



Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig **Discovering Old Welsh Houses**

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Erw Pwll y Glo **Pontrug, Caernarfon**



House History

A Part History of the House & its Families

Author: Bryn Williams
17-07-2022

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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Erw Pwll y Glo,

Pontrug,

Caernarfon

OS Grid: SH515639 Location

The building is set at an elevation of around 80m above sea level on a ridge separating the valley of Afon Seiont and the Afon Cadnant. The locality is an agricultural setting of stone wall bounded fields with sparse trees on the peripheries. The house is immediately to the south of a single metalled road which leads from Lôn Glai to Ffordd Crawia. The former Nasareth chapel is approximately 500m to south-west. Erw Pwll y Glo is 4km to the north-east of Caernarfon.

Description of Building

The main building, built in around 1830, is stone walled supplemented by brick and is slate roofed. The outer walls are nominally 2' thick mostly worked boulders and dressed field stone with use of plug and feathers evident on several of the larger units. The apparent lack of a nearby quarry and rounded shape of many of the boulders would suggest most of the stone was won from the nearby valley bottom. Interspersed are rounded undressed field stones which give a rubble masonry overall appearance. The lintels are slate and stone on the front elevation, these are roughly worked and are likely to be from Dinorwig or Glyn Rhonwy. The internal walls are made from 4" wide, 3" thick, 9" long bricks and rendered to achieve an overall 6" thickness of wall. The roof is hipped, the slates are 2" by 4", are timber pegged and limed torched. The hips are capped with lead and appear to have been replaced in the recent past due to the use of sealant. There are a pair of internal chimneys which are brick built, Portland cement rendered and capped. There were originally eight flues, four fired clay pots per chimney, a fireplace in each room, but there are now only four flues and three fireplaces with only one in use, three cast iron fireplaces with kettle, saucepan and iron are retained in an outbuilding.

All the windows are sash construction, only three, the upstairs rear windows appear to be original, these have simple tapered profile glazing bars and a single central latch whereas the front windows have inner ogee profile and a pair of modern latches. The only exception is that the stair window has ogee window bars, but they are finer than the front windows. The downstairs front windows have working shutters but only the set in the kitchen is complete; however, this set appears to be relocated as 'rear parlour' is written in pencil on the back of one of the leaves. A timber removed from one of the windows during repairs was found to have 'Owen Morris made this' pencilled with the year 1831. Remnant paint on the windowsills show that windows were once painted green as well as the current white.

The main building has a wing on each side, one with a hipped roof and one with a chimneyed gable. The wing on the west side is the current kitchen but, according to the listing information, was used as a Doctor's Office in the early 20th century and before this, probably a dairy. The walls are made from very large masonry units achieving a thickness of 2" suggesting that it's contemporary with the main house; however, the quality of masonry at the rear is notably poorer and thin, at around 1'2" thick, and there is evidence of bolt holes for a door frame and roof wall-plate suggesting the presence of a now demolished section. The wing on the east was the original kitchen and has a large open fireplace with a bread oven and a stairway built around the chimney, a feature common in

much earlier houses. The walls of this section are 1' 8" thick and the window is much smaller than the remainder of the house suggesting an earlier phase of construction.

It is possible that the house was built by Caernarfon architect John Lloyd, the slate fireplaces and carpentry are very similar to those in houses known to have been built by him in Twthill, Caernarfon.

The configuration of the house appears not to have changed significantly since the 1830s but the following is noted:

- At the rear of the main house a doorway has been changed into a window, with the slate threshold still visible. This current utility room appears to be a rear hallway leading to the dining room through a doorway which has now been blocked. This room has been part divided to create a shower room. These changes appear to have been undertaken in the 1980s. Horned sash windows were fitted at this time and a second ground floor window was also replaced along with the slate windowsill, the original is now in the garden.
- The west wing appears to originally have been only accessible from external doors with door openings being created into the main house later. The Coflein photos from the 1960s show a bricked up external door on the porch on the front elevation which was changed into a window in the 1980s. The opening between the living room and the old kitchen appears to have been created at the same time. The west wing also has a chimney breast but there is no evidence of a chimney externally. If it is assumed that a dairy had no need for a fireplace, the roof of this section, therefore, has had three iterations. Plans submitted to the council in 1978 show that a small lean to was removed at the rear of the current kitchen, this appears to be single brick in thickness and had a very small window so was probably a coal store.
- The original configuration of the lean-to outbuilding on the east side is unclear, the door and surrounding masonry appears to be contemporary with the main house, but the east and north elevations have been re-built in single brick and the roof is cement and asbestos corrugated sheets. The floor is suspended timber but it is in very poor condition due to water ingress through the roof and walls.
- Due to the simple abutting of masonry, the coach house appears to have been built after the main house and the old kitchen. The outer stone masonry of the old kitchen has been crudely raised in brick to support the ridge, the bricks are the same type evident in the remainder of the main house so it probably dates from around the same time. Some of the roof timbers have evidence of fire damage and it is felted, so the current roof is a modern replacement. The window has also been replaced by a smaller unit, the opening appears to have been reduced on the east side. The walls have also been partly underpinned with modern concrete.
- The original kitchen wing has a blocked-up gable window and a 20th century roof window. The roof is supported by a steel bolted timber A frame. The main roof structure probably dates from the 19th century, but the covering has been replaced, probably in the 1980s. The door and window are modern and the internal walls have been repointed with very rich Portland cement. The timber supporting the chimney appears to be a survivor of the house dating from before 1830. It has cross hatching cut marks on the outer face indicating that it had once been rendered.
- Outside, the original access road to the farm buildings has been blocked and infilled and the cobbled yard surfaced with asphalt. The small outbuildings, probably the stables and piggeries mentioned in the 1890 sale, are in ruins.

Recorded History

Erw Pwll y Glo is situated on the southeast side of the Roman road which connected Segontium and Caerhun

Glenda Carr's thesis, *Enwau Pentrefi, Prif Anheddau a Chaeau Pump Plwyf yn Arfon: Llanbeblig Llandwrog Llanfaglan Llanrug a Llanwnda* states that Pwll y Glo refers to a pit around 15 feet in diameter which were built to create charcoal for use in metal working.

The thesis contains a list of occurrences of the name from archives. The earliest is Erowe Pwll y Glo in 1597-98. The name remains the same for most of the records, but Erw Pwll y Glo in Rug appears in 1622 and Tyddyn Pwll Glo in 1841. The Pwll y Glo part of the name was often dropped, Erw, Yr Erw, and Erw Pontrug appears in newspapers and legal documents. In T. Ceiri Griffith's *Achau* the name is Erw, Pontrug. Throughout the census records between 1851 and 1939, Erw Pwll Glo is used.

Erw-pwll-y-glo	Llanrug		SH 5064
<i>Erowe Pwll y glo</i>	1597-8	<i>Ex. P. H-E</i>	67
<i>Erw Pwll y Glo in Rug</i>	1622	Penrhyn	1632
<i>Erw pwll y glo</i>	1698	Thorowgood	181
<i>Erw Pwll y Glo</i>	1752	Thorowgood	192
<i>Erw Pwll y Glo</i>	1770	ATT GAG	XQA/LT 6/13
<i>Erw pwll y glo</i>	1792	ATT GAG	XQA/LT 6/13
<i>Erw Pwll y glo</i>	1816-20	Dawson, Bangor	f34081 D1
<i>Erw pwll y glo</i>	1828	ATT GAG	XQA/LT 6/13
<i>Erw pwll y Glo</i>	1830	ATT GAG	XQA/LT 6/13
<i>Erw-pwll-y-glo</i>	1838	Map OS	78
<i>Erw pwll y glo</i>	1839	RhPDegwm	
<i>Erw pwllry glo or Tyddyn pwll glo</i>	1841	Laurie	WDT/2503
<i>Erw-pwll-y-glo</i>	1920	Map OS	XI S.W. Caerns.
<i>Erw-pwll-y-glo</i>	1961	Map OS	SH 56
<i>Erw-pwll-y-glo</i>	2002	Map OS	Explorer OL 17

16th Century

1597-8 Erowe Pwll y Glo Ex P.H-E Emyr Gwynne Jones Exchequer Proceedings (equity) concerning Wales, Henry VIII-Elizabeth (Caerdydd 1939) ref: 67 Case relating to: Intrusion into "parcels of premises called Tir Trahayarn Gynnydd, a capital messuage called Bwlch y Ddwyvoel, alias Kaye Mawr, Tythin David ap William Lewis, Erowe Pwll y Glo, and other lands in the township".

The earliest documented record of Erw Pwll y Glo is in a dispute of 1597-98 in the time of William Williams of Faenol, who was descended from Ednyfed Fychan. In the 1597-98 cases, he prosecuted for 'forcible detention' of lands: David Lloyd ap Richard, Thomas ap William ap Morgan, David ap William Lewis, Rowland Morgan ap David ap William, William Morgan, David ap William, Thomas Griffith ap Thomas, Ellis ap John ap Rees. William's father, Thomas Williams Esq and his brother, Simon Williams are also named. Thomas Williams of Faenol's will was proved in 1592, so the first recorded owners of Erw Pwll y Glo would be William and also possibly his brother, Simon. After 1598 and before 1622, Erw Pwll y Glo is transferred to the Cochwillan estate. Faenol, Cochwillan and Penrhyn were all owned by members of the same extended family, and Elin (Ellen), the daughter of William Williams of Cochwillan married her father's cousin, William Williams of Faenol. Significant events during this time are the death of Elin, William Williams of Faenol's second marriage to Dorothy Dimock, and William becoming a Baronet in 1622 (Griffith's Pedigrees).



Williams of Cochwillan and Penrhyn arms: Ednyfed Fychan's (Tudor) three English knights' severed heads, Iarddur (ap Trahaearn ap Cynddelw) of Penrhyn and Lord of Arllechwedd Uchaf's stag heads, Gruffudd ap Cynan's three lions and two variants of Powys Fadog lions, possibly Tudur Trevor. The crescent signifies a second son.

17th Century

1620 Griffith's Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire families, 1914. The Cochwillan estate is stated to have been sold by Henry Williams to the Earl of Pembroke in 1620 for £10,000. John Williams, Archbishop of York, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal bought the estate back. According to Professor Glyn Roberts in the Dictionary of Welsh Biography, there was an inheritance dispute which frustrated the sale.



John Williams, Keeper of the Great Seal and Archbishop of York (portrait hanging in Penrhyn Castle)

1622 Erw Pwll y Glo in Rug, part of the Penrhyn records ref: 1632 Copy of the original "rent-roll of all Cochwillan lands as nowe is set the 23 September, 1622"

By 1620, Erw Pwll y Glo appears to have been transferred from Faenol estate to Cochwillan estate. William Williams of Faenol and William Williams of Cochwillan were cousins. William Williams of Cochwillan, according to Professor Glyn Roberts in the Dictionary of Welsh Biography, is recorded as having numerous legal disputes and had a life-long feud with John Wynne of Gwydir. After William Williams' (of Cochwillan) death in 1612, the estate passed to his son Henry Williams who sought to sell and then, by the rent record of 1622, the estate had passed to his cousin John Williams, Keeper of the Great Seal and Archbishop of York. After John Williams' death in 1650 the estate passed to his nephew Griffith Williams of Penrhyn, who was made a Baronet in 1658 by Oliver Cromwell and then by King Charles II in 1661. Part of the Cochwillan Estate, including Erw Pwll y Glo, appears to have been passed to his fourth son, John Williams of Brynmor, Dwygyfylchi, after Griffith Williams' death in 1663. (See Discovering Old Welsh Houses Brynmor report by Gill Jones)

1698 Thorowgood, Tabor and Hardcastle papers (181) Demise in trust of Brynmor, various others and of Erw Pwll y Glo between John Williams of Brynmor, Caernarvonshire and William Bold of Llanedwen Anglesey.

John Williams of Brynmor (1642-1706) married Gaynor Griffiths of Tal y Bont in 1694.

18th Century

1706 Will of John Williams of Brynmor, Dwygyfylchi NW ref. B/1706/2S W : Leaving Brynmor and other farms to Gaynor Williams (nee Griffith of Tal y Bont). *N.B. Gaynor Williams married Morris Wynne and are stated to be of Porth yr Aur. This Will is damaged and Erw P?? is legible; however, a number of other farms that appear in the 1747 document match.*

Erw Pwll y glo appears to be in the will of John Williams. The Brynmor estate is left to Gaynor, his wife, in 1706. Gaynor then marries Morris Wynne, possibly living at Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon and the Brynmor estate is absorbed into that estate.

1747 Henry Rumsey Williams Papers, 294, Will of Gaynor Wynne of Porth yr Aur vtlis005019560 ISYSARCHB2: Distribution of estate including Erw Pwll y glo to George Hicks.

1752 Thorowgood, Tabor and Hardcastle papers (192) Transfer of Erw Pwll y Glo by the executor of Captain Maurice Wynne and Gaynor Wynne (d1747) of Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon to George Hicks, nephew.

George Hicks was the son of Mary Griffith of Trehwfa and Daniel Hicks. George Hicks' relation to Gaynor is unclear, he is recorded as being her nephew but he could be a second cousin. The will appears to have been challenged because a pedigree was presented by George as evidence in a record of a legal case.

1770 ATT GAG XQA/LT 6/13 Land tax assessment

1792 ATT GAG XQA/LT 6/13 Land tax assessment

1794 Plas yn Llangoed Estate Papers GB0221WDT 'Copy attested deed to make a tenant to the praecipt and lead the uses a common recovery by double voucher to be suffered at a court of Great Sessions upon a messuage or mansion house' of Brynmor, Dwygyfylchi including, amongst others, Porth yr Aur and Erw Pwll y Glo or Tyddyn Pwll y Glo. Between Evan Lloyd (esq), Hugh Ellis(Gent) of Caernarfon and Henry Williams(Clerk) of Pentir.

This is a legal procedure to confirm the transfer of property to Evan Lloyd due to what is called an Entail, a limitation of a Will.

1795 Porth y Aur Papers PYAA/2189 Assignment of a Mortgage on Porth yr Aur Caernarfon including Erw Pwll y Glo to Evan Lloyd, Maesyorth, Anglesey, named as the devisee of George Hicks' Will, and William Jones, Caernarvon.

Erw Pwll y Glo is inherited by George Hicks, Gaynor's nephew in 1752 and then is inherited by Evan Lloyd of Maes y Porth. Evan Lloyd (1728-1801), of Maes y Porth, according to the Dictionary of Welsh Biography, served as high sheriff of Anglesey and was an antiquary and poet.

19th Century

1816-20 Dawson, Bangor f34081 D1 (OS maps Robert Dawson 1816-20, Bangor)

Erw Pwll y Glo appears on preparatory maps by Dawson.

1817 Plas yn Llangoed Estate Papers GB0221WDT Copy Case for the opinion of Mr John Hodgson of Lincoln's Inn concerning the question of what dower is due to Ann the widow of Evan Lloyd of Maes y Porth who died intestate. Estate includes amongst others: Maes y Porth, Porth yr Aur, Brynmor and Erwpwll-yglo (as written).

1820-1829 Birth Records of the children of David and Grace Owen at Erw Pwll y Glo.

Dafydd Whiteside has undertaken research for Eco'r Wyddfa under the Chwilota article. He states that at the start of the 19th century Erw Pwll y Glo was the home of David Owen, farmer and butcher who lived there with his wife Grace and his children, Margaret (1820), John (1822) David (1824), Ellin (1827) and Owen (1829). By the birth of the sixth child Nathaniel (1831), the family had moved to Cefn Tre Seiont (Kent Farm).

1821 Henry Rumsey Williams Papers, series 557-64 vtls005282292 ISYSARCHB59: Lease and Release and placing in trust of Erw Pwll y Glo from the trustees to Robert Thomas of Carnarvon, druggist from Rev. Henry Jones Ty Coch Caernarfon, son of William Jones who died intestate, John Roberts of Bangor and his Wife Anne, previous to her marriage called Anne Lloyd, spinster, who is the only daughter of legatee Evan Lloyd of Maes y Porth Anglesey, Robert Roberts (and Henry Jones, trustees of a nuptial agreement of Anne and John Roberts) of Carnarvon and James Wyatt of Lime Grove. Limitations also from the will of George Hicks (1764) applied. Evan Lloyd, father of Anne, died in 1794 owing money, part of sale went towards settling those debts.

William Jones, according to the Caernarfon Traders website, is recorded as being a wealthy merchant who lived on Shirehall Street, his son, Rev Henry Jones was the deputy mayor of Caernarfon under the Marquis of Anglesey, his portrait hangs in Council Headquarters. Mr Lloyd of Maes y Porth was the deputy mayor before him. There is a record of a 'Evan Lloyd the younger' of Maes y Porth on the Burgess Roll of Caernarfon, it is not clear which one this is.

According to Hugh Hughes of Cymdeithas Pysgota Seiont, Gwryfai a Llyfni there are fish catch diary records from 1809 in a copy of Art of Angling in the possession of Bangor University by Mr Robert Thomas. His premisses was in Turf Square in Caernarfon and it appears that he bought the farm presumably to have access to the fishing rights that came with the land. The diary records fishing at Pont rug and Llyn Engan reaches downstream and

contains the first written reference to the fly type Coch Bonddu. Mr Thomas's fishing records end in 1824. Mr Thomas's legacy survived well into 20th century in the memory of anglers, the reach of river below Erw Pwll y Glo was known by them as Druggist's Steps before being replaced by the name of Nasareth Steps which is in use now.

1828 ATT GAG XQA/LT 6/13 Land tax assessment

1830 ATT GAG XQA/LT 6/13 Land tax assessment

1831 Window frame inscription: 'Owen Morris Made This July 26 1831'

1832 Gwynedd Archives XD2/7476: Mortgage between Solomon Parry and Robert Thomas of Erw Pwll y Glo

Robert Thomas and his niece, Jane, are recorded on several occasions lending money to individuals.

1833 Newspaper record: Robert Thomas of Erw recorded as Juror.

There is a record of a Miss Jane Hughes of Erw Pwll y glo marrying a Hugh Thomas of Bangor in June 1833 in the Gwladgarwr.

1834 Grave of 'Anne Thomas wife of Robert Thomas of Erw Pwll y Glo' in Llanrug church.

1837 Henry Rumsey Williams Papers, series 217-218 vtIs005281977 ISYSARCHB59: Deed of exchange between Thomas Assherton Smith of Vaenol to Robert Thomas of Erw fields named Werglodd y Cerrigiau and Cae Elin Griffiths, part of Glanrafon farm, a field that is part of Longlai farm and a field that is part of Cefntusaint and the right to a river bed that flows through the fields. In return, Robert Thomas transfers a house called Gelli Bach, Llanddeiniolen to Assherton Smith.

1838 OS map 78

1839 Tithe maps

The Tithe maps date from around 1840. Erw Pwll y Glo appear on these in a form recognisable to the current layout. The Tithe records the owner as Robert Thomas Esq, the farm is split between the parishes of Llanddeiniolen and Llanrug. In Llanrug, 22 acres and 18 acres in Llanddeiniolen. Robert Thomas is also recorded as being the owner of a further 92 acres between Tyddyn y Berth, Tyddyn Andro and an allotment. In the Llanddeiniolen records, Jane Jones is recorded as being the tenant of Erw Pwll y Glo. Jane is known to be his niece. The Tithe records show that the field names are: Cae Green, Park Isaf, Park Uchaf, Cae Bach, Cae Pwmp, Cae Helig and Weirglodd Isaf which are all in the parish of Llanrug. There is no record of the field names in the parish of Llanddeiniolen.

Following a conversation with Edgar Williams, the current owner of the fields, the missing names are Cae Ysgubor, Cae Canol, Weirglodd Canol and Cae Pellaf.

1841 Laurie WDT/2503 (Casgliad J.S Laurie a'i Gwmni, PCB)

1841 & 1851 Census: Home of Robert Thomas and his niece, Jane Jones

1850 The Will of Robert Thomas of Erw, Conwy archives CX 619/6/1(Bryn Dyffryn Estate Llanrwst Documents): updated 1855, Residue of personal estate bequeathed to Jane Jones,

niece. Trustees: nephew William Thomas of Bala, Ebenezer Robert of Crug, Richard Lewis Owen of Caernarfon, druggist.

1855 Grave of Robert Thomas of Erw Pwll y Glo in Llanrug church.

Robert Thomas died in January 1855 aged 74 and is buried with his wife. Jane Jones was his sister's daughter and she continued to live at the farm until at least 1888. Griffith Griffiths, the groom, is recorded as marrying Margaret in 1869, he moved to Bethel and later became a grocer in Caernarfon.

1861 1871 1881 census: Home of Jane Jones

1880 Gwynedd Archives XD/6857: Jane Jones of Erw Pwll y Glo, mortgage of a farm in Llannor.

1885 Newspaper record: Jane Jones 'declines farming'; offers land for rent.

1887 Newspaper record: Jane Jones; sale of farm stock and equipment.

1888 Newspaper record: Jane Jones; offers land for rent.

1889 Newspaper record: Morris Owen unsuccessfully sued by Griffith Griffiths for salary at Erw Pwll y Glo.

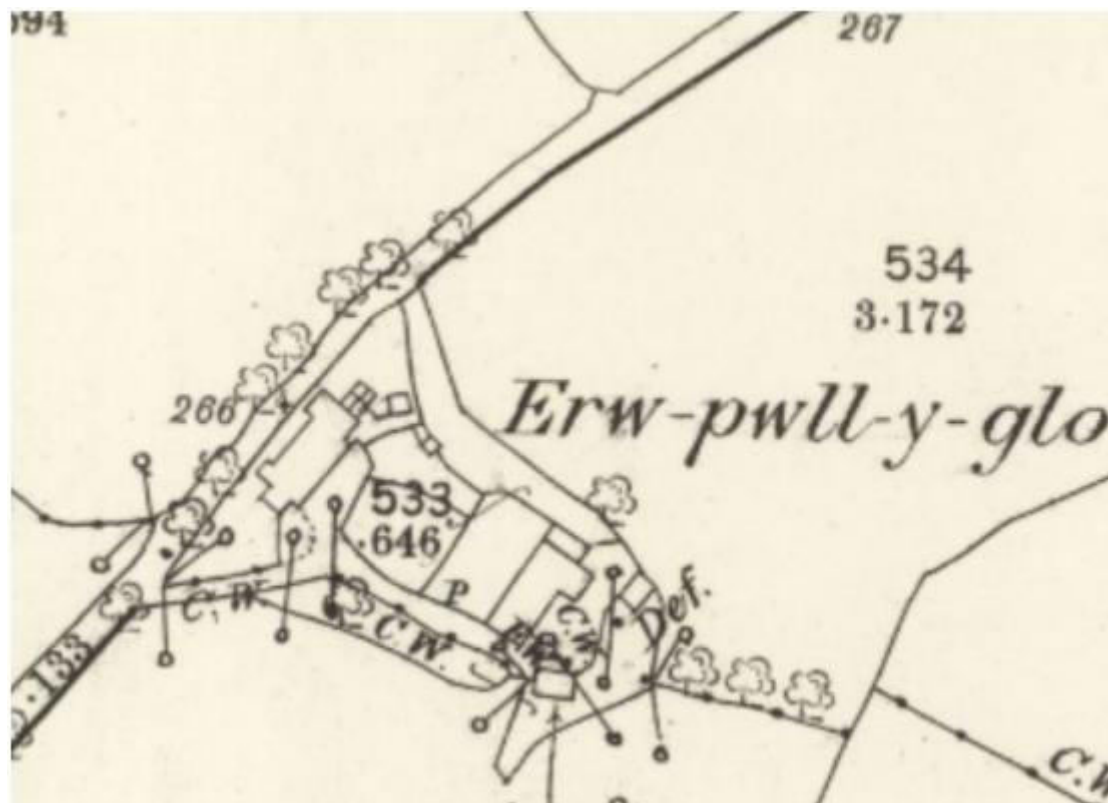
Robert Thomas and then Jane Jones employed a young groom, Griffith Griffiths, at Erw Pwll y Glo, see census below. In 1889 in the North Wales Express, Mr Morris Owen, as the executor of the late Miss Jones of Erw, is reported to have been sued for £30 in 'Carnarvon County Court' by Griffith Griffiths, a year's salary for acting as farm bailiff. The jury found in favour of Morris Owen.

1889 Papurau Teulu Thomas, Tyddynyberth Bethel XM/8039/107 Cerdyn coffa? Miss Jane Jones, Yr Erw, near Caernarfon, born Tai'n y Maes, Pentrevoelas - 91 years of age. 2 cards.

1890 Newspaper record: Erw Pwll y Glo is offered for sale. Eleven properties are named.

The house sale advertisement is recorded in 1890, Erw Pwll y Glo is described as a four bedroom house, with two entertaining rooms, a dressing room, kitchens and a dairy with outhouses comprising coach house, stable, piggeries etc. The presence of a rookery in the wooded area and fishing rights in Afon Seiont are included.

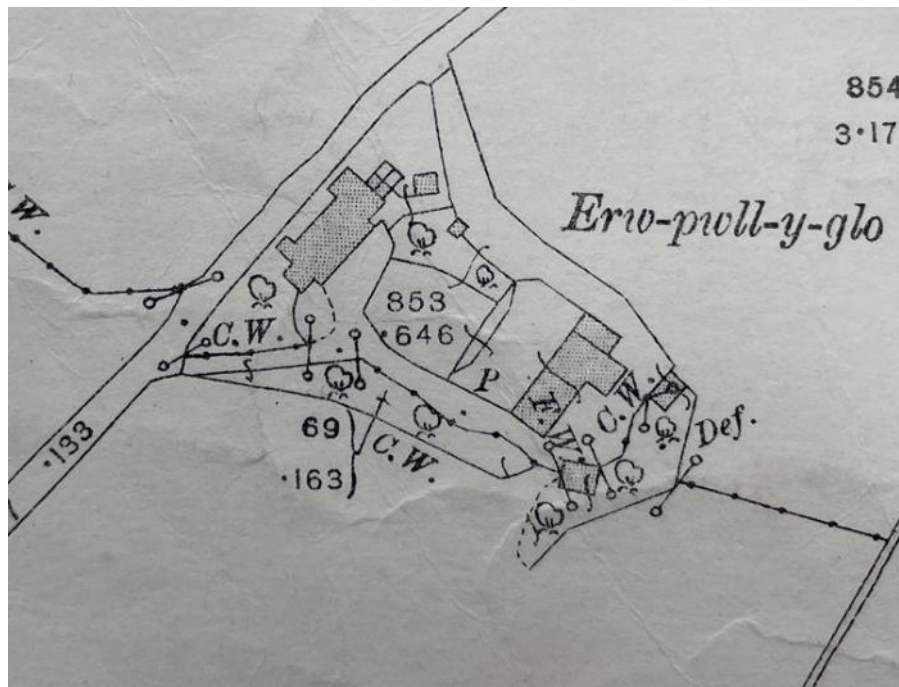
1850? Yale and Hardcastle Papers GB 0219 XD/35 XS/2284 556: Map of Erw Pwll y Glo, 3 chains to 1" schedule of lands.



Ordnance Survey 1889

A search of all the available maps shows a rectangular building in the 1839 tithe map of Llanddeiniolen, whilst the 1848 tithe map of Llanrug show a building with two wings similar to the current configuration. The farm straddles two parishes so is shown on both.

The 1889 map shows the current configuration including a small section protruding towards the road at the rear of the west wing, which is now missing, and small outbuildings, which are now ruins. On the footprint of the current lean-to a slightly longer building is shown extending beyond the corner of the now ruined outbuilding. This block is shown divided into four units, a printed 1916 map is clearer, it shows the two units adjoining the old kitchen to be buildings and the other two units to be enclosures, these must therefore be the piggeries mentioned in the 1890 sale and the other larger unit is the stable. This area including the old kitchen appear to be in a separate yard from the front of the house, a photo from 1960 confirms that there was a wall here.



1916 Ordnance Survey printed map showing roofed pigsties with adjoining yards, roofed stable and roofed building in garden

Note 1: C.W./F.W./Def. are Abbreviations relating to the Parish boundaries: centre of wall, face of wall, Defaced i.e. boundary feature removed

Note 2: P is a Pump, the elongated S is a field tie to indicate which parts add up to the same field parcel number, lines terminated with circle indicate the end of boundary features.

1890 Sale catalogue GB 2008 CSC14/116: Details of Erw estate.

1891 Census: Home of Morris Owen (nephew of Jane Jones)

After the death of Jane Jones, Erw Pwll y Glo came into the ownership of Morris Owen, her nephew (born 1839), also of Pentrefoelas, Jane was his mother's sister. Morris Owen paid

£3700 for the farm in the auction in 1890, the remainder of the 'Erw estate', a total of five farms, cottages, an allotment and the druggist shop in Caernarfon were sold to others.

20th Century

1901 census: Home of Morris Owen

1911 census: Home of Morris Owen

1916 Newspaper record: Death announcement of Morris Owen.

1916 Newspaper record: Auction of Morris Owen's furniture and books.

Morris Owen, using the bardic name Isaled, appears numerous times due to his poetry contributions and judging duties at many Eisteddfodau as far as Aberhonddu, London and Liverpool. He was a regular contributor to the 'Y Geninen' magazine.

Morris Owen lived at Erw until his death in 1916 leaving £55,000 in his will. He is buried in Pentrefoelas. Morris Owen's great grandfather, and Robert Thomas's father was a poet, John Thomas, a friend of Twm o'r Nant, the poem on Twm's grave was written by him. Morris Owen was also a poet and had the bardic name of Isaled, he won the National Eisteddfod in Denbigh in 1860 for *Y diweddar Edward Jones Maes y Plwm* and was a solicitor, historian, author and eisteddfod judge. After his death it is reported that there were enough books in the auction of his possessions to raise a hedge!

In the biography of Ellen Jones, Atgofion Nel Lon Glai, she recalled that Morris Owen lived at Erw Pwll y Glo and that her mother was a house maid for him. She recollected that Morris Owen was a hard drinker and when he died, a Mrs Owen moved in, and she had considerable work emptying the house of bottles.

A report in the 'Y Goleuad' describes the auction of Morris Owen's library in March 1916. One of his books was by 17th century scholar Dr John Davies of Mallwyd with hand-written notation by 18th century scholar brothers Lewis Morris and William Morris of Môn which was acquired by the National Library.

1917 Newspaper record: Mrs Owen offers Erw Pwll y glo for rent.

ERW PONTRUG

SALE OF THE WHOLE HOUSEHOLD
FURNITURE, STORE CATTLE AND
OUTDOOR EFFECTS.

MESSRS. HENRY PARRY AND SONS
(Instructed by the Executors of the
late Mr. Morris Owen) will Sell by Public
Auction on the premises, on

THURSDAY, MARCH 9th, 1916.

at 11 a.m. punctually, the whole of the indoor
and outdoor effects, comprising:

5 Excellent Store Bullocks.
6 Cross-bred Breeding Ewes and 1 Lleyn
Ram.

The Household Furniture comprise some
Massive Old Mahogany Pieces, including a
Mahogany Dining Room Suite, comprising
two arm chairs and six small chairs and a
couch; 2 Mahogany Sideboards, Mahogany
Hall Clock, Large Massive Mahogany Book-
case, Small Mahogany Bookcase, Inlaid
Mahogany Chest of Drawers Bureau, Small
Mahogany Chest of Drawers, Mahogany Oval
Table, Brass Fender and Fire-irons, Steel
Fender and Fire-irons, Barometer, Bedsteads
and Bedclothes, Mangle, Crockery, Carpets
and Linoleums, Blankets and Linen, Library
of Books in suitable lots.

The Outdoor Effects comprise: Sheep Hay
Racks, Cattle Feeding Troughs, Barrows, Six
excellent Corn Bins, Weighing Machine by
Avery; Four Ladders, Quantity of Wool from
Large Ewes; Quantity of Hay, Dog Kennel,
Garden Chairs and Seat, and numerous other
useful lots indoor and out, far too numerous to
mention.

Mrs Owen advertised 'Erw Pontrug' for renting in September 1917 in The North Wales Chronicle, and in October 1919, a furniture auction, 'the property of Mrs Owen, who is leaving' is recorded.

A poem written in 1917 by the Bard Penllyn appears in 'Y Genedl' describes the House:

Yn yr Erw. Hen Gartref Isaled

Yn yr Erw'r wy' i aros -mewn llwyn.
Man llonydd, bythefnos;
Byd a'i niwl enbyd, a'i nos,
A'i wg, na ddoed yn agos.

Os yw hwyliau Isaled-yn aros
Mewn Erw ddedwydded
Drwy y clai medra'u clywed
O'r glyn, yn ei Erw gled.

Swn y frân sy' yn y fro-a llawer
Dylluan yn cwyno;
Heb achos -teirw'n beichio,
Bref faith a llywaith y llo.

Yn ei swydd mae afon Saint-yn pesgi
Pysgod ei llifeiriaint;
O dwyn a moel daw'n ei maint
Yn lân fel nefol enaint.

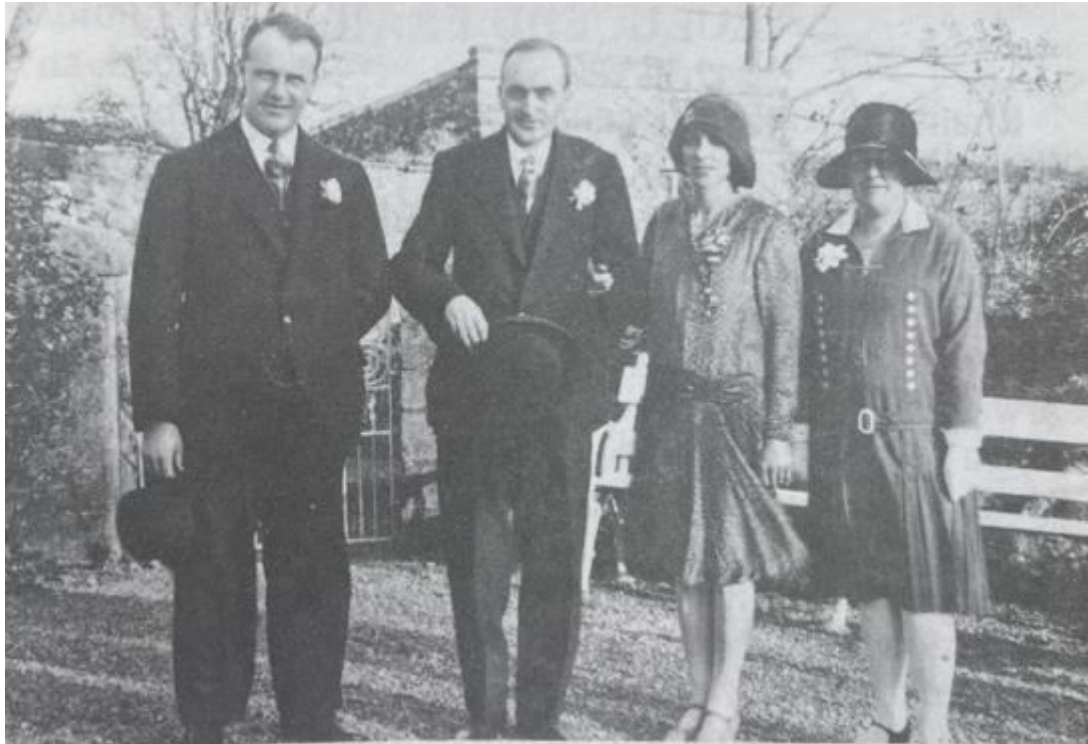
Ym mrig Ceunant, Marconi-a fanwl
Glustfeinia o ddifri;
Erys am genadwri
Drwy eu ddawn eil edrydd hi.

Ar yr hardd Eryri wen-dra uchel,
Edrychaf yn llawen;
Yn ei thlysni'r faith lasnen
Wyra ei phwys ar ei phen.

1919 Newspaper record: Mrs Owen auctions furniture.

1921 Census: Home of Robert Edwards and family

Ellen Jones (biography) recalled that Robert Edwards had bought Erw Pwll y Glo, moving from Treborth. Described as being of dark appearance with a small beard, he was a Nasareth Chapel elder. Robert and Janet had two daughters, Catherine and Neli (census contradicts: Ellen was a niece). Catherine was a red cross nurse during the first world war at Plas Bodlondeb on the shore of Afon Menai. Rob Evans, Penisarwaen; Bob Rolant, Fachwen; William from Abererch and Gwladus from Llanddeiniolen are named as having worked at Erw Pwll y Glo. On the death of Robert Edwards, Thomas Owen married Catherine and moved to Erw Pwll y Glo to run the farm helped by his brother Hugh.



Wedding of Thomas and Catherine in 1929



Catherine and Ellen of Erw

1939 census: Home of Kate Edwards and Thomas Owen.

In T.Ceiri Griffiths' Achau, the house is referred as Erw. Catherine Owen is shown here as Kate Edwards (1888-1977) who married Thomas Owen (1886-1969) from Pennarth, Clynnog. Kate was the daughter of Janet Humphries (baptised 1853) and Robert Edwards. Janet Humphries was the daughter of Elinor Morris of Rhiwgoch and Griffith Humphries of Pistyll, who were also the great great grandparents of Edgar Williams. Edgar's father, Gwilym Williams, retained the land, byre, and barn, and sold the house in 1978 after the death of his mother's second cousin, Kate 'Erw' in 1977.

A conversation with Edgar Williams revealed that the lean-to on the north-east side of the old kitchen was where the farm hand slept. He was aware that the wing on the west had been an office during the time the solicitor was living there, but he did not recall it being a doctor's office as stated in the Cadw listing information.



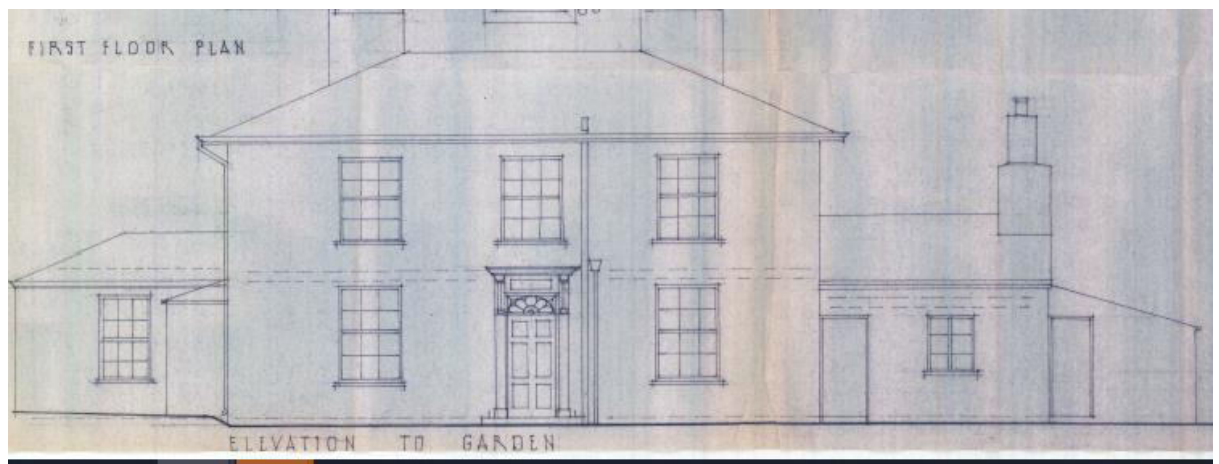
Thomas Owen, 77, Yr Erw: showing Welsh Black cattle 1964

1978 Transfer of Deeds: between Gwilym Williams and Merfyn Hughes Roberts and Margaret Gwenda Roberts.

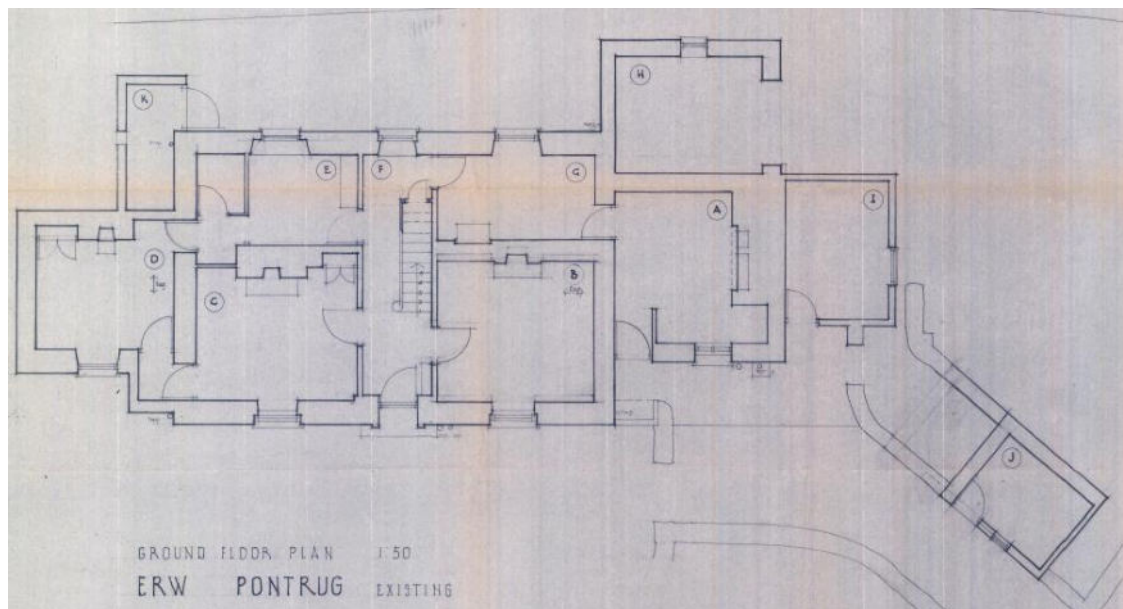
Merfyn was the chief architect of Gwynedd County Council and executed the construction of Gwynedd County Council's headquarters in Caernarfon with Terry Potter to the designs of Dewi-Prys Thomas. Merfyn died in 2015 and Margaret Gwenda in 2018.

According to John Hughes-Jones of Cil y bont, Llanrug, Erw was bought for around £20,000, he had viewed it with an intent to buy. He also recalled a story from his parents of a farm hand at Erw called Wil, who accompanied them on a young farmers trip to Liverpool, he spoke very little English so struggled to order food and later got lost!

1978 Listed Building Planning consent 3/18/LB299 dated 7th August 1978: Three drawings and a decision notice. Permission granted to Mr and Mrs Roberts 48 Llanbeblig Road, Caernarfon. Main alterations as follows: Demolish store at west, replace windows at rear ground floor, remove suspended timber floor at front ground floor and replace with concrete, create new opening between living room and old kitchen, remove built in stove from old kitchen fireplace, create kitchen in west wing with new door opening to north elevation, divide room at rear to create a shower room. Proposed work not undertaken: demolition of the east lean-to, new window in west wing and removal of the floor in the rear parlour (this was covered over with asphalt). The drawings also show that the outbuilding at the east had a door and window at this time.



Front elevation in 1978



Plan of building in 1978 before alterations

Summary

Erw Pwll y Glo appears to have originally been a farm dating to at least the 16th century that was demolished in around 1830 and replaced with the current building. The fireplace of the 16th century building appears to have been retained and incorporated into a kitchen. The current kitchen appears to have been the dairy for the farm and later an office.

Erw Pwll y Glo was passed, through inheritance, as part of Faenol then Cochwillan estates to John Williams of Brynmor, Dwygyfylchi, Caernarfonshire (son of Sir Griffith Williams 1st Baronet of Penrhyn) to Gaynor Williams, his wife, who then married Morris Wynne, Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon. On Gaynor's death, the Brynmor part of the Porth yr Aur Estate passed to George Hicks, her nephew, then to Evan Lloyd (antiquarian and poet) of Maes y Porth, Anglesey and William Jones of Caernarfon. It was sold as a separate farm in 1821 to settle debts.

The house was owned by members of the same family from Pentrefoelas between around 1821 and 1916. Erw Pwll y Glo, in its current form, was built as a home for Robert, a pharmacist, and Anne Thomas in around 1830, and in 1837, a number of fields were added. Erw passes to his niece, Jane Jones in 1855, and then to a solicitor, Morris Owen, her nephew, in 1890. After briefly being the home of a Mrs Owen, the Edwards family own the farm until Kate 'Erw' passed away in 1977. The house was then bought by Merfyn Hughes Roberts, an architect, and Margaret Gwenda Roberts and the farm buildings and land were retained by Gwilym Williams.

The main building has undergone very few changes since the 19th century maps apart from the demolition of a section to the rear of the current kitchen and the change in use of the two side wings; the roof of the west wing appears to have had three configurations in its lifetime; a dairy without a chimney, an office with a chimney and the current kitchen without a chimney. The listing statement refers to the current kitchen being the office of a country doctor but it's possible that this is an error, and it was instead a solicitor's office. Prior to this, it is likely to have been the dairy mentioned in the sale particulars of 1890. It is not clear when new doorways were created from the main house into the dairy, but the photo of 1960 would suggest that it was before this date.

Outside, the most significant change has been the closure and infilling of the road that connected the house to the byre and barn and the loss and re-configuration of the outbuildings to the east of the old kitchen. The Coflein photos also show that, originally, there was a wall between the main house and the old kitchen wing and the outbuildings, there may have been an intent to hide these from view.

Chronological summary of documentary evidence

1597-8 Erwe Pwll y Glo Ex P.H-E Emyr Gwynne Jones Exchequer Proceedings (equity) concerning Wales, Henry VIII-Elizabeth (Caerdydd 1939) ref: 67 Case relating to: Intrusion into "parcels of premises called Tir Trahayarn gynnydd, a capital messuage called Bwlch y Ddwyvoel, alias Kay Mawr, Tythin David ap William Lewis, Erwe Pwll y Glo and other lands in the township".

1622 Erw Pwll y Glo in Rug, part of the Penrhyn records ref: 1632 Copy of the original "rent-roll of all Cochwillan lands as nowe is set the 23 September, 1622"

1698 Thorowgood, Tabor and Hardcastle papers (181) Demise in trust of Brynmor, various others and of Erw Pwll y Glo between John Williams of Brynmor, Caernarvonshire and William Bold of Llanedwen Anglesey.

1698 Henry Rumsey Williams Papers, 112, vtls005530384 ISYSARCHB29: Demise in trust of Brynmor, and other farms including Erw Pwll y Glo, from John Williams of Brynmor, Caernarfon, to William Bold of Llanedwen Anglesey.

1706 Will of John Williams of Brynmor, Dwygyfylchi NW ref. B/1706/2S W : Leaving Brynmor and other farms to Gaynor Williams (nee Griffith of Tal y Bont). *N.B. Gaynor Williams married Morris Wynne of Porth yr Aur. This Will is damaged and Erw P?? is legible; however, a number of other farms that appear in the 1747 document match.*

1747 Henry Rumsey Williams Papers, 294, Will of Gaynor Wynne of Porth yr Aur vtls005019560 ISYSARCHB2: Distribution of estate including Erw Pwll y glo to George Hicks.

1752 Thorowgood, Tabor and Hardcastle papers (192) Transfer of Erw Pwll y Glo by the executor of Captain Maurice Wynne and Gaynor Wynne (d1747) of Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon to George Hicks, nephew.

1770 ATT GAG XQA/LT 6/13 Land tax assessment

1792 ATT GAG XQA/LT 6/13 Land tax assessment

1794 Plas yn Llangoed Estate Papers GB0221WDT Copy attested deed to make a tenant to the praecipt and lead the uses of a common recovery by double voucher to be suffered at a court of Great Sessions upon a messuage or mansion house of Brynmor, Dwygyfylchi including amongst other Porth yr Aur and Erw Pwll y Glo or Tyddyn Pwll y Glo. Between Evan Lloyd (esq), Hugh Ellis(Gent) of Caernarfon and Henry Williams(Clerk) of Pentir.

1795 Porth y Aur Papers PYAA/2189 Assignment of a Mortgage on Porth yr Aur Caernarfon including Erw Pwll y Glo to Evan Lloyd, Maesyorth, Anglesey, named as the devisee of George Hicks' Will, and William Jones, Caernarvon.

1816-20 Dawson, Bangor f34081 D1 (Mapiau OS rhagbaratoawl Robert Dawson 1816-20 yn Bangor)

1817 Plas yn Llangoed Estate Papers GB0221WDT Copy Case for the opinion of Mr John Hodgson of Lincoln's Inn concerning the question of what dower is due to Ann the widow of Evan Lloyd of Maes y Porth who died intestate. Estate includes amongst others: Maes y Porth, Porth yr Aur, Brynmor and Erwpwll-yglo (as written).

1820-1829 Birth Records of the children of David and Grace Owen at Erw Pwll y Glo

1821 Henry Rumsey Williams Papers, series 557-64 vtls005282292 ISYSARCHB59: Lease and Release and placing in trust of Erw Pwll y Glo from the trustees to Robert Thomas of Carnarvon, druggist. From Rev. Henry Jones Ty Coch Caernarfon, son of William Jones who died intestate, John Roberts of Bangor and his Wife Anne, previous to her marriage called Anne Lloyd, spinster, who is the only daughter of legatee Evan Lloyd of Maes y Porth Anglesey, Robert Roberts (and Henry Jones, trustees of a nuptial agreement of Anne and John Roberts) of Carnarvon and James Wyatt of Lime Grove. Limitations also from the will of George Hicks (1764) applied. Evan Lloyd, father of Anne, died in 1794 owing money, part of sale went towards settling those debts.

1828 ATT GAG XQA/LT 6/13 Land tax assessment

1830 ATT GAG XQA/LT 6/13 Land tax assessment

1831 Window frame inscription: 'Owen Morris Made This July 26 1831'

1832 Gwynedd Archives XD2/7476: Mortgage between Solomon Parry and Robert Thomas of Erw Pwll y Glo

1833 Newspaper record: Robert Thomas of Erw recorded as Juror.

1834 Grave of 'Anne Thomas wife of Robert Thomas of Erw Pwll y Glo' in Llanrug church.

1837 Henry Rumsey Williams Papers, series 217-218 vtls005281977 ISYSARCHB59: Deed of exchange between Thomas Assherton Smith of Vaenol to Robert Thomas of Erw fields named Werglodd y Cerrigiau and Cae Elin Griffiths, part of Glanrafon farm, a field that is part of Longlai farm and a field that is part of Cefntusaint and the right to a river bed that flows through the fields. In return, Robert Thomas transfers a house called Gelli Bach, Llanddeiniolen to Assherton Smith.

1838 OS map 78

1839 The Tithes record the owner as Robert Thomas as owner occupier in the parish of Llanrug, and being the owner in the parish of Llanddeiniolen, whilst his niece Jane Jones is the tenant.

1841 Laurie WDT/2503 (Casgliad J.S Laurie a'i Gwmni, PCB)

1841 & 1851 Census: Home of Robert Thomas and his niece Jane Jones

1850 The Will of Robert Thomas of Erw, Conwy archives CX 619/6/1(Bryn Dyffryn Estate Llanrwst Documents): updated 1855, Residue of personal estate bequeathed to Jane Jones, niece. Trustees: nephew William Thomas of Bala, Ebenezer Robert of Crug, Richard Lewis Owen of Caernarfon, druggist.

1855 Grave of Robert Thomas of Erw Pwll y Glo in Llanrug church.

1861 1871 1881 census: Home of Jane Jones

1880 Gwynedd Archives XD/6857: Jane Jones of Erw Pwll y Glo, mortgage of a farm in Llannor.

1885 Newspaper record: Jane Jones 'declines farming'; offers land for rent.

1887 Newspaper record: Jane Jones; sale of farm stock and equipment.

1888 Newspaper record: Jane Jones; offers land for rent.

1889 Newspaper record: Morris Owen unsuccessfully sued by Griffith Griffiths for salary at Erw Pwll y Glo.

1889 Papurau Teulu Thomas, Tyddynyberth Bethel XM/8039/107 Cerdyn coffa? Miss Jane Jones, Yr Erw, near Caernarfon, born Tai'n y Maes, Pentrevoelas - 91 years of age. 2 cards.

1890 Newspaper record: Erw Pwll y Glo is offered for sale. Eleven properties are named.

1850? Yale and Hardcastle Papers GB 0219 XD/35 XS/2284 556: Map of Erw Pwll y Glo, 3 chains to 1" schedule of lands.

1890 Sale catalogue GB 2008 CSC14/116: Details of Erw estate.

1891 Census: Home of Morris Owen (nephew of Jane Jones)

1891-1916 numerous newspaper contributions by Morris Owen

1901 census: Home of Morris Owen

1911 census: Home of Morris Owen

1916 Newspaper record: Death announcement of Morris Owen.

1916 Newspaper record: Auction of Morris Owen's furniture and books.

1917 Newspaper record: Mrs Owen offers Erw Pwll y glo for rent.

1919 Newspaper record: Mrs Owen auctions furniture.

1921 Census: Home of Robert Edwards and family

1939 census: Home of Kate Edwards and Thomas Owen.

1978 Transfer of Deeds: between Gwilym Williams and Merfyn Hughes Roberts and Gwenda Roberts

1978 Listed Building Planning consent 3/18/LB299 dated 7th August 1978: Three drawings and a decision notice.

Census Records

Date	Name	Age*	Occupation	Parish of Birth
1841	Robert Thomas Griffith Griffiths Jane Jones Elin Williams Hannah Roberts	60 10 30 20 20	Farmer Servant Housekeeper Dairy Maid Labourer	
1851	Robert Thomas Griffith Griffiths Jane Jones Elin Jones Elinor Thomas	71 23 47 26 26		
1861	Jane Jones Griffith Griffiths Elen Williams Margaret Griffiths	60 33 21 13	Farmer Groom Dairy Maid House Servant	
1871	Jane Jones Jane Jones Elizabeth Jones	71 25 27	Farmer Dairy Maid General Servant	Pentrefoelas Llanllechid Llandegai
1881	Jane Jones Margaret Owen Morris Owen	82 31 37	Farmer of 40 acres General Servant Visitor (solicitor and commissioner independent practice)	Pentrefoelas Llanddeiniolen Pentrefoelas
1891	Morris Owen Elizabeth Parry Jane Jones	50 38 15	Solicitor General servant domestic General servant domestic	
1901	Morris Owen Grace Hughes Ann Hughes	60 20 17	Solicitor General servant domestic General servant domestic	Pentrefoelas Llanddeiniolen Llanddeiniolen
1911	Morris Owen Grace Hughes Ann Hughes	70 31 14	Solicitor Cook & housemaid Domestic Assistant	Pentrefoelas Llanddeiniolen Llanddeiniolen
1921	Robert Edwards Janet Edwards Catherine L Edwards Ellen Roberts niece Edward Thomas brother Robert Evans	68 68 32 39 83 24	Farmer Home duties Home duties Home duties Farm labourer Farm labourer	Llangwnadl Llanaelhaearn Mellteyrn (?) Llangybi Llangwnadl Llanddeiniolen
1939	Janet Edwards Catherine Owen Thomas Owen John E Hughes	Date of Birth 3 rd May 1857 14 th Nov 1886 3 rd Dec 1886 24 th Aug 1917	Domestic Duties Domestic Duties Farmer Farm Worker	

*age in the 1841 census were rounded