

NORTH WEST WALES DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES – (DENBIGHSHIRE)

BRYN BERLLAN,

LLANGAR PARISH, Denbighshire (formerly Merioneth) NGR SJ 054413

HOUSE HISTORY - summary

We (the Lloyd family) bought Bryn Berllan March 1999 as a rundown old farmhouse and adjoining barn, with the intention of renovating it and turning it into a lovely home for our young family. Little did we realise that we would be living in a 16th century box framed farmhouse! There was little evidence of the old house left; the post and panelled walls in the kitchen and bedroom had been covered up and the roof trusses had been hidden by a ceiling.

During its history, it appears to have always belonged to an estate, firstly the Hughes's of Gwerclas who were descendants of Owain Brogyntyn, Lord of Edeirnion and Dinmael and who were themselves one of the Barons of Edeirnion. Gwerclas estate was sold to Rhug in 1824 when Richard Hughes died. From all the research that I have done, Bryn Berllan appears to have been tenanted since at least 1750 until 1972 when it was sold.

When Bryn Berllan belonged to Gwerclas and Rhug it had between 30-70 acres but when Rhug sold the house and buildings, it kept the land with the estate.

My earliest childhood memory of Bryn Berllan was as a dairy farm selling bottled milk around Cynwyd.

I thoroughly enjoyed researching the history of our home even though at times I found it very frustrating that I couldn't find any evidence regarding how Bryn Berllan had come to belong to the Gwerclas estate. Ironically, the only evidence that I found that it had ever belonged to the estate was in their sale catalogue when they sold it!

Anwen Lloyd, Cynwyd, Denbighshire May 2012

HOUSE HISTORY - detail

1427

Dafydd son of Rhys ap Ifan ap Llywelyn ddu ap Dafydd ap Gruffydd ap Iorweth, 3rd son of Owen Brogyntyn marries Mali daughter of Evan ap Einion ap Gruffydd, of Cors y gedol, ancestors of the Gwerclas estate (page 220 of J E Griffith, Pedigrees)

1422 King Henry VI

1460-85 The Wars of the Roses

1461 King Edward IV

1483 King Edward V

1483 King Richard III

1485 King Henry VII; Battle of Bosworth; Start of Tudor period

1507 A second charter to North Wales by Henry VII gave the free the right to sell their land and the bond the right to quit, thus making available a new source of land

1509 King Henry VIII.

1525/6

Earliest dendrochronology dating at Bryn Berllan- reusing a collar felled in 1525/26 *suggesting an earlier house on site* (Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory Report – Dr D Miles FSA and Dr M C Bridge FSA January 2011)

1536-39 Dissolution of the monasteries

1536 & 1542 The Acts of Union; Welsh men were able to hold the offices of Justices of the peace

1547-1553 King Edward VI

1549 The Act of Uniformity

1551 William Salesbury published his Welsh version of the epistles and gospels of the prayer book.

1552/1553

Dendrochronology dating for Bryn Berllan house. (Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory Report 2011 – Dr D Miles FSA and Dr M C Bridge FSA January 2011)

1553 Queen Mary I

1570 Overseers were appointed in each parish and township to assist magistrates in maintaining order and to attend to routine administrative affairs, such as the regulation of alehouses and the supervision of the able-bodied and disabled poor, the unemployed and the vagrant population. (J Gwynfor Jones, *Government and Society 1536-1603*, in *History of Meirioneth*, vol II., Ed Beverley Smith, p 669)

1588 Bishop William Morgan's translation of the Bible into Welsh

1588 The Spanish Armada

1603 King James I

1618 Humphrey Hughes of Gwerclas, living; died without heir

1631

Death of Richard Hughes, his brother, who inherited Gwerclas.

His son Humphrey Hughes (1605-?) inherited Gwerclas

His son Thomas Hughes (died 1670) inherited Gwerclas (J E Griffith Pedigrees p220)

1625 King Charles I

1642-48 Civil Wars

1647 Siege of Harlech Castle

1659-1733 Hugh Hughes of Gwerclas (J E Griffith, Pedigrees p220)

1660 King Charles II. The Restoration of the monarchy.

1665 Great Plague

1666 Great Fire of London

1685 King James II

1689 King William and Queen Mary II

1702 Queen Anne

1714 King George I

1715 The Jacobite rebellion

1727 King George II

1737

Death of Hugh Hughes's heiress daughter Dorothy of Gwerclas. She married Edward Lloyd of Plymog HSM 1732, HSD 1736. Their son Hugh Hughes Lloyd was of Plymog and Gwerclas.

1749 FIRST RECORD of BRYN BERLLAN (did it have an earlier name?)

John son of Thomas and Ellin Jones, **Bryn Berllan** baptised. (Llangar Baptisms 1720-1762-Church Records, Cynwyd)

1751 William son of Thomas and Ellin Jones, Bryn Berllan baptised 3rd August. (Llangar Baptisms 1720 – 1762 -Church Records, Cynwyd)

1753

Jane daughter of Thomas and Ellin Jones, Bryn Berllan baptised 4th August (Llangar Baptisms 1720-1762 -Church Records, Cynwyd)

1755

Peter son of Thomas Jones of Bryn Berllan and Ellen his wife baptised 9th November-(Dolgellau Archives Z/M//344/25, Llangar Parish Register Vol II 1720-1762)

1756 Peter Thomas Bryn Berllan, buried 24th March – (Llangar church records, Cynwyd)

1757

Rebecca daughter of Thomas and Ellin Jones, Bryn Berllan, baptised 23rd October – (LlangarBaptisms 1720-1762 – Church records, Cynwyd)

1760 King George III

1760

Thomas son of Thomas and Ellin Jones, Bryn Berllan, baptised 2nd December – Sponsors Thomas Griffiths, Humphrey and Elizabeth Hughes –(Llangar Baptisms 1720 – 1762 -Church Records, Cynwyd)

1780s – 1820s Land Tax Assessments (Need to add these)

1783

Elinor (Ellin)Jones, Bryn Berllan died 15th April (SA/1783/103 National Library of Wales archives)

1786

Last will of Jane Jones late of Bryn Berllan(SA/1786/30 National Library of Wales archives)

1818

Thomas Jones, Bryn Berllan aged 24 buried 21st July - (Llangar church records, Cynwyd)

1820 King George IV

1824

14th September, **sale of Gwerclas estate. Bryn Berllan bought by Rhug estate who owned it until 1972** (XD2/3887 Gwynedd archives.)

1830 King William IV

1831

Bryn Berllan - Thomas Jones's widow £28 per year rent –(GAS XD2/1474 1831 Rent book for the Rhug Estate page 14 No 9 Gwynedd archives)

1837 Queen Victoria

1840 Parish Tithe commutation maps and schedules naming every holding – **(see appendix map and schedule for Bryn Berllan).**

1841 – 46 The “Hungry forties”. Peel began to reduce the cost of living by substituting an income tax for the duties on imported goods. 1846 Repeal of the Corn Law, making bread cheaper.

1841 census Bryn Berllan

Gwen Jones	Farmer	75		born 1766 (in Merioeth ?)
William Edwards	Male Servant	15		born 1826

(1841 census – Ruthin archives)

1851 census Bryn Berllan

+Richard Evans	Head	70	Farmer	born Llanidloes	1781
Mary Evans	Wife	59		born Llangwm	1792

Evan Evans	Son	33	Farmer's son	born Gwyddelwern 1818
John Evans	Son	25	Farmer's son	born Gwyddelwern 1826
Margaret Evans	Daughter	20	Farmer's daughter	born Gwyddelwern 1831
Thomas Evans	Son	18	Farmer's son	born Gwyddelwern 1833

(1851 census – Ruthin archives)

1861 census

+Richard Evans	Head	78	Farmer 60 acres	employing 2 men 1 boy born Llanidloes 1783
Mary Evans	Wife	71		born Llanfihangel ? 1790
Evan Evans	Son	41	Farmer's son	born Gwyddelwern 1820
Thomas Evans	Son	26	Farmer's son	born Gwyddelwern 1835
Margaret Evans	Granddaughter	12		born Llangynog 1849
Margaret Evans	Granddaughter	5		born Gwyddelwern 1856
William Edwards	Servant	17	Cowman	born Gwyddelwern 1844
Jane Jones	Servant	15	Dairy Maid	born Gwyddelwern 1846

(1861 census- Ruthin archives)

1862

Mary Evans, Bryn Berllan; buried 9th April (Llangar church records, Cynwyd)

1871 census

+Richard Evans	Head	88	Farmer, Widower	born Gwyddelwern 1783
Evan Evans	Son	49	Shepherd	born Gwyddelwern 1822
Elinor Evans	Daughter	43	Dairy Maid	born Gwyddelwern 1828
Thomas Evans	Son	39	Agricultural Labourer	born Gwyddelwern 1832
Margaret Roberts	Niece	15	Servant	born Gwyddelwern 1856
Richard Evans	Grandson	9		born Gwyddelwern 1862

(1871 census-Ruthin archives)

1871

William Jones, Bryn Berllan, buried 19th June – (Llangar church records, Cynwyd)

1873

Cae'r bont and Penpalmant cottage and garden part of Bryn Berllan (occupier Richard Evans) sold-bought by Mr Williams for 25 guineas-Z/DW/227 Dolgellau archives)

1881 census

+Richard Evans	Head	103	Farmer of 30 acres	born Montgomery
=Evan Evans	Son U	66	Shepherd	born Gwyddelwern
*Ellen Evans	Daughter	52	Farmer's daughter	born Gwyddelwern
Margaret Roberts	Gdaughter U	24	Dairy maid	born Gwyddelwern
Richard Evans	Grandson U	25	Farm servant	born Gwyddelwern
Griffith Williams	Grandson U	15	Farm servant	born Gwyddelwern

(1881 census – Ruthin archives)

1881

*Ellen Evans **Rhug estate tenant at Bryn Berllan, 1881-1903** - (Rhug Estate Records)

1884

+Richard Evans, Bryn Berllan buried 31st May aged 103 – (Llangar church records, Cynwyd)

1889

Evan Evans, Bryn Berllan buried 25th January (Llangar church records,Cynwyd)
John Lloyd, Bryn Berllan buried 22nd June (Llangar church records, Cynwyd)

1891 census

*Ellen Evans	Head	S	62	Farmer	born Cynwyd	1829
=Evan Evans	Brother	S	72	Shepherd	born Cynwyd	1819
Margaret Roberts	Niece	S	34	Milk woman	born Cynwyd	1857
Richard Evan	Nephew	S	29	Agricultural Labourer	born Cynwyd	1862
Evan Jones	Servant		15	Agricultural Labourer	born Cynwyd	1876

(1891 census-Ruthin archives)

1901 census

*Ellen Evans	Head	S	73	Farmer	born Llangar	1828
Mary Roberts	Niece	M	56	Farmers wife	born Llangar	1845
Robert Evans	Servant	S	17	Agricultural Labourer	born Llangar	1884

(1901 census – Ruthin archives)

1904

*Ellen Evans & Thomas Roberts, tenants at Bryn Berllan -1904-1913(Rhug estate records)
Rent £54 .10/- from 25th March 1905 (XD2/2349-Gwynedd Archives)

1907

*Ellen Evans, Bryn Berllan buried 13th February (Llangar church records, Cynwyd)

1908

Mary Roberts, Bryn Berllan buried 3rd June (Llangar church records, Cynwyd)

1910 Land Tax Assessment (Needs to be added)

1911 census

Thomas Roberts	Pen teulu	Wid	72	Ffarmwr	Meister	Bryneglwys	Cymraeg
Margaret Jane Jones	Forwyn	Sengl	47	Morwyn gyffredin	Minera		Cymraeg

(1911 census – Ruthin archives)

1914 -1918 World War I

1914

Thomas Roberts tenant at Bryn Berllan (Rhug estate records)

1915

D Jones tenant at Bryn Berllan (Rhug estate records)

1915

Peter Lloyd tenant at Bryn Berllan 1915-1926 (Rhug estate records)

1936

Roderick Owen tenant at Bryn Berllan 1936-1950(Rhug estate records)

1950 -51

Edward Weaver tenant at Bryn Berllan 17/03/50-25/03/51

1955 -61

Thomas Harry Francis tenant at Bryn Berllan 25/03/55-25/03/61 (Rhug estate records)

1961 -72

Harold Williams tenant at Bryn Berllan 1961-31/05/71 (Rhug estate records)

1972 -99

RHUG ESTATE SOLD BRYN BERLLAN

Bryn Berllan sold to Alec and Jenny McGuinness

1999

Bryn Berllan **sold** to Brian and Anwen Lloyd

Researched by Anwen Lloyd, Cynwyd, Denbighshire. May 2012

Revised 5 March 2013