

Darganfod Hen
Dai Cymreig



Discovering Old
Welsh Houses

Gwynt y Mor Outreach Project

The Girls School
aka The Old Church School
Minffordd Road
Llanddulas, Conwy
LL22 8EW



researched and written by
Gill. Jones
2016

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PLEASE NOTE ALL THE HOUSES IN THIS PROJECT ARE PRIVATE AND
THERE IS NO ADMISSION TO ANY OF THE PROPERTIES



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Acknowledgements

With thanks for the support received from the Gwynt y Mor Community Investment Fund.

Early Background History

Llanddulas is one of the **ancient parishes** of **Denbighshire**. Until 1878, the parish consisted of the two townships of **Tre'r Llan** and **Tre'r Cefn**, containing 606 acres.

The name translates as the 'church on the River Dulas'; it has been claimed that the proper ecclesiastical name is *Llangynbryd*, from Cynbryd the dedicatee of the church. The first written record, which almost inevitably relates to the church, is in the 1254 Norwich Taxation (*The pope ordered a new assessment of clergy property for taxation purposes*) and exhibits a form not so very different from today, *Llanndulas*. Later in the century there are some curious variations as with *Thlantheles* in 1287 and *Landuglas* in 1291 (*The Lincoln taxation of Pope Nicholas*). It is conceivable that the original name was *Nant Dulas* derived from the nearby stream, particularly as *Nandulas* was referred to in 1284.

At the end of the 17th century there were five or six cottages in the settlement according to Edward Lhuyd's informant, while in 1781 Thomas Pennant simply described Llanddulas as a small village and church.¹

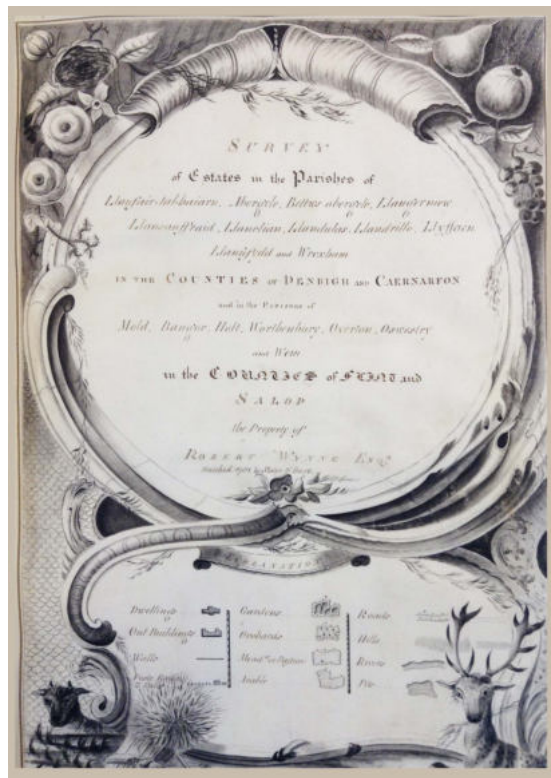


copy of an estate map dated 1781

This map² is part of a book of all the properties held by Robert Wynne esq. of Garthwin in 1781.

1. Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust - Historic Settlement Survey - SH 9064 7812 - 105499

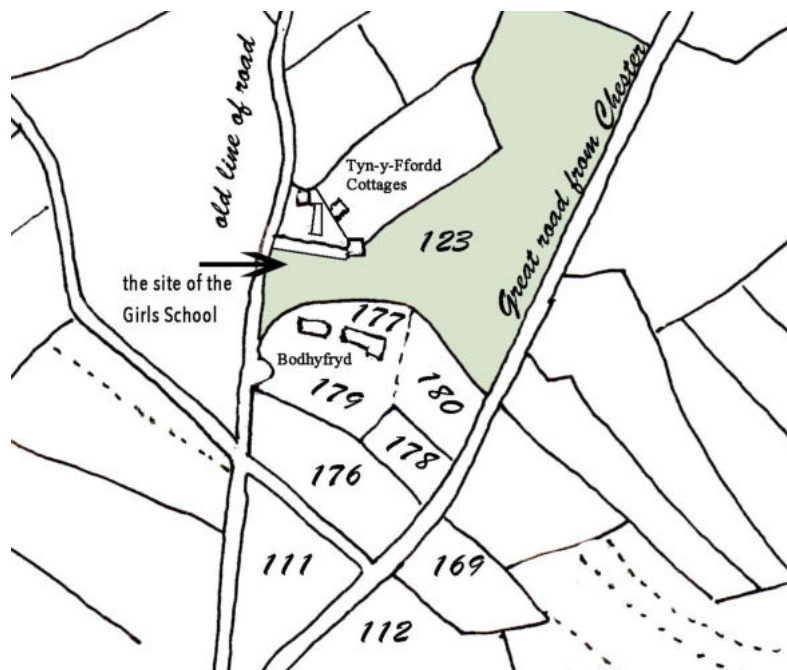
2. Bangor Archives – Garthwin Estate – Book of maps



Title Page from the book

The field, which was later purchased by lease, is shown as part of the Garthewin estate at this date.

At the time of the Tithe schedule in 1843, Llanddulas village consisted of little more than a church, a vicarage, Ty Ucha House, the mill and the houses on Mill Street. Beyond this small nucleus, houses were very few and scattered.



Copy of the Tithe Map from 1843

The Girls School was built a few years later on Field number 123 on the Tithe map. When the piece of land was purchased in 1846, it was named as **Cae Mawr**. The **Tithe Map** dated **22/2/1843** was drawn by J. John Matthews of Mold (1773-1848). The owner of the land was recorded as Robert Wynne esq. of Garthwin. The tenant was named as Thomas Hughes of Ty Ucha.

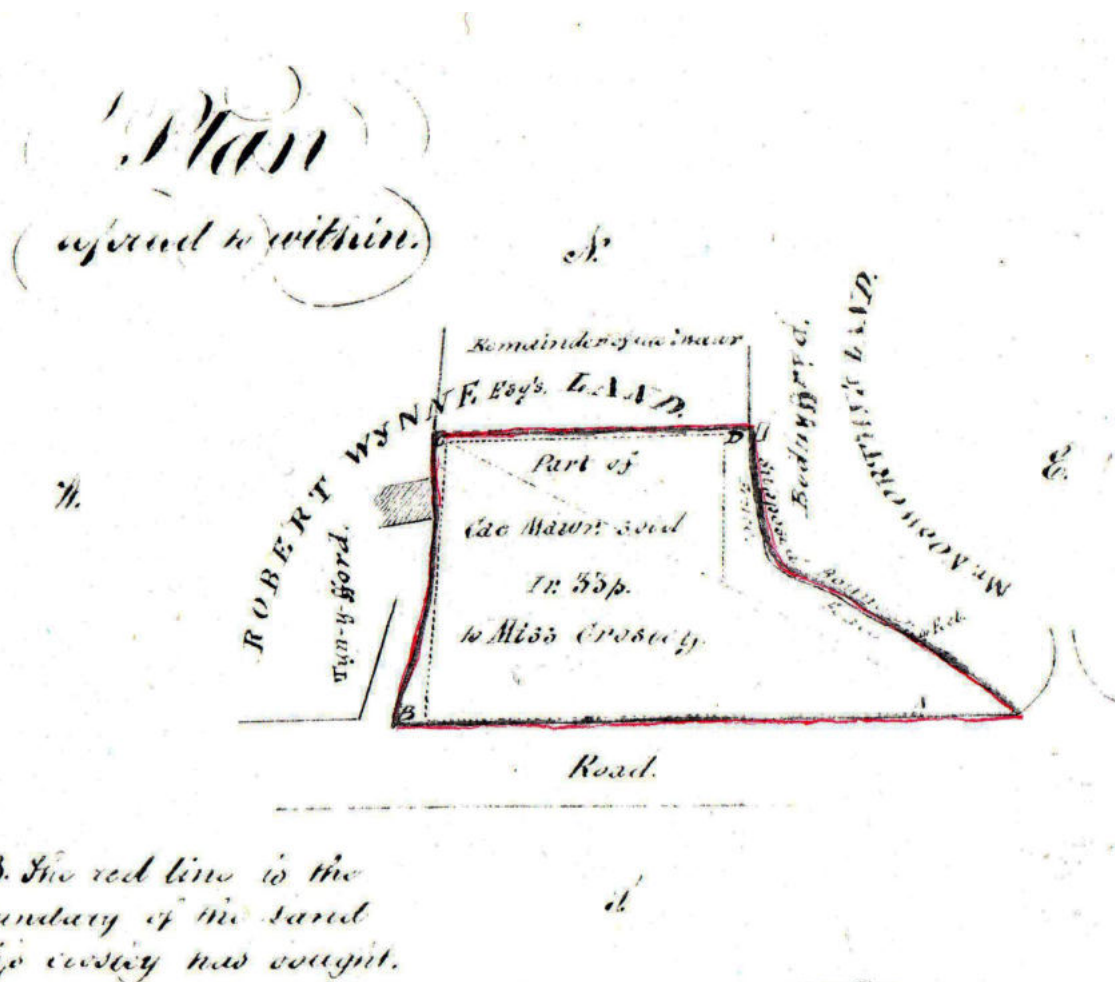
The Building of the Girls School (later known as The Old Church School)

According to Lewis' Directory in **1844**, there were two day schools in Llanddulas. In one there were 14 children, nine paid for by Col. Wynne and four by William Crosley esq., and in the other school there were 55 children taught at the expense of their parents. These schools were only for boys. Girls had to go to Llysfaen.

26th July 1846 – Conveyance

Mary Crosley of Dyffryn Dulas, Llanddulas purchased part of Cae Mawr from **Robert Wynne of Bronywendon** in the co. of Denbigh and **Robert William Wynne** of the same place. It was described as:-

'All that piece or parcel of land being part of a field called "**Cae Mawr**" situate lying and being in the said Parish of Llanddulas and bounded on the north by the remainder of the said field on the east by a shrubbery belonging to Henry Nosworthy of Woolich and on the west by premises called Tyn-y-Fford belonging to the said Robert Wynne containing by admeasurement 1 rood and 33 perches or thereabouts and now or late in the occupation of Thomas Hughes (*of Ty Ucha*). A plan whereof is herein indorsed.'



The land was to be used:-

'... as a site for a School for poor persons of and in the said parish of Llanddulas and for the residence of the Schoolmaster or Schoolmistress of the said School ... (*and if there*) shall be any vacancies in the said School then for the children of poor persons residing in such parts of the respective Parishes of Llysfaen and Betws as abut upon and join the said parish of Llanddulas. Such School was to be conducted on the Principles of the Established Church and to be under the sole management and control and inspection of the said Mary Crosley for and during the term of her natural life and from and after the decease of the said Mary Crosley under the direction management and control of such person or persons as she shall in the meantime direct or appoint.

Mary Crosley paid £45 12s to the Wynnes for this small part of Cae Mawr. The schoolhouse, Mistress' house, garden and surrounding wall cost about £450-£475 to build. She also invested money to maintain the premises and appointed as Trustees - the Rectors of Llanddulas and Llysfaen, the Vicar of Betws and Archdeacon of St.Asaph to manage the school after her death.

1st August 1846 – Indenture – Miss Crosley and Trustees

Conveyance and Declaration of Trust

Taken and Acknowledged by the within named Mary Crosley at St.Asaph within the County of Flint the 29th day of August 1846.

Enrolled in Her Majes. High Court of Chancery the first day of September in the year of our Lord 1846.

'.....to be under the sole management of the said Mary Crosley for and during the term of her natural life free from any interference from the said Rectors, Vicar and Archdeacon and after the decease or in case the said Mary Crosley should relinquish the management of the said School then under the management control direction and inspection of the said Rectors, Vicar and Archdeacon shall out of the yearly dividends that shall arise from the sum of Eight Hundred Pounds invested in the reduced three per cent annuities for the benefit of the said School or from such sum or sums of money as the said Mary Crosley may invest by way of endowment for the said School pay to the said Schoolmistress the yearly sum of Twenty pounds and shall pay and apply the residue thereof in the necessary repairs of the said School, Schoolhouse and Premises. '

The school was designated to accommodate 40 girls, but she (*the schoolmistress*)... 'shall have the privilege of adding to the said forty children any number of female children not exceeding ten belonging to parents who will pay for their education.'

The children were to be instructed in:-

'Reading, Writing, Simple Arithmetic and Sewing, to be instructed in the Church Catechism and Scripture Reading on Sundays and taken to Church on those days and on other such days as the person or persons who for the time being shall have management of the School shall think fit.'

The first Schoolmistress to be appointed was Miss Catherine Davies in 1847.

The Crosley Family

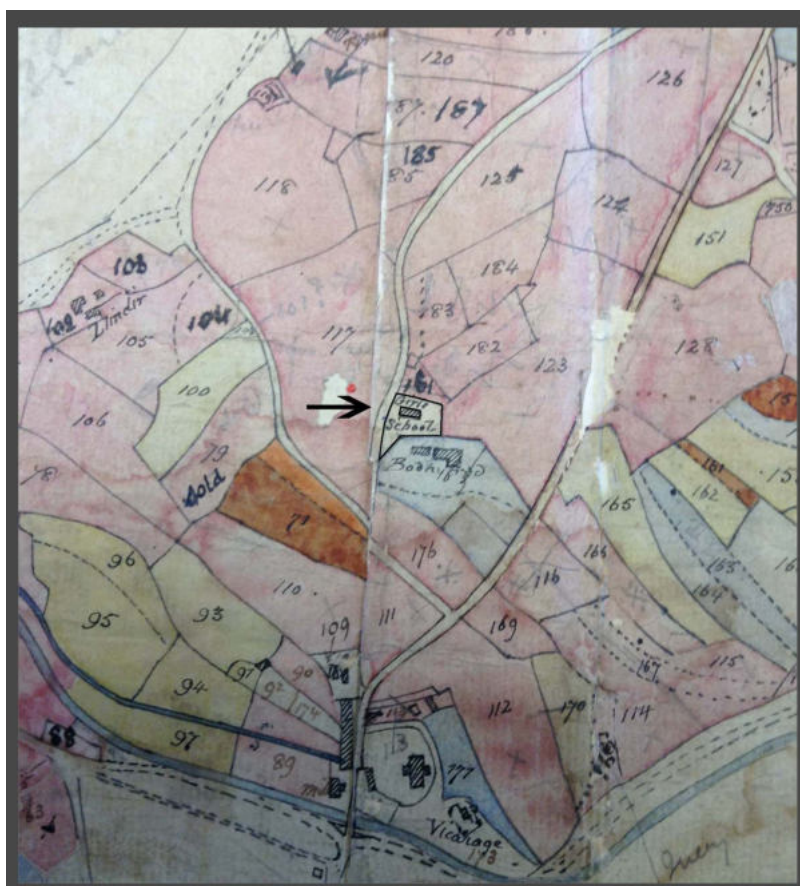
Mary Crosley was baptised on the 13th September 1809 at St. Michael Bassishaw, London. Her parents were **William** and **Hannah Crosley**. They had married on the 25th April 1803 in Rochdale, Lancashire. Hannah Jackson was 24 years of age. William had been born about 1777.

William built his house called Dyffryn Dulas on Clip Terfyn in the early part of the 19th century. In the 1841 census he was described as of 'Independent means'.

1841 census

Dyffryn Dulas, Llanddulas³

William Crosley	66	ind.	Born in Denbighshire - no
Hannah Crosley	65		no
Mary Crosley	30		no
Winifred Jones	22	F.S.	no
Elizabeth Wood	63	ind.	no



Part of an undated Garthewin estate map⁴

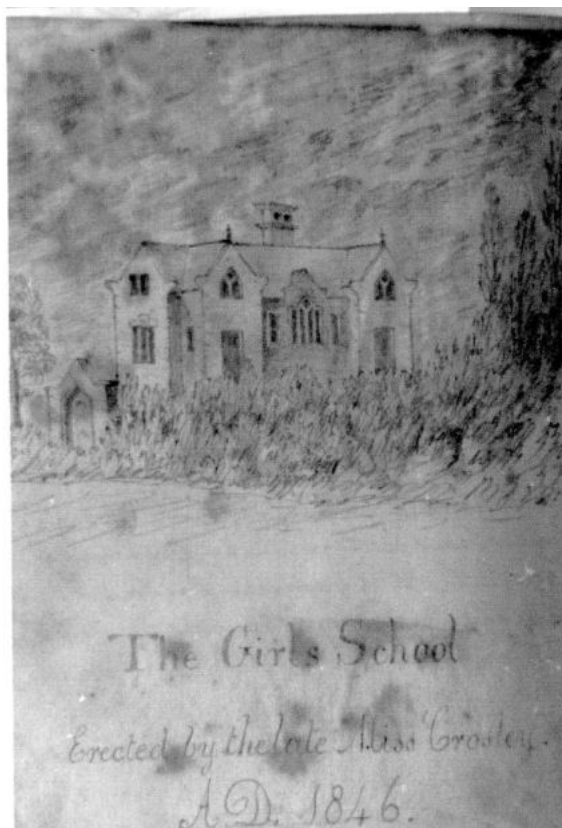
The above estate map is undated but it must have been drawn after 1846, when the Girls' School was built, and before 1852 when Bodhyfyd was extended.

3. PRO ref. HO 107/1403/12

4. Bangor Archives – Garthewin Additional MSS – no.531



The Girls School date stone



pencil drawing of the original building by an unknown hand
pre 1912

William Crosley died in 1847 and was buried in Llanddulas churchyard on the 24th November 1847.

Mary Crosley died in 1850 aged 41 years. She was buried in Llanddulas churchyard on the 30/10/1850. She was unmarried. Her death was registered in St.Asaph in the December qtr. 1850.

1851 census

Dyffryn Dulas, Llanddulas⁵

Hannah Crosley	H	wid.	75	retired lady	b. Youlgreve, Derbyshire
Elizabeth Ingleby	niece		12		b. Manchester, Lancs.
Jane McGregor	visitor	unm	44		b. Eaton, Cheshire
Susannah Morgan	cook	unm	24		b. Llysfaen, Caerns.
Jane Griffith	housemaid	unm	25		b. Eccleston, Cheshire
Edward Griffiths	serv.	unm	27		b. Llanddulas, Denb.

Hannah Crosley died in 1854 and was buried in Llanddulas churchyard on 22nd September 1854.

There is a family Vault in the churchyard and a commemorative plaque was placed inside the old church which was demolished in 1868. When the present church was built, the plaque was relocated to the churchyard wall facing the east window. It is now almost impossible to read. The wording is as follows:-

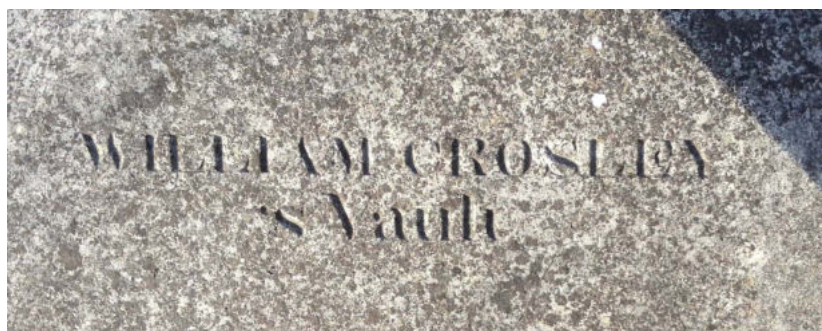
In memory of William Crosley Esq.
of Dyffryn Dulas in this Parish
Also of Mary Crosley his daughter
who died in 1850 aged 41 years
and
Hannah his wife



Crosley plaque in churchyard wall



The Crosley Vault



5. PRO ref. HO 107/2507

Following the death of Mary Crosley, the Girls School was managed by the the Trust which she had set up in 1846.

Miss Catherine Davies was still the school mistress in 1851. She was living in the schoolhouse with her two sisters.

1851 census

Schoolroom

Catherine Davies	H	unm	35	school mistress	b. Llanddulas, Denbigh
Lucy Davies	sister	unm	25	Farmer's daughter	b. “
Jane Davies	sister	unm	22	“	b. “

By **1853**, the schoolmistress was being paid a salary of £30 per annum with the use of the house, garden, premises and coals.

.....

Statement and Balance Sheet of the Income and Expenditure of the Girls School in the above Parish for the year ending **31st December 1853** in accordance with 16.17 Victoria Ch. 137 S61.⁶

Received	£	s	d	Paid	£	s	d
To Balance in hand from last year	5	19	9	Mistress salary			
One year's dividend received through				1 year	30	0	0
Messrs. Williams Bankers, Chester, upon				Books and			
the sum of £1,200 invested in the £3½%				Apparatus	1	12	6
Annuities in the names of the Venerable				Tithe & Charge		4	8
Charles Butler Clough, Archdeacon of				Rates & Taxes		4	4½
St.Asaph, the Rev. Owen Jones				Painting & Repairs	1	5	4
Humphreys, Rector of Llanddulas, the				Labourer etc. Coals	2	0	7
Rev. Robert Phillips, Vicar of Bettws				Schools Rewards	2	3	6
and the Rev.Edward Oldfield, Rector of				Thread, Needles etc.		2	8
Llysfaen payable half-yearly in April				Balance in Hand	6	15	5½
and October	39	2	7				
		
	£45	2	7		£45	2	7
		
	(£45.13p)				(£45.13p)		

I certify that the above balance sheet is correct

Signed: Owen J.Humphreys

Rector of Llanddulas

Managing Trustee

.....

6. Llanddulas: A Heritage of a Village – Brian Jones & Margaret Rawcliffe 1985 – p.143

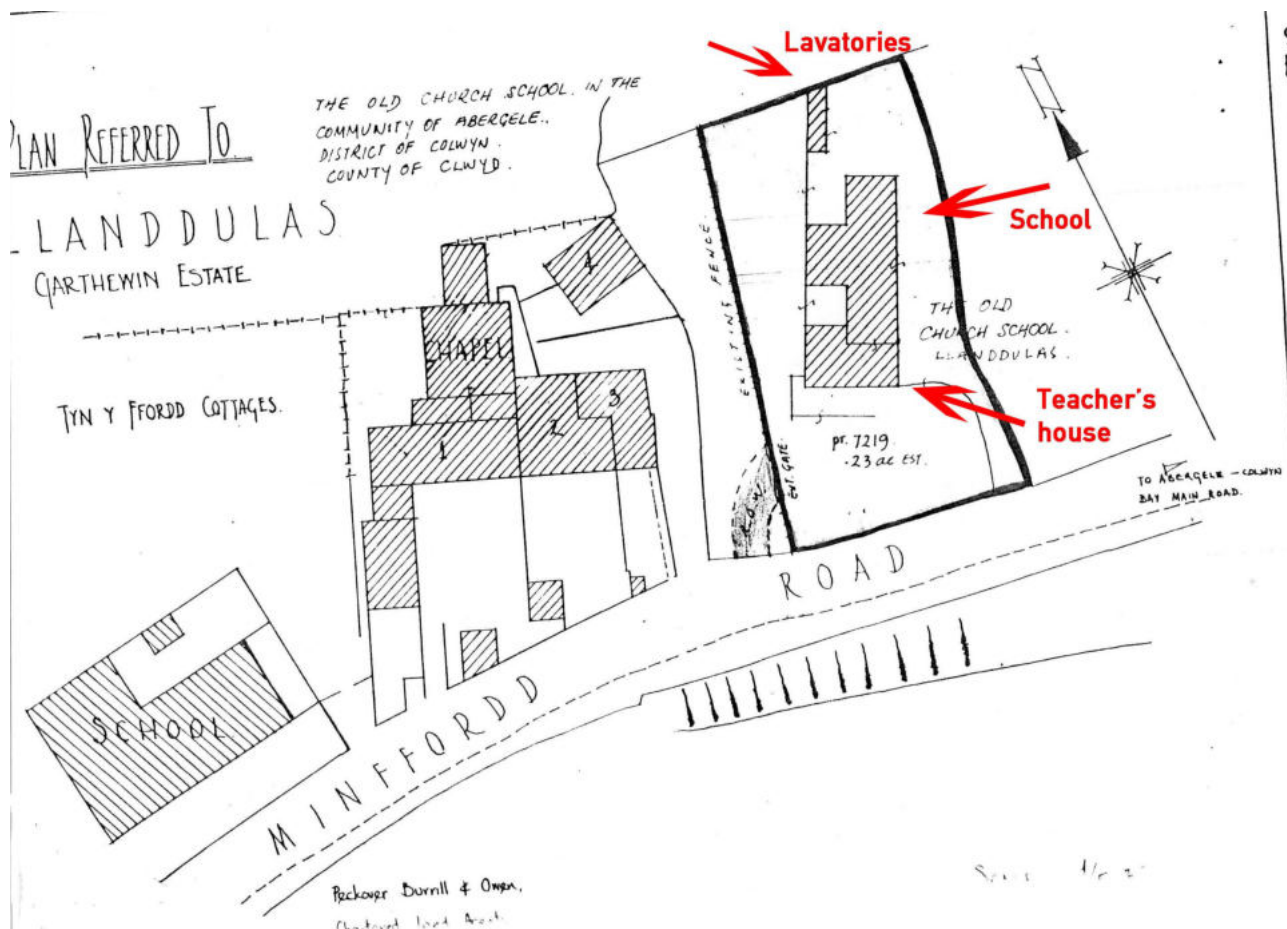
1861 – This census is missing.

1864 - Jane Parry was appointed school mistress about 1864.

1871 census

School House⁷

Jane Parry H unm 24 school mistress b. Llanllechid, Carns.



Undated map showing the teacher's accommodation at the front of the building,
the section used as the school
and the outside lavatory block at the back of the building.

1874 – An H.M.I. Report relating to the Boys School, made the following comment:-
'Very well in reading, but less so in writing and arithmetic. It is hardly to be hoped that this school will ever reach a highly efficient state as long as the inefficient endowed school for girls is carried on in its immediate neighbourhood.'

1874 4th May - the school managers agreed that the girls should not continue to attend the Girls School, but should be taught by the Headmaster's wife. It is not clear when Jane Parry left and the next schoolmistress, Elizabeth Smyth arrived.

The fortune of the Girls School fluctuated, with 27 girls being admitted to the Boys School in January 1880, and then the school re-opening in 1881 with about 50 girls.

1881 census

Girls School House⁸

Elizabeth Smyth	H	unm	33	certified teacher	b. Liverpool, Lancs.
Margaret Smyth	sister	unm	17	no occupation	b. Conway

1881 – **Mrs Lloyd** was appointed as an additional teacher.

No one was recorded living in the schoolhouse in 1891 and in 1901 the house was recorded as empty.

1891 census

Llanddulas Girls School⁹

Family from home

1901 census

Girls School House¹⁰

The Girls School House is listed but the entry was left blank.

30th June 1904 – Mrs. Lloyd retired and was entitled to a pension. **Mary Ann Jones** was appointed schoolmistress on the 4th July.



1905 The girls with their teacher Frances Mary Bell

8. PRO ref.RG11/5530

9. PRO ref.RG12/4628

10. PRO ref.RG13/5237

1904 2nd July – Plans to improve the Girls' School are noted in Canon Robert's correspondence, but they were not carried out until several years later.

By 1911, the Girls School house was occupied by a gardener and his family.

1911 census¹¹

Girls School House

Richard Lewis	H	M	42	gardener jobbing, domestic	b. Cwm, Montgomery
Elizabeth Lewis	W	M	38		b. Bwlch y Sarnau, Radnorshire
Ruth Lewis	dau		16	at school	b. Rhyl, Flints.
Alice Mary Lewis	dau		14	"	b. "
Richard Frank Lewi	son		11	"	b. "
Jane Ella Lewis	dau		9	"	b. "

1912 – An additional classroom was added to the back of the building.



1914 – The girls outside the School gate

1914 - The school entrance gateway is clearly shown on the right of the picture. When this arch was removed, the metal gate was left in the garden for many years before being renovated and re-installed at the side of the house. (see p.13)

In 1915, Richard Lewis was still living in the house.

1915 Electoral Roll¹²

Girls School House

1045 Richard Lewis

11. p.81

12. Ruthin Archives ref. QSD/DK/2/250

During the First World War, Mrs. Maggie Davies, Llwyn Onn, recollected knitting socks for the troops when she was a schoolgirl. On one occasion she slipped her name and address in the toe of one pair, and the soldier who received the socks wrote to thank her. She replied to his letter but did not hear from him again. She always wondered if he was one of the many who did not return home.

13



1916 - Girls School Pupils with Miss R.Lewis (Mrs.Paget Davies) on the left and Miss M.A.Jones on the right.



The old school gate in its current position

During the 1920s and 1930s, girls aged 7-14 years attended the Girls School. The older ones were taught by Miss M.A.Jones, the headmistress. Miss Ruth Lewis, who later became Mrs.Paget Davies, taught the younger girls.¹⁴

Mrs. Maggie Davies, Llwyn Onn, remembered having to take a turn with her school friends doing cleaning in the home of Miss M.A.Jones and feeling very proud when she left the grate black-leaded and shiny.¹⁵

Excerpts from the School Logbooks - 1925-1941¹⁶

1925 9th September – The school reopened yesterday by Miss Lewis in the absence of Hd.Mistress (*Miss M.A.Jones*) who was ill.

1927 28th June – A whole school holiday will be given tomorrow to enable the children to rest, after rising early for the total eclipse of the sun.

5th July – Four silver watches were received today from the LEA as awards for four girls who have completed five years perfect attendance.

1928 12th October – *One pupil* has contracted scarlet fever and is at the isolation hospital St.Asaph.



1928

14. Heritage of a village p.144

15. *ibid*

16. Ruthin Archives – ED/51/3

- 1930 17th January** – (*One pupil*) who was thought to be suffering from jaundice was reported today to have diphtheria and has been taken to the isolation hospital St.Asaph.
3rd April – A short address was given by Mrs. Orkney-Work on the help given to the poor children of the Waifs and Strays Society, for which the school have made collections for many years past.
- 1932 25th January** – (*Another case*) of diphtheria has been reported.
- 1933 23rd February** – (*Another pupil*) had to be excluded owing to a member of her family suffering from diphtheria.
24th February – (*Another child*) has been taken to the isolation hospital suffering from diphtheria.
8th April – (*Another girl*) has had to be excluded as her sister is suffering from diphtheria.
5th July – Cookery classes took place in Church House.
30th November – The Diocesan Report is as follows:-
 A homely and delightful tone pervades this school and the atmosphere throughout is most favourable to Religious Instruction classed excellent.
- 1934 20th April** – During last week the scholars were asked to collect eggs from friends in the neighbourhood for the West Denbighshire Hospital. They were able to send a total of 449.
29th November – A whole holiday was given in accordance with the wish of His Majesty the King in honour of the marriage of H.R.H. Prince George and Princess Marina.
- 1935 22nd March** – The Education Authority has organized a scheme whereby school children may be supplied with milk for the moderate charge of one halfpenny per day. Necessitous children receive their milk at the cost of the Authority.
3rd May – Holiday will be given for the celebration of their Majesty King George and Queen Mary's silver jubilee.
5th November – In accordance with the expressed desire of the King, a whole holiday will be granted tomorrow Wednesday, in honour of the marriage of the Duke of Gloucester his majesty's son to the lady Alice Scott.
- 1936 21st January** – All were grieved today to learn of the greatly lamented death of King George V whose memory will always be revered.
16th March – Acting on doctor's advice Mistress remained away from duty on Thursday and Friday last. The school was in charge of Mrs.Paget Davies.
29th October – Mrs. Paget Davies resigns her post as assistant mistress after completing twenty one years faithful service at the school. She has done magnificent work amongst the children not only by teaching them at school but in innumerable ways in which a conscientious teacher can give service to her young charges. Mrs.Paget Davies has exerted a wonderful influence over the character of her pupils which will bear fruit not only now but in future generations.
- 1937 23rd April** – The girls have collected 224 eggs to be sent to the West Denbighshire Hospital.
11th May – School will be closed this morning for the remainder of the week in celebration of the coronation of their majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.
- 1938** – *After the opening of a Central School in Abergele for children aged 11+, the number of pupils in the Llanddulas Schools was seriously affected.*

1938 2nd March – Copy of Report received from the Board of Education.

This department is conducted in one main room and a classroom. The younger girls consisting of Standards I, II & III with 12 on books are taken by a young uncertified teacher in the main room and the older girls (13 on books) are taught by the Hd. Mistress in the classroom. The uncertified teacher was appointed in this school in November 1936 after doing some supply work in various schools. She is doing conscientious work but lacks training and experience in the use of modern methods for teaching juniors. For instance more work on individual lines should be done in this group in the 3Rs. It is suggested that this teacher would benefit by attendance at a summer course and by visits of observation to other Junior Schools.

The time for handwork including knitting, needlework, paper and cardboard work is not well apportioned. The younger children should have shorter and more frequent periods. The senior girls are responsive and a few were alert and intelligent in the oral work but their application to some branches of their written work for example writing and spelling leaves room for improvement. It was suggested more attention should be given to phrasing in reading aloud. Ten of the girls spend one day a week at the Llanddulas Church House where a room has been equipped for teaching cookery. The teacher is fully trained and experienced domestic subjects teacher with special qualifications for teaching needlework. It is suggested that in order to have more advanced teaching in needlework the 13 senior girls should attend the centre for instruction in this subject on the afternoon of the day set aside for instruction in cooking.

Owing to the unsatisfactory nature of the playground it is important to realise that the main room can be used for games and dancing in inclement weather.

Some re-arrangement of timetable might be made to enable the physical exercise of all the girls in the school to be taken by the junior teacher.

Premises

1. The playground is small and the surface is rough. It is quite unsuitable for physical exercise.

2. The offices should be more carefully cleaned and swept. The floor is damp and in wet weather has standing water.

3. The general standards of cleaning is not as high as it should be, especially with regard to the fireplaces and floors. The latter of which are supposed to be scrubbed once a month.

4. The cloakroom is cluttered up with old desks which should be removed.

It is suggested that better and more comfortable arrangements could be made for the girls who stay in school for their mid-day lunch.

1939 – *the number of pupils in the two schools was:-*

Boys and Infants 61

Girls 26

1939 17th March – The electric light which the managers have installed in the school proved a great boon this week during the dark days experienced.

24th May – The Medical Officer visited the school in connection with the selection of children who would be benefitted by spending a part of their summer holiday in a children's camp at the seaside.

18th September – School reopened today. The delay of two weeks was caused by necessary arrangements having to be made to house children evacuated from Liverpool ... a danger zone in view of the outbreak of hostilities with the German Empire.

4th October – In addition to the evacuated school of St.Oswald's R.C., Liverpool four girls,

who have been sent for safety to stay with relatives in the parish, have been admitted to the school.

8th December – Miss Whittaker visited the school and kindly undertook to give instruction to the children on wearing gas masks.

1939 - 33 children from the Birkenhead Waif and Strays came to the village with two teachers and were taught in the village hall.

1940 10th April – The Chief Air Raid Warden visited the school today for the purpose of inspecting the respirators and adjusting them to fit the children.

3rd May – The Rector visited the school today and spoke of the regret felt by the school together with the whole parish at the departure of Miss Ellis to another post. (he) wished her God-speed and success in her career.

14th May – School re-opened today, Tuesday, having been recalled by an urgent request to all schools, by the Government in view of the necessity of preparedness for a further wave of evacuees.

17th May – Today, Miss Ellis relinquished her post after three and a half years faithful service.

20th May – Miss Flora Bell Jones commenced duties temporarily.

27th May – Miss Flora Bell Jones, who has excellent credentials was offered the post of uncertified teacher to fill the vacancy caused by the appointment to another school of Miss Ellis. It may be of interest to note that Miss Bell Jones' mother before her marriage served the school faithfully in the same capacity for a period of 17 years.

1940 30th October – Miss M.A.Jones, Headmistress of the Girls' School retired after service of 37 years. A presentation was organised with Miss Flora Jones assistant teacher acting as secretary.

Following Miss Jones' retirement, the Boys and Girls Schools were re-organised. They combined to become a mixed Junior School under Mr. Maurice R. Jones as Headmaster.

1940 20th December – two landmines were dropped on the village. The school windows were damaged by the blast.

1941 19th June – A representative from the Office of the County Architect called to report upon any repairs executed after the damage caused by the bombing in December last.

2nd November – Amalgamation 19 girls absorbed by the Boys and Infants to make one mixed school. Miss M.A.Jones retires on a pension and is living in Rhyl.

Miss F.Bell Jones moved to Abergele Junior School. The Girls School building was then used for the provision of mid-day meals and P.E, dramatics and art classes.

1943 21st September – the opening of the school canteen in the old Girls School building at noon. About 48 children were served dinners at 4d each.

Whilst the Girls School house was being used as a canteen, it was occupied, for at least part of this time, by the school cook, Elizabeth Roberts, who was living here from about 1960 -1967 with her husband and daughter. It is not known exactly how long the family lived on the premises.

1960 – Electoral Rolls – Girls School House¹⁷

298 David H. Roberts
299 Elizabeth P. Roberts

1967 – Electoral Rolls – Girls School House¹⁸

265 David H. Roberts
266 Eileen P. Roberts
267 Elizabeth P. Roberts

.....

The Closing of the School and its Sale

When the Girls School was no longer required for canteen and educational purposes, it was unoccupied for a while before being sold to become a private house.

1963 – Scheme Framed by the Minister of Education under the Endowed Schools Acts 1869-1948. Approved by Her Majesty in Council on 29th August 1963

This authorised Governing Bodies to sell any premises of Endowed Schools which have closed or are about to be closed, subject to approval by the Minister of Education.

1974

Llanddulas Girls' School consisting of:-

- a. The site and buildings of the School in a Deed of 22 July 1846 as affected by a Deed of 1st August 1846 excluding the plot of land containing 970 square yards or thereabouts sold prior to the date of this Scheme.
- b. A holding of £212 5s 1d – 5½% Conversion Stock. 1974 representing the sale proceeds of the aforesaid plot of land.
- c. The endowment founded by Mary Crosley by Deed of 1st August 1846 and augmented and further regulated by her Will dated 13th August 1850 and now represents by a sum of £1,054 12s 3d – 2½% Consolidation Stock.

As a result of the Act, the premises (a.)were transferred to the St.Asaph Board of Finance from the Governors.

The original purchase of the land from the Wynnes of Garthewin was on a leasehold basis and so the property reverted back to Robert Oliver Francis Wynne of Plas Wynn, the successor in title of Robert Wynne and Robert William Wynne.

1976 – Deed Conveyance of Premises between the St.Asaph Diocesan Board of Finance and Robert Oliver Francis Wynne of Plas Wynn.

1977 – Robert O.F.Wynne sold the property to Mr. David B. Twist and Sonia Twist

1982 – The property was advertised for sale again.

17. Ruthin Archive – ref. QSD/DK/2/312

18. *ibid.* - ref. QSD/DK/2/326



LLANDULAS. Most unusual Welsh stone Detached 4 bed Residence with central heating. Built mid-19th century as a school but recently extensively modernised and renovated to now comprise Entrance hall, drawing room (3-3ft. x 16ft., with exposed beams, oak panelling), sitting room, kitchen / diner, boiler room, bathroom / w.c. Separate shower and dressing room adjoining master bedroom. Ample mature gardens with garage space. Greenhouse. **MUST BE VIEWED.** £30,000 o.n.o. (3912).

1982 – David Brian Twist & Sonia Twist sold the property to William Howe and Evelyn Howe.



Post 1982



aerial view about 1981

1998 – William Howe and Evelyn Howe sold to David Jones and Gillian Jones.

Whilst carrying out work in the school mistress's bedroom, the upper part of a ladies shoe was found under the floorboards. Traditionally, old worn out shoes were often concealed in the fabric of a building. The locations in which they are typically found – in chimneys, under floors, above ceilings, around doors and windows, in the roof – suggest that some may have been concealed as magical charms to protect the occupants of the building against evil influences such as demons, ghosts and witches. This particular one was carefully put back in the place where it had been found.





Gill Jones
2016

Appendix 1

The Wynne Family of Garthewin & Bron y Wendon

Robert Wynne m. Margred Pryse hrs of Garthewin
of Melai, Llanfairtalhaearn
d.14/4/1682

I

.....
Rev. Robert Wynne William John Huw Dorothy Margred Catrin
d.25/1/1679
m.
Catrin Madryn
of Y Llannerch Fawr, Llannor, Caerns.
I

.....
(Dr.) Rev. Robert Wynne Richard Sarah William Owain John Catrin
d.26/6/1743
m.
1. **Margred Lloyd** Rosindale Jane Docksey
of Segrwyd, Llanrhaeadr yng Nghinmeirch

I 2. Margred Owen of Penrhôs Issa, Caergybi, Anglesey I
no issue

.....
Mary **Robert** John Wynne
b. 1695 1698 1693-1739
d. 11/9/1771
m.
1. **Diana Gosling** of London, Middlesex Mary Gamon
2. Elsbeth Eytun
I of Coed-llai, Yr Wyddgrug, Flints I
no issue

.....
Margaret Diana **Robert** Elizabeth John Wynne
b.1738 d. 25/7/1798 b. 1717
m. 7/5/1747 m.
Piers Wynne Elizabeth Dymock of Acton, Wreccsam, Denb. Sarah Pointon
I I I

.....
Diane **Robert William Wynne** Robert Wynne
d.30/11/1842 1748 -
m. m. m.
1. Ridgeway Owen Merick
2. Philip Yorke Laetitia Stanley of Court, Wrexham Ann Timon
of Erddig b.1775 d.24/6/1831
I no issue I

.....
Lucy Margred **Robert Wynne** of Bronywendon, Llanddulas

m. 17/5/1814
George Cummings
I

.....
Brownlow Wynne Cummings

b. 23/3/1815
d. 1/5/1882

m. 8/12/1836
Mary Anne Waring
no issue

b. 28/6/1786
d. 6/2/1858
m.
Frances Smith
I

.....
Dr. Robert William Wynne
1822-1869

m. 30/10/1850
Eugenie Marie Crowe
1827-1899
I

.....
Robert William Wynne
1857-1933
no issue

Richard Wynne
1858-1932
m.
Frances Anna McCrory
1878-1962
I

.....
Robert Oliver Francis Wynne
1907-1993

m.
Nina More O'Ferral
I

.....
3 daughters

Addendum

Taper burn marks

I recently spotted a flame-shaped burn mark on the back of the door of the bathroom adjoining what had been the schoolteacher's bedroom. It is sited quite close to the bottom of the door. This is almost certainly an apotropaic mark. These burn marks and also other scratched or inscribed designs were commonly known as 'witch marks' and were designed to ward off evil and stop malign spirits entering a property. They appeared from the mid C16th through to the mid C18th, but were particularly prevalent in the C17th. During this period there was strong belief in the damage that witches, either in human form, or through animal familiars, could bring to households. Such beliefs were particularly strong in rural populations. Witches were burned or ducked in water in a vain and cruel attempt to 'cure' them of their 'evil crimes'.

The majority of marks are found in principal bedrooms or in servants quarters in attics and rarely in ground floor rooms and so are assumed to be sleep-related. Any noise in walls or ceilings above the bedrooms might have been interpreted as a witch's familiar having entered the house. The belief in demonic possession during sleep by an incubus was also widespread. Was this one placed there by the same man who put the old shoe under the floorboards in the bedroom? I am assuming that he was one of the builders and may have been quite old. If so he would have been born towards the end of the 18th century. Maybe he still believed in the work of the devil or witchcraft and wanted to protect the lady who would be living there from any such misfortune.



Gill Jones

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