

# SNOWDONIA DENDROCHRONOLGY PROJECT

## GORLLWYN UCHAF

Penmorfa, Gwynedd

NGR 257620 342660

Grade II\*

### HOUSE HISTORY

**RCAHMW Caerns II INVENTORY**, Dolbenmaen, p 70, monument 891. Visited April **1953**

A two-storeyed house of mortared rubble, 30ft long by 17ft 6" wide. The lintels of all openings are stone slabs; the roof is of modern slates with slab copings. At the NW end is a projecting chimney with large square stack with projecting coping; at the SE end is a modern chimney. There are windows on the ground floor only, except for one small window in the SE gable end. The house has two entrances opposite one another in the side walls. A mill-wheel has been built against the SE end of the NE wall, the wall being broken through to take the axle. The water conduit has gone but the buttress to support it remains against the SE side of the NE doorway; the conduit must have been carried over the top of the doorway and along the NE wall, which accounts for the blocking of the NE window.

The ground floor was divided by a post-and panel partition which was slotted not into the soffit of a ceiling beam but into a separate top beam which survives in its entirety; the SW half of the partition, with a doorway, survives, each 2 ft wide. All other internal divisions are modern.

The upper floor is supported on three chamfered beams, each 102 thick; the original joists also remain in the centre and SE bays (13 joists to each bay). The floor boards are modern, as is the stair; the position of the original stair is unknown.

The roof is supported on two cruck principal carrying the original flat purlins and common rafters. The crucks are 6" thick and 11" wide broadening to 1ft 2" at the bend; each contains a simple collar-beam pegged in at a high level. The NW cruck extends to within 2ft of the ground on the NE and 1ft 6" on the SW; the SE cruck extends to within 5ft of the ground on both sides. Regularly disposed peg-holes on the soffits of both crucks and collar-beams suggest that the upper floor originally had wattle and daub partitions.

The house is probably C16. The large enclosures surrounding it are probably contemporary (monument 994). The alterations connected with the mill-wheel and the insertion of the SE fireplace and chimney are probably C19.

Condition: Abandoned and beginning to fall into ruin.

**RCAHMW: Additional notes by A J Parkinson, April 1990**

CA Domestic SH 54/SE: Many photos & details. (Green folder) + second file.

**Re-examination** indicates clearly that the house is an open hall, although there is still uncertainty whether the main fireplace is original or not. Only the SE gable was originally floored; axial joists rest on a beam against the SE gable and are housed in the back of the head-beam of the partition. The joists of the middle bay are housed in separate beams (at a higher level) which are set into the walls and are not jointed to the crucks; these joists have a skimpy chamfer and run out stop. The NW bay now has no upper floor and there are no slots for joists on the NW face of the beam: the former floor (in a collapsed condition in 1960) was almost certainly 19<sup>th</sup> C, probably contemporary with the stair and other alterations.

The passage partition, although simple, is quite well made, with chamfered posts and mason's mitres on the head-beam. Three doorways might indicate twin inner rooms and a stair by the NE wall into the room above.

The problem of the gable chimney remains. It does not appear to have been inserted, and there is no indication of a louvre truss by the open cruck. However it is a projecting chimney (rather than the more usual chimney in the thickness of the gable, and there are no copings on its shoulders although the main gable has copings. There is also the point that a hall with a gable fireplace would reverse the normal internal planning, since there is nowhere for a dais. So **on balance it seems likely that the chimney is secondary**, probably 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> C and contemporary with the extension of the first floor over the central bay.

+ plans, elevations & many photos.

#### **From Cadw Listing schedule: (c mid 1990s)**

A fine sub-medieval house, **probably originally timber framed throughout**, probably built in the C16. The death of Robert ap William of Gorllwyn is recorded in 1624. (Ped p334) At some undefined later stage the outer walls were replaced in stone.

#### Exterior:

Built of rubble stonework enclosing a cruck-framed structure, with a slate roof, with rooflights, between raised coped gables probably replacing heather thatch. One storey and attic, with massive external stack and a narrower outbuilding at the opposite end. Boarded doors open into the central bay, with a corresponding back door. Deeply set small windows, with modern frames and glazing. In the C19 a water wheel was located at the rear of the upper bay to provide power for domestic purposes, the laundry crossing the back of the house above doorhead level. An in-line outbuilding is attached to the upper end.

#### Interior:

The internal structure consists of two complete cruck trusses, halved and pegged at the apex, and with a tenoned and pegged collar beam and tie. Principal rafters on the back of the crucks. The tie beams which carried the wall plates are lower than the present walls, indicating that the external walls have been raised or rebuilt in stone. Some original rafters pegged to the purlin. The left bay is open to the roof, and has exposed purlins and rafters, one purlin with a scarf joint at the end perhaps suggesting a lost third bay. The central bay contains the entrance and stair and is divided from the upper bay by a post and panel partition. The upper rail bears evidence of three doorways originally opening into a subdivided upper bay. A rear door opens besides the stair. The upper bay contains the kitchen, and has a tie beam at the gable end offering some further evidence that the building was originally timber framed. Single tier of heavy square purlins, without windbraces. C19 stone flag floors. The gable end fireplace has a high chamfered lintel.

#### References:

Alcock, N, Cruck Construction, CBA Research Report No 42, 1981, p 66

Smith, P, Houses of the Welsh Countryside, 1975, maps 27 & 33

RCAHM Wales, Inventory of Historic Monuments in Caernarvonshire, Vol II, Central, 1960, item 891, p70.

### **EARLY HISTORY**

(1588 Lewes Dwinn II, p 88 Parish Beddcelert Llanvrothen)

Ririd Flaidd was a chieftan, styled lord of Penllyn, in Merionethshire. He died about the latter end of the reign of Henry II (1154). The armorial bearings attributed to him & borne by nearly all his descendants are Vert, a chevron between three wolves' heads, argent.

- Madoc – Iorwerth – Ynyr – Ierw. – Cynddelw – Dafydd – **Rhys – Howell** –

**Robert ap Howell** (of *Beddgelert & Llanfrothen* in *Ped p 394*) who married Annes, daughter of Llewelyn ap Cwnws of Llanfihangel y Pennant, Eifionydd; their children were 1) William ap

Robert of Beddgelert; 2) Dafydd ap Robert; 3) Sian who married Huw ap Maredudd ap Ifan ap Robert of Gwydir

*Jonet verch Howell married John Coetmor (Ped p 394 & 280)*

**William ap Robert** ap Howel married Marged daughter of Gruffydd ap Meredudd ap Ifan ap Robert of Gwydir; her mother was Tanglwyst daughter of Meredudd ap Rhys ap Jockws of Vaenawr groes. Their children were Rhisiart, Wmffre, Owen, William, Sian who married *Rhys ab Thomas ap Robert of Nanmor* & Lowri who married 1<sup>st</sup> Morgan ap Sion ap Rhydderch of Trawsfynydd & 2<sup>nd</sup> Ifan Lloyd ap Humphrey of Havod Lwyddog.

**Rhisiart ap William ap Robert** ap Howel ap Rhys married, & had

1) Robert ap Rhisiart who married Catrin daughter of Robert ap Huw ap Rhys ap Ifan Lloyd of Llanllyfni; her mother was Annes daughter of William ap Gruffydd ap Ifan ap Hwlkin of the same parish. They had **William (born 25 July 1603, coronation day of James I)** and Sian.

2) Anne verch of Risiart married Gruffydd ap Lewys ap Thomas ap Dafydd Lloyd of Nanmor daudraeth.

3) Dorti daughter of Risiart married Robert ap Ifan ap Huw ap Dafydd ap Howel ap Llewelyn ap Hwlkin of Landdarog.

This page agrees with the original being compared by us: William Hughes & Jo. Davies.

### **Township of Penyfed; parish of Penmorfa**

Howel ap Rhys ap Dafydd ap Cynddelw ap Iorwerth ap Ynyr ap Madog ap Rhirid Flaidd (Lord of Gest) seems to have been a *priodor in Llanfrothen*. Gorllwyn was a large upland holding high on the slopes of Moel Ddu, and it may well have come to the family, settled on the opposite side of Traeth Mawr, by marriage with an heiress. (C A Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd, p 83-4)

Late 15<sup>th</sup> century: **Howel ap Rhys** owned Tyddyn Gorllwyn (J E Griffith, Pedigrees p 334) (C A Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd, p 126) His son Robert must have been born before 1500, when a younger brother, David Lloyd was born, probably at Gorllwyn.

David Lloyd ap Hywel ap Rhys, of Beddgelert, was 80 years old in 1580-1 when he appeared before the Special Commissioners re The Forest of Snowdon lands. His father Howel ap Rhys was of Gorllwyn. (C A Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd, p 47-8)

Howell's son, **Robert ap Howel ap Rhys** inherited Gorllwyn.

His principal lands may well have been in Llanfrothen. (C A Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd, p 126)

1521 **Robert, of Llanfrothen**, leased three important holdings in Penefed – Cefn Coch, Yr Ynys ddreiniog & Maes y llech - from John ap Ieuan ap Rhys, Glyn, Talsarnau; but in 1535/1541 he assigned this lease to Elise of Clennau (C A Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd, p 83-4, 107; Clennau Deeds 42 & 64)

1531 Robert leased lands in Llanfrothen in deed (?source or is this confusion with the 1521 leases)

*Dendrochronology results give felling dates as follows:*

<i>Ridge (ex situ)</i>	<i>Spring 1533</i>
<i>?Joist (ex situ)</i>	<i>(Spring 1533)</i>
<i>mean of 2 samples of E cruck, S truss</i>	<i>1523-35</i>
<i>W cruck, S truss</i>	<i>1530-42</i>

These suggest that it was Robert ap Howel ap Rhys who erected Gorllwyn just a few years before the dissolution of the monasteries when he obtained additional farm leases.

It stands surrounded by mountain grazing, possibly enclosed when the house was erected; high above a former estuary, at over 200m above O.D.

The house is in a slight hollow, with the chimney gable-end is tucked into the hill slope, as is the back wall of the house. The front of the house faces ..... SOUTH WEST? Nearby stream.

1980s: There was a step up to a higher floor level at the left cruck. There was a wooden partition across the house, the area towards the fireplace being open to the roof. This wall was at the bottom of the angled wooden stair case, possibly being the cause for the angle.

*Dolbenmaen, Gorllwyn-uchaf (SH 5829 4298) Felling date: Spring 1533*  
*A stone-walled, cruck-framed hall-house incorporated into a two-unit house of Snowdonian plan-type. Two cruck trusses survive, each with a morticed collar. Timber detail included a fragmentary post-and-panel partition with mortices in the head-beam (independent of the cruck) showing that the partition had three doorways. Only the outer room was originally floored over, and the hall was open to the roof until the eighteenth or nineteenth century. It is not clear if the projecting end chimney is an addition replacing the dais-end inner room. Precise felling dates are from ex situ offcuts from repairs of uncertain provenance. However, they are consistent with the felling date ranges produced by two of the crucks. The house stands surrounded by mountain grazing, over 200m above O.D. Account in RCAHMW, Caernarvonshire II, 70, with additional information in the NMRW. (Vernacular Architecture, vol 37, 2006, R Suggett, M Dunn & D Miles, List 193: Welsh Dendrochronology Project – Phase 10, p \*\*\*)* **CHECK**

*Gorllwyn-uchaf, Dolbenmaen, Gwynedd.*  
*A stone-walled, cruck-framed house with partial sleeping-loft (crog-lofft), previously surveyed by the Royal Commission in Caernarvonshire II, p 70. Tree-ring dating established a felling date from roof timber of spring 1533. NPRN 26533. (R Suggett, RCAHMW Annual Review, 2006-7, p 57)*

1535: Robert ap Howel ap Rhys held Y Wernlasdeg, Beddgelert & Hafod Nether – farmer of the former Aberconway (Cistercian) lands near Beddgelert, (R Hays. History of Aberconway, p 189; PRO Ministers' Accounts H Viii, 4972)

1588 Lewis Dwinn II p88. Parish Beddcelert Llanvrothen

**Howel ap Rhys** ap Dafydd ap Cynddelw ap Iorwerth ap Ynyr ap Madog ap Rhirid Flaidd.

**Robert ap Howell** = **Annes** verch Llewelyn ap Cwnws of Llanfihangel y pennant, Eifioydd.

They had 1. William ap Robert of Bedd Gelert (born 1603) = Marged verch Gruffydd ap Meredydd ap Ivan ap Robert o Waedir and Tanglwyst verch Meredydd ap Rhys ap Jockws of Maenawr groes.

2. Dafydd ap Robert

3. Sian = Huw ap Meredydd ap Ivan ap Robert val Gwydir

**William ap Robert** (of Beddgelert and Llanfrothen) & **Marged**'s children were:

1. Rhisiart ap William

2. (H)Umphre

3. Owen

4. Wiliam

5. Sian = Rhys ap Thomas ap Robert of Nanmor

6. Lowri = 1<sup>st</sup> Morgan ap Sion ap Rhydderch of Trawsfynydd

2<sup>nd</sup> Ivan Lloyd ap Umphre of Havod Lwyddog

**Rhisiart ap Wiliam** ap Robert ap Howel ap Rhys (of Beddgelert and Llanfrothen) = ? & had

1. Robert ap Rhisiart = Catrin verch Robert ap Huw ap Rhys ap Ivan Lloyd of Llanllyfni and Annes verch William ap Gruffydd ap Ivan ap Hwlkyn of the same parish

2. Anne verch Risiart = Gruffydd ap Lewys ap Tomas ap Davydd Lloyd of Nanmor

3. Dorti verch Risiart = Robert ap Ivan ap Huw ap Davydd ap Howell ap Llewelyn ap Hwlkyn of Llanddarog

**Robert ap Rhisiart** = Catrin verch Robert ap Huw ap Rhys ap Ivan Lloyd of Llanllyfni and Annes verch William ap Gruffydd ap Ivan ap Hwlkyn of the same parish. They had

1. **William ap Robert (born 25 July 1603**, coronation day of James I)

2. Sian.

By a grant dated 15 March 1561/2 Thomas ap Rhys ap Hywel (of Bron y Foel in Treflys & Flintshire) conveyed to his second son John Wynn, “a messuage and lands called havod y llyn, Gardd llygad ty, Kay a myngys and havod gay in Nanmor”. The principal witness being **David Lloyd ap Robert ap Howel**. (Gorllwyn). Cae Mynys is now part of Gardd llygad ddu, and Havod gau became part of Clogwyn. (C A Gresham, JMHS, 1978, Nanmor Deudraeth p 111 & NLW Dolfriog 10)

1578 Dec 6: 1. **David Lloyd ap ROBERT ap Hoell ap Rees**, free tenant of the township of Nannor, co M; 2. William Glyn the younger, & Richard ap Eliza ap Mores, gent., FEOFFMENT to uses of messuages tofts, lands & uses etc of COME KATH, HENDRE SAYSON, Y DDOLVRIOG & Y GYRTH, all township of Nannor, co M. (UWB, Mostyn 3817)

1580/1 **David Lloyd ap Howel ap Rhys, of Beddgelert** (& Gorllwyn), 80 years of age, was a witness in the Special Royal Commission re the Forest of Snowdon lands. He said that Bryn Deniel adjoined his father’s land and had been held by him, and that it extended from his father’s land, which was called Mur Hywel, to a rock called Y Graig Ddu, Graig Ddu or Yr Allt Ddu, as the other witnesses on this subject named it, was probably Moel Ddu, and the father was of Gorllwyn, so it is fairly certain that Bryn Deiniol was the holding now called Tai Cochion. (C A Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd, p 90)

In 1585 **David Lloyd ap Hywel ap Rhys** of Beddgelert was a trustee of an entail (release in trust) of the estate of John Wynn ap Humphrey of Gesail Gyfarch. (C A Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd, p 47-9)

John Wynn ap Thomas’ (Gardd Llygad y dydd) daughter Margaret married Reignalt (Reynold) Rutter of Denbigh. (J E Griffith, Pedigrees p372, 264) By a pre-nuptial settlement of which the deed was dated **1590** John Wynn gave Margaret his land in “Bethkilert, Llanvair & Nanmor”. (NLW Dolfriog 18). Those in Nanmor were Havod y Llyn & Gardd Llygad ddu. Soon after Rutter had taken control of these on behalf of his wife, he fell foul of one of his neighbours, **Humphrey, son of David Lloyd (above)**. **It is not certain what property Humphrey owned but it may have been land adjacent to Rutter’s & there may have been a dispute over boundaries or rights of way**. Neither would give way, so Rutter took the matter to the Council in the Marches of Wales and the court served a summons on Humphrey, who was so enraged that he assembled several neighbours and made three violent assaults on Rutter. This was in contempt of court & in 1593 Rutter brought a case to the Court of the Star Chamber at Westminster against Humphrey, Robert ap Richard ap William and John ap Morris ap Elise. (I ap Edwards, Catalogue of Star Chamber Proceedings, Cardiff, 1929, p86)

*WAS Rhys ap Thomas ap Dafydd Lloyd of Nanmor a grandson of Dafydd Lloyd of Gorllwyn? Where did Rhys live? Rhys married Gwenhwyfer, daughter of Richard ap Rhys & Elin natural daughter of John Wynn ap Meredydd of Gwydir, and sister to Moris Jones of Craflwyn. (Ped 386) Is this a different Rhys ap Thomas of Nanmor to the one who married Sian? (See above)*

From Robert ap Howel ap Rhys were descended the families of **Brondanw and Ynysfor**. (J E Griffith, Pedigrees p 334)

**William ap Robert** of Beddgelert & Llanfrothen

**Richard ap William** of Beddgelert = Elin, d of Robert ap Madog Vychan (J E Griffith, Pedigrees, p170)

**William ap Richard** = Elizabeth

**Robert ap William ap Richard**, in 1631 lived at **Tyddyn Gorllwyn** and also held Llys y cripil, (Clist y Cripple) 1½ miles north of Gorllwyn, which formed a detached portion of the township of Penedf. (Eifionydd Rental; C A Gresham, 1973, Eifioydd, p 126) His will is dated March 1 1676; he had married Mary Owen, buried 29 June 1689.

1676: the will of Robert ap William Prichard, Gorllwyn, Penmorfa, names his wife Mary Owen, and their children William Roberts, Owen Roberts, Lowry, Agnes, Elizabeth, girl. (T C Griffith Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon, 1989, p 120-1)

Another son, David, died 1666, founded families at Cae glan'rafon & Cwm Mawr, Ynyscynhaiarn, (T C Griffith Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon, 1989, [40])

Robert ap William of Gorllwyn Uchaf had a sister Gwen who married Robert Rowlands (ap John ap Howel), of Brondanw, living 1626, but they had no children. Brondanw was inherited by Gwen's nephew, Robert ap William's son, William Roberts.

In 1642 **William Roberts of Gorllwyn Ucha & Brondanw** married Sydney, daughter of Arthur ap David of Madryn. He moved to Brondanw & was buried in 1693 in Llanfrothen. The value of his inventory was £168. (Bob Owen, Plas Brondanw, JMHRs, 1959 p 251)

1710 will of Jane verch Morris, Gorllwyn, Penmorfa. WHICH ONE?  
(UWB, Bangor 2136 no 365/404; Bob Owen notes)

**William Williams**, of Brondanw, date of marriage settlement Aug 2, 1685; date of will March 2 1712. He married Dorothy, d of Maurice Williams, of Llwyn Crwn, Trawsfynydd, co Merioneth. They had six children.

He may have **rebuilt Brondanw or erected a new building** on the site of an older house, as there is a stone on the western end of the house with WW 1660 or 1666 carved on it. (Bob Owen, Plas Brondanw, JMHRs, 1959 p 251)

**Robert Williams** of Caernarfon & Brondanw married in 1714; administration of his will was granted in 1736. Married Mary, d of John Vaughan of Abercain, Llanystumdwy, died 1736 aged 42. They had seven children. (J E Griffith, Pedigrees, p 140)

Robert Williams was buried at Llanfrothen 30 Sept. 1742.

1742: He **bequeathed his messuage of Tythyn y Gorllwyn Isaf** to Griffith Williams, Llandegwning, clerk, his executor, whose daughter Dorothy had married Robert Williams' second brother, William Williams of Caernarfon & after of Pwllheli. **This was when the two Gorllwyn holdings came under separate ownership.**

[William Williams' second daughter Ellen (1726-1749) married Rev John Ellis & became an ancestor to Clough Williams-Ellis. (Bob Owen, Plas Brondanw, JMHRs, 1959 p 257)]

**William Williams** of Brondanw (1715-1778) married Elizabeth, d of Robert Lloyd of Dduallt died 1776. They had no children.

“He was the first who introduced Sea Banks into this part of Wales” (Inside Llanfrothen church)  
The estate was inherited to his brother, Rev **John Williams**, Rector of Harlington, near Windsor. He was married but died in 1789 without children and the estate was inherited by his sister **Catherine Williams**. She died unmarried in 1804 and willed the BRONDANW estate to Jane, daughter of her niece Mary, Jane Bulgin who married Rev Thomas Ellis of Tan yr Allt, Bangor.

Catherine William of Brondanw’s sister Jane Jones had married Rev **Thomas Jones, (1700-1771)** M A, (Oxon) Rector of Trawsfynydd; they had eight children. (J E Griffith, Pedigree p 334).  
Jane Jones inherited **Ynysfor** (? with **Gorllwyn Uchaf and Llys y cripil**) from **William Williams, Brondanw**.

*Their son was **John Jones (1745-1829), B A , of Ynysfor. He inherited Gorllwyn & Llys y cripil.***

His son, **Evan Jones of Ynysfor (1793-1853)** married Jane, daughter of Richard Pugh, Rector of Llanfrothen (1796-1836). They had four children.

In 1838 Gorllwyn Uchaf and Gorllwyn Isaf were each allotted two small ffriddoedd. (C A Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd, p 144)

Their son **John Jones D L of Ynysfor (1829-1901)** in 1866 married Lydia Ann, d & co heiress of John Jones of Oaklands, Denbighshire (1840-1922). They had ten children.

Their daughter Dorothes Blanche Jones married the Hon Ulick De Rope Burke **Roche**, 4<sup>th</sup> son of 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Fermoy (his second wife).

Their son Ulick Edmund Burke Roche was born in 1906. (J E Griffith, Pedigrees p334)  
Col Roche married Primrose, and she still lives in Ynysfor in 2008.

#### **TENANTS at Gorllwyn** (WHICH Gorllwyn?)

1710 will of Jane verch Morris (widow) names her sisters Margaret, Catherine and Ann Morris & her brother David Morris. Valuation of £16. (T C Griffith Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon, 1989, p 128)

1762 will of David Griffith, Gorllwyn names two grandsons David, son of Morris Williams, Llwynmafon, Ynyscynhaiarn and David, son of Evan Jones, Llandwrog, and grand daughter Margaret, daughter of Thomas David, Pennant Iago, Mallwyd. His wife Ellin Jones is to be his executor. Valuation of £25. (T C Griffith Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon, 1989, p 136)

*1774 John Thomas, Taicochion & Gorllwyn (?ISAF) (1740-1819) in 1774 married Lowry, daughter of Thomas Morgan, Tyddyn Madryn & Tyddyn Coch Uchaf (1746-1791). They had four daughters. (T C Griffith ,Achau Rhai o Deulueodd Hen Siroedd Caernarfon, Meirionnydd a Threfaldwyn, 2003, p 110)*

1775 Will of Humphrey Pierce, Tan’t Ally, Ynyscynhaiarn & Treflys, states that his daughters Catherine and Ann are to share “y brydles ar Gorllwyn”. Maurice Williams, Gorllwyn is a trustee. (T C Griffith Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon, 1989, p 173)

1769 owner not given; tenant Humphrey Pierce Tax £1 4s 0d (GAS XQA/LT 7/8)

1775 will of Humphrey Pierce, Tan'r Allt, Ynyscynhaiarn & Treflys, names his daughters as ?sharing Gorllwyn. He also mentions Maurice Williams, Gorllwyn. (T C Griffith, (T C Griffith Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon, 1989, p 173)

Land Tax Assessments: Penmorfa

1784 owner ?*Evan Vaughan Esq*; tenant Owen Williams. Tax 12s 0d (GAS XQA/LT 7/8)  
Evan Vaughan was also of Ty'n y Casa, Braich y Dinas fawr, Gorllwyn issa and uchaf.

1785	owner Mr Williams (Brondanw)	Owen Williams	£1 12s 0d	“
1789-1805	Miss Williams	“	“	“
1806	owner Mr Jones (Ynysfor tenant) plus Gorllwyn issa	“	“	“
1807	“	William Williams	“	“
1811	“	Robert Williams	“	“
1812-1819	not given	Robert Roberts (same man as RW)”	“	“

1810 Margaret Owen, Cwm Mawr, born in Gorllwyn Uchaf; maybe it was the home of her mother Margaret Owen of Penmorfa, who in 1807 had married Henry Owen, Tyddyn Adi & Dolwgan. (T C Griffith, (T C Griffith Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon, 1989, [109, 110])  
Margaret Owen (1810 at Gorllwyn uchaf-1886) in 1832 married Robert Roberts (1790-1865) (T C Griffith Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon, 1989, [40])

1841 census Gorllwyn ucha

Robert Roberts	76	farmer	born in Caernarfonshire
Jane	“	73	“
Edward Roberts	38	Ag servant	“
Jane Jones	35	farm servant	“

1844 Tithe Commutation Map & schedule for Penmorfa:

Gorllwyn Uchaf: house in field 1204; 1203 - + barn; 1205, 1206+ barn, 1207- 1215, + (297, 298+ barn)

Owner: <i>William Jones</i> ;	tenant	Robert Roberts	162acres 1r 26p
William Jones also owned Llys.	tenant	William Jones	75a 1r 38p
William Jones also owned pasture	tenant	Lord Newborough	

1851 census Penmorfa schedule 47 Gorllwyn Uchaf

Richard Jones	H	M	47	farmer 40 acres	Born Penmorfa
Jane Jones	W	M	47		Beddgelert, C
William Jones son		U	2		Penmorfa
Robert Roberts f in law			86	farmer	Penmorfa
Jane Roberts m in law			83		Ynyscynhaiarn
Anne Owen serv			18	servant	ditto
Anne Roberts visitor			13		Penmorfa

1851 census Penmorfa schedule 48 Gorllwyn Uchaf

Hugh Jones	H	wid	40	farmer's lab	born Penmorfa
Catherine Jones dau			11		Clynnog
John Jones son			9		Clynnog
Anne Jones mother wid			64	pauper	Clynnog



1861 census Penmorfa schedule No 105 Gorllwyn bach

Annie Jones	H	wid	73		born Clynnog Fawr
Hugh Jones	son	wid	50	Ag lab	Llandecwyn, Mer
Catherine Jones	g dau		21		Clynnog Fawr
John Jones	gson		5 mth		Penmorfa

1861 census Penmorfa schedule No 106 Gorllwyn uchaf

Richard Jones	H	M	55	farmer 112 acres employ 2 men	born Penmorfa
Jane Jones	W	M	56		Beddgelert, C
Robert Owen	serv	U	12	farm servant	Penmorfa

1871 census Penmorfa schedule no 127 Gorllwyn Uchaf

Jane Jones	H	Wid	66	farmer 200 acres +1 lab	born Beddgelert, c
William Roberts	serv	U	20	ag lab	Beddgelert, C
Mary Williams	serv	U	17	gen servant	Penmorfa

1871 census Penmorfa schedule no 128 Gorllwyn bach

Anne Jones	H	Wid	87		Born Garndolbenmaen
John Jones	serv	U	?68	Ag lab	Penmorfa

1881 census Penmorfa schedule no 47 Gorllwyn Uchaf

Owen Williams	H	M	48	farmer 178 acres	Born Beddgelert, C
Catherine Williams	W	M	29		Llannor
Margred Williams	dau	U	7	scholar	Beddgelert, C
Catherine Williams	dau	U	3		Penmorfa
Mary Williams	dau	U	5mths		Penmorfa
Griffith Parry	serv	U	14	farm servant indoors	Beddgelert, C

1886 Apr 12 death of Owen Williams, Gorllwyn Uchaf, aged 53 (Beddgelert MI A284)

1891 census Penmorfa schedule no 122 Gorllwyn Uchaf (5+ rooms)

John Evans	H	M	49		Born Llanfihangel y Pennant	W
Jane Evans	W	M	45		ditto	W
Thomas J Williams	serv	U	16	gen serv	ditto	W

1901 census Dolbenmaen / Penmorfa Schedule 6 Gorllwyn [Uchaf]

David Thomas	H	M	46	farmer employ co-worker	born Dolbenmaen	W
John Thomas	son	U	14	shepherd	ditto	W
David Thomas	son	U	12	in school	Llanfrothen, Mer	W
Richard Thomas	son	U	10	in school	ditto	W
Ellen Thomas	dau	U	19		Dolbenmaen, C	W
Mary Thomas	dau	U	15	seamstress gen co-worker	ditto	W/E
Lizzie Thomas	dau	U	7	in school	ditto	W

1910 Land Tax no / p 274 Owners John Jones, Ynysfor

Gorllwyn [Uchaf], tenant David Thomas 177 acres

Gorllwyn, tenant Robert Evans 139 acres

Hendreseller, tenant Griff Evans 39 Acres

Llys, tenant Hugh Williams 67 acres. (GAS, Dolbenmaen Land Tax)

1911 census Gorllwyn Uchaf, Dolbenmaen schedule no 44 (see under Ffestiniog)

David Thomas	H	M	55	born 1856	farmer	born Llanfihangel y Pennant, C
Ellen Thomas	W	M	52	born 1859		Penmorfa, C
Mary Thomas	dau	U	26	born 1885	general work	ditto
Richard Thomas	son	U	19	born 1892	working on farm	Llanfrothenm M.
John Pritchard	nephew	U	14	born 1897	-	Penmorfa, C

1932 May 10 death of Catherine Williams, widow of Owen Williams, aged 84 (Beddgelert MI A284) [see 1886]. She must have moved away from Gorllwyn Uchaf before the 1891 census.

c1950s Semi derelict; leased from the Misses Jones, Ynysfor, by Miss Doreen Carlos-Perkins, Portsmouth & her two friends

**PROBABLY THE FIRST SALE:**

?? c1980s bought by Miss Doreen Carlos-Perkins, Portsmouth & her two friends who kept it just about watertight but made no improvements.

c1995 bought by Gwyn Williams & Wendy Vaughan

2005 alterations undertaken to make it a suitable family home.

*CHECK Brondanw / Ynyfor papers for owners, tenants, repairs etc*

## **GORLLWYN ISAF**

**29-10-05**

Original block contains fragmentary post and panel partition of ca. 1600. Ruinous in 1953. (RCAHMW, Inventory of Caernarvonshire, Vol II, Dolbenmaen, monument 914, p 74)

**Robert Williams** of Caernarfon & Brondanw (+ Gorllwyn Uchaf) married in 1714; administration of his will was granted in 1736. He married Mary, daughter of John Vaughan of Abercain, Llanystumdwy, died 1736 aged 42. They had seven children. (J E Griffith, Pedigrees, p 140)

Robert Williams was buried at Llanfrothen 30 Sept. 1742. He **bequeathed his messuage of Tythyn y Gorllwyn Isaf** to Griffith Williams, Llandegwning, clerk, his executor, whose daughter Dorothy had married Robert Williams' second brother, William Williams of Caernarfon & after of Pwllheli. This was when the two holdings came under separate ownership.

Land Tax Assessments (GAS XQA/LT/ 7/8)

1769	no owner given	tenant	Margaret Morres & Ellin Jones	9s + 9s
1784	“		Griffith David	12s
1785-1807	John Jones		Griffith David	£1 4s 0d
1810-1819	John Jones		Henry Owen	£1 4s 0d

1841 census not checked

1844 Tithe Commutation Map & schedule

Gorllwyn Isaf 1244 + house, 1245-1256 + (297 + barn); adjoins Llys lands.

Owner Edward Jones tenant Margaret Owen 139 acres 1r 93 p

No later census returns, memorial inscriptions or church records studied.

Researched by Margaret Dunn

20<sup>th</sup> February 2012