



Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig

Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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YMWLCH

Llandanwg parish,
Merionethshire.



House History

A Part History of the House & its Families

Author: Margaret Dunn

Updated 16-06-2022

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

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DISCOVERING OLD WELSH HOUSES

HOUSE HISTORIES of FARMS once part of the EGRYN ESTATE

**YMWLCH, Llandanwg parish, Merionethshire.
NGR SH 574283**

The house history material contained below was researched around 2006 as part of a detailed investigation into the farm holdings which had at some time been part of the EGRYN ESTATE, near Barmouth, Merionethshire. It does not always follow the format used in the house histories undertaken by the Discovering Old Welsh Houses heritage charity & its predecessors and in most cases is not a complete house history. Nevertheless, it may be a useful starting point for house histories for any of the properties named.

This document is a list of pieces of information (date; summary, full source) so far found about this house, and is not a prose history of the building & its families. It is hoped to include a detailed history of the Egryn & Caerberllan estates and their owners & tenants on the DOWH website as soon as possible.

Those interested in old houses in old Merionethshire (now part of Gwynedd) could look at www.discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk, the Discovering old Welsh Houses website. In the English version, search under Reports / Merioneth / House Histories for reports researched by members & volunteers.

Researched by Margaret Dunn 15 November 2006; revised 16 June 2022.

A HOUSE HISTORY of YMWLCH and its inhabitants

It is not yet known when the hillock on which Ymwelch farm is situated was first inhabited and made into a farm. Its prominent coastal position between the medieval church of Llandanwg and the estuary of the Artro would make it a likely, albeit exposed, site for early settlement. The alterations in the coastline and site of a good anchorage have probably been considerable since prehistoric times. No prehistoric finds of tools or implements from the Llandanwg coastal headland and beaches have been recorded in the HER, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor.

By the time of the Conquest in 1282 Ymwelch was most probably farmed land. Note that the former route from Llanfair towards Mochras & the mouth of the river Artro led past Ymwelch farmhouse. Until after 1744 the river Artro entered the sea to the south of Mochras which was at the end of a long isthmus or thin peninsula.

1420: Llandanwg

In this township there are certain parcels of **free land called YMMWLCH** and Hafodwen near Merthyr which are charged in the account of the township of Trawsfynydd. (Record of Caernarvon, p281)

After 1542 the law stated that the eldest legitimate son inherited the father's lands, rather than the former partible inheritance system, and estates began to develop. *Llandanwg & Llanfair parishes property transactions in the 1500s have not been checked.*

It is not known when and how the ancestors of the Tyddur family of Egryn acquired these scattered holdings. They cannot be identified from the 1420 survey in the Record of Caernarvon, although at least three of the holdings are named in that document. It is probable that they were acquired by the ancestors of William Tydur of Egryn between 1420 and 1623 by purchase from the crown or other owners, possibly by Ednyfed ap Gruffydd Lloyd, one of the Grand Jury of Edward IV in 1453. They may be the remnants of a divided family estate shared by partible inheritance, or may include lands acquired by marriage.

Early owners: the ancestors of the Tyddur family of Egryn:

Ymwlech is presumed to have belonged to the family at EGRYN, Llanaber, as by the 1600s they were apparently not acquiring additional land, unless by marriage.

1623 Rental of chief rents issuing to the crown out of the hundred of Ardudwy ywch Artro and out of Isartro (county Merioneth)

Uwchartro:

Llandanwg **Wm Tyddyr of Ymylch** 0-9d
(NLW, 12731E, D E Jenkins 1 – no page numbers)

1668 will of Richard William, Wmwlech, Llandanog, co Merioneth
to his sister Elin poundsshillings

to his nephew Richard, my brother Hugh, his sonne

to John David of ?Parke Greegowne ...

to Richard Griffith of Vrongaled £2 10 shillings

to Edward Humffrey ap John £1 8s

To Thomas ap Robert of CaerElwe £1 5s

..... said Thomas about £8

..... wife Gwen

..... brother Hugh ap William 6 steers

... Elizabeth Griffith my mayd 1 ewe

... nephew Robert William ap Robert 1 lamb

his brother Griffith ap Robert 1 ewe and 1 lamb

I lease and bequeath unto Richard sonne but my cozen, Evan/Esau Griffith of Comor I Wife Gwen all the rest and residue of my personal estate under And all my household stuff and

Whom also I appoint

Also bequeath £5 to my brother Hugh, the like sum of To my sister Elin from Elin Hugh widow

Signed in the presence of Maurice Wynn; mark of Richard William, Hugh ap William and William ap Robert. (NLW, B1668/87W)

1670s Jane Tudur, heiress of the Egryn estate, married Hugh Owen of Caerberllan, Llanfihangel y Pennant, Merionethshire, probably in the 1670s, being his second wife. After Hugh Owen's father's death, they moved to the larger & more modern mansion of Caerberllan, uniting the two estates of Egryn and Caerberllan.

1697: Mortgage of the Egryn estate to John Owen, son of Hugh Owen & Jane Tyddur. Includes **Ymwlich** in the occupation of *Maurisse Williams*.

1697 Jan 2: 1. Hugh Tyddur of Egryn, co Merioneth, Esq.,
3. John Owen of Caer Berllan, gent., **nephew of the said Hugh Tyddur**;
Release, being a mortgage of the capital messuage called Eggrin & other lands (document badly mildewed) co Merioneth. Consideration £800.

Owners: the Owen family of Cae'rberllan and Egryn:

26 October 1702 ... & also for ye conveying & settling of ye other messuages, mills, lands, tenements, hereditaments, herein after mentioned called by ye several names of Egryn, Melyn Egryn, **Ymwlich**, Tyddyn Mawr & Caer Llwynne with their appurtenances to ye said William Pugh, Richard Owen, Edward Owen & Edward Wynne for ye houses herein aftermentioned in draft for ye payment of ye residue of debts of ye said John Owen (Dolgellau Record Office, Hengwrtuchaf Deeds, Z/DH/72)

1702: not checked (UWB, Mostyn 3870)

1725 will of Jonathan John, Llanaber, mentions David Samuel of Ymwlich to direct his will; sister Gwen. (UWB, Bangor 454 / 548 Bob Owen notes)

1765 not checked (Edward Wynne – Prif Addysg y Chrision (Llanaber), p200)

1796 William Lewis Owen, Cae'r Berllan, Gent., died intestate. Administration bond & other documents filed. Mary Owen, widow relict of William Lewis Owen having renounced her claim to administer; **John Richards, one of the Principal creditors / administrators of Caerberllan to be administrator**. (Register of Bangor Diocese wills. 1797/111, Ref No 8022)

1795-1818 Not checked (The Cambrian Register 1795-1818, i.314)

1796-1808: Egryn rent £112 recd from Robert Poole (UWB, Porth yr Aur ms 14,473-4; Cae'r Berllan & Egryn estates rentals; Agent Revd John Lewis)

1790 Feb	Ymlwch	John Richards	£28
1790	Due Michaelmas. Llandanwg Ymwlich	John Richards	£28
1791	Dec & July	John Richard	£28
1792	May & Dec	John Richards	£28
1793	May & Dec	John Richards	£28
1795	Dec	John Richards	£28
1796	May	John Richards	£14
1796	Dec	John Richards	£14

1798 Land Tax Assessments (Dolgellau Archives IR/23/118) (No property names)

Llandanwg:

Rev Mr Owen (Owner)	John Richards	£1-4-0 (probably Ymwlich)	
1801-02	John Richards	£14	
1803 Dec	Owen Morgan	£14	
1804 Dec	Property tax included	Owen Morgan	£14
1805 June & Dec	Owen Morgan	£14	

	Jane Richards	£14
1806 June & Dec	Jane Richards	£28
1807	Jane Richards	£28
1808 May	Jane Richards	£14

(UWB, Porth yr Aur, ms 14,473-4)

In 1806-7 the river Artro at Llanbedr entered the sea to both the South and North of Mochras. The southern exit meant that the small haven was exposed to the prevailing south westerly winds. Sir Thomas Mostyn, Bart., who had succeeded his father in 1792 and died in 1831, ordered the closure of this channel with the result that Mochras ceased to be an island, and was converted into a headland. (Lewis W Lloyd, Corsygedol, Ardudwy's principal estate, JMHS, 1977, p 38)

1809 Rev John Lewis, Committee of John Owen Esq., lunatic, to Humphrey Williams Attending Mr John Richards about the Allotment intended by the Commissioners for dividing **Harlech Marshes** to be allotted to the Caerberllan estate and advising with Mr John Richards what was to be done to obtain redress 6s 8d.
(UWB, Porth yr Aur 23,898)

1810 June: Revd Mr John Owen Lunatic: **Umwlich** To Jane Richard
1808 To enclosing two fields in Harlech marsh
To 164 roods of clods's fence @ 3/- £24 12 one half deducted £12 6s 0d
To 120½ roods of clod's fence another field £18 1s 6d, one half deducted £ 9 0s 9d
£21 6s 9d
1809 & 1810
To 16 roods stone fence where no clods could be got, £8
at 10s allowance from the commissioners. 12/- deducted £ 7 8s 0d
To 16 roods ditto @ 9/- £ 7 4s 0d
To 25 roods ditto @ 10/6d £12 1s 6d
To posts & Rails for two Gates 10s 6d
£48 10s 9d

(UWB, Porth yr Aur 23,871)

1810 Feb 10 Letter from Mr John Lewis, Trosymarion, to John Evans, Carnarvon.
"I see the name of Owen Morgan opposite **YMWLCH** in 1804 and 1805 and after that Jane Richards, his widow, and Caerau, Henry Richards – I believe his name is, but no relation of John's." (UWB, Porth yr Aur 23,644)

17 Dec last [i.e 1809] Received from Jane Richards, Ymwlich £11 0s 0d
(UWB, Porth yr Aur, 23,545)

1818 Letter: about Humphrey Williams re £48 of Jane Richards (maybe of Ymwlich)
(UWB, Porth yr Aur 23,745)

1823: **Accounting up to November 1810** – Balance of Rents on lunatic's estate including the £400 (timber): £1,125 5s 6d. Deft. NOT paid any part of this to Edward Owen, but Deft said that the lunatic was maintained by the Deft for 4¾ years after the 15 August 1810 to the day of his death 29 April 1815 – amounting to £950, and Deft said he has not received any sum on account of the said £950, save the following tenants did pay to him the deft:

John Richards, Carberllan	£15 4s 0d
Robert Poole of Egryn	£45
Robert Jones of Penybryn	£8
Jane Richards of Ymwllch	£11
Rice Evans of Tyddyn Mawr	<u>£20 16s 0d</u>
	£100

(UWB, Porth yr Aur ms 23,553)

1811 July 1 Letter from John Lewis, Amlwch, to John Evans, Carnarvon.

The bearer of this letter is the son of Ymwllch and the nephew of John Richards, late of Caerberllan – of him you will learn everything respecting that concern

* I find that the Rents have been received therefore they ought to pay the £100 due for the care keep etc of the lunatic (due Feb last) if I can get a stamp I will send the proper receipt. I called here at the Stamp Office but there was no one within.

... due 16 Feb and 16 August. Send receipt by the bearer to John Richards ...

(UWB, Porth yr Aur 23,667)

?1813 July 17: Draft Affidavit of Mr Lewis, In The matter of John Owen, a lunatic.

John Richards resigned **Ymulch** and the Committee let the farm to Owen Morgan and after his decease to Jane Roberts otherwise Morgan his widow.

(UWB, Porth yr Aur ms 23,516)

1818 Letter: about Humphrey Williams re £48 of Jane Richards (maybe of Ymwllch)

(UWB, Porth yr Aur 23,745)

1818 Rees Evan of Ymwllch was buried at Llandanwg, aged 83 years (Llandanwg parish register)

A man of this name had been the tenant at Tyddyn Mawr, Llanddwywe from at least 1790-1806. Did he move to Ymwllch?

1823 May 6: burial at Llanddwywe church of Bennet Jones, Ymwllch, aged 35 years.

(NLW, Bangor Bishops Transcripts)

1830: Schedule to which the Abstracted Indenture refers: Rental of the Caerberllan Estate

Nos	Tenant's Names	Tenements	Annual Rents
14.	Elizabeth Jones	Ymwllch	£61 3 0

(GAS, XCV/74 49 p 25)

1838 Wmwllch (O. S. map)

1841 census Llandanwg – Umwllch:

Elizabeth Jones	45	farmer	born in Merionethshire
Elizabeth Jones	15		"
William Richard	20	ag lab	"

1842 Llandanwg Tithe map schedule (Dolgellau Record Office, ZPE/8/10)

Ymwllch Owner: Edward Pugh Owen, Esquire, (of Egryn).

Tenant: Elizabeth Jones. 83 acres 3 r 39 p.

1842 Llandanwg Tithe map schedule (Dolgellau Record Office, ZPE/8/10)
Erwgochwen Owner Edward *Hugh* Owen Esq – part of *Ymlwch*
Occupier: Elisabeth Jones

It is not known when after 1842 Mr Edward Pugh Owen sold *Ymlwch*, or to whom.

1844 Abstract of Deeds re the title of the Rev G Owen of *Ymwth* to property called the *Yr ardd Uchaf* estate in *Harlech*. (GAS, XD8/4 BJ Casson Additional 4. Vol 1, ms 493)

1851 census John and Elizabeth Williams (?nee Jones) Remainder not recorded.

Owner: Rev John Richards:

1859 June 7: Conveyance. Messr. E S Gore and (many) others, to
Rev John L Richards of Barmouth, Wesleyan Minister. (Mr Thomas. Pers. comm.)

1859 June 13: Certified before William Griffith and Griffith Jones Williams, both of *Dolgelley*, gentlemen that ... *Ellin* Owen, wife of William Jones, produced an INDENTURE dated 7 June 1859 and made between

1. Thomas Campbell Eyton William Henry Slaney and John Ralph Ormesby Gore
2. the said *Ellin* Owen Jones
3. William Griffith and the said *Ellin* Owen Jones
4. the said William Jones
5. Anne Jones and Catherine Owen the wife of the Revd Evan Owen
6. the said Evan Owen
7. Griffith Griffiths
8. John Griffith
9. the said William Griffith
10. Mary Owen
11. John Lewis Richards
12. David Roberts

1859 Aug: Mortgage Rev J L Richards to Mr G Davies.

1860 Oct: Deed of Covenant G J Scott to Rev J L Richards.

Owner: Mr Richard Richards:

1861 Jan: Conveyance: Mr G Davies & Rev J L Richards to Mr Richard Richards

1861 Apr: Agreement Mr J L Richards to Mr R Richards

1861 census Ann Richards, head of family. *Remainder not recorded.*

1871 census *Wmwch* no 99

Hugh Humphreys	H	M	55	farmer 100acres	born C'fonshire
Ann Humphreys	W	M	49	wife	Merionethshire

(?nee Richards)

+ 2 servants *Remainder not recorded.*

1881 census Hugh Humphreys and Ann Humphreys. *Remainder not recorded.*

1891 census Richard and Catherine Edwards. *Remainder not recorded.*

1901 census Richard and Catherine Edwards. *Remainder not recorded.*

1910 Ymwloch: Owner Robert Richards, Pensarn, Llanbedr. Tenant Richard Edwards, 105 acres 1r 2p. (Merioneth Record Office, Llandanwg Land Tax Z/QR/L/5)

1911 census: *not recorded.*

1920 conveyance by Mr R Richards to Mr W Stephens, earlier tenant of the Richards. Mr Stephens then died of pneumonia.

1921 census: *not recorded.*

1922 conveyance by Mrs D Stephens to Mr R Richards.

c1922-c1946 Owen Jones was tenant of the Richards, Pensarn Hall & lived at Ymwloch farming it for 25 years. Mr Edward Thomas, as a 6 year old, remembers being at the dispersal sale when the family left Ymwloch c1945-6.

The Richard brothers owned Pensarn Hall, the quay, Argoed, Pensarn and Ymwloch. They traded, using boats.

c1946 Mr William T Pugh from Tywyn, owned Llanddanwg farm which they developed as a caravan park. They also built chalets. He rented Ymwloch from the Richards, Pensarn Hall. The Ymwloch farmhouse was let as a holiday cottage to one family. They also let it out to visitors. It became run down.

Owner: The Thomas family:

1966 Mr & Mrs David Thomas bought Ymwloch from Miss E Richards, Pensarn Hall. They let it out to visitors.

1976 Mr & Mrs Edward Thomas bought Ymwloch from his father, Mr David Thomas, having lived there with their two sons since 1974, as tenants. The remaining Llandanwg fields were bought and added to Ymwloch.

2003 Cadw Amended Listing: Grade II.

Set at the NW side of the road leading SW off the A496 to Llandanwg; the cottages are C200m SSW of the railway bridge and SW of the station.

History: Late C18 or early C19, originally comprising 2-windowed cottage and cowhouse or stable, the range retains the original plan but the cowhouse has now been incorporated into the accommodation.

Exterior: Single storey linear building built of rubble masonry, limewashed; slate roof with stone copings, large stack with dripstones and cappings at S gable. The 2 window cottage with central doorway is at the S end of the range; the former cowhouse to N has a single doorway to (L) S and very small window to R. Windows respect the original openings but are replacement timber framed 2-pane casements. Interior not viewed at the time of the survey. (23/5/2003)