



Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig

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Saracens Head

Beddgelert
Gwynedd



House History

A Part History of the House & its Families

Author: Margaret Dunn

Updated 21-01-2006

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

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NORTH WEST WALES DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES – CAERNARFONSHIRE

THE SARACENS HEAD

BEDDGELERT, Gwynedd (formerly Caernarfonshire) NGR SH 589 481

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HOUSE HISTORY

The Saracen’s Head Hotel is built on a site with a long history known in part for over 800 years. From the 1500s until the 1800s it was a farm called Glasdraean. A new farmhouse was built around the late 1500s, and an internal post and panel walls survives. By the 1790s the farmhouse was also an Inn. It is first recorded as “The Saracen’s Head” in 1827; the origin of the name is not known.

Before 1200 it was part of an area called Nanhwynan (now Nantgwynant) in rebellion against the new powerful young ruler, Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, who became Prince of Wales. He destroyed their stone castle on Dinas Emrys, probably forced the inhabitant to flee, and then gave the area to the Cistercian monks of Aberconwy Abbey as a grange for farming.

1200-late 1530s: Lands of Aberconwy Abbey.

In his charter Llewelyn names the fifteen blocks of land to be granted and describes their boundaries. The future farms of Wernlasdeg, Perthi and Glasdraean were named as Wernos dec and probably formed a bond *gafaelion* at least by the twelfth century. Gradually the Cistercian monks leased out their granges / farm holdings to tenants.

Names of farm holdings

	Charter, of 1200	Ministers' Accounts of 1536	Modern Farms
No 8	wernos dec	Iwonyysdeg	£2 13s 4d
	Glas Treane etc	6s 8d	Y Wernlasdeg
			Glasdraean & Perthi (Dinas Moch)

Leased and later bought by the Wynn family of Gwydir

In 1506, Maredudd ab Ifan ap Robert, the purchaser of Gwydir and the ancestor of the Wynne family of Gwydir, was appointed steward of the Aberconwy Abbey lands of Nanhwynan.

In 1508 he obtained from Dafydd, the Abbot, a lease on a number of the farm holdings in Nanhwynan, including **Glasdraean**

By 1536 Henry VII had sent his commissioners to value monastic lands before he closed all abbeys and monasteries and took over their buildings and lands. Maredudd’s son, John Wyn ap Maredudd had acquired



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).

much of the former Aberconwy grange of Nanhwynan and **paid £6s 8d for leasing Glasdraean** from the crown.

The oldest surviving parts of the current house was probably built by the Wynn family as a farmhouse in the typical “Snowdonia plan” in the late 1500s or early 1600s. It would have been of a similar style to Ty Isaf in Beddgelert, which was probably built in the 1580s.

Around 1626-1628 four alehouses keepers were recorded in Nanhwynan, namely John Lloyd ap Humphrey, John Powell, Richard Evan and Owen Morris Owen. (GAS, XQAS/L/1/1 Recognizance Book) One may have lived at Glasdraean.

Said to have been licensed since the 1650s, it had the advantage of fresh water supply from a cataract, Pistyll Ty Ucha, behind the building, ideal for brewing. (Robinson’s researcher)

The Wynn family of Gwydir controlled huge estates and by 1660, the current heir, Sir Richard Wynn had inherited the manor of Nanhwynan and much of the parish of Beddgelert. He had many business commitments in London. His problem of unpaid debts, however, was still a threat, and, by 1681 these lands had been sold.

1681: Bought by the Rowlands family of Plas y Nant, Betws Garmon.

John Rowlands of Nant, Betws Garmon, was born around 1645 and married Frances Owen (born 1665) the third daughter of William and Catherine Owen of Porkington and Clenenney. She was grand-daughter of the celebrated Royalist, Sir John Owen of Clenenney.

John Rowlands was a wealthy London banker with offices in Lombard Street. Knowing of John Rowland's Welsh connection, it was convenient for the Welsh gentlemen in London to sell land to him when they were in debt. He led a very busy life traveling between London and Wales. He was High Sheriff of Carnarvon for 1688 -89. Plas y Nant was built for John Rowlands in 1671.

In his final will of 14 March 1703 John Rowlands left Wernesdeg, **Glasdraine** and properties elsewhere to Frances his wife. He died at the end of March 1703, aged 58 years and was buried in Betws Garmon. He had ten children.

The Nant estate becomes part of the vast Baron Hill estate

John Rowland’s grand-daughter **Emma Rowlands** later inherited the estate. Her first husband was James, 6th Viscount Bulkeley, owner of the vast Baron Hill estates. He died 1752 just before the birth of their heir Thomas James, who succeeded as the 7th Viscount Buckeley and inherited the Baron Hill estate.

Emma was now a rich young widow, 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 Llanfairyrnghornwy, Anglesey.

In 1770, Emma's son, Thomas James, 7th Lord Viscount Bulkeley (1752 - 1822) inherited a share with his stepbrother, Sir Robert Williams, (1764-1830) in their mother's estate which included, in Caernarvonshire, all the former lands of 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 and became Lord James Warren Bulkeley of Beaumaris, but they were childless.

Whoever was the distant rich owner, the tenants of Glasdraean and neighbouring farms would have been busy farming the land and raising the rent to pay the land agent.

In 1722 a Bill of complaint mentions Wernesdeg, **Glasdraine**, and properties elsewhere.

Ellis John Griffith, blacksmith, (1678-1726) of Glasdraean was a son of John Griffith ap William, (died 1690) yeoman, of Bwlch mwlchan. In 1703 Ellis married Elin John Parry (1680-1768) and they had seven children.

i) **William ab Ellis**, Glas draian (1711-1771) married Ann John in 1737. She had been baptized 1710, daughter of John ap Robert Griffith & Tryphena Jones, Hafod y Porth. In his 1771 will he left £5 each to his daughters, Tryphena Williams and Ellin Williams & his son John Williams. His son William received 10 shillings and the large Welsh Bible which had been his mother’s. His wife Ann John and son Ellis Williams were his executors etc, etc. His will was proved: 2 August 1772.

ii) Jane Ellis (1714-1770) married her cousin Robert Griffith (1702-1770).

iii) Ann Ellis (1722-1807) married John Jones, Sygun (died 1782) and had eight children.

Their other children were Elin and John, and also Richard and Griffith who both died as children.

Tenants at Glas Draean [and Dinas Moch until 1779]: (Land Tax returns)

1771 William Bellis [same as William ab Ellis]

1772 -1784 **Ann Jones, widow** [same as Ann John]

1788 - 1806 **William Williams** [who also farmed Wernlasdeg]

During the late 1700s, during wars in Europe, visitors began to visit Snowdonia to study botany and geology, to admire the scenery and to paint. At this time there were only two farmhouses in what is now Beddgelert village: the lower being called Ty Isaf (now the National Trust shop) and the other being known from 1797 as Ty Uchaf, formerly **Glasdraean**. Neither was suited to provide accommodation for English visitors. Around 1802 a new purpose built Beddgelert Hotel was erected, now called the Royal Goat Hotel.

Ty Uchaf / Glasdraean, later the Saracen's Head, was situated just upstream of the ancient ford across the Afon Colwyn, on the circa 1777 Turnpike road from the county towns of Caernarfon to Dolgellau, via Aberglaslyn Bridge.

It was said that in 1801 Glasdraean had introduced several improvements, possibly in an attempt to match the new hotel. (Robinson's researcher)

Sir Robert Williams succeeded to the property of the last Viscount Bulkeley.

He held the Court Leet in Beddgelert from around 1797–1820

Between **1813 -16** the innkeeper was **Captain Ellis Roberts**, described as a sailor and innkeeper,

According to page 41 in "Beddgelert Its Facts, Fairies and Folklore" written in 1899 mainly from notes of the 1860s, the first tenancy then recalled was Captain Roberts, whose daughter married David Pritchard, the second son of the first host of the Goat Hotel (and son in law to Captain Ellis Roberts). His mother and brother carried on the business until she died in 1844 & her son in 1846.

"Then old Mrs. Pritchard took her son Robert to run the Saracen's Head, leaving her eldest son John Pritchard to run the Goat Hotel". (Page 47 of "Beddgelert Its Facts, Fairies and Folklore" recounts that David Pritchard and his wife moved from the Goat to the Saracen's Head and then to Tanybwllch).

1824 Sept 23: Alice Pritchard of the Goat, Bethgelert was still licensee at the Goat. (GAS XQA/L/1/ after 712)

In 1827 the record states "The Court Leet and Views of Frankledge and Court Baron of Sir Robert Williams, Baronet, held at dwelling of Alice Prichard, widow, known by name Saracens Head in village of Beddgelert". Mrs. Prichard was amongst those present; a John Prichard was sworn onto the jury and a W.M Prichard was appointed one of the two overseers for Nancolwyn and Nanhwynain, all were said to be of Glas Draean.

It is not known why by 1827 the name "Saracens Head" had been selected. It may have been chosen by Captain Ellis Roberts, by David Prichard, or his mother Mrs. Alice Prichard, or may be linked to heraldry related to the owners. The farmland was still called Glasdraean.

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

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

1838 Beddgelert tithe: Glasdraean – tenant Alice Prichard

1841 The Saracens Head appears as the "Old House" in an un-named Trade Directory. (Robinson's researcher)

1841 census return **Saracens Head**

Alice Prichard 70 yrs victualler born in Caernarfonshire

Robert Roberts 35 victualler "

Morgan Jones 20 Agricultural labourer "

Margaret Jones 20 farm servant not born in Caerns.

1844 Death of Mrs Prichard } (see Page 47 of "Beddgelert Its Facts, Fairies and Folklore")

1846 Death of Robert Prichard }

1851 census return Saracens Head is NOT NAMED

No 14 Dinas Moch

No 15 Nant colwyn Alice Jones Hd M Widow 76 formerly labourer's wife Born C Beddgelert

No 16 Nantgwynant

No 17 Craflwyn

Possible reasons: After the death of Mrs Pritchard, it may have been uninhabited on census night; or it may have reverted to being only a farm with Alice Jones living there.

No 77. Gwynant Street. (not known where in Gwynant Street this houses was situated)

Morgan Jones Hd M 35 agricultural labourer Born C'von, Beddgelert

Gaenor Jones wife M 30 C'von, Beddgelert

Owan Hughes lodger U 26 miner C'von, Beddgelert

Morgan & Gaenor Jones were living at the Saracens Head by 1861.

1852 Nov 7: a severe earthquake was felt throughout the district, which resulted in the furniture and beds shaking at the Saracens Head. (Robinson's researcher)

In 1856 Morgan Jones became the victualler. In 1860 he lost his proze sheepdog, offering a handsome reward, (Robinson's researcher)

1861 census return Saracen's Head

Morgan Jones Head M 45 agricultural lab born Llanfihangel y Pennant

Gaenor Jones Wife M 40 Innkeeper Housekeeper Pwllheli

Catherine Jones servant U 18 House servant Born Beddgelert

David Jones servant U 12 Ostler Born Beddgelert

Mr Price Foley boarder M 68 Civil & Mining Engineer Born Ireland

1867 Jan 1st: The Beddgelert Post Office opened and Robert Prichard took over the Saracen's Head Inn. (Robinson's researcher)

By 1869 it became obvious that the Royal Goat Hotel could not cope with the demand for accommodation, so proposals were put forward to Lord Bulkeley of Baron Hill, Beaumaris, owners of the Saracen's Head to build a hotel. Work commenced soon after and in 1872 it was duly opened. The innkeeper, Richard Owen was fined for not having a dog license by the magistrate. He replied that "he had forgotten as he was busy with the rebuilding of the hotel and everything was in confusion and had forgotten about it". The Beddgelert Horticultural Society was established at the Saracen's Head. (Robinson's researcher)

"Then **Robert Owen from Anglesey** developed the building and got **the house rebuilt**". (from "Beddgelert Its Facts, Fairies and Folklore", page 47)

1867-9: the family of RICHARD Owen must have moved from Anglesey between the births of the youngest two children.

1870 Saracen's Head, Lot 25 in lease for 45 years from 13 Nov 1870 (see sale catalogue 1893)

Freehold Ground Rent granted for 60 years from 13 November 1870 to Robert Owen (See 1921 Sale Catalogue)

1871 census return Saracens Head

*Richard Owens head married 38 Licenced victualler born Pentraeth, Anglesey

+Elizabeth Owens wife " 38 born Llangefni, Anglesey

Owen Owens son U 11 scholar born Pentraeth. Anglesey

Rich G Owens son U 8 scholar "

Anne Owens dau U 4 scholar "

Wm G Owens son U 2 born Beddgelert, Caerns.

Mary Parry serv U 21 dom Serv waitress born Llangefni, Anglesey

Jane Williams serv U 17 " housemaid born Beddgelert, Caerns

Thomas Goodman visitor Married 25 Agric, Labourer born Beddgelert, Caerns.

In July 1874 the first advert of the Saracen's Head Hotel appears in the North Wales Chronicle. (Robinson's researcher)

By 1876 **Sir Richard Lewis Mostyn Williams-Bulkeley** (1833 - 1884) had inherited the estate.

In the 1876 estate valuation of the Estate of the Dowager Lady Bulkeley, the following was recorded for Glas Draean: "Acreage 25 Acres 1 rood; yearly value £25; Tenant **Richard Owen**. Remarks: Land not well managed; everything about the place in a most untidy and slovenly condition".

1876 Sept 6: death of +Elizabeth, wife of Richard Owen, Saracen's Head. Aged 46 years

1897 Aug 26: death of *Richard Owen, aged 56 years.

(Beddgelert graveyard Memorial Inscriptions A360)

In April 1877 the contents of the Hotel were sold by auction. It was described as having a very large coffee room, Bars, Bar Parlour, smoking room, 14 bedrooms, making up 21 beds, Stable, Coach houses etc, etc, together with an old cottage which might be used as a tap room, also the adjoining farm. The hotel is well known and extensively patronized. Amongst the contents of the hotel was the sale of furniture, Horses, Carriages, Farming Stock and contents.

Mr. Rice Williams, originally from Anglesey, became the new proprietor and remained here until his death in 1885, when he was succeeded by his widow Jane Williams. Auctions were held often at the Saracen's Head Hotel. It was also very popular with climbers on route to some of the more hazardous ascents of Snowdon, some with a fatal outcome, as the weather can change quickly in this region with dire consequences if not adhered to. (Robinson's researcher)

In 1879 a letter was sent to the Dowager Lady Bulkeley concerning the level of rents which were raised in 1877 and requesting 10 % rent reduction due to the adverse weather conditions. It was signed by **Rice Williams, Glasdraian farm**; William Hughes, Wernlasdeg; John Prichard, Hafodwydr; Francis Roberts, Caer gors; and others. (Baron Hill uncatalogued)

"Later Mr Rice Williams [see 1879 above] was tenant, leaving his wife in sole charge" - after around 1881 until after 1899". (From "Beddgelert Its Facts, Fairies and Folklore", page 47).

1881 census return Saracen's Head Hotel

Rice Williams	Head	Married	60	Farmer & Hotel Keeper	born Llanfair, Merioneth
Jane Williams	wife	48	"		Born Penmorfa, Caerns.
David Williams	son	28			born Pemmorfa, Caerns
Edward Williams	son	23		"	
Alice Williams	daughter	21		"	
Laura Jones	servant	30		Gen servant & domestic	born Beddgelert, Caerns.

From 1884 Sir Richard Henry Williams-Bulkeley (1862 - 19??) was the owner.

In 1884, A. B Priestley of Cae Dafydd, Nantmor, permitted Rice Williams, of Saracens Head Hotel, Beddgelert to keep free of charge a boat on Dinas Lake for use of himself, his family or persons staying there; and leased fishing rights for £25 p.a.

By 1886 the tenant was Mrs. Jane Williams, her husband having died the previous year. With other she was again requesting a rent reduction following high rent rises and falling prices for stock.

1889-90 The Saracen's Head Hotel [advertisement]

Mrs. Jane Williams, Proprietress.

Tourists, Commercials and Visitors will find every comfort and attention at the above Hotel at moderate charges. Choice Wines, Spirits etc. The situation is delightful, being within a short distance of the foot of Snowdon and 1 ½ miles from the Pass of Aberglaslyn. Good fishing and Boating on Lakes Dinas and Gwynant. Family and commercial Hotel.

(GAS, Sutton's North Wales Directory, p 78, 74)

1891 census return Saracens Head

Jane Williams	head	widow	57	Hotel keeper	born Llanfair, Harlech	W/E
Eleanor Lloyd	sister	widow	59	Living on her own means	"	W/E
Margaret Jones	niece	U	29	Inn barmaid	born Tremadoc	W/E
William Griffiths	brother	U	53	mariner	born Llanfair, Harlech	Welsh
Charles Weatherley	visitor	U	22		born London	English
Kate Pierce	servant	U	25	waitress	born Beddgelert	W/E

Ellen Evans servant U 20 Kitchen maid born Penrhyndeudraeth Welsh

c1891/2 Petty Sessions Division – Eifionydd, County Carnarvon. Return for the Saracens Head

Licensee: Jane Williams; Full 7 day license;

nearest public house: 200 yards on one side; 4 miles on the other.

There is stabling & accommodation, properly equipped always ready for the use of travelers.

26 rooms; 13 are bedrooms reserved for customers; 3 private sitting rooms / coffee rooms where, as a rule, drink is not supplied except with meals; 5 rooms used as Bars or Smoking rooms, where. As a rule, drink is supplied to customers.

No drink is supplied in any room which is also used by the Licensee & his/her family & general household.

Licensee is a widow aged 58 years.

Not known when the house was originally built.

The Licensee was licensed after the death of her husband about six years ago; her whole time is devoted to the business. It is not a Tied house.

There are 10 permanent residents including the licensee's family, servants or other permanent or habitual residents.

Gross rent, including land: £100; Gross rating: £62; Rateable value: £57.

Address of owner or lessee who receives the full rack rent: Jane Williams, Saracen's Head Hotel, Beddgelert. Leasehold; in good repair. (GAS, XQA/L/9/455)

With the advent of the motor car, the Saracen's Head Hotel offered garage facilities and it was not unusual for horses, traps and omnibus to mingle with the vehicles. A sign once stood in the garden opposite the hotel near the flagpole, offering tickets for the Cambrian LNW Railway, (Robinson's researcher)

In 1893 the old Nant Estate was put up for sale. The August Sale catalogue names:

Saracen's Head, Lot 25 in lease for 45 years from 13 Nov 1870 NOT SOLD

Glasdraian. " Lots 27-45 as building plots, with Jane Williams as yearly tenant.

Continued to be owned by the Baron Hill Estate, Beaumaris, Anglesey. Documents in Bangor University Archives.

1895 Beddgelert: Commercial: Saracens Head Hotel: Mrs Jane Williams.

(GAS, Slater's Directory of North & South Wales, p 100)

1899 Beddgelert: Saracen's Head is named: No named proprietor or manager.

(GAS, Bennett's Business Directory p 18)

pre1899 "There is an air of quaintness about the Saracen's Head, and its pieces of old furniture and simple pictures, make it very interesting. In the hall, on an old dresser, are two rush candle-holders, which recall the time when our forefathers found "Early to bed, and early to rise Make a man healthy, wealthy and wise", a convenient maxim, since the rush candles were poor things for lengthening out short days." (Jenkins "Beddgelert Its Facts, Fairies and Folklore" page 43)

Fresh water for drinking came from Pistyll Ty Uchaf (The Saracens' Cataract); water for other household use came from the river.

At the back of the hotel was Maes Ty Uchaf where fairs were held and animals were kept overnight for free. Twice a year Dyffryn Mymbyr sheep were kept there overnight, once on the way to Eifionydd to be wintered, and second time on the way home in the spring. The shepherds, usually three, who accompanied these sheep, did not stay at the Hotel. Rather they stayed at the Temperance Boarding House two doors away. (research by Mrs. Gwenant Roberts, Nantgwynant)

1901 census return Saracens Head Hotel

Jane Williams Head widow 67 Hotel keeper. Own account born Merioneth, Harlech

Mary Edmunds servantS 23 barmaid worker Merioneth, Llanfrothen

Catherine Roberts servantS 32 housemaid worker Caerns, Beddgelert

Elizabeth Evans servantS 25 cook domestic worker Caerns, Tremadoc

Tomas Roberts servantS 39 Cook's assistant worker Caerns, Beddgelert

In the early 1900s the occupiers were **Mr. Elias & Mrs Jones** and their two sons, Harold and Dennis. Mrs. Jones and her sister Miss Edwards used to produce dramas every winter in which local people took part. One winter she called for the actors to be waxwork models. In one part these were to be dusted with a feather duster. The feat was to keep a straight face and of course this was accomplished. (research by Mrs. Gwenant Roberts, Nantgwynant)

The Jones family probably came to Beddgelert after 1902 as both sons were born in Llanrwst (see 1911 census).

1905 Feb 17 Cambrian News article: Portmadoc Brewster session records notes “ Mr Wm, George, (of that well known firm of local solicitors and acting for the police), laid a formal objection to the renewal of the license of the Saracens Head, Beddgelert, on account of a conviction against the licensee during the past year. While Mr. George did not ask the Bench to levy the most extreme penalty, he considered “it was most important that the license should understand that it was not a mere matter of form and the Bench should take a serious view of it”. The poor licensee of the Saracens was unable to defend himself, as he was too ill to attend (and sent his wife with a doctor’s note to prove it). The Chairman of the Bench warned her of the serious position her husband would be placed in if the house was not properly conducted during the ensuing year. He did however note the mitigating circumstances as he behoved all Beddgelert licensees to be careful as “there was a rough element in the area just now”. That this element were associated with the (Welsh Highland) railway construction is reinforced later in the same passage. “two young men named William Jones and Hugh Hughes, employed on the Beddgelert Railway, were charged with having been drunk and disorderly on Sunday afternoon, January 22nd. Mr. George (again) “PC16 had found them about 3 o’clock on the Tremadog road. They were both very drunk and using bad language”. Jones and Hughes were locked up and admitted being drunk, Jones however denied being disorderly. This was to no benefit as both were fined 2s 6d with 8s 6d costs. (quoted from an article “Behind the Looking Glass” by Dave High, Welsh Highland Heritage. No 52, June 2011, page 6).

1910 Land Tax for Beddgelert: holding 10: **Glasdraian** 6 acres

Owner: Morgan Lloyd & Son, 10 Castle Square, Caernarvon. **Tenant: Ellis D Jones**

*Holding 11: **Glasdraian**: 2 acres; Owner occupier Ann Jones. Llys Arthur Temperance, Beddgelert*

1911 census return No 19: Saracens Head Hotel 20 rooms

Elias David Jones	Head	42	Married	14 yrs	Hotel Manager	Worker born Caerns Talybont	W/E
Sarah A Jones	wife	36	Married	14 Yrs	Assisting in business	Worker Cheshire, Birkenhead	W/E
Harold E Jones	son	12			scholar	Denbighshire, Llanwrst	W/E
Edward Denis Jones	son	9			scholar	Denbighshire, Llanwrst	W/E
Kate Ellen Griffith	servant	17			pantry maid	Worker Caerns, Portmadoc	W/E
Henry Hogarth Bracewell	visitor		Married	14 yrs	Gentleman; Private means	Manchester	E
Emily J Bracewell	visitor		Married	14 yrs	Lady; Private means	Shrewsbury	E

1921 July 21: Sale by Sir Richard H Williams Bulkeley (GAS ms XSC 530). PHOTO from garden

1921 Sale Catalogue: LOT 1. Tenant Mr Elias D Jones

Includes the well-known and fully licensed hostelry “The Saracen’s Head” Hotel, with well secured reversion to Freehold on 13 November 1930. Freehold Ground Rent granted for 60 years from 13 November 1870 to Robert Owen. Boating rights to Llyn Dinas.

A substantial Stone-built cemented and slated erection, having dormer windows and gabled roof. Creeper-clad, three storeys in height with graveled forecourt.

It has an open south aspect with charming views and contains: Hall, lounge or dining room, second dining room or billiard room, smoke room, bar, private room, still room, cellar, pantries, staircase hall and side entrance with lobby, servants’ hall, kitchen, larder and pantries, with eleven bedrooms, two bathrooms, lavatories and w.c’s and four servants’ bedrooms.

The House Yard contains gentlemen’s lavatories and w.c’s, engine room, wash house, etc.

The Stone and Slated Buildings comprise: Three garages (one large loft with iron roof, stable for six horses, and coal house with loft over, large garage with loft over; Kitchen garden.

The premises are drained into the public sewers, and lighted by electricity (the plant being the property of the Lessee.

Together with A FREEHOLD PORTION OF GROUND on the opposite side of the road (adjoining the River) laid out as a lawn and shrubbery, being Pts No 1217, parish of Beddgelert; area about .580.

OUTGOINGS:- Tithe rent charge (apportioned) £0 0s 3d. Land Tax – as assessed.

This Lot has the benefit of a temporary easement only, determinable by notice, for obtaining water by pipes etc from Lot 3 and subject to the purchaser of that Lot having a right of way from the Main Road through the yard belonging to this Lot to the small gate into No 1209 (Lot 3).

Lot 2 tenant Mr. Elias D Jones. Fishing & boating right 10/-

Lots 3 & 4: Accommodation land

Lots 5 & 6: Building sites

Lots 3, 4, 5 & 6 at Beddgelert: 13.418 acres £22.

Pencil notes: Lots 1 2 3 4 5 = £4950-0-0. Not sold

Lot 1 Freehold ground rent in pencil Lot 1.2 £2000 to Longmate.

It is not known when, after 1921, the Elias D Jones family left, nor what happened to their two boys – Harold E Jones (born 1899) and Edward Dennis Jones, (born 1901)?

1921 Nov 14: The Saracens' Head Hotel was sold by Sir Richard Henry Williams Buckeley, of the Baron Hill estate to Walter Vernon Turner. (pers. comm. Robinsons Brewery)

1926 May 1: The Saracens Head Hotel was sold by Robert Isaac Jones, the trustee of Walter Vernon Turner, to **John Cass** of the Tan-yr-Onen Hotel, Beddgelert. (pers comm. Robinsons Brewery)

1930 Feb 14: The Saracens Head Hotel was sold by John Cass to **Thomas Alfred Parkinson Ashley of the White Lion, Cerrigydruidion and Alexander Robb Cox of Wrockwardine Wellington.** (pers comm. Robinsons Brewery)

1933 Saracen's Head Hotel. T A P Ashley, proprietor. (GAS, Bennett's Business Directory p 22-3)

1936 Beddgelert: Saracen's Head: Miss Stonehill, manager.
(GAS, Bennett's Business Directory p 22)

1938 June 10: The Saracens Head Hotel was sold by Donald Robb Cox to **Ann Elizabeth Thomas** of the Lion Hotel, Leintwardine, Hereford. (pers comm. Robinsons Brewery)

1947 July 23: The Saracens Head Hotel was sold by Ann Elizabeth Thomas to **Ernest John Evans & Mrs. Florence Evans.** (pers comm. Robinsons Brewery)

1948 April 14: The Saracens Head Hotel was sold by Mr. & Mrs. Evans to **Harry Dyson.** (pers comm. Robinsons Brewery)

The following information has been compiled from ownership details from Robinsons Brewery and particularly with the help of Mrs. Ann Davies, Mrs. Pierce and Mr. Victor Hughes, all of whom worked at the Saracen's Head and lived in Beddgelert. Other local people have also contributed. Their help is gratefully acknowledged as the recent history could not otherwise have been pieced together it.

Local people continued to use the old name "Ty Uchaf" for The Saracen's Head.
The road outside was called "West End".

1952 Feb 8: The Saracens Head Hotel was sold by Harry Dyson to **Mrs Dorothy Maud Cornes.** (pers comm. Robinsons Brewery)

1950s **Mrs. Cornes** (or similar name) owned & managed the Saracen's Head for a long time.

1959 Feb 17: The Saracens Head Hotel was sold by Mrs. Cornes to **Selwyn Lloyd Jones** of the Royal Hotel, Caernarfon. (pers comm. Robinsons Brewery)

1950s **Bob Jones**, a Bangor bookie & his son Selwyn Jones with his wife Helen, owned the Saracen's Head.

1961 Oct 27: The Saracens Head Hotel was sold by Selwyn Lloyd Jones to **Mr. Alan Maguire & Mrs. Doreen Anderson Maguire, Francis Albert Seafield & Maria Seafield.** (pers comm. Robinsons Brewery)

1962 Oct 26: The Saracens Head Hotel was sold by Mr. & Mrs. Maguire to **Neals Hotels Ltd.** (pers comm. Robinsons Brewery)

c1960 **Mr. Bill Neal & Mrs. Neal** bought the Saracens' Head from Bob Jones, & managed the hotel.

c1960 Ann Davies worked there when 17 yrs old.

c1961-64 Victor Hughes worked there.

1969 Mr. & Mrs. Neal left.

1969 June 13: The Saracens Head Hotel was sold by Neals Hotels to **Mr. John Graham Bourne & Mrs. Patricia Bourne of Criccieth.** (pers comm. Robinsons Brewery)

c1970: Graham Bourne, of Criccieth, owned the Goat Hotel, & bought the Saracen's Head

1969 Dec 31: The Saracens Head Hotel was transferred to **The Saracens Head Hotel (Beddgelert) Ltd.** (pers comm. Robinsons Brewery)

1972 Jan 3: The Saracens Head Hotel was sold by The Saracens Head Hotel (Beddgelert) Ltd. to **Waveglade Ltd of Birmingham.** (pers comm. Robinsons Brewery)

c1972 The Saracen's Head was owned jointly by a syndicate: **Mr Ashley Gordon's father** (a director of West Bromwich football club), **Mr Jack Wiseman** (tycoon, who built Oberon Wood estate, a director of Birmingham City football club) **& a third man.**

?mid1970s: **Ashley Gordon & his father** were the owners & Ashley Gordon acted as supervisor of work at the Saracen's & The Goat Hotel, but then left Beddgelert.

?1970s Mr. & Mrs. Wild (Italian lady) was the manager.

?1970s Mr. Richard Benfield was the under manager for Mr. & Mrs. Wild

?1970s Mr. Ritzo remained as manager

c1974-77 A Spanish couple (?Maria & Peter Squires) managed the Hotel. Their children went to Beddgelert school.

Late 1970s Jim and Margaret Curran, an Irish couple, were the licensees. They were licensees of the Tanronnen after leaving the Saracens' Head Hotel.

1982 April 6: The Saracens Head Hotel was sold by Waveglade Ltd, now registered at the Royal Goat Hotel, Beddgelert, to **Alan Harper Scott of the Prince Llewelyn, Beddgelert.** (pers comm. Robinsons Brewery)

1982 **Alan Scott** bought from the Gordon family and ran the Saracens' Head Hotel.

[1 April 1971 Alan Scott became the tenant of the Prince Llewelyn Hotel, owned by Robinson's Brewery. He continued as tenant of the Prince Llewelyn Hotel, where he lived with his family.]

1985 Oct 18: **Frederic Robinson's Brewery** bought the Saracens Head from Alan Scott (pers comm. Robinsons Brewery) He continued as licensee until his death in 1999. (Elaine Rowleys' memories). The Saracen's Head had been a Free House until it was sold to Robinson's Brewery.

1999 Janet Fisher, the manageress, then became the licensee until her death in March 2006.

2006 Robinson's Brewery brought in two relief managers for a short period.

c2007-9 Val (worked in the Tanronnen) & her daughter Becky were the licensees for a short time.

2009 ?October Ray & Min Tarling became the licensees

winter 2010-11 total refurbishment

2011 May 10 Grand Re-opening

Compiled by Margaret Dunn,
25 August 2011

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS held in the Gwynedd Record Office, Caernarfon:

GAS /XSC 530 1921 July 21: Sale Catalogue: Sir Richard H Williams Bulkeley; from Garden.

GAS / XS/1290/1/b Saracen's Head Hotel

GAS /Xs/ 1290/1/c Saracen's Head Hotel, Dining room

GAS / XS/1290/1/e Saracen's Head Hotel, Lounge

GAS / XS/1290/4 Saracen's Head Hotel with Cars