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## NORTH WEST WALES DENDROCHRONOLGY PROJECT

### DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES – CAERNARFONSHIRE

# Tŷ MAWR

NANTLLE, pa. LLANDWROG, Gwynedd (formerly Caernarfonshire) SH 5086 5333

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#### SUMMARY

Before the development of the quarrying village of Nantlle, during the mid-nineteenth century, the name Nantlle, or Plas yn Nantlle, was applied to the property now known as Tŷ Mawr, Nantlle. The holding was formerly the site of Baladeulyn, one of the royal courts of the thirteenth century princes of Gwynedd, seized by the English crown in 1284<sup>1</sup>. According to tradition, the property, containing six carucates, was conveyed during the mid-fourteenth century to Tudur ap Gronw as a reward for services to the Crown at the battles of Crécy in 1346 and Poitiers in 1356<sup>2</sup>. Tudur ap Gronw, or Tudur Goch, was a progenitor of the Glynnys, later Wynns, of Glynllifon<sup>3</sup>. However, possibly through the Welsh custom of *cyfran* (partible inheritance), Nantlle descended to the Glynn branch that later settled at Plas Newydd, Llandwrog<sup>4</sup>. This division occurred following the death of Robert ap Maredudd of Glynllifon in 1509, when Edmund Lloyd acquired Glynllifon, where his descendants continued until 1949, while his brother, Richard ap Robert, acquired Nantlle. As Richard died in 1539, the empirical felling date range of 1536-1556 produced for the timber sampled at Tŷ Mawr suggests that it may have been Richard's son, William ap Richard, born 1520, who built the present house. Around 1632 William's grandson, Thomas Glynn, moved from Nantlle to the newly constructed Plas Newydd<sup>5</sup>. John Glynn, the last of the Glynnys of Plas Newydd, died childless in 1681. His widow had a life interest in his Nantlle lands but the estate went eventually to John Glynn's maternal relatives, the Owens of Bodeon, Anglesey and Orierton, Pembrokeshire. In 1808 Nantlle was purchased at auction by the Rev. Edward Hughes to become part of his Kimmel estate, where it remained until the second half of the twentieth century.

Researched by John Dilwyn Williams, Caernarfonshire, 12 June 2012

#### HOUSE DESCRIPTION (RCAHMW, 1956)

<sup>1</sup> Neil Johnstone, '*Llys and Maerdref: The Royal Courts of the Princes of Gwynedd*', *Studia Celtica*, XXXIV (2000)

<sup>2</sup> Rev. W. R. Ambrose, *Hynafiaethau, Cofiannau a Hanes Presennol Nant Nantlle*, p.28 (Penygroes, 1872)

<sup>3</sup> J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families*, p.172 (Horncastle, 1914)

<sup>4</sup> J. E. Griffith, *op.cit.*, p.266

<sup>5</sup> *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Caernarvonshire, Volume II: Central*, p.183 (RCAHMW, 1960)



A report commissioned by The North West Wales Dendrochronology Project in partnership with The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW).

“A 16<sup>th</sup>-century house of two storeys with modern inserted loft. The walls are of rubble with a boulder plinth and well formed quoins. The main elevation, facing W., has a splayed and rebated, round headed door with chamfered jambs and moulded stops, under a moulded label. The windows on this elevation are either long in proportion or square; two to the ground floor with projecting rough slate lintels; two to the first floor with jambs made of upright stones. There is an added porch and a glazed verandah at the front of the house, both modern. The S. end has been obscured by modern slate-hanging. Most of the E. elevation is obscured by later additions, but it contains a door similar to that on the W. but without label, and a long window with a projecting slate lintel. A modern window on the N. now lights the stair, which was originally lit from the E. The chimney and roof slates are modern as are the dormer windows to the loft.

The interior has been much modernised. The ground floor probably consisted of a single large room to the N of the central passage and two smaller rooms to the S. There is a wide fireplace at the n. end now blocked, and a stone stair adjacent, with modern treads. At the N. end the original beams have been encased in modern plaster. The main beam to the S. of the passage is chamfered with concave stops. The joists to the S. rooms are rough-chamfered and are probably replacements. There is a beam against the end wall which has broken and is carries on modern corbels.

The First floor was originally open to the roof. A ceiling has been recently inserted and a new floor formed. The first-floor partitions appear to be modern apart from that under the centre truss which is a partly restored post-and-panel partition extending from the first floor to the soffit of the truss.

There are arch-braced collar-beam trusses with a quatrefoil at the apex between the diagonal struts. The purlins and rafters are modern.

Condition: Good SH 5086 5333 15/iii/56 21 S.W.

(Royal Commission of Ancient Monuments Wales (RCAMW)

(tud 184 – rhif 1200 Fig123) published 1960 Vol II – Central Caernarvonshire PLWYF LLANDWROG

## HOUSE HISTORY

**arranged in chronological order, based on primary evidence from original documents together with secondary evidence gleaned from later books and websites.**

13<sup>th</sup> Century Baladeulyn was the property of Einion ap Caradog (Prince Llywelyn ap Gruffydd’s uncle and a descendant of Owain Gwynedd) and subsequently of his son Tudur ab Einion ap Caradog. On Tudur’s death in 1284 the property was seized by the Crown. Edward I stayed at Baladeulyn for several weeks in July 1284. [Neil Johnstone, ‘*Llys and Maerdref*: The Royal Courts of the Princes of Gwynedd’, *Studia Celtica*, XXXIV (2000)]

Mid 14<sup>th</sup> Century For leading 12,000 Welshmen as part of Edward III’s troops at the battle of Crécy in 1346 and for his part with the Black Prince’s men at Poitiers in 1356 Tudur ap Gronw was rewarded with a grant of six carucates of land at Baladeulyn where he built Plas y Nantlle. He was referred to as Tudur Goch y Nantlle. [Rev. W. R. Ambrose, *Hynafiaethau, Cofiannau a Hanes Presennol Nant Nantlle*, p.28 (Penygroes, 1872); Neil Johnstone, op.cit.]

1509 Death of Robert ap Maredudd of Glynllifon, great-grandson of Tudur Goch. [Part of his elegy by Lewys Daron is quoted by Iwan Llwyd Williams, *Llwybro â Llafur at Llynllifon* ([Cyngor Sir Gwynedd], 1990)]  
Following his death his lands were divided between two of his sons. Edmund Llwyd inherited Glynllifon and Rhisiart [Richard] ap Robert inherited Nantlle [Iwan Llwyd Williams, op.cit.; J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families*, p.266 (Horncastle, 1914)]

1539, March 24 Death of Richard ap Robert. The date of his death, together with the date of birth of his heir, William ap Richard, on 24 June 1520 are noted in the Inquisitions Post

Mortem taken upon his death. [‘Plwyv Llan Dwrog. Y Plas Newydd Sir Gaernarvon, Gwehelyth William ab Richard Esq.’, *Heraldic Visitations of Wales . . . between the years 1586 and 1613 . . . by Lewis Dwnn*, ed. Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick (Llandovery, 1846), p.149]

- 1536-1556 Empirical felling date range - based on the average heartwood/sapwood boundary - of the six timbers sampled at Tŷ Mawr, Llandwrog by the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory.
- 1588, Nov.20 Lewis Dwnn, Deputy Herald at Arms, visited William ab Richard and was given a copy of his family tree. The entry is headed ‘Plwyv Llan Dwrog. Y Plas Newydd Sir Gaernarvon, Gwehelyth William ab Richard Esq.’ (Parish of Llan Dwrog. Y Plas Newydd Caernarvonshire, Lineage of William ab Richard Esq). This reference to Plas Newydd in the heading may be a later addition as it appears from the evidence quoted below that the family did not settle at Plas Newydd, Llandwrog until the present house there was built c.1632. There are certainly later additions to the family tree itself. In the family tree, William ab Richard’s children are given the surname Glyn. This, with varying spellings, remained the family surname. The eldest son, and heir, was William Glyn who was married to Catrin v[erch] Thomas Wyn ab William [of Faenol]. [*Heraldic Visitations of Wales . . . between the years 1586 and 1613 . . . by Lewis Dwnn*, ed. Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick (Llandovery, 1846), p.149; J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families*, p.266 (Horncastle, 1914)]
- 1618, Oct. 25 “Gruff the sonne of Mr Thomas Glynne Nanlley was baptized” (Llandwrog Parish Register, Gwynedd Archives Service (GAS), XPE/24/1). Thomas Glynne was the son and heir of William Glyn.
- 1626-7 “Thomas Glynne of Nantle [sic], Esq.” was High Sheriff of Caernarfonshire (*Kalendars of Gwynedd*, Edward Breese, 1873)
- 1631, Dec. 9 William Glynne, aged 18, son of. Thomas Glynne of Nantlle, co. Carnarvon, gent. matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford (*Alumni Oxonienses, 1500-1714*, ed. Joseph Foster, 1891)
- 1632, Apr. 13 Richard Glynne, aged 18, son of Thomas Glynne of Nantlle, co. Carvarvon, gent. matriculated at Hart Hall College, Oxford (*Alumni Oxonienses, 1500-1714*, ed. Joseph Foster, 1891)
- 1632 Date stone with ‘TG 1632’, [for Thomas Glynn formerly of Nantlle] over the fireplace on the second floor at Plas Newydd, Llandwrog (*An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Caernarvonshire Volume II: Central*, R.C.A.H.M.W, 1960, pp.183-4)
- 1641, Aug. 20 Post-nuptial settlement of William Glynn, son and heir of Thomas Glynn of Plasnewydd, and Ann his wife, daughter of William Owen of Bodeon, Anglesey. (National Library of Wales (NLW), Orielson Collection, Parcel 11)
- 1651, June 13 “Mr William Glynne of Nanlley Esq was buried”. His marriage settlement is noted above, dated August 20, 1641. As he was 18 when he matriculated at Brasenose College in December 1631 he would have been 37 or 38 when he died. He predeceased his father and had evidently spent his married life at Nantlle. He had three children, Thomas, John and Jane. Thomas Glynne matriculated at Jesus College, Oxford on 8 December, 1658 and John Glynne matriculated at Oriel College, Oxford on 28 February, 1667-8, aged 18. He gained his B.A. in 1671 and an M.A. from Jesus College, Oxford in 1674. (*Alumni Oxonienses, 1500-1714*, ed. Joseph Foster, 1891).

Jane married Coningsby Williams of Plas Penmynydd (J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families*, p.107 (Horncastle, 1914)).

1657, Dec. 29      “Thomas Glyn of Plâs Newydd Esq aged 70 y[ears] dyed in ll[an]dwrog December 29 & was buried in Clynnog January 7<sup>th</sup>” (Llandwrog Parish Register, GAS, XPE/24/1)

1659, June 10      PROBATE of the Will of Thomas Glynn of ‘Plasnewyth’, granted to his widow, Jane Glynne (The National Archives (TNA), PROB/11/293)

1672, Aug. 13      “Mr Henry Glynne of Nanlley was buried” (Llandwrog Parish Register, GAS, XPE/24/1). He may have been the brother or the son of the above Thomas Glynn of Plas Newydd. (J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families*, p.266 (Horncastle, 1914))

Following Henry Glynne’s death Nantlle may have been let, as is suggested by the existence of the following will.

1675      WILL of John ap Hugh Robert, tailor of Nanlley (NLW Wills, B1675/25)

1679, April 25      “John Glynne of Plasnewydd Mr of Arts was buried according to a late Act of Parliament An Act Entituled for burying in woollen the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Aprill 1679.” (Llandwrog Parish Register, GAS, XPE/24/1). As he had matriculated at Oriol College, Oxford on 28 February, 1667-8, aged 18 he was only 38 or 39 when he died.

1681, Sept. 26      PROBATE of the Will, written 19 April 1679, of John Glynne of Plasnewydd. He had evidently inherited the Plas Newydd estate following the death of his elder brother, Thomas Glynne. John Glynne refers in his will to “the last will of my brother Thomas Glynne” but this will has not survived in NLW or TNA. John Glynne bequeaths his lands in Nantlle to his wife Catherine Glynne for her life. He also bequeaths her £600 but this bequest was to be void should she “marry or take to husband any man surnamed Glynne or any ffanaticke soe taken knowne or reputed a ffanaticke or a father, sonne, brother, uncle, first or second cozens to a ffanaticke” (NLW Wills, B1681/47). During the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century the noun ‘fanatic’ had the sense of ‘a religious maniac’. (<http://oxforddictionaries.com/definition/fanatic>)

Catherine Glynne (née Brynkir) did remarry. However, her second husband was Lewis Meyrick of Caernarfon, barrister-at-law and one of the two overseers of her first husband’s will. (J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families*, p.251 and p.266 ; NLW Wills, B1681/47). She was widowed a second time. The probate of the will of Lewis Meyrick of Caernarfon was granted to his widow as executrix on 8 June 1691 (TNA, PROB/11/403).

Nantlle was still let to tenants as appears from the following baptism entry.

1692, Oct. 23      Gaynor daughter of John Rowlands of Nanlle and Margaret Owen his wife was baptized at Llandwrog church. It is probably their marriage that was registered there the previous May, “John Rowlands of Llanrug and Margaret Owen of Llandwrog were married together the 16<sup>th</sup> of May.” (GAS, Llandwrog Parish Register XPE/24/1)

Following this, Catherine Meyrick may have resided herself for a period at Nantlle, although she may have been referred to in the following deeds as being “of Nanlley” simply because she was the owner.

1693, July      “Catherine Meyricke of Nanlley”, widow sold property that she had inherited in her second husband’s will. (GAS, XD2/1291 & XD2/1292)

By 1718 Catherine Meyrick was at Caernarfon (see reference in will below). Nantlle was tenanted by Robert Griffith, who was her third cousin (see below). He is most probably the Robert Griffith, gentleman recorded as being buried at Llandwrog on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1718 as the will of “Robert Griffith of Nantlle, gent.” was proven on September 3<sup>rd</sup> of that year.

1718, Sept.3 PROBATE of the WILL of Robert Griffith of Nantlle, gent. granted to his widow, Ales Griffith (NLW Wills, B1718/55). He refers in the will to his “much respected kinswoman Catherine Meyrick of Carnarvon, widow.” Comparing the Brynkir and Llethr-ddu pedigrees (J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families*, p.251 and p.135) shows them to have been third cousins.

1723, June 14 Catherine Meyricke was buried at Llanbeblig. (Llanbeblig parish register, GAS, XPE/25/2)

At her death, her life interest in Nantlle came to an end. The new owner was Sir Arthur Owen of Orierton in Pembrokeshire, related on John Glynn’s maternal side. It is unclear how exactly this came about. It may have been as a result of the Marriage Settlement drawn up in August 1641 between William Glynn, son and heir of Thomas Glynn of Plasnewydd, and Ann his wife, daughter of William Owen of Bodeon, Anglesey. Alternatively, it may have been as a result of the Marriage Settlement of their son John Glynne and his wife, Catherine, referred to by John Glynne in his will or it may have been through the will of John’s elder brother, Thomas Glynne. Both these documents may be amongst the Orierton collection at the National Library of Wales which has not been fully catalogued.

John Glynn’s maternal cousin, Ann Owen, heiress of the Bodeon estate, had married her cousin, Sir Hugh Owen of Orierton, Pembrokeshire; the Sir Arthur Owen who inherited Nantlle following the death of Catherine Meyrick was their son and heir. (J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families*, p.58)

1725 Dec.7 MARRIAGE SETTLEMENT (GAS, XD2/7655), in consideration of a marriage to be solemnised between William Owen, eldest son and heir of Arthur Owen of Orierton, co. Pembroke, and Elizabeth Lloyd, spinster, sole daughter and heiress of Thomas Lloyd dec., late of Grove, co. Pembroke. It refers, among many other properties, to “Plase yn y nantlle alias Dole fellan”. The tenant was Alice Griffith. She was the widow of the Robert Griffith of Nantlle whose will of 1718 is noted above.

Over the next few decades the tenancy of Nantlle must have changed hands a number of times, as the following references infer.

1735, Apr. 13 SACRAMENT CERTIFICATE of Edward Owen of Nantlle in the parish of Llandwrog, gent. (GAS, XQS/1735/9)

1740, Dec. 26 “Griffith Jones of Nantlle” was buried at Llandwrog (GAS, Llandwrog Parish Register, XPE/24/3)

1741, Jan. 10 PROBATE of the WILL (written 1 Nov. 1740) of Griffith Jones of Nantlle, gent. granted to his wife, Catherine Wynne (NLW Wills, B1740/63)

1742, June 14 PROBATE of the WILL (written 21 April 1741) of Richard Garnons of Nantlle, gent., formerly of Pant Du (NLW Wills, B1742/97)

1769, Nov.24 PROBATE of the WILL (written 11 Nov. 1769) of Griffith William of Nantlle, gent. – his name is given in the attached Inventory as Griffith William Abraham – granted to Griffith Jones, “the son or reputed son” of his brother John William. Griffith William’s wife was Anne Vaughan. (NLW Wills, B1769/70)

- 1770, May – 1771, May BODEON ESTATE RENTAL, Griffith Williams' Executor paid £70 for Plas yn Nantlle, the Mill and Ty yn y nant. (GAS, X/Poole 1435)
- 1770, Dec. 5. BOND for the observance of agreements specified in a treaty of the intended marriage of Rice Griffith of Tanrallt, p. Llanllyfni, co. Caern. Yeoman and Ann Vaughan, widow and relict of Griffith Williams late of Nanlley, p. Llandwrog. (NLW, Arthur Ivor Pryce 707)
- 1770 LAND TAX ASSESSEMENT, Griffith Jones, Nanlley (GAS, XQA/LT/5/3)
- 1771 LAND TAX ASSESSEMENT, Griffith Jones, Nanlla (GAS, XQA/LT/5/3)
- 1771, 7 May Plas yn Nantlle alias Dolefellen, Ty yn y Nant and Nantlle Mill in the parish of Llandwrog, co. Caernarfon leased from Sir William Owen of Orierton, co. Pembroke, Bart. to Richard Hughes of Penrhyn, co. Caernarfon, Esq. for 3 lives at £75 per annum. (GAS, X/POOLE/1923)
- 1772 LAND TAX ASSESSEMENT, Mr Hughes Penrhyn for Nanlley (GAS, XQA/LT/5/3)
- 1773 LAND TAX ASSESSEMENT, Mr Cornat Hughes for Nanlley (GAS, XQA/LT/5/3)
- 1774 LAND TAX ASSESSEMENT, Mr Cornet Hughes for Nanlley (GAS, XQA/LT/5/3)
- 1775 – 1780 LAND TAX ASSESSEMENT, Hugh Hughes Esq for Nanlley (GAS, XQA/LT/5/3)
- 1781 LAND TAX ASSESSEMENT, Owen Humphrey for Nanlley & Ty yn y nant (GAS, XQA/LT/5/3). Owen Humphrey must have been an under-tenant under Hugh Hughes.
- 1782 – 1807 LAND TAX ASSESSEMENT, Owen Humphrey for Nantlle (GAS, XQA/LT/5/3)
- 1782 -1809 BODEON ESTATE RENTALS, Hugh Hughes Esq for Nantlle, the Mill and Tyn y Nant
- 1806, Jan. 17 “Mr Hassall’s Report of Repairs necessary at Nantlle &c” shows the dwelling house to be in a bad state of repair. For example: “Roof – Requires to be wholly strip’d & new lathed & slated: many of the Rafters & principal Timbers require to be renewed” (GAS, X/POOLE/1931)
- 1806, Jan.21 DRAFT ORDER from Sir Hugh Owen, Baronet to Philip James Hughes, Esq., son and heir of Hugh Hughes, deceased, who was son and heir of Richard Hughes late of Penrhyn, Esq., deceased to repair Plas yn Nantlle. Recites lease for lives of 1771 of Plas yn Nantlle alias Tyn y Nant and Nantlle Mill in the parish of Llandwrog from William Owen of Orierton to Richard Hughes. The tenant was under obligation to maintain the property and keep it in good repair. (GAS, X/POOLE/1988)
- 1808, June 28 AUCTION of “a valuable Freehold Estate” in “Carnarvonshire” consisting of farms and lands divided into twenty-eight lots containing over 1600 acres, including as Lot 17 Nantlle Mill and Ty’n y Nant in the parish of Llandwrog, let on lease to Mr Hughes, aged 53. (GAS, XSC/362)
- 1808 SCHEDULE of estates sold by Sir Hugh Owen Baronet to the Rev. Edward Hughes for £93,105, including Nantlle Mill and Ty’n y Nant. (GAS, Poole 1845).  
Rev. Edward Hughes (1738-1815), through his wife, had become owner of the copper mine at Mynydd Parys and the fortune that the Parys Mine Company produced enabled him to purchase a large number of landed properties. In 1786 he had purchased the Kinmel estate in Denbighshire and this became the family home for the ensuing generations. He was succeeded by his son, William Lewis Hughes (1767-1852), who was created Lord Dinorben in 1831.

(<http://www.kinmel-estate.co.uk/html/history.html>, J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families*, p.333)

- 1808, April 13 Owen Humphrey of Nantlle, Aged 58, buried at Llandwrog. (Llandwrog parish register, GAS, XPE24/10). His will, proven 9 April, 1809 states that he had purchased Nantcall in Clynnog parish a few months before his death and it was there that his widow lived when probate was granted (NLW Wills, B1809/63)
- 1808-1830 LAND TAX ASSESSEMENTS, David Evans was tenant of Nantlle. Following the death of Rev. Edward Hughes, his son W. L. Hughes, esq was noted as the owner.
- 1816 “Maps of Bodowen Estate in the Counties of Anglesey and Carnarvon, The Property of W. Lewis Hughes, Esq. Reduced and Copy’d From the original Surveys 1816 By W Jones”. Page 54 shows “Nantlle” at a little over 260 acres. The present Tŷ Mawr and Barics at Nantlle, along with the mill to the north, on the opposite side of the road, are all grouped under “No. 1 – Building Court yard” (Bangor University Archives, Llysduelas 53)
- c.1816 Penyrorsedd quarry was opened on part of Nantlle land by William Turner, a native of Seathwaite who had first come to north Wales around 1800 when he and his partners purchased the Diphwys slate quarry in Ffestiniog. He held Nantlle on lease from the Kinmel estate. (*Chwareli Dyffryn Nantlle*, Dewi Tomos, 2007).
- 1810s / early 1820s: *Penyrorsedd manager under Wm Turner: Owen Parry ‘Llanllyfni’ and/or Robert Parry (same family) (Pers Comm Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones)*  
*Owen Parry 1774/5-1839 Lived at Bwlch y ffordd [where?], Llandwrog Pa. Probably NOT living at Ty Mawr.*
- Robert Parry (if ever there) was a brother of Owen Parry and was one of the “stable of W. Turner managers”; lived at Ty'n Llan, Llanllyfni (possibly the Kings Head Inn) (Pers Comm Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones) Probably NOT living at Ty Mawr.*
- 1820 The lease was purchased by James Cane of Caernarfon. He built a new house for his quarry manager. This was first called Plas Trimmer, after the manager’s name, but was later renamed Plas Baladeulyn. (*Chwareli Dyffryn Nantlle*, Dewi Tomos, 2007).
- 1830s-1854: Penyrorsedd manager under Thomas Cane (1830s-40s) and then inherited by his sister Lydia Cane (to 1854) Griffith Hughes, of Geulan farmstead, Nantlle (d,1839); Then J.W. Parry. (Pers Comm Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones) Probably NOT living at Ty Mawr.*
- 1839, June 27 PROBATE of the WILL (written 1839, May 22) of Griffith Hughes of Nantlle, farmer granted to Jane Hughes, his wife (NLW Wills, B1839/111)
- 1839 *John William Parry succeeded Griffith Hughes, decd.. (Pers Comm. Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones) Probably NOT living at Ty Mawr.*

1841 CENSUS RETURN, Llandwrog parish:

Place	Names	Age	Trade/Employment	Whether born in county
Nanlley	John Williams	50	Slate Quarry Agent	Y[es]
	Catharine Do.	45	Y	
	William do.	20	Slate Quarryman	Y
	Catharine do.	19	Y	
	Maria do.	17	Y	
	Elizabeth do.	15	Y	



John do.	10	Slate Quarryman	Y
Jane do.	7	N	
Jonathan do.	2	N	
Owen Williams	20	Ag. Lab. <sup>r</sup>	Y

As the two youngest children had been born outside the county, John Williams and his family had arrived within the previous two years, possibly after the death of Griffith Hughes in 1839.

1849, Oct. 16 LLANDWROG TITHE SCHEDULE, Nantlle, 231 a. 1r. 23 p., Landowner: Lord Dinorben; Occupier: James Cane. On the accompanying map the 'homestead' was plot 2128, the site of the present Plas Baladeulyn. The present Tŷ Mawr is not shown as a homestead but is located in plot 2123, called 'Berllan' (Orchard), described as Arable. The quarry is shown on Plots 2095 and 2096 in the schedule, near fields called Pen'r orsedd, from whence the Penyrorsedd Quarry got its name. According to Dewi Tomos in *Chwareli Dyffryn Nantlle* (2007) James Cane had purchased the lease in 1820. He is noted as tenant because the lease was in his name. The John Williams who was listed in the 1841 census may have been his agent.

1851 CENSUS RETURN, Llandwrog parish: It appears that Maria, aged 17 in the 1841 Census return, had married by 1851 and the house had been divided between the two families.

<u>NANTLLE</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Relation</u>	<u>Marital</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Trade/Employment</u>	<u>Where born</u>
	<u>to head</u>	<u>Condition</u>				
	John Williams	Head	Mar	61	Agent Slate Quarry	Caerns, Llandegai
	Catherine Do.	Wife	Mar	56	Do.	Do.
	Jane Do.	Daur.	Un	17	Mer.,	Ffestiniog
	Jonathan Do.	Son		12	Do.	Do.
	Maria Do.	Niece		5		Caerns., Llandwrog
	Grace Hughes	Servant	Un	14		Do., Dolbenmaen
	Griffith Ellis	Lodger	Mar	34	Labourer	Do., Llandwrog

<u>NANTLLE</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Relation</u>	<u>Marital</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Trade/Employment</u>	<u>Where born</u>	<u>Other</u>
	David Williams	Head	Mar	33	Quarryman	Do., Llanllyfni	Maria Do.
	Wife			27		Do., Llanllechid	
	Elizabeth Do.	Daur.		3	Do.,	Llandwrog	David Do. Son
	9mths	Do.,				Do.	

In the 1851 census the name Baladeulyn appears for the first time.

1853, Dec. 12 DRAFT LEASE for 21 years of lands and quarry known as Nantlle farm and land on Tyn y Nant farm, in pa. Llandwrog from Hugh Robert Hughes of Kinmel Park. Co. Denbigh, Esq. to Elizabeth Lydia Cane of Caernarfon, spinster. (GAS, XM/55/23)

1854 The above draft lease may not have been finalized because the following year, 1854, the lease was purchased by John Lloyd Jones, the eldest son of the renowned Methodist preacher, the Rev. John Jones of Tal-y-sarn. (*Chwareli Dyffryn Nantlle*, Dewi Tomos, 2007)

1854-62 *Penyrorsedd manager under J. Lloyd Jones & Co. Robert Williams (possibly living at Talysarn) (Pers Comm Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones) Probably NOT living at Ty Mawr.*

1854 *J W Parry dismissed by new operator, J LL Jones (Pers Comm. Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones) Probably NOT living at Ty Mawr.*

1857 A Sunday school was established in a part of the house that was uninhabited at the time and continued to be held there for two years. (A history of Baladeulyn chapel in *Hanes Methodistiaeth Arfon, Dosbarth Clynnog*, W. Hobley, 1910)

c1860: *David Jones moved to Penyrsedd from J Ll Jones's other local quarry. Stayed on into new company, but sacked in 1868. Was living at Bron y Foel Hall (alias Plas Coling), Y Fron 'laterly', (Pers Comm. Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones) Probably NOT living at Ty Mawr.*

1861 CENSUS RETURN, Llandwrog parish:

<u>NANTLLE</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Relation</u>	<u>Marital</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Trade/Employment</u>	<u>Where born</u>
<u>No1</u>	<u>to head</u>	<u>Condition</u>				
	Richard Hughes	Head	Mar	59	Copper Miner	Ang., Llaneilian
	Jennett Do.	Wife	Mar	50		Caern., Dolbenmaen
	Jane Do.	Daur.	Un	12		Do. Do.
	Joseph Do.	Son	Un	16	Quarry Lab.	Do. Do.

<u>NANTLLE</u>	John Jones	Head	Mar	24	Tailor Master	Caern., Llanfihangel
<u>No2</u>	Elizabeth Do.	Wife	Mar	22	Do., Llandwrog	

Baladeulyn was the home of John Lloyd Jones and his family and he is described as a "Farmer of 200 acres", showing that the land formerly held with Plas Nantlle was now farmed from Baladeulyn.

1862-1877 *Penyrsedd manager under Penyrsedd Slate Quarry Co. Ltd :J. Lloyd Jones (of Plas Baladeulyn) initially, with under-manager D. Jones (residency unknown) (Pers Comm Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones) Probably NOT living at Ty Mawr.*

1863 W. A. Darbshire & Co purchased the lease from J. Lloyd Jones and the Penyrsedd Slate Co Ltd was established. (*History of the North Wales Slate Industry*, Jean Lindsay, 1974)

1867-71: [R?] William Roberts Penyrsedd manager, overlapping with D Jones who was on dismissal notice during end of 1867. (Pers Comm Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones)

1871 CENSUS RETURN, Llandwrog parish: David and Maria Williams had returned to the house. In the 1861 census return they were residing at No 3 Mill Terrace in the village.

<u>NANTLLE</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Relation</u>	<u>Marital</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Trade/Employment</u>	<u>Where born</u>
<u>HOUSE</u>	<u>to head</u>	<u>Condition</u>				
	David Williams	Head	Mar	49	Quarryman	Do., Llanllyfni
Wife	Mar 47		Do.,			Mariah Do.
	William D Do.	Son		13		Do., Llandwrog
	Owen D. Do.	son		10		Do., Llandwrog
	Mary Jane Do.	Daur.		8		Do., Llandwrog
	Jane O. Jones	Serv	Unm	17	General Servant	Do., Dolbenmaen
	David D. Williams	Son		20	Quarryman	Do., Do.

1877 Then W. A. Darbshire moved into Baladeulyn as resident managing director until c.1912. (Pers Comm. Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones)

by 1877 *W. Roberts in post; dismissed c1879 for an E Hughes to take over, but who left soon after. W Roberts apparently re-employed, or a different W Roberts appointed. (Pers Comm Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones) Probably NOT living at Ty Mawr.*

c1878-1884 Works Manager: William Roberts followed D Jones (Pers Comm. Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones)  
Probably NOT living at Ty Mawr.

1879-1895 Penyrorsedd manager. John Roberts (1837-1899) of Cwm Pennant; late address at County Rd, Penygroes (Pers Comm Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones) Probably NOT living at Ty Mawr.

1880-82 Geo Boucher secretary to W. A. Darbishire (quarry md) 1880-82. Moved to London to be company sales agent. (Pers Comm. Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones)

1881 CENSUS RETURN, Llandwrog parish: The name Tŷ Mawr appears for the first time in the census returns. By this time the village of Nantlle was being developed by the Darbishire family and therefore as a means of differentiating between the house and the village, the house came to be referred to as Tŷ Mawr.

<u>TY MAWR</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Relation</u>	<u>Marital</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Trade/Employment</u>	<u>Where born</u>
<u>NANTLLE</u>		<u>to head</u>	<u>Condition</u>			
	Geo. W. Boucher	Head	Married	32	Deputy Manager of	Lancaster
					Slate Quarry	
	Mary H. Boucher	Wife	Married	32		Maesteg, Glam.
	Edith Do.	Dau.		6	Do.	
	William Do.	Son		4	Do.	
	Ernest Jones	Do.	Son	2	Do.	

1884-c90s Works Manager: W. R. Roberts and John Roberts (Pers Comm .Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones)

1891 CENSUS RETURN, Llandwrog parish:

<u>TY MAWR</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Relation</u>	<u>Marital</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Trade/Employment</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Lang.</u>
<u>NANTLLE</u>		<u>to head</u>	<u>Condition</u>		<u>Born</u>		
	John Roberts	Head	Married	?	Slate Quarry Agent	Caerns.	Wsh.
	Anne Roberts	Wife	Marr	57		Do.	Wsh.
	David M. Do	son	single?	Doctor	Do.	Both	
	Hugh P. Do	son	single	24	Slate Agent	Do.	Wsh.
	Ellen Ann Do.	dau	single	16	Organist	Do.	Both
	John Maddocks	Do son	single	14	scholar	Do.	Wsh.
	Edward Griffith	Do son	single	?	scholar	Do.	Wsh.

1894/5 – 1929 Penyrorsedd manager Griffith Roberts (1867-1942) of Kings Road, Penygroes (Pers Comm Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones)

1901 CENSUS RETURN, Llandwrog parish:

<u>TY MAWR</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Relation</u>	<u>Marital</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Trade/Employment</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Lang.</u>
		<u>to head</u>	<u>Condition</u>		<u>Born</u>		
	William Roberts	Head	Mar	58	Quarry manager	Llanaelhaiarn	Both
	Laura Roberts	Wife	Mar	56		Dolwyddelan	Wsh.
	*Griffith J. Rbrts.	Son	Single	33	Slate quarryman	Ffestiniog	Both *William
	A. Rbrts.	Son	single	26	Quarry manager	Llandwrog	Both Annie Roberts
	single 22	do	Both				Dau
	William Rees	Serv.	Single	13	Farm servant	Ffestiniog	Wsh.

\*William Arthur Roberts (1875-1933) was brother of \*Griff Roberts; by 1898 he was joint works manager with brother; G Roberts was dismissed 1929. (Pers Comm Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones)

by c1907 Works Manager: Griffith Roberts (Pers Comm.Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones)

1910 Ty Mawr (house & garden) is listed as being occupied by Griffith I. Roberts and owned by Penrorsedd Quarry Co. (GAS, Llandwrog 1910 Land Valuation book)

1911 census **NOT YET ADDED**

by 1920s Works Manager: G. & W. A. Roberts (Pers Comm. Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones)  
G Roberts was dismissed 1929. (Pers Comm Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones)

1929- 1945 Works Manager: Evan Parry (Bethesda) (Pers Comm. Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones)  
1931 Evan Parry appointed works manager; resigned 1945 to return to Penrhyn Quarry as manager. Lived at Ty Mawr whilst at Penrorsedd. (Pers Comm. Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones)

Up to c1945: Ifan Parry from Bethesda was a quarry manager living at Ty Mawr. Mrs Hughes was his housekeeper with her daughter Eiddwen. Ifan Parry moved back to Bethesda. (pers comm. Cllr Les Jones, Nantlle)

1930, Jan 31 A new lease of Nantlle and Tynant farms was granted by Col. H. B. L. Hughes to The Penrorsedd Slate Quarry Company Limited. It is listed in an undated Schedule of Deeds for "Nantlle Farm and Tynant Farm, Llandwrog & The Slate Quarries known as Penrorsedd, Nantlle, Caernarvon" (GAS, Penrorsedd Add. 2254).

1945-1965 Works Manager: R. W. Jones (Pers Comm. Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones)  
pre 1945 for around 5 years: Bob Jones was the last quarry manager living at Ty Mawr. His wife was Katie from Nefyn and they had two sons, John (GPO) & William. All were dead by 2012. They were from Gwyndy, Fron / Caesarea; his wife did not settle in Ty Mawr so they returned to Caesarea and Mr Jones remained as quarry manager. (pers comm. Cllr Les Jones, Nantlle)

From c1958: Mr William Thomas, Gladys his wife and five Ronald, Mair, Megan, Beryl & Ann – now in Caernarfon) children lived at Ty Mawr. Mr Thomas farmed the c20 acres and was a labourer in the quarry. They had farmed Blaen y Garth from before 1947, near the school. There was no electricity etc at Blaen y Garth. They lived in several houses in Nantlle before & after living at Ty Mawr. Ty Mawr may have been empty for a few months before the Nottingham family rented it. (pers comm. Cllr Les Jones, Nantlle)

c1963 Mr Thomas retired & moved to a smaller house in Kinmel Terrace where Mr Thomas had a stroke. Mr Thomas smoked a pipe with pungent tobacco. (Pers comm. Mr & Mrs Nottingham) One of the sons, Mr Ronald Thomas & his wife Gwyneth used to keep the village store & since 1996 have lived near Llanwnda. He recalls the slate stairs, the huge landing and the lean-to upstairs bathroom. The bedrooms were on the first floor and they did not use the large attics. (Pers comm. Ronald Thomas)

1963: The Nottingham family moved from Blaenau Ffestiniog to be closer to Mr Nottingham's new work in Caernarfon. They brought up their family of four children there, enjoying the friendly village atmosphere and the countryside. They rented Ty Mawr from the Pen yr Orsedd Quarry starting at £3 a week. They tried to find out about the house. They recalled a small window on the first turn of the stairs where an alcove marked the site of a small window, used, it was said, as a look out. Local people had told them that the large fireplace was partly filled in to make the current small fireplace. This was done by opening a hole in the gable end and pouring in masses of stones. (Pers comm. Mr & Mrs Nottingham)

Around 1970 Mr & Mrs Nottingham bought Ty Mawr from the Kinmel estate. They bought the house and 8 acres including the barracks, the dairy / slaughter house and the field between the house and the road. Hughie ....., Blaen Garth, farmed the remaining 20 acres. (Pers comm. Mr & Mrs Nottingham)

The Kinmel estate sold houses & land. Cllr Les Jones bought much of Ty Mawr farmland. Later the field between Ty Mawr & the road was bought, maybe by Gwyrfai Council, & later six bungalows were built on it. (pers comm. Cllr Les Jones, Nantlle)

**1994/5 Mr & Mrs Nottingham sold to Dr Crabtree.**

They explained to him that the Kimmel estate solicitors had told them that there were no old deeds as these had been destroyed in the Blitz in London in World War II. (Pers comm. Mr & Mrs Nottingham)

Dr Crabtree later sold the barracks to Antur Nantlle.

2012 Dr Crabtree living at Ty Mawr.

**Research by John Dilwyn Williams, Caernarfonshire 23 June 2012**  
**With additional material concerning Penryrsedd quarry managers from Dr Gwynfor Pierce Jones (Sept 2012).**

Modified 12 Dec 2012