

NORTH WEST WALES DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES - MEIRIONETH

BRONGORONWY

FFESTINIOG, MERIONETHSHIRE NGR SH 718 411

House History Summary

This typical Snowdonia house was probably built in 1531 but by whom is as yet unknown. The first reference is in a feoffment of 1611 when it was apparently tenanted by Evan Lewis Anwill but sold by John Owen of Ffestiniog to Evan Lloyd of London for £30 - this was probably Evan Lloyd of Dulassau, Penmachno. In 1632 it was sold to John Jones of Gray's Inn (probably of Meillionen and later Dolymoch) for £200 [evidence of rampant inflation!] The Dolymoch estate passed via an heiress Margaret to the Pugh family of Bennar, Penmachno and sometime after 1698 it passed via another heiress, Anne, to John Wynne, Bishop of St Asaph's and later Bishop of Bath and Wells. After over 100 years it devolved to a great nephew William John Bankes in 1815 and this family sold the estate in 1870. Mr William Pierce bought Brongoronwy and adjacent farms but kept them only 10 years before selling to the major landowner in the area Phillips Lloyd Fletcher; so it became part of the Pengwern Estate. This estate was gradually broken up after 1919 and in 1921 Brongoronwy was bought by Henry Thomas of Babell Cottage, Ffestiniog for £700. He died intestate in 1925 and his heir Robert Richard Jones sold in 1929 to Morris Jones of Cynfal, Barmouth.

Tenants: After Evan Lewis Anwyl the next known tenant was Richard Lloyd in 1798. Brongoronwy was farmed by three generations of Lloyds until 1892 when David Price - a kinsman of the Lloyds became the occupant. David died in 1920 when Evan Williams occupied it.

Miss Dinah Pickard, Merioneth, March 2012

BRONGORONWY, FFEESTINIOG, MERIONETHSHIRE NRG SH 718 411

HOUSE HISTORY

This house was known as Bronrowgoch (1611), Bron'ronw (1798 1840 1869), Bron ronnw (1803 1855, 1870). Bron yr Onen (1809). Bryn yr Onnen (1820). Brongoronwy (1870 onwards).

All these names and those of other properties are spelt as in the quoted documents.

Dendrochronology summary

A total of ten timbers were sampled in this building. One timber showed several growth depressions and could not be dated. Of the remaining nine series, one- a collar- was found to have been from a tree felled in summer 1477, whilst all the other roof timbers, and the top plate of a ground-floor screen appear to form a single group of timbers, most likely felled at the same time. Only one timber retained complete sapwood, and was found to have been from a tree felled in winter 1530/31.

It seems likely therefore that construction took place in **1531**, or within a year or two after this date.

No document has been found relating to ownership before 1611

1611 October 20 Feoffment (A record of the conveyance of freehold estate)

- i) John Owen of Ffestiniog co. Mer. Gent
- ii) Evan Lloyd of London. Gent

Property Bronrowgoch, Rhydgwiel y Gledryd, Frith ucha & Frith issa

In "tenure of Evan Lewis Anwill" Consideration £30 includes mention of Ellen mother of John Owen
(Flint Record Office (R.O.) Hawarden. D/SH/504)

1623 Bronronw goch Evan Lewis Anwll (Owner or tenant?)

(Rent roll Nat.Lib. Wales (N.L.W.) MS 12.731 E)

1632 Aug. 16 Feoffment

- i) Richard Lloyd of Dulassey co Caer. esq.
- ii) John Jones of Grays Inn co Middlesex gent
- John Roberts of Penbedw co Caer. Gent
- Edmund Owen son & heir apparent of John Owen of Parchwel co. Caer. Gent

Property as in D/SH/504 see above" now or late in the tenure of Evan Lewis Anwill, gent"
Consideration £200 includes mention of late father Evan Lloyd

(Flint R.O. Hawarden D/SH/524)

Evan Lloyd of Dulassau, will Prerogative Court of Canterbury (P.C.C). 1626 has a son Richard (Sir)
(Griffith's Pedigrees p330)

1637 April 11 Quitclaim

- i) Evan Lewis Anwyll of Ffestiniog co Mer. gent
- ii) John Jones of Meillionen co. Caer. gent

Property as in D/SH/504 see above

(Flint R.O. Hawarden D/SH/527)

Note Bearing in mind the fact that Brongoronwy was part of the Dolymoch esate in 1803 and 1870 (see later) this John Jones of Meillionen is likely to be John Jones who dies 1646, son of Richard, who was brother of Maurice of Craflwyn, Beddgelert, sons of John ap Richard ap Rhys.

The following 2 documents show the ownership changes of Dolymoch.

1634 Oct 29 Feoffment

- i) John Roberts of Dole y moch co. Mer. Gent
- ii) Edmund Vaughan of Bronheylog co. Denbigh esq.

Capital message called Dole y Moche and lands in Ffestiniog and Maentwrog co. Mer. Consideration £615
(Flint R.O. Hawarden D/SH/525)

1640 May 18 Feoffment

- i) Richard Lloyd of Grays Inn. Co.Middlesex esq. Howell Lloyd of Dulassay co. Caer gent.
Roderick Lloyd of Dulassau gent
- ii) John Jones of Meillionen co Caer gent. Edmund Owen of Maentwrog gent,
- iii) Evan Lloyd of Kefen Vaes co Mer. gent. Humphrey ap John Cadwaladr of Ffestiniog yeoman
Messuages called Ddol y Moch, y Geliyfogog and Dol y Dryrhyd to ii)
Consideration of £700 (Flint R.O. Hawarden D/SH/535)

Note Richard, Howell and Roderick are brothers in law to Edmund Vaughan, esq, of Bronheylog co Den
(Griffith's Pedigrees p330)

- 1643** Eulogy to John Jones at his dwelling Dolymoch 1643 by Gruffyth Philip
(N.L.W. MS 2030 (Panton MS. 64) pp 98-103)
Evidence suggests he rebuilt the house 1640-1643
- 1646** May 23 Probate of will of John Jones of Dol y Moch, Ffestiniog co. Mer. gent incl
"to son in law John Pugh and his wife of Bennardd leaves £50"
(His wife may be Margaret who is heiress of brother Richard - see later)
(Caernarfon R.O.X/Poole/3236)
John Pugh married Margaret Jones heiress of brother Richard Jones of Dolymoch
(Flint R.O Hawarden D/SH/40)
Had issue Robert Pugh of Bennar, Penmachno, who marries Ann Eden who have only a daughter
Anne Pugh, heiress, who marries John Wynne
- About 1720** marriage Lambeth Palace John Wynne Bishop of St Asaph and Anne Pugh
- c1721** birth Anne Wynne
- c1724** birth John Wynne
- 1727** Bishop John Wynne created Bishop of Bath and Wells
- c1729** birth William Wynne (calculated from Memorial Inscription (M.I.) on chancel floor Northop Church and
The History of the Diocese of St. Asaphs Vol 1 (Ruthin R.O.)
- about 1730** birth Margaret Wynne
- 1732** John Wynne buys Soughton Hall, co. Flint from Edward Conway
(Flint R.O. Hawarden - Soughton Hall MSS)
- 1743** July 15 Bishop John Wynne dies at Soughton
- 1743** July 20 Bishop John Wynne buried in Northop Church (M.I.chancel of Northop Church)
- About 1753** marriage of Margaret Wynne & Henry Bankes M.P, of Corfe Castle, Kingston Lacey co. Dorset
- 1757** Birth Henry Bankes only son of Margaret and Henry Bankes to survive. This Henry Bankes marries
Frances Woodley in 1784 and they have four sons and possibly two daughters. First son Henry dies young.
Second son William John inherits Brongoronwy in 1815 but goes into exile (as a homosexual) and he conveys in
1841 his estate to his brothers Edward and George and Brother in Law, Edward Boscawen, Earl of Falmouth.
(Flint R.O. D/SH/636)
- 1778** June 16 death of Anne Wynne at Soughton aged 85 (M.I. chancel of Northop Church)
Will of Anne Wynne dated 10 March 1759, codicil 18 March 1778
(Flint R.O. Hawarden D/SH/I066)
- 1798** Land Tax returns. Bron'ronw owner John Wynne first son of Bishop John and Ann.
tenant Richard Lloyd 1s 8d
(Dolgellau R.O. IR/23/118)
- 1803** Maps and Surveys of Estates in counties of Caernarfon and Merioneth belonging to John Wynne esq by
Jn Mathews include details of Bron ronw 173a Op 1r tenants Richard Lloyd and Owen Owen.
(Note this includes Bron'erw) (Flint R.O. Hawarden D/SH/824)

1804 Oct 20 death John Wynne Barrister at Law and Bencher of the Middle Temple, aged 77 and lies buried in the Temple Church NB unmarried
(M.I. Northop Church)

1809-1811 Rent Roll of Bennar and Dol y Moch Estates belonging to the Right Honble (sic) Sir Wm Wynne Knt. (Second son of Bishop John and Ann) Incl Bron yr Onen.
Robert Lloyd and Owen Owens £19
Richard Lloyd and John Lloyd £19
(Flint R.O.Hawarden D/SH/681)

1815 Dec 11 death Right Hon Sir William Wynne R.LLD who “bred to the civil law filled in succession the offices of King's Advocate, Chancellor of London, Judge of the Prerogative Court and Dean of the Arches. He was also a Privy Counsellor and Master of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He died in London aged 86 was buried in St Benet's Church near Doctors Commons where a monument is erected to his memory” NB unmarried
(M.I. Northop Church)
Estate now devolves to his g. nephew William John Banks

1820 Rent Roll of estates of W.J. Banks
incl Bryn Erw, Rob Lloyd and Owen Owen £19
Bryn yr Onnen, Richard Lloyd and John Lloyd £19
(Flint R.O. D/SH/756)

1821 Aug 23 death Richard Lloyd tenant 85 years
(Ffestiniog Parish Records)

1840/41 Tithe Map nos 41 Ffestiniog
George Banks Esq. Rev Edward Banks, Rt. Hon Earl of Falmouth (Edward Boscaven - brother in law)
Owners of 8 properties incl Bron Ronw, John Lloyd)174a - 4p
Bron i Erw, Owen Owens)
William John Banks (sic) owns 12 properties in Maentwrog
(Dolgellau R.O.)

1841 Census BronGronwy HO107/1427/3/373

John Lloyd	68	Farmer	born in county
Ellin Lloyd	46		“
John Lloyd	17		“
Elizabeth Lloyd	14		“
Evan Lloyd	11		“
Robert Lloyd	7		“
Ellis Lloyd	43		“

1851 Census Brongoronwy 2512/238

John Lloyd	mar	78	Farmer of 30 Acres	Ffestiniog
Eleanor Lloyd	wife	57		“
*John Lloyd	s	28	Farmer's son	“
Elizabeth Lloyd	d	23		“
Robert Lloyd	s	17	Farmer's son	“
Jane Edwards	gd	2		“

Edward Evans lodger 56 Unmar quarryman “
Ellis Evans lodger 53 Unmar retired lab. Maentwrog

1855/6 Rental of the Ddol y Moch estate. Rev. Edward Bankes with William Robson
incl Bronronnw *Lloyd John Jun £21

(Flint R.O. D/SH/777)

1859/60 Rental of Ddol y Moch Estate
incl Bronronnw Lloyd John Jun. £26

(Flint RO.D/SH/781)

1861 Mar 31 death John Lloyd tenant aged 87 bur 3 Ap (Ml. grave B138 Ffestiniog churchyard)

1861 Census. Brongoronwy 4324/28

John Lloyd	mar	38	Farmer	Ffestiniog
Lorah Lloyd	wife	31		“
Ellin Lloyd	d	2		“
(Margaret) Mairgaid	d	2		“
Jane Lloyd	neice	13		“
Ellin Lloyd	unmar	68	parish pauper	Maentwrog (could be widowed mother)
Edward Evans	unmar	60	lab	Maentwrog

1867 24 May death of Canon Edward Bankes (General Register Office GRO)
His first son John Scott Bankes inherits Brongoronwy as part of Dolymoch estate.

1869/70 Rental of the Ddol y Moch estate of John Scott Bankes with Thomas T Kelly
inc Bronronw, Lloyd John £26

(Ruthin R.O.D/SH.784)

1870 Aug17 Ddol y Moch Estate. Sale catalogue
sold by auction by Messrs Churton & Elphick at Oakley Arms Hotel
in 14 lots incl lot 5 Lletty Neast Farm, Tyddyn Gwyn Back Farm, Tyddyn Gwyn Mawr Farm.
Bron'r-erw Farm.approx 24 acres, Bron Ronnw Farm approx. 26 acres and sharing approx. 124
acres with Bron'r-erw Farm

(Ruthin R.O. D/SH/897)

Lot 5 bought by Mr William Pierce
(in conditions of sale in "Brongoronwy Estate" catalogue, see below)

1871 Census Brongoronwy 5696/28

John Lloyd	mar	47	Farmer of 100 acres	Ffestiniog
Lora Lloyd	wife	40		Trawsfynydd
Elizabeth Lloyd	d	14		Ffestiniog
Ellin Lloyd	d	12		Ffestiniog
John Lloyd	s	9		Ffestiniog

1880 June "Brongoronwy Estate" Sale catalogue
sold to Phillips Lloyd Fletcher £5650 0s 0d
by auction by Messrs. Wm Dew & Son Pengwern Arms
pencil addition "W Davies for Fletcher £5650. 0. 0.

Rents £178. 10

(deposited in Dolgellau R.O.)

1881 Census Brongoronwy 5550/25

John Lloyd	mar	57	Farmer	Ffestiniog
Laura Lloyd	wife	50		Trawsfynydd
John Lloyd	s un	19	Quarryman	Ffestiniog
Kate Lloyd	gd	1		Ffestiniog

1891 Census Brongoronwy 4645/13

John Lloyd	mar	67	Farmer	Ffestiniog
Laura Lloyd	wife	60		Trawsfynydd
Richard Roberts	um	17	Farm servant	Maentwrog

1891 Apr Phillips Lloyd Fletcher makes will giving all estates in Ffestiniog, Maentwrog & Penmachno to sisters:

Charlotte Eliz Fletcher
Harriette Fletcher
Frances Emma Fletcher
Mary Ellen Fletcher

And after their death to sister Henrietta Esther Elwes

(Copy of Abstract of Title of Mrs H E Elwes 1920. In hand)

1892 Nov 17 death John Lloyd, buried 19th November aged 69 years.

(Ml grave B139 Ffestiniog churchyard)

1896 Mar 01 Charlotte Eliz Fletcher dies

(Nat. Probate Calendar 1896)

1901 Census Brongoronwy 5257/24

David Price	mar	39	Farmer employer	Trawsfynydd
Ann Price	wife	38		Ffestiniog
Lizzie Price	d	15		Ffestiniog
Ann Price	d	11		Ffestiniog
David Price	s	10		Trawsfynydd
John E Price	s	8		Trawsfynydd
Ellen Price	d	5		Trawsfynydd
Robert Price	s	4		Trawsfynydd
Humphrey Price	s	4		Ffestiniog
Maggie Price	d	8 months		Ffestiniog

1903 Mar 25- land for Engedi Chapei sold for £127

1906 Sept 10 Phillips Lloyd Fletcher dies

(Nat. Probate Calendar 1906)

1909 Feb 25 Frances Emma Fletcher dies

(Nat. Probate Calendar 1909)

1910 Land Tax

Brongoronwy owner Fletcher, occupant David Price £178. 0.0.

(Dolgellau R.O. 2/QR.L/16)

1910 05 June Mary Ellen Fletcher dies

(GRO)

1911 Census	Brongoronwy			
David Price	wid	49	labourer in slate quarry	Trawsfynydd
Lizzie Jones	d	25		Ffestiniog
Willie Jones	s in law	26	worker on farm	Patagonia Cheeput Trigg
Oronwen Jones	gs	2		Ffestiniog
Emyr Jones	gs	11		Ffestiniog
Nell Price	d	15		Trawsfynydd
Robert Price	s	14		Trawsfynydd
Humphrey Price	s	12		Ffestiniog
Maggie Price	d	10		Ffestiniog

1919 May 10 Harriette Fletcher dies (Nat. Probate Calendar 1919)

1919 Dec 10 Sale catalogue " Pengwern Estate formerly known as Fletcher Estate"
 By auction by John Pritchard & Co. Public Hall Ffestiniog.
 50 Lots Bron Goronwy lot 13. pencil addition "£580 withdrawn"
 occupation of Mr David Price (Dolgellau R.O. ZF/45)

1920 Jan 02 David Price dies tenant aged 58 years (M.I. Grave GO71/Ffestiniog Cemetery)
 Son Robert Price takes over

1920 Henrietta Ester Elwes repays mortgages on Estate

1921 May 11 Conveyance: Henrietta Ester Elwes sells Brongoronwy to Henry Jones of Babell Cottage,
 Ffestiniog, farmer for £700. 59 a. 1r 9p
 (Copy of Conveyance. In hand)

1921 Spring Evan Williams occupies Brongoronwy

1921 Autumn Evan Williams and Henry Parry
 (Electoral Roll Cynfal Ward (K) Ffestiniog Dolgellau RO)

1925 July 02 Henry Jones dies intestate. On 2nd July 1925. Robert Richard Jones inherits
 (On conveyance Feb 06 1929)

1927 Robert Jones & Maggie Jones (Electoral Roll)

1928-1955 Roland E James (succ) (Electoral Roll)

1929 Feb 06 Conveyance: Robert Richard Jones sells to Morris Jones of Cynfal Barmouth saddler.
 (Copy of Conveyance, in hand)

1941 Feb Conveyance: Midland Bank sells to R.Pierce Jones (NOT of Cynfal) (Conveyance)

1947 Oct Conveyance: R Pierce Jones sells to Rowland Evans James (Conveyance)

1947 Nov 24 Rowland Evans James sells to John Roberts the land of Brongornwy
 across road except field nos. 1187 (Gorse y Glaw uchaf and Cae y Erw isaf)
 (on copy of conveyance 1921)

1955 Oct Conveyance: R. Evans James sells to Henry Jones (no relation of the above Henry Jones)
 (Conveyance)

c1956	Conveyance: Henry Jones sells to Mrs Constance Winifred Jay	(Conveyance)
1956	Roland James & Jennie at Pant Glas	(Electoral Roll)
1962-70	Constance Winifred Jay	(Electoral Roll)
Pre 1966 ?	Gordon and Annette Cowie from Burton on Trent bought Brongoronwy as a holiday cottage	(Local resident)
c late 1980s ?	David Hildreth (from the Midlands) is the owner	(Local resident)
1982-2005	David Hildreth	(Electoral Roll)
2005	Bought by the current owner, Goronwy Jones, who is (in 2011) restoring the house.	

Researched by Miss Dinah Pickard, Merioneth, March 2012

Appendix of Abbreviations

R.O. – Record Office

N.L.W – National Library of Wales

P.C.C – Prerogative Court of Canterbury

M.I. – Memorial Inscription

G.R.O. – General Register Office

(Emailed version 23May 2012)