



Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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Garreg Fawr

Croesor, parish of Llanfrothen
Gwynedd



House History

A Part History of the House & its Families

Author: Margaret Dunn

Updated 16-05-2008

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

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SNOWDONIA DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

GARREG FAWR

Croesor, parish of Llanfrothen, Gwynedd

NGR SH 626 432

Not listed

HOUSE HISTORY

House The mantel beam failed to give a date; the rest of the house was deemed not suitable for sampling. The earliest documentary evidence is in 1756.

Substantial two storey dwelling with dormer windows added later by Clough Williams Ellis. Opposite doorways, large end chimney to L with large wooden bressummer. Wooden ladder stair to first floor / attic. Original roof trusses, purlins etc seem to have survived.

The three buildings are situated in a hollow, high on the south side of the Croesor valley at 150m above O.D.

The early history of the holding is not clear but it was in the same holding as Hafodty.

The **adjacent outbuilding** / “bakehouse” was sampled.

Dendrochronology results:

Cruck	Felling dates
Cruck	Spring 1759
Intermediate tie	Summer 1758
Cruck	Winter 1758/9
Cruck	Spring 1759
Cruck	Spring 1759
Purlin	Summer 1759

Garreg-fawr, Llanfrothen, Gwynedd (NPRN 406471)

An upland farmstead. The main house is of Snowdonia type and, as it often the case, associated with a smaller cottage-like bakehouse that may have had a dual domestic function. The four-bay farmhouse failed to date but the lapped collar-beam trusses of the two-bay bakehouse were securely dated to 1758/9. (RCAHM Review 2006-07, p 58)

Merioneth, Llanfrothen, Garreg-fawr. SH 626 432.

Felling dates: Summer 1756; winter 1758/9; Spring/summer 1759.

An upland farmstead on the valley side about 150m O.D. The main house is of Snowdonia type and, as it often the case, associated with a smaller cottage-like bakehouse that may have had a dual domestic function. The four-bay farmhouse failed to date but the lapped collar-beam trusses of the two-bay bakehouse were securely dated.

OWNERS – ? the Wynn of Gwydir family

c1460 death of Maredudd ab Ieuan of Ystumcegid, who had inherited the Rhiwedog estate in Merioneth through his wife. His son John ap Maredudd inherited a substantial estate in Penefed, Pennant, **Llanfrothen** and Nanmor. *Ieuan ap Robert*

was John ap Mareduud's first cousin once removed. *He was a witness in 1519 document.* (JG Jones, The Wynn Family of Gwydir, p 13; C Gresham, Eifionydd, 19-20)

c1500-1525: Maredudd ap Ieuan ap Robert obtained Y Gesailgyfarch & other lands in Penefed, Pennant & **Llanfrothen**. (J G Jones, 1995, WFG, p13-4) He died in 1525, having fathered around 30 children.

1525-1559: **John Wynn ap Maredudd** (C Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd p 89)

1552- legal documents re his land holdings in **Llanfrothen** & other parishes (UWB Baron Hill ms 8, 9; Record of Caernarvon pp 281, 288-9; NLW Llanstephan ms 179B)

1559-1580: His son **Maurrice Wynn of Gwydir**

1560-80 Rental of lands from CWP No 94, Memorandum book of Maurice Wynn of Gwydir.

1569 Y Garreg Fawr (NLW Llanstephan ms 179B p 13)

? Garreg Fawr (NLW Llanstephan ms 179B p 59)

1570 Garreg Fawr (NLW Llanstephan ms 179B p ?)

1574 Garreg Fawr (NLW Llanstephan ms 179B p 157)

1580-1627: His son, Sir John Wynn, inherited in 1580. He greatly enlarged Gwydir.

1626-1649: **The 2nd son, Sir Richard Wynn**, inherited the Gwydir estate on the death of old Sir John Wynn.

1649-1668: Sir Owen Wynn inherited as his brother Sir Richard Wynn died childless.

1654 Sir Owen's son Richard Wynn married Sarah Middleton. Sir Owen Wynn granted him properties in trust in **Llanfrothen**, Beddgelert ... Valued at £600. (JG Jones, HWF p 105)

? 1662 Hearth Tax

1668-1674: Owen's son, Sir Richard Wynn inherited.

On his death in 1674 the baronetcy passed to his cousin, Sir John Wynn of Watstay.

1683 & 1689 Carreg Fawr tenant Humphrey Griffith (NLW, Wynnstay L1301 rentals)
1690, 1691, 1692 Carreg Fawr: tenant Humphrey Griffith (NLW, Wynnstay ms R8 rentals)

1720, 1725, 1729: Carreg Fawr: tenant Robert John Morris (NLW, Wynnstay ms R26 rentals)

1736: Carreg Fawr: tenant John Morris (NLW, Wynnstay ms R26 rentals)

1748 – 1751: Carreg Fawr tenant Foulk Thomas. (NLW, Wynnstay ms R29 rentals)

1740 Sir Watkin Williams Wynn I inherited through his mother.

1774 – 1749 Part of Gwydir estates, apparently including those in Llanfrothen & Beddgelert, were inherited by Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn I, 3rd Bart of Wynnstay. (NLW Wynnstay L.1301 includes Llanfrothen, Dict Welsh Biography, p1100; C Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd p 101)

1749-1789 son, Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn II, 4th Bart of Wynnstay

1789-1840 son aged 17, Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn III, 5th Bart of Wynnstay

1784-1795 owner Sir Watkin Williams Wynne, Bart.

1798 Land Tax NOT YET CONFIRMED

In 1801/3 young Sir Watkin Williams Wynn III decided to sell outlying portions of the old Gwydir estate. (C Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd p 102; UWB, Porth yr aur 19,710; Bye-gones 1887, p 343)

TENANTS

1683 & 1689 Carreg Fawr tenant Humphrey Griffith (NLW, Wynnstay L1301 rentals)
1690, 1691, 1692 Carreg Fawr: tenant Humphrey Griffith (NLW, Wynnstay ms R8 rentals)

1720, 1725, 1729: Carreg Fawr: tenant Robert John Morris (NLW, Wynnstay ms R26 rentals)

1736: Carreg Fawr: tenant John Morris (NLW, Wynnstay ms R26 rentals)

1748 – 1751: Carreg Fawr: tenant Foulk Thomas. (NLW, Wynnstay ms R29 rentals)

1569 p17 **Y Garreg Fawr**: Morgan Lewis ap Robert at 40/- rent for 4 yrs besides presents, services & reparations. (NLW Llanstephan ms 179b)

1569 p59 Garreg Fawr: Morus/Morgan ap Lewis (NLW Llanstephan ms 179b)

1569 March p64 Wm ap Robert ap Madog 20s for for the tenement of Garreg Fawr in Llanfrothen for 4 yrs from 1570 (NLW Llanstephan ms 179b)

1570 p112 Garreg Fawr: Morus/Morgan ap Lewis (NLW Llanstephan ms 179b)

1571 p120 Garreg Fawr: Wm ap Robin ap Madog (NLW Llanstephan ms 179b)

1574 p159 Garreg Fawr: Richard ap Howell ap Dafydd, 4 yrs, 7 nobles. (NLW Llanstephan ms 179b)

1680 NLW Wynnstay ms R8/7	-	Humphrey Griffith	£13-5-0
1683 ms L1301	Garreg Fawr	Humphrey Griffith	£13-5-0
1689 “		Humphrey Griffith	
1690 ms R8		Humphrey Griffith	£13-5-0
1691 “		Humphrey Griffith	
1692 “	Garreg ?ffordd	Humphrey Griffith	
1697 ms R9/5	Carreg Fawr farm	John Morris	£13-5-0
1698 ms R9	Carreg Fawr farm	John Morris	£13-5-0
1699 ms R9	Carreg Fawr farm	John Morris	£13-5-0
1700 ms R9	Carreg Fawr farm	John Morris	£13-5-0
1701 ms R8/6e	Carreg Vawr farm	John Morris	£13-5-0

1709 ms R10/7	Carrog Fawr	John Morris	£13-5-0
1710 ms R10	Carrog Fawr	Robert John Morris	
1711 ms R10	Carrog Fawr	Robert John Morris	
1711 ms R10 Allowed John Morris of Llanfrothen for 4 cows, 4 yearling calves & 2 heifers at £18; for 5 three year old bullocks at £10-10-0; for 1 little bull & 4 two year old bullocks at £7-10-0.			
1713 ms R10	Carrog Fawr	Robert John Morris	
1714 ms R11	Carrog Fawr	Robert John Morris	£13-5-0
1716 “	“	Robert John Morris	
1717 ms R11/9a	“	Robert Morris Jones	
1717 ms R11/10a	“	Robert Morris Jones	
1720 ms R26	Carreg Fawr farne	Robert John Morris	
1725 “	“	Robert John Morris	
1729 “	“	Robert John Morris	
1736 “	“	John Morris	
1736 ms R24/1	“	John Morris	
1737 ms R24/6	“	John Morris	
1744 ms R27	Carreg Fawr	Ffoulk Thomas	
1748 ms R29	“	Foulk Thomas	
1749 “	“	Foulk Thomas	
1750 “	“	Ffoulk Thomas	
1751 ms R29	“	Foulk Thomas	
1750 ms R30/6	Carreg Fawr tmt	Ffoulk Thomas	£13-5-0
1755 ms R32/9	Carreg Fawr tmt	Ffoulk Thomas	
1756-7 ms R33/12	Carreg Fawr tmt	Ffoulk Thomas	

END OF NLW WYNNSTAY RENTALS. WAS THE HOLDING SOLD and new buildings erected?

1757 Sep baptism of Ellen, daughter of John Rowland & Elizabeth, Garreg Fawr (LF records)

1758 Feb baptism of Edward, son of John Rowlands & Margaret, Garreg Fawr, labourer, (LF records)

1758-9 ms R34/11 Carreg Fawr tmt Ffoulk Thomas

1759 May baptism of Mary, daughter of John Rowland Meyrick & Elizabeth, Garreg Fawr (LF records)

There is a Rowland Meyrick, son of ?Thomas Meyrick and a daughter of ?Evan Jones & Elizabeth Prys (1621-1713 LF) of Wern. (TCGriffith2 [215])

1759/60- felling date of trees in outbuilding

1760 Dec baptism of Rowland, son of John Rowland & Elizabeth, Garreg Fawr, labourer (LF records) 1760 ms R35/2 Carreg Fawr tmt Ffoulk Thomas

1761 Oct baptism of William, son of John Rowland & Margaret, Garreg Fawr, labourer (LF records)

1762 Aug baptism of Elizabeth, daughter of John Rowland & Elizabeth, Garreg Fawr, labourer. (LF records)

1760 ms R35/2 Carreg Fawr tmt Ffoulk Thomas (LF records)

1762 ms R37/4 Carreg Fawr tmt Ffoulk Thomas

1763 Apr burial of Richard Edwards, Garreg Fawr, pauper (LF records)

1765 ms R37	Carreg Fawr tmt	Ffoulk Thomas	
1768 Apr	burial of Gwen Jones, Garreg Fawr, widow. (LF records)		
1769/70 ms R40	-	Foulk Thomas	
1771 ms R40	-	Foulk Thomas	
1760 ms R35/2	Carreg Fawr tmt	Ffoulk Thomas	
1772 ms R41	-	Ffoulk Thomas	
1772 ?Feb	baptism of Jane, daughter of William Owen & Elizabeth, Garreg Fawr, labourer (LF records)		
1773 ms R41	-	Ffoulk Thomas	
1774 Apr	baptism of Thomas, son of William Owen & Elizabeth, Garreg Fawr (LF records)		
1775/6 ms R44	-	Foulk Thomas	
1776/7 ms R45	-	Foulk Thomas	
1777 Feb	baptism of Owen, son of William Owen, Garreg Fawr, labourer & Elizabeth (LF records)		
1777/7 ms R46	-	Foulk Thomas	
1778/9 ms R47	-	Foulk Thomas	
1779 Mar	baptism of John, son of Pierce Thomas, Garreg fawr, labourer & Margaret (LF records)		
1784 ms R49/13		Foulk Thomas	
1789/90 ms R54	Garreg Fawr	Foulk Thomas	
1793 ms R56/4	198 Garreg Fawr	Foulk Thomas' widow	£22
1798	Land Tax NOT YET SURE (Dolgellau IR/23/118)		
1799/1800 ms R59/3	Garreg Fawr	Foulk Thomas' widow	
1805 ms R61/17	Garreg Fawr	John Samuel & <u>Wm Lewis</u>	

EARLY SUNDAY SCHOOL

William Lewis (1748-1825) was descended from Lewis Mordecai of the 1696; Between 1773-1798 William Lewis & his wife Margaret Lloyd had 13 children & established a Sunday School c 1787 in their home - in Ty Newydd Cae Glas, later in Hafodty & Garreg Fawr.

Their son Dafydd William was at Garreg Fawr 1810-1812; at Hafodty c 1815 & ay Ty Newydd Cae glas in 1816. (Notes from newspaper article in Merioneth Archive's Llanfrothen file)

1807-8 NLW Wynnstay ms R63/7 NO REFERENCE in Wynnstay rental

1840 tithe map commutation No 27

Owner **Griffith Richards Esq.**, who also owned Fotty (When did he buy Carreg Fawr & Hafodty from the Wynnstay estate? Who was he? Of Caerynwch, Brithdir)
 Tenant: John Lloyd.

1841 census Garreg Fawr

John Lloyd	51	farmer	Born in Merionethshire
Catherine Lloyd	54		Not born in Merionethshire
Jane “	16		Born in “
Griffiths “	12		“
Rowland Griffiths	20	slate quarryman	“

1841 Nov 28: death of Mary Jones, Garregfawr aged 70 (Ramoith graveyard MI 020)
1844 Mar 29: death of Sarah, daughter of Daniel & Ann Owens Hafod Ruffydd, Beddgelert, aged 3 (Ramoith graveyard MI 020)
1849 Aug 9: death of Daniel, grandson of Daniel & Anne Owens Hafod Ruffydd, Beddgelert, son of John & Ann Jones, aged 5 months (Ramoith graveyard MI 020)

1851 census not seen

1852 death of Catherine Humphreys, Garreg Fawr, aged 63 (Ramoith graveyard)

1861 census not seen

1863 death of Alice, daughter of Catherine Humphreys, Garreg Fawr, aged 42 (Ramoith graveyard)

1867 death of Isaac Roberts, Garreg Fawr aged 36, son of Robert Humphreys & Catherine his wife. (Ramoith graveyard MI 002)

1868 death of Robert Humphreys Garreg Fawr, aged 80 (Ramoith graveyard MI 002)

1871 census not seen

1881 census not seen

1891 census not seen

1892 PARC Sale Catalogue (Dolgellau Z/F/11)

Shows **Rev A C Williams-Ellis** as owner of Garreg Fawr & Vottu. When did he purchase them?

1894 Oct 2: death of Janet Alice Roberts, daughter of Robert & Jane Roberts, Carregfawr aged 19yrs. (Ramoith MI 313)

1901 census not seen

1907 Jan 18: death of Robert Roberts aged 61 yrs. (Ramoith MI 313)

1925 Jun 2: death of Jane Roberts aged 81 yrs. (Ramoith MI 313)

1920 Rentals of the Brondanw estate 1920-1961: C Croesor (Dolgellau ZM/3119)

21 Garreg Fawr £21 rent Thomas Pritchard

1930 Rentals of the Brondanw estate 1920-1961: C Croesor (Dolgellau ZM/3119)

24 Garreg Fawr farm } £20 15s rent John Thomas Pritchard

24 " buildings } Evan Lewis Pritchard

1940 Rentals of the Brondanw estate 1920-1961: C Croesor (Dolgellau ZM/3119)

24 Garreg Fawr land & buildings £15 7s 6d rent J Th Pritchard

1950 Rentals of the Brondanw estate 1920-1961: C Croesor (Dolgellau ZM/3119)

23 Garreg Fawr land & buildings £20 rent

Llanfrothen memorial inscription & parish record; local memories; Estate documents / deeds

Researched by Margaret Dunn,
16 May 2008