllheli		Derwin bach (1912-1971)	I Porthmadog	I living 2008	Dolgellau	Jones

I	I	I
Rhys ap Risiart = Derwin bach 1943- I I	I I I	Agnes Machynlleth Gerallt Pennant S4C & Radio Cymru (T C Griffith. 2003, [70] [68])

1851 census
1861 census
1871 census
1881 census
1891 census
1890s new house built (Pers Comm., present owner, 2008)
1901 census
1910 Tax assessment

1920 Oct 1: **Hugh Owen** sold Derwin bach to Robert Owen (pers comm., present owner, 2008)
Who was Hugh Owen? Which Robert Owen?

Check local church / chapel records local memories House deeds

Researched by Margaret Dunn
14 September 2008