



Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig

Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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Plas Brondanw

Llanfrothen
Gwynedd



House History

A Part History of the House & its Families

Author: Margaret Dunn

Updated 30-12-2005

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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PLAS BRONDANW: A part History of the House & its Families

Llanfrothen, Gwynedd

update 30-12-05

NGR 26140 342280

Grade II*

From CADW Listing Schedule:

C17 gentry house with probably earlier origins, partly raised and extended in the late C18. Long in possession of the Williams family; SW gable has stone inscribed ?W 1660. Williams Williams of Plas Brondanw (d 1778) was “ the first to introduce sea banks to this part of Wales. The house was inherited in 1908 by Clough Williams Ellis. The house was gutted by fire in 1951.

Large L-plan storeyed house consisting of a 3-storey main block with further basement storey of the garden side, giving this a four-storey aspect.

Basement contains lateral fireplace and some large timbers ?original?

1568 Howel ap Ieuan ap Robin – gift – John his son, yeoman.

By 1600 John ap Howel, the son, was a Gent.

Rowland ap John

In 1626 Robert ap Rowland ap John married Gwen, daughter of William ap Richard of the Gorllwyn family. They had no children and Brondanw was left to Gwen’s nephew William Roberts of Gorllwyn Uchaf & Brondanw. He died in 1693 and was buried at Llanfrothen. ?W 1660 is inscribed on slate now on SW gable.

1693 valued the estate

Robert ap William of Gorllwyn Uchaf had a sister Gwen who married Robert Rowlands (ap John ap Howel), of Brondanw, living 1626, but they had no children. Brondanw was inherited by Gwen’s nephew, Robert ap William’s son, William Roberts.

In 1642 **William Roberts of Gorllwyn Ucha & Brondanw** married Sydney, daughter of Arthur ap David of Madryn. He moved to Brondanw & was buried in 1693 in Llanfrothen. The value of his inventory was £168. (Bob Owen, Plas Brondanw, JMHS, 1959 p 251)

1693 death of William Roberts of Brondanw. (LF records)

William Williams, of Brondanw, date of marriage settlement Aug 2, 1685; date of will March 2 1712. He married Dorothy, d of Maurice Williams, of Llwyn Crwn, Trawsfynydd, co Merioneth. They had six children.

He may have **rebuilt Brondanw or erected a new building** on the site of an older house, as there is a stone on the western end of the house with WW 1660 or 1666 carved on it. (Bob Owen, Plas Brondanw, JMHS, 1959 p 251)

1711 May: death of Margery, wife of William Williams, Brondanwg (LF records)

Robert Williams of Caernarfon & Brondanw married in 1714; administration of his will was granted in 1736. Married Mary, d of John Vaughan of Abercain, Llanystumdwy, died 1736 aged 42. They had seven children. (J E Griffith, Pedigrees, p 140)

Robert Williams was buried at Llanfrothen 30 Sept. 1742. He **bequeathed his messuage of Tythyn y Gorllwyn Isaf** to Griffith Williams, Llandegwning, clerk, his executor, whose daughter Dorothy had married Robert Williams' second brother, William Williams of Caernarfon & after of Pwllheli. [William Williams' second daughter Ellen (1726-1749) married Rev John Ellis & became an ancestor to Clough Williams-Ellis. (Bob Owen, Plas Brondanw, JMHS, 1959 p 257)]

William Williams of Brondanw (1715-1778) married Elizabeth, d of Robert Lloyd of Dduallt died 1776. They had no children.

"He was the first who introduced Sea Banks into this part of Wales" (Inside Llanfrothen church)

The estate was inherited to his brother, Rev **John Williams**, Rector of Harlington, near Windsor. He was married but died in 1789 without children and the estate was inherited by his sister **Catherine Williams**.

1798 Land Tax: Owner Miss Williams Tenant Robert Roberts

Catherine Williams died unmarried in 1804 and willed the BRONDANW estate to **Jane Bulgin**, daughter of her niece Mary. Jane Bulgin who married **Rev Thomas Ellis** of Tan yr Allt, Bangor.

Their son, John Williams-Ellis (1806-1882) in 1831 married Harriet Ellen Clough (1809-1878). They had 6 children including Thomas Parr Williams-Ellis (1832-1897) and John Clough Williams-Ellis (1833-1913)

1840 Tithe map & schedule 55 Brondanw issa

Owner: Rev J W Ellis Tenant Rev J W Ellis

He also owned 56a /b Cefn dreuniog (Morris Roberts); 57 Glanywern (Nathaniel Aims?); 58 Garreg Inn (Robert Roberts)

1841 census

1851 census

1861 census

1871 census

John Clough Williams-Ellis in 1877 married Ellen Mabel Greaves. They had 6 children including Bertrum Clough Williams- Ellis.

1881 census

1891 census

1901 census

1908 Clough Williams-Ellis inherited Brondanw. (J E Griffith, Pedigrees, p 210)

1910 Land Tax 1911 census

1911 Aug 11: Rev Williams-Ellis owned Brondanw estate (Lord Harlech Sale Catalogue)

1931 Rent charge: Croesor estate:

Hafodty; Garreg Fawr, Cefn Cyffin, Garreg Isaf, **Plas Brondanw**, Cefn Dreiniog, Glanywern, Brondanw Arms. (Merioneth Archives Z/M/3119)

1938 tenant + 1941 properties owned:

Park etc, Coedty (Evan J Evans). Penrallt (Reprs of Robert J Roberts), Croesor Fawr (Robert Roberts + N W Roberts), Croesor Uchaf (W G Owen + D Davis), Garreghylltrem, Beudy Newydd, Gelli, Gate House, Tan y bryn, Bwlchllainder, Fronwen, ¼ Brynhyfryd, 1/3 Caerffynnon, Moelwyn, Bryn Croesor, Ceunant y Parc. (Merioneth Archives Z/M/3119/4)

1942 Clough Williams-Ellis bought the Parc estate

He purchased additional land and made many modifications to buildings and the landscape.

Researched by Margaret Dunn