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## Gwerclas , Corwen

Denbighshire



Jenny Lees

2015 Revised 2019

### HOUSE HISTORY RESEARCH

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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## Gwerclas, Corwen, Denbighshire, LL21 0EW

NGR SJ 053 421



The splendid mansion of Gwerclas is a Grade 2 star listed building. It now lies within the modern county of Denbighshire but was part of the ancient county of Merioneth until 1974 and in the former county of Clwyd until 1996.

Gwerclas` parish was originally Llangar, in the ancient Hundred of Edeyrnion (or Edeirnion), but by 1901 Llangar was incorporated within the parish of Corwen. Historically, each parish also contained *townships*, and Gwerclas lay within the township of Cymer.<sup>1</sup>

The **Barons of Cymer** built what is currently thought to have been the earliest dwelling situated at Gwerclas. They were a branch of the **Barons of Edeyrnion** - descendants of one of the native royal families of Wales - and their lineage stemmed from **Madog ap Maredudd**, the last Welsh Prince to rule the whole of the ancient Kingdom of Powys<sup>2</sup>.

Before moving to Gwerclas the Cymer barons are believed to have lived at nearby Plas Uchaf,

known historically as Plas o Kymmer or Cymer. My photograph to the right shows its magnificent roof timbers. A separate DOWH house history for Plas Uchaf has now been published on

<https://discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk/>

We do not yet know where the earliest Barons of Cymer lived, but it should be mentioned that Gwerclas Mound, close to the present house, was previously thought to be the possible site of their





medieval castle. However, there is now evidence that the mound is likely to be a prehistoric burial mound of Bronze Age or possibly even earlier origin. (**Appendix One**)

Trefor O. Jones <sup>3</sup> quotes a suggestion by E.W. Edwards that the first syllable of *Gwerclas* is the middle-English *wark*, meaning a green mound, and mentions that the mound next to Gwerclas used to be called 'The Mount'. However, the 1614 burial record of Alice, wife of Baron Hugh ap William (below) refers to the house as *Gwerlleise* and the Welsh word *gwêr* can mean shade, so could the name refer to Gwerclas's position beside a wood?

Interestingly, Siôn Phylip's 1611 poem about Gwerclas (page 3-4 below) refers to the *Llys a'i chaer*, perhaps implying a court and its castle, although *caer* can also mean a wall, fort or citadel. Perhaps in the 1600s the inhabitants of Gwerclas thought Gwerclas Mound, with its 'kerbed' edges, was the castle of their ancestors?

We do know <sup>4</sup> that, by **1600** and possibly earlier, the **11<sup>th</sup> Baron of Cymer Hugh ap William** had moved from the dwelling of *Cymer* (now Plas Uchaf) to the present site of Gwerclas - a more sheltered site with plenty of room for expansion and close to *Afon Dyfrdwy* (the River Dee).

He had married **Alice**, daughter of **Richard of Llaneurgain** (Northop in Flintshire) and died on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.1600.<sup>5</sup> At this point their sons **Humphrey (1st)** and **Richard** adopted the English tradition for surnames; becoming known as the **Hughes of Gwerclas** (instead of **ap Hugh**).



Arms of the Hughes Lloyd family of Gwerclas (Image by Jenny Lees)

The arms of the Hughes Lloyd family of Gwerclas, pictured above, were added to the façade of the present house and can still be seen. They include rampant lions, wild boars and what some say <sup>6</sup> are the heads of three Englishmen killed at Oswestry! The latter presumably alludes to earlier events when, in a 1282 uprising against oppressive royal government, the

Baron of Cymer Gruffydd ap Iorwerth and his brother Elisse were among those who raided Oswestry<sup>7</sup>. However, I understand from other sources that the heads are from the arms of Ednyfed Fychan, ancestor of the Lloyd family who inherited Gwerclas.

**1601**, 2<sup>nd</sup> November: **Richard Hughes**, 4<sup>th</sup> son of **Hugh ap William**, married **Francesca Volpe**, descendant of a doctor famous in Queen Elizabeth's time. Before eventually becoming 13<sup>th</sup> Baron of Cymer in 1620, Richard resided at Skipton Castle in Craven, Yorkshire, as he was secretary to the Cliffords, Earls of Cumberland. (See **Appendix Two**). Their son **Humphrey Hughes the 2<sup>nd</sup>** was born in **1605**, possibly in Yorkshire.<sup>8</sup>

We can learn about life in **Hugh ap William**'s original house at Gwerclas from various sources, including literary compositions. In **1609** Edward Brynlllys<sup>9</sup> described the plant-filled garden of the old house at Gwerclas as

*“gardd wych hardd yw hon  
Heb le y wag o blanhigion”*

And in **1611** the bard Sion Phillipp<sup>10</sup> described *Gwerclas* as follows:

*“O'r llysoedd ar holl oesi  
Dan y nef adwaenwn i  
Gwn y lle y dymunwn ymfod  
Yn llys Wercllys lles wirglod  
Llys a'i chaer yn disgleiriaw  
Llys y draul a'r llysiau draw  
Ni welir llys hysbys iach  
Tra fo nasiwn drefnusach”*



The translation below<sup>11</sup> is by Alaw Mai Edwards:

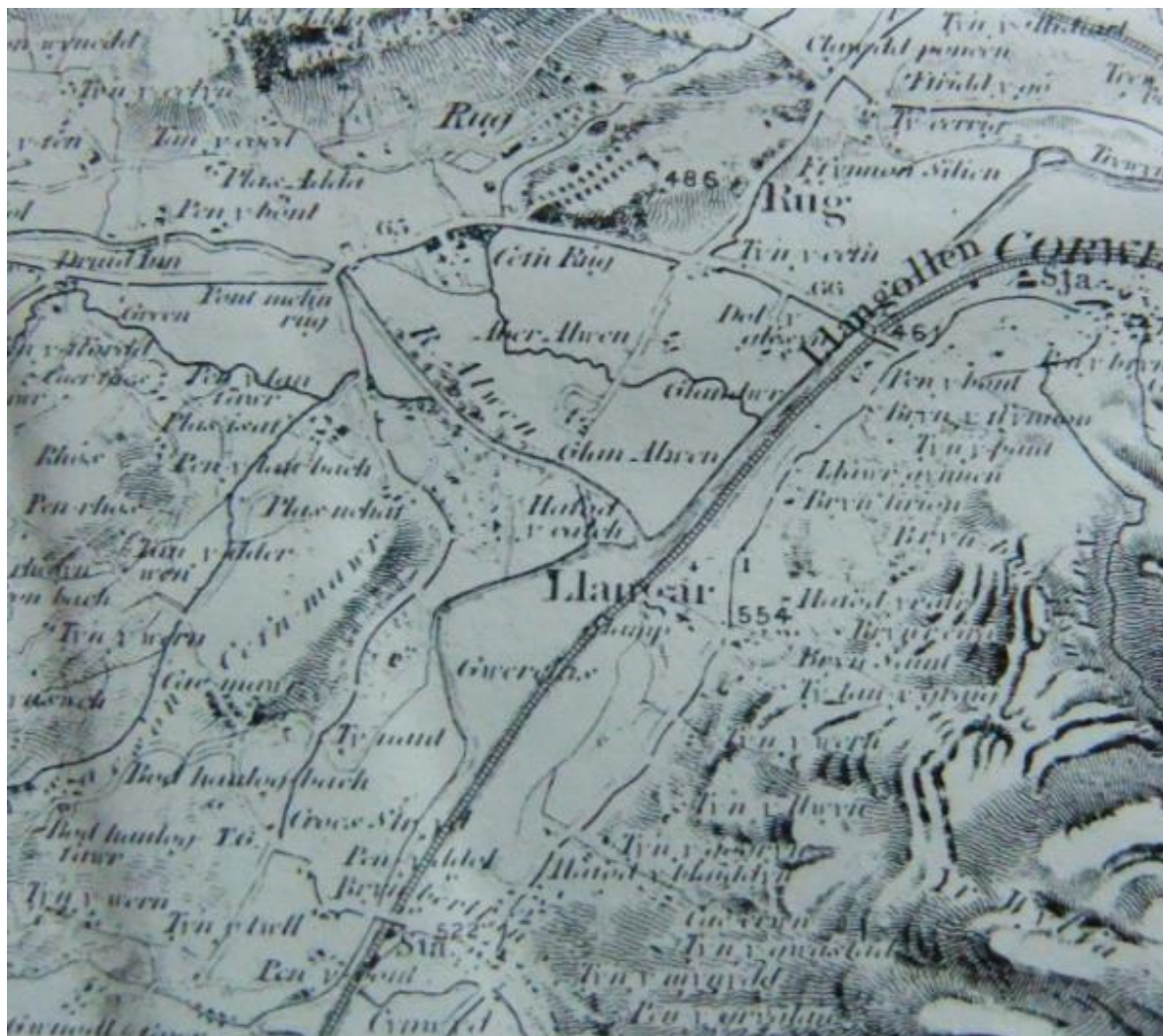
“Of all the courts I have known / under heaven, and all the life in them, / I know that the place where I wish to be / is in the court of Gwerclas, genuine the renown of its benefits, / A court whose fort glistens, / a court of expenditure with its vegetables yonder; / while there is a nation, it won't be possible to find / a flourishing and well-known court in better order”.

The image above shows part of Gwerclas garden today (Jenny Lees, 2015)



**1614:** Burial record of **Alice vch. Richard. Gwerlleise.** <sup>12</sup>

Gwerclas was evidently among the baronial courts that provided hospitality to the bards in exchange for entertainment and acclamation, and at some time during the **1600s** the bard Matthew Owen (1631 – 71) nearly drowned while punting across the flooded Dee on his way home from a *noson lawen* at Gwerclas. Matthew's home is thought to have been *Ty'n Llwyn Isaf*, called *Ty hen* in one deed; the foundations of which could still be seen in the field below *Bryn Llwyn Lodge* when William Irvine wrote about the bard in 1953.<sup>13</sup>



Detail from a 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey map

**1615, 13<sup>th</sup> Aug:** **Humphrey Hughes the 2<sup>nd</sup>** was married at the age of ten to the thirteen year old **Magdalen**, daughter and heir of **John Rogers-Wynne** of *Bryntangor*, Bryneglwyns, co.Denbigh.<sup>14</sup> This was probably an arranged marriage, designed to protect the estate of an heiress who could become the king's ward if she were to be unmarried at the time of her father's death. The Denbighshire **Bryntangor Rogers** family are listed as one of several titled Rogers families in Burke's General Armory.<sup>15</sup> At Bryntangor, five or six miles away from Gwerclas, a range of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural buildings still contains two surviving bays, separated by a cruck truss, of what may have been a mediaeval farmhouse.

**1618:** The Barons of Cymer were playing an important part in county life at this time, as the **1<sup>st</sup> Humphrey Hughes** was High Sheriff of Meirionnydd. <sup>16</sup>

An earlier poem by Roger Cyffin (fl. c. 1587–1609)<sup>17</sup> describes this first **Humffrey Hughes** as a magistrate:

*“Yn ustus cofys cyfiawn - sy heddiw  
yn swyddwr ar Feiriawn  
doeth wyt ymysg dysg a dawn  
enwog attwrney uniawn”*

Translation courtesy of Alaw Mai Edwards:

“A thoughtful, righteous justice – is today / a magistrate for Meirionnydd [**or** Merioneth]; / you are wise in learning and talent, / a well-known and just attorney.”

Another poem, by Tudor Owen, <sup>18</sup> describes Humffrey as a noble host worthy of praise:

*“Llirig bonheddig yn haeddu mawr glod  
Am roi gwledd a llety  
llyr teilwng llawer teulu  
llawengarw gwyh Llangar gu”*

Translation also by Alaw Mai Edwards:

“A noble protector who deserves great praise / for providing a feast and hospitality / a worthy Llŷr of many families / the excellent merry stag of beloved Llangar”.

**1619: Humphrey Hughes** contributed through his will to the reparation of the Cathedral of St Asaph and of Llangar Church. (SA/MISC/1405)

**1620** saw the burial <sup>19</sup> of the first **Humphrey Hughes** and the accession of his brother **Richard Hughes**, who became **13<sup>th</sup> Baron of Cymer**. However, instead of residing at Gwerclas, **Richard** remained near to Skipton Castle, residing at Rylston Hall, Craven.<sup>20</sup>

His wife **Francesca** died there on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1636 aged about 50, <sup>21</sup> and on his death in 1641 **Richard Hughes** *aged about four score* was buried on 23<sup>rd</sup> March *under the great stone next to my wife*, according to the directions in his will. While living at Rylston Hall Richard had left his son **Humphrey the 2<sup>nd</sup>** to look after Gwerclas. W.F Irvine describes two portraits of **Richard Hughes** and his wife **Francesca** (**Appendix 2**)

**1621/2:** Denbighshire Record Office (DD/GA/602): “Grant 24<sup>th</sup> March 1621/2 (i) **Thomas Lloyd of Plas Ennion**, co. Denbigh, gent (ii) **Richard Hughes of Gwerklise**, co. Merioneth, gent. One third of the tithes of Llandessilio and Bryneghwys, co. Denbigh.”

**1624**, 11<sup>th</sup> November: **Humphrey Hughes the 2<sup>nd</sup>** in his Memorandum Book <sup>22</sup> gives this as the birth date of his son **Richard**, the first of seventeen children by his first wife **Maudlen**. Richard was followed by his younger brother **John Hughes** on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1626; a son and daughter on 4 May 1627 who *then died*; **Thomas and Frances Hughes** 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1628, and **Henry and Robert Hughes** 16<sup>th</sup> March 1629[1630?].

But the first of **Humphrey** and **Maudlen**’s children recorded as baptized in Llangar parish was **Dorothy Hughes** in April 1632, followed by **Maudlen Hughes** October **1633**; **Catherine Hughes** May **1635**; **Hugh Hughes** April **1637**; **Charles Hughes** 18<sup>th</sup> October **1638**; <sup>23</sup> **Henrie Hughes** June **1640**; **Andrew and Jane Hughes** September **1643**, and **Joyce Hughes** April **1647**. Their daughter Dorothy married Thomas Yale.



Above: The village of Cynwyd (date of image not known)

**1636:** The following is the catalogue entry for the earliest surviving record I have found (so far) of a local property transaction mentioning the Cymer barons from Gwerclas:

“1: **Gruffith ap Robert of Kynwyd**, yeoman. 2: **Humffrey Hughes of Gwerchles**, *gent*. DEED OF EXCHANGE of parcel of land called *y wern* for *twr ucha y wern*, pa. [rish] Llangar, and equity exchange of £9.10.0d. Decayed. Attached: 2. David Jones of Corwen, yeoman; Owen Jones of Llangar, yeoman; and Stephen Gruffith, son and heir of G. ap R., decd. ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT for Quiet Possession of the above property. Decayed” 17 May 1636. <sup>24</sup>



A property called *Twr* still exists near *Cynwyd* (pictured above, p.6)

Subsequent land ownership within *Cymer* until the 17<sup>th</sup> century is unclear, but the early **Barons of Edeyrnion** had considerable power in the local area, as they were granted the rights of *Pennaeth* or Welsh Barony,<sup>25</sup> which included the right to hang convicted felonious tenants on their own gallows! No court records remain as they are said<sup>26</sup> to have been burnt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Hugh Hughes of Gwerclas during a dispute with his neighbours. We do however know that a court was once held at *Cynwyd*, which seem to have been the commotal centre by the later middle ages.<sup>27</sup> Local land ownership was also complicated by the extensive intermarriage that had already occurred between descendants of Owain Brogontyn's three sons; Bleddyn, Gruffudd and Iorwerth.

**1641**, 21<sup>st</sup> March: **Richard Hughes** died at Rylston Hall, making **Humphrey Hughes the 2<sup>nd</sup>** the **14<sup>th</sup> Baron of Cymer**.

**1642 -1651**: We know that during this period **Humphrey Hughes the 2<sup>nd</sup>** was involved in the Civil Wars as a Royalist: "HUGHES, Humphrey, of Merioneth, Commissioner of Array. Reference: Calendar of the Committee for Compounding 57. P. R. O." Humphrey was *Compounded for £333/1/9, at one sixth*, which meant that he lost one sixth of the value of his estates.<sup>28</sup>

Sadly, in **1644 Humphrey's** eldest son **Richard** was killed in the King's service, and in **1645 Humphrey** is said to have "put himself at the mercy of the Parliamentarians when the men of Charles 1<sup>st</sup> were scattered at Rowton Moor, near Chester."<sup>29</sup> In **1648** Humphrey is said to have fought at the battle of *Y Dalar Hir*, near Aber,<sup>30</sup> and was said to be of "*Querkle*" (Gwerclas).<sup>31</sup>

Tucker<sup>32</sup> also tells us that **Captain Thomas Yale of Plas yn Ial**, who seems to have been married to the **Dorothy Hughes** of Gwerclas born in 1632, served in his kinsman Sir Evan Lloyd's *foot*. Sadly we also know from Llangar Parish Records **that Thomas Hughes, son of Thomas Yale and Dorothy Hughes**, was buried on 2<sup>nd</sup> May **1652**.

**1648**, April 19: The lease below is interesting, as the 15<sup>th</sup> Baron of Cymer Thomas Hughes, who was buried in 1670, had married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Griffiths of *Plas Einion*.

"1. William Parry of Nanclywd [sic], co. Denbigh, esq., **Humphrey Hughes of Gwerklas**, co. Merioneth, esq., and Ambrose Thelwall of Llanrhydd and Thomas Jones of Graig, both of co. Denbigh, gentlemen; 2. **Elizabeth Lloyd**, widow, late wife of Thomas Lloyd late of **Plas Engion**, co. Denbigh, gent., deceased.

LEASE for 10 years of *Plas Engion* and parcels of land called *Dol Engion*, *y brynnie*, *Plas gwien*, *y fron goch*, *gwern dol y kyllenllwyn*, *kay ffynon*, *y priddbwl*, *kay pen y berllan*, *erw r hunud*, *kay pen y bont*, *gweirglodd farthin*, *y sinach*, *dol y gogor*, *kefn tir marthin*, *y wern*, *y coyd*, *kay David*, *kay Twmlyn*, *y kay dan y Ty hen*, *y coppi*, and *dol y kellenllwyn*, all in Eyarth, co. Denbigh. Counterpart".<sup>33</sup>

**1651, July 24:** A further property transaction: “1. **Hunfrey Hughes of Gwerckles**, Esq. 2. Stephen Gruffith, son and heir of Gruffith ap Robert of Kynwyd, decd. RELEASE of parcel of land called *Kwr ucha y wern* in Llangar with GRANT of right of way from the highway from Kynwyd to Llangar along a parcel of land called *y kay mawr* to *kwr ucha y werne*”<sup>34</sup>



**1650s:** Possible remains of the earlier house or houses on the site of *Gwerclas* have been investigated by the *Discovering Old Welsh Houses Group* (DOWH)<sup>35</sup> and a felling date in the **1650s** for timbers from a Gwerclas outbuilding in the range illustrated above has been obtained by dendrochronology. By looking through the square opening in the picture below left, one can see the unusual lattice braced truss of the former gable end, pictured on the right (see **Appendix Three**).



(Images by Jenny Lees, 2015)

**1655** saw a major change for **Humphrey the 2<sup>nd</sup>**, as Llangar Parish Records tell us that **Magdalen, wife of Humphrey Hughes ,Gent. Gwerclas**, was *buried in church* on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1655. Humphrey was to marry again three times, but seemingly did not have more children.

**1656/7**, Feb.18<sup>th</sup>: “John Jones of Llanarmon in Yale, co. Denbs. gent. 2. **Humffrey Hughes of Gwerckles**, Esq. LEASE of POSSESSION of portion of close called *y tir Cyd*. Consideration: 5/=. Badly decayed”. This property transaction was followed on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb by: “1. John Jones of Llanarmon in Yale, co. Denbs. gent. 2. **Humffrey Hughes of Gwerckles**, Esq. RELEASE of parcel of land called *Tir Cyd in Kymer and Llangar*. Consideration: £5. Document damaged and slightly stained”. (N.L.W. Rug 1164.)<sup>37</sup>

On 18 May **1659 Humphrey Hughes the 2<sup>nd</sup>** married **Ellennor, daughter of John Savage Esq., of Barrow, co. Chester**, widow of Francis Fitton Esq., of *Carden*.<sup>36</sup> Sadly she died two years later, aged fifty-five, and was buried on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1661 (Llangar Parish Records)

**1660**: A “Lease of possession of manors or lordships of *Glyndoverdwy* and *Rug*”<sup>38</sup> mentions “2 out of lands of **Humphrey Hughes Esq**”.

**1661: Humphrey Hughes the 2<sup>nd</sup>** was High Sheriff of Meirionydd.<sup>39</sup>

**1662**, 31<sup>st</sup> May: **Humphrey** married his third wife, **Sarah, daughter of Richard Franklin, of Ebsworth, co. Cambridge, Esq.**<sup>40</sup> But once again he was soon widowed, as Sarah was buried on 22 October 1666 (Llangar Parish Records).

**1662**, 31<sup>st</sup> January (XD2/174): “1. **Hunfrey Hughes** of *Gwerckleis*, Esq., late High Sheriff of Merioneth [Meirionnydd]. 2. William Salesbury of Rug, Esq., now High Sheriff of Merioneth [Meirionnydd]. DELIVERY OF WRITS, Prisoners, and all accounts thereof depending.” [N.L.W. Rug 79]<sup>39</sup>.

**1662**: The *Lay Subsidy Roll*<sup>41</sup> for *Kymer* and Llangar (1665-6) records **Humphrey Hughes Esq.** of Gwerclas as having 7 / 11 hearths[?] in 1662 (quoted in William Irving Papers)<sup>20</sup>

There is a possibility that the messuage at this time may have been built according to the unit system (see **Appendix Four**).

**1662 - 1674**: The **Memorandum Book of Humffrey Hughes** (pictured below) is the focus of a recent article<sup>42</sup> by Merfyn Wyn Tomos, who includes his own transcriptions of actual pages from the book. Humffrey’s record of the births, deaths and marriages of his extended family, in the section “A Register of and from my father and mother’s marriage and soe downwards descenable”, provides an interesting record of intermarriage with other gentry families, including the **Masmor** family of nearby Maesmore Hall. This important 17<sup>th</sup> century document also gives us detailed information on crops grown and wages paid by the Gwerclas estate (**Appendix 5**).



**1666: Humphrey Hughes** was married for a fourth time, to **Eleanor Mutton/Mytton**.<sup>43</sup>

From an 1890 Mytton of Garth pedigree<sup>44</sup> we learn that Eleanor's first husband was James Mytton (1600-1658), the descendant of **Sir Everard De Mutton**, a knight who "was slain in the Wars of Mawde the Emprise, An'o Dom. 1154." At the time of her marriage to Humphrey Eleanor already had three children from her first marriage, including **Elizabeth** who married **Charles Hughes, Esq.**, of Bryntangor and Gwerclas (High Sheriff of Merioneth in 1689).



**1670, 2<sup>nd</sup> April:** Death of **Thomas Hughes**, 15<sup>th</sup> Baron of Cymer. W.F. Irvine<sup>45</sup> describes a portrait of Thomas at Niton Rectory [description by John Hastings Lloyd?]: "Capt. Thomas Hughes has flowing cavalier locks, reddish in colour and his hands rests on "Littleton's tenures", - so evidently he was a lawyer"

**1679 - 80:** In the Newborough Collection are several documents<sup>46</sup> concerning a *Bill of Complaint* by the Salesburies of Rug against **Humphrey Hughes of Gwerclas, Esq.** They concern "recovery of a rent of 8/4d p.a. out of lands in township Kymmer and Llangar," in which **Sir Roger Mostin, of Mostin, co. Flint, Kt. and Bart** acts for "**Owen Salesbury of Rugg, an infant**". So there seems to be a dispute between Gwerclas and Rug about land ownership?

**1681** The *Notitiae of the Parishes of the Diocese of St Asaph*<sup>47</sup> lists the *Souls* within each parish. For Gwerclas in 1681 are listed **Humphrey Hughes** and his wife: "In his family reside 12 souls and none under 18 years old" - though the 1912 transcript advises that *Souls* under 18 are not always included. The *Notitiae* also record that: *There are no dissenters in the parish but all rightly fixed in their religion* and states that none have been excommunicated.

Moor, ger Caer. Dirwywyd ef gan y Tŷbwnlys i'r swm oedd gyfwerth  
A'r chweched ran o werth ei ystad. Nodir y dirwy yn £331.1.9.\*

Dyma gopi o ewyllys Humphrey Hughes, Gwerclas, 1682.

I, in name of God the five and twentieth day of April in the  
four and thirtieth yeare of the rainge of our Sovereigne Lord  
Charles the Second . . . one thousand six hundred eighty and  
two.

I Humphrey Hughes of Gwerclas . . . Llangar . . . being  
sicke in body, but yett of good and perfect minde and memory  
. . . doe make and ordaine this my last will and ye same in  
writing in manner and forme following. First I command my  
soul to Almighty . . . and my body to be buried in Christian  
Buriall according to the discretion of my executors herein  
hereafter named.

I leave and bequeath to my sonne Hugh Hughes 1/-

do daughter Jane 1/-

do loving wife Elinor Hughes 1/-

I do nominate and appointe my sonne Charles Hughes of  
Bryntangor to be sole executor of this my last will — witness  
my hand

Humphrey Hughes.

Sealed in the presence of

Dorothy Yale.

Elisha Yale.

Hugh Hughes.

May 1682.

Caroline Hughes.

I. Edwards.\*

Dilyni'r hyn gan brisiad o'r holl bethau a oedd yn y Plas. Yr hyn  
a'm synna yw na sonni'r am ddodrefn o ddini gwerth mawr mewn  
teulu o'r fath urddas â theulu Gwerclas. Fodd bynnag, fe rydd  
y cyfrif rhyw syniad inni sut le oedd Gwerclas yn y cyfnod hwn,  
a'r ystafelloedd o'i fewn. Ond yn yr ewyllys, y cwestiwn y gellir  
ei ofyn yw, i bwy ac i ble yr aeth yr arian os nad i Richard  
Hughes?

1682. May 12.

A true and perfect Inventory of all singular ye goods, Cattles,  
Chattles, households, Implements of Husbandry mentioned  
and un-mentioned of Humphrey Hughes of Gwerclas Llangar,  
Esq. late de'd, made appraised and valued on ye Twelfth day  
of May in the year of 1682.

LINENS IN YE KITCHEN CHAMBER.

£ s d

20 old fine napkins.

1: 0: 0

2 pair of fine flaxen sheets.

14: 0

2 pair of fine holland pillow beers.

8: 0

3 do of middle sort of sheets.

15: 0

1 do of old flaxen sheets.

14: 0

1 do of old sheets.

1: 0

14 do of old hempen sheets.

14: 0

1 do of winnowing sheets.

3: 0

3 do of coarse Table cloths.

6: 6

3 dozen of coarse napkins.

9: 0

4 old Table cloths.

5: 0

3 dozen and halfe of old napkins.

5: 0

3 cupboard cloths and 7 towells.

3: 4

PEWTER.

6 of ye largest pewter platts and dishes.

£2: 0: 0

7 of ye middle sort of dishes.

1: 5: 0

1 small dishes.

7: 0

4 little dishes.

4: 0

1 Standart.

1: 0

3 old dishes.

2: 0

4 platts.

2: 0

2 pie platts and 10 Sanfers.

2: 6

1 great flagen.

6: 0

1 quart and 2 other flagens.

5: 0

7 Chamber pots.

6: 0

6 great brass candlesticks, and 2 little ones.

12: 0

6 dozen of Sycamore Trenchers both great and small.

7: 0

IN YE OLDE SCHOOL CHAMBER.

2 pair of fine holland pillow beers.

4: 0

1 damaske Table Cloth, Cupboard Cloth, 2 Napkins.

5: 0

1 Cupboard Cloth, 1 Table Cloth, 1 towell,

1 dozen of napkins.

10: 0

1 flaxen Table Cloth, 1 cupboard Cloth and Towell.

5: 0

5 paire of fine flaxen sheets.

2: 5: 0

EWES AND LAMBS.

84 ewes with lambs at 3/6 a piece.

14:14: 0

6 score and 10 sheepe of all sort at 3/.

19:10: 0

HORSES.

1 young grey mare.

6: 0: 0

3 colts, old horse and 3 old mares.

8: 5: 0

28

29

**1682:** The inventory<sup>48</sup> of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Humphrey Hughes**, 14<sup>th</sup> Baron of Cymer, gives us some idea of what the house at Gwerclas was like in 1682. From this we know that the rooms and their contents included *Ye Hall* with silver tableware and *4 pieces of Gold*; *Ye Old Kitchen* with *2 beds in ye Servants Chamber*; *Ye Great Parlour* with *an old virginall case*; *Ye Kitchen Chamber* with *old hempen, flaxen* and *winnowing sheets*, and a *little trunkle bed* in *Ye School Chamber*. A transcript is contained in Trefor O. Jones` 1975 book, photographed above with further pages are reproduced in **Appendix 6**.

**1682:** Engraving originally at Llangar Church:

H.H. DE GWERK  
 gle sarm sept fvit  
 die maii anno aet  
 svie 77. 1682<sup>49</sup>

**1684**, 24 September, Llangar Parish Records: Burial of **Elizabeth**, wife of **Charles Hughes Esq.** *Gwerglas*.

**1685**, 14<sup>th</sup> March, Llangar Parish Records: a further entry for burial of a **third “Humffrey Hughes”**, *Gwerglas* This could be the *Humfrey Hughes* born to Thomas Hughes (son of Humphrey Hughes the 2<sup>nd</sup>) and his second wife Margaret Griffiths on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 1667. The couple also had a previous infant called *Humfrey* born on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 1663 who “*died the 19<sup>th</sup> of September following.*”<sup>22</sup>.

**1686**: For this year the Notitiae (mentioned above) recorded that Gwerclas Souls included **Charles Hughes** Esquire; **Mrs Jane Hughes**, **Mrs Martha Milton**, **Mrs Jane Maesmore** and eight servants. (A **Jane Masmor** was born on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1665 to Humphrey Hughes the 2<sup>nd</sup>’s daughter *Katherin* and her husband *John Masmor*<sup>22</sup>

**1694**: **Charles Hughes** is listed as being responsible within the county of Merioneth for a tax raised in the Reign of William and Mary to fund “carrying on the Warr against France with vigour”.<sup>50</sup>

**1694**, 1<sup>st</sup> July: Death of **John Hughes**, “seated at Kymmer yn Edeirnion,” (having drowned in the River Dee). John was a son of 15<sup>th</sup> Baron Thomas Hughes and Margaret Griffiths<sup>22</sup>, and younger brother of Hugh. His wife **Dorothy**, daughter of Andrew Lloyd of Plymog, died in childbirth the next day but their son Daniel survived.<sup>51</sup>

**1695**: Edward Llwyd in *Parochialia*<sup>52</sup> says of Gwerclas that “**Charles Hughes** is ye present proprietor and Plas Ychaf idem”.

**1704**: St Asaph Probate records:<sup>53</sup> Will of **Charles Hughes of Gwergles, Llangar**. **Charles** asks for his body to be buried on the south side of the churchyard of Llangar, beside his wife, and this document is of interest in that it demonstrates relationships by marriage between the Hughes family and the **Maurice, Maysmore, Middleton, Price and Yale** families. (Transcript in **Appendix Seven**).

**1704**: For each year from 1703 to 1764 Llangar Churchwardens` Accounts<sup>54</sup> contain the *Church Mise* payments due from named persons, followed by detailed accounts of the *Disbursements* (payments) made by the churchwarden or wardens for that year. Wardens changed every year and even **Roger Salesbury** of Rhûg and **Hugh Hughes** of Gwerclas took their turn. In **1704 Hugh Hughes** paid 13 shillings 4 pence (the highest contribution within Llangar Parish, with the total mise being £2 12s 1½ d) and in **1712** he was charged £1 6s 8d plus 2s for a separate property listed as *Hugh Hughes or tenant*.

**1710**, 26 April: “*Underneath lyeth interr`d the body of Dorothy 4<sup>th</sup> daughter of John Maesmore of Maesmore Esq. by Catherine his wife, daughter of Humphrey Hughes of Gwerclas, Esq. who dy`d April 26 A/oD/ni 1710.*”<sup>55</sup>

**1713**: St Asaph Probate records (SA/1713/112): Will of **Dorothy Maysmor, Gwerkles, Llangar, Spinster**. This mentions her father, **John Maysmor**, and nine other relatives from the **Maysmor, Price, Hughes and Mostyn families** (see **Appendix Eight**). The Will also refers



to “all that Capitall messuage called & knowne by the name of Maysmor” - presumably a precursor of today’s Maesmore Hall which lies between Maerdy and Dinmael near Corwen.

**1713: Catherine Maesmore** died as a widow in March 1713. “Buried within Llangar Church where there is a Monument to her Memory, with inscription *lived with his wife fifty yeares comfortably & had by her 13 sons & 5 daughters*.”<sup>56</sup> Catherine, the daughter of **Humphrey Hughes**, had married John Maesmore, and Humphrey recorded the names of the couple’s children in his Memorandum Book.



Llangar church looking towards Gwerclas: the outbuildings are to the top left of the image and Hafod y calch can be seen in the distance behind the church. (Image by Stephen Lees)

**1715-16:** Llangar Churchwardens` Accounts<sup>54</sup> record that a disbursement was made by the churchwarden for “carrying all the tymber and the gate from Gwerclas to Llangar”. A wood of several acres still exists at Gwerclas.

**1720: Hugh Hughes of Gwerclas and Bryntangor** was High Sheriff of Merioneth<sup>57</sup>

**1720:** “Articles of Agreement touching rectory of Llaniwlllyn”, **Hugh Hughes**.<sup>58</sup>

**1725, 2<sup>nd</sup> April:** **Hugh Hughes** was buried at Llangar (Llangar Parish Records).

**1725:** Engraving restored by **John Hughes Esq.** and **Talbot de Bashall Hughes Esq.** in 1859, originally at Llangar church: “**HUGO HUGHES DE GWERCLAS A.D. 1725**”<sup>59</sup>

**1725:** Will of **Hugh Hughes**, *Gwerckles* (**Appendix 9**). In his Will Hugh's wife is named as Jane, but J.Y.W. Lloyd <sup>5</sup> states that Hugh Hughes married *Dorothy, d.of Thomas Yale of Plas yn Ial*. So did he remarry?

**1725:** Following the death of **Hugh Hughes**, his widow **Madm. Hughes** is listed as paying the church mise of 13s 4d (Llangar Churchwardens'Accounts).

**1725, 12 July:** Burial of Ann Meredith, late servant maid at Gwerclas (Llangar Parish Records).



Gwerclas pew in Llangar church (Jenny Lees 2018)

**1727, 12 May:** Baptism of **Edward Lloyd**, son of **Edward [Lloyd, of Plymog]** and **Dorothy [Hughes]**, *Gwerclas*. Edward died as an infant and was buried on 20 February 1728 (Llangar Parish Records).

**1728:** Referring to positions of social hierarchy reflected in the church mise listings, D. Morgan Evans comments that **Edward Lloyd** moved to the top of the list and stayed there until his death and burial on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1742. <sup>60</sup>

**1729:** In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century particular pews in church belonged to specific houses rather than to particular people, with the current property owner or tenant being responsible for maintenance of their own "property pew". The visiting rural dean, Rev. John Wynne, reported of Llangar's *Gwerclas* pew that: "the back of it is unreasonably high, reaching almost to the roof and making it impossible to inscribe on the wall any chosen, select

sentences, or as much as the Creed or Ten Commandments".<sup>61</sup> Such scriptural inscriptions would have been of considerable importance during a period of high illiteracy.



Llangar church interior (Jenny Lees 2018)

Morgan Evans<sup>62</sup> concludes that in 1729 the *Gwerclas* pew was situated within the altar rails on the south side of the church, opposite the similarly high-backed *Hafod* gentry pew on the north side of the chancel, which belonged to the house now known as *Hafod y Calch*.<sup>63,64</sup> However, following remodelling of Llangar church the *Gwerclas* pew is now opposite the “south” pulpit, constructed of 17<sup>th</sup> century panels plus a back panel with a carved 1711 date and the painted coat of arms of the Hughes family.

**1730:** The rural dean in his report commanded:

“The Churchyard is not spacious, nor the Fences of it tolerable. Mr Lloyd of Gwerclas the Squire of the Place engag’d to see them speedily repair’d.” Consequently payments were ordered to **Squire Lloyd** “for Plaistering at the Enting to the Church yard.2s 6d” and “five shillings more towards making the Ch-yard wall.”<sup>65</sup>

**1732: Edward Lloyd Esq.** of Gwerclas was High Sheriff of Merionethshire.<sup>66</sup>

**1732:** 27<sup>th</sup> August **Dorothy, wife of Edward Lloyd**, died: “To my excessive grief my dear wife dyed Sunday Augst. 27<sup>th</sup> 1732 abt. 11 o’clock in ye morning & was interr’d ye Thursday



following at Llangar". (From note by Edward Lloyd in the Family Bible Register; see **Appendix 14**). Her burial is recorded for 31<sup>st</sup> August in Llangar parish records and £3 14s 10d was collected at her funeral (*Edward Samuel's register*).

**1733**, 18<sup>th</sup> August: Burial of **Magdalen, Mrs Hughes, Gwerclas** (Llangar Parish Records). She **could** have been the Maudlen Hughes mentioned in Humffrey Hughes' Memorandum Book, born on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1665 to Thomas Hughes, 15<sup>th</sup> Baron of Cymer and his second wife Margaret Griffiths.



Llangar church viewed from the lych gate (Image by Jenny Lees)

**1735**, 13 Jan: Burial of "**Jane, Madam Hughes, wid. Of Hugh, Esq. Gwerclas**" (Llangar parish records). Also **1735** Will of **Jane Hughes**, "widdow and relief" of **Hugh Hughes**.<sup>67</sup> (**Appendix Ten**)

**1736: Edward Lloyd** was High Sheriff of Denbighshire

**1742**, May: **Edward Lloyd** was buried at Llangar. A tablet now in Cynwyd church reads:

"Underneath lie interr'd ...The remains of Edward Lloyd of *Plymog* In the County of Denbigh, Esq<sup>r</sup>. Who Departed this life the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1742. He married Dorothy, Daughter and Heir of Hugh Hughes late of *Gwerclas* Esq<sup>r</sup>. By whom he had Issue two Sons ... Hugh Hughes [Lloyd] and Edward. She died 27<sup>th</sup> August 1732. Edward died an infant 17<sup>th</sup> of February 1727.

Hugh Hughes Lloyd, Esq<sup>r</sup>... their Son and Heir in gratefull memory... Of his good and indulgent parents ... Has erected this Monument. Removed from All Saints Llangar in 1897 by two of his descendants."<sup>68</sup> (Image by Jenny Lees below).



**1742:** Following the death of Edward Lloyd, the church mise payments for Gwerclas were taken over by **Humphrey Pierce**, whose name topped the *mise* list. His 1764 Will (**Appendix 11**) suggests that he took over the management of “Gwerclas farm”.

**1747: Hugh Lloyd Esq of Gwerclas** was High Sheriff of Merionethshire <sup>69</sup> [This was Hugh Hughes Lloyd]

**1748:** Another drowning is recorded: “**David Rowland**, former gardener at Gwerclas then Rug, buried 3 July – drowned in Dee after drawing a net”. (Llangar Parish Records; E. Samuel’s register).



River Dee at its confluence with the river Alwen. Llangar church is to the left and the former tavern of *Stamp* on the right, while behind lies the Berwyn mountainside (Jenny Lees)

**1749-50**, Feb 10<sup>th</sup> Burial of **Morris Edwards, son of Edward Robert, Ty` ynyrhyd**, Servant at Gwerclas, Cymmer. (Llangar Parish Records)

**1751**. August 28: “Gwerclas, **H.H Lloyd** to **Price, Maurice**. A dispute about a lime kiln.” (National Library of Wales: ARCH/MSS (GB0210) E (2923). This kiln seems to have been on another of the estates owned by the family, not the Gwerclas estate.

**1764:** Will of **Humphrey Pierce** of Gwerclas: mentions the “Farm of Gwerclas I hold under Hugh Hughes Lloyd Esq.” (**Appendix Eleven**)

**1764:** Burial of **Humphrey Pierce, Gwerclas** (Llangar Parish Records)

**1766:** The 1766 Marriage Settlement <sup>70</sup> of **Hugh Hughes Lloyd** and his future wife **Margaret Walmesley** is a massive document of considerable importance to the **Cynwyd** area, as it mentions around forty local properties together with names of their contemporary and penultimate occupants. At this time peat was burnt as fuel, and each of the homesteads within the Gwerclas estate inherited the right of “cutting or digging Turf and Peate” on the



moorlands of either *Berwyn* or *Mynyllod*, and occasionally in both locations (**Appendix Twelve**).

**1766**, 18<sup>th</sup> April: **Hugh Hughes Lloyd** married **Margaret Walmsley**, daughter of **Richard Walmsley** and therefore heiress of **Bashall** in Yorkshire, at St Michael's church Chester. (A copy is in Llangar Parish records). According to the pedigree of **Walmsley** of Coldcoates, Margaret Walmsley was baptized on 30 Aug 1736 at Mitton.

**1767**: **Hugh Hughes Lloyd** built the present house of Gwerclas. Marcus Binney<sup>6</sup> observed that virtually no alterations had been made to the house since it had become a tenanted farm on Rug estate in 1824.



Arch at Gwerclas leading to cobble yard and service wing (Jenny Lees 2016)

**1768**, 4<sup>th</sup> Nov: **Richard Hughes Lloyd**, Hugh and Margaret's eldest son, was born. There followed two younger sons, **Edward** and **Robert** who died, aged four and fourteen respectively. A fourth son, **John**, was later "**of Bashall Lodge**" and died at the Cape in 1825. The daughters were **Sarah Margareta**, b.1767 and d.1835, unmarried, and **Catherine-Dorothea**, b. and d.1777. (**Appendix 14**).

**1768**: Elizabeth Baker correspondence<sup>71</sup> - mentioning Gwerclas.

**1771**, 16<sup>th</sup> October: Baptism of **Jno. Lloyd**, son of Hugh Hughes Lloyd and Margaret (Llangar Parish Records)



**1772:** There exists a folder of original letters written in the 1770s by **Margaret Lloyd** to her close friend **Elizabeth Baker**.<sup>72</sup> Elizabeth had moved from London to Dolgellau in 1770 as a partner in a Merioneth mining venture and was befriended by bonviveur **Hugh Vaughan** of **Hengwrt** and **Nannau**, whose relations were living at **Rhûg**. Hugh had to leave Hengwrt to avoid arrest, as fraudulent Oswestry solicitor Robert Lloyd was sending bailiffs, but Elizabeth stayed there for some time. Although Margaret and Elizabeth confided in each other, they addressed each other in the formal manner characteristic of the period and **Appendix Thirteen** contains a transcript of some of this fascinating correspondence. Elizabeth and Margaret collaborated on a spinning scheme to help the poor. Margaret also mentions *Major Myddleton and his Lady of Nantclwyd*, members of a well-known local gentry family. Interestingly Margaret, who was English, tells Elizabeth “My eldest son is just come up and is instructing me in the Welch language.”

**1773**, 29<sup>th</sup> Feb (sic): Burial of **Edward Lloyd**, son of Hugh Hughes Lloyd and Margaret Esq. (Llangar Parish Records)

**1775:** Llangar church had by now acquired an English Bible and Prayer Book presented by **Mrs Lloyd** of Gwerclas,<sup>73</sup> whereas in 1753 the church only possessed a Welsh Bible and Prayer Book.

1782: “CORRESPONDENCE re APPOINTMENT: Gwerclas 10 October 1782. *Dear Sir, Upon the death of the late market clerk of Corwen we appointed Mr. Thomas Jones of Tre yr ddol to that office until the Quarter. As we think him a proper person, request you will present our compliments to the gentlemen who attend at the Quarter and mention it as our request that he may continued [sic] in his place. We are, Sir, your very humble servants, H. H. Lloyd, Roger Jones* (letter written by the latter). At the Foot: 11th October 1782. Mr. Thomas Jones of Tre'r ddol was in compliance with the above request appointed market clerk of Corwen.”<sup>74</sup>

**1783:** On 3rd January 1783, Elizabeth Baker dined at Gwerclas and wrote in her diary: “The dinner was a very good one and **Mrs Lloyd** received me in her best manner ... showed me all her house which merits praise, it surpasses any of the size that I’ve seen in the principality and is a modern building pleasantly situated.”<sup>75</sup>

**1784:** Burial of **Robert Lloyd, Gwerclas. Son of Hugh and Margaret Esq.** (Llangar Parish Records) [aged 14]

**1786**, 25<sup>th</sup> Jan: Burial of **Catherine Clough, Spinster, Gwerclas** (Llangar Parish Records)

**1786**, 8<sup>th</sup> June: Burial of **Simon Evans, Gwerclas** (Llangar Parish Records)

**1788**, April: Burial of **Hugh Hughes Lloyd Esq. Gwerclas.** (Llangar Parish Records)

(His Will is in the National Library of Wales but not accessible on line).

**1792**, 15 December: Burial of **William Jones, Gwerclas, “poor.”** (Llangar Parish Records)

**1794:** 6<sup>th</sup> (or 8<sup>th</sup>?) April, baptism of **Owen Edwards, son of Edward and Anne, Gwerclas.** (Llangar Parish Records).

From around **1794** until the sale of *Gwerclas* in 1824 there was a court case involving the Passinghams that gradually ruined the Gwerclas family fortunes. (**Appendix 14**)

**1795,** 16<sup>th</sup> Dec: **Margaret Lloyd, widow,** and her spinster daughter **Sarah Margareta Lloyd** are now both described as “**of Chester.**” **Sarah** and her brother, **John Lloyd of Kirkby Lonsdale, co. Westmorland,** surrender their share of an inheritance to their elder brother, **Richard Hughes Lloyd,** for a *consideration* of legacies of £1,000 apiece. *Galltfaenan* MSS: Estates of the Salusbury family of Galltfaenan (DD/GA/663).

**1796,** 4<sup>th</sup> Sept: Baptism of **Denston Edwards, son of Edward and Anne, Gwerclas.** (Llangar Parish Records)

**1798,** 11<sup>th</sup> July: Baptism of **Robert Edwards, son of Edward and Anne, Gwerclas.** (Llangar Parish Records)

**1798:** **Richard Hughes Lloyd** married **Caroline Thompson** at Deal and their first child **Caroline Margaret** [no date] was also born at Deal (**Appendix 14**)

**1800,** 26<sup>th</sup> May: Burial of “**Mrs Lloyd, widow of Hugh Hughes Lloyd Esq. Gwerclas.** (Llangar Parish Records)

**1801,** 16<sup>th</sup> Nov: Baptism of **Stephen Edwards, son of Edward and Anne, Gwerclas.** (Llangar Parish Records)

**1801,** August: **Richard Hughes Lloyd**`s 2<sup>nd</sup> child **Richard Walmsley** was born at Penzance and from **1802 - 1816** nine more children, making eleven children in all, were born to **Richard and Caroline** at Gwerclas (**Appendix 14**)

Llangar Parish Records record the following baptisms of children of **Richard Hughes Esq** and **Caroline Thompson, Gwerclas:** **John Hughes Lloyd** 26<sup>th</sup> July 1803; **Edward Salisbury Hughes Lloyd** 26<sup>th</sup> March 1806; **Hugh Hughes Lloyd** 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1807; **Dorothea Lloyd** 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 1809; **William Heaton Lloyd** 17<sup>th</sup> June 1811; **Frances Yale Lloyd** 1<sup>st</sup> March 1813; **Jane Lloyd** 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1814; **Sarah Margareta Lloyd** 25 Nov. 1816.

**1805,** 13 February: Burial of **Stephen Edwards, son of Edward, Gwerclas.** (Llangar Parish Records)

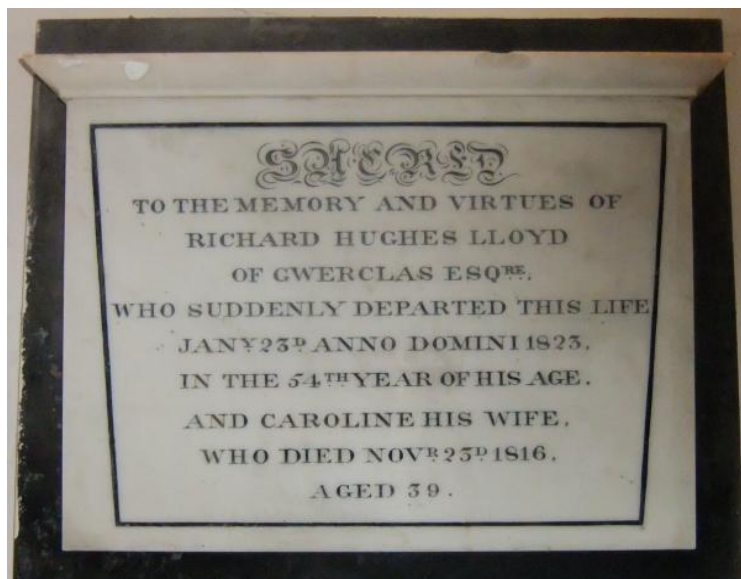
**1806,** 23 May: Burial of **Elizabeth Owens, Gwerclas.** (Llangar Parish Records)

**1813:** NLW: Further mortgage for £600 of property 1. **Richard Hughes Lloyd** 2. Benjamin Colley of Poyton, co. Salop, gent. <sup>76</sup> This was followed in **1814** by: **Richard Hughes Lloyd,** further Mortgage of £500. <sup>77</sup>

**1816, 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov:** **Caroline, wife of Richard Hughes Lloyd**, sadly died at the birth of her 11<sup>th</sup> child **Sarah Margaretta** (Inscription below). "Mrs Lloyd`s" death is also recorded in the "Deaths" section of **Richard Watkin Price**`s personal *Notebook* (Z/M/344/7: in Dolgellau archives).

**1820:** "Deed of Covenant for production of title deeds relating to transactions as in F12-13.

1. **Richard Hughes Lloyd** 2. Includes **Richard Watkin Price** of **Rhiwlas**." <sup>78</sup>



**1823, 23<sup>rd</sup> January:** Death of **Richard Hughes Lloyd** of Plymog, Gwerclas and Bashall. The tablet pictured above, now in Eglwys Sant Ioan, Cynwyd, reads: "TO THE MEMORY AND VIRTUES OF RICHARD HUGHES LLOYD OF GWERCLAS, ESQ<sup>RE</sup>. WHO SUDDENLY DEPARTED THIS LIFE JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNO DOMINI 1823. IN THE 54<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF HIS AGE. AND CAROLINE HIS WIFE WHO DIED NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> 1816. AGED 39. This tablet was originally in Llangar Church but removed in 1897 by his two grandsons".<sup>79</sup> (Image above by Jenny Lees).

Richard Hughes Lloyd`s death is also recorded in the Deaths section of Richard Watkin Price`s *Notebook* (Z/M/344/7).

**1824:** "Sale catalogue<sup>80</sup> of property of the late **Richard Hughes Lloyd** , including Gwerclas mansion, lawn and demesne lands, and 25 properties including woollen factory and public house, Cynwyd - includes plan and names of occupiers". Also: "Schedule of Gwerclas Mansion and Demesne lands as it was before being mostly purchased by Rug in 1824." [Catalogue pencil note in archives says "reverted back" to Rug by purchase].<sup>81</sup> (**Appendix 15**)

Underneath Lot 1 is written "N. B. Gwerclas Demesne is subject to a chief Rent of 8s 4d., payable annually to G. H. VAUGHAN, Esq." [This would been to Rhug]

The field names give an interesting picture of the land occupied by Gwerclas estate at some time previously (**Appendix 16**). According to a local historian,<sup>82</sup> the large area of *Ddol Wenith* (over 17 acres) was reputedly once used by the **Barons of Edeirnion** as follows:

“The Barons of Edeirnion would usually assemble in the Barony of Llangar, in Cae`r Gerddi, to feast and tipple when there were to be fierce horse races taking place on Ddol Wenith, Gwerclas. The *lawnt* in front of the barony was the “grandstand” and from there one could see the meadow and the reaches of Gwerclas as far as the river bank near to the “Crossing” today.”<sup>82</sup>

**1824:** The sale particulars (**Appendix 15**) show that, when for sale after Richard Hughes Lloyd`s death, the mansion house of Gwerclas was occupied by **John Maysmor, Esq.**

**1825, 4<sup>th</sup> June:** Baptism of **Mary Elinor Maesmore**, daughter of **John** and **Alice Pierce**, GENT, *Gwerclas* (Llangar Parish Records).

**1827, 22<sup>nd</sup> August:** Article about Hendwr/ Gwerclas court case in *The Salopian Journal*.<sup>83</sup>

From **1832** the **Williams family** played an important part in local life. Llangar Parish Records document the following children for *Farmer Edward Williams* and his wife **Eliza** of *Gwerclas*:

**1832, 17<sup>th</sup> April:** Baptism of **Martha Elizabeth Williams**.

**1834, 16<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Baptism of **Margaret Williams** [note says born 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 1833].

**1834, 16<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Baptism of **Eliza Williams** (born 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 1834).

**1836: 18<sup>th</sup> May:** Baptism of **Emma Williams** (born 22<sup>nd</sup> April).



**1836:** The **Hughes family** history now continued outside Gwerclas:



"... **John Hughes**, Esq. [pictured above] of Cleveland Row, St. James's, Westminster, and of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law, educated at the University of Edinburgh; born 6th. October 1805; married at Llanferres, Co. Denbigh, 5th. July 1832, his kinswoman (cousin), **Dorothea, eldest surviving daughter of Richard Hughes Lloyd, Esq.** of Plymog, Co. Denbigh; Gwerclas and Kymmer, Co. Merioneth; and Bashall, Co. York .... "By Dorothea his wife, who died in Cleveland Row, St. James's, 27th of January 1848, and was buried within Gayton Church, Mr. John Hughes has one child: **Talbot de Bashall Hughes**, born at **Gayton Mansion**, 15th. December 1836; Ensign Cape Mounted Riflemen, who descending paternally from the heirs male, derives through his mother, from the heirs-general, of the **Hugheses of Gwerclas**, Barons of Kymmer-yn-Edeirnion."<sup>84</sup>

**1838**, 25 September: **Apportionment of the Rent-Charge in lieu of tithes for Parish of Llangar, Merioneth**; landowner **Griffith Howel Vaughan** and tenant **Edward Williams, Gwerclas**.<sup>85</sup> Quantities of land in A.R.P. statute measure were 229 acres 1-28 and charge payable was £37 15s 6d. (Nos. 219 to 245 on tithe map; **Appendix 17**)

The document makes separate mention of *Part of Gwerclas Sheepwalk* in the tenancy of **Robert Roberts** (no. 441 on tithe map), measuring 63-2-0 but charged at 6s 11d. It explains that the "sheepwalk is allotment of Common in the Berwyn hills made under an Act of Parliament for enclosing the wastelands of the Manor of Rug and Glyndyfrdwy," and also mentions the **Williams family** at Gwerclas.

**1838**, 7<sup>th</sup> May: **William Ednyfed**, son of **Edward and Elizabeth Williams**, Gwerclas, was baptised.<sup>86</sup>

**1841 census**: **Edward Williams** is listed as Head, *Farmer* aged 45 and married to **Elizabeth Williams** (aged 35), with children **Martha** (9), **Margaret** (7), **Elizabeth** (6), **Emma** (5), **Maria** (3) and **William** (2). They had a twenty year old Governess Maria Edwards and servants Harriet Roberts (15), Jane Jones (20) and Elizabeth Davies (16).

**1841**: **John Hughes**, Parthenon Club, St James Sq., London, to Mr Taliesin Williams, Merthyr Tydfil. He wants to know if ancient Welsh manuscripts being edited comprise any relating to the stock of Owain Brogontyn and offers the pedigree for Hughes of Gwerclas.<sup>87</sup>

**1849**: Samuel Lewis, in the "Merionethshire" section of "A Topographical Dictionary of North Wales," writes: "Lime is used as a manure within a convenient distance of the **Gwerclas** and **Havod** rocks, near Corwen, the only places in Merioneth that produce white lime, and where about 50, 000 bushels are burned annually. The argillaceous limestone found in different parts of it derives its chief value as a manure from being burned with peat, the ashes of which become intermixed with the lime."<sup>88</sup>



Lime kilns near Hafod y Calch (Image by Jenny Lees)

**1851 census:** **Edward Williams** was now a widowed farmer of 200 acres, employing six labourers. His daughters **Martha Williams** (18), **Elizabeth Lloyd Williams** (16) and **Maria Louisa Williams** (13) were unmarried, and his sons were **William Ednyfed Williams** (11) and **Edward Lloyd Williams** (7).

**1851:** A tablet previously in Llangar church but moved to Cynwyd church in 1897 commemorated the death of **Colonel Edward Salesbury Lloyd** at Nakodah on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1851.<sup>89</sup>

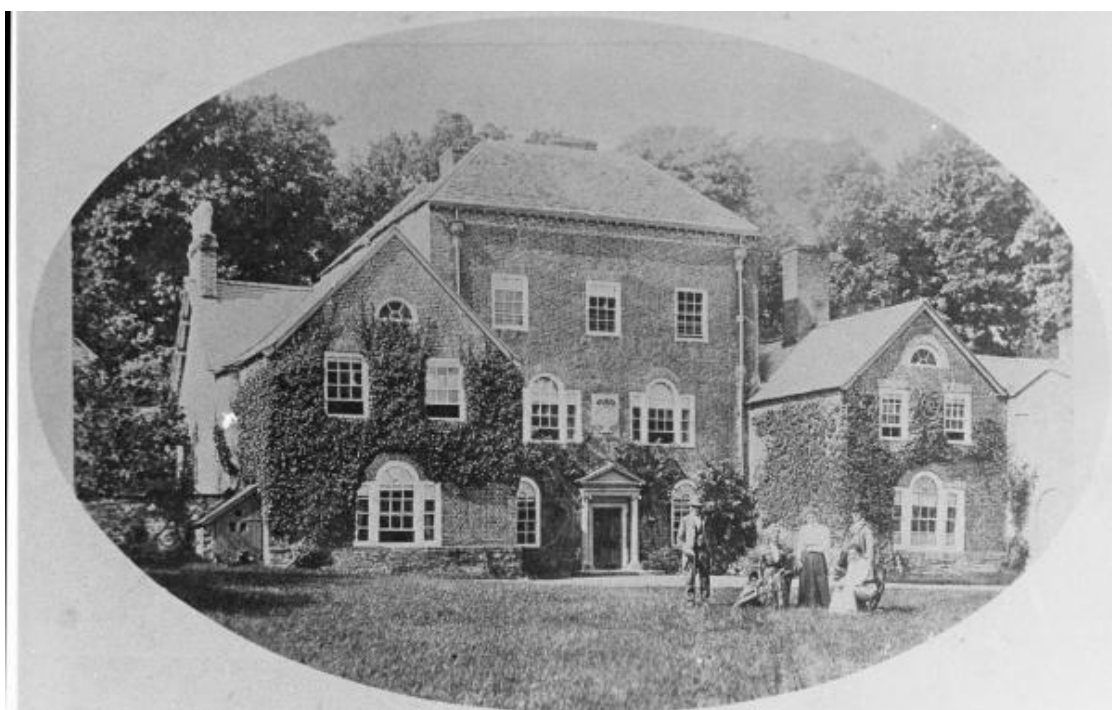
**1861 Census:** According to official records, the District containing Gwerclas is missing.

**1874:** **William Ednyfed Williams** was married to **Sarah Catherine Gill** (born 1846) at Llanfair DC parish church. Their children were **Edward Lloyd Williams** b.1876; **Mary Lloyd Williams** b.1877; **Catherine (Katie) Lloyd Williams** b. 1879 (married Fred Gaskin in 1901 and died 1902); **Martha Lloyd Williams** b. 1880, and **William Richard Lloyd Williams** b.1881. William Ednyfed was both a parish councillor and a county councillor for Merioneth.<sup>90</sup>

**1876, 7<sup>th</sup> Sept:** "Tenancy agreement 1. **Hon.C.H Wynn** [of Rug] 2.**W.E. Williams** for tenancy of farm, land and premises called GWERCLAS and Tir Plas Isa, pa. Llangar at annual rent of £300."<sup>91</sup>

**1881 census:** **William** [Ednyfed] **Williams** was aged 41 and farmed 200 acres.

The images below, kindly provided by Gwenda Williams, presumably date from the late 1800s (the originals are in the possession of Alan White).<sup>92</sup> They show Ednyfed Williams together with Catherine, Mary, Dick and Katie.



**1891 census:** The head is still **William E. Williams**, with wife **Sarah C. Williams** (44), daughters **Catherine L. Williams** (12) and **Martha L. Williams** (10), and son **William R. L. Williams** (9), plus a governess, five servants and two agricultural labourers. (**Appendix 18**)

**1898**, September: The burial of **Sarah Catherine Williams**, wife of **William Ednyfed Williams**, was commemorated on a gravestone at St John's church in Cynwyd, <sup>93</sup> and a Welsh bible was given by **Mr W.E. Williams** in memory of his wife.

**1901**: From a court record for Dec.6<sup>th</sup> 1901 it appears that **William Williams** was also a corn dealer.<sup>94</sup>

**1901**: **Gwerclas gardens** were depicted on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map of Merionethshire XV sheet 4. <sup>95</sup>

**1904**, Sept 8th: In the Corwen Union Valuation List for Llangar, *Gwerclas House, Buildings and Appurtenances* were listed as number 29, with owner **Hon.C. H. Wynn** [of Rhug] and occupier **W. E. Williams**. The *Gross Estimated Rental* was £40 and *Rateable Value of Buildings and other Hereditaments not being Agricultural Land* £34, with *Estimated Extent* being 1 acre 3r.15p. *Agricultural Land* for Gwerclas (29a) had the same owner and occupier, with *Estimated Extent* 1,106 acres 0 r.26p; *Gross Estimated Rental* of £214 and *Rateable Value of Agricultural Land* £172.



The undated image above was kindly provided by Gwenan Roberts (personal communication). Her grandmother Jane Rees, pictured in her uniform, was a servant at Gwerclas.



**1918**, July 2<sup>nd</sup>: **William Ednyfed Williams** died at the Cottage, Carrog. Probate was given to his two eldest children **Edward Lloyd Williams** and **Mary Lloyd Williams**: amount £3,632-14-10. <sup>96</sup>

**1932**, Aug. 10: 1. Col. R. Vaughan Wynn. 2. **David Evan Davies** of Glantanat Isaf, pa [rish] Llangedwyn. TENANCY AGREEMENT for tenancy of farm and lands called Gwerclas, pa. Llangar, at an annual rent of £380. <sup>97</sup>

**1936**, Aug: 1 **Col. R. Vaughan Wynn**. 2. **David E. Davies**, Glantanat Isaf, pa [rish] Llangedwyn. TENANCY AGREEMENT for tenancy of farm and lands with the house buildings and premises known as Gwerclas, pa. Llangar, at an annual rent of £380.

**1938**: Photocopies of six letters, 1938-42, from **Rev. John Hastings Lloyd, Niton Rectory**, Isle of Wight, to **W. Ferguson Irvine**, Corwen, relating to **Hughes family** of Gwerclas. <sup>99</sup>

**1940s**: **Emrys Boden**, who still lives in Cynwyd today, started work at Gwerclas and “lived in.” This was customary at the time, and his brother Will worked and lived in at neighbouring Hafod. Emrys and his wife Dorothy share fascinating tales of farming life over the last seventy years in *Our Farming Heritage: Part One* in *Cynwyd Scrapbook Three*.<sup>100</sup>

**1952** 4<sup>th</sup> June: Gwerclas listed as *Gwerclas Hall*. <sup>101</sup>



*Pont Gwerclas*, which remained in place until the early 1980s

David Davies was followed <sup>102</sup> by **Stephen Tudor**, whose grandson and great-grandson still farm Gwerclas today together with their families.

**Late 1980s** to the present day: The Grade 2 star listed mansion of Gwerclas and its historic curtilage were purchased separately from the farm and have been renovated with very careful retention of original features. The listing of Gwerclas was upgraded in 2004.

## References and notes

- 1) J. Beverley Smith and Llinos Beverley Smith (2001) *History of Merioneth* Vol. 2 p 223: Taxed tenants in townships 1293 (PRO, E179/242/53); Cymer is first listed here as a township.
- 2) A.D. Carr, *The Barons of Edeyrnion, 1282-1485, Part 1*, *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society* Vol.4 (1963) pp187-93. Also Part 2 in same journal, Vol.4 (1964) pp289-99.
- 3) *Lloffion E.W. Edwards* in *The Ancient Monuments of Wales* Vol.6, quoted by Trefor O. Jones in *O Ferwyn I Fynyddlod* (1975) Cymdeithas Llyfrau Meirion.
- 4) Trefor O. Jones op.cit. p.21
- 5) J.Y.W. Lloyd (1881) *The History of the Princes, the Lords Marcher, and the ancient Nobility of Powys Fadog*, London.
- 6) Marcus Binney (2007) *The Perfect House -500 of the best buildings in Britain and Ireland*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson.
- 7) J. Conway Davies, *The Welsh Assize Roll*, p 352, quoted in A.D. Carr (1963) op.cit.
- 8) Meirionydd Record Office (Z/M/572) *Memorandum Book (1662-74) of Humffrey Hughes, Gwerclas*
- 9) Edward Brynlllys, *Yr hen ardd Gymreig: Chwedl Edward Brynlllys am ardd Gwerclas Meirionydd, yn 1609*, *Welsh Journals Online*, Lleufer, 1955, Cyf.11, Rh. 2.Haf.
- 10) Reproduced in T. O. Jones op.cit. p 24.
- 11) Alaw Mai Edwards, previously Research fellow at University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh & Celtic Studies (personal communication).
- 12) Llangar Parish Records, burial of Alice, *vch. Richard. Gwerlleise*, 5<sup>th</sup> November 1614.
- 13) W.F.Irvine (1953) *Matthew Owen of Llangar (1631-1679)*, *National Library of Wales Journal* Cyf.8, rh.1 Haf, p78-9. The *noson lawen* was no doubt held under the auspices of Humphrey Hughes of Gwerclas (died 1682), who was High Sheriff of Merioneth in 1666 and a great patron of poetry and music, as also was his uncle of the same name (died 1620).
- 14) John Burke, Bernard Burke (1850) *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland, Volume 3*, p 590.
- 15) John Burke, Bernard Burke (1850) op.cit.
- 16) T. O. Jones op. cit. p.24
- 17) Quoted in T. O. Jones op.cit. p25
- 18) *Cefn Coch Mss.*, quoted in T. O. Jones op.cit. p.25
- 19) Llangar Parish Records, transcribed by Clwyd Family History Society in 1996.
- 20) William Ferguson Irvine Papers (Z/M/344), quoted in T. O. Jones op.cit. pp 25-26. For information on William Irvine see Jenny Lees (2016) *William Ferguson Irvine – an unsung hero* in *Cynwyd Scrapbook Two*, now online at:  
[http://discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk/library/Publications/Cynwyd\\_Scrapbook-2.pdf](http://discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk/library/Publications/Cynwyd_Scrapbook-2.pdf)

- 21) Memorandum Book (1662-74) of Humffrey Hughes op.cit.
- 22) Transcription by Merfyn Wyn Tomos (2014) *A Memorandum Book (1662-74) of Humffrey Hughes, Gwerclas*, Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society, Vol. XVII, Part I, pp 1-25
- 23) Llangar Parish Records, 16 September 1628, baptism of Charles Hughes.
- 24) XD2/1205, May 1636 (N.L.W. Rug 1031)
- 25) A. D. Carr (1970) *An Aristocracy in Decline*, The Welsh History Review, Vol.5, no.2, Dec, pp.112-115.
- 26) Gwallter Mechain, *Burke's Landed Gentry* (1846) p.608, referenced in A.D. Carr (1963) op. cit. p.191.
- 27) J. Beverley Smith and Llinos Beverley Smith (2001) op.cit., p.147
- 28) Norman Tucker (2003) *The Civil War in North Wales and Chester*.
- 29) T. O. Jones op. cit.p.27: *Humphrey Hughes rhododd ei hun ar drugaredd y Weriniaeth pan wasgarwyd gwyr Siarl I ar Rowton Moor, ger Caer*.
- 30) <http://battlefields.rcahmw.gov.uk/collections/getrecord/545808>
- 31) N. Tucker, op.cit.
- 32) N. Tucker, op.cit.
- 33) In "Crosse of Shaw Hill. Records of the family of Thelwall of Nantclwyd, Bathafarn Park and Plas Coch, co. Denbigh, and of the associated families of Parry of Nantclwyd and Ruthin, Gethin of Cernioge and Kenrick of Woore, co. Salop, London and Chester, including letters and papers of Civil War interest." Lancashire RO. Schedule (1947), 276 pp. *Annual Report 1946-47*, pp. 36-38.
- 34) XD2/1207 (N.L.W. Rug 384.)
- 35) Discovering Old Welsh Houses Group <http://www.discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk/>
- 36) A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland, Volume 3, op.cit. p.590.
- 37) XD2/1211 and XD2/1212 (N.L.W. Rug 509)
- 38) XD2/27, 1660, Gwynedd Record Office, "Lease of possession of manors or lordships of Glyndoverdwy and Rug".
- 39) See also Thomas Nicholas, 1872, *Annals and Antiquities of the Counties and County Families of Wales Vol.2*.
- 40) Philip Yorke, 1799, *The Royal Tribes of Wales*.
- 41) Lay Subsidy Roll, Merioneth Record Office (Z/M/344/ 16-18). Also Owen Parry, 1953, *The Hearth Tax of 1662 in Merioneth*, Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society Vol. II (I).
- 42) Merfyn Wyn Tomos op.cit.
- 43) Philip Yorke op.cit.
- 44) `Mytton of Garth. PEDIGREE. REPRINTED FROM THE "MONTGOMERYSHIRE COLLECTIONS" VOL. XXIV. ISSUED BY THE POWYS-LAND CLUB. 1890. "THERE is in the possession of the family an ancient vellum roll, purporting to be a pedigree of the Mytton family, in which the first nine generations are given as follows: "IX. JAMES MYTTON of Pontyscowrid, baptized at Meifod, 18th January 1600; married Eleanor, daughter of Edward Jones of Sandford, co. Salop, and sister of Sir Thomas Jones, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and by her (who married, secondly, Humphrey Hughes, Esq., of *Gwerclas*) had three children-(i) Richard Mytton (X), of whom hereafter. (ii). Elizabeth, married Charles Hughes, Esq., of *Bryntangor*, co. Denbigh, High Sheriff of Merionith in 1698. 3. Dorothy, buried at Meifod, 10th July 1666. James

Mytton was buried at Meifod, 1st April, 1658`.

<http://www.mytton.com/genealogy/pedigree.html>

45) T. O. Jones op. cit. p.34

46) XD2/473: "Undated but c1679: BILL OF COMPLAINT of Owen Salesbury of Rugg and infant, by Sir Roger Mostin, of Mostin, co. Flint, Kt. and Bart., against Humphrey Hughes of Gwerclas, Esq., for the recovery of a rent of 8/4d p.a. out of lands in township Kymmer and Llangar. Decayed" [N.L.W. Rug 746].

See also three sequels to this claim: XD2/474: 1679[/80] Jan.22; "ANSWER of \_\_\_\_ Hughes, Esq., to the Bill of Complaint of William Salesbury, Esq., touching the payment of rents re demesne lands now in tenure of defendant. Incomplete and Decayed" [N.L.W. Rug 597]; XD2/475; n.d. [?1680] "INTERROGATORIES to be administered to witnesses on behalf of Owen Salesbury, an infant, by his prochein amye, complainant, against Humphrey Hughes, Esq., defendant" [N.L.W. Rug 334] and XD2/476; n.d. [c.1680] "ANSWER of Humphrey Hughes, defendant, to the bill of complaint of Owen Salesbury, an infant, touching a chief rent of 8s.6d. out of demesne lands in Gwercklas and in Kymer and Llangir. Incomplete: first 3 pages only" [N.L.W. Rug 1087].

47) DRO NTD / 1829: *The Notitiae of the Parishes of the Diocese of St Asaph* (SA/MISC/1492)

48) T. O. Jones op.cit. pp. 28-32.

49) T. O. Jones op.cit. p. 33 (1682 engraving originally at Llangar Church)

50) <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/statutes-realm/vol6/pp510-563> : "William and Mary, 1694: An Act for granting to his Majestie an Aide of Four shillings in the Pound for One Yeare and for applying the yearely summe of [£300,000] for Five years out of the Dutyes of Tunnage and Poundage and other summes of money payable on Merchandizes exported and imported for carrying on the Warr against France with vigour" [Chapter III Rot.Parl.pt.2], *Statutes of the Realm*, 1819, Volume 6:1685-94, pp.510-563.

51) Hughes of Gwerclas pedigree, 1863, in Burke`s *Landed Gentry*.

52) Edward Llwyd, 1695, *Parochialia*, (at Denbighshire Record Office).

53) St Asaph Probate records (SA 1704 -88W), Will of Charles Hughes.

54) Llangar Churchwardens` Accounts (DRO NTD/467), transcribed by David Morgan Evans, Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

55) T. O. Jones op.cit. p34.

56) Llangar Parish Records, Catherine Maesmore, widow, buried 30 March 1713

57) A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland, op.cit.

58) 1720 *Articles of Agreement touching rectory of Llaniwlllyn - Hugh Hughes*. Ref no.

455.LIGc, NLW 00553045 and 005530456.

59) Trefor O. Jones op. cit. p.33

60) D. Morgan Evans, 2013, *Llangar -Church and community in the early eighteenth century, Part 4: HIERARCHY, LITURGY, FIXTURES AND FITTINGS*, Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society CYFROL XV1, RHAN 1V, pp 358 – 379.

61) *A report of the Deanery of Penllyn and Edeirnion by the Reverend John Wynn, 1730*, abstracted from the original manuscript by G. M. Griffiths in *The Merioneth Miscellany*, 1955 [SA/RD/21 at NLW]

62) Morgan Evans, op.cit. pp 364-7.

63) Jenny Lees, *History of Hafod y Calch*, 2013, Discovering Old Welsh Houses website op.cit.

64) Jenny Lees, *Quest for Cymer Part One*, 2013, Clwyd Historian /Hanes Bro Clwyd, Gaeaf/Winter 13/14, Rhif/No. 69.

65) Llangar Churchwardens` Accounts op.cit.



- 66) Thomas Nicholas, 1872, *Annals and Antiquities of the Counties and County Families of Wales*.
- 67) Will of Jane Hughes 1735, W1 AbNL 3650003.
- 68) T. O. Jones op.cit. pp 34-35, Edward Lloyd buried at Llangar.
- 69) Thomas Nicholas op.cit.
- 70) DD/GA/652: Indenture 4 parts, 17 April 1766 (part of the Galltfaenan MSS concerning the estates of the Salusbury family of Galltfaenan). The catalogue describes this document as follows: A Lease and Release concerning (i) Hugh Hughes Lloyd of Gwerclas (ii) Margaret Walmesley, City of Chester, Spinster, dau. of Richard Walmesley of Bashall, (iii) Giwn Lloyd of Gwersillt, Co. Denbigh, Esquire & Smith Kelsall, City of Chester, Gentleman, (iv) Richard Heaton, Plas Heaton, Co. Denbigh, Esquire, & John Cross, City of Chester, Gentleman. Conveyance to (iii) of the ancient manor or Lordship of Kymmer with the manor house called Kymmer and capital messuage called Gwer[c]las with lands ...Consideration (see transcript in Appendix 12).
- 71) NLW, *Elizabeth Baker Papers* 1740-98 (NRA code GB 0210 ELIKER).
- 72) NLW, *Elizabeth Baker 183 to 232*: Letters written between 1772 and 1775 by Margaret Lloyd to Elizabeth Baker. Fifty letters from Mrs Margaret Lloyd of Gwerclas to Mrs Baker (31 addressed to Hengwrt). I am greatly indebted to my colleague Pamela Buttrey M.A. for bringing these letters to my attention.
- 73) Bible and Prayer Book presented by Mrs Lloyd of Gwerclas 1775 (Personal communication).
- 74) ZQS/M1782, MICHAELMAS QUARTER SESSIONS Catalogue entry: CORRESPONDENCE re APPOINTMENT: Gwerclas 10 October 1782.
- 75) *A Fresh Look at the Diary (1778 -86) of Elizabeth Baker, Dolgellau, Part 2, p243*, Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society, 2000, Vol.13, Part III.
- 76) 1813 NLW, Sir John Herbert Lewis Papers: Further mortgage for £600 of property 1. Richard Hughes Lloyd 2. Benjamin Colley of Poyton, co. Salop, gent.

- 77) NLW ARCH/MSS GB0210) F 11
- 78) NLW (FI4, LIGc/NLW 005755475)
- 79) Trefor O. Jones op.cit. pp 35
- 80) XD2/ 3887: Sale catalogue of property of the late Richard Hughes Lloyd
- 81) XD2/3888: Schedule of Gwerclas Mansion and Demesne lands as it was before being mostly purchased by Rug in 1824.
- 82) Trefor O. Jones op.cit. p15. (Translated from the Welsh; the original reads: *Byddai Barwniaid Edeirnion yn arfer ymgynnull ym Marwndy Llangar, yng Nghae'r Gerddi, i wledda a diota pan fyddai rasmus ceffylau'n cymryd lle ar Ddol Wenith, Gwerclas. Y lawnt o flaen y barwndy oedd y "grandstand" ac oddi yno gellid gweld y ddol a esytynnai o Werclas hyd at lan yr afon gyferbyn a'r 'Crossing' heddiw*).
- The term *gerddi* in the above account may refer to former quilleys rather than the modern meaning of "garden", while *lawnt* may have meant a meadow rather than a lawn.
- 83) Gwerclas Hendwr court case: described in *The Salopian Journal*, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1827 Issue number 1751 (published by W. & J. Eddowes)

- 84) *The Seize Quartiers of the Family of Bryan Cooke, Esq of Owston, Hafod-Y-Wern, and Gwysaney, and of Frances His Wife, Daughter and Heir of Philip Puleston* pp 76-79, London: Forgotten Books. (Original work published 1857).
- 85) NLW: AC388/R3 (1838, 25 September) *Apportionment of the Rent-Charge in lieu of tithes for Parish of Llangar, Merioneth*.
- 86) T.O. Jones op cit p.40 (from William Ferguson Irvine Papers).
- 87) NLW MS 21,273E/314.
- 88) Samuel Lewis (1849) *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*.
- 89) Trefor O. Jones op.cit. pp. 35-6.
- 90) Personal communication from Gwenda Williams, who is a relative of William Ednyfed Willam's wife Sarah Catherine Gill.
- 91) XD2/2301: 1876, 7<sup>th</sup> Sept: Tenancy agreement 1. Hon.C.H Wynn [of Rhug] 2. W. E. Williams for tenancy of farm, land and premises called GWERCLAS and Tir Plas Isa, pa. Llangar at annual rent of £300.
- 92) Alan White is the grandson of Sarah Williams [nee Gill]. Her daughter Catherine married a Gaskin & died after giving birth to Alan's mother (Personal communication from Gwenda Williams).
- 93) Trefor O. Jones op.cit. p 40: "Ar Garreg fedd yn eglwys Sant Ioan cofnodir claddu priod W.E. Williams, sef Sarah Catherine Williams, Gwerclas, ym Medi 1898, yn 52 mlwydd oed. Ar yr un garreg cofnodir marw W. Ednyfed Williams, Gwerclas, yn 1918".
- 94) Z/DS/8/108: "Merioneth County Court, Bala. William E. Williams, Gwerclas, Corwen, Corn Dealer, v. Edward Evans, Vachddeiliog, Bala. BRIEF FOR PLAINTIFF re plaintiff's claim for the price of goods sold and delivered".
- 95) Coflein, Gwerclas Gardens, Cynwyd.Ref. 265146
- 96) Personal communication from Gwenda Williams.
- 97) XD2/2413, 1932 Aug.10
- 98) XD2/2419, 1936 Aug.
- 99) LIGC /NLW 005717402 NLW Facs 87: Photocopies of six letters, 1938-42, from Rev. John Hastings Lloyd, Niton Rectory, Isle of Wight, to W. Ferguson Irvine, Corwen.
- 100) Jenny Lees (2018) *Our Farming Heritage: Part One* in *Cynwyd Scrapbook Three*, published by Discovering Old Welsh Houses Group (to be online in 2019).
- 101) 1952, 4<sup>th</sup> June: Gwerclas listed as Gwerclas Hall.
- 102) Trefor O. Jones op. cit. p. 41

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1: Gwerclas Mound**

There are no known excavations of this mound. Pending further investigation, current archaeological views are that it may be Bronze Age but could be of even earlier origin. The *Coflein* site of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales describes Gwerclas Mound as follows: "A circular mound set on the edge of a river terrace 14m diameter and 2m high with kerbing noted to the E. side. Set in a landscaped garden/park (Nprn 265146), this is a rejected castle site possibly adopted as a prospect mound (RCAHMW) AP955025/ 57-8."

<http://www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/306597/details/GWERCLAS+MOUND%3BTHE+MOUNT/>

## Appendix 2: Description of Gwerclas portraits

This extract is copied from pp 25-27 of T.O. Jones (1975), who references it as being included in the William Ferguson Irvine Papers (Z/M/344).

“A few notes concerning some portraits – formerly at Gwerclas – of the family of Hughes of Gwerclas and Kymmer yn Edeirnion in the Co. of Merioneth. The first portrait is that of **Richard Hughes**, Esq., of Rylston Hall, Co. York, Gwerclas and Kymmer yn Edeirnion, Co. Merioneth. He was descended from **Owain Brogontyn**, Lord of Edeirnion, Dinmael and Abertanat, a son of **Madoc ap Meredith**, last reigning Prince of Powys, who was beheaded at Winchester A.D.1160 and buried in the Abbey of Strata Marcella in Meifod.

Richard Hughes was the 4<sup>th</sup> son and eventual heir of **Hugh ap William** of Gwerclas, Lord of Kymmer and a Baron of Edeirnion to which estate he succeeded in February 1620.

For many years before his accession to the headship of his family, Richard acted as secretary to the princely Cliffords, Earls of Cumberland, with whom he resided at Skipton Castle in Craven, Yorkshire, and was confidentially employed in their important interests both at home and abroad, often dwelling for periods at Cherbourg and passing backwards and forwards from England to the Continent.

On the death of his **brother Humphrey** he did not sever his connection with Skipton Castle, but settled in the neighbourhood at Rylston Hall, in Craven, placing his **eldest son, Humphrey Hughes** (whom...on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 1615 married at the early age to **Magdalen Rogers** the heiress of Bryntangor in Eglwysegle), in residence at Gwerclas to look after the Welsh inheritance.

He was born about 1561 and married on 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 1601, **Francesca, widow of Richard Evers and daughter of Giovanni Volpe of Florence**, a doctor famous in Queen Elizabeth`s time. He died at Rylston Hall 21<sup>st</sup> March 1641, aged about four score, he was buried on the 23<sup>rd</sup> following according to the directions he gave in his will, “under the great stone next my late wife.”

The portrait represents him seated in a green straight-backed armchair studded with brass nails, face three-quarters, age about 70. A black cap on head, covering the ears, yellowish white hair divided equally and falling straight on each side of the face. Aquiline nose, well-formed mouth and thin lips, slight moustache and beard cut a peak at the finish of the chin, grey eyes, straight eyebrows. Square cut linen collar, black dress with apparently 2 strips of dark fur from the shoulder down the front.

In right hand a small book bound in brown with red paging. The left arm rests on the arm of the chair. On the right-hand side is a table covered by a green cloth on which stands a desk with an open folio volume in black letter with initial capitals.

At the top of the two pages heading the print the words "*Scala Paradisus*" (title of the work). In the background the bookcase with heavy volumes on the shelves, some turned with their backs to the wall, which was in `olden times` an approved method of saving the binding from the effects of light and dust.

NOTE. Rylston Hall, at his death, became the property of his **second son**, viz. **John Hughes**, a Major in Lord Clifford`s Regiment in defence of Charles I. In the entry of his burial, he is designated as "Major John Hughes, a valiant soldier", whose eventual heiress, Frances, married in 1660, Francis Skyringe, gent, whose son Hughes Skyringe left three daughters.

.....

The second portrait is that of **Francesca**, wife of the above Richard Hughes, Esq., of Rylston Hall, and Gwerclas, etc. She was born circa 1586, was married to Richard Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1601, being described (in the M.S. Book of Humphrey Hughes, her son) as then the "widow of Richard Evers of the family of Evers of Coventry", by whom she was mother of an only child **Martha Evers**, who married **Richard Griffith, Gent of Vaerdre**, Co. Merioneth (of a younger time of Yale of Plas-yn-Yale) who had sons and daughters living in the lifetime of Humphrey Hughes, Esq. of Gwerclas, which he records in his book, a "diary written about 1667-7".

She (Francesca) was the daughter, apparently the only child (by his wife, a daughter of the family of Mountain or Montayne of Yorkshire) of Giovanni Volpe, son of Gulielmo Volpe – Bighoth of Florence, "a doctor famous in Queen Elizabeth`s time who accompanied George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland on most of his sea voyages, and was present at the taking of Puerto Rico in the West Indies". By her second husband, Richard Hughes, Francesca was mother of five sons and four daughters. She died at Rylston Hall, 29 June 1636 aged circa 50 years and was buried at Rylstone "under the great stone".

The portrait (which is not as good as that of her husband) represents Mrs Hughes as seated in an armchair of classical shape upholstered in a red material and fastened with oval brass nails. Three quarters face, grey eyes, dark hair, falling in little short curls on forehead. A loose habit shirt is tied in front of the neck. She has a red dress, the bodice of which is whale-boned, to a point. A red cloak lined with fur is fastened on the breast with a brooch in which is a single gem, apparently a dark blue sapphire. The left arm rests on the arm of a chair, the hand hanging down. The right arm is at her side and the hand gathering up the folds of her cloak. The background is formed by a red curtain, one end of which falls in a point over what may be an aperture or framed board.

I have now examined afresh the M.S. Book of Humphrey Hughes of Gwerclas and am quite satisfied that the name of his mother`s first husband was **`Overs` not `Evers`**. Francesca Overs was the widow of Richard Overs of the family of Overs of Coventry. He also says, "My grandmother was descended of the family of Mountaynes of Yorkshire" who keepe the name today."



## Appendix 3: Dendrochronology and Architectural and Building Reports

[http://discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk/library/ODL/den%20110 ODL 43 Gwerclas.pdf](http://discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk/library/ODL/den%20110%20ODL%2043%20Gwerclas.pdf)

Note by Richard Suggett:

Gwerclas is a country-house associated from the sixteenth century with the Hughes family, descendants of one of the 'baronial' families of Edeyrnion. The house was rebuilt in 1767, the date displayed on the front of the present three-storey brick-built house in Palladian style. Traces of the older house remain: the 1767 house may incorporate fragments of its predecessor at basement level and a substantial four-bay service range to the west was certainly associated with the old house. This storeyed, stone-built range was originally built without fireplaces but has a relatively high ceiling of chamfered beams. It is best interpreted as stable – the indispensable adjunct of a gentry house. A re-set post-and-panel partition on the first floor probably derives from the old house. The end truss (now within the range) originally had a decorative gable of lattice (criss-cross) framing, fashionable in the seventeenth century, and this was presumably intended to be visible from the old house.

RCAHMMW's Merioneth Inventory (1921), p. 125 (mon.398) emphasizes the antiquity of the site. See Richard Haslam et al., *The Buildings of Wales: Gwynedd* (2009), p. 580-1, for a description of Gwerclas. Coflein (RCAHMMW's on-line database) entry: NPRN 28455. R.F. Suggett/ RCAHMMW/ November 2014.

## Appendix 4: Unit system

The *unit system*, in which two dwellings are sited in unusually close proximity or actually joined, but provide completely separate accommodation for each household, is fully explained in *Discovering the Historic Houses of Snowdonia* by Richard Suggett and Margaret Dunn (2014, pp 48- 55, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales). This system was common in Merioneth during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and was part of a marriage system in which a widow was entitled to a third of her spouse's freehold estate. A secondary dwelling in such close proximity preserved the independence of a widow (or sometimes a widower) and could be used as an outside kitchen, bakehouse and brewhouse at different stages of a family's life cycle. *Gwydir* is an early example of the unit system.

## Appendix 5: Memorandum Book of Humffrey Hughes

This was purchased by Merioneth Record Office in 1966 from a Mrs K.S. Lloyd of Martley, Worcestershire, whose husband may have been a descendant of the Lloyds of Gwerclas. Merfyn Wyn Tomos (*Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society* 2014 Vol.XVII, Part I, pp 1-25) comments that this is written in a fine Elizabethan Secretary hand, which indicates that Humffrey was well-educated, but also that the illustrative frontispiece was probably added to the manuscript by a later descendant, as it is in a gothic script.

OXEN AND KINN.			
6 great oxen.	25 : 0 : 0		
4 other oxen.	2 : 0 : 0		
6 milche kynn and 6 calves and 13 milche kinn and 1 bull.	53 : 6 : 0		
8 yearling beasts at 16/- a piece.	6 : 0 : 0		
4 young beasts of 2 or 3 years old.	21 : 0 : 0		
8 swine.	3 : 0 : 0		
2 Carts and a Trowell (Trundle) together with all other implements of husbandry whatsoever and ye Iron about ye Old Coach.	10 : 0 : 0		
ALL FOWLLTRIES.			
Cooper ware and some quantity of boordes.	1 : 0 : 0		
24 bushells or hobbtts in ye houses of Gwerckles at 8/6.	10 : 4 : 0		
13 bushells of Barley at 6/-.	3 : 18 : 0		
6 bushells of Wheat.	7 : 4 : 0		
7 hobbtts of pease at 12/- a hobbt.	4 : 4 : 0		
15 hobbtts of oats at 6/8.	5 : 0 : 0		
All mucke at Gwerckles and Cynner.	2 : 0 : 0		
3 Saddles and 3 bridles.	10 : 0		
THE NAMES OF ALL YE SILVER PLATES AND ALL OTHER THINGS IN YE HOUSE.			
SILVER PLATES AND THINGS IN YE HALL.			
2 Silver boules 1p/d weight.			
2 parrings and 1 wine cupp.			
1 vase, halfe a dozen of silver salters.			
2 small silver cupps.			
3 silver spoons and 2 forkes.			
1 Cordiall Cupp. 1 little cupp.			
Ye foot of a cupp and spoone 1 p/d weight.			
11 silver spoones 1/pd and 3ozs.	14 : 13 : 0		
a shell cupp.	2 : 6		
A brass paire of Scales.	1 : 6		
4 pieces of Gold in all.	2 : 6 : 0		
Had in ye purse of ye Testator.	17 : 0		
Due to ye Testator from one John Wynne of Gwnodle, gent, by bond.	5 : 0 : 0		
IN YE HALL.			
16 Quishins.	5 : 0		
Some small things in ye Closett as Glas bottles and ye like.	2 : 0		
1 little Bord with frame, Couch, 1 chaire and 2 stooles.	6 : 0		
3 old hanging and 1 carpett.	5 : 0		
IN YE GREAT PARLOUR.			
1 Table and a Vord.	10 : 0		
1 couch and 12 leather chaires.	2 : 5 : 0		
The window hangings and 2 carpetts.	6 : 0		
The . . . irons, 1 paire of bellows.			
1 paire of tongues and shovells.	6 : 0		
1 bedstead, 1 little vord, and 2 stooles in ye inner parlour.	7 : 0		
1 paire of Snussers and Snusser pann.	1 : 0		
A feather bed and a boullster, 3 blankets, 1 counterpane, Curtains and Vallence, a small carpett, 2 pillows.	2 : 0 : 0		
1 bedstead, 1 feather bed, 1 boullster, 2 blankets, counterpane or a curtaine on ye one side and a little vord with its covering.	1 : 17 : 0		
1 couch, 1 little vord, 6 chaires, 2 stooles.	12 : 0		
1 bedstead with its furnitures.	3 : 0 : 0		
1 little side cupboard, 1 old trunke.	5 : 0		
a close stooles.	2 : 6		
A presse cupboard and an old virginnall case.	10 : 0		
A paire of Tongi and a shovell.	1 : 0		
IN YE SCHOOL CHAMBER.			
1 bedstead, 1 featherbed with its furnitures,			
1 little Trunkle bed, a little table,			
1 wainscot chest, a tablecloth, and a looking glasse.	3 : 0 : 0		
IN YE MAIDES CHAMBER.			
1 bedstead, 1 featherbed with its furnitures and 1 small vord.	1 : 10 : 0		
IN YE HALL CHAMBER.			
2 feather beds, 1 paire of curtains, 1 shovell,			
1 paire of tongs, 1 chair and 3 stooles, 2 trunks.	5 : 0 : 0		
IN YE WOOLEN CHAMBER.			
Hemp and hempen yarne and some parcell of wool and feather in ye old kitching chamber.	1 : 10 : 0		
IN YE BUTTRIE.			
1 old table, old cupboard, old coffer and a baskett.	12 : 0		
A small p'cell of Malt in making.	1 : 0 : 0		

The images above and below are reproduced from p.30-32 of T.O. Jones` 1975 book “O Ferwyn I Fynyddlod”, now out of print. (Pages 28-29 of this transcription are reproduced on p.11 above).

IN YE OLD KITCHEN.	
3 coomes.	1: 4: 0
9 old barrells.	12: 0
6 other do in ye cellar.	1: 0: 0
All other small vessels.	1: 1: 0
1 do	5: 0
1 cheese press and cheese netts.	3: 0
1 Tubb.	3: 0
A haire cloth.	1: 6
3 old chests and 1 blanke.	5: 0
2 beds in ye Servants Chamber.	10: 0
1 old barrell.	3: 0
1 old chest and 1 wooden bed in ye stable chamber.	5: 0
1 bedstead, little vord and three chairs in ye woollen Chamber.	10: 0
IN THE OUTWARD CHAMBER.	
2 bedsteads and feather beds and boulders,	
5 blankets, 2 old hillings, 1 chair,	
1 little table and frame of a Stiller.	1: 6: 0
IN YE OLD KITCHEN.	
1 great brass pot.	1: 5: 0
3 old potts or possnett, 1 iron kettle.	1: 10: 0
1 b. great brasse panne.	1: 0: 0
5 small brass pannis and 2 skellets.	1: 10: 0
2 iron dripping pannis, 1 frying pannis, and a pestle and mortar.	15: 0
2 Brand Irons and Gridiron.	3: 0
1 paire of racks, 1 paire of Cobbts and Broaches, 1 warming pann, a shoe and a paire of tongs, a Cleep (Clipper), a fork.	15: 0
2 fleetches of Bacon.	15: 0
The testator wearing apparell.	3: 10: 0
TO DEBTS DUE TO YE TESTATOR.	
From Robert Thomas Wynne of Maerdre by bond.	5: 0: 0
From Mr. Jones of Llangar and Cumer by bond.	5: 0: 0
A straw chair in Mrs. Hughes Chamber and another in ye kitching.	1: 0
All trumpery ware and everything whatsoever which is heretofore unprized.	5: 0
Sum Total	£330: 7: 6
Prized by us: John Maurice. Edd. Tho. Morgan. his marke.	
William Jones. Robert Hughes. his marke.	
Robert Oliver. his marke	

## Appendix 7: Transcript of will of Charles Hughes (SA 1704- 88W)

(My approximate transcription from images online). **1704 Charles Hughes Gwergles**, Llangar, Will:

"In the name of God Amen; I **Charles Hughes** Esq. being weak and Sicke of body; but of Sound and perfect memory thanks be to God; do [e?] make this my Last will and testament in maner and form following; - - - first I give and bequeath my Soule to y<sup>e</sup>[the] allmightye god my creator and Jesus christ my onlie redeemer: and my body to be buried in the church yard of Llangar the South Side y<sup>e</sup> church by my wife[s]side

Item I give and bequeth to my Sister **Jane Hughes** Tenne pounds

Item I give and bequeth to my God Sone **Charles Maurice** forty shil [edge torn]

Item I give and bequeth to my dearly beloved nees **Jane Maysmor**

The Sum [e?] of two hundred pounds - - - -

Item I give and bequeth to my nephew **Richard Middleton** Ten pounds  
Item I give and bequeth to my nephew **Thomas Hughes** forty shillings  
Item I give and bequeth to my nees **Magdalen Hughes** twenty shillings  
Item I give and bequeth to my nees **Dorothy Hughes** twenty shillings  
Item I give and bequeth to my nees **Magdalen Maysmore** twenty shillings  
Item I give and bequeth to my nees **Dorothy Maysmore** twenty = =  
Item I give and bequeth to my nephew **Humphrey Maysmore** five (?) shillings  
Item I give and bequeth to my nephew **Kadwalader Maysmore** [document torn] shillings  
Item I give and bequeath to my nees **Magdalen Maurice** five shillings  
Item I give and bequeath to my nees **Joyes Maurice** five pounds  
Item I give and bequeath to my Brother law **John Maysmore** ten shillings to buy a ring  
Item I give and bequeath to my Sister **Katherine Maysmore** ten shillings to buy a ring  
Item I give and bequeth to my nephew **Rice Price** on [document torn for next few lines]  
Item I give and bequeth to my nephew **David Yale** .....  
Item I give and bequeth to **John Middleton** five [?]shil ...  
Item I give and bequeth to **Hugh Middleton** five shil ...  
Item I give and bequeth to **Elizabeth Middleton** five ....  
Item I give and bequeth to **Dorothy Middleton** ...  
Item I give and bequeth to **Martha Branass** five s ...  
Item I give and bequeth to **Mary v [?]** ch Hugh ffive shillings  
Item I give and bequeth to my trusty Servant **Andrew Jones Sen** [torn] thirty shillings  
Item I give and bequeth to **Griffith Lloyd** Ten Shillings  
Item I give and bequeth to each of my meaniall Servants th [torn] will be liuting [lying?] with  
me at y<sup>e</sup> time of my death two shillings [and] six pence - - -  
Item I give and bequeath to **John Eyton** of a [torn] or to Mary his wife or to y<sup>e</sup> Survivor of  
them at y<sup>e</sup> time of my Death [continued Image 2] five pounds for and upon consideration of  
building the house in Cunwyd wherefor [?] y<sup>e</sup> Said **John Eyton** now dwelleth in - - -  
Item I give and bequeth to **Magdalen Hughes** Senior twenty shillings

Item I doe nominate and appoint my well beloved nephew **Hugh Hughes of Brintangor** Gent  
to be my Soale Executor of this my last Will and Testament Revoking all former Wills in  
witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and Seale the Second day of June in y<sup>e</sup> year of  
our Lord God 1703.” The document is signed by **Charles Hughes** and witnessed by **A**  
**[?]Thelwall, John Eyton and David Davies.**

## **Appendix 8: 1713, Will of Dorothy Maysmor, Gwerkles, Llangar, Spinster (SA/1713/112)**

Dorothy Maysmor`s will refers to: “**John Maysmor** late of Maysmore in the County of  
Denbigh Gent **my deceased father .... Robert Maysmor his eldest son** my eldest brother ...  
**Anne Price third daughter of Margaret .... Robert Price of Geelar ... John Price** late of  
Derwen ... all that Capitall messuage called & knowne by the name of Maysmor ... My  
**brother in law Henry Mostyn .... Anne Mostyn** daughter of my sd [said] brother Mostyn ...



**my two sisters Jane and Magdalen ... bequeath to the poor Indigent & Impotent poore the Sume of four pounds ... My Brother Hugh Hughes."**

The document is signed by E. Wynne, William Jones and Robert Jones

(Three images can be read online for a full transcription)

### **Appendix 9: 1725 Will of Hugh Hughes, Gwerckles (SA/1725/59)**

(My approximate partial transcription from images online):

[From image 1] "...Whereas by Indenture of Release Tripartite made upon the marriage of my Son in Law **Edward Lloyd** of Denbigh in y<sup>e</sup> [the] County of Denbigh Esq. w.<sup>th</sup>[with] **Dorothy his now wife** & one of my daughters beareing date on or ab<sup>t</sup> [about] the Ninth # # # day of December # # last past before the date hereof and made between me of the first part the S.<sup>d</sup> [said] Edward Lloyd of the second part **Edward Price of Plas Issa** in the S.<sup>d</sup> County of Merioneth Esq & **Evan Lloyd of Hendreforfydd** in the County of Merioneth aforeS.<sup>d</sup> gent, of the third part **John Chambres of Plas yn Chambres** in the S.<sup>d</sup> County of Denbigh Esq & **Thomas Lloyd** aforeS.<sup>d</sup> gent of the fourth part."

Hugh's Will mentions "appurtenances called **Kymer & Gwerckles**" and Jane his "beloved wife," also mentioning "in Consideration of her great care of me & for the bi[e?]ttering of her state and condicon."

[Image 5 online]: "Jane my sd well beloved wife sole executrix of this my Last Will and Testament unto whom I give and bequeath all and singular my Goods Cattle Chattles Leases Mortgages Plats[??] Rings Jewelry Pewter Brases [?] Iron Corn & personeall Effects – [whatsoever?] moveable & immoveable & of what kind and nature."

Witness signatures on the document include John Wynn for the Court; Thomas Jones for Gwnodle; Richard Jones [for?] Gwerclas.

### **Appendix 10: Partial transcription of 1735 Will of Jane Hughes, "Widdow and relief of Hugh Hughes"** (WIAbNL 3650003; can be viewed online):

"I give and bequeath to my Niece Catherine Maurice wife to ye Revd. Peter Maurice Dean of Bangor the sum of sixty pounds ...." She also gives £20 to her *kinsman* Maesmor Maurice, *son of Peter Maurice and Catherine*; £20 to Peter Maurice their second son; £20 to William their third son; one guinea to kinsman John Maesmor *in London*; £20 to kinsman Humphrey Maesmor senior; £5 to godson David Roberts of *Blaen y ddol* and £5 to godson Robert Jones, son of Mr Jones of Llangwyfan. Jane's servant Martha Pierce receives £20 plus all Jane's *wearing apparel* and *a dozen of home made diaper napkins and table cloth of the same*; her two largest dishes, a dozen plates, and *the feather bed, bolster, blankets and quilt now used by my servant Robert Jones*. Anne Rytherch receives 20 shillings and Jane's kinsman the Rev. Peter Maurice is made executor.

## Appendix 11: 1764 Will of Humphrey Pierce, Gwerclas (SA/1764/63)

(My partial transcription from images online):

[Image 1]: “ ... I Humphrey Peirce of Gwerclas in the parish of Llangar ... being sick in Body but of sound Mind, Memory and Understanding ...give and bequeath my Goods, Chattels and every other [sic] my Personal Estate appertaining to the Farm of Gwerclas I hold under **Hugh Hughes Lloyd Esq.** & all and Singular my Sheep that are or ought to be in Llandrillo Parish to the said Hugh Hughes Lloyd his Heirs and assigns for ever except my silver plate which I give and bi[?]queath unto my wife Elizabeth Peirce, all and Singular the aforesaid Effects are bequeathed to the said **Hugh Hughes Lloyd** upon this Condition that the said Hugh Hughes Lloyd shall and will upon the Consideration aforesaid pay in two half yearly payments unto my said **wife Elizabeth** the clear yearly sum of Twenty Pounds for and during the Term of her Natural Life and in Case the said Hugh Hughes Lloyd should decline to pay unto my wife the said sum of Twenty Pounds a year ...all and singular my Estate herein bequeathed to ye said Hugh Hughes Lloyd shall be immediately vested in the absolute power of my said wife Elizabeth and be her own property to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever ... concerning all and Singular my Goods Effects and personal Estate that are now belonging to *Ddwryd Farm* [now known as Druid] I give and bequeath the same unto my Loved Wife Elizabeth her Home for ever ... it is my Express will and Meaning that my Dear wife shall as soon as she conveniently can after my Decease reside at *Ddwryd*. Whereat there is due to me from Humphrey Jones of Corwen Deceased the sum of Twenty seven pounds & Interest .... I give and bequeath the aforesaid sum ... unto my nephew Mister Jones of Corwen Glover”

Humphrey makes Hugh Hughes Loyd his executor, but also says that in case Hugh Hughes Lloyd does not accept the bequest he appoints his wife as sole executor. Witnesses are Hugh Davies and Mary Foulkes.

Elizabeth Pierce of *Ddwyrud* was buried on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1771 (Llangar Parish Records).

## Appendix 12: Marriage Settlement of Hugh Hughes Lloyd and his future wife Margaret Walmesley

Transcript by Pamela Buttrey from the original document DD/GA/652, currently held in Denbighshire Record Office. (I have added the italics and bold type to facilitate quick reference to the names of persons and places but have retained the document`s original lack of punctuation).

Indenture 4 parts **17 April 1766:**

(1<sup>st</sup> part) **Hugh Hughes Lloyd** of *Gwerclas*, Co. Mer, Esquire

(2<sup>nd</sup> part) **Margaret Walmesley**, *City of Chester*, Spinster, dau. of Richard Walmesley of *Bashall*, Co. York Esquire

(3<sup>rd</sup> part) **Giwn Lloyd** of *Gwersillt*, Co. Denbigh, Esquire & **Smith Kelsall**, *City of Chester*, Gentleman

(4<sup>th</sup> part) **Richard Heaton**, *Plas Heaton*, Co. Denbigh, Esquire, & **John Cross**, *City of Chester*, Gentleman

Marriage agreed upon intended with the permission of the Almighty God to be shortly had and solemnized between **Hugh Hughes Lloyd** and **Margaret Walmesley** and of the sum of £1,000 ... the portion or fortune of Margaret Walmesley to which Hugh Hughes Lloyd will become entitled upon his marriage with her and for making a competent provision for Margaret Walmesley if she survives Hugh Hughes Lloyd her intended husband and for the issue of the said intended marriage if any and for settling and assuring the Manor or Lordship Capital and other messuages, tenements, lands, tythes, rents and hereditaments hereafter mentioned and intended to be granted and released to the several uses upon the Trusts and for the purposes declared.

And for and in consideration of 10s to **Hugh Hughes Lloyd** paid by **Giwn Lloyd** and **Smith Kelsall** before the delivery of these presents.

And ... **Hugh Hughes Lloyd** has granted ... unto **Giwn Lloyd** and **Smith Kelsall** ( in their actual possession now being by virtue of a Bargain and Sale to them by Hugh Hughes Lloyd in consideration of 5s by indenture dated `the day next before the day of the date of these presents for one whole year) .....for transferring uses into possession and their heirs, for the ancient manor or Lordship or reputed *manor or Lordship of Kymmer* and also all that ancient manor house lands and tenements with the appurtenances called ***Kymmer alias Plas Ucha*** And all that ancient and capital messuage *Gwerclas* and all the barns stables cowhouses outhouses and gardens and land held in demesne

*Cae Gwerclas y Gammog Fawr Cae Glas Issa Caer o dyn Gop diri y Trip Ca y Daran y Goppa Cae Glas Ucha Cae Gwyn y Saith Cyfer Cefn Rhedyn Cefn Clofar Cefn y rails Cefn y fedwen Cefn eithin Cae'r Garreg Cae hir Nant y Gall Sien Kyn y Goed ddôl Caer Bont pwll Cowarch y Clettian y Ddol wenith y Ddol fawr y coed cae alias y Cutgoed pen y Dôl Einion and y Gwernydd ....*

Together with free liberty of sheep Walk and Turbary and of cutting or digging up of Turf or peate at or upon *Berwyn* and all other the Land Meadow and pasture ground Sheepwalk and Turbary and all other the appurtenances ... enjoyed with the sd. Manor messuages and tenements called ***Kymmer alias Plas ucha*** and *Gwerclas* and each or either of them ... belonging thereunto which said Manor Capital Messuages or Mansion houses and lands and premises herein before mentioned in *Langar*, Mer. formerly in the tenure or occupation of **Edward Lloyd, Esq. deceased father of Hugh Hughes Lloyd** and afterwards of **Humphrey Pierce Gentleman** and now or late of **Hugh Hughes Lloyd** his undertenants or assigns.

And **pen y bryn** Barn Stable Cowhouse and garden. Land called Cae gwyn ucha Cae Gwyn Issa Erw yr Gyffriolen y Weirglodd y Darwen Eithin Cae Dyffyd y Gottel Cae Celyn Cae rhud Galed y ffrith wen y ffrith Ucha and Erw Rhydsaeson .....sheepwalk, turbary and of cutting or of digging up of Turf and Peate on the common called Mynyllod and other land enjoyed with the property ....in the **Township of Penbryn in pa. Llangar** and in tenure of **John Griffith**

**Bron Gyddio**

Land - Cae Nesa ir Ty Cae Canol Cae Banadl Cae Pella y Ddwyfryd y Weirglodd and fownog ...with free liberty of Sheepwalk, and Turbary and of Cutting and digging up of Turf and peate upon *Mynyllod* ...lying in **Township of Gwnodle pa. Llangar** ...was in tenure of **William Foulk** and now or late **David Edwards**

**Ty Mawr** – Barn Stable Cowhouses and two small gardens

Land – Ddol Llangar Erw ffordd digg Cae Eglwys Erw Nant y Gwenyn Erw uwch ben Cae r person y Gro Erw yn gaer person Bwlan Ganol 3 quillets called yr Erwi caer Eglwys in the **Township of Boteulog** and pen yr Ebill in the **Township of Cynwyd fawr** Cutting turf and peate on *Berwyn* and all other land ... in several **parishes of Llangar and Gwyddelwern**, Co.Mer – were in occupation of **Edward Samuel Senior Clerk** and late in holding of **Cadwallader Williams**.

**Tyddyn Evan Pryce** – Stable Cowhouse and Garden. Lands – Cae`uddol Erwi Tir Nopiag Cwsiad yn dôl Llangar Erw Stabal Erwy fallen Goch yr Erw tucha ir ty and Erw r Weirglodd Ddu ... cutting turf and peate on *Berwyn* **pa. Llangar** – was occ. **Evan Pryce** and now **Cadwallader Williams**

**Ty tan y Graig** – Barn Stable Cowhouse and Garden. Land – y Grofawr y Grofeirig Cae Issa yr Eglwys Cae Uchaf yr Eglwys y Bwlan issa Erw yr Weirglodd ddu and Erw wrth yr Ty

Turf and peate on *Berwyn* **pa. Llangar** - was occup. **Evan Peter** ... now **Cadwallader Williams**

**Messuage tenement or cottage** [no name] with all that **new ffrith or Inclosure in pa. Llangar** was in occup. of **Rees Humphreys** and now **David Jones**

**Lands in pa. Llangar and Corwen** called **ffrith oedd Lloer Gwynnen** – was **Elizabeth Edwards** now **John Williams**

Land in **pa. Llangar** – Erw yr fford ... was **Edward Samuel Junior Clerk** ... now **Cadwallader Williams**

Land **pa Llangar** – yr Hir ddol –was **John Reese** now **Cadwallader Williams**

[p5] **Ty yn y wern** – messuage, tenement or farm. Barn Stable Cowhouse and Garden. Cae Toppyn y Gottel lass Cae Evan y wern ffrith fawr frith fechan y Bwlan ucha pen y Sarn



fawr pen y Sarn fach and Tir tan yr Eglwys ... Turf and Peate – *Berwyn* **Pa Llangar** – was **Lowry Thomas** now **Edward Jones**

[p6] **Tyddin Richard ap Richard** – Barn, Stable, Cowhouses Outhouses and Gardens. Cae pant Cae Skybor Cae Mawr Wern y Cae Mawr Cae Evan Lloyd Cae Gelywen Cae Canol Cae Ucha y wern issa and Clwt pen y Ddol ...Turf and Peate – *Berwyn* **pa Llangar** Now **Richard ap Richard**

**Cynwyd fach** - Barn Stable Cowhouse and Garden. Cae wrth cefn y Skybor Erw y Glundon, Erw Bant Tir Gwyn Ewr Uchlaw r ffordd Cae ffynnon Caer havotty fach y ddol wen y Weirglodd frwynog y clwt Dol y Bara and y wern ... Turf and Peat – *Berwyn* **Township Cynwyd fechan,pa. Gwyddelwern** Now **John Griffith**

**Ty yn y Graig** – Barn Stable Cowhouse and Garden. Lands - Cae y Crydd y Weirglodd yr Erwi hirion Erw Gasseg Cae yr Wimbill Cae Crwn y fach and y frith Newydd

Turf and Peat – *Berwyn* **Pa of Gwyddelwern, township of Cynwyd fechan (P7)** Was **Morris ap Robert** Now **Edward Edwards**

**Barn Stable Cowhouse and Garden** known by several names of **Bryngolen** and **yr Ardd y Mynydd** alias **y frith Township of Cynwyd fechan – pa of Gwyddelwern** Was **Frances Thomas Price widow** Now **Thomas David**

**Tythin Thomas Nathaniel** Barn Stable Cowhouse Garden. Land – Caer ystno Cae yr Hanad ucha Cae yr Hanad Issa y Ddwy Erw y ddan Gyferrian Cae Gwastad Cae Skybor y Gottel y Coed and Caer Batting. Turf and Peate on *Berwyn* **Township – Cynwyd Fechan and pa Gwyddelwern** Was **Thomas Nathaniel**. Now **Thomas Jones**

**Messuage** – Barn Stable Cowhouse and Garden [no name]. *Erw fedlem* pen y Maes y Maes draw Erw tan y fordd y Cyfer Cutta Erw Ganol y Cae Ucha Erw y Gwrych Vedw Erw t`ucha yr ffordd, yr Erw fawr and ffrith and Erw hontyn. Turf and Peate – *Berwyn* **Township Cynwyd fechan Pa. Gwyddelwern (p8)** Was **Elizabeth Daniel the widow of Thomas Daniel** deceased

**Messuage** House Barn Garden [no name]. Lands – y Byarth ty cefn yr Ty Cae bach Erw groes yr Erw fforchog y Cae Crwn Bach y Hemp Erw Maes Cynwyd Llechwedd bach and yr Erw yn y Maes **Township Cynwyd fechan pa Gwyddelwern** Was **Edward Owen** Now **Robert Thomas**

**Tythin Edward Jones** Barn Stable Cowhouse and Garden. Lands – Cae Pedrog Bryn Rhyg yr Erw, y Cae Cerrig and Cae Issa.Turf and Peate – *Berwyn* **Township- Cynwyd fawr Pa Gwyddelwern** Now **Edward Jones**

**Tu tan y Llidiart** – Messuage, Tenement or Farm. Lands – Cae Cwtha Erw Occas y ffrith y Glyn Cae bach and Clythian pen y ddol ... Turf and peate – *Berwyn*

[Page 9] **Messuage or Tenement Farm** [no name] **Township Cynwyd fawr Parish Gwyddelwern** Now **Thomas Matthew**

Messuage or Tenement **Hen dû** with the cowhouse and Garden. Lands – Cae tan y Ty Cae Oddar y Ty Weirglodd y ddrannen and y ddol Goch ... Turf and Peate – **Berwyn Township – Cynwyd fawr Parish Gwyddelwern** Was **Jane vch Hugh** Now **Ann Matthew spinster**

**Messuage Tenement or Cottage** [no name] **Township Cynwyd fawr Parish Gwyddelwern** Was **Robert Jones.** Now **John Price**

**Messuage Tenement or Cottage** [no name] + 2 pieces of land **Inclosures or Friths lying within last mentioned Township and Parish** Now **Thomas Hugh**

Messuage Tenement or Farm – **Bryn y Berllan** Barn Stable cowhouse and Two Gardens. Lands – yr Erwi Minefordd Dwll [or drull?] y Ceiliog Badda ucha Badda issa Cae pwll Llegedyn Erw aber Gwnodle y Goed Ddolran[?] Glantristion Doe y Bont Caer Gwdnoliad Erwi Bryn y Daintur [?] Erw Bant Cae ty popty yr Erw hir and pen y ddol [p 10] Turf and peat **Berwyn Townships Cynwyd fawr and Boteulog Parish Gwyddelwern** Was **Owen Williams** Now **Thomas Jones**

**Other messuage tenement or cottage in Cynwyd** [no name] held by him the sd [said] **Owen Williams** by Lease and now in tenure or occupation of **Hugh Humphreys**

Messuage Tenement or Farm **Ty yn y Wern** Barn Stable Cowhouse and Garden. Lands- Erwi Gwrinion y Byrdir Caer Birch y Wern Caer drws y Coppi Tir y pren Ucha Tir y pren issa and yr Erw ... Turf and peate **Mynyllod and Berwyn Township Boteulog and pa. Gwyddelwern** Was **Ellis Humphreys** now **Edward Morris**

**Pencraig** Barn Stable Cowhouse Garden. Lands – Cae Tan y Ty Cae issa y Weirglodd yr Erw fain Lechwedd Banadle Bryn y Pistill and y ffrith bach [p.11] **Township Boteulog pa. Gwyddelwern** Was **Robert John Pugh** now **John Griffith of Pen y bryn**

**Ty yn y Twll** Barn Stable Cowhouse and Garden. Lands – Caer pwll y fron newydd Erw felus Erw fanen y Clwt Erwi Menion Erw Crwyn Llymion Dwll y Ceiliog Erw y Gaseg y Goed ddol y Gottel wrth y Bont y Gottell pen y palmant and y Gottell y ffordd **Township Boteulog pa. Gwyddelwern** Now **Thomas Jones**

Messuage Tenement or Farm **Ty tan y Cefn** Barn Stable Cowhouse and Garden. Lands – Y Waen Bant alias y Wern Bant Skybor Cae Tan y Shettys Park bach Erw pen yr allt alias yr Erw Bennallt Cae ucha alias y coed ucha Bryn Tifi Cae wrth Cefn y ty y ffron yr Erw hir and y ffrith fach Turf and Peate – **Cefn Coreini parish Llandderfel, Mer.** Was **David Morgan**, now **Morgan David**

[p.12] **Ty yn y Cornell** – Messuage, Tenement or Cottage with Garden. **Township Cynwyd fawr parish Gwyddelwern** Now **John Richard**

Messuage, Tenement or cottage ***Bryn yr orsedd*** with garden. **Township Cynwyd fawr parish Gwyddelwern** Was **John David** now **William Pritchard**

**Messuage, Tenement, House or Cottage** with garden [no name.] **Township Cynwyd fawr, parish Gwyddelwern** Was **Thomas John** now **Thomas Edwards**

Messuage, Tenement, House or Cottage –***Porth y Dwr*** with the garden **Township Cynwyd fawr, parish Gwyddelwern** Now **Richard John Richard**

**Messuage, Tenement House or cottage Cynwyd** [no name] aforesaid held by Lease by **Robert Roberts** in right of **Jane his wife** heretofore in the tenure or occupation of **William Jones** as undertenant to sd. Robert Roberts and now in possession of **Robert Roberts**

Messuage, Tenement House or cottage and Water Corn Mill ***Y fellin ucha*** and piece or parcel of land and croft. **Township Cynwyd fawr** Was **Humphrey Pierce** now **Hugh Hughes Lloyd**

All that Chief Quitt or Fee Farm Rent of 2s per annum payable out of Messuage, Tenement and land with the appurtenances in **Llangar** formerly in the tenure of **Blanch Wynne widow** afterwards in the occupation of **Edward Samuel** and now **Thomas Edwards** called ***Ty yn y Llwyn*** and all that Chief Quit or Fee Farm Rent of 3 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> d issuing and payable out of all that Messuage tenement and Land in **Llangar** formerly of tenure or occupation of **Cadwallader Edwards** afterwards of **Thomas Lloyd** and now of **Abraham Matthew** now or heretofore called ***Bryn y Saint***.

And all that Chief Quitt or Fee Farm Rent of 6d issuing out of Messuage tenements and lands in **Llangar**, formerly in tenure of **Edward Nicholas** afterwards of **Margaret vch Edward** and now of **William Evans Clerk** and called ***Hafod yr Afr***

And Chief Quitt or Fee Farm Rent of 2d issuing out of that ***Mansion House or Messuage*** [no name] heretofore of **Thomas Jones Gentleman** and now of **John Jones Gentleman** in **parish Llangar**

Chief Quitt or Fee Farm Rent of 6s [p.13] out of a close meadow or field called Gweinglodd fadog being part of that messuage tenement and lands in **parish Gwyddelwern** belonging to **David Davies Gent** and now to **Hugh Davies Esquire** called ***pen y bont***

Chief Quitt or Fee Farm Rent 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d issuing out of **messuage ten.and lands** [no name] with appurtenances heretofore of **Morris Williams** and now his son **William Morris** in **Cynwyd and Boteulog**

Chief Quit Rent or Fee Farm Rent of 4d issuing out of messuage ten.and lands with appurtenances in **Boteulog** formerly in tenure of **Richard Lancelott** afterwards of **David Williams** and now of **Evan Richard** called ***Twr Gwyn***

Chief Quit Rent or Fee Farm Rent of 4d issuing out of messuage ten.and lands with appurtenances in **Boteulog** formerly in tenure of **Evan Sidney** afterwards in occupation of **sd. David Williams** and now in holding of widow of **sd. David Williams** called **Caer Bont**

Chief Quit Rent or Fee Farm Rent of 2s 6d out of messuage ten.and lands with appurtenances in **Cynwyd** formerly in tenure of **Matthew Pew** afterwards **Thomas Lloyd** and now of **William Stephen** called **Ty Mawr**

Chief Quit Rent or Fee Farm Rent of 4d out of messuage ten.and lands with appurtenances in **Cynwyd** formerly in tenure of **Edward Williams** and now **Thomas Griffith** called **Ty yn y Kelyn**

Chief Quit Rent or Fee Farm Rent of 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d out of messuage ten.and Lands with appurtenances in **pa. Gwyddelwern** called **Hen Vaes** formerly in tenure of **Catherine Ellis** widow and now **Evan Roberts**

And all other the Manor or Lordships or reputed Manors or Lordships and other Messuages houses mills Lands tenements Rents and hereditaments whatsoever with the appurtenances of **Hugh Hughes Lloyd** ... in trust for him or for his use is or are seized or entitled unto in possession, reversion or remainder for any estate either in law or equity within the several townships or hamlets precincts or territories of **Kymmer, Llangar Boteulog Penbryn Gwnodle Cynwyd fawr and Cynwyd fechan and in parishes of Llangar Gwyddelwern Corwen and Llandderfel** or elsewhere in Co. of Mer.

This document also refers to properties from other areas (not yet transcribed) and continues: "To the Use of **Hugh Hughes Lloyd** and his heirs until the marriage with **Margaret Walmesley** is solemnised

Then to the use that **Elizabeth Pierce, widow of Humphrey Pierce** late of Gwerclas, gent, dec. [*deceased*] and her assigns may receive and take out of the sd. premises £20 per annum during her natural life 29 Sept and 25 March.

### **Appendix 13: Correspondence between Margaret Lloyd and Elizabeth Baker: 1772 to 1775**

I have transcribed below excerpts from the letters written by Margaret to Elizabeth, which give a fascinating picture of her family life at Gwerclas. In addition to my own transcriptions I have also included two letters from Elizabeth Baker to Margaret, transcribed by Susan C. Passmore and reproduced in her article "*LETTERS FROM DOLGELLAU 1772-75: An Early Chapter in the Saga of Elizabeth Baker*," J. of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society, Vol 14(2004) Part III, p213 – 229. I have arranged the letters below in chronological order; reproducing them with their original (lack of!) punctuation and spelling.



[From Margaret to Elizabeth; catalogued as no.183]:

"Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 1772      Gwerclas

What shall I say to D<sup>r</sup> [Dear] Mrs Baker shall I make my apology for not writing sooner by no means because nothing can excuse the omission ... the pleasure we enjoyed at Hengwrt ..... now wish to write you such a Letter as might deserve an answer.... [p.2] ... how were we disappointed Mr [Hugh] Vaughan did not come to Corwen races. I hope he is perfectly recovered and will like to hear some particulars of our deviations upon the 13<sup>th</sup>, so for his entertainment I am certain you will forgive me running over a list of names of his acquaintance [gives list of names]

... let him suppose then Mr Lloyd of Rhwadog [an ancient property near Bala] perfectly sober and conducting the whole with the utmost decency and civility a Ball was impossible as none of our party loved dancing so a dinner was appointed at Corwen of 21 dishes & about as many Guests all the Vaughans in Ederneon all the Lloyds that could be musterd. The Wallers Mr [?] and [p.3] Miss Morris all the Dolbins A Mr Chamberlain & a Mr Williamson strangers from Liverpool and Chester We dined at 2 set out about 3 for the race amidst a crowd of happy faces w<sup>h</sup> [which] entirely lined the road, the town, the course and the opposite Mountain and had a very good effect in point of prospect.

The Starting Chair was calculated to hold many Gentlemen and Ladies who soon filled it viz. Mr Lloyd of Rhwedig Mr R. Vaughan [of Rug] Mr Lloyd of G [Gwerclas] Miss Stodart Miss Matty Owen The little Dolbins Lewis from Bala Many others we drove our Carriages as near the Chair as possible for the convenience of seeing when a violent [?Crash ] was heard and down dropd the Chair and all its contents in one Moment Never was Terror equal to poor Miss Vaughans and Mine we could see nothing at last we re<sup>d</sup> [received] the comfortable News that all were alive and none hurt except Mr Vaughan who broke his hand bone in two places [p.4] and drove immediately of the Course

I offered Miss Vaughan being in my Coach to go directly to Rug with her but that she opposed so we stayed to see the Cup Carried off by Mr Lloyd it had been irreparably damaged by the Fall we came home before the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize was won by the same Gen<sup>t</sup> I do not know when Mr R. Vaughan will forgive Mr Lloyd for a most unreasonable application to him as soon as they were able to speak. Mr Lloyd of Gwerclas [Margaret's husband] was reading the News when the Chair fell he lost [it] among the crowd Pray Mr Vaughan did you see the paper

I leave you to imagine how he rec<sup>d</sup> [received] this enquiry and proceed to assure you I am with Esteem d<sup>r</sup> [dear] Mad<sup>m</sup>.

Y<sup>r</sup> Obliged and Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

M. Lloyd"

Elizabeth sent the following reply to Margaret (transcription by Susan C. Passmore as referenced above):

"To Mrs Lloyd of Gwerclas

Hengwrt Sept 28 1772

It is impossible to express the heart felt joy D<sup>r</sup> [Dear] Mrs Lloyd created by her Epistle of the 20. nor is the difficulty less to decide whether benevolence of mind or elegance of expression has the ascendant each are so strongly prov'd believe it D<sup>r</sup> Madm. the continuance of this silent conversation will constitute much happiness: after that declaration I am perswaded when leisure will permit I shall be indulgd. With what pleasure do I recollect the Voyage to Barmouth, and the days the Gwerclas family made so delightful here, will there be a return of them? Oh! say when, for they are mark'd in my calendar with vermillion – and when I possess a Mine they shall be chang'd to Gold" ... "My noble friend is return'd home last Friday, after an advice informing that Mr Vaughans hurt was only on the skin, the bones escaping we laugh'd heartily at Mr Lloyds enquiry after the Newspaper - & everyone will confess the enquirer has fixd Ideas. But the Propriety of the Stewards behaviour charms Mr Vaughan who wishes it known at Peniarth – I fancy thereby hangs a Tale – Lovers or Ladies adieu, for without a formal leave it would be intolerable to talk of those of those necessary animals Pigs – Mr Vaughan desires his best compts. as the Damsons are ripe begs they may be sent & the Pigs the latter end of the week; or the first will not bear the carriage if they remain longer on the Trees so far business – Now to gratitude annex it to my thanks for a workbag that is admird by all, but in an inferior degree to the receiver who for the beauty of the Performance & the wish that accompanied shall preserve it as the pious do holy relicss. I am rather impolitick to lengthen this first letter, had it concluded on the first side perhaps the inducement might be stronger to correspond – excuse it – for thus employ'd I keep you in view and theres nothing like you in this part of the world consequently with reluctance quit so accomplish'd a Lady – who has secur'd the esteem of her most oblig'd hum: servt. Mr Lloyd and Mrs Turk & my little pet will not refuse compliments from their most obedt. but lest they should will unite them with Mr. Vaughans [EB]

The next letter, from Margaret to Elizabeth on Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 1772 (catalogue no.184) begins with lots of compliments to Elizabeth Baker and continues:

"... Beyond all the Gold which may be scraped out of your dirty mines ... I beg your Pardon that I forgot the Shells for Y<sup>r</sup> [your] Moss Work I now send them and some seeds of the Columbine. Perhaps they may prove serviceable in y<sup>r</sup> Cottage Building I also send you some slates and sea Moss which I took Vast pains to spread and dry. I hope Mr V is returned safe home I send him some Gwerclas Champain he w<sup>d</sup> [would] have had it sooner but he knows the reason why it chooses to travel in Winter". She then mentions that more is available. Elizabeth's reply (transcribed by Susan C. Passmore), is as follows:

"To the same [Mrs Lloyd of Gwerclas] Hengwrt Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 1772

How shall I express the felicity created by corresponding with my dear Mrs Lloyd – it compensates for the inhuman treatment experienc`d from my colleagues, and that declaration from a disciple of truth, is the best method of describing its magnitude, Vandyke [sic] never portray`d a face truer than Mr Vaughan describd your mind; and prophetically said I should esteem and love you when acquainted – vanity (for I`ve a tolerable share) prompts the mention, as every female does not admire one of their own sex with superior excellencies – Emulation is justifiable, but Envy is detestable. Suffer me to say and believe it sincere, you cannot my dear Ma`am estimate good sense and good nature more than I do, tis the scarcity produces the innumerable difficulties to the simple of heart – I write feelingly, but not without hope of surmounting them. Tis a remark of that great Genius Cervantes, that great vexation impairs the memory, admit it for the reason of being unable to name the Author of those excellent verses you favord me with, not recollecting I ever saw them, I should imagine whoever the Author was, Mrs Lloyd was the character drawn – the likeness I am certain is just, and shall transcribe it among my choice pieces. For fear of an omission if the present [thought?] gives place to another, let me offer thanks for the Shells, Seeds & Slates and for the intention of the Sea-moss, which I`ve not receiv`d – I ask`d the *surlly Butler*, if there was anything beside the wine and was answerd negatively, my obligation is not lessened by its not being receiv`d, tho` it prevents my admiration of your ingenuity in spreading it. – Oh! That *Gwerclas* was as near as Dolgelley, vain wish – besides it proves a strong degree of covetousness & I must endeavour to be satisfied with the distance, but if once *I can scrape properly the mines*, that should be no impedemt. [sic]...

I hope Mrs R. Vaughan shewed the Epithalamium [a nuptial song or poem] wrote by Mr Vaughan of *Corseygedel* [sic] – it is vastly pretty, even without partiality which I cannot be free from to every one of the family [.]. My sweet Pet, for you must return to Beau, I hope receiv`d no bruise upon her nose when she fell, it would give me a real concern to have her face hurt, her mind will be in no danger from the tenderest care; pray give her a kiss from me” ..... “My paper warns me to an Adieu, when shall we meet again! Mr Lloyd and Mrs Turk merit my best regards and it would be injustice to hold their due so much is requested of you dear Madam to say for Yrs. most sincerely”. [EB]

In a letter from *Gwerclas* dated Dec 1772 and addressed to Elizabeth at “H. Vaughan`s Esq. Hengwrt,” Margaret talks of her health being improved after Mr Vaughan and Mrs L “forced me from home.” [No.185].

On July 23rd 1773 Margaret tells Elizabeth that she has “A violent headache so must not write much by candlelight” [No.188] and in October she writes: “If I appear uncommonly dull impute it to the weather it rains and I have just set off in a Chaise [?] and Four ... I shall have many advantages of engageing yr attention to my schemes [providing employment for the poor] and shall from Yr per [?] receive the sentiments of the Gentlemen who cannot be expected to write upon such a feminine subject” [No.189].

[No.192] "I have been many months in getting 2 pr [pair] of "dolgelly" fox gloves for a fine lady ... I want your opinion and assistance to countenance this spinning for the poor let us muster up all our forces and let the Welch Gentleman [?] see what two Englishwomen can be assisted by the consciousness of Meaning well and the sanction of anyone who will lend a hand."

On 23rd March 1774 Margaret writes: "Mr Lloyd I expect every moment from Denbigh" and asks of Elizabeth's travels: "On your way to Parnassus whether you travelled by Classical steps any part of the road and if so how far also whether French or any other foreigners had the honour of conducting you there". She also mentions to Elizabeth "tho I had the pleasure of passing a month with you" [No.200]

Margaret's letter of April 12<sup>th</sup> 1774 is addressed "To Mrs Baker at H. Vaughan's Esq. at Hengwrt

My diffis are greatly lessened by Mr Lloyd's [her husband's] permission to act as I please in the Spinning scheme – it was ever my wish to employ the people and pay them ready money for their work without bothering my friends ... I have his leave to prosecute my scheme in any way I best approve of and if I meet with success I hope my poor Neibours will be greatly benefitted thereby ... Mr Vaughan in the Mean Time if he will be so good as to procure me Jersey spun by his People I will send it and pay them the same .."[No.194]

"Monday Morning May 22 1777 [presumably 1774?]

I write in great heart having at pres<sup>t</sup> [present] much small business upon my hands but it now is to express my wonder that Mr Vaughan is not at Rulas I hear Mr Price is in immediate danger: his lawyer Mr Owen Owens there and Doctors Why does he not go and come on to Gwerclas.." [No.195]

On 17th Dec 1774 Margaret talks of "loosing 3 Serv<sup>t</sup> Maids in a Washing week .... I abhor the Sight of a Workman's Bill ... I w<sup>d</sup> have danced at his Ball had I been within the Sound of the Harp and all sorts of Music" [No.199?]

Next year, on "Easter Eve 1775 To Mrs Baker at H. Vaughan Hengwrt," Margaret writes: "You say Mr Vaughan had no legacy from Rulas"; commenting that he does not need it and congratulating him on inheriting a fortune. She says her Aunt Twrch is not yet returned home and that "a carrier is just arrived with a cart from Chester which reminds me of Mr Vaughan's kind pres<sup>t</sup> [present] of Oysters which Mr Lloyd is very happy with and begs his best thanks for" [No. 201]

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1775 Margaret writes that Mr Vaughan embellished her table "for a whole week he supplied it in the most princely Manner with every delicacy The Season could produce giving life of Joy at the same time to a full Party of Mixed Company of friends that I sincerely love and I believe I am beloved by, every one of which lamented his departure. Major

Peacock and Lady left Gwerclas at 5 this Morning ... Simon is just returned from Conducting the Major and Mrs Peacock as far as Llanrwst they have 4 light bays w<sup>el</sup> run in the Chaise as far as that Town”

She also tells Elizabeth that she is going with Mr Lloyd to wait on an old friend who has not visited Gwerclas for 40 years “soon after which we expect this Antideluvian in a Party of 5 with besides Serv<sup>ts</sup> ...” and reports that “poor Aunt Turk was bled today by her son” [apparently he was a doctor!]. Three of her children helped Margaret kill clothes moths which she complained “made them so Noisy” [No.203]

On July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1775 Margaret sends congratulations to Mr Vaughan on “so complete a victory ... in the bird fights” [presumably cock fighting!] [No. 204]

12 July 1775 finds Margaret writing of her husband: “... My Lord and Master sitting like an Indian King at the quadrille table has commanded me to write to you under Pain of his royal displeasure ... Mr Lloyd came to Rug with Mr and Mrs Vaughan last night Tomorrow we call at Rug and Cefn Rug with Congratulation Comp. On the safe arrival of [?] ... we dine at Nantclwyd tomorrow to meet Major Myddleton and his Lady”

She also comments to Elizabeth, who was looking after Hugh Vaughan`s silkworms, “if you can spare so much time from the grubs” [No.205] and on July 25<sup>th</sup> 1775 [No.206] mentions “The Elegant Structure of a Silkworm”

In this letter Margaret says of Mr Vaughan [Hugh Vaughan?] “... if he has any Matrimonial scheme we do not know it.” Interestingly Margaret, who was English, also comments “My eldest son is just come up and is instructing me in the Welch language”. [This was presumably the six year old Richard Hughes Lloyd, born in November 1768]

On Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 1775 Margaret congratulates Elizabeth on acquirement of “so happy an addition to your N<sup>r</sup> hood [neighbourhood] as Mr Vaughan and his sister”. She quotes Voltaire and talks of The Season; saying that parties are retiring to their winter habitation and that there are now “Only 7 at dinner ... They have left us with nothing but rain and politics to amuse us.” She also comments that “Mr V`s Complete Farmer is arrived” and that she has received a goose from Hengwrt [No.207]

#### **Appendix 14: Undated handwritten document** (my own transcription):

[Page 25]: “We have now arrived at the date 1725, when **Hugh Hughes** the last baron of Kymmer- yn- Edeirnion died, leaving Gwerclas the family mansion to his daughter and heiress **Dorothy Hughes and her husband Edward Lloyd of Plymog**. There are fine pictures of both husband and wife now in the possession of **Col. E. Lloyd**, their descendant. **Edward Lloyd** is represented as a Gentleman of fine bearing, with strong features, and a majestic face, dressed in the brown lapelled coat of the early Georgian period. His wife has a pleasant, if not striking, face.



The Gwerclas estate probably comprised some 3,500 acres, but there were other farms with the estate of **Bryntangor**, which were situated some distance away. Gwerclas is called by Pennant in his *Tour in North Wales*, "a good looking house," and is built of red brick, with a small court-yard in front, enclosed on three sides. The present building however dates from 1767, as the date over the front door informs us, but [p 26] parts of the older mansion, built by the VIII<sup>th</sup> Baron in the reign of Henry VIII, [incorrect?] of grey stone, still remain.

The house is pleasantly situated, facing a wooded meadow on the right bank of the Dee. Opposite the house about a mile from Corwen lies the old parish church of Llangar, now long disused and in bad repair. The majority of the family monuments have been removed by two of the descendants of the Lloyds to the newer [p 27] church at Cynwyd, a village which formed part of the parish of Llangar, and of the Gwerclas estate.

The interior is remarkable chiefly for the fine massive oak staircase leading to the top of the house. The rooms are large and some are panelled. The present tenants are a family of the name of **Williams**. On the drainpipes at each side of the front is the family crest of the Englishman's head. Behind the house is a large garden with a summer house, where formerly there was a large bell.

Here then the family resided almost continuously for exactly a century, from 1725 to 1825. **Edward Lloyd**, the first of the name to live here, became High Sheriff of Merionethshire in 1732 and of Denbighshire in 1736. His wife **Dorothy**, the heiress of Gwerclas and **daughter of Hugh Hughes**, died in 1732, leaving two sons, **Hugh Hughes** and **Edward**, the latter of whom died within a year of his birth. [Note in margin]:

*"To my excessive grief my dear wife dyed Sunday Augst. 27<sup>th</sup> 1732 abt. 11 o'clock in ye morning & was interr'd ye Thursday following at Llangar"* From note by **Edward Lloyd** in the Family Bible Register.

[page28] **Edward Lloyd** was a Justice of the Peace for the County, and his signature frequently occurs in the Parish Register and accounts. For ten years he lived as a widower, and died in 1742, May 16<sup>th</sup>. He was thus a contemporary of Sir Robert Walpole, who resigned his ministry at this date.

His heir **Hugh Hughes [Lloyd]** set up a fine monument to his memory (now removed to Cynwyd church) [a note on the document says *'This monument is now without its proper crest and arms, those of Hughes being mistakenly put on it, during the removal, from Llangar to Cynwyd. It was erected "in gratefull memory of his good and indulgent parents" by their son and heir'*]

Though possessing a large estate, and though he was elected High Sheriff in 1747 he remained unmarried until 1766. He was forty years of age when he married in *St Michael's Church, Chester*, 18<sup>th</sup> April 1766, **Margaret, daughter and heiress of Richard Walmesley Esq: of Coldcoates Hall, Eaves Hall and Bashall Hall**. [Picture of crest] The **Walmesley** arms are

as follows: "Gules, on a chief, ermine, two hurts." This coat is to be seen over the front door of Bashall Hall.

The Talbots derived their pedigree from Richard de Talbot, who held lands in Normandy, twenty years before the Norman conquest. He came over with the Conqueror and is mentioned in Domesday as holding hides in Badlesdane, Bedfordshire. From his elder son Geoffrey descended the Talbots of Bashall, from Hugh, the younger son, derived the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury.

Thus the ancestry of the heiress of Bashall has been traced back to the time of the Conquest, and we resume the family history at the year 1766, when **Hugh Hughes Lloyd** married **Margaret Walmesley**, who brought **Bashall Hall** as her dowry. **Richard Hughes Lloyd**, the eldest son, was born 4 Nov.1768. Then followed two younger sons, **Edward** and **Robert** who died, aged four and fourteen respectively; then a fourth son, **John**, who became of **Bashall Lodge**, and died at the Cape in 1825. The daughters were **Sarah Margareta** b.1767 d.1835, unmarried, and **Catherine-Dorothea** b. and d.1777.

**Hugh Hughes Lloyd** was Justice of the Peace for the County, as his father had been before him, and his son Richard was after him. His signature, in neat, well-formed handwriting, frequently occurs in the parish accounts. There remains unfortunately no portrait or miniature of him, known at present. His estates, consisting at the time probably of five or six [note on document: "*viz: Plymog (the ancestral home of the Lloyds), Gwerclas (Hughes), Bryntangor (Rogers), Bashall (Talbot), Eaves Hall and Coldcoates Hall (Walmesley)*"] must have brought in a large income, all however doomed to disappear in the next generation.

He entirely rebuilt Gwerclas in 1767, when his father-in-law died, and his initials and coat-of-arms still are to be seen over the front door. He died at the good old age of sixty-three on [?] March 1788. His sons and wife erected a hatchment with the family arms, in the old church at Llangar, still in the possession of the family, though much torn and mutilated. His wife, **Mrs Lloyd**, continued to live for some years at Gwerclas, and it is supposed she was of a somewhat aristocratic and imperious temper.

Her younger son **John** had made a good match with the daughter of the house of **Wynn** of **Maes-y-Neuadd**. However, the elder son, **Richard**, greatly displeased his mother by marrying as she thought beneath him. He was a Major in the Merioneth Militia and was stationed at Deal.

[note on document: "*The fear of an invasion of England by Napoleon was the cause (it is presumed) of the Royal Merionethshire ("Merry-on-earth's") Militia being quartered at Deal in 1798. Caroline Thompson and her father Henry Thompson (late of Plymouth, surgeon) were living at Deal at the time. Her mother's name was Lomax (of Lancashire), of whom a silhouette, (showing a mob cap and double chin) is in possession of Col: Edward Lloyd, of Bedford*". An addition to the note in different handwriting says "*He also has a silhouette -*

*very roughly executed - of Caroline Lloyd (nee Thompson) in a Welsh hut [?] The profile is that of a very attractive & [?] iad young woman. EL”].*

Here as he was rowing one day on the sea, he saw a boat capsize near, and jumped in to the rescue [note on document: *“this is a legend of v. doubtful authenticity”*]. He managed to save **Caroline Thompson**, the pretty daughter of a surgeon at Plymouth, and, falling into love with her, married her in 1798 at Deal. His first child **Caroline Margaret** was born at Deal, his second, **Richard Walmesley**, at Penzance, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug: 1801. He did not come to live at Gwerclas till after his mother`s death, which occurred in 1800 at Chester. She was however godmother to her granddaughter, born a month before her death.

**Mr Lloyd** came to live at Gwerclas about 1802 where all his younger children were born, namely **John Hughes**, b. 1803, who married in [?]1843, Mary only daughter of Lucas Ward, Esq. He entered the navy and became a captain and died 1868. **Edward Salusbury**, called after his **godfather Robert W. Vaughan Salusbury of Rug**, Colonel in the Footguards, born 23 Feb 1806, [note on document: *“Died at Nakodah, Punjab, India, on the 21 of January 1851. At the time of his death he was Major & [Brevet Lieutenant] Colonel & in command of the 49<sup>th</sup> [?] of which Regt. he was officiating Commandant throughout the Second Sikh War of 1848-9 after his service”*]. **Hugh Hughes** born 1807, who died 1887, April 7<sup>th</sup>, at Wyaron Lodge, Monmouth. **Sarah Margaretta**, born 1804, d.1814; **Dorothea** born 1809, **William Heaton** b.1811 died unmarried 1827, **Frances Yale** born 1813 died in 1829, **Jane** born 1814, **Sarah Margaretta** born 1816 died 1842. The mother of these eleven sons and daughters died at the birth of the last, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov: 1816.

During these years however of domestic life at Gwerclas there was in progress a tedious and complicated lawsuit, which was to be the ruin of the family fortunes. At a neighbouring country house, **Hendwr**, a little further up the valley, there had lived a certain **Gwin Lloyd** who was the last of his race, and at his death in 1774 left all his property to his sisters **Catherine and Mary Lloyd**. Some years after this Jonathan and Robert Passingham the defendants in this case, had been told that they were entitled to claim **Hendwr** estate as being grandsons of Gwin Lloyd by a supposed marriage of his with one Elizabeth Taylor, a bar-maid at the Thatched House Inn, St James St.

The marriage however had never really taken place, and Elizabeth the offspring of this union was not legitimate. Robert Passingham who seems to have been the cleverest as well as the most shameless of the two brothers, then got a certain clerk named Kendray to forge the entries both of the marriage of Elizabeth Taylor and the birth of their mother Elizabeth Taylor or Passingham as she afterwards became. This was done with the connivance of the curate of St Pancras, Mr Sawyer, which was the parish the above mentioned Elizabeth Taylor had resided in.

The Passinghams then, in 1794, having prevailed on Miss Mary Lloyd to recognise them as her great-nephews, brought an action of ejectment against her, and won their case at

Shrewsbury assizes, entirely through forgery and bribery. Mr Garrow the Counsel for **Mary Lloyd** had omitted to call any witnesses to disprove the forgeries, which about 40 were waiting prepared to do. **Richard Hughes Lloyd** adds, as a pathetic note, in the account of the trial "God forgive him." Jonathan Passingham then entered into possession of *Hendwr*. The wills of Catherine and Mary Lloyd had left the property to **John Lloyd**. However they were thus baulked of their legal rights.

In 1807 an anonymous letter reached **John Lloyd** telling him that the Shrewsbury verdict had been obtained by forgery, whereupon fresh notices of ejectment were served upon Jno. Passingham. After some delay the trial was postponed. A hitch had occurred, since J. Passingham had passed on part of the property to his brother Robert, and the latter had married and had issue. These facts were, by the negligence of solicitors, it is presumed, not taken into account, and in consequence the verdict was set aside.

The trial came on again in 1818, 1819 and for some years after that. **John Lloyd** and his elder brother **R.H. Lloyd** were not allowed to sue for themselves, since they were bound to the agreement of 1794. The eldest son **Richard Walmesley Lloyd** however was not born till 1801 and was entitled to plead a good claim, but only to a half of the Estates. The matter had been referred to a court of 3 arbitrators who unanimously awarded it to the Lloyds. Their award was however set aside as faulty in some detail, and the trial went on, after the expenditure of many thousands, with still fresh complications.

Robert Passingham at the time of the new trial was in Newgate Prison on another charge of fraud, and shortly afterwards he dropped down dead, while supping with his solicitor. Had he lived, he would have been hanged. The expenses were gradually proving ruinous owing to the terrible delays and formalities which were still more characteristic of the courts of chancery then than today. In the end after endless disputes and mistakes on the part of attorneys and solicitors a compromise had to be arranged. The Lloyds had by this time (1828) lost all their estates - *Plymog*, *Bashall*, *Gwerclas*, one after another had been sold. Though *Bashall* fetched £20, 000 and *Gwerclas* £33, 000 such drops were but little in the cup of expenses. The loss to the Lloyds by the verdict at Shrewsbury was estimated at £100, 200, [£150,200?], which includes only the rents that should have come to them from the *Hendwr* estates. We can well imagine that the total cost almost doubled that amount, when we find that almost every consultation or visit cost a guinea or more.

It is not to be wondered at that **Richard Hughes Lloyd** died at the age of fifty four, sad and heart - broken as well as ruined. His wife had died before him in 1816 and lies buried at Llangar. The arms of Thompson appear on his seal [picture of seal] from which the following is [p.52] taken. Profiles of both this lady and her mother, the wife of Henry Thompson Esq, a surgeon, are in possession of the family. The name of the mother was Eleanor Lomax of Lancashire [note on document: *Signature in Register at St Leonard's, Upper Deal, 1798, at wedding of her daughter Caroline to R.H. Lloyd Esq.*]

The eldest son, **Richard Walmsley** had been left a certain sum to carry on the lawsuit against the Passinghams, and under his father's will there was a provision the estate of Gwerclas should be sold subject to the condition that he, as heir, should be always at liberty to buy it back. This however he was never able to do, and indeed soon got through the £10.000 he received from the Passinghams in return for relinquishing his claims to Hendwr. The Passinghams continued to live at **Tyfos**, opposite Hendwr, which had formed part of the property [note on document: *Descendants of the Passinghams were in 1907 living at Dover, Kent. They have taken the name Anwyl.*] The Lloyds on the other hand lost all connection with North Wales and scattered to different parts of the world."

# **Appendix 15: "Schedule of Gwerclas Mansion and Demesne lands as it was before being mostly purchased by Rug in 1824" [XD2/3888]**

## PARTICULARS

LOT 1: Consists of Gwerclas Mansion, Lawn, and Demesne Lands, with a good walled Garden, Coach-house, Offices of every description, and all other requisite Buildings; also, Plas Ucha Farm and a valuable Bed of Lime Stone, with five Kilns thereon; together with the undermentioned Farms, Water Corn Mill, and Cottages.

The Demesne and Plas Ucha, are situate [sic] within the Parish of Llangar, and lie within a Ring Fence, surrounding the Mansion; they contain in all 235a.0r.17p., and are in the several occupations of **JOHN MAYSMOR, Esq.** and **MESSRS. THOMAS GRIFFITH, JOHN JONES and THOMAS HUGHES**: the following are the several Parcels intowhich they are subdivided, viz.

In the Occupation of **JOHN MAYSMOR Esq.**

### *Names of Parcels*

Letter and No. on map	Names of Fields, &c.	Quantities		
		A.	R.	.P.
A. 1	Mansion House, Offices, Buildings, Yards, Garden and Wood	10	1	20
2	The Plantation	1	2	10
3	Gammog Fawr	8	3	19
4	Cefn Rhedyn	6	0	38
5	Cae Glas Ucha	2	2	20
6	Goppa	2	2	3
7	Cae Gwyn	7	0	0
8	Saith Gyfer	4	1	1



9	Cefn y Fedwen	11 3 19
10	Cefn Clover	6 3 33
11	Cefn Eithin	10 3 12
12	Cefn`r Ails	9 3 19
13	Cae`r Gareg	3 2 7
14	Cae Hir	13 1 8
15	Nant y Gall	2 1 6
16	Coed Ddol	26 1 8
17	Cae r Bont	13 1 7
18	Gwernydd	15 3 4
19	Ddol Fawr	26 1 29
20	Ddol Wenith	17 3 12
21	Pwll Cywarch	3 3 12
		205 2 7

N.B. Gwerclas Demesne is subject to a chief Rent of 8s 4d payable annually to **G.H.VAUGHAN, Esq.**  
[This would been to Rhûg]

Goed Ddol (No.16) is subject to a chief Rent of 5s, payable annually for a Quillet, to **Mr JOHN WILLIAM JONES`**

In the Occupation of **THOMAS GRIFFITH**

22 Coed Coppia Diri	1 0 32
23 Coppia Diri	6 2 1
24 Caer Daran	4 0 14
25 Cae `r Odyn	<u>10 2 19</u>
	22 1 26

[Note on catalogue says: THE TIMBER on No 22 Coed Coppia Diri belongs to the Gwerclas Estate  
The Pasturage to the Plas issa Estate]

IN THE OCCUPATION OF **JOHN JONES**

26 Cae Glas Isa [note on catalogue says Hafod]	6 0 4
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IN THE OCCUPATION OF **THOMAS HUGHES**

27 Garden [note says with Gwerclas]	1 0 10
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## RECAPITULATION

In the Occupation of JOHN MAYSMOR Esq.	205 – 2 -7
THOMAS GRIFFITHS	22-1-26
JOHN JONES	6-0-4
THOMAS HUGHES	1-0-10
<b>Total of Gwerclas Demesne, and Plas Ucha</b>	<b>235-0-17</b>

PENBRYN

In the Occupation of **DAVID DAVIES**

B.1	Frith Ucha	4	3	31/2
2	Frith Wen	2	2	27
3	Cae Rhyd Galed	1	3	35
4	Cae r Celyn	2	2	11
5	Cae Gwyn Ucha	2	0	12[?]
6	Frith Newydd	1	0	10
7	Cae Gwyn Isa	3	1	30
8	Cae Bach	0	2	20
9	Cae Dafudd	2	0	5
10	Werglodd	1	1	28
11	Erw Gyriolen	1	0	20
12	Daran Eithin	2	3	28
13	Erw Rhyd Sackson	1	0	0
14	Yard and Garden	0	2	1
		28	1	17

TYN BERTH

IN THE OCCUPATION OF **LOWRY JONES**

C.1	Frith Ucha	2 – 0 - 8
2	Frith Issaf	1 – 1 - 8
3	Cae Ucha	2 – 0 -25
4	Cae Carrol	1 – 1 -23
5	Caer Gelynen	1 – 3 - 9
6	Caer tanty	

		2 – 3 - 0
7	Cae Mawr	3 – 0 -24
8	Wern Cae Mawr	2 – 1 -30
9	Cae Ysgubor	2 – 0 -20
10	Pen Ddol bach	0 – 2 -29
11	Cae Pant	4– 1 - 0
12	Lawn	1– 1 -18
13	Wern Issa	4 – 3 -23
14	Yard and Stackyard	0 – 2 - 4
15	House and Garden	0– 1 -24
		31– 1 -5

[Page 5 not yet available – ongoing research] page 6:

PEN y BRYN

In the Occupation of **EDWARD ROBERTS**

F.1	Cae flaen drws	1 – 0 - 36
2	Frith	1 – 0 - 28
3	House and Garden	0 - 0 - 12
		2 – 1 - 86[?]

BRYN YR IRA

In the Occupation of **WILLIAM EDWARDS**

G. A cottage. This Cottage is on Lease, expiring in May 1895, at two days reaping yearly.

THE MANOR OF CYMNER [sic] AND LLANGAR, with all its Rights and Privileges, extending over 1640 Acres of Land or thereabouts, (of which about 640 are unenclosed, and affording excellent pasturage for horses, sheep, and cattle) and the undermentioned annual Chief Rents issuing out of the same and payable to the following persons, viz.

	s. d.
By the Reverend John Jones	2 – 8
By William Davies, Esq.	8 – 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
By Griffith Howell Vaughan, Esq.	1 – 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
The small Tithes, consisting of Pigs and Geese, arising within the township of Bryntangor, now let to John Roberts at per annum	10 – 0

Several unenclosed Allotments of Common in Cynwyd Fawr and Cynwyd Fechan in the Parish of Gwyddelwern, containing in the whole 935 Acres, 2 Roods, and 14 Perches, marked in the Commissioners` Map as follows:

#### CYNWYD FAWR

18	373 – 2 - 8
19	10 – 1 - 17
20	7 – 2 - 27
21	0 – 3 - 0
22	13 – 2 – 25

#### CYNWYD FECHAN

16	281 – 1 – 28
17	136 – 1 – 33
18	18 – 2 – 25
19	<u>73 – 0 - 11</u>
	935 – 2 – 14

Subject to a Chief Rent of 7s 4d payable annually to G.H. Vaughan Esq. These Allotments, in Cynwyd Fawr and Cynwyd Fechan, are occupied by the Tenants generally as Sheep Walks

[P.7 not yet available (ongoing research). P.8 with continuation of property listing from missing p.7]:

14	Pwll Gedyn in ditto	1	0	12
15	Two Quillets in Gwnod Field	1	0	6
16	Two ditto by Tyn Groes	0	3	16
17	Werglodd ditto	0	1	35
18	Erw Ffaen	1	0	4
19	Goeddad	1	0	24
		25	1	13

TY DU otherwise TY UCHA, IN CYNWYD

In the occupation of **ROBERT JONES**

K.1	Frith	1 – 3? – 9
2	Erw Occos	0 – 3 – 23
3	Cae Iddiar Llidiart	2 – 2 – 28
4	Quillet	0 – 1 – 24
5	Ditto	0 – 2 – 16
6	Ditto	0 – 0 – 22
7	Ditto	0 – 0 – 38
		6 – 3 - 0

PUBLIC HOUSE and LANDS in CYNWYD

In the occupation of **ROBERT EVANS**

L.1	Public House	– – –
-----	--------------	-------

2	Gottel	0 - 3 - 5
3	Cae Pedrog	2 - 0 - 37
4	Bryn Rhyg	2 - 0 - 24
5	Cae tyn Ffordd	1 - 0 - 19
6	Carn r Ebill	1 - 1 - 7
7	Glyngoed cae Uchaf	4 - 0 - 17
8	Cae r Drain	4 - 2 - 35
9	Cae Isa	6 - 0 - 6
		22 - 1 - 30

CYNWYD, thirty-seven COTTAGES and GARDENS, and sundry small PARCELS of LAND in and about the VILLAGE OF CYNWYD,

In the occupation of the following Persons or their Undertenants

{ Eleanor Jones, a dwelling	- - -
M. { Elizabeth Owens, ditto	- - -
{ Jane Pritchard, ditto	- - -
{ Anne Morris, ditto	- - -
N. Thomas Hughes, Cottage and Garden	0 - 0 - 12
O. John Edwards, ditto	0 - 0 - 6
P. Edwards Edwards, House and Shop}	- - -
Ditto three dwellings}	- - -

This House, Shop, and three Dwellings, are held at a rent of 9s. per annum on Lease expiring, as to the three Dwellings, 1<sup>st</sup> May 1825, and as to the House and Shop, at a Rent of 1s. per annum, on Lease expiring 1<sup>st</sup> May 1868; the Rent commencing from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 1825.

[Page 9]

Q.1	Henry Jones, Public House	0 - 0 - 16
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This Public House is on Lease at 4[?] Per annum for the lives of the said Henry Jones and Mary, his wife, and the life of the survivor of them; the lives in question are respectively 55 and 51.

R.	Katherine Jones, Cottage and Garden	0 - 0 - 10
S.	Eleanor Jones, ditto	0 - 0 - 16
T.	Edward Jones, ditto	0 - 0 - 5
U.	Thomas Stanton	- - -

On Lease for the lives of Thomas Griffiths, aged 51[?], and his son John Griffiths, aged 30[?], at 2s 6d per annum.

V.	William Jones, House and Smithy	0 - 0 - 12
W.	Elizabeth Edwards, Cottage and Garden	0 - 0 - 24
X.	David Hughes, ditto	- -
Y.	Evan Edwards, ditto	



		0 – 0 - 18
Z.	David Davies, ditto	0 – 2 - 28

This Cottage and Garden are on Lease at one Day's work in corn or hay harvest on the Farm at Gwerclas, yearly, expiring 1<sup>st</sup> December 1877.

Aa.	John Edwards, two Cottages	0 – 1 – 30[?]
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These Cottage and Lands are on Lease at one Day's reaping yearly, expiring 1<sup>st</sup> November 1857.

AB.1	(vacant) { Cottage and Garden	0 – 2– 16
2	{ Frith	1 – 1– 16
Ac. 1	Mary Williams, three Cottages	0 – 2– 34
2	Ditto, Land	1 – 0– 8

These Cottage and Lands are on Lease at 5s per annum, which will expire in May 1851.

Ad.	Thomas Hughes, { Eight Cottages, Gardens, &c.	1 – 2– 7
	{ Waste	0 – 1– 10
Ae.	Humphrey Thomas, Cottage and Land	1 – 2– 39 [?]
Af.	Thomas Roberts, Cottage and Garden	0 – 2– 28[?]
Ag.	John Meredith, ditto	0 – 0– 39
		10 – 0– 19[?]

The Parcels marked respectively X, Y, and Af. are subject to the Eighth Condition annexed to these Particulars, and which Condition is referrible to these Parcels only.

CYNWYD MILL AND LANDS  
In the Occupation of **THOMAS WILLIAMS**

Ah.1	Dwelling Mill &c.	- - -
2	Cae Felin	0 – 0– 36
3	Wood	1 – 2– 16
4	Quillet	0 – 1– 14
5	Do.	0 – 1– 36
6	Garden	0 – 0– 36
		3 – 2– 18

[Page 10]: WOOLEN FACTORY, AND LANDS  
In the Occupation of **THOMAS HUGHES**

Ai.1	Frith	6– 3– 0
2	Frith Factory	12 – 2– 28
3	Factory	- - -
		19 – 1– 28

On Lease, which will expire as to the Lands, 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1859; and as to the Cottages, Factory, and Gardens, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 1869, at the Yearly Rent of 16s.

PEN Y FELIN  
In the Occupation of **MARY DAVIES**

Aj.1	Cae Ty	1– 3– 36
2	Do.	1 – 3– 0

3	Cottage	- -
		3 - 2 - 36

HENFAES UCHAF  
In the Occupation of THOMAS JONES

Ak.1	Frith	1 - 3 - 8
2	Erw Fawr	1 - 3 - 31
3	Erw Within	0 - 0 - 28
4	Cae Ucha	5 - 2 - 10
5	Erw r Ffordd	1 - 0 - 10
6	Erw Ganol	0 - 3 - 17
7	E rw Gwyrch Bedw	0 - 1 - 24
8	Werglodd	0 - 2 - 23
9	Cyfer Cwtta	1 - 2 - 4
10	Erw Hidliw	2 - 0 - 30
11	Pen y Maes	1 - 3 - 29
12	Quillets	1 - 0 - 0
		19 - 0 - 14

Henfaes Ucha is subject to the Chief Rents of 11s.5d.payable annually to G.H. Vaughan, Esq. and 1s. annually to Sir Watkin Williams Wynne, Bart.

HENFAES ISAF  
In the Occupation of JOHN DAVIES

Al.1	Cae r Ustus Ucha	7 - 2 - 4
2	Cae r Ustus Isaf	4 - 1 - 4
3	Werglodd	2 - 1 - 15
4	Dau Gyfewrin	1 - 0 - 2
5	Cae Haiad Ucha	4 - 0 - 4
6	Cae r Haiad Isaf	2 - 0 - 27
7	Coed and Pant r Haiad	6 - 1 - 6
8	Gottel	0 - 2 - 38
9	Cae Gwastad	1 - 1 - 9
10	Cae r Ysgubor	0 - 3 - 39
11	Wern	0 - [?]- 0
12	A Field purchased from Mr Lloyd	2 - 0 - 0
13	Glyn	4 - 2 - 10
		37 3 38

Henfaes Isaf is subject to the Chief Rent of 1s payable annually to Mr ROBERT WHITE, for a Quillet.

TALURN BACH,  
In the Occupation of R. ROBERTS.

Am.1	Cefn y Ty	0 - 2 - 17
2	Cae Bach	0 - 2 - 11

3	Erw Gron	0 – 3 – 3
4	Llechwedd Bach	0 – 2 – 0
5	Erw Ffoulog	1 – 0 – 19
6	Erw Gron	1 – 0 – 20
7	Erw Bach	0 – 1 – 8
8	Erw Maes Gynlas	0 – 2 – 0
9	Quillet	0 – 3 – 16
		6 – 1 – 14

HENDY

In the Occupation of EDWARD DAVIES

An.1	Dichwedd	0 – 3 – 38
2	Cae Tan Ty	1 – 1 – 35
3	Quillet in Penddol	1 – 0 – 34
4	Werglodd Ddraenen	1 – 0 – 1
5	Yard and Garden	0 – 1 – 16
		5 – 0 – 4

Total Amount of the First Lot    1461 – 2 – 38

Hendy is subject to the Chief Rent of 8d payable annually to G.H. Vaughan, Esq.

LOT II.  
BRYNGOLLEY

Ao.1	Frith	2 – 1 – 19
2	Gottel	0 – 2 – 16
3	Cae Tan Ty	0 – 3 – 21
4	Cae Isa	0 – 3 – 31
5	Yard and Garden	0 – 1 – 25
		5 – 0 – 32

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LOT III.  
CYNWYD FECHAN

In the Occupation of MORRIS HUGHES

Ap.1	Coed	1 – 0 – 16
2	Caer Ffynnon	3 – 2 – 36
3	Caer Volly	1 – 2 – 6
4	Wern	1 – 0 – 10
5	Erw ty Ucha Ffordd	1 – 0 – 28
6	Tir Gwyn	1 – 2 – 34
7	Cae Pant	3 – 0 – 14
8	Cae'r Ysgubor	3 – 2 – 0
9	Ddol y Bara	2 – 0 – 0

10	Clyttie	4 – 1 – 27
11	Ddol Wen	7 – 2 – 32
12	Werglodd Fechan	2 – 0 – 30
13	Cae Ofllaen Drws	2 – 0 – 24
14	Yard, &c.	0 – 3 – 12
15	Frith	6 – 2 – 39
		42 – 3 – 28

TYN Y GRAIG  
In the Occupation of JANE JONES

Aq1	Frith	0 – 3 – 12
2	Cae y Wimbill	2 – 0 – 4
3	Erw Eifeirnog	1 – 2 – 8
4	Erw Fechan	1 – 3 – 20
5	Erw r Gaseg	2 – 0 – 12
6	Cae r Crydd	1 – 3 – 8
7	Werglodd	3 – 2 – 27
8	Gottel	0 – 0 – 38
9	Frith Ucha	3 – 2 – 32
		17 – 3 – 1
	An uninclosed Allotment on the Common, (marked No.20 on the Commissioners`Map) in the Township of Cynwyd Fechan	117 – 3 – 38
	This Allotment is occupied generally by the Tenants of the Estate, as Sheep Walks. Total amount of this Lot.	178 – 2 – 27

LOT IV  
FRON GIDDIO  
In the Occupation of WILLIAM REECE

Ar.1	Fownog	5 – 8[?] – 2
2	Cae r Drws	5 – 0 – 15
3	Cae Canol Ucha	8 – 0 – 20
4	Cae Banaill	10 – 0 – 13

(Further pages of this document not yet available – ongoing research)

## Appendix 16: Some notes on Gwerclas field names

*Cefn* can mean back or ridge and *Cefn y Fedwen* indicates birch; mutated from the Welsh *bedwen*. *Cefn Rhedyn* refers to fern or bracken and *Cefn Eithin* to gorse. Eurwyn William notes that in North Wales gorse was much used as fodder for horses, and occasionally also for cattle; being specially grown in fields known as *caeau eithin* (gorse fields) and cut ready for the winter. (Eurwyn William (1982) Traditional Farm Buildings of North East Wales 1550 – 1900)

**Appendix 17: Apportionment of the Rent-Charge in lieu of tithes - Parish of Llangar, Merioneth, 28 September 1838 (National Library of Wales ref, AC388/ R3)**

Landowner Griffith Howel Vaughan; Occupier Edward Williams

Number Referring to the Plan	Name and Description of Lands and Premises	Quantities in Statute Measure	Amount of Rent-Charge apportioned upon the Several Lands, and Payable to the Rector
		A. R. P.	
219	Gwerclas Buildings Land & Wood	11 1 30	
220	Plantation	1 2 10	
221	Gamog fawr	8 3 19	
222	Cefn rhidyn	6 .. 38	
223	Cefn glas ucha	2 2 20	
224	Goppa	2 2 3	
225	Cae gwyn	7 .. ..	
226	Cae Daran	4 .. 14	
227	Coppa Diri	6 2 1	
228	Coed Coppa Diri	1 .. 32	
229	Cae yr odyr	10 2 19	
230	Saith cyfer	4 1 1	
231	Cefn y fedwen	11 3 19	
232	Cefn clover	6 3 33	
233	Cefn eithen	10 3 2	
234	Cefn r ails	9 3 19	
235	Cae garreg	3 2 7	
236	Cae hir	13 1 8	
237	Nant y gall	2 1 6	
238	Coed y ddol	26 1 8	
239	Caer y bont	13 1 17	
240	Pwll cowarch	3 3 12	
241	Pen ddol (?)union	12 .. ..	
242	Gwernydd	8 .. 8	
243	Ddol fawr	14 2 ..	
244	Ddol uchaf	8 .. ..	
245	Ddol wenith	17 3 12	
(Total)			£37 15s 6d



## Appendix 18: 1891 census for Llangar:

Head: <b>William E. Williams</b> aged 51, farmer, born Llangar
<b>Sarah C. Williams</b> wife aged 44, born London, Middlesex
<b>Catherine Ll. Williams</b> daughter aged 12 born Llangar
<b>Martha L. Ll. Williams</b> daughter aged 10 born Llangar
<b>William R. Ll. Williams</b> son aged 9 born Llangar
Clara A. Hughes Servant aged 21 Governess born Buckley, Flint
Edward Edwards Servant aged 27 Agricultural labourer born Llangar
David Roberts Servant aged 17, Agricultural labourer, born Llangar
William Williams Servant aged 14, Agricultural labourer, born Corwen
Robert Roberts Servant aged 14, Agricultural labourer, born Llangar
Mary Williams Servant aged 29 Domestic, born Llangar
Ellen Edwards Servant aged 22 Domestic, born Llangar
Catherine Davies Servant aged 16 Domestic, born Llangower

Researched by Jenny Lees, Hafod y calch. Originally completed 26<sup>th</sup> July 2015 but updated March 2019.

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