

# NORTH WEST WALES DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

## DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES - CONWY

# PLAS TIRION

Llanrwst, Conwy

NGR SH 810 591

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## HOUSE HISTORY

research undertaken by Tony Schärer

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### Introduction

This study of the historical background to Plas-tirion has been carried out by Tony Scharer as agreed in the specification for the Archaeological Building Record (Paragraphs 4 and 9).

The archives consulted, as well as the publications and digital sources used, are listed at the end of the study with individual documents referenced by numbers in the text.

**Appendix A** contains an extract from the listing letter for the property. **Appendix B** has extracts from contemporary letters which illuminate the connection between the Wynn family of Gwydir and Plas Tirion; and **Appendices C and D** summarise what we know about the lives of Robert Wynne of Voylas and his wife Katherine, whose marriage is commemorated in the fine plasterwork inside the house. **Appendix E** is the important tree-ring dating study, kindly sponsored by the North West Wales Dendrochronology Project, led by Margaret Dunn.

Photographs of the plasterwork with notes on the heraldry, photocopies of a will of 1684, photographs of an early estate map of 1813, the tithe records and early ordnance survey maps are reproduced in various plates and figures. The current spelling of the name – Plas-tirion – was more often written as a single word in the past, e.g. Plastirion, Plastirion, or corrupted as Plasbinyon, Place Terion .

## **Summary**

A key finding, made quite early in the research, was that, during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Plas Tirion was not 'a gentry satellite house' linked to the Wynn family of Gwydir', as described in the listing letter (**Appendix A**), but was firmly in the ownership of the Wynnes of Voylas (Voelas) to whom the house and land still belong. From the heraldic evidence in the plasterwork of 1628, and through many documents and maps, it is clear that Plas Tirion has always been an important house and farm on the estate.

Sometimes a dower house, and later, a prosperous farm, this was one of many Voelas estate properties in the Ty-brith and Garthgarmon townships of Llanrwst Parish. There is little change in the mapped details of the property between the first accurate survey by John Mathews in 1813, to the Tithe Maps of 1840 and the Ordnance survey map of 1875.

Towards the end of this historical research the important dendrochronology study (See **Appendix E**) confirmed the survey work by our archaeologist, Dr. Ian Brookes, that the main house was probably built in two phases: a 'Snowdonia house' tree- ring dated to around 1565; and a later Jacobean wing at right angles to it, dated by the plasterwork of 1626-28.

Even more interesting was the dating of the semi-ruinous 'brew house' or cottage between the main house and the farm buildings. Here, smoke-blackened roof timbers and crucks were dated to around 1498, and later additional timbers to 1545/6. These findings are discussed in the separate archaeological report (**Appendix F**).

The origins of the house, which were unknown before the research described in this report, are still uncertain. No evidence has been found which mentions the building of a Tudor house, or which names any earlier property, or owner, on the site. Research continues along two lines of enquiry: whether Henry V111 or Elizabeth I granted land directly to the Wynnes of "Voylas" at any earlier time; or whether the property was

acquired as a part of a marriage dowry, especially through Catherine of Melai when she married Robert Wynne in 1626. Catherine was the widow of Ffoulk Lloyd of Hafodunnos, and the Lloyd family controlled much of the land from the former abbey of Aberconwy. It is hoped that eventually some answers may be found.

## The Berth-ddu connection

*“Large late C16 house of manorial scale and quality, originally conceived as an E plan. One of a small number of gentry satellite houses built locally in the second half of the C16th for junior branches of the Wynn family of Gwydir: others include Berth Ddu and Cae Melwr.*

*Interior cosmetic alterations appear to have been carried out between 1626 and 1628 for Robert Wynn and his wife Katherine; Robert (d.1640) was High Sheriff of Denbighshire in 1618. Five heraldic plasterwork over-mantles dating from this intervention survive, together with some contemporary small field panelling; some of which has been repositioned. **(Extract from listing letter, Appendix 1)***

A first priority in the research was to check whether the RW and KW initials on the interior plasterwork did refer to the Robert and Katherine Wynne mentioned above.

This Robert Wynne, who was High Sheriff of Denbighshire in 1618 [**Nichols, T, 1872**], was the son of Hugh Wynne of the nearby property of Berth-ddu. Hugh's father had been High Sheriff in 1609, but his extravagance in developing the house and estate of Bodysgallen, near Llandudno, which he had gained through marrying the heiress of the Mostyn family, led to the family being passed over for that office in 1633 [**1**]. There is no evidence that his son Robert was ever involved in Plas Tirion, although he did marry a Katherine - Katherine Griffith of Trefarthen, Anglesey. He was always referred to as Robert of Berthu or Bodyscallen, and was buried at Llanrwst in 1640.

His son, Hugh Wynne II (1620-1674), known as Colonel Hugh Wynne, from his support of the royalist cause in the Civil War, inherited a heavily encumbered estate. The financial problems continued for his son, Robert Wynne II (b 1655), and were commented on in letters to Lady Grace Wynn of Gwydir in 1675 [**Appendix 2, letters 2706-7**]. It seems unlikely that the family had any interest in Plas Tirion except as neighbouring gentry.

## The Gwydir Connection

*Contemporary correspondence reveals that Richard Wynn, (subsequently Sir Richard, the fourth Gwydir baronet) was living here in the years 1657-9. In 1658 he served as High Sheriff of Caernarvonshire; the following year he took part in the Royalist revolt known as Boothe's Rebellion.....”**(Extract from listing letter, Appendix 1)***

During the unsettled period of the Civil war and the Commonwealth (1640-1660) there are several letters written from Plas Tirion by Richard Wynn of Gwydir to his mother, Lady Grace Wynn. But more of their letters during this period came from the house of Cae melwr, a few miles north on the outskirts of Llanrwst. This was a frequent residence for Lady Grace Wynn after her son succeeded to the baronetcy in 1660, and also after his death in 1674. Letters show that, around 1656-58, Richard Wynn was living in some fear of arrest, and was moving from house to house in North Wales rather than staying at his other property near London. Plas

Tirion is mentioned amongst several houses used by the Wynns of Gwydir during this difficult period. [Appendix 2, letters 2132 - 2139]

Further mentions of Plas Tirion are found in the correspondence of Lady Grace Wynn and her granddaughter after 1675. They concern a long-standing dispute about the collection of Llanrwst tithes, and have a 'Mistress Wynne' of Plas Tirion opposing the Gwydir interest [Appendix 2, letters 2232 - 2844]. This Mistress Wynne is almost certainly the 'Jane Wynne of Plastirion' in a will dated 1684 [Plate 4]. She was the second wife of Robert Wynne of Voylas, who is mentioned in a deed of 1681 as 'Robert Wynne of Plastirion' [3]. Her step-son, Cadwaldr Wynne, is named as the owner of Plas Tirion on the first land tax roll for the parish of Llanrwst in 1692 [4].

There is no documentary evidence in the Wynn of Gwydir papers [Ballinger 1926] which mentions Plas Tirion before 1657, but the house was available for Sir Richard Wynn to use between 1657-9. Relations between the Wynnes of Voylas and the Wynns of Gwydir seem to have cooled in the 1670's when Plas Tirion was clearly used by Robert Wynne of Voylas and his second wife.

### **Heraldic Evidence from the plasterwork of 1626-28.**

The listing statement suggests that the five well-preserved plasterwork over-mantle decorations [Plates 1 – 3] refer to Robert Wynne of Berth-ddu and his wife Katherine in 1626-28. But the contemporary Robert Wynne of Voylas also married a Katherine. His first wife was Katherine, daughter of William Wynne of Melai, and already the widow of Ffoulke Lloyd of Hafodunos, who had died in the 1620s. We have no date for the marriage, but there is documentary evidence of a settlement, whereby Catherine brought dower land from her first marriage to add to the existing Voylas land in these townships [Appendix 4]

All the nine emblems on the main shield over the fireplace in the upstairs parlour, together with the crest above the shield and the motto, are all linked to the Wynnes of Voylas [Plate 1.] One of the exciting moments of this research was to find, half-hidden on the top ledge of a memorial to Robert's son, Cadwaldr, in Conwy church, the exact words of the motto in the upstairs hall - "*Singula in uno*". This a mis-spelling of the Voelas family motto "*Cingula in uno*", (girdled together). Thus the RW initials on the plasterwork are almost certainly those of Robert Wynne of Voylas mentioned above. He was born in 1597, was the High Sheriff of Denbighshire in 1631 and 1664; and died about 1683.

Catherine's family are also commemorated in the shield above the fireplace in the smaller parlour downstairs [Plate 2]. Her father's distinctive emblem of three boars' heads, known as 'Y Penwyn', matches the gory three Englishmen's heads of Ednyfed Fychan between the initials RWKW and the date 1626. Other emblems in the plasterwork of the smaller bedchambers upstairs could be common to both families [Plate 3].

### **Plas Tirion in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century**

The century began with Robert Wynne's son, Cadwaldr, as owner and tenant of Plastirion [4]; but by the time he was buried at Conwy in 1719, the Voylas estate was in financial trouble. This was worsened by Chancery Suits under his 'feckless' son, also a Cadwaldr Wynne, who died in 1732, having been almost entirely dependent on his wife's family, the Griffiths of Garn, for his survival. Thereafter, his son, Watkin Wynne, 1717-1774, was forced to sell parts of the

estate, and a whole series of complicated legal disputes between trustees and creditors persisted for many years [5]. In spite of these problems, it seems that Plas Tirion was never sold, and was certainly used by the family as a dower house during this period. Besant-Lowe [22] writes that "Mrs Jane Clayton, wife of Watkin Wynne, lived at Plas Tirion for 24 years after the death of her husband. She married him in 1740 and she was buried in Voelas Chapel, Yspyty Ifan, in 1771". Further research through the estate's legal records in the National Library of Wales may provide more information about these years.

The house is not mentioned in Cadwaldr Wynne's will of 1732 [6], but the Jane Wynne who made a will in 1771 [7] and described herself as a 'widow of Plasttirion', must be his wife.

### **Plas Tirion in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

The first large-scale map which shows details of Plas Tirion is the estate plan by John Mathews in 1813, at a scale of 1: 6360 [Figure 1]. Unfortunately, the accompanying reference volume, which lists field acreages, crops and tenants, was not available in the National Library, but the owner is named as Charles Wynne Griffith Wynne, the grandson of Watkin Wynne. The excellent detail shows the field boundaries and buildings which remained almost unchanged through the Tithe surveys of the 1840s right up to the first OS map in 1875. The old cottage, between the farm buildings and main house, is very clearly drawn, and slightly different in detail from what is shown on the first Ordnance Survey map. Of particular interest is the clear depiction of a small farm, Yr Allt, just below the Nebo Road. This appears in all the rentals, as well as the tithe survey and censuses throughout the century: but by 1913 it had disappeared from the OS Map, and its land was absorbed into the Plas Tirion holding.

An estate rental of 1812/13 [Figure 2] shows the Plas Tirion tenant as William Griffith, and his rent of £205 was by far the highest of all the estate farms listed. In his will of 1826 [8] William is described as a gentleman, owning several other farms and a mill in the local area. It is possible that his daughter's children - the Evans family - were the tenants at Plas Tirion at the time of the tithe survey, and throughout the rest of the century.

Before William's death, another will mentioning Plas Tirion was made by an Ann Knight, widow, in 1815 [9]. She may have been the widow of an earlier tenant, a housekeeper for William Griffith, a relative of the Wynne family, or perhaps was living in the other small house on the site.

By 1831, the tenant was John Griffith, probably the son of William Griffith mentioned above [Figure 3]. By then, the rent had fallen to £160. Both William and John Griffith were also tenants of Ffridd Fawr, part of the Tyn y ffridd holding. This has not been identified, but probably lay outside the township of Ty Brith Isaf (the area of Llanrwst parish below the Nebo road).

One unanswered question during this period is the circumstances in which the main barn was rebuilt in 1837. This is commemorated by a prominent date stone and was a major building project.

### **From the Tithe Map of 1840 to 1913**

The quality of the Tithe Map copies [Figures 4 and 5] seen for this study are very poor compared to John Mathews' survey of 1813. The position of the main house is slightly

wrong, but the general position of boundaries and buildings remain unchanged since 1813. The Apportionment Schedule gives an interesting picture of a large farm with arable fields on each side of the public highway to Llanrwst [Figure 6]. In addition to the arable fields around the main farm, there were also fields of permanent ('old') pasture by the River Conwy. The total acreage was 82 acres, but the Ffridd Fawr holding, already mentioned, had 103 acres of additional arable land. The landlord was still Charles Wynne Griffith Wynne of Voelas, and the tenant, John Evans – confirmed by the 1841 census [10]

The 1851 census gives a picture of an active family farm of 180 acres: John Evans, head of the household, a widower aged 48; two daughters aged 20 and 22; two teenage sons, aged 15 and 17; a 4-year old granddaughter from Wrexham; a 35 year old house servant; and a young farm lad aged 17. His gentleman neighbour was the 91 year old Thomas Blackwell, living at Hendre House, with his 65 year old daughter, and a full staff of housekeeper, cook, house maid, dairy maid and footman. Yr Allt or Allt bach, the small 20 acre farm above Plas Tirion, was home to 78 year old William Williams and his 53 year old wife.

By the 1861 census, John Evans had handed over the farm to his son John, aged 25, married to Grace and with two small children. The son is recorded as farming only 80 acres.

By 1881, John Evans was 45 years old, had a family of 6 children, and farmed 140 acres with the help of his sons and two farm servants.

Two important Ordnance Survey maps show the changes between 1875 and 1913 [Figures 7 and 8]. The first map shows excellent detail for the house, cottage and farm buildings, with traces of a formal garden in front of the house, and more woodland behind the house towards the stream. The small Allt Bach farm by the Nebo road is clearly seen on the map, but by 1913, this small farm has disappeared and there are far fewer trees. Between the Tithe map of 1840 and the first OS map of 1875 the main road to Llanrwst has been straightened, probably at some time in the mid- century, taking out the previous kink at the entrance to Plas Tirion.

The National Library of Wales have some documents relating to Plas Tirion during this period. In 1860, a survey was made for a railway to cross the land by the river, but in the end, the line was built on the other side of the Conwy. There is a detailed plan from 1890 for a new cart shed so that the existing open cart shed could be converted to a cattle byre [Figure 9]. The pillars supporting the old cart shed bays can still be seen in the walls of the renovated building; and the 'new' cart shed is now been converted to the office and showroom of the Natural Building Centre.

### **1920s to the present restoration project**

A rather poignant series of letters, dated 1925 - 28 are in the Voelas Estate records at the National Library [11]. They are written by a Mrs Ida Jones on behalf of her husband,

Hugh Jones about giving up the tenancy. Of factual interest is the plea for help with repairs to the house: the floors are bad, and the gutters letting water into the rooms, so there is no chance for Mrs Jones to take guests. There is also discussion about the future of the milk round, which had been built up into a valuable business – a fact confirmed by local people today who remember Plas Tirion as an important working dairy farm. The older farm buildings show many adaptations for dairying, such as static generators, milk tanks, pumps and pipes, which probably date from this period or the years immediately after the last war.

At the time when Mr and Mrs Jones were negotiating the end of their tenancy, the Estate were discussing a list of prospective tenants to take over the farm. The papers in the National Library have some lists of prospective tenants prepared by the agent, Mr George Bovill. The economics of farming were becoming very difficult in the 1920's and 30's, and these papers give a frank, and interesting picture of the competition for the tenancy of a valuable farm, and the care the estate took to get the right person [11].

Today, the rich lower fields at Plas Tirion are still producing excellent crops of grass and silage for the Estate. But the balance has changed, and today there is no longer a farming tenant in the house, as there has been throughout most of the farm's recorded history. However, the continuity of ownership by the Estate – and a degree of 'benign neglect' - has ensured that the superb late Tudor and early Jacobean house of the 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> century has survived almost intact. Even more surprising is the survival of a ruinous small building, with original cruck frames, which has yielded dates from its timbers of 1498 and 1546. [Tree-ring dating report]. Thus, whilst at the present time new tenancy arrangements are replacing the old, we are left to wonder what was happening at Plas Tirion in the century before the main house was built? Sadly, the trail for documentary evidence from this early period has run cold, but the interest stimulated by the present restoration project may yet yield some results and push our story even further back into the past.

Tony Scharer, FINAL DRAFT – September 2012

## **Appendix A** -

## **Extract from Listing letter for Plas Tirion**

Grade II\*

Date listed: 23/6/67

Date amended: 11/8/1997

Grid Ref: 28105 35916

Record No: 109

### **Location**

Prominently and imposingly sited, raised up slightly above the main Llanrwst to Betws-y-coed road, and set back from it; accessed via a farm track running E from the road and sited across a hillslope.

### **History**

Large late C16 storeyed house of manorial scale and quality, originally conceived as an E-plan. One of a small number of gentry satellite houses built locally in the second half of the C16 for junior branches or members of the Wynn family of Gwydir; others include Berth Ddu and Cae

Melwr. Interior cosmetic alterations appear to have been carried out between 1626 and 1628 for Robert Wynn and his wife Katherine; Robert (d. 1640) was High Sheriff of Denbighshire in 1618. Five heraldic overmantles dating from this intervention survive, together with some contemporary small-field panelling, some of which has been repositioned. Contemporary correspondence reveals that Richard Wynn, (subsequently Sir Richard, the fourth Gwydir baronet) was living here in the years 1657-59. In 1658 he served as High Sheriff of Caernarvonshire; the following year he took part in the Royalist revolt known as Booth's Rebellion, in association with his father in law, Sir Thomas Middleton of Chirk. The left-hand cross-wing is missing and was either never constructed (although clearly intended), or, more probably, it was demolished before the late C19. Further, minor alterations at the end of the C17 included the creation of a fine wig closet in the first-floor porch room. Restoration works of c1837 (dated agricultural range) included some modification to window openings and some interior rejustification which involved the repositioning of some panelling.

*Further paragraphs describing the exterior and interior features.....*

### **Listed**

Included at Grade II\* for its special historical interest as an important sub-medieval gentry house with fine surviving C17 interior plasterwork and panelling; one of the finest buildings of this type in the region.

## **Appendix B - Extracts from correspondence by the Wynns of Gwydir relating to Plas Tirion**

*These letters have been published in Ballinger, J. 1926 Calendar of the Wynn of Gwydir Papers, National Library of Wales, and are also available in the NLW catalogues Wynn (of Gwydir) 5 & 6, (GB 0210 GWYDIR), which may be viewed online.*

### **1. Letters relating to Richard Wynn of Gwydir (1625-1674)**

Richard was the son of Sir Owen Wynn (1592-1660) who succeeded to the Baronetcy on the death of his elder brother, Sir Richard Wynn, in 1649. Whilst his father and uncle took no active part in the Civil war, Richard was involved in the royalist Booth Uprising of 1659, supporting his father-in-law, Sir Thomas Myddleton of Chirk Castle. These letters begin in 1656/7 and show the Wynns living at Gwydir, Caermelwr and Plas Tirion.

2132 1656/57, Jan. 29, Nant

[Robert Mostyn to Richard Wynn at Plas Tirion](#)

Hearing, at Lady Anger's funeral, that he has an inward bruise caused by a fall from his horse, Mostyn sends a piece of Irish slate to be scraped and drank in a posset before bed-time.

2140 1657, Aug. 28, Penrhyn

[Robert Williams to Richard Wynn at Plas Tirion](#)

Thanking him for hospitality.

2152 1658, March 30, Mostyn

John Mostyn to [Richard Wynn at Caermelwr](#)

Thanking him for the gift of a horse

Add. MS 468E

2153 1658, March 30, Bodrhyddan

[Henry Conway to Richard Wynn at Plas Tirion](#)

With regard to a fine and recovery he wishes to levy on his lands

2193 1659, Sept. 4, Giler

Robert Price to Lady Grace Wynn at Gwydir

John Evans, the trumpeter, and another trooper were at Giler yesterday to demand submission of Capt. Sontley. A son of Mr Salusbury of Bach y Graig, Mr Puleston of Emral, Capt. Chambers, and others have submitted, and are civilly treated. [The troopers enquired where Mr Richard Wynn was](#). Sir George Booth was taken at Newport Pagnell. Lt.-Col. Ed. Broughton is sent a



prisoner to Chester. It is feared he will lose his life upon account of having broken a former parole.

2195 1659, Sept. 14, Giler

Robert Price to Lady Grace Wynn at Gwydir

[Col. Madryn must be made their friend if her son's estate is to be saved from the sequestrators](#), who are very strict towards some persons.

2198 1659, Sept. 30, Carnarvon

Pass under the hand and seal of Thomas Madryn to [Richard Wynn, a prisoner at Carnarvon](#), granting him leave to proceed to his house at Caermelwr for the space of 28 days.

2199 1659, Oct. 6, Caermelwr

Richard Wynn to his mother, Lady Grace Wynn, at Gwydir

Col. Madryn does not come to Conway till night. Would have Hugh Wynn's help in the matter of the parole, to beg a remission for his personal appearance at Carnarvon. (*Almost certainly Col. Hugh Wynne of Berth-ddu, who had already been fined and discharged for his part in the Royalist cause*)

## **2. Letters relating to Jane Wynn(e), second wife of Robert Wynne of Voelas.**

Jane was a daughter of Edward Thelwall of Plas y Ward, Ruthin. She was related to the Wynns of Gwydir through her grandfather's marriage to a daughter of Maurice Wynn (father of the famous Sir John Wynn). Her nephew, Edward Thelwall, also married, Sidney, the daughter and heiress of Sir John Wynn's son, William Wynn of Garthgynan. Thus Lady Grace Wynn refers to Jane Wynn as 'our kinswoman'.

In several letters to Lady Grace Wynn, c. 1660, Jane asks for help with money, and with a family quarrel. Early in these letters she is described as the wife of Robert Wynn of Voelas, but by 1675 she is referred to as Mistress Wynn, living at Plas Tirion, and is embroiled in a quarrel with Lady Grace over the tithes of Llanrwst. A final letter, in 1684, when the Gwydir estate was being taken over for the new owner, Robert Bertie, describes Mistress Wynn still causing trouble over the tithe. Her will, dated 1684, describes her as 'a widow of Plastirion' and we can only presume she died shortly afterwards.

2232 [1649-60], Voelas

Jane Wynn to Lady Grace Wynn

Her father desires Maurice Wynn's help in a business of money. (*Wife of Robert of Voelas*).

2238 1660, June 9, Rhiwedog

Sydney, wife of Lewis Lloyd, to her sister [\[Jane, wife of Robert\] Wynn \[of Voelas\]](#)

Begging her to ask Lady Wynn to go to Plasyward, in the Lady Margaret Thelwall's absence, to intercede with their grandfather on their father's behalf. Complains that the Lady Margaret is scheming to have their father, the eldest son, disinherited, and writes a full account of the affair.

2239 1660, June 9, Plasyward

[Owen Thelwall to his niece Mrs Jane Wynn at Voelas](#)

Begs her to solicit Lady Wynn to visit his father and remonstrate with him for his unhandsome behaviour to his son, the writer's brother, and for putting confidence in the Lady Margaret, who is of wilful and fiery temper, and who will, in all probability, be the destruction and ruin of the house, if he leaves things to her management.

2290 1661, March 26, Voelas

[Jane Wynne to her kinsman, Sir Richard Wynn, at Gwydir](#)

Her father desires Sir Richard to attend the Denbighshire Assizes, and to have some honest jurymen in the suit between her father and the Lady Margaret [Lady Margaret, widow of Simon Thelwall of Plas-y-ward, and a daughter of Edmund, Lord Sheffield and Earl Mulgrave].....

2577 1669/70, Feb. 28, Gwydir

Lady Sarah Wynn to her husband, Sir Richard, at Westminster

Is glad to hear from him that the land tax is not likely to pass. [Cousin Wynn of Place Terion visits Pantlace \(Pantglas?\) today.](#)

2706 1674/75, Jan. 16, Bala

Thomas Edwards to Lady Grace Wynn at Caermelwr

A true particular of a mortgage on the lands she mentioned, the redemption whereof is long since past. [Capital message or tenement called Berth Ddu](#), one corn mill called Melyn Llanrwst, several parcels of land [named] lying in the parish of Llanrwst, and all messuages, lands, and tenements, part of the capital message or tenement of Berth Ddu. Dated April, 1667; last day of redemption April 24, 1670.

2707 1674/75, Feb. 26, Chirk Castle

Thomas Edwards to Lady Grace Wynn at Gwydir

[Respecting the mortgage on Berth Ddu](#), mentioned in his last letter. The estate in law is now lodged in Sir Thomas Grosvenor, a minor. The interest is unpaid for three or four years and, if Sir Thomas is not dealt with justly by the guardian, Mr Edisbury, for the interest paid by Col. Wynne in his lifetime, he may make the heir of the estate, Robert Wynne, pay again. [If young \[Robert\] Wynne](#) has the principal and interest let him pay Sir Thomas or his stewards. Wishes her success in those great concerns she undertakes on her grandchild's behalf.

2715 1675, July 24, Chester

Jo. Edwards to Lady Grace Wynn at Gwydir

My Lord of Man and the writer have reconciled their difference concerning Llanrwst. His Lordship was persuaded to write to [Mistress Wynn not to disturb her \[Lady Grace\] any more in gathering in the tithes.](#)

Add. MS 469E

2716 [1675, July]

Lady Grace Wynn to the Bishop of Sodor and Man

'I have, at your Lordship's request, paid your servant, Mr Crompton, what was due from my deceased son [Sir Richard Wynn], not doubting but that my grandchild [Mary Wynn] or her agents might for the future enjoy what her father paid so dearly for, and what I refused before your Lordship had it from my Lord of St Asaph. I must needs take notice that you conceive me to be an incendiary betwixt you and my Lord of St Asaph. It is very well known that I refused to accept it at my own rate from Bishop Glenham, but kept to Mr Catway, your predecessor, and obstructed the bishop and his agents all that lay in me. Mr Edwards might very well have informed you that I never took the tithe from him, but depended upon Mr Crompton's promise of having the first refusal of it, in order to which I caused the Easter duties to be gathered, and since, my servants have, in my absence, taken up what wool and lamb they would, [but Mrs Wynne opposing them](#) hath encouraged the country people to wrong both you and I. I expect your Lordship shall take some course that I enjoy it quietly for this year, and not taken from this family who have enjoyed it this eight and forty years.'

2719 1675, Aug. 17, Denbigh

Copy of a letter from Henry Bridgeman, Bishop of Sodor and Man, to [\[Mrs Wynn of Plas Tirion\]](#)

Begs her not to sacrifice his interest to her animosity, for, if there is an old 'peacke' between her and her Ladyship, it must not create a new quarrel between her Ladyship and him; he cannot be her champion in that. His title is now at an end and he will be quiet if she will be so. Fears that under pretence of defending his title during his absence she was only promoting her own interests. She calls it dishonourable in him to desert her; true, it would be so as long as her eye were single and her design unmixed, and the quarrel founded only on his account. Begs her to follow Scripture and agree with the adversary, rather than repent too late or seek repentance when it cannot be found. Let her also consider the Lady Mary and make her the pacificatory. 'Sweet lamb, what hath she done? Though it cannot wrong her fortune, yet the least breath of opposition may dim the glass ...'

Add. MS 469E

2721 1675, Sept. 7, Chester

Henry Bridgeman, Bishop of Sodor and Man, to Mary Wynn at Gwydir

Laments that he is her unwilling adversary. Has prevailed with Sir Thomas Jones to effect an accommodation of their differences. Calls her his 'dear dear landlady'. Add. MS 469E

2722 [1675, Sept.]

[Mary Wynn] to [Henry Bridgeman, Bishop of Sodor and Man]

'My Lord, yours of the 7th inst. I received wherein you honour me with the title of landlady and deprive me of my tenant-right. You style me dear, dear, [yet you and Madam Wynn](#) vouchsafe me hardly common civility, and are like to make me pay over-dear for your tithe ... you sue and molest my good grandmother (defending my right), and countenance my unworthy kinswoman for to abuse me ... [I expect and desire you to own or disown the suit you and Madam Wynn have commenced against my grandmother at Ludlow](#) ... the bearer hath a writing ... the which if you please to subscribe to, it will induce me to believe the trouble we have had was unwittingly occasioned by you ...' [Two drafts of the same letter] Add. MS 469E

2723 [1675, Sept.]

Gawen Hudson to Lady Grace Wynn at Gwydir

Referring to Llanrwst tithes which Dr Henry Bridgeman, Bishop of Sodor and Man, has [leased to Mistress Wynn in fee-farm](#). My Lord has been set upon by my Lord of Canterbury, my Lord of Rochester (who is like to be Lord of London), and Sir Thomas Meres, and [if Mistress Wynn is not his very good friend he will lose the tithes](#).

2725 1675, Oct. 23

B[lanche] Williams to her sister, Lady Grace Wynn, at Gwydir

Has sent a piece of dimity, good of its kind, and other stuffs. Particulars of the price of materials. [Is sorry for the trouble Mistress Wynn gives 'long of' that pitiful Bishop of Man](#).

2747 1675/76, March 21, Chester

Francis Wood to William Brickdall, Vicar of Llanrwst

The Bishop of Man commands Brickdall to receive the bread and wine for the approaching holy season from the agents or servants of [his lessee, Mistress Wynn of Place Styrior \[sic\]](#), and from no other, she being his lawful lessee. He is also to give notice to the parish not to disturb her in the receipt of her lawful dues.

2844 1684, Oct. 15

R[ichard] B[rooke] to Lord Willoughby

Particulars of the estate in Wales. Has this summer repaired Willoughby's own houses, the almshouses, town house, school house, lower chapel, park wall, and fences. Has had infinite trouble with Maurice Trygarne, [Mrs Wynn, Plastrion](#), Robin Wynn, and Mr Brickdal and Eglwys vach tithe. However, he has let it well for three years to Mr David Lloyd of Croesanau. Has made peace among the tenants and has put no tenant out of his land.....

## **APPENDIX C -**

## **Robert Wynne of Voylas (1597 – 1683?)**

Robert Wynne was born in 1597 to Cadwaladr Wynne of Voylas and his second wife Anne, daughter of Owen Holland of Plas Berw, Anglesey. He was the first son after eleven daughters (six by Cadwaldr's first marriage to Winifrid Thogmorton, and five from his second marriage). His father died in 1611 when he was 13 years eight months old – as attested by a jury at the Inquisition into his father's land and property **[13]**.

Presumably, his mother had died by this time, since in 1612 there is a copy of Letters Patent from James I "for the custody and marriage of Robert Wynne and grant of an annuity to Agnes Wynne out of the Manor of Hiraethog"**[14]**. The only record of an Agnes Wynne that has been found is of an elder sister to Robert Wynne of Plas Mawr Conwy. She was married to a William Williams of Cochwillan.

It was clearly important to safeguard Robert's estate, as the documents state how, during his minority, various properties were to be let to his mother's brother, Thomas Holland, and to his father's cousin, Thomas ap Rhys Wynn of Giler. The lands were let for periods of 14, 21 or 27 years, but are listed only by the tenant's name and not by the name of the property. The land was mainly in the Manor of Hiraethog, but also included farms in Llanrwst Parish and its townships of Garthgarmon, and Ty brith isa where Plas Tirion stands.

Robert did not come into his inheritance when he was 21 years old, but had to wait until the third year of Charles I's reign (1628) when the King granted a "Livery of the Manor of Hiraethog to Robt. Wynne" [15]. The details are almost verbatim for the earlier Letters Patent of 1612, and we are none the wiser about exactly where the properties are situated.

Thus, in 1626/28, the dates commemorated in the Plas Tirion plasterwork, we have no evidence of when or where Robert married his wife Katherine; whether Plas Tirion was a recently built house for the new couple; or if it was an older house that was renovated for the young owner of Voylas estate, who had come into his inheritance. One possibility is that if the majority of the estate land was let for long periods, then Robert might prefer to live away from the main estate around Voylas, and closer to the town of Llanrwst and the dower land he was looking after during the minority of his wife's son by her first marriage - Henry Lloyd of Hafoduunos. (See Appendix 4 for details of Katherine's family and their links to the Llanrwst area).

The names of the tenants of Voylas land in Llanrwst parish when Robert Wynn took possession in 1628 are:

Hugh Griffith	Tybrith township
Lewis ap Robert	Tybrith township
Maddock S.....	Tybrith township
John ap Robert ap John`	Tybrith township
Henry ap Robert	Tybrith township

Plus thirteen tenants in Garthgarmon township and one in Llanrwst town.

After 1628 Robert Wynne is mentioned in various legal documents (see Appendix 4) and is always named as Robert Wynne of Voylas. Most of these surviving documents are about land transactions or lawsuits, as in the long-running action against the Pryces of Plas Iolyn concerning their right to use a chapel in the church at Yspyty Ifan. He was High Sheriff of Denbighshire in 1631. [Nicholls, T. 1872]

During the Civil War a letter shows Robert supporting the Royalist cause after a request was made for the gentry of Denbighshire to supply horses and carriages to the King's army in Shropshire:

*1643, July 30.*

*LETTER: Robert Wynne from Voylase, to John Thelwall, esq., sheriff of co. Denbigh.*

*He and his cousin Robert Price of Geeler will do their utmost in their neighborhood to levy the necessary number of horses and carriages [18]*

The John Thelwall in this letter was from the Plas Coch branch of this important Denbighshire family, and Robert Wynne's second marriage was to a Thelwall cousin - Jane Thelwall, from the Plas y Ward branch of the family. Robert's first wife, Katherine, died in 1644, but their son, Cadwaladr, was born in 1640, and by 1645, Robert had married his second wife Jane Thelwall. [Griffiths J.E. 1914 p 326]

In the Commonwealth period Robert seems to have avoided any fine, or the sequestration of his estate for his Royalist sympathies, and on the return of Charles II in 1660, he was once again High Sheriff for the county in 1664 [Nicholls T, 1872].

During this time both Robert and his wife Jane were probably living at Voylas, but by 1675 Jane Wynne was certainly known to be at Plas Tirion (See **Appendix 2** for letters referring to her at this time). Perhaps both she and her husband began to use the house more after their son Cadwaldr came of age in 1661. A surviving deed of 1681 [3] is signed by Robert Wynne, Gent. of Plastirion, and Jane Wynne's will of 1684 [2] describes her as a widow of Plastirion. Robert probably died shortly after 1681, and in her will, Jane asks to be buried near her husband's grave in Yspty Ifan church.

Robert Wynne was from one of the gentry families of Denbighshire who gained their land from the former Abbey of Aberconwy. His great-grandfather had a grant of Voylas from Henry VIII, and his grandfather added to this in 1590, with a grant from Elizabeth I of the Manor of Hiraethog, formerly known as Tir yr Abbad, from Aberconwy Abbey. Whether the land on which Plas Tirion is built was acquired in these deals is unknown: it is equally likely that it was bought by the Wynne family as the opportunity arose in this period of great change.

Robert had many family connections in the Conwy Valley. As well as the Gethins, Prices and Wynns in the uplands of Hiraethog, there were the Anwyls of Garthgarmon, the Kyffins of Maenan, the Vaughans of Pant Glas, the Ffoulkes of Eglwysbach and the Hollands of Pennant. Added to this were the Anglesey connections, through his mother, with the powerful Holland family of Plas Berw; and through his two marriages, which gave opportunities to negotiate land deals with the Lloyds of Hafoduunos, the Wynnes of Melai, and the Thelwalls of Plas y Ward. Further research may yield an answer about the origins of Plas Tirion.

## **APPENDIX D - Katherine Wynne, first wife of Robert Wynne of Voylas and widow of Ffoulke Lloyd of Hafodunos**

Katherine was a daughter of William Wynne of Melai, head of an important Denbighshire family from near Llanfair Talhairn. Her father had been High Sheriff of Denbighshire in 1614, and was *jure in uxoris* of Maenan Abbey. Her mother was the daughter of Sir Richard Clough of Denbigh.

There are memorials to the Wynnes of Melai in Llanfair Talhairn church - notably to Katherine's nephew, William, who died fighting for the King at the siege of Wem in the Civil War in 1643. Before that, her brother was an Ensign to her uncle, Sir Thomas Wynne, who died at the siege of Breda in 1625. The Melai family emblem which is seen on the church monuments is the *three boars' heads erased*, known as 'Y Penwyn', which also features in the Plas Tirion plasterwork.

Katherine's first husband was a near neighbour, Ffoulke Lloyd of Hafodunnos. By him she had a son, Henry Lloyd, and a daughter, Dorothy. Her husband had died by 1625, leaving Henry as a minor. We have no date when she married Robert Wynne, but in 1625 he was already making agreements about using her son's land in Llangernyw [17].

1625, September 3.

1. *Evan ap Harry of Llangerniw, co. Denbigh, yeoman;*
2. *Robert Wynne of Voylas, co. Denbigh, esq.*

*GRANT by the first party of his lands within a close of ground called ffrith garregog in Llangerniw aforesaid to the use of the grantor during the minority of Henry Lloyd, gent., son and heir of Ffoulke Lloyd, gent., deceased, and then to the use of the said*

*Henry Lloyd provided that he conveyed to Evan ap Harry certain other lands in Llangerniw. Also counterpart.*

In 1638, we find that Robert is dealing with Harry Lloyd (Katherine's brother in law and uncle to her son) about land in Gathgarmon, Llanrwst Parish, which was part of Katherine's dower from her first husband's estate [18]

1638, August 14.

1. Harry Lloyd of Havodynnos, co. Denbighe, esq.;
2. Robert Wynne of Voylas, co. Denbighe, esq.

*LEASE of messuages and lands called Tythyn y Nant and Bryn y Pyll in Garthgarmon, co. Denbighe, in consideration of a lease bearing the same date granted by Robert Wynne to Harry Lloyd of the messuages and lands assigned to Robert Wynne and Katherine, his wife, as the dower of the said Katherine out of the lands of Ffoulke Lloyd, esq., her late husband.*

In 1639, a marriage settlement for Katherine's son, Henry [19] lists land in the parishes of Penmachno, Betws-y-coed and Llanrwst. Some of these farms were part of Voelas estate by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and of especial interest is the 'cottage and lands called Yr Allt'. This is now part of Plas Tirion land, but was a separate small holding until the ends of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. How, and when, the property was acquired by the Voelas estate is unknown.

1. Henry Lloyd of Havod vnnos, co. Denbigh, esq.;
2. Edward Vaughan of Cylynnog, co. Monntgom', esq., and Howell Vaughan of Grays Inn, co. Myddelsex, gent.

*SETTLEMENT, subsequent to the marriage of the said Henry Lloyd and Margaret, one of the daughters of John Vaughan of Glanyllyn, co. Merioneth, esq., and sister of the said Howell Vaughan, relating to a capital messuage and tenement called dvgoed, a messuage and lands in the tenure of William ap Ellis, messuages and lands called Cay mab bleddyn, and a messuage called llawr ynys in the township of Bettus and parish of Penmachno, a messuage and lands called havod yr Edwydd in the parish of Penmachno, and a yearly rent charge of 3/4 issuing out of property in the parish of Bettws, all thus far in co. Caernarvon; a messuage and lands called Sowlen in the township of Tybrith issa, a messuage and lands called y Ty yn y nant in the township of Garth garmon, and messuages and lands called y Cae Gwynn and Tythyn Moris bach or Creigie, a messuage in the tenure of John Moris, a parcel of land called y Coyd issa, and a cottage and lands called yr Allt in Tybrith aforesaid, all these in the parish of Llanroost, co. Denbigh;*

A final example of a land agreement in 1642 suggests that Robert Wynne was playing a complex legal game in his efforts to retain land in Llanrwst Parish and its townships around Plas Tirion [20] .

1642, April 24.

1. Robert Wynne of Voylas, co. Denbigh, esq.;
2. Henry Lloyd of Havodynnos, co. Denbigh, esq.

*ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT whereby Robert Wynne undertook to discharge bonds entered into by Henry Lloyd to Katherine Bodvel, Dorothe Wynne, and Margaret Wynne, and to discharge the said Henry Lloyd in respect of a sum of £133 due as rent from lands in Llangernew, co. Denbigh. Henry Lloyd, in return, was to allow Robert Wynne to hold certain lands in the parish of Llanrust, co. Denbigh, for fifteen years, and to receive an annual rent charge of £35-11-0 issuing out of lands in the parish of Llangernew aforesaid during the same period. Robert Wynne further undertook to release to Henry Lloyd all his estate and interest in messuages and lands in Tybrith, Garthgarmon, Maethebrwyd, Llanrust, and elsewhere in the parish of Llanrust which had been demised to him by Lloyd for 300 years. It was further agreed that Robert Wynne, during the lifetime of his wife Katherine, who was Henry Lloyd's mother, should receive rents of £66 yearly from tenants of the said Henry Lloyd in respect of lands in Llangernew.*

Katherine died in 1644 [**Griffith, p 376**], having provided Robert Wynne with a son and heir, Cadwaldr, and possibly other children as well. So far, no record has been found of her will, or where she is buried.

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- Wigfair papers 2
- Welsh Biography online



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21. References for the nine heraldic emblems and motto in Plate 1. refer to Siddons, M.P. 2007, Volume 2 listed above.  
Motto p. 164. Quarters 1 & 2, p. 614. Quarter 3, pp. 240, 557. Quarter 4, p. 189. Quarter 5, p. 41. Quarter 6, p. 129. Quarter 7, p. 364. Quarter 8, p. 188. Quarter 9, p. 277.
22. Besant-Lowe, 1912, Volume 2, p. 303.



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- Figure 2. - Voelas Estate Rental, Parish of Llanrwst, 1812-13
- Figure 3. - Voelas Estate Rental, Parish of Llanrwst, 1830-31
- Figure 4. - Tithe Map for part of Llanrwst Parish c. 1840
- Figure 5. - Enlarged portion of the 1840 Tithe Map
- Figure 6. - Tithe Apportionment Schedule for Plas Tirion and Yr Allt, c. 1840
- Figure 7. - Extract from 1875 Ordnance Survey Map, 1:10560 scale
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- Plate 1. - Plasterwork decoration in the upper hall
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- Plate 4. - Copy of the Will of Jane Wynne, 1684

**Figure 1 – Estate Map by John Mathews, 1813**



Map by John Mathews, 1813 for Voelas Estate at scale of 1: 6,366 (one inch = 6 chains).

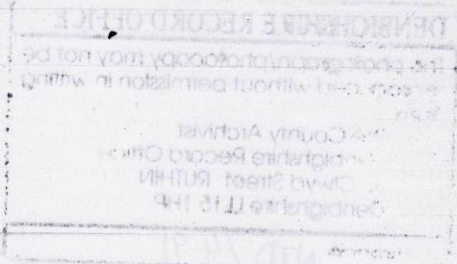
All the Plas tirion land is shown except for the permanent pasture by the River Conwy at the bottom of the map.

Also shown is the small holding of Yr Allt towards the top left of the map.

**Figure 2. - Voelas Estate Rental , Llanrwst, 1812-13**

Voelas Estate Rents 1812-3 (Parish of Llanrwst)

No	Tenements	Tenant	Years Rent	Rent Rec'd
64	Plastirion	William Griffith	£205-00-0	£155-03-10
65	Frith fawr	Do		
66	Moeliowrch isa	Robert Morris	65-00-0	59-10-0
67	Do mill	Do		
68	Moeliowrch ucha	Thomas Jones	55-10-0	50-18-0
69	Gwahallwy	Dd Hughes & Wm Parry	62-00-0	59- 8-0
70	Bangog	Humphrey Jones	65-00-0	59-10-0
71	Fold Pt Gwanallwy	Dd Hughes & Wm Parry	5-00-0	5-00-0
72	Cae Haidd	Ellin Thomas	72-00-0	65-12-0
73	hafotty Gwyn	John Morris	30-00-0	28-00-0
74	Carreg y Iran	Evan Jones	16-10-0	15- 6-0
75	Berrau Hirion	Hugh Jones & Hugh Williams	66-00-0	60-00-0
76	Do	Thomas Davida	54-00-0	50-00-0
77	Ty'n y Mynydd	Henry Owen	13-10-0	12- 6-0
78	Ty'n y Coed	Thomas Rogers	37-10-0	34-10-0
79	Tyddyn Iolyn	John Davies	16-10-0	15- 4-0
80	Orseddwen bach	Edward Davies & William Jones	20-00-0	18-10-0
81	Bryn y fawnog	Robert Hughes	39-00-0	35-14-0
82	Graig Goch &	William Davidd	44-00-0	40-12-0
83	Cae Gwyn			
84	Soflen &	Wm Roberts & Mary & David Roberts	68- 5-0	63-00-0
85	Nant y Gafr	Thomas Roberts	57-10-0	53-00-0
86	Tyddyn Du	Owen Jones	24-10-0	22-14-0
87	Nant y Garnedd	William Owen	38-10-0	35-10-0
88	Tyddyn Llowarch	William Jones	40-00-0	37-00-0
89	Pant y Pwll	Owen Thomas	10-00-0	9- 2-0
90	House & Garden in Capel Garmon	John Thomas	4- 4-0	3-16-0
91	Plas On	Gwen Morris & Thomas Jones	21-00-0	19-16-0
92	Garth y Pigau	Cadwalader Hughes	64-10-0	59-12-0
93	Vedw	William Lloyd	25-15-0	24- 2-0
94	Gallt y Gog	C.W.G.Wynn		
95	Yr Allt bach	William Williams	19-00-0	17-14-0
96	Tyddyn Hen	Margret Roberts	23-00-0	21- 8-0
97	Gallt yr Efel	John & Mary Evans	30-00-0	28-00-0
98	Tyddyn Bach	John & Elizabeth Davies	14-00-0	13-00-0
99	Cwmanog Ucha	Robert Thomas	13-10-0	12-12-0
100	Ty'n y Bwlch	Catherine Griffith	5-10-0	5-00-0
101	Cwmanog Bach &	Evan Williams	9- 9-0	8-13-0
102	Tyddyn Sarn			
103	Glan Rhyd	Ellin Thomas	2- 5-0	2- 5-0
104	Tin gwern Isa	Robert Williams	13-4	13-4
105	Gwithibog	Evan Owen	5-0	5-0



Transcript from Denbighshire Archives NTD/491

Figure 3. - Voelas Estate Rental , Llanrwst, 1830-31



Voelas Estate Rents 1830-I (Parish of Llanrwst)

<u>No</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Tenements</u>	<u>Arrears</u>	<u>Years Rent</u>	<u>Rent Rec'd</u>
216	John Griffith	Plastirion & Mfrith fawr		£160-00-0	£144-00-0
217	Robert Roberts	Moeliwrch Isaf	£13-00-0	£160-00-0	47-00-0
218	Robert Jones	Moeliwrch Uchaf	6-10-0	50-00-0	43-00-0
219	David Hughes	Gwahalllog & Cae sont	82-3-0	53-00-0	129-17-0
220	William Jones	Bangog	17-00-0	60-00-0	56-00-0
221	Henry Williams	Cae Haidd	16-14-0	66-00-0	60-00-0
222	Griffith Jones	Hafoty Gwyn		25-00-0	22-10-0
223	Evan Jones	Carreg y fran		16-00-0	14-8-0
224	Hugh Jones & Margret Williams	Berran hirion		58-00-0	52-14-0
225	Evan Jones	Berran hirion	31-11-0	45-00-0	16-00-0
226	Arron Jones	Ty'n y Mynydd		12-00-0	10-16-0
227	Edward Williams	Ty'n y Coed		37-10-0	33-15-0
228	John Davies	Tyddyn Iolyn		15-00-0	13-10-0
229	William Jones	Orseddwen		18-00-0	16-4-0
230	William Williams	Bryn Fawnog		35-00-0	30-00-0
231	William David	Graig Goch		40-00-0	36-00-0
232	Margret & David Roberts	Soffen	22-00-0	60-00-0	41-00-0
233	Thomas Roberts	Tyddyn Du	71-00-0	50-00-0	43-00-0
234	Thomas Jones	Nant y Garnedd	6-16-0	22-00-0	15-16-0
235	Owen Williams	Ty'n Twll & Plas On		52-00-0	46-16-0
236	Elizabeth Owen	Tyddyn Llowarch		40-00-0	36-00-0
237	Owen Thomas	Pant y Fwll	7-18-6	9-00-0	9-00-0
238	Evan & Robert Roberts	Garth y Pigau		60-00-0	54-00-0
239	Thomas Lloyd	Fedw		20-00-0	18-00-0
240	William Williams	Yr Allt Bach	28-15-0	17-00-0	13-00-0
241	Hugh Roberts	Tyddyn Hen		20-00-0	18-00-0
242	John Evans	Gallt Efel		31-00-0	27-18-0
243	Elizabeth Davies	Tyddyn Bach		13-00-0	11-14-0
244	Ann Jones	Gwmanog Ucha	2-00-0	13-00-0	12-00-0
245	Richard Parry	Ty'n y Bwlch	9-00-0	5-00-0	4-8-0
246	Evan Williams	Gwmanog Bach		8-00-0	7-10-0
247	Robert Williams	Tu Gwen isa	2-00-0	13-4	Nil
248	Abel Owen	Garth y Bog		5-0	5-0

Note (1) Spelling and abbreviations as original.  
 (2) There were two additional columns, "total arrears" and "remarks". These were not reproduced as they were not relevant to my particu-  
 research.

Transcript from Denbighshire Archives NTD/491

Figure 4 - Tithe Map for part of Llanrwst Parish c. 1840





This is a poor copy, but shows very similar boundaries to the 1813 map by John Mathews

**Figure 5 – Enlarged portion of 1840 Tithe Map**



**Figure 6 - Tithe Apportionment Schedule for Plas Tirion and Yr Allt, c. 1840**

	Numbers referring to the Plan.	NAME AND DESCRIPTION of LANDS AND PREMISES.	STATE of CULTIVATION.	QUANTITIES in STATUTE MEASURE.			Amount of Rent-Charge apportioned upon the several Lands, and Payable to the <i>Ricks</i>		
				A.	R.	P.	£.	s.	d.
10	<i>Plashion</i>								
	1402	House yard garden &c.	House &c.	1	3	"			
	1403	Croft	Arable		2	37	1	10	
	1404	Cae Ysgubor Nsaf	Arable		3	13	2	5	
	1405	Orchard	Orchard	1	"	27			
	1406	Cae Bryn Bach	Arable	1	3	8	7	5	
	1407	Cae Bryn Awar	Arable	4	3	9	19	8	
	1408	Wood	Wood		3	7			
	1409	Cae Bondry y Glendry	Arable	10	2	5	2	13	4
	1410	Cae Bellaf	Arable	11	"	36	2	16	11
	1411	Cae Ysgubor	Arable	6	2	34	1	15	5
	1412	Maw Idafaden	Arable	1	3	11		9	4
	1413	Scallan Fawr	Arable	5	1	32	1	8	8
	1414	Scallan bach	Arable	2	1	34		11	3
	1415	Cae an Tylhon	Arable	5	2	36	1	7	6
	1416	Tymme	Old Pasture	2	3	16		6	6
	1417	Totol Ganol.	Old Pasture	5	"	38		11	11
	1418	Ffidd y Plas	Old Pasture	13	3	11	2	"	11
	1419	Faw Fawr	Old Pasture	2	3	24		6	8
	1420	Tymme	Arable	2	1	8		5	
				82	3	26	16	4	8
no.	2682	Tym y Ffidd Fawr	House &c.			13			
	2683	Ffidd Fawr	Arable	103	3	11	1	15	8
				103	3	26	1	73	8
Williams	<i>Nr. All.</i>								
	1251	House and Garden	House &c.		2	28			
	1252	Croft Nsaf	Arable		2	28	1	1	
	1253	Cae Nsaf	Arable	3	2	12	12	4	
	1254	Cae with y Tafen	Arable	1	3	24	5	6	
	1255	Cae with ben y Stabl	Arable	1	1	11	3	9	
	1256	Cae'r Goflan	Arable	2	5	"	7	3	
	1257	Cae Ceddug	Arable	1	3	4	3	8	
	1258	Cae Awar	Arable	3	1	33	7	11	
	1259	Cae Llidion y Ffordd	Arable	1	2	36	4	8	
	1260	Cae Bating	Arable	2	2	4	7	"	
	1261	Bucath	Arable	1	1	1	3	5	
					21	2	21	2	16

Figure 7 – 1875 Ordnance Survey Map (extract)





Conwy County Archives 1875 First edition Ordnance Survey Map, Denbighshire Sheet XVI, Scale 1:10560

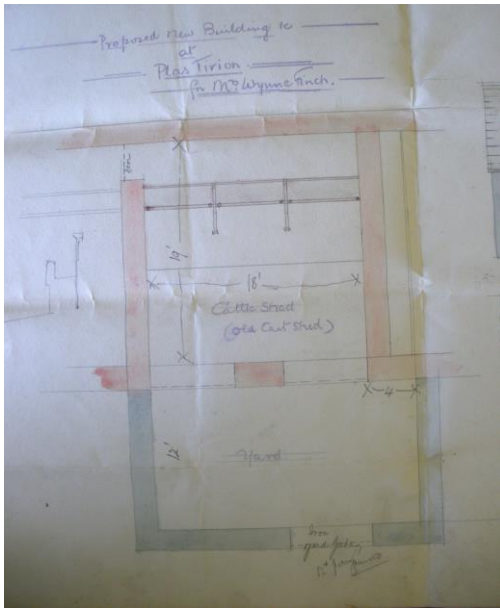
Figure 8 – 1913 Ordnance Survey Map (Extract)



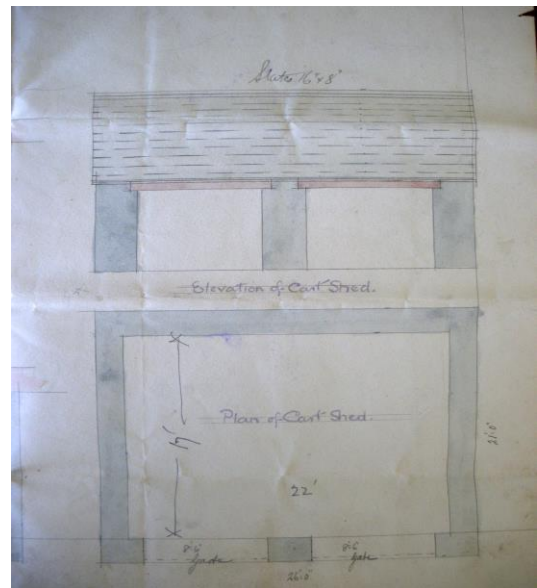
Conwy County Archiwse 1913 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Denbighshire Sheet XVI, Scale 1:10560



**Figure 9 - Plans for a new cart shed at Plas Tirion for Mrs Wynne-Finch, Voelas Estate, 1890**



Drawing showing old existing cart shed at end of barn



Drawing showing new detached cart shed

**Table 1 - Record of people who have lived in Plas Tirion**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Reference</i>
1656-58	Three brief mentions of Sir Richard Wynn at Plas Tirion during Commonwealth troubles	<u>Calendar of Gwydir Papers</u> , pp.347,349
1675	'Mrs Wynn' at Plas Tirion causing trouble to Wynns of Gwydir over Llanrwst tithes. <i>(Noted in a letter as a kinswoman)</i>	<u>Calendar of Gwydir Papers</u> , 2715, 2716, 2719, 2721, 2722, 2723, 2747.
1681/2	Robert Wynne of Plastirion, Gent (Deed)	Denbighshire Archives (DA) DD/GA/613
1684	Jane Wynne, widow, WILL <i>(Wife of Robert Wynne. Mentions husband's house at Voylas and his burial in Ysppyty Church. Her oldest son is Cadwaldr Wynne, Esq; a daughter Elizabeth [Lloyd of Rhiwedog, Merioneth]; a d. in law Elizabeth Wynne, wife of my son Robert; several daughters, Ann Wynn, Jane Wynne wife of John Wynne of Goppa and Catherine Wynne. Witnesses are Margaret &amp; Maurice Trygarn, Dorothy Burches &amp; Catherine Jones)</i>	NLW Will SA 1684 153
1692	Cadwaladr Wynn Esq. (Landlord and tenant)	A 1692 Land Tax Return for Llanrwst – typewritten transcript by Alun Rawson Williams. (DA) DRO/NTD/648
1694	Margaret Wynne, late of Plas Tirion and now of Ruthin, spinster. WILL. <i>(sister of Jane Wynne in will above of 1684. Mentions same family. Witnesses are Jane Wynne, Elizabeth Thelwall? &amp; Hugh Holland)</i>	SA 1694 216
1771	Jane Wynne of Plastirion, widow. WILL. <i>(her daughter Elizabeth Wynn is the sole beneficiary and executrix. No property. Witnesses are two attorneys in Chester)</i>	NLW Will SA 1771 95
1810	Ann Knight, of Plas Tirion WILL proved 1815 <i>Asks to be interred in husband's grave in Capel Garmon. Leaves legacy to Thos Wiliams ,Clerk, Llannerch Goch, Capel Garmon. Witnesses: Maurice Davies, Rhyd-y-creua; John Griffiths, Plas Tirion</i>	NLW Will SA 1815 98
1813/14	William Griffith (tenant - also held Fridd fawr)  <i>Rent of £205 was by far the highest on the roll</i>	Voelas Estate Rental 1812-13. Typewritten transcript in Denbighshire Archives  (DA) NTD/491
1813	Owner Griffith Wynne. Tenant?	Map of part of Voelas Estate by John Mathews, 1813. NLW

1826	William Griffith of Plastirion, Gent. WILL. <i>(Either a tenant or relation). Leaves his son, John Griffiths, and wife, Margaret, other property in Llanrwst and Penmachno. His daughter was wife of Morris Davies, late of Cilcennis. Witnesses include J.? Davies of Siamberwen. Estate was under £1500 but for some legal reason (alteration?) it was also sent to Prerogative Court in Canterbury)</i>	NLW Will SA 1826 107
1830-31	John Griffith (tenant- also held Ffridd Fawr) <i>Rent was now £160</i>	As above (DA) NTD/491
1840?	John Evans (tenant of Charles Wynne-Griffith-Wynne of Voelas) <i>Farmed 103 acres in all</i>	Tithe Apportionment Schedule, Llanrwst Rural Parish  Denbighshire Archives MFD/739
1841	John Evans, aged 35	Census
1851	John Evans, aged 48	Census
1861	John Evans (son), aged 25 <i>Farmer of 80 acres</i>	Census
1871	John Evans, aged 35	Census
1876	John Evans Voelas Estate record that John Evans had contacted out of the Agricultural Holdings Act	NLW Voelas Papers GA/2/104
1881	John Evans, aged 45 <i>Farmer of 140 acres</i>	Census
1891	John Evans, aged 55	Census
1892	John Evans – Rent £167.17	NLW Voelas Papers GA/2/104
1901	John Evans, aged 65	Census
1908	John Evans – Rent £170.00	NLW Voelas Papers GA/2/104
1911		
1921		
1925/28	Hugh Jones <i>Letters about giving up tenancy &amp; milk round</i>	NLW Voelas papers GA/2/131

## Plate 1 - Plasterwork decoration in upper hall

**The crest** - *A lion rampant Argent holding a Rose slipped Vert* – the ancestral crest of the Wynnes of Voelas



**The motto** - *'singula un uno'* - is a mis-spelling of the Voelas family motto *'cingula in uno'*. (A possible

translation is 'girdled together' from the latin 'cingula' which is a belt or girdle.

**The shield** - Divided into nine quarters described from top left to bottom right:-

1. *Gules a lion rampant Argent armed and langued Azure*, ( 'Marchweithian', traditional arms of the Wynnes of Voelas)
2. *Argent a rose Gules seeded Or leaves Vert*, (Arms of the Lords of Rhos and Rhufeniog, ancestors of the Wynnes of Voelas)
3. *Azure, serre de lis and a lion rampant (gardant) Argent*, (Holland of Anglesey?) – Robert Wynne's mother was the daughter of Owen Holland of Plas Berw, Anglesey. Unfortunately, the fleurs de lys on this shield are undoubtedly ermines, but the only other heraldic possibility is that of Tudor Trevor of Maelor, whose shield has ermines but is divided by a bend sinister into black and white halves.
4. *Or a griffin segreant Gules (armed and langued Azure)*, (Gruffudd Coch of Rhos ap Dafydd ap Madog, ancestor to Wynnes of Voelas)
5. *Vert a cross fleurie Or*, ('Braint hir' - a common Denbighshire device)
6. *Gules a chevron ermine between three men's (Englishmen's) heads ensanguined couped Argent*, ('Ednyfed Fychan'- steward of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth. The arms of Robert Wynne's great grandmother,

- Catherine Lloyd, who was descended from Ednyfed Fychan)
7. *Gules a giant's/Saracen's/Moor's/pagan's head erased Argent a band Argent and Sable about his forehead,*  
( 'Marchudd ap Cynan' – found in the second and fourth quarters of William of Melai's arms  
(Katherine's father)
  8. *Three lions/lioncels passant in pale Argent armed Azure,* ('Gruffydd ap Cynan' – Prince of Gwynedd, d. 1137)
  9. *Gules, on a chevron Sable between three goat's heads erased Or, three or five trefoils slipped Or,* (Ithel Felyn ap Llywelyn Eurdorchog (Ithel Felyn of Ial), Denbighshire)

References for all these emblems are found in **Siddons, M.P. 2007** and are individually listed for each of the nine quarters at **[21.]** on the reference page.

## Plate 2 - Plasterwork decoration in the lower parlour



Overmantle in small parlour downstairs

Inscription RW KW on either side of shield. The latter is divided into two. Left (dexter) side shows the arms of Ednyfed Fychan, ancestor of Robert Wynne - *Gules a chevron ermine between three men's (Englishmen's) heads ensanguined couped Argent*. The right (sinister) side shows the arms of Catherine's father, William of Melai (near Llanfair Talhairn), *Gules three boars heads erased in pale Argent ('Y Penwyn')*. *These were given the Wynnes of Melai in the time of Edward I, and can be seen on a Wynne monument in Llanfair Talhairn parish church.*

## Plate 3 - Plasterwork decorations in the upper bedchambers





**Bedchamber 1 - Oval surrounded by mouldings (left)**

The familiar lion rampant and rose for Voelas on the left (dexter) side, with a griffin rampant on the sinister (right) side. The griffin may refer to Gruffudd Coch of Rhos ap Dafydd ap Madog, an ancestor to the Wynnes of Voelas..

**Bedchamber 2 - Simple shield (right)**

The un-maned lion rampant, (possibly deliberately drawn as a young lion for Robert Wynne) represents Voelas, and the rose is probably for Katherine's family.



Plate 4 - Copy of the will of Jane Wynne, 1684

SA/1684/53 W

In the name of God Amen the fourth Day of November in the  
 year of our Lord one thousand Six hundred Eighty & four  
 Jane Wynne of Wiltshire in the gift of Rannett in the  
 County of Devlish or Devon being sick in body but of perfect  
 sense and memory do pray God for it do make and declare  
 this my last will and testament in manner and form following  
 First I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God my  
 maker hereunto assuredly through the merits of my Redeemer  
 Jesus Christ to be eternally saved and my body I commit to  
 the earth wherof it was made to be decently buried after  
 Christian burial as near my husband as may be in the  
 Church of St. John or St. James to the gift church of Exeter and  
 belonging to the said my husbands last house towards the repa-  
 ration of it & the church of St. James and bequeath forty  
 shillings to the said church of St. James and bequeath  
 the church of Rannett and the church of St. James all things  
 of what so ever shillings & pence to the said church of St. James  
 my dear friend and beloved son Thomas Esq. forty shillings to buy  
 him a ring of gold and to bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth  
 forty shillings to buy her a ring of gold and to bequeath to my daughter  
 in law Elizabeth Wynne the wife of  
 my son Robert Wynne forty shillings to buy her a ring  
 of gold and to bequeath to my son Thomas Wynne and my  
 daughter in law his wife forty shillings & pence to buy them  
 a ring of gold and to bequeath to my son Robert Wynne  
 and my daughter Anne Wynne Jane Wynne the wife of  
 John Wynne of the gift and to bequeath to my daughter  
 Anne shall think fit to the said my daughter  
 daughter Barbara two hundred pounds of lawfull money of  
 England shee shall have my Exequies hereafter named of  
 my said death and my debts and charges in and out of my house or  
 place from me upon any account whatsoever of ten of  
 her debts and charges and appoint my daughter Margaret  
 Wynne sole executrix of this my last will & testament to  
 receive my goods debts and bequeath all as if right the rest and  
 residue of my goods and chattels debts and credit and all  
 other my personall estate whatsoever by me lawfully not before  
 bequeathed first paying my debts bequeath of what so ever  
 I have and I do hereby desire my said son Thomas  
 to care and to be look after my said daughter  
 that shee be not wronged or injured and more plentifully  
 I do hereby carelessly recommend to his care & charge  
 Jane Wynne