

NORTH WEST WALES DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES - CONWY

BENNAR

Penmachno, Conwy (Formerly Caernarfonshire)

NGR SH 7941 5177

Grade II*

© *Crown copyright: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales: Dating Old Welsh Houses: North West Wales Dendrochronology Project*

House Survey / Reports

2012 Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory survey by Dr M C Bridges

Sampling took place in January 2012 and all samples were of oak. Five timbers dated – one truss in a bedroom, three from joists in the entrance passage and one from an axial beam in the kitchen. **The most likely date of construction is 1564 or within a year or two after this date.** (See Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory Report)

1956 RCAHMW Caernarvonshire Inventory Volume I 1956 page 169/170

Bennar: A two-storeyed house with a T-shaped plan. The head of the T, on a NE –SW axis, is dated 1693; the stem is probably 16th century. The walls are of roughly coursed rubble, the roofs of modern slate. Standing on ground rising steeply to the SW, the house has a fine symmetrical front. It is approached by an axial stone stairway containing seats in recesses, and leading to a small garden terrace. To the NE is a small 17th century cottage, now used as an outhouse.

The older block is entered from the NE, where the original doorway and long horizontally proportioned windows remain. The other walls are hidden by later buildings, and a large part of the SE side has been removed. Internally the original ceiling of massive stop-chamfered beams and joists remains, including a trimmed opening in the N corner, evidently the site of an early stair or ladder. To the SE of the entrance the ceiling beams show evidence of a post-and-panel partition containing a central vertical post. On the first floor two sections of post-and-panel partitioning survive.

The larger 17th century block can be dated from a hinge on the original front door, inscribed RT 1693. It has nine vertically proportioned windows now containing 19th century sashes. The upper row retains their stop-chamfered wooden lintels. The tall oblong chimneys and the small gabled porch carried on masonry columns are also original. Internally the block has been entirely modernised.

Damaged and apparently re-fixed in the SW angle between the main blocks is a mid 17th century stair. It has straight strings and a thin moulded handrail, turned finials and pendants and twisted balusters.

The cottage is of two storeys with walls of roughly coursed rubble: the roof is of old slate. There is one chimney, at the NE end. The SE front retains some original fenestration, but the openings on the ground floor may have been disturbed, including the doorway, which was at one time very wide. Internally on the ground floor the original fireplace and ceiling beams and joists remain, also a secondary internal wall. On the first floor there is an in-and-out boarded partition with a square central opening. The roof has a single truss. Condition: of house, fair, roof needing repair; of cottage, poor.

CADW listing ref 41/B/1 Benar Farmhouse including forecourt walls and stairs
Date first listed 13.10.1966 Re-inspected and photographed 12.07.1990

On prominent hillside site above Afon Machno to NW of B4406.

House of C16 and C17 with later additions. T-shaped plan, C16 section forming stem of T, C17 section head of T. Renovation of C17 block c1852.

Entrance front of C16 block faces NE. Two storeys, rubble, rectangular stone chimney to R, C19 slate roof. Doorway offset to L, flanked by broad casement windows; three casement windows above, L window set lower than others.. Extension to NW (R), C19 with window on each floor. NW gable end has first floor doorway under deep stone lintel. Later extension to rear under a lean-to roof.

Interior: Has entrance passage with, to L old in and out partition. Kitchen, to R, beyond modern partition, has massive stop-chamfered beam and stop-chamfered joists, and inglenook fireplace with stop-chamfered lintel; opening to R of fireplace probably site of early stair. First floor has post and panel partition with some original plaster infill panels above tie beam of roof truss.. Partition has two pointed-headed doorways, one with old boarded door with iron strap hinges. Queen post roof structure.

Entrance front of C17 block faces SE over valley; block dateable to 1693. Two storeys, five symmetrical bays. Roughly coursed rubble slabs. C19 slate roof. Tall end chimneys in stone; L chimney rectangular, R chimney square. Windows vertically proportioned glazed with small-pane hornless sashes. First floor windows under stop-chamfered wooden lintels. Ground floor windows have deep stone windows. Central gabled porch with two rubble masonry columns; original planked and nail-studded front door with decorative iron strap hinges bearing inscriptions RP and 1693.

Interior; Re-ordered c1852 but retains stop-chamfered beams and joists on ground floor.

In front of 1693 block is a walled garden terrace. Approached from SE via axial stone stairway with rubble walls capped with slate slabs; stone seats in recesses at halfway point.

Graded II* as house with outstanding features of several periods.

Benar Barn CADW ref 41/B/2(1) Grade II listed inspected 08.06.1993

C17 barn probably formerly stables; formerly lofted. Extended and altered in C19

Privy at Benar CADW reference 41/B/3(1) Grade II listed inspected 08.06.1993

Lavatory house, probably mid C19. Local flat rubble; thick slate roof. Centrally placed double wooden doors. Gable ends to NW and SE; that to SE has small square window. Building built into slope of ground which drops steeply down to stream at rear. Stream flows through square headed openings in lower part of gable walls.

Interior has two-seater latrine with wooden seats overhanging stream which carried away waste.

Early History

1594 Pennardd, Penmachno - Visited on 7th January

Lineage of John ap Hugh (ab Richard) Gent

(from Lewys Dwnn, Heraldic Visitations of Wales 1586–1613, p255-256 Edited by Meyrick 1896)

John ab Huw ab Richard ab Ieun ab Sion ab Heilin ab Ieun ab Gruffydd Cravnant ab Llowarch Ddu ab Daffydd Goch ab Daffydd ab Gruffydd ab Llewellyn ab Iorwerth Drwyndwn ab Owain Gwynedd ab Gruffydd ab Cynan ab Iago Tywsog
(ab Idwal Fychan ab Meurig ab Idwal Foel)

In 1594, John ab Huw lived in Pennarth with his wife Sian the daughter of Morys ab Lewis.

They had seven children – Robert, Richard (dead) William, Elsbeth, Sian, Margaret & Elen.

His father, **Huw** ab Richard married Jonet the daughter of John ab Rh Wynn and had four sons – John, Richard, Gruffydd and William.

His father **Richard** ab Jeun married Jane the daughter of William ab Howell ab Rhys. They had seven children – Huw, John, Owen, Thomas, Elizabeth (*who married Rh Wyn ab Fowk Salbri*), Lowry (*who married Daffydd Lloyd ab Richard*) and Margaret (*who married Lewis Anwyl of Parke*) (the website familysearch.org/getperson has Richard ab Jeun living in Coed y ffynnon)

1532 26th July 1 Edward Gruffith 2 Ieuan ap John ap Hylan

Richard ap Ieuan ap John ap Hylan son of (2) and Jone verch William Lloyd ap Hoell ap Res to hold a tenement called Tithyn Coyd y Ffynnon in Bettus co Caernarvon for life at rent of 21d p a

(Deed of Covenant D/SH/7 Flintshire archives)

His father, **Ieun** ab Sion married Lowry the daughter of Gruffydd ab Jeun ab y coch val Rhys ab Meredydd. They had fourteen children – Richard, John, William (died), Huw, Gruffydd (died), Daffydd, Robert, Rhydderch, Owen, Marred, Anes, Elsbeth, Catrin and Margaret (*Owen ab Ieun was the father of the poet Hugh Machno*) Ieuan ap Sion is noted as being a witness to a deed relating to property in the parish of Festiniog, dated 24th March 1542

His father, **Sion** ab Heilin married Alis who may have been the sole heiress of Meirig o Nane. (Editorial notes cast doubt on the fact of Alis being sole heiress). The will of Sion (John) ab Heilin in which he mentions Alis his wife and three children is dated 5th August 1484.

His father, **Heilin** ab Jeun married Margaret the daughter and Co-heiress of Gruffydd ab Howell Coetmor ab Gruffydd Fychan (of Penmachno)

His father **Jeun** ab Gruffydd married Lleuku the daughter of Rhys Fychan ab Gruffydd ab Rhys ab Ednyvet Vychan(a warrior born 1170 died 1246 Henry VII is his direct descendent)

His father, **Gruffydd Crafnant** ab Llowarch was born in Penmachno but lived in Crafnant.

His father, **Llowarch ddu** ab David Goch married Mali the daughter and heiress of Daffydd ab Gruffydd ab Ieun ab Idnerth

*From this point back there is some doubt as to the lineage. If we follow the lineage given by Lewys Dwnn the line includes Princes of North Wales, **Llewelyn the Great** , back through **Iago Tywsog** to **Meirig ap Idwal Foel**, king of Gwynedd.*

The **traditional** identification of **Dafydd Goch** ap Dafydd (the father of Llowarch Ddu) is as the illegitimate son of Dafydd ap Gruffydd, prince of North Wales. Dafydd Goch ap Dafydd married Angharad the daughter of Heilyn of Anglesey.

Dafydd ap Gruffydd born in 1238 in Penmachno married Elizabeth Ferrers. He died in 1283 at Shrewsbury . He was the first person to be charged with High Treason and the first prominent person to be hung, drawn and quartered by order of Edward I. He was the last independent ruler of Wales.

His father **Gruffydd** ap Llewellyn died in the Tower of London in 1244.

His father **Llewellyn Fawr** ap Iorwerth , prince of North Wales, was born in 1165 and died in 1240 in Aberconwy.

His father **Iorwerth Drwyndwn** ap Owain Gwynedd was born in about 1130 in Aberffraw and died in 1174 and is buried in Pennant Mehangel.

His father, **Owain Gwynedd** ap Gruffydd , prince of North Wales, born in about 1100 at Llantrisant had eleven separate families. With his second wife Gwladus the daughter of Llywarch of Montgomeryshire he had Iorwerth Drwydwn.

His father, **Gruffydd** ap Cynan, born about 1055 in Llantrisant is buried in Bangor Cathedral. He married Angharad daughter of Owen.

His father, **Cynan** ap Idwal, born in about 1020 married Ragnailt of Dublin.

His father, **Iago Tywsog** was born in about 985 in Aberffraw Castle on Anglesey.

His father **Idwal Fychan** was the son of **Meurig ap Idwal Foel**, king of Gwynedd. (additional material found on www.penrose.org after 'googling' Iago Tywsog)

However, as Edward I intended to wipe out all descendents of Dafydd ap Gruffydd why would he leave even an illegitimate son alive. In an article written by **Darrell Wolcott** on the website www.ancientwalesstudies.org entitled '**Dafydd Goch ap Dafydd – his real**

ancestry' the traditional identification given by JYW Lloyd in '**History of Powys Fadog**' vol I p192 is disputed.

Lloyd states '*Prince Dafydd (ap Gruffydd, brother of Llewellyn the Last) left also an illegitimate son, Dafydd Goch of Nant Conwy...*'

In vol III, p32/33 Lloyd also states '*David Goch of Penmachno was the natural son of Dafydd, Lord of Denbigh and Frodsham, whose trial and cruel death at Shrewsbury in 1283 has already been related. Dafydd Goch married Angharad, daughter of Heilin ap Sir Tudor ap Ednyfed Fychan, by whom he had issue a son and heir, Gruffydd ab Dafydd of Nant Conwy*'

Wolcott believes that Dafydd Goch was not killed by Edward I because he was not the son of Dafydd, Lord of Denbigh, but a son of **Dafydd ap Gruffudd ap Llewelyn ap Iorwerth** (of Penmachno, Nant Conwy) ap **Nefydd Hardd**. The coat of arms ascribed to Dafydd Goch is more like that of Nefydd Hardd than the line of Gwynedd kings. (**Development of Welsh Heraldry**, by Michael Siddons vol I p193)

Nefydd Hardd was thought to be descended from the 10th century Heilig ap Glannog who held most of North Gwynedd including Nant Conwy.

The 4-name string of male names explains the possible source of confusion.

Traditional line	Alternate line
1100 Owain Gwynedd I	1105 Nefydd Hardd I
1130 Iorwerth I	1140 Iorwerth (of Penmachno) I
1165 Llewelyn Fawr I	1170 Llewelyn I
1195 Gruffudd I	1200 Gruffudd I
1230 Dafydd (brother of Llewelyn the last)	1230 Dafydd

1260 DAFYDD GOCH

1520 Edward Griffith, a member of the Penrhyn family leased neighbouring property Coed y Ffynnon, to Richard Pugh in 1532. Edward Griffith probably had Coed y Ffynnon built in about 1520. Edward Griffith may have been the owner of the Benar lands
(from the research of Gill Jones Deed of covenant dated 26th July 1532 D/SH/7 Flintshire Archives)

1607/08 14th March

- i John Pugh of Bennarth
- ii Roderick Powell of Dulasse agree to the erection of a new pew 6ft long on the north side of Penmachno Church. (*Flintshire record office D/SH/18*)

John Pugh's eldest son, **Robert**, (died 1623) married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Price Wynne of Geeler Dun

1614 6th August

i John ap Huw ap Richard of Beniarth gent and Robert Pugh his son and heir apparent
ii Thomas Vaughan of Planshaf (?), Caernarvonshire and Edward Wynne of Ffestiniog, gent

All of the property of i in Penmachno to ii upon trust in consideration of the marriage of Robert Pughe and Margaret, the daughter of Thomas Price Wynne of Geeler and £320
(*Flintshire Record Office D/SH/25*)

1617 13th May

Receipt from Ellice Williams, gent to John Pugh of Bennarth for the sum of £60, his marriage portion. (*Flintshire record office D/SH/723*)

1617

Acknowledgement of debts owed by Thomas Ellis of Penmachno, drover to Robert Pugh, gent. (*Flintshire record office D/SH/724*)

1618 1st August - Feoffment

(Transfer of a property or land such that the new holder had the right to pass on the property to his heirs or sell outright, namely the total transfer of all the rights of ownership from one person to another. As all land effectively belonged to the monarch in feudal times this involved transfer of rights over land rather than ownership of the land)

i Thomas Owen ap David, yeoman Penmachno

ii John Pugh of Beniarth

Messuage Twrteg and land in Penmachno previously held by Robert ap David Lloyd, father in law of i £70 (*Flintshire Record office*)

1621 14th June

Receipt from John Smyth of Caernarvonshire, gent to Robert Pugh, gent for sum of 10s4d as relief on the death of John Pugh. (*Flintshire record office D/SH/725*)

1622/23 20th February – Lease

i Robert Pugh of Bennarth

ii Thomas Price Wynne of Giler Dan

Messuages of Bennarth for 4 years, rent £5, consideration £100.
(*Flintshire record office D/SH/31*)

1623 1st May

List of Belongings remaining in Koed y Ffynnon belonging to my sonne Robert Pugh by Jane Pugh. (*Flintshire record office D/SH/885*)

1631

Entry 1552 June 23 1631

Benarth - Robert Pugh to Sir Richard Wynn

-with regard to Escheat Lands in Treveriw and Kymlanerch, now in the possession of Mr Robert Wynn

Entry 1553 July 22 1631

London – Robert Lewis to Robert Pugh at Benarth

- desiring him to obtain an answer from Robert Wynne at Berddwyne concerning the recovery of certain escheate lands in his tenure.

(National Library of Wales Calendar of Wynn of Gwydir Papers 1515 – 1690. Published in 1926)

1637 May

Inventory of Robert Pugh of Bennarthe, Penmachno. *(Flintshire record office D/SH/887)*

Date after 1637

Robert Pugh deceased of Bennarthe gent made a bequest to Ann Puleston

i John Puleston and Ann of TrevieBychein, Denbighshire

ii Margaret Pugh of Bennarthe. *(Flintshire record office D/SH/995)*

1638/39 12th February – Feoffment

i John Pugh of Bennarthe **(?REF)**

1639 23rd October – Surrender

i Margaret Pugh of Bennarthe

ii John Pugh **(?REF)**

1639 24th October – Feoffment

i Thomas ap Rees Wynne of Geeler Dun and John Pugh of Bennarthe

ii Robert Price of Geeler son and heir apparent of i and Richard Anwyl of Penmachno

Messuage called Bennarthe and lands named in Bettus **(?REF)**

1639 25th October – Quitclaim

i Margaret Pugh widow

ii Robert Price of Geeler and Richard Anwyl **(?REF)**

1639 26th October – Marriage settlement

i Robert Price of Geeler and Richard Anwyl

ii John Pugh of Bennarthe and Ann Pugh widow, his mother

iii John Jones Of Meillien, Caernarvonshire, gent and Edward Owen of Garthwynne Merionethshire, gent

The capital messuage Bennarthe and lands in Bettus on the marriage of John Pugh and Margaret the eldest daughter of John Jones

(Flintshire record office D/SH/ 35, 36, 37, 38, 40)

1640 14th May

Deed to make a tenant to the Praecipe

i John Pugh

ii Margaret Pugh widow and mother

iii Evan Lloyd of Kefen Vaes Merionethshire, gent and Ellis Hughes of Gwerneval Merioneth, gent

Message Bennarth to ii

?(REF – as below? Repeat here)

1640 14th May

Lease for 6 months

i John Pugh

ii Margaret Pugh (*Flintshire record office D/SH/41,42*)

Their son, **John Pugh**, married Margaret, daughter of John Jones of Meillionen

1655 9th April

Letter from Robert Evans (London) to his cousin John Pugh

(*Flintshire record office D/SH/correspondence*)

John Pugh's son, **Robert Pugh**, of Pennard (a lawyer of Middle temple) married Anne Eden the daughter of Tobias Eden. Their daughter and sole heiress was Anne Pugh. (born 1693).

1676 17th October – Quitclaim

i Hugh Ellis of Parke, Caernarvonshire, yeoman

ii Robert Pugh of Bennardd

Message called Parke in Penmachno (*Flintshire records office D/SH/46*)

1688 13th April - Lease for a year

i Robert Pugh of London esq

ii Tobias Eden of London esq, Robert Price of Lincoln's Inn and Thomas Eden of London gent

Messages of multiple properties in Ffestiniog, Maentwrog and Penmachno including Bennarth. (*Flintshire records office D/SH/623*)

1688 1st/2nd August – Lease and Release

i Robert Pugh of Middle Temple London

ii Thomas Price of Inner temple London

iii Tobias Eden of London esq

Messages: Numerous properties including Bennarth, Coed y Ffynnon, Hen Rhiw all in Penmachno

Consideration: making a tenant to the praecipe. (*Flintshire records office D/SH/47*)

1697/98 23rd January

Letter from Robert Lewis to Robert Pugh (*Flintshire record office D/SH/correspondence*)

After the death of Robert Pugh, Anne Eden married Roderick Lloyd of Hafodwryd. He is commemorated in Penmachno by a school, almshouses and charitable gifts donated to the parish. Their daughter Anne married Edward Williams in 1730 and their daughter (also Anne) married Robert Howell Vaughan.

The heiress **Anne Pugh** married **John Wynne** (in about 1720 at Lambeth Palace in London), who died Bishop of Bath and Wells in 1743. Their issue were three sons, one died in infancy and the others without issue, and two daughters.

Anne, the elder, married Henry Fane esq (brother to Thomas, 8th earl of Westmoreland) and **Margaret** married **Henry Bankes** esq of Corfe Castle. (*Griffiths Pedigrees PAGE?*)

Roderick Lloyd was the fifth son of Hugh Lloyd of Ceidio. His mother was Barbara, daughter of Richard Anwyl of Hafodwryd, Penmachno by Margaret, the sister of Sir Richard Lloyd of Naclus, Attorney General. Roderick was admitted a student at Lincoln's Inn in 1684. He married at Lincoln's Inn on Thursday 22nd April 1703, Ann Pugh, daughter of Tobias Eden and widow of Robert Pugh of Pennarth, Penmachno and of the Middle Temple, London by whom he had an only daughter and heiress, Anne. She was married in 1730 to Edward Williams. Their only daughter and sole heiress, Anne, became the wife of Robert Howell Vaughan, of Dee Banks, Chester, surgeon, Mayor of Chester 1789 and was created a Baronet.

By her first husband, Robert Pugh, to whom she was married by licence, dated 11th April 1688, and who died in 1699, Ann Pugh had issue two daughters and co-heiresses, Margaret, wife of John Agar esq (she died without issue in 1729) and Anne, sole heiress of Pennarth and Dol-y-moch who was married at Lambeth Palace in 1720 to John Wynne DD, Bishop of Bath and Wells by whom she had issue.

(*'Cheshire Sheaf' January 1937 p9 (provided by RCAHMMW)*)

Richard Lloyd 1606 – 1676 (*Dulassau?*) had a sister Margaret who married Richard Anwyl of Parc

Their daughter Barbara married Hugh Lloyd of Deneio & Nefyn

They had a son Roderick (died 1730) of Hafodwryd who entered Lincoln's Inn. He is commemorated in Penmachno by school, almshouses and charitable gifts to parish.

Roderick married Anne Pugh (Eden) in 1703. She was the widow of Robert Pugh of Pennard who was a lawyer of Middle Temple.

Anne, the daughter of Robert and Anne Pugh was born in 1693 and married John Wynne.

(*Welsh biography online WBO.LLGC.org.uk*)

1688 Lease and Release document involving Robert Pugh and Thomas Price
(*Flintshire archive D/SH/36*)

1689 Hearth Tax

Bennar 3 hearths (*Plymf Penmachno VP Williams p 33*)

1759

Of Owen Jones, constable, of persons of the parish of Penmachno qualified to serve on juries.

Lewis Williams, gent, Hafodwryd

Arthur Robinson, gent, Penybryn

Thomas Jones, gent, of Bennarth

(*Gwynedd archive Caernarfon record office XQS/ 1759/126*)

1748-1812: Land Tax assessments

1748

£2 5s 0d

Tenant Thomas Jones

1761	£2 5s 0d		
1775	£2 2s 6d		
1776	£2 16s 3d		
1781	£2 5s 0d		
1792	£2 5s 0d	Owner John Wynne	Tenant Robert Jones
1793/4	£2 5s 0d	Owner John Wynne	Tenant Robert Jones
1796	£2 16s 3d	Owner John Wynne	Tenant Robert Jones
1797	£2 16s 3d	Owner John Wynne	Tenant Robert Jones
1808	£2 5s 0d	Owner John Wynne	Tenant Catherine Jones
1810	£2 5s 0d	Owner John Wynne	Tenant Catherine Jones
1812	£2 5s 0d	Owner John Wynne	Tenant Robert Jones

1721 John Owens Will (NLW website wills and bonds)

Bequeathed to :-

His daughter Ellin Jones £0 2s 6d

His daughter Catherine Jones £15 0s 0d

His daughter Ann Jones £0 2s 6d

His son Richard Jones £15 0s 0d

His daughter Jane Jones £0 2s 6d

His son Thomas Jones £15 0s 0d

His daughter Margaret Jones £15 0s 0d

His son Robert Jones £15 0s 0d

Everything else is left to his wife Alis Roberts and youngest son Owen Jones on condition that they pay all debts and legacies.

Charges against the estate of John Owens

Rees Roberts	£8 17s 0d
Thomas Williams	£2 6s 0d
John Robert	£3 0s 0d
Tudur Pritchard	£2 0s 0d
John Robert	£2 0s 0d
Owen Ellis	£10 0s 0d
Humphrey Humphreys	£6 0s 0d
?????	£15 0s 0d
Mrs Lloyd	£17 0s 0d
Robert Jones	£6 5s 0d
Ellis Williams	£8 0s 0d
Robert Cadwallader	£2 2s 0d
Robert Humphrey	£5 0s 0d
Total	£124 10s 0d

1730 Jonet Williams will (NLW website wills and bonds)

Widow – she wishes to be buried in Penmachno churchyard in the grave of her late sister, Margaret Lloyd.

She bequeathed to her niece, Margaret Foulkes, the residue of the estate of Margaret Lloyd To Roderick Lloyd her brother, £20 and to his daughter, her niece, Anne Lloyd £10, both of these already in the hands of Roderick Lloyd as he owes her as much as a debt due to her.

To niece Ellin Lloyd, wife of David Lloyd of Glany wern, Denbighshire 2 guineas
 To niece Jane Lloyd, wife of William Lloyd of Tythin Bychan Caernarvonshire 2 guineas
 To Niece Barbara Lloyd, wife of John Lloyd of ??? in Merioneth 2 guineas
 To niece Katherine Williams, wife of John Williams of Llansifraid the sum of £20 for her sole use and not to be in the disposal or at the power of her husband or to come to his hands on any account whatsoever.
 To nephew Lewis Lloyd of Hafodwryd 2 guineas
 To Jonet Williams daughter of John Williams by niece Katherine £10 to be held by her mother until she is of full age of 18 years
 To niece Ellin Lloyd, now of London £20
 To Alee??? Roberts of Bennarth, widow, 1 guinea
 She appointed niece Margaret Foulkes, wife of the Reverend Evan Foulkes of Trefriw as sole executrix and bequeathed the residue of her estate to said Margaret Foulkes.
(witnesses included Thomas Jones and Robert Jones of Bennarth)

1780 Rees Jones will (NLW website wills and bonds)

To my son John Jones 20 shillings of lawful British money
 To my daughter Ellin Jones £60 of lawful British money
 To my daughter Catherine Jones £60
 To my daughter Anne Jones £10
 To my daughter Jane Jones £10
 To my daughter Elizabeth Jones £10
 To my beloved wife Catherine Jones the benefit of my lease of the lower mill of Penmachno for her own use and disposal
 Everything else to be shared equally between my wife Catherine and my son Robert Jones as joint executors
 If Catherine should remarry after my death she can have only one feather bed bolster and a bedstead with suitable bed clothes and the residue should be divided equally between my daughters Anne, Jane, Elizabeth, Ellin and Catherine.
 I nominate my friend and relation Evan Pritchard of Trefriw and my son John Jones of Rhiw y maen brith in Llanrwst as trustees

Inventory made 16th July 1780 by William Ellis and Robert Jones

All implements of husbandry	£28 15s 0d
Dairy implements	£13 1s 0d
Kitchen	£14 4s 0d
Buttery	£1 5s 0d
Solor and Solor loft	£15 16s 0d
Kitchen loft	£10 10s 0d
Garot	£14 3s 0d
Parlour loft	£11 0s 0d
Hall loft	£12 0s 0d
Hall	£5 10s 0d
Parlour	£12 10s 0d
21 cows with a bull	£88.0s
11 bullocks 3 years old	£38 0s
12 bullocks 2 years old	£27 0s
14 calves	£9 0s

2 cows	£2 0s
1 stack of hay	£30 0s
2 pigs	£3 0s
11 bullocks 1 year old	£19 5s
3 horses	£16 0s
3 horses	£13 10s
3 of 2 year old horses	£10 10s
300 sheep at 5 shillings per sheep	<u>£75 0s 0d</u>
	<u>£476 9s 6d</u>

1798 Catherine Jones bond_(NLW website wills and bonds)

Inventory of Bennar

Clothes and Bedclothes	£5 10 0
One cow	£1 17 6
One copper	£2 10 0
Ten feather bed bolsters	£4 0 0
Three chests	
Two beds	
Two settles Chairs	

(The quality of the document is poor and no further information can be obtained)

1819 Rice Jones bond (died 1818)(NLW website wills and bonds)

Margaret Jones of Benar, widow, John Griffiths of Plas Tirion, Llanrwst and Cadwalader Jones of Brysiog Uchaf, Llanrwst were witnesses.

1 wheel barrow	£0 2s 6d
4 horses	£32 0s
2 cranks	£0 2s 6d
240 sheep	£100 0s
1 rick of Hay at Dugood	£8 0s
2 ricks of corn in the stockyard	£5 0s
1 cheese press	£0 8s 6d
1 thresher	£6 0s
1 meat copper	£1 10s
1 large table	£1 0s
The ???? all together	£0 10s
1 screen salt box and small copper	£0 6s
1 knife box, knives and forks	£0 2s6d
1 corner cupboard	£0 10s 6d
1 round table	£0 12s 0d
1 large stool	£0 1s 0d
1 looking glass	£0 8s 0d
2 large spinning wheels	£0 8s 0d
4 milk pans and 3 pots	£0 4s 0d
1 churn	£2 0s 0d
6 butter tubs	£1 16s 0d
6 cheese plates	£0 10s 0d
All luggage in the dairy	£1 3s 0d

14 sacks	£2 2s 0d
Brewing vessel and tub	£0 7s 0d
4 bullocks of 2 and a half	£20 10s
4 heifers	£4 0s
10 yearlings	£30 0s
14 calves	£20 0s
1 colt	£3 10s
1 bull	£5 0s
17 cows at £7 each	£119 0s
1 rick of Hay near ???	£10 0s
1 rick of hay near Carreg y david ??	£5 0s
1 rick of hay near stable	£11 0s
????? for 5 horses	£6 0s
10 rakes and 8 scythes	£1 6s
4 pikes and 2 forks	£0 13s
2 spades and 1 sowing basket	£0 8s
Cow ties and 3 ropes	£1 5s
1 bedstead in stable loft	£0 15s
2 plows	£3 9s
1 cart	£3 10s
5 trucks	£1 0s
2 bails of hay in lower yard	£8 0s
1 rick of hay in lower stock yard	£24 0s
3 ladders	£0 12s
3 maddocks	£0 5s
1 chest	£0 8s
6 blankets ,2 covers, 2 beds	£1 0s
1 feather bed and clothes and bed stead	£2 2s
Lot of ??? clothes	£7 0s
2 chests	£1 15s
1 feather bed and clothes and bedstead	£2 0s
1 feather bed and clothes	£2 7s
560 pounds of butter	£20 0s
1 pack saddle	£0 8s
2 chests at Rhiwmaenbrith	£1 0s (in 1780 home of John Jones son of Rees)
3 grates, one boiler, one crane?	£2 0s
1 old square table at Ty Mawr	£0 3s
4 pigs	<u>£11 0s 0d</u>
	<u>£624 0s 0d</u>

1831 John Jones Bond(NLW website wills and bonds)

Witnesses - Ellinor Jones his widow and Robert Jones of Voel. Ellinor Jones pledged that John Jones had died intestate and that she was his lawful widow.

Inventory

Deceased clothes	£2 10 0
12 cows	£40 0 0
10 young cattle	£30 0 0
14 young cattle	£20 0 0

14 calves	£17 10 0
2 colts	£12 0 0
3 mares	£21 0 0
140 sheep	£35 0 0
3 hens/geese	£3 0 0
2 carts	£6 0 0
2 ploughs/ 4 harrows	£2 10 0
4 sythes/ 10 rakes	£1 0 0
4 drags ??	£1 0 0
3 spades	£0 10 0
2 pitchforks	£0 2 0
4 pigs	£7 0 0
Household furniture/ kitchen	£15 0 0
Parlour	£7 0 0
Back kitchen	£3 0 0
Room above kitchen	£12 0 0
Due from Owen Griffiths	£40 0 0
Due from Parishioners of Penmachno	£15 0 0
Due from Rhwyl (E?)faddon	£10 0 0
Total	£319 2 0

1808 Robert Jones, Benar charged with riot and assault on bailiff and rescue of his livestock following an action for debt.

Also charged Richard David and Robert Roberts.

(National library of Wales Online archive)

Note – detail of this (in Welsh) in Plwyf Penmachno by Vivien Parry Jones (1996)

Includes detailed inventory of farm

However, date is given as 24th June 1810. I asked VPJ for his source but he could not remember.

1810 Gweithiau Gethin by O G Jones p265

In 1810 there was a big lawsuit between William Jones of Rhydlanfair and Robert Jones of Benar, which went on for a long time. Ramsay Williams, the Caernarvon attorney, sent bailiffs to Benar and Dic, Dafydd and Harry Ellis beat them up on their way home. The bailiffs came back a second time in greater strength and were defeated again and taken to the village – one was hanged on the big birch tree but Peter Luke cut him down. Another bailiff was hiding with his nose out of the water under the hollow bank of the river. Dic and Dafydd walked over his head saying ‘he would feel the weight of their boots and fists if they got hold of him. The bailiffs ran for their lives. They came back with mounted men to take six or seven to gaol.. They caught Robert Jones in Betws fair, along with Richard Williams, who had blacked his face and was calling himself Dic the Sweep. (Dic the Sweep was the father of the present Caernarvon attorney). Six or Seven women went from Penmachno to see their husbands in prison

1826 28th September Grave C045 St Tudclud’s

Here lieth the body of Rice Jones, the son of Robert Jones late of Bennar who was buried 28th day of September 1826 age 27.

Also the body of Mary Jones, Plas, daughter of John Jones and niece of Rice Jones who died 20th January 1836 aged 19 years.. The above named were buried within the church.

(From Gwynedd Family History Society Memorial inscriptions of the Church of St Tudclud)

1830 1st September Grave B138 St Tudclud's

Here lies John Jones of Bennar, Farmer, buried 1st September 1830 age 27 years

Also, here lies Elizabeth, daughter of the above named John and Ellen Jones, buried March 29th 1847, aged 19 years

Also Ellen Jones, Peniarth Arms, wife of John Jones, of Bennar who died 22nd September 1879 aged 79 years.

(From Gwynedd Family History Society Memorial inscriptions of the Church of St Tudclud)

1833 6th January Grave B139 St Tudclud's

In memory of John Jones son of Robert and Elinor Jones of Bennar, buried here January 6th 1833 aged 8 months, with Mary Jones his sister buried January 5th 1844 aged 3 years

(From Gwynedd Family History Society Memorial inscriptions of the Church of St Tudclud)

1839 Tithe Schedule



This was drawn up following the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836. The owner was William John Bankes esq and the tenant was Robert Jones.

The total acreage was 570 and the rent charge was £11 3s 1d

1841 Census The occupants of the house are as follows:-

Cottage ? –	David Jones	25	Quarryman	Who was born in county?
	Elizabeth Jones	25		
	Catherine Jones	3		
	John Jones	3 months		
Main house –	Robert Jones	52	Farmer	
	Ellen Jones	40		
	Elizabeth Jones	13		
	Margaret Jones	12		
	Mary Jones	1		
	David Evans	20	Manservant	
	Ellis Owen	20	Manservant	
	David Humphrey	17	Manservant	
	William Davis	13	Manservant	
	Mary Thomas	22	Female Servant	
	Ellen Owen	20	Female servant	
	Jane Williams	15	Female Servant	
	Robert Davies	21	Agricultural labourer	

1842 Bennar Owner William John Bankes Esq

Occupier Robert Jones

Acreage 570

Man's share £ 570

Rent charge to Impropiator £11 3s 1d

Note: William John Bankes at this time was living at and owned Coed y Ffynon 208 acres
(*Penmachno Tithe commutation records*)

1851 Census

Cottage ? –	David Jones	35	Quarryman	
	Elizabeth Jones	34	Wife	
	Catherine Jones	13		
	John Jones	10		
	David Jones	7		
	Evan Jones	4		
	Ellen Jones	11 months		
Main House -	Robert Jones	65	Farmer of 130 Acres	Born Denbigh
	Ellen Jones	49		
	Catherine ?	20	House servant	
	John Jones	22	Agricultural Labourer	
	Robert Evans	26	Agricultural Labourer	
	Rice Jones	20	Farmer of 130 acres	
	Margaret Jones	22	Wife (daughter of Robert Jones ?1841 census)	
	Anne Richards	13	House servant	
	Tudor Williams	19	Agricultural Labourer	
	John Griffiths	17	Agricultural labourer	
	Joseph Greenwood	17	Visitor fisherman from Buxton in Derbyshire	
Benar Bach -	Thomas Davies	27	Agricultural Labourer	
	Jane Davies	25	Wife	

All born in Penmachno unless stated otherwise. *Benar bach* is probably annexe at rear of house which is thought to be a mid 19th century addition.

1861 Census

Cottage –	Davis Davies	45	Calvinistic Minister	Born parish of ?
	Ellen Davies	52	Wife	born in Ffestiniog
	Laura Davies	19	Daughter/ maidservant	
	Jane Davies	18	Daughter/ maidservant	
	Gwen Davies	13		
	Esau Davies	11		
	Catherine Davies	7		
Main House	John Thomas	25	Farmer of 600 acres	
	Jane Thomas	26	Wife	born in Denbigh
	Thomas R Thomas	2		
	Jane Evans	19	Dairy maid	born in ????
	Elinor Edwards	13	House servant	born in ??
	Pierce Cadwallader	56	Labourer	
	Thomas Davies	39	Cowman	
	John Thomas	18	Carter	
Robert Thomas	15	Cowman		

1867 Grave A30 Capel Salem

In remembrance of Evan Davies October 20th 1867 aged 89 years

I'r Bennar, i'm dwyn y death – yr angeu

Trwy ingoedd marwolaeth

Ac I'r nef fy ngyru a wnaeth

O olwg pob rhyw alaeth

(Gwynedd Family History Society Memorial Inscriptions)

Note – Evan Davies was the father of Davis Davis - minister –see above and entry from Y Goleuad in 1887

1868 Report of a parish meeting concerning the lack of a police presence in Penmachno even though respectable ratepayers had contributed to the cost of constables. A petition was sent to the Chief Constable of Caernarvonshire Police. The motion to send this was seconded by John Thomas of Bennar. *(North Wales Chronicle 21st March 1868)*

1871 Census Bennar

John Thomas	35	Farmer of 350 acres	
Jane Thomas	36	Wife	born in Denbigh
Thomas Thomas	12		
David Thomas	9		
Elizabeth Thomas	3		
John Thomas	2 months		
Ann Jones	17	Visitor Farm servant	
Ann Williams	20	farm servant	
Elizabeth Thomas	19	farm servant	
Elinor Williams	18	Farm servant	
John Jones	20	Farm servant	
Owen Richard	71	Farm servant	
Owen Davies	19	Farm servant	

1881 census Bennar

John Thomas	45	Farmer of 400 acres	
Jane Thomas	46	Wife	born in Denbigh
Thomas Thomas	22	Farmers son	
David Thomas	19		
Elizabeth Thomas	13		
John Thomas	10		
William Thomas	8		
Robert Thomas	6		
Ellinor Thomas	3		
Mary Evans	31	dairymaid	
Elinor Owens	15	general servant	
Griffith Evans	14	farm servant	

1884 Gweithiau Gethin

This book was published posthumously following the death of Owen Gethin Jones in 1893. There is a chapter on the history of Penmachno and the following is an extract of this translated into English.

...we direct our steps across the river to Benar, which is still an out-standing manor-house; this is the old house of the Pugh family. One finds around it various things worthy of note because of their great age. It is clear that the hall and the great parlour were built later than the main kitchen and the upstairs rooms attached to it. The Hall has three upstairs rooms, and one sees from the date on the bar of the front door, 1656, along with the gentleman's name, Dafydd Pugh, that it is a little over two hundred years old; but the other part, from its style, shows a much older period. 'Penardd' is the name given to it in old writings, but I do not know if it was here that the learned Rhys Penardd lived, he who is spoken of in various books as a Welsh author, and who flourished at the beginning of the fifteenth century.

Now I might permit myself to relate the old tradition, ages old, about the Benar glen, which shows how superstitious our ancestors were in times gone by. The owner was not Dafydd Pugh, but his daughter, the heiress, who was at school at Shrewsbury when her father died. He had put two trustees in charge of the property of Barbara Pugh, for that was the girl's name, and one of the two turned out untrustworthy. He hid a great deal of her father's money in a great old oak tree which can be seen on the right hand as you go up to the house and which still bears as many leaves. The money was lost down the hollow tree because of a 'poison hole', as it is called. According to tradition the spirit of Dafydd Pugh was in pain in Benar for many years, until they got a skilled man to settle things by speaking to the spirit. The trustee had died without confessing his sin, and the spirit became one of the most terrifying spectres ever seen. Sometimes he appeared as a powerful mastiff, carrying the body of the trustee like a bone in his jaws. At last they succeeded in getting Sion Hywel Tai Pella, Gwytherin, to speak to the bogey. Thereupon they had to break open a hole in the base of the hollow tree to get the money out, and so the spirit was set at rest for good. I find it strange that this old tradition should have made the timorous even yet afraid to pass the poor old tree. Perhaps the belief in such occurrences in past times has been a check on much treachery and iniquity.

There was a big old yew tree of patriarchal appearance, near the high brow above Benar until sixty or more years ago and its stump has not entirely disappeared yet, though much worn away by bad weather. The reason for its being cut down was that its roots were pulling away the face of the slope.

It is probable that no better stonework could be seen than at Benar; it is of dressed stone inside and out. The latest part of it was restored in a bout 1852, when the floor of the great old parlour was raised and the old oak wainscot was stripped from the walls, leaving the stonework bare. The oak floor was about two inches thick and fastened down with wooden dowels, a hundred of them set at one yard intervals; it looked like the side of a ship. There used to be a 'hafod' belonging to Benar once called 'Hafod-y-Canaelgau, and there are still traces of its ruins. Evidently the above name is remarkably apt, for 'hafod' is a summer dwelling, and 'Can' is white and so I think the word means 'Summer farm of the white brow, as a ridge of white rock runs along the hillside. The highest part of the land is called Werddon or Gwerddon (oasis), and the name is very suitable too, for one can judge from the nature of the place that there are woods all round it, and that it is a sort of island or oasis in appearance. The middle of it is now wet moorland, but once it rose as a beautiful verdant clearing.

The Beaver's pool, from time out of mind the best fishing place on the Conwy, also belonged to Benar. There are many conflicting opinions as to how Benar came into

possession of it, when the river belonged to Gwydir by grant in the time of Queen Anne. But if the parish boundary of Llantyddud ended at the Beaver's pool it is not at all strange since the family at Fedw Deg and at Benar were the same. Fishing rights belonged to Fedw Deg from the top of Conwy gorge to the Ty'n-y-Cae pool, and upstream again along the river Lledrin the direction of Bwlch-y-maen. Gwydir paid £5 a year for them to Mr Bankes, proprietor of Benar.

We say goodbye to Benar, taking note of the two old oaks by the stack, which Mari Dafydd of Twr Teg said she remembered as always the same, and Mari Dafydd was over a hundred years old when she died and that was forty five years ago. The little old woman added that her grandmother remembered them in the same way and that there had been bees in one of them and owls in the other as long as she could remember. None of the people who are now eighty years of age can remember any difference in them, and fitting enough is the saying of the bard in his winning poem on the 'View of Ben Cae Mawr'.

'The noble oaks of Benar are now over six centuries old.

They are the stuff the fighting ships of our fore-fathers were made of;

Powerful, bold, in hosts they rode the waves;

They were the ring encompassing Britain against the harrying foreign foe.'

(p 243-244)

The last team of oxen was in Benar, and their names were Marc, Meiri, Luc and Darby. As the old ones were sold, their names were given to younger ones ready for the second year. In this way, by keeping them so long they got much more manure from them, and also they used them to pull the dung-sledges. A few horses which were kept at that time also paid for their keep by outside work. Their chief work was to carry packs weighing 80lbs each, that was always the amount per sack and they reckoned that a boy could carry one pack of oats and a man the whole load.

They had a horned saddle suitable for transporting two tubs of butter to the market at Denbigh or elsewhere and also a 'bilyn pwn' or rag-pack which served as a saddle for the horseman on his return journey. Everything was transported by carrying or by sledge, for there was not one wheel in the parish. It is said that the first wheels came to Benar in 1778, and great was the talk about it, with crowds coming to see.

(Page 259)

1885 Ploughing competition held at Bennar Farm - third prize of 15s awarded to Lewis Williams of Bennar. (*North Wales Chronicle Saturday 14th March*)

1887

In Memoriam – the Reverend David Davies

The country was shocked and pained when it heard the sad news of the sudden death of this excellent man. It was obvious on the day of the funeral that it was felt that a 'prince' and a great man had fallen in Israel.

A native of Penmachno, where he was born in 1815 (*in Gorlan*). His father was a talented man and reached the age of 89. His mother was devout and dedicated her son at an early age to the service of the Saviour. As a boy, the crowds noted his sweet and penetrating singing voice. He became a full member of the chapel at a young age and felt deep religious impressions at that time. He started preaching at 18 and he preached forcefully and successfully for 53 years and at the end of his ministry his message was still fresh.

He was ordained in 1849 and then gave himself to the ministry as earlier he was a shopkeeper and farmed Bennar and was a woodland steward. In 1861 he moved to Corwen and then to Barmouth in 1864 where he was very well thought of and retired in 1874. He was a great reader having learned English at an early age and had an extensive library. Thousands from Wales and England came to his funeral in Penrhyndeudrath.

(Y Goleuad Saturday 26th February)

The Reverend David Davies

Born at Gorlan, a smallholding in Penmachno. At the age of 25 he married Mrs Thomas, a widow with five children, who kept shop in Penmachno village. He was ordained to the ministry when he was 34 at Bala in 1849. When he was formerly chosen to be the Minister to the Penmachno Methodist chapels in 1859 he said that Bennar was as 'the rock of Carrog' compared with the work of the Lord. He and Mrs Davies lived and worked in the Penmachno shop for four years and then farmed at Pen y Bryn before moving to Bennar. He spent nine very successful years at Bennar and he was also overseer of a small estate.

(Hanes y Pregethwyr godwyd ym Mhenmachno yn ystod y 80 mlynedd diweddaf by Mr Samuel Roberts (Glan Machno) (this won the competition at the Christmas Eisteddfod 1912)

1891 Census Bennar

Catherine Pierce	35	Housekeeper	born in Ffestiniog
Jesse Jones	38	Farm servant	born in ??
John Pierce	13	farm servant	born in Ffestiniog
Griffith Hughes	28	Shepherd	born in Ysbyty Ifan
Mary Owens	23	Visitor	born in Ffestiniog

1901 Census Bennar

Ann Jones	37	Housekeeper	from Cerrugydrudion
Owen Davies	16	Cattleman	from Penrhyndeudraeth
William Davies	13	Cattleman	from Penrhyndeudraeth
Jesse Davies	25	Carter on farm	from Denbigh
John Pritchard	32	Carter on Farm	from Old Colwyn

1910 Grave A28 Capel Salem

In loving memory of Jane, loving spouse of John Thomas, formerly of Benar, died 30th October 1910 aged 76 years with the above John Thomas died March 22nd 1922 aged 86 years. *(Gwynedd Family History Society Memorial Inscriptions)*

1910 Land Tax assessment

Benar in 1910 is a substantial farm of 602 acres. The tenant is Ann Evans and the property is owned by J E Bankes of Soughton Hall, Northop, Flintshire.

The gross value of the property is assessed at £2786

The house is described as being of stone and slate construction, having two kitchens, a parlour, a dairy and two pantries on the ground floor and six bedrooms on the first floor. There were several outbuildings including an old cottage adjoining the house in a poor state of repair which was being used as a peat store. Also a barn, stables, cowsheds, pig sheds and hen houses.

A tithe is payable by the owner in the sum of £7 5s 11d

The neighbouring cottage Gorlan is also included in the valuation.

1911 census return

Kate Roberts aged 45	housekeeper	born in Beddgelert,	single, Welsh speaking
Thomas Roberts aged 36	farm bailiff	born in Penmachno,	single, Welsh speaking
Jacob Williams aged 35	agric labourer	born in Betws y coed,	widower, W+E spoken
Robert Williams aged 29	railway clerk	born in Caernarfon,	single, W+ E spoken

1927 Heart of Northern Wales Vol II by WB Lowe 1927

Penmachno parish in 1857 according to the tithe commutation maps covers 13000 acres, of which 500 woodland, 11 arable, 2000 common land and 9400 pasture.

Main crops are oats and barley

To each farm is attached a portion of mountain pasture known as ‘cynefin defaid’ or sheep walk. There were two stocking merchants in the village and the local women were to be seen walking around knitting.

There were two slate quarries – Machno and Rhiwbach

Population :

1811 893

1831 984

1841 1274

1851 1250

1861 1425

1871 1747

1881 1787

1891 1574 (when two quarries ceased working) **(Need to insert in date order with refs)**

Reverend Joseph Jones kept school in the village in one of a row of houses called Scotland and several pupils became good scholars. Then the school was held in a house called Ty’nyfynwent, which Sir Robert Vaughan sold in 1820 to Mr David Davies of Benardd. The building Yr Hen Ysgoldy was erected in about 1840.

Electoral roll - Polling District K (Why list these people? Need to clarify)

1921 – Lizzie Ann Evans

Ann Evans (abode Glanaber Hotel)

Thomas Roberts (Gorlan abode Benar)

1931 – Ann Evans (abode Glanaber Hotel)

William Ellis

Hugh Evans

1936 – John J Jones

Hannah Jones

Grace Jones

1946 – John Roberts

Kate Roberts

Kitty Roberts

Lizzie Roberts

1951 – Kitty Roberts

Lizzie Roberts

John Williams

Elizabeth Morton

Robert Lewis Owens
1956 – John Ivor Jones
Laura Elizabeth Jones

1941 – 1943 National Farm Survey

This is held in the National Archive in Kew. No record can be found for Benar Farm.
(MAF32 and MAF73)

1935 – 1945 Land tax assessments

Original records held in the Conwy archive. No record can be found for Benar Farm.

These records may form part of the Soughton Hall estate records as the property was owned by the Bankes family until 1946 when it was given to the government in payment of Death duties

1941 Grave J08 Capel Salem

In loving memory of Humphrey Roberts, Benar, died 20th May 1941 age 73 years with his spouse Kate Roberts, died April 25th 1950 aged 76.

Also their daughter Elizabeth Roberts (Lizzie) Ty newydd, beloved sister of Kitty, died October 15th 1987 aged 74.

'Eu henwau 'n perarogli sydd'

1908 Grave J09 – In loving memory of Thomas Roberts, beloved son of Humphrey and Kate Roberts, Talagerwin, died 16th February 1908 aged 14 months

Also his brother, John Roberts, Benar, died October 24th 1975 age 80 years.

Also, his sister, Kitty Roberts, died February 27th 1990 aged 74

(insert each date +refs in date order)

1952 Grave P18 Capel Salem – In memory of Elizabeth Morton, Benar, died August 27th 1952 aged 79 years

(Gwynedd Family History Society Memorial Inscriptions)

1948 22nd June

Conveyance from R Wynne Bankes to Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food the freehold farm and lands known as Bennar Farm.

1955 to 1962 National Archives Kew

File reference MAF/285/26 Bennar Farm, Penmachno – sale to sitting tenant

This is a substantial file with numerous documents pertaining to the house whilst in the ownership of the Forestry Commission.

1955 Draft sale plan

Three properties in the Gwydir Forest area - Bennar farm 103 acres, its Sheepwalk (above Forestry Commission land) 124 acres and Pandy Mill 10 acres

History – these were acquired in 1948 under the Forestry Acts and formed part of the Bennar Estate. On acquisition the land was classified as follows.

(acres)	Agricultural	Marginal	Plantable	Unplantable
Bennar Farm	95	8		
Sheepwalk			115	9

Pandy	10			
-------	----	--	--	--

In **March 1949**, the 113 acres of Bennar Farm and Pandy Mill were placed under the control of the Welsh Agricultural Land Sub-Commission (WALSC) for management and are now farmed as one unit.

In **1953** the Forestry Commission decided that the 115 acres of Sheepwalk, previously classified as plantable, was in fact, unplantable under techniques then obtaining. The entire Sheepwalk was then transferred to WALSC and attached to the Bennar farm/ Pandy Mill unit. In March 1955 a new tenant (John Ivor Jones) took over the combined holdings which now provide a full time economic unit with a good potential for livestock rearing.

1955 Sale report

In the Sale report the conservator objected to the sale as the Sheepwalk is classed as unplantable and is a long strip adjacent to Forestry Commission plantations. This may be classed as plantable some time in the future. The Director of Forestry (WALES) has since made a personal inspection and is of the opinion that the Sheepwalk is plantable.

Objections to Sale – the Forestry Commission objects partly because it would deplete their reserve of plantable land but mainly because it is an island surrounded by plantations and would take 3 miles of fencing to fence it out for sale. They have no objections to the sale of Bennar Farm and Pandy Mill.

Arguments for Sale – the Ministry considers that the whole farm should be let as one unit because

- a) transfer of the Sheepwalk to WALSC was taken to imply its permanent retention in agriculture, which encouraged the Sub-Commission to abandon their original intention of equipping Bennar Farm as a milk unit and to plan for mixed farming with emphasis on livestock rearing. Bennar Farm has been let on that basis and a firm agreement has been made with the tenant.
- b) Without the Sheepwalk the unit will not qualify for the Hill farming improvement scheme, which has been promoted, at an estimated cost of £5047, to include improving the farmhouse and buildings, provision of water and electricity and erection of a sheep dipping bath, pens and a silo pit. Advance approval has been given for the water supply (estimated cost £265) but approval for the rest is being withheld pending a decision on the sale report. Further, the farm economy must be based on intensive milk production for which it is not especially suited. Within the present pattern of hill farming policy and especially since the mid Wales report has laid such emphasis on the need for effective combination of hill and bottom land, the Ministry would be unable to clear the Sheepwalk for planting in the foreseeable future.

1955 Details of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries return J55 dated 2nd July

Mr John Ivor Jones has total acreage Crops and Grass 89.25 and Rough Grazing 509.25 (*may have other holdings*)

Bennar farm has 6 acres of crops and 97 acres of Grass and Grazing

He employs two seasonal workers.

He has 31 cattle of which 4 are in calf

He has 160 sheep and lambs

He has 37 chickens

Bennar is not connected to mains water supply

1961 Letter dated 26th January from the District Valuer to the Land Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

MAFF requested a property inspection as Bennar was 'surplus to requirements'

Area: 114.644 acres

Buildings

Farmhouse: stone built and slated two-storey substantial dwelling-house, having a small front enclosed garden and a small side enclosed yard floored with slate slabs and having the following accommodation: Ground floor - hall, parlour, dining room, kitchen, dairy, larder, washhouse, back porch. First floor – four bedrooms, boxroom, bathroom, store room with external access only (*probably the upper floor of the existing self-contained annexe*)

Cottage: stone and slated and now used as a store

Other buildings: piggery; cattle shed x 3; barn; shippon; dutch barn x 2 ; implement shed; silage pit; sundry smaller buildings

General condition: all of the buildings are old except for one dutch barn. Condition varies considerably.

The farmhouse is of substantial construction, but there is evidence of considerable damp. The decorative condition of the house is reasonably good.

Services: mains electricity to the house and buildings. Water is obtained from a well situated on land belonging to MAFF and is piped to storage tanks. Drainage is to a septic tank. Access to the holding is obtained from the main Penmachno public highway.

Land: the holding lies generally between 450 and 600 feet contours, approximately half being level land adjoining the Afon Machno, the remainder rising relatively steeply towards the north-west. The holding has a south-eastern aspect and the land is mainly pasture with a small area under root cultivation. The lower lying land is subject to flooding.

Timber: there is a quantity of hedgerow timber growing throughout the holding. No commercial value.

Sporting: there is no value in any shooting rights. Fishing is available in the Afon Machno and this is capable of revenue production.

Tenure and Occupation: the property is held by the Minister of Agriculture, having been acquired by him in about June 1948 mainly for forestry purposes. The land is at present let on an annual agricultural tenancy at a rent of £206 per annum (which includes a Sheepwalk not included in the sale. The sporting rights are let as part of a total area of 1080 acres at an unapportioned rent of £50 per annum. The fishing rights are let at a rent of £20 per annum .

Fixed Charges: none

Easements: the holding is subject to an easement in favour of the Postmaster General in respect of one telephone stay.

Minerals: none

Conditions of sale: MAFF (forestry commission) to maintain in perpetuity fences adjoining plantations. A right of way is granted across Forestry land. There is a right to extract water in perpetuity from the existing source.

Remarks: the vendors (MAFF) have carried out extensive capital and repair work over a period of five years and these now provide a useful holding.

Opinion of Value: £5000

1962 February 28th

Benar farm was sold to John Ivor Jones and Elizabeth Laura Jones for £5000 to include 114.644 acres (REFS)

1963 28th November

John Ivor Jones and Elizabeth Laura Jones sold to Thomas Douglas England and Margaret Wright England for a sum of £500, the property known as Gorlan and 33 perches of land. (1 acre = 160 perches). (REFS)

1967 1st November

John Ivor Jones and Elizabeth Laura Jones sold to Philip Parry Jones of Rhydycreau Farm Llanrwst for £15000 Benar Farm and 114.64 acres (less 33 perches with Gorlan and 489 square yards sold to Caernarvonshire County Council for road widening. (REFS)

Farm fields sold during this time – date unknown. (REFS)

1988 29th February

Philip Parry Jones of Rhydycreau sold to David Glyn Marshall and Suzanne Elizabeth Russell Marshall (REFS)

Timeline – Owners and tenants

Date	Owner	Tenant	Notes
1564	Huw ap Richard & Jonet d/o John ap Rhys Wynn		
1594	John Pugh & Sian d/o Moris ap Lewis		Until at least 1614
To 1623	Robert Pugh & Margaret d/o Thomas Price Wynne		Discussions about this Robert's will in 1637? And Inventory of his estate dated 1638 (D/SH/887)
1638 - 1655	John Pugh & Margaret d/o John Jones		
1676 – at least 1700	Robert Pugh & Ann Eden d/o Tobias Eden	1721 John Owens 1730 Jonet Williams	
To 1778	Ann Pugh and John Wynne, Bishop	1748 -1759 Thomas Jones	

To 1815	Sir William Wynne	1780 Rees Jones 1792 – 1808 Robert Jones 1798 -1809 Catherine Jones	Died without issue so property passed to his sister, Margaret Wynne
	Margaret Wynne and Henry Banks	Rice Jones 1818-1820	Henry Banks of Corfe Castle
To 1834	Henry Banks and Frances Woodley	John Jones 1830	Entered Parliament in 1780 as member for Corfe Castle
To 1841	William John Bankes	1841 and 1851 censuses Robert Jones farmer and David Jones Quarryman	Explorer, Egyptologist, Tory MP Fled country
To 1867	Canon Edward Bankes	1861 census Davis Davies minister John Thomas farmer of 600 acres	Brother of William John Bankes
To 1894	John Scott Bankes	1871 census John Thomas farmer of 350 acres 1881 census John Thomas farmer of 400 acres 1891 census Catherine Pierce Housekeeper	
To 1946	John Eldon Bankes	1901 census Ann Jones housekeeper 1911 census Kate Roberts housekeeper 1921 Ann Evans, Lizzie Ann Evans 1931 Ann Evans 1936 John Jones, Hannah Jones, Grace Jones 1946 John Roberts, Kate Roberts, Kitty and Lizzie Roberts	Judge of Kings Bench division S4C made a documentary about Kitty and Lizzie in 1980s
To 1948	Robert Wynne Bankes	1951 Elizabeth	Estate transferred to MAFF as

		Morton, John Lewis Owens, Kitty and Lizzie Roberts, John Williams	death duties following death of J E Bankes
To 1962	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	1952 E Morton 1955 – 1962 J I Jones & E L Jones	
1962 - 1967	John Ivor Jones and Elizabeth Laura Jones		
1967 - 1988	Philip Parry		House fell into a state of disrepair. Land sold
1988 – 2010	David Marshall and Suzanne Marshall		Substantial renovation carried out. House Listed 2*

When exact dates of transfer are unknown dates given reflect dates of some legal or other activity detailed in the text.

Research undertaken by Mrs Geraldine Thomas, current owner.
21 November 2012

Photograph of Shearing at Bennar farm in the early 1900s Miss Ann Evans is in the photo



