

# NORTH WEST WALES DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

## DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES – ANGLESEY

### 60 CASTLE STREET

Beaumaris, Anglesey

C15/16th Town House

NGR SH 257620 342660

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

#### **SUMMARY House History**

No 60 Castle Street was formerly in Watergate Street to the southwest of the castle walls and Watergate. It was probably one of the first houses to be built outside the walled town when Beaumaris expanded in the late fifteenth century. The west end was at the heart of the shipping trade, this was a very busy area where the administration of shipping and collection of custom taxes took place, here ships unloaded their cargoes and local produce was exported, there were sawpits and smithies to support shipbuilding. It was an area where boats were hauled out and repaired, warehouses were built to store the imported goods, such as timber from the Baltic and Ireland for the shipbuilding industry. It also provided accommodation for when sailors came ashore. No. 60 is a modest house built in the late fifteenth century when the town was the main port of North Wales. Tracing the occupants and owners is difficult prior to 1821, however, the Baron Hill tenancy map and schedule of 1829 does identify owners and tenants, and also the possibility that the owner/occupiers of nearby properties Misses Ellen and Mary Parry in Chapel Street could be the owners of No.60. After that date records are inexact especially as Watergate Street goes through changes until it becomes part of Castle Street. 1866 is the first recorded reference after 1829. Since that date most tenants are identifiable and after 1953, the H M Land Registration Document identifies the owners.

**CADW Listing BEAUMARIS 20.02.1978** Fronting the street in the block of buildings between Gadlys Lane and Steeple Lane. Probably built in the C18 and shown as a house on the 1829 town plan. A two storied house with gable end to the street, of scribed render, renewed slate roof, plain barge boards and finial, tall roughcast stack on the l. side heightened against the wall of No.62 Castle Street, and thin brick stack to the rear. The front has a replaced panelled door on the R. side under a small-pane overlight. To its L. is a 4-paned horned sash window and above is a 2-light oriel window. *Interior not inspected.* Listed for its special architectural interest as an C18 building retaining C19 character, and for its contribution to the historical integrity of Castle Street.

#### **Chronological History:**

1283 Edward I occupied Gwynedd, building strong castles at Harlech, Caernarfon and Conway, walled frontier towns.

1294 Revolt by the Welsh led by Madog ap Llywelyn on Anglesey. The rebellion was put down by Edward.

1295 Commencement of the building of Beaumaris castle on flat marshland to SW of Llanfaes on the

site of the village of Cerrig y Gwyddyl. The community was dispersed and Newborough to the SW of the island was created for the displaced people of Llanfaes. The castle was Edward's third and last stronghold on the NW coast of Wales.

1296 The first stage of the development of the town of Beaumaris was the granting of the foundation charter by Edward I. 90 burgesses, both Welsh and English were created. English tenants were enticed to move to Beaumaris, by privileges – rent free land for the first 10 years.

(Towns of Medieval Wales, I Soulsby, Philamore 1983 pp 78,79).

C1314 Parish church of St Mary's & St Nicholas was built.

1352 Record of Caernarfon – Royal Lands survey. Beaumaris surveyed 25<sup>th</sup> September 1352.

(An Atlas of Anglesey ed. M Richards, A D Carr, pp 54-57)

1399 King Henry IV

1400-1402 Welsh uprising led by Owain Glyndwr. Part of Beaumaris is taken and burned.

1403 Glyndwr's troops hold Beaumaris Castle.

1405 The English retake the town and castle. (Beaumaris Town History, Robert Williams, Magma p9)

1406 Men who took part in the uprising were fined between 2/- and 20/-.

(Atlas of Anglesey. A D Carr pp 51-53)

1407 Defensive earth works are built round the town. A stone wall is built to form a more secure stronghold, enclosing the town, with three entry points through gates.

(RCAHM 1937 pp cxlviii-cxlix Appendix VIII)

1413 King Henry V

1414-1440 Houses in Castle Street are rebuilt.(BTH p 9)

1422 King Henry VI

1440 William Bulkeley of Cheadle (Cheshire) appointed Constable of the Castle.

1450 Town expands beyond the town walls to the south and west.

1485 August. Battle of Bosworth Field. Henry VII founds the Tudor dynasty.

1496-1516 **Dendrochronology** 60 Castle Street Town House

A late-medieval box-framed town-house lies behind a Georgian façade. It has four bays defined by fragmentary posts-and-trusses and was probably storied throughout. Sampling revealed unexpected complexities. The east post to front (south) truss was from a tree felled in summer 1496, while two ground-floor ceiling joists in the rear bay gave felling dates in the spring and summer of 1516. It is not yet clear if the building is of two phases or of one with an earlier post. (Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory report. Martin Bridge. Dendrochronology and detailed survey NPRN 15636; Vernacular Architecture 42 2011 pp110-111)

C1500 By this time the town had expanded the confines of the castle walls to the west.

1507 A second charter to North Wales by Henry VII gave the freemen free right to sell their land and the bondmen the right to quit, thus making available a new source of land. Bondmen were granted “a general emancipation and liberty”. Freemen were allowed access to bond land... These charters were seen by bugess communities of the “English walled towns” of Conwy, Caernarfon and **Beaumaris** as detrimental to their interests... and were suspended.

(D Huw Owen & J Beverly Smith, Government and Society 1283 to 1536, History of Merioneth, ed Beverly Smith 2001, pp 130-33)

1509 Henry VIII ascends to the throne.

1516 60 Castle, Beaumaris. Timber from 2 oak joists from the east side of the ground floor were dated. felling dates spring and summer 1516.

1536-39 dissolution of the monasteries.

1536 & 1542 Henry VIII annexes Wales. The Acts of Union; Welshmen were able to hold offices of Justices of the Peace, and Knight of the Shire. The Act of 1536 introduced English common law to the whole country, making specific provision that lands should be inherited by English tenure and not be partitioned as they would if they were inherited by Welsh tenure. The Act of 1543 confirmed the circuits of great sessions and quarter sessions.

1536-1540 Rebuilding the town walls.

(Ships and Seamen of Anglesey 1558-1918 Aled Eames Anglesey Antiquarian Society 1973 p21)

1547-1553 King Edward VI ascends the throne at the age of six years.

1549 The Act of Uniformity which established the Book of Common Prayer as the only legal form of worship.

1559 Beaumaris castle walls repaired and armed guards installed to protect the castle in the event of an invasion in support of catholic Queen Mary and her European allies.

1562 Elizabeth I second Charter of Beaumaris. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June a notice to all burgesses of Beaumaris confirming all previous charters granted.

1562 Richard Bulkeley becomes first mayor of Beaumaris under the new charter and main land holder in the area.(Beaumaris The Town History, p10.)

1562-1603 Customs records of Shipping, customs commenced at Michaelmas 1562. Beaumaris is the main port of NW Wales for trading and as a refuge. The Strait was the main highway for Anglesey with imports from coastal ports of England, Ireland and Europe. Imported goods were considerable, wine from France and Spain, tallow, 'sack' malt, wood from Ireland and the Baltic, salt, mantles, sugar, cloth, grain cloves, alum, marten skins, pitch and rosin. Arthur and Richard Bulkeley were main merchants. Another prominent wealthy merchant from Beaumaris, was Gabriel Roberts, he was a local resident, with ancestry from the influential medieval families of Dindaethy. He supported local Welsh coastal trade. Both local and foreign trade flourished, Beaumaris was the busiest port in North Wales until the end of the C17th. (Welsh Port Book 1550-1603, E A Lewis Society of Cymmrodorian 1927 pp,282,285,286,289. and Aled Eames Ships and Shipping in Anglesey 1558-1918 p29 )

1570 An Overseer was appointed in the township of Beaumaris to assist magistrates in maintaining order and to attend to the regulation of alehouses and the supervision of the able-bodied and the disabled poor, unemployed and vagrant population.

1582 The Victory, a 44 ton ship, one of the largest built in Beaumaris sailed to Newfoundland and Portugal returning to Beaumaris in 1583, bringing back a cargo of 350 barrels of salt, 400lbs of soap and 6 pecks barley malt for a Manchester merchant living in Beaumaris.

(Aled Eames, Ships and Shipping of Anglesey p28)

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

c1600 Sir John Wynn commenting on the characteristics of the 'walled towns' "the lawyers of Caernarfon, the merchants of Beaumaris, and the gentlement of Conway".

(Charles Fredrick Cliffe, The Book of North Wales, London 1850 p.91)

1603 King James I the first of the Stuart monarchs.

1603 Beaumaris Grammar School founded under the will of David Hughes.

1605 Porth Hir, Townsend was built, it was first listed by RCAHMW in 1937. The roof was of traditional graduated slates until it was reroofed in 1990's.

1607 The Plague came to Beaumaris with a great loss of life. (Penmon and Beaumaris Chronologies)

1610 John Speeds Map of Anglesey with inset of Beaumaris. The town has expanded beyond the confines of the walled town. To the west of Watergate, outside the wall crossing the main street at right angles is Clay Pitt lane which leads to the area where ships were tied up. This thoroughfare would have served the shipping trade and visitors alike. Overseas trade and shipbuilding flourished. 60 Castle

Street is at the heart of this busy commercial area.

1613 Almshouses are built just outside the town on the Pentraeth Road.

1614 Beaumaris Court House was built.

1617 A Post House was established at The Old Bull's Head in Castle Street a link between London, Holyhead and Dublin.

1618 The first Baron Hill mansion was built.

1624 A Royal Postal Service was established and a Post Master was appointed.

1625 King Charles I.

1620's Gabriel Roberts's second son, Lewis Roberts becomes an important merchant, associated with the East India Company of which he becomes a governor, during his time overseas trade expands. The wealthy merchants of Beaumaris import goods from all over the known world.

1642 Beaumaris castle garrisoned and Bryn Britain is fortified for the 1<sup>st</sup> Civil war.

1646 Maj-Gen Thomas Mytton captures Beaumaris Castle for Parliament from the Royalist constable Col. Richard Bulkeley.

1650 Commonwealth.

1660 Restoration of the monarchy Charles II.

1684 The landing point for the ferry crossing is moved from the Green to Gallows point.

1700 The Liverpool Arms is built. [*next door but one to No.60 Castle Street.*]

1705 Beaumaris castle abandoned into ruin.

1740-1780 Holyhead flourishes as a port. Beaumaris still maintaining its shipbuilding tradition.

1745 The young pretender, Charles Edward Stuart (Jacobite) launches another invasion of Britain.

1764 Ship building continues, building vessels for the copper and slate trade. Beaumaris is the main port of registration for North Wales until 1841.

1774 The first non-conformist chapel is built, Capel Seiont, in Chapel Street.

1776-1779 Baron Hill is rebuilt, Samuel Wyatt the architect, local materials are resourced and bricks are made on site using local clay.(The Viscount and the Baron, Neil Fairlamb, Bookcase, p.118.

1786 The vessel "Amlwch" 76 tons, a brig 54ft 5. was built at Beaumaris for the Paris Mountain copper trade.(Ships and Seamen of Anglesey 1558-1918, Aled Eames, Anglesey Antiquarian Society, 1973, pp204-5.)

1790 Beaumaris slate trade is lost to the newly built quay at the mouth of the Cegin, which is enlarged to become Port Penrhyn. Before this time small vessels brought slates from the Ogwen valley to the creeks of Ogwen and Cegin to be loaded onto larger vessels at Beaumaris for exporting to England and Ireland.(Bangor Port of Beaumaris, M Elis-Williams, Gwynedd Archives, p14.

1793 Caernarfon Customs Office is opened next to Caernarfon Castle, it was subordinate to Beaumaris until 1841.

1801 Population of Beaumaris is 1,576.

1803 The sloop "Warren Bulkeley" 77 tons was built at Beaumaris. Carried cargoes to Liverpool and London. Named after Viscount Thomas Warren Bulkeley of Baron Hill.

1805 Lord Bulkeley completed a road to Porthaethy through his land at the straits edge.

1812-1813 The population of Beaumaris has increased substantially, water works were built above the mills on Afon Meigan, to the west of Beaumaris to convey water to the town's wells/water pumps, at the cost of £1009-19-00. (B&A Mss II 10. Bangor and OS map 1889)

1815 Battle of Waterloo.

1816 Founding of the National School.

1818 Typhus outbreak.

*It has not been possible to trace any specific facts pertaining to occupants or owners of 60 Castle Street before this time, no numbers are recorded, and change of occupants appear to be frequent and addresses random. The length of Watergate Street differs in the early censuses and properties recorded randomly until 1861 when the properties become part of Castle Street. There are no initials given for the owners or numbers recorded.*

1821 Census: (**current 60 Castle Street**) **Anne Ellis**, publican, 1 male 15-20; 3 females, 1 20-30, 2 females 40-50 years of age.

1825 Account Book Rent and Revenues: **Mrs Ann Ellis** pays rent for the house and Public House (*The entry in this book confirms that Mrs Ellis and Ann Ellis are the same person*) (B&A II E 21 Ratable Value Beaumaris 1825 Bangor)

1826 Thomas Telford's Menai Bridge is built at Porthaethwy. The passenger numbers crossing on the Aber/Beaumaris ferry began to dwindle.

1829 Yates Baron Hill Tenancy Map: 60 Castle Street is recorded as No.52 Watergate Street:- proprietors The **Misses Parry** occupant **Mrs (Ann)Ellis** House. *The Misses Parry also own the next door property to the right, No.51.*

**Mrs Ann Ellis** is a tenant and publican of No.53 'Red Lion' owner: W Wynn Sparrow of Redhill; No.54 is also a public house The King's Head and yard owner RBW Bulkeley Esq., tenant publican Wm Reynolds.

To the west in Townend and the west end of Chapel Street are warehouses, No.s 303 and 304.

No.437 Custom House, offices, house and garden at Town's End.

No. 265 Chapel Street, owner and occupier **Miss Mary Parry**

No. 266 Chapel Street, owner and occupier **Miss Ellen Parry**

No. 267 Chapel Street, Dissenters Chapel *lCapel Seion (dissenters chapel) was demolished and a much larger chapel rebuilt on the site of the two cottages owned by the Misses Parry before the 1841 census]*

No.299 Shed, storerooms and timber yard, owner RBW Bulkeley Esq., tenant, Richard Thomas.

No.430 covered sawpit owner Beaumaris Corporation. The shore to the south is where the ships unloaded their cargoes. *[The Customs Office moved from Beaumaris to Caernarfon in 1848 before that Caernarfon was a sub-port of Beaumaris.]*

(6496 map & schedule 8211 B H Additional Papers University of Bangor and Dafydd Wyn Wiliam)

1830 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. The Aber to Beaumaris ferry was closed.

1841 Census returns: Watergate Street, Beaumaris *[There is a record of Ann Ellis but she is only 25, and lives in Castle Street. Watergate Street has 1 hotel and no public houses are recorded. No record of either Ellen or Mary Parry found.]*

1851 Census returns: Watergate Street/Castle Street, Beaumaris *[There is no identifiable reference to the house known as 60 Castle Street, or to the owner Miss Parry.]*

1861 Census returns: Castle Street Beaumaris: *[There is no identifiable reference to the house known as 60 Castle Street or to Miss Parry or Captain Robert Lewis recorded in the Valuation and Reference Book of 1866.]*

1866 Borough of Beaumaris Valuation and Reference Book.

No 475 Occupant: **Captain Robert Lewis** Owner: **Miss Parry** House Gross Estimated Rental £7.0.0 Ratable Value: £5.5.0 *[no details found regarding either Captain Robert Lewis or Miss Parry]* (B&A Records, Series 1 FB28.Bangor)

1868/9 Electoral Roll: Beaumaris West Division- Voters Qualified as Occupiers and Ratepayers.  
[Captain Robert Parry is not recorded] (B&A Ms ? Bangor)

1871 Census returns: Beaumaris.

Lower Mill Cottage

**William Owen** head M 53 1818 gardener Beaumaris

[recorded as tenant of 60 Castle street in the Valuation Reference book below and 1881 census, which indicates that he must have moved to 60 Castle Street after this date and before 1879]

1879 Borough of Beaumaris Valuation and Reference Book

475 Occupant: **William Owen** Owner: **Mrs Parry** House and shop Gross Estimated Rental £7.0.0

Ratable Value: £5.5.0 First record of 60 Castle Street as a shop.

( B&A Records, Series 1 FB29. University of Bangor)

1881 Census Returns 60 Castle Street:

**William Owen** head married M 63 1818 gardener(dom) Beaumaris

Mary Owen wife married F 60 1821 Beaumaris

Mary Owen daur F 37 1844 baker Beaumaris

Jane Owen daur F 30 1851 baker Beaumaris

Elizabeth Owen daur F 24 1856 baker Beaumaris

Robert Owen son M 16 1864 joiner Beaumaris

*There is a link with the Jones's family of 32 Castle Street. Mary Hughes the wife of William Owen is the elder sister of Jane Hughes, first wife of Robert Jones, baker, of 32 Castle Street, whose second wife Anne lived with her daughters' at 60 Castle St from 1909 to 1935 .*

1889 Electoral Roll Beaumaris Polling District:

176a **William Owen** 60 Castle Street Dwelling House. (WQC/E/98 Anglesey.)

1891 Census Returns, 60 Castle Street Beaumaris:

**Jane Hughes** head single F 40 1851 grocer Penmon Anglesey.

Eleanor Hughes visitor single F 35 1856 Penmon Anglesey.

[William Owen and family have moved to 13 Church Street,]

1895 640 burial of **William Owen** gardener aged 77, 1<sup>st</sup> Apr, grave 465 Beaumaris Town Cemetery.

1897 698 burial of **Mary Owen** widow aged 77, 6<sup>th</sup> Dec, grave 465 Beaumaris Town Cemetery.

( B&A MS VI 197, Burials Register for Beaumaris 1863-1913 p33&36) [former tenants of 60 Castle Street]

1901 Census Returns, 60 Castle Street Beaumaris:

**John Robert Jones** head M married 32 1869 printer/stationer Bangor Caernarvon

Mary Price Jones wife F married 32 1869 Llandeilo Merioneth

Seiriol Wynne Jones son M single 3 1898 Anglesey

John Robert Price nephew M single 23 1878 student Manchester Lancs

1909 **Anne Jones 1.** widow of Robert Jones, baker, and late of 32 Castle Street, takes over the tenancy/ownership of 60 Castle Street, jointly with her two daughters **Annie 2.** and **Eliza Margaret Jones** who open a confectioners shop.

1911 Census Returns

**Anne Jones 1.** Head married 86 Lancs Liverpool

**Annie Jones 2.** daughter single 47 confectioner Anglesea Beaumaris  
**Eliza Margaret** daughter single 41 confectioner Anglesea Beaumaris  
*[they all spoke both English & Welsh. Annie & Eliza had their own income]*

1913 Bennet's Trade Directory  
**Anne Jones** Confectioner 60 Castle Street.

1919 Electoral Roll: Beaumaris Western Section. 60 Castle Street.  
Anne Jones 1.

**Annie Jones 2.** and **Eliza Margaret Jones** are listed as joint owners (*First election held after women of 30 and over were enfranchised*). (List of Spring Electors Parliamentary Division. WQC/E/99 Anglesey)

1920 death of **Anne Jones 1.** 22.6.1920, aged 96, widow of master baker Robert Jones; death registered by her son Robert Jones.  
(Anglesey Register Office)

1920 27<sup>th</sup> October. Sale of part of Baron Hill Estate. The Old Smithy and weighbridge are sold. These are to the rear of 60 Castle Street, and have since been demolished. They were the remnants of workshops supporting the shipping industry.  
*[verified by Peter Brimecombe with reference to the deeds of his son's property]*

1923 Electoral Returns Western Division. 60 Castle Street.  
**Annie Jones**  
**Eliza Margaret Jones**  
Robert Jones (Penmon and Beaumaris Chronologies)

1934 death of **Anne Jones 2.** (aka Annie) 7. 5.1934 aged 74 from tuberculosis. (ARO)

1935 Electoral Roll: **Eliza Margaret Jones** last record of occupancy by the Jones family.  
(WQC/E/105 Anglesey)

1936 Electoral Roll: **Charles Richards.**  
(Anglesey Archives. WQC/E/106)

1938/39 Beaumaris Rate Book: 60a Castle Street. M A Williams Rateable value £6.0.0.  
General rate £2.15.6. *[no information about 60 Castle Street as it only records owners who pay rents for their tenants]* (B&A Mss VI 96 p23. Bangor)

1938 Electoral Roll: **Jane Eames.** (WQC/E/ 107 ) Anglesey)

1951 Electoral Roll: **Jane Eames** last record of Jane Eames as occupant. (WQC/E/108 Anglesey)

1953 Information from HM Land Registry Document.

**31 January 1953** Sale of 60 Castle Street.

Vendors: **Henry William Thornton Jones and Llywarch Peredur Caeriog Dodd.**

Purchaser: **Harry Leslie Hawkeswood.**

*[Harry Hawkswood was Scout master for Beaumaris Scout Troupe]*

1966 Electoral Roll: **Henry L Hawkswood** (WQC/E/120 Anglesey)

1968 16 July conveyance

Vendor: **Harry Leslie Hawkeswood.**

Purchaser: **John Patrick Joyce.** (H M Land Registry Document)

*[John Patrick Joyce was manager and owner of Beaumaris Chemist's shop, he owned other properties in Beaumaris including the cottage to the rear of 60 Castle Street and lived in No. 58 Castle Street (next door)]*

1976/77 Electoral Roll: Western Section no record for 60 Castle Street

58 Castle Street: **Joyce John P** (Anglesey Archives WQC/E/1756)

1976 26 January conveyance.

Vendor: **John Richard Joyce**

Purchasers: **William & Brenda Locker.**

*[This conveyance is a sale of the house and yard, retaining the cottage and garden behind it. It seems to preempt the Deed of Gift below.]*

20 February 1976: Deed of Gift from **John Patrick Joyce** to **John Richard Joyce.**

1988 23 March 1988 conveyance:

Vendors: **William & Brenda Locker**

Purchasers: **George Edward O'Dell** (HM Land Registry Document)

1997 8 September HM Land Registry Proprietorship: **George Edward O'Dell** and **Lynn O'Dell.**

*[before this date George O'Dell used No. 60 Castle Street as an architect's office]*

Researched by June Matthews, Beaumaris

updated 22 June 2012

**Key:**

**Bold:** Owners and tenants

10pt: Sources

Italics: Comments