



# Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig

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# Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig Discovering Old Welsh Houses

Between 2005 and 2012 also known as The Snowdonia Dendrochronology Project, then the N W Wales Dendrochronology Project and then the Dating Old Welsh Houses Group.

## WERNLASDEG

Beddgelert  
Gwynedd



## House History

A Part History of the House & its Families

Author: Margaret Dunn

Updated 8-11-2005

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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# SNOWDONIA DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

## WERNLASDEG      An outline History

Beddgelert, Gwynedd (in former Caernarfonshire)

Researched by Margaret Dunn      updated 8-11-2005

NGR 25827 34911

Grade II

From Listing Schedule:

End chimney storeyed house of the late C16. In the C16 it was the home of David Lloyd, a witness in the dispute over the Forest of Snowdon. With its characteristic off-set projecting hall-end chimney and corbelled-out first-floor parlour-end chimney, the house conforms to one of the early prototypes of what subsequently becomes the standard end-chimney farmhouse type.

Given these early features, its original status is likely to have been that of a lesser gentry house, although nothing of its early ownership history is known. The house was altered in the late C17 or C18 when gabled dormers were added and at some point the off-set stack has been reduced. The interiors were modernized c1900. The house was found to be unused and in an increasing state of dereliction (1998).

### EARLY HISTORY

The lands now called Wernlasdeg lie north-east of the river Colwyn, north west of the village of Beddgelert. They were part of the township of Nanhwynan granted around 1199 by Llewelyn ab Iorwerth to the Cistercian monks of Aberconwy. In his charter Llewelyn names the fifteen blocks of land to be granted and describes their boundaries.

The future Cae'r Gors is named as Pennant Crwn;

The future Hafod Wydr is named as Pennant Morgenen;

the future **Wernlasdeg** is named as Wernos dec

and was probably a bond *gafaelion* at least by the twelfth century. Gradually the Cistercian monks leased out their granges to tenants.

### Names of farm holdings

	<u>Charter, 1200</u>	<u>Ministers' Accounts, 1536</u>	<u>Modern Farms</u>
8	wernos dec	<b>Iwonysdeg</b> £2 13s 4d* Glas Treane etc    6s 8d	<b>Y Wernlasdeg</b> Glasdreaen Perthi (Dinas Moch)
9	pennant morgenen	Havod Nether    £1 10s 0d*	Hafodwydir
10	pennant crwn	(not named)	Cae'r-gors

By the early 1500s, **Y Wernlasdeg** and Hafod Nether, which seems to have replaced part of the two holdings called Pennant along one side of Nant Colwyn, were leased by **Robert ap Howell ap Rhys**. He was a son of Gorllwyn in Penyfed and was born about the beginning of the sixteenth century. In 1521 he was described as of Llanfrothen, where his family were landowners, but later he appears to have lived on

his Nanwhynan holdings because he, his son, and his grandson are described as being of Beddgelert; however his descendants became the families of Brondanw and Ynysfor in Llanfrothen and his monastic lands passed into other hands, Hafod Nether becoming Hafod Wydir when the Wynns got hold of it. (C A Gresham 1973; Eifionydd p 47, 83-5, 107, 126; C A Gresham,1983; B B C S p 333-5, 337.)

David Lloyd ap Hywel ap Rhys of Beddgelert, who was 80 in Nov 1580, was brother to Robert ap Hywel ap Rhys who in 1536 held \***Y Wernlasdeg** and other Aberconwy lands. (Hays, 1963, History of Aberconwy, p189)

Their father Hywel ap Rhys ap Dafydd was of Gorllwyn. (C Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd p 47, 83) Hywel lived in the second half of the fifteenth century, and was the great-grandson of Cynddelw, who could claim descent from Rhirid Flaidd, Lord of Gest, and Hywel seems to have been a *priodwr* in Llanfrothen. Gorllwyn was a large upland holding high on the southern slopes of Moel Ddu, and may well have come to the family settled on the opposite side of the Traeth Mawr by marriage with an heiress.

In 1521 Robert leased three holdings in Penyfed.

In 1536 Robert leased **Wernlasdeg** and Hafod Nether, parts of the former Abbey of Aberconwy lands.

Robert inherited his father's lands at Gorllwyn; by 1531 he described himself as of Llanfrothen.(Eifionydd p 126)

Robert's grandson Richard ap William (ap Robert) was of Beddgelert. (Ped p 334,170, 228)

Robert's brother, David Lloyd, was born c1500, probably at Gorllwyn.

By a grant dated 15 March 1561/2 Thomas ap Rhys ap Hywel (of Bron y Foel in Treflys & Flintshire) conveyed to his second son John Wynn, "a messuage and lands called havod y llyn, Gardd lygad ty, Kay a myngys and havod gay in Nanmor". The principal witness being **David Lloyd ap Robert ap Howel**. (Gorllwyn). Cae Mynys is now part of Gardd llygad ddu, and Havof gau became part of Clogwyn.

(C Gresham, JMHS, 1978, Nanmor Deudraeth p 111 & NLW Dolfriog 10)

1580/1 **David Lloyd ap Howel ap Rhys, of Beddgelert** (& Gorllwyn), 80 years of age, was a witness in the Royal Commission re the Forest of Snowdon lands. He said that Bryn Deniel adjoined his father's land and had been held by him, and that it extended from his father's land, which was called Mur Hywel, to a rock called Y Graig Ddu. Graig Ddu or Yr Allt Ddu, as the other witnesses on this subject named it, was probably Moel Ddu, and the father was of Gorllwyn, so it is fairly certain that Bryn Deiniol was the holding now called Tai Cochion. (C Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd, p 90)

In 1585 **David Lloyd ap Hywel ap Rhys** of Beddgelert was a trustee of an entail (release in trust) of the estate of John Wynn ap Humphrey of Gesail Gyfarch. (C Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd, p 47-9)

1587 July 10: Bond for the payment of collections in county of Caernarfon:

1. Humfrye ap David Lloyd of Bethgkelert, gent. 2. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. (Cat of Brogyntyn Ms & Doc., NLW, Vol III, p8, ms 2387)

1595 Nov 28: ref to **Humphrey David Lloyd of Wernosdeg**, gent.

(Cat of Brogyntyn ms & Doc. , NLW, Vol III, p 13)

It is not known when, Hafod wydr, and **probably** the other Nant Colwyn lands of Caergors, **Wernlasdeg** and Glasdraian, were acquired by the Wynn family of Gwydir. John Wyn ap Maredudd had acquired much of the former Aberconwy grange of Nanhwynan by 1536.

His son Morus Wynn, prior to his death in 1580, tenanted Meillionen, and purchased from the Crown the farm of Nant Colwyn and the fee farm rent of Cae'r Ychen in the tenement of Hafod Ruffudd in Beddgelert. [Former Augustinian priory lands] (J G Jones 1995; Wynn Family of Gwydir, p46; UCNW Bangor, Mostyn Ms 5441; NLW ms 6414 (d), 20; Gas XQS 1616-17; Eifionydd p 67-9; Linc Record Office 4 Anc 4/8 p 19 - Sir Richard Wynn's Rent roll 1647).

Morus Wynn was a member of the Earl of Leicester's Commission in his attempts to retrieve Crown lands in the Forest of Snowdon in the 1570s and 1580s.

David Lloyd, brother of Robert ap Howel ap Rhys, both of Beddgelert, (**Wernlasdeg**) was a witness to the Commission.

In 1606 Morus' son, John Wynn's accounts recorded that the rent of Tyddyn Mawr and Hafod Ruffudd and Cadair Ychen in Beddgelert was set aside to maintain his kinsman John Williams of Conwy at Cambridge. (J G Jones, Wynn Family of Gwydir, p 58; GAS XQS, 1616-17 (Petition); Eifionydd p 67-70; M L Clarke, Bangor Cathedral; 1969; p 110)

1607 Nov 18 Letter from Henry Rowlands, Bishop of Bangor, reminds Sir John Wynn of Gwydir that the scholarship, founded by his father, has long been void, and suggests that Sir John should nominate a youth said to have been born in Berthkelerte, who has a tunable voice apt for the choir. (NLW CWP 459)

In 1617 Sir John Wynn intended to bestow on his son & now heir Sir Richard Wynn on his marriage, lands including the Prior of Beddgelert's land; **the lands & rents of Nanhwynan (£80)**; but not the freehold of the manor of Nanhwynan (£221)

(J G Jones 1995 Wynn Family of Gwydir p 58; NLW ms 9056E.779)

After the death of Sir John Wynn in March 1627, his son Morus Wynn surveyed the stock on the farm or dairy of Hafod Wydir ( which may have included Cae'r Gors) in April. It comprised 54 cows [many with calves], 20 three-year old bullocks, 2 two year old bulls, 1 three year old heifer, 38 yearling bullocks and heifers, 20 two year old bullocks, 1 three year old bull and 35 calves. (NLW Mss 9052E.1522; 9061E.1488)

A 1647 rental gives details of tenancies including Nanhwynan (rent: £157 1s 2d) (Linc Record Office 4 Anc 4/8 36pp - Sir Richard Wynn's Rent roll of 1647).

In 1649 Sir Richard Wynn died childless; his brother Owen Wynn succeeded to the title and estate.

A 1653 list of Morus Wynn's properties has survived when he was Receiver-General of North Wales and living at Crogen, Llanderfel. (NLW ms 9064E.2032) [Not Beddgelert]

In 1654 Sir Owen Wynn's heir Richard Wynn married Sarah Myddleton; Owen Wynn granted Richard properties in trust in ... **the manor and the parish of Beddgelert** - rental £297 1s 2d, Llanfrothen etc. (J G Jones 1995 Wynn Family of Gwydir p 106)

In 1660, Sir Richard Wynn inherited .... **the manor of Nanhwynan and the parish of Beddgelert**. He had many business commitments in London. The problem of unpaid debts, however, was still a threat, and, in an attempt to settle them he considered selling a part of his estate in the autumn of 1661. In 1671 Sir Richard settled his debts of £100 but £66 7s 0d remained outstanding and his creditors were anxious to see the

whole sum settled. (NLW MS 9064E.2447-8; 9068E.2574, 2581; NLW Gwydir (British Records Association), 6)

MAYBE this was when the Nant Colwyn and Nanhwynan lands were acquired by John Rowlands.

Sir Richard Wynn died in 1674 and his daughter and heiress Mary Wynn married Robert Bertie, later Baron Willoughby de Eresby, in 1678. In 1715 he was created duke of Ancaster and Kesteven. Judging by the rent rolls [c1717-1736] the estate continued to thrive. (UCNW Bangor Mostyn mss 5441,5782, 5972, CWP nos 2829,2844-5, pp 424,426.; J G Jones; 1995; Wynn of Gwydir, p 107-8)

WHEN and why did they sell? Was it Sir Richard Wynn in the period 1661-1674?

17th century, interior modernised. Diagonal chimney-stack at S.W. end, corbelled chimney at N.E. (RCAHM Caerns Vol 1, no 719)

### **OWNER : John Rowlands, Plas y Nant ?-1703**

The next known owner of these Nant Colwyn lands was John Rowlands of Nant, Betws Garmon. He was born around 1645 and married Frances Owen (born 1665) the third daughter of William and Catherine Owen of Porkington and Clenenny. She was grand-daughter of the celebrated Royalist, Sir John Owen of Clenenny.

John Rowlands was a wealthy London banker with offices in Lombard Street. Knowing of John Rowland's Welsh connection, it was convenient for the London gentlemen to sell to him. They probably could not be bothered with estates in such remote parts of Wales - it was easier to visit the Lombard Street offices where John Rowlands conducted his business. He led a very busy life travelling between London and Wales. He was High Sheriff of Carnarvon for 1688 -89, when he was designated as a gentleman of Conway. He underwrote many debentures for land sales around North Wales and he also purchased estates around 'Plas y Nant', Betws Garmon, when the original owners either needed money urgently or had died, whereby the land had to be divided amongst the heirs.

Randle Wynne, Barrister at Law, mortgaged Graeanog and all his wife's property Treborth, Bangor to John Rowlands and colleagues around 1689. He died around 1693, the mortgage was foreclosed and, as the other Trustees had died, John Rowlands became the sole owner of the Graeanog estate.

Plas y Nant was built for John Rowlands in 1671. He continued to enlarge his estate in the late seventeenth century, buying more property around Betws Garmon and Beddgelert, including the land up to the summit of Snowdon. In 1692 he was again High Sheriff of Carnarvon, by then being of Plas y Nant, Betws Garmon. He wrote several wills from 1682 onwards. In his final will of 14 March 1703 John Rowlands of Nant, Betws Garmon left **Wernesdeg**, Glasdraine plus Hafod Wedir, along with Havod y rhyse and Wenallt, parish of Bethkellert and properties elsewhere to Frances his wife. His other six holdings named in Nanhwynain, Cwm Dyly Issa and Uwcha, Gwastad Agnes, Greyfron, Llyndu Issa and Hafod y Porth were left in trust for his daughters, along with a yearly rent charge out of Berthlwyd, township of Nanmor, co M. He died at the end of March 1703, aged 58 years and was buried in Betws Garmon. He had ten children.

### **TENANTS**

1698 **Morgan Hughes**, gentleman, Wernlasdeg died. (He had married Catherine Pierce in 1687 in Beddgelert. His father, Hugh Morgan died in Betws Garmon in 1703) Widow- Catherine Pierce; Brother Ellis Hughes; Children Hugh, Margaret &

youngest Pierce Morgan

1703 Owner John Rowland's will names the **Wernlasdeg** tenant as Catherine Pierce widow.

**OWNER : Richard Rowlands : 1703 - 1719**

TENANTS: Morgan Hughes' widow Catherine Pierce remarried in 1704, to Owen Jones who died in 1720. They had six children.

**OWNER : Thomas Rowlands : 1719 - 1763**

John Rowland's second son Thomas Rowland inherited the Nant estate on the death of his brother Richard in 1719.

1722 Bill of complaint re ?trust; mentions Cwm Dyly Issa and Uwcha, Gwastad stane, Gwyfron, Llyndu Issa and Hafod y Porth p. Beddgelert; Berthlwyd t. Nanmor; **Wernesdeg**, Glasdraine, Hafod Wedir, Havod y riske and Wenallt, parish of Bethkellert and properties elsewhere . (? D642)

In 1724 Thomas married Ellin Roberts, heiress of Caerau, Llanfairynghornwy, Anglesey, where they lived. Their third child Emma, born 1727, became heiress of both estates as the other children died young.

1726, 1731/2, 1732 & 1734: documents relating to John Rowlands' will (D643-651)

TENANTS:

Owen & Catherine Jones' son **John Owen**, Wernlasdeg, died in 1754 and his brother Rice Owen (1710-1788) then farmed Wernlasdeg.

**OWNER : EMMA ROWLANDS (1727-1770) married James, 6th Viscount Bulkeley , who died 1752. She inherited from her father Thomas in 1763. Her second husband Sir Hugh Williams was thus the owner of the Beddgelert lands.**

In July 1749, at Llanfairynghornwy, Emma Rowlands aged 22 years, married the Right Honourable James Bulkeley who had inherited the title from his brother Richard. They lived at Baron Hill, where he died in May 1752. Emma gave birth in December 1752 to a son and heir, Thomas James, who succeeded as the 7th Viscount Buckeley and inherited the Baron Hill estate.

Emma was now the Dowager Lady Bulkeley, and in 1760 she married Sir Hugh Williams who inherited from his uncle and became the 8th Baronet of Penrhyn. They had four children. Emma died in 1770, aged 43 years, and was buried in Llanfairynghornwy.

TENANTS :

1745 **John Owen**, Wernlasdeg (son of Owen Jones & Catherine)

1754 John Owen, Yeoman, Wernlasdeg died. Widow Katherine Hughes; children Katherine, Margaret & Jane; also Owen & Ellis. (Mary eldest) His estate was worth £100-15-0.

The tenancy went to his brother **Rice Owen** (1710-1788) who in 1735 had married Jane Owen of Brithdir Mawr in Llanfihangel y Pennant church. Their children were Margaret 1736-38; Owen Price, Bryn Melin born 1739; Catherine Prys 1742-1825 at Ffridd Uchaf. She had married William Williams I, yeoman of Wernlasdeg, Dolfriog & Brynmelin who died in 1792. They had ten children.

From 1761 -1788 **Rice Owen &** (from 1784-8) **Ellis Jones**, yeomen, were the tenants. 1788 Dec 7 Rice Owen Wernlasdeg died aged 78. (A102)

**OWNER : Sir Hugh Williams, died 1794, Emma's Widow: Inherited in 1770-1794**

Emma's son, Thomas James, 7th Lord Viscount Bulkeley (1752 - 1822) in 1770 inherited a share with his stepbrother, **Sir Robert Williams**, (1764-1830) in their mother's estate which included, in Caernarvonshire, all the lands once owned by her grandfather John Rowlands. In 1774-1784 Lord Bulkeley was a Member of Parliament for Anglesey and he was created a Peer of Great Britain, assuming the title of Lord Buckeley of Beaumaris. In 1777 Lord Thomas James Bulkeley married Elizabeth Harriet Warren, heiress of Sir George Warren, Knt. of Poynton, Cheshire. On his marriage he added his wife's name to his title and became Lord James Warren Bulkeley of Beaumaris. They were childless. Sir Robert Williams then succeeded to the property of the last Viscount Bulkeley.

**TENANTS:**

1775 Pierce Roberts, yeoman's will names Owen Rhees, Yeoman, Wernlasdeg; Catherine Rhees, spinster, Wernlasdeg.

1776 Catherine Hughes, widow of John Owen, Wernlasdeg, died. Children: Mary Jones, Catherine Jones, Ellis Jones, Margaret Jones; Brother in law; Rees Owen Wernlasdeg.

1784, 1788: Price Owen & Ellis Jones, yeomen, tenants. (Landtax returns)

1788 / 91 Rice Owen, yeoman, Wernlasdeg died. Widow Jane Owen, Children: Owen Price & Catherine Price.

1789: Jane Price (Widow of Rice Owen) & Ellis Jones, tenants (Landtax returns)

Then Rice Owen's widow **Jane** (of Brithdir Mawr) took the tenancy with **Ellis Jones**. Jane's daughter Catherine Prys had married William Williams, yeoman of Wernlasdeg, Dolfriog & Brynmelin who died in 1792. They had ten children. He took the tenancy until he died in 1792.

1792-1817: Their son, William Williams II, tenant. (Landtax returns)

1799 Dec 27 Widow Jane Owen died aged 87. (A102)

**OWNER : Sir Robert Williams. Inherited 1794 - 1830**

In 1818 **Sir Robert Williams**, who had inherited **Plas y Nant**, from his mother Emma, after the death of his father, Sir Hugh Williams in 1794, had it extended when he lived there whilst standing as a Member of Parliament for the County. About this time he had a tablet erected at Plas y Nant in memory of his grandfather John Rowlands.

He held the Court Leet in Beddgelert from at least 1797 - 1820. CHECK DETAILS

1795-1830: Proprietor: Sir Robert Williams [of Nant] (GAS Land Tax XQA LT/ 6/4)

**TENANTS:**

From 1792 - 1817 William Williams II (1765-1844), son of William Williams & Catherine Prys, took the tenancy. In 1791 he had married Jane Robert, daughter of John Roberts, Cae'r Gors. They had ten children, two of whom were living at Wernlas with them in 1841.

1794 March 17 Catherine Williams buried aged 1 month (A070) Wernlas deg

1796 July 19 William Williams buried aged 1 month. (A070)

1805 April 13 Anne Williams buried aged 3 month (A070)

1809 Nov 23 Elizabeth Williams buried aged ? years. (A070)

1818- 1830: William Williams II & Henry Williams, tenant. (Landtax returns)



1815 Sept 7 William Parry son of Henry Williams & Margaret Williams his wife, buried, aged 1 year. (A070 Beddgelert graveyard)

1851 Dec 5 John Williams, son of Henry Williams, Wern las Deg, buried, aged 30 years. (A083 Beddgelert graveyard)

1829 Oct 15: At the Court Leet; Hundred of Isgorfai;  
held at the house of Miss Anne Davies called the Old Inn:  
William Williams of **Wernlasdeg**, farmer;  
Griffith Roberts of Caergors, farmer;  
Henry Williams of **Wernlasdeg**, farmer; plus 12 more from  
Beddgelert.  
(Porth yr Aur 14283)

**OWNER : Sir Richard Bulkeley Williams-Bulkeley ( 1801 - 1875) inherited 1830.**

[In 1822, on the death of James, 7th Viscount Buckeley, the Baron Hill estate was inherited by Sir Richard Williams, grandson of Emma and Sir Hugh Williams. The title became extinct as James had no heirs, but according to his uncle's will Sir Richard sought permission from King George IV, to add the name of Bulkeley to his own title. This was granted and he became **Sir Richard Bulkeley Williams Bulkeley in June 1827**. He was, in his own right, the 10th Baronet of Penrhyn.]

After his father's death in 1830, he inherited the estate in Anglesey and the Caernarvonshire estate. It was during his lifetime that changes were made in the estates in Caernarvonshire. In 1831 lands around Clynnog were offered for sale. (S Parri- Jones; 1980s; Felin Faesog Ch 2)

**TENANTS:**

Undated part of rental: page 80.

**Wernisdeg** - tenant - William Williams; rents £67

Glasdrain - tenant - William Williams; rents £ 121-12-0. (S Parri-Jones)

1832 July 14: Caer Gors tenant - Griffith & Richard Roberts £63 rent

**Wernlasdeg** - William & Henry Williams £ 87-6-0 rent

Glasdrain - Mrs Pritchard £22-10-0 rent (Baron Hill uncat. Nant indenture)

1838 Tithe : William Williams & John Roberts (? Brynmelyn)

1839 Tithe Commutation: Proprietor : Sir Richard Bulkeley Williams Bulkeley.

From at least 1761 there seem to have been more than one person holding the tenancy. From 1784-1789 it is Ellis Jones; from 1818-1830 Henry Williams; by 1938, John Roberts maybe of Bryn Melyn.

In the 1841 census there appear to be two dwellings at Wernlasdeg

One of William & Jane Williams' daughters, **Lowry, married William Owen** of Beddgelert c 1839. By 1851 they were farming Wernlas, with Lowry's mother & aunt living with the family.

1841 Census: Wernlasdeg

William Williams	75	Farmer	Born in Caerns.
Jane Williams	65		"
Lowry Williams	30	(dau)	"

William Owen	35	Farmer(son in law)	"
William Williams	12	(Gson)	"
Margaret Williams	20	Farm servant	"
Alice Owen	35	(dau)	"
Ellinor Owen	2	(Gdau)	"

1841: Wernlasdeg

William Owen	25	Ag lab	born on Caernarfonshire
Owen Parry	15	Ag lab	"
Mary Griffith	20	farm servant	"
Jane Roberts	15		"
Thomas Roberts	7		"

1844 Aug 4 William Williams died aged 78 yrs. (A070)

1845 May: Counterlease for 21 years. of mines in CAE CORS & **WERNLASDEG** in p of Beddgelert. 1. Sir R B Williams-Bulkeley, Bart; 2. Henry Slock Esq. Royalty one 16th (UCNW Baron Hill 4682)

1851 Census : No 11 Wernlas

William OwenH	46	farmer 150 acres	Born in Beddgelert
Lowra Owen W	44		"
John Roberts son	16	U Ag Lab	"
Jane Owen dau	16	U Gen Servant	"
Charlot Williams dau	13	At school	"
Margaret Williams dau	7		"
Jane Williams son	4		"
Ann Roberts widow	62/3	(Laura's aunt )	"
Jane(t) Roberts widow	77	(Laura's mother)	"

1851 April 30 Jane widow of Wm Williams died aged 78 years. (A070)

1859 Aug 21 Lowry wife of William Owen, Wernlasdeg buried aged 53 years. (A088a)

1860 April 15 Charlotte, daughter of William & Lowry Owen died aged 19 yrs (A088a)

1851 Census: No 12 Wernlas

William Hughes H	36	farmer 300 acres	born in Betws Garmon
Catherine W	41		"
Elizabeth	6		"
Mary	3		Beddgelert
Catherine	1		"
Elizabeth Jones S	16	U House servant	Clynnog
Thomas Evans S	13	U Ag lab	Beddgelert
Hugh Evans	6/8	U Lodger	"

1861 Census: No 61 Wernlasdeg

William Hughes	H	46	Farmer 1100 acres	Born in Betws Garmon
Catherine	W	52		Llanbeblig

Elizabeth Hughes	dau	16		Betws Garmon
Mary	dau	13		Beddgelert
Catherine	dau	11		Beddgelert
William	son	7		Beddgelert
Humphrey Hughes	serv	19	U carter	Llandwrog
Lewis Evans	serv	14	U shepherd	Beddgelert
Elinor Williams	serv	20	U house servant	Llangybi

1870s QUARRY: Gwernlasteg (SH 584496)

Open quarry, opened in 1870s but not developed. Remains: Excavation & rubbish runs, traces of buildings, access track. (Alun Richards, 1991, A Gazetteer of the Welsh Slate Industry, p 115.)

1871 Census: no 20. Wernlasdeg

William Hughes	H	55	farmer 900 acres	Born Bettws Garmon
Catherine	W	60		"
Elizabeth	dau	26		"
Catherine	dau	21		Beddgelert
William Hughes	son	17	Scholar	"
Evan Hughes	serv	21	Unm	Ederm
Owen Jones	serv	20	Unm	Anglesey, Llanfair Neubwll
Robert Jones	serv	23	Unm	Abererch
John Roberts	serv	13	Unm	Merioneth Llanfrothen

**OWNER: Sir Richard Lewis Mostyn Williams-Bulkeley (1833 - 1884)**

**Inherited 1876.**

1876 Valuation of the Estate of the Dowager Lady Bulkeley:

**Wernlas deg:** House & land; 810 acres; yearly value £165. William Hughes. This farm is the best this side of the estate and better situated, there is more hay and pasture land in proportion for cultivation, the house requires repairs, the outbuildings are not well kept or in repair; I consider this the cheapest farm on this side of the estate.

1878 Inclosure Commissioners Order: Farm Buildings & Fencing Improvements.  
(Baron Hill uncat)

1879: Letter to the Dowager Lady Bulkeley re level of rents which were raised in 1877; requesting 10 % rent reduction.

Rice Williams, Glasdraian farm; William Hughes, **Wernlasdeg**;  
John Prichard, Hafodwydr; Francis Roberts, Caer gors; etc. (Baron Hill uncat)

1881 Census: No2 Wernlasdeg

William Hughes	H	66	Farmer 800 acres	born Bettws Garmon
Catherine	W	70		"
Catherine	dau	28		Beddgelert
William	son	26		"
Griffith Prichard	serv	38		Llanystumdwy
Hugh Roberts	serv	28		Anglesea
William Jones	serv	22		Clynnog
Ellen Jones	serv	22		Penmorfa
Margred Roberts	serv	14		Beddgelert

**OWNER : Sir Richard Henry Williams-Bulkeley (1862 - 19??) Inherited 1884.**

1887 June: Beddgelert estate - copy of Valuation by Messr Dew & Son:

**Wern Lasdeg** : tenant - Wm Hughes; estimate annual rent £120 & market value £3400.

A capital mountain farm adjoining the above on the Beddgelert road to which it has a long frontage and stands like the others in a most picturesque district.

Amount of Tithe: £5-5-0. (Baron Hill uncat.)

1891 Census: No 34 Wernlasdeg

William Hughes	widow 76	farmer	Born Bettws Garmon	Welsh
Catherine	dau 38		Beddgelert	"
William	son 35		"	"
Elizabeth Jones	ag serv 20	U	Llandegai	"
Griffith Griffiths	ag serv 23	U	Penmorfa	"
John Williams	ag serv 18	U	Llanfair	"

**1893 Aug Sale** catalogue for Nant estate:

Hafod y Porth, tenant - Henry Jones Lot 1 : 907 acres

Llyndy Isaf, " John Roberts Lot 2 : 664 acres

Hafod Rhisgl, " Robert Williams Lot 3 : 623 acres

**Wernlasdeg**, " William Hughes Lot 4 : 654 acres; Lots 5-7 plots total 10 acres includes Bryn Meyn old outbuildings, Fign Chwarel & slate quarry (disused)

Hafod Wydr house " John Prichard Lot 8 : 2 acres

Hafod Wydr land " Lot 9 : 197 acres

Take Note for certain mines & minerals: 18 June 1891 for 3 years from 13 May 1891 on & under Lots 9, 10 & 11; as is not comprised in the 45 year minerals lease of 14 Nov 1874, with option to Lessee to take a lease for a further 40 years.

Hafod Wydr plantation - in hand Lot 10 : 1 acre - growing timber.

Cae'r Gors, tenant - Daniel Jones Lot 11 : 586 acres

Gwyndy, " Dr Robert Morris Lot 23

Calvinistic Methodist chapel Freehold Ground rent £1 pa. Lot 24

Saracen's Head, Lot 25 in lease for 45 years from 13 Nov 1870

The Firs - Freehold ground rent £2 Lot 26 in lease for 80 years from 29 Sept 1867 (Bought by Cwmcloch)

Glasdrian. " Jane Williams Lots 27-45 as building plots.

Much near Beddgelert as building plots.

1901 census

1910 Land Tax Assessment

Wernlasdeg was sold in Sept 1910 to Sir Tom E Roberts, Plas y Bryn, Bont Newydd.

1911 census

1937 Sept 26 Pierce Roberts, Wernlas Deg died aged 69 years. (B702)

1937 Oct 21 Janet Roberts his wife died aged 65 years. (A702)

Sir Tom's bother John Roberts farmed Wernlasdeg.

1957 Sept 17 William John Roberts, Wernlas Deg died aged 59 years. (B705)  
 1982 Oct 7 Mary Ellen Roberts his wife died aged 74 years. (B705)  
 John Roberts' son Pyrs Roberts farms Wernlas. Other son is John Griffith Roberts.

The **family of William Hughes** who seems to have moved there by about 1848.  
 By 1861 there is only the one household at Wernlasdeg.

William Hughes	c1855	married	Catherine
Born 1815 in Bettws Garmon parish	I	born 1810 in Bettws Garmon or	
At Wernlasdeg by 1848	I	Llanbeblig parish. died 1881-91.	
Died after April 1891	I		
	I		
<hr/>			
I	I	I	I
Elizabeth	Mary	Catherine	William
1845 -	1848-	1850-	1854-
Bettws Garmon pa	Beddgelert pa	Beddgelert pa	Beddgelert pa
at home in 1871	at home in 1861	at home in 1891 unnm.	at home in 1991 unnm
		spoke Welsh	spoke Welsh & English

Did the Hughes leave Wernlas in 1910 for Cae'r Gors?

*? Hugh Hughes, bailiff at Cae'r Gors married the widow there. He shot a Wernlasdeg dog killing sheep & the case went to court; afterwards Wernlasdeg would not speak or help on the farm; he died c 1930.*  
*Her two unmarried daughters farmed Cae'r Gors. Catherine worked on the farm with the sheep like a man. John Prichard, Hafod Wydr recalled helping with the sheep.*  
*In the late 1930s - early 1940s Lizzie & Catherine moved to Bryn Ffynnon, Rhyd Ddu (Owned in 1997 by Mrs Peggy Roberts, Bron Gader, Rhyd Ddu.)*