



Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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LLWYN HWLCYN

Llanfair, Nr. Harlech



House History

A Part History of the House & its Families

Author: Dinah Pickard

Updated: 30-03-2023

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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Llwyn Hwlcyn NGR SH585283 - Summary

This typical Snowdonia house retains many original features with a few unusual ones. It was built before 1623. Little is known about it before 1812 but since 1840 it has been tenanted by 10 people and owned by at least 5. It is now lived in by the present owner, the first time for at least 200 years.

- 1623 Crown rentals of 1623 with Evan Lloyd paying.
- 1683 Will and inventory of William Prichard dated 22 May 1683. (Welsh wills on line ref B/1683-72) The will does not name the property but the inventory for £20 names it as Llwin Holkin. His wife is Maria Thomas, 2 daughters Elizabeth and Margaret William and grandchildren Maria, William and Elizabeth Humphrey are named.
- 1741 1 July - J Jones –Williams Collection of Deeds NLW GB 0210JONAMS. Group 2 (1953) 3 vtls 005298413. Maurice Lloyd of Gwern Einioin. Edward Owen the elder of Garthyngared. Bargain and sale of Gwern Einiion, Gwern Eignime, Llwyhwkin etc.
- 1747 9 August – Baptism Catherine daughter of Griffith Williams a landowner and his wife Catherine (Llanfair P.R Dolgellau R.O).
- 1812 11 December – Z/DBZ/56 Dol R.O. Morris Griffith of Llwyn Hwlcyn yeoman, is owned £40 by William Pugh of Argoed clerk.
- 1825 Will and inventory of Morris Griffith dated 25 October 1824. Inventory for £188.18.0. Beloved wife Margaret and daughters Jane and Margaret are named. (Welsh wills online ref B/1826/151.2).
- 1825 4 April – Morris Griffith is buried aged 59. His wife Margaret died 11 March 1852 aged 81. (MI Llanfair Dol R.O). On the same gravestone:

Griffith Griffiths died 19 February 1800 aged 31

Jane Griffiths died 17 July 1804 aged 42

I have not established a link to these or Morris's parentage.

The origin of Morris Griffiths is not known but his wife Margaret Ellis (see Census 1841-51). Their daughter Margaret married Richard Edwards 1788-1866 a tenant of Llwyn Hwlcyn from before 1841, probably 1825, until after 1851.

- 1836 23 March – John Edwards was buried aged 82 (MI Llanfair), he was probably Richard Edwards' father.
- 1840 Tithe (Dol RO). Edwards Owen was owner and Richard Edwards tenant. Edward Owen 1765-1850 of Garthyngared, Dolgellau parish was a solicitor and was from a family of note.
- 1841 Census:

Richard Edwards	50	Farmer
Margaret Edwards	35	
Jane Edwards	3	
Margaret Ellis	20	Independent
4 female servants		

1848 15 March – Margaret Griffiths whose father Griffith Hughes , labour, married Thomas Davies (Llanfair P.R Dol R.O).

1851 Census:

Richard Edwards	63	Farmer	Llanbedr
Margaret Edwards	47		Llanfair
Jane Williams	13	Niece	Llanbedr
Margaret Griffiths	79	(mother-in-law)	Llanbedr
Two male servants		Ag labour	

NB. Widows are often known by their married and/or maiden name.

1852 15 March – Margaret Griffith aged 81 buried (MI Llanfair).

Richard Edwards and Margaret Griffiths married 17 December 1834 (Llanfair PR) and they took in their niece Jane Williams (daughter of Margaret’s sister Jane Griffith and her husband Rees Williams) some time before 1841. She grew up in Llwyn Hwlkyn and Tyn y Buarth, Llanfair village. On 30 November 1864 she married widower George Owen of Tyn y Fawnog – they had one son. In 1908 she featured as the main character in Sydney Curnow Vosper famous painting called “Salem”. She was then 71.

1856 26 February – 2/F/153 Sale particulars.

“Lot 3, 4, 6 & 7 indenture dated 26 February 1856 being conveyance from trustees of the will of Edward Owen the elder esq. and others to L H Thomas Esq.

NB: The will revealed data to enable his origins to be investigated. This is Lewis Holland Thomas who was a master mariner and Pacific trader. Baptised 10 November 1812 and born 16 October 1812 Llanwrst. When he brought Llwyn Hwlkyn in 1856 he lived in Caerffynnau, Talsarnau with his second wife Elizabeth Roberts who he married in Liverpool on 4 September 1855. His first 2 children, 2 daughters were born in Chile in 1843 and 1846 and his first wife (his cousin) died in Liverpool in 1846. Lewis Thomas had 8 children with Elizabeth. He died 5 October 1888 in Caerffynnau leaving £6,794.15.10. See “Caerffynnon Story” by Heulwen Isambard Owen 1973.

1861 Census

William Lewis	70	Farmer of 90 acres	Llanfiangel y Traethau
Jane Lewis	65	Wife	Maentwrog
William Lewis	28	Son	Llandanwg
Ann Lewis	32	Daughter	Llanbedr
William Lewis	18mths	Grandson	Llanbedr

One male servant

1866 5 June – William Lewis died at Llwyn Hwlkyn aged 75

(NL Probate records) given to Jane his relic. Under £200.

1871	Census			
	William Lewis	36	Farmer of 98 acres	Llandanwg
	Ann Lewis	42		Llanbedr
	William Lewis	11		Llanbedr
	Owen Evans Lewis	9		Llanfair
	Thomas Lewis	7		Llanfair
	Evan Lewis	5		Llanfair
	Jane Lewis	2		Llanfair
	David Lewis	1		Llanfair
	Jane Evans	77	mother-in-law	Maentwrog

1881	Census			
	William Lewis	47		Llandanwg
	Ann Lewis	52		Llanbedr
	William Lewis	21		Llanbedr
	Owen Evans Lewis	19		Llanfair
	Thomas Lewis	17		Llanfair
	Evan Lewis	15		Llanfair
	Jane Lewis	11		Llanfair
	David Lewis	9		Llanfair
	Humphrey Lewis	7		Llanfair
	Jane Evans	84	mother-in-law	Trawsfynydd

The Lewis family probably became tenants between 1859-1861 until Williams (junior) death in 1884; about 25 years. They came from Rydgaled Uchaf, Llandanwg where they were in 1841 and 1851. Ann Lewis as a widow moved to Harlech town.

1889 26 September – Z/F/153 Sale particulars

Lot 3 Llwyn Hwlkyn and most of Pengarth owned by Lewis Holland Thomas Esq. since 1856, sold and possibly bought for £1,370 by Griffiths (a pencil addition). Occupied by Mr Morris Jones.

I can find no evidence of Griffith as the owner.

1891	Census			
	Morris Jones	33	Farmer	Llanfaglan
	Jane Jones	28		Llandanwg

Susannah Jones	8	Llanfair
John William Jones	6	Llanfair
Morris William Jones	2	Llanfair

Three servants

Morris Jones was born in Llanfaglan to John Herbert Jones and Sarah Ellen Jones, baptized 10 January 1858, he married Jane Owen Williams of Llandanwg so it was probably through her that he got the tenancy of Llwyn Hwlkyn when William Lewis died in 1884.

By 1901 he had moved to Llwlchlawr Coed, Dyffryn, probably in 1892 and he was still there in 1911.

However, he was replaced by his brothers Hugh, baptised 6 July 1862 who in 1891 was a pork butcher in Llanbebig. He married Ann Williams in Llandanwg in 1890.

Jane and Ann Williams were sisters, daughter of John Williams and his wife Susanna Jones, she was born in 1826 Abersoch and was sister to John Herbert Jones. The two brothers (Jones) married two sisters (Williams) – their cousins!

1891 7 May – Susanna Williams (nee Jones) of Pantoglen, Llandanwg died, she left a will £1412.8.2 with admins to Jane Jones wife of Morris Jones (her daughter)

1901 Census

Hugh Jones	37	Farmer	Llanfaglan
Ann Jones	38		Llanfaglan
Susannah Jones	9		Llanfair
John H Jones	7		Llanfair
Myfanwy Jones	5		Llanfair
Sarah Jones	3		Llanfair
Gwen Jones	1		Llanfair

One male farm worker

However, by 1911 he too was in Dyffryn, Meifod isaf.

1910 2/QR/1/5 Duties on Land Values

Owner: Robert Richard of Pensarn Hall

Occupier: Robert Stephens

Robert Richard of Pensarn Hall was born 1845 to William Richard and his wife Jane Williams. HE was married in 1874 Llanbedr to Jane Griffith. They had three daughters, all spinsters and four sons. When Richard died on 24 June 1930 leaving £16,978 his daughters inherited Llwyn Hwlkyn. They lived in Pensarn Hall:

Elizabeth Richard born 1875 died 9 January 1976 leaving £34,766

Catherine Richard born 1883 died

Gwen Poole Richard born 1887 died in 1965 leaving £24,846

Much of this money must have come from selling the farms.

In 1910 Robert Richard had already bought Llwyn Hwlkyn and owned ten other properties locally. They had been merchants operating out of Pensarn harbor, which was active importing grain, coal, cement, etc.

1911 Census

Robert Stephens	41	Farmer	Ffestiniog
Gwen Stephens	42		Dyffryn
Margaret Hughes	13	Adopted daughter	Dyffryn

One male worker

Robert was born in 1870 to Stephen and Dorothy Stephens in Ffestiniog probably Penbryneath where his father was a butcher in 1881. They moved to Maesygarneidd, Llanbedr by 1891 and Robert to Gareglwyd, Llanbedr in 1901. They were connected by marriage to Morris Jones.

Nothing is known between 1911 and 1924 when election rolls are available.

1924	}	William Jones	(nothing is known about him)
1925			
1926			
1927 &			
1928	Morgan Jones	Griffith Park	

Morgan Jones was born in 1899. The 1939 census says 8 August but the birth certificate says 9 August at Llacedda Ganol, Llanfiangel y Pennant to Thomas Wynn Jones and Mary nee Jones. He married Gwen Pugh Jones on 31 March 1926 at Gwv Clwyd Chapel, Llanbedr. She was born 20 July 1898 daughter of Richard Pugh Jones and his wife Mary Roberts.

Although married in 1926 Gwen was not recorded with her husband in Llwyn Hwlkyn, nor is she with her parents. However, all females over 21 were able to vote after 1928, so presumably she didn't qualify before then.

1929 Morgan Jones, Gwen Pugh Jones, Griffith Park

1920 Morgan Jones, Gwen Pugh Jones, Richard Pugh Jones, Mary Pugh Jones

Thus in 1930 Morgan Jones parents in law moved in and they are all there until 1939 census except Mary who had died sometime after 1935. They had previously been in Hendre Maelod, Llanddwyn since before 1871. Surprisingly they are also there in 1930 electoral roll!

Morgan Jones' family probably moved from Llacedda Ganol to Penarth, Llanbedr in late October 1920 since school records of his younger brother Sylvanus show he left Brynengan County School on 29 October 1920 "for Llanbedr". The family is in Penarth in 1924-1931 and 1939.

Griffith Park was born 7 March 1899 (1939 census) and died 27 July 1946 (will and MI Llanbedr) in Tyddyn Pandy, Llanbedr leaving £1,694.4.8 with sister Jane as executer. The Parks originated in Hutton Mose, Westmorland but moved to Wales before 1851. By 1881 they lived in Franoleu, Llanfair. By 1911 they moved to Tyddyn y Pandy, Llanbedr. In 1924 he was in electoral roll for Tyddyn y Pandy, Llanbedr but worked and presumably lived at Llwyn Hwlkyn for at least 3 years 1927-1929.

1933 19 April – Deed held by present owner.

Elizabeth, Catherine and Gwen Richard inherited from Robert Richard of Pensarn (he died 24 June 1930 85 years old). Two of his executors had died in 1931 so probate was late.

1939 7 September – Deed held by present owner.

The three Richard sisters sold to Sir Charles Phibbs of Gwynfryn Hall, Llanbedr for £11,050.

1939 Census

Richard P Jones	born 13 January 1870?	Widow, Farmer
Morgan Jones	born 8 August 1899	Heavy work on farm
Gwen Jones	born 20 July 1898	Domestic duties

Plus two closed (children)

1940 – 1944 No electoral rolls

1945 William D Evans, Margaret Evans

1952 William D Evans, Margaret Evans, Gwyn Owen Evans

1954 William D Evans, Margaret Evans

1957 William D Evans, Margaret Evans

1958 Not listed – unoccupied

William Owen Evans was born 15 April 1898 to William Owen Evans and Margaret his wife and was a merchant seaman 1914-1925 and married Margaret Evans in 1893. They are buried in Llanfair. William Owen Evans (senior) died 25 August 1933 in Gilfachfoch, Llanbedr leaving £501. Unable to find them in 1939 census.

Sir Charles Phibbs was born 24 May 1878 in Rathdown, Sligo Ireland and died at Gwynfryn Hall, Llanbedr on 2 July 1967.

Sir Charles Phibbs' family originated in Lincolnshire but had been in Ireland since 1659. His father purchased Doobed, Sligo in 1877. Charles backed England in the war of independence and he was boycotted and his property suffered violence and he was personally threatened. So by 1922 he bought Plas Gwynfryn and 100 acres probably because Lord Harlech was a distant relative (Lord Harlech also owned land in Sligo).

He was knighted in 1936 for services to local government.

He bought up several farms and built up an estate in 1967. Harloe Phibbs sold to Howard Lees Ferguson, father of present owner, who holds the deeds.

Dinah M Pickard

30.03.2023

APPENDICES

DATE	OWNERS	OWNERS OR TENANTS	TENANTS
1623		Evan Lloyd	
1637 → ??		William Pritchard	
?? → 1741	Maurice Lloyd of Gwen Einion		
1741 1 July	Edward Owen elder of Garthyngared		
1812 →4 Apr 1825		Morris Griffith	
1836 →23 Mar 1836		John Edwards	
1840	Edward Owen of Garthyngared		Richard Edwards ←1840 – 1851→
1856 26 Feb	Lewis Holland Thomas of Caeffynnau Hall, Talsarnau		William Lewis sen. ←1859-1866 William Lewis jnr. 1866 – 1881→
1889 26 Sept	? Griffiths ?	Brothers {	Morris Jones 1883 – 1891/2 Hugh Jones 1891/2 – 1901→
1907		{	Robert Stephens ←1907 – 1915→
1910 -1930	Robert Richard of Pensarn Hall, Llanfair		Robert Stephens
1921	Elizabeth } Catherine } Richard (daughters) Gwen }		Charles Williams ←1921→ William Jones ←1924 – 1926
1939 7 Sept	Sir Charles Phibbs of Gwynfryn Hall, Llanbedr		Morgan Jones 1927 – 1939→ Father-in-Law Richard Pugh Jones 1930 – 1939→
1964	Harloe Phibbs (son)		William O Evans ←1945 - 1967
1967	John Howard Lees Ferguson		

APPENDICES

Llwyn Hwlkyn Census 1841-1911 + 1939

1841 Owner: Edward Owen	1851 ?	1861: Lewis Holland Thomas	1871: LHT	1881: LHT
Richard Edwards 50 Farmer Merioneth Margaret Edwards 35 Merioneth Jane Edwards 3 Merioneth Jane Robert 16 FS Merioneth Jane Davies 14 FS Merioneth Margaret Ellis 70 Ind Merioneth Lowry Williams 11 FS Merioneth	Richard Edwards 63 Llanbedr Margaret Edwards 47 Llanbedr Jane Williams 13 niece Llanbedr Margret Griffiths m.i.law 79 do. William Williams 17 ag lab Carn. Robert Williams 63 ag lab Harlech	William Lewis 70 farmer 90 acres Llandanwg Jane Lewis 65 Maentwrog William Lewis 28 Llandanwg Ann Lewis d.in.law 32 Llanbedr William Lewis g.s 18m Llanbedr Robert Matthew 23 servant Llandanwg	William Lewis 36 Llandanwg Ann Lewis wife 42 Llanbedr William Lewis son 11 Llanbedr Owen Lewis 9 Llanfair Thomas Lewis 7 Evan Lewis 5 Jane Lewis 2 David Lewis 1 Jane Lewis mother 77 Evan Hughes 48 Carn. Hannah Roberts 23 Llanbedr Catherine Thomas 30 Llandanwg	William Lewis 47 Llandanwg Ann Lewis wife 52 Llanbedr William Lewis son 21 Llanedr Owen Lewis 19 Llanfair Thomas Lewis 17 Evan Lewis 15 Jane Lewis 12 David Lewis 9 Humphrey 7 Jane mother 84 Trawsfynydd

1891 ?	1901 ?	1911 Robert Richard	1939 Charles Phibbs
Morris Jones 33 Farmer Llanfaglan Jane Jones 28 Llandanwg Susannah Jones 8 Llanfair John William Jones 6 Llanfair Morris Jones 2m Llanfair Mary Pritchard 19 Servant? Carn. William Willams 23 Llandewyn Matthew Lloyd 11 Llandanwg	Hugh Jones 37 Farmer Llanfaglan Ann Jones 38 Llanendwyn Susannah Jones 9 Llanfair John H Jones 7 Llanfair Myfanwye Jones Llanfair Sarah Jones 3 Llanfair Gwen Jones 1 Llanfair Owen Jones 27man on farm Carn.	Robert Stephens 41 Farmer Festiniog Gwen Stephens 42 m. 13yrs Dyffryn Margaret Ellen Hughes 13 adopted daughter John Williams 18 Farm worker Harlech [1921 – unable to find occupiers]	Richard P Jones b 13 Jan 1870 wid. Farmer Morgan Jones b 8 Aug 1899 heavy work Gwen Jones b 20 July 1898 mar. domestic + 2 closed (probably children under 10)

ELECTORAL ROLLS 1924 -1939 / 1945 – 1957

DATE	NAMES ON ROLLS
1907	Robert Stephens
1915	Robert Stephens
1921	Charles Williams
1924	William Jones
1925	William Jones
1926	William Jones
1927	Morgan Jones, Griffith Park
1928	Morgan Jones, Griffith Park
1929	Morgan Jones, Gwen Pugh Jones, Griffith Park
1930	Morgan Jones, Gwen Pugh Jones, Richard Pugh Jones, Mary Pugh Jones, Griffith Park
1935	Morgan Jones, Gwen Pugh Jones, Richard Pugh Jones, Mary Pugh Jones
1939	Morgan Jones, Gwen Pugh Jones, Richard Pugh Jones, Mary Pugh Jones
1945	William D Evans, Margaret Evans
1950	William D Evans
1951	William D Evans, Margaret Evans, Gwyn Owen Evans
1952	William D Evans, Margaret Evans, Gwyn Owen Evans
1953	William D Evans, Margaret Evans, Gwyn Owen Evans
1954	William D Evans, Margaret Evans
1956	William D Evans, Margaret Evans
1957	William D Evans, Margaret Evans
1958	Not listed (unoccupied)