

# SNOWDONIA DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

## GWASTAD ANNAS,

Nantgwynant, Beddgelert, Gwynedd

### **BUILDING:**

1953: Gwastadanas: Plan with notes: Whitewashed rubble walls. The whitewash makes it difficult to distinguish alterations st joists etc, but it does seem we have here that rarity the “Peate” house with the main door opposite the chimney. 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century; remains of semi-crucks; single storey with loft; stone hoods over openings; squat square chimney; all openings apparently original. Condition: fair. P.S. C.H.H. Visited 21 September 1953.

(RCAHMW, Caernarfonshire Inventory II, 1960, monument 707, p 22)

1978: Gwastadanas: A much altered random stone rubble house, now of single storey with attic form but perhaps originally of single storey only with a loft at one end (?). The roof originally was of cruck construction but has been raised and reduced in pitch probably during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In doing so the crucks in the unheated room were cut out and only a stub remains in one wall (T1). One principal above the “hall” has also been removed (TII) and the third truss is new (TIII), that is, 19<sup>th</sup> century. The roof covering is slate.

The central chimney is massive with stone slabs above the roof. The large fireplace has a beam 14” deep by 12” thick, it has a simple chamfer with angle stops. The entrance to the house opens onto the flank of the chimney to produce the “Lobby entry” plan.

The floor beam (TIII) is notched to take floor joists on one side at least (the other is hidden by the screen wall) and the present joists are set on top of the beam.

All windows have a stone label above them. The entire structure except the gable end of the modern barn is limewashed.

(RCAHMW notes & new plan, I R Stainburn, January 1978)

1998: Cadw Listed Grade II Listed 1968; amended 1998; [2006 amended to II\*].

History: House of late medieval origins. Dendrochronological investigation has provided a felling date of 1508 for two cruck-blades, and a date of c1539-75 for the bressummer beam over the hall fireplace, demonstrating the insertion of a fireplace into a cruck-framed hall. Part of the Aberconwy Monastic lands farmed from 1508 and later bought by the Wynn family of Gwydir. Named as Iwasdaines in Ministers Account of 1536.

Exterior: 2-unit lobby-entry house with later addition in lime. Of whitened rubble construction with C20 slate roof (Rubble gable parapets lost), with squat central chimney; weathercoursing and simple capping. Stone hoods above the primary openings with C20 glazing. Off-centre entrance (to L) with stopped-chamfered frame and recessed boarded floor; flanking windows and a further, blocked opening immediately to L. Further window and boarded entrance in later addition to far R. The rear has a 10- pane turn-of-the-century casement in a former door opening, with 6-pane flanking casements. Further entrance to L with boarded door, this is recessed between 2 C20 lean-to additions, that to the left larger and both with corrugated iron roofs. Four-pane late C19/early C20 sash to the upper L gable.

Interior: Lobby entry plan with parlour to the L and former hall to the R of the chimney. Wide stopped-chamfered bressummer to hall fireplace, with similar lateral ceiling beam and stone-flagged floor; C19 ceiling joists and boarded doors. An enclosed C19 corkscrew stair with pine boarding leads to the upper floor from the hall. Two-bay collar truss roof to primary section, with C19 superimposed roof structure.

Listed at Grade II\* as an unusual surviving example of a stone-built late medieval hall-house, securely dated to the C16 and retaining good traditional character.

Reference: Smith, P. Houses of the Welsh Countryside, 1988, maps 12, 30; RCAHM, Caernarvonshire, Vol II, Central, 1960, p22 (707), fig 28; Information from Margaret Griffith; Nigel Nayling, Tree Ring Analysis of Timbers from Selected Buildings in the Beddgelert Area, (University of Wales Lampeter Dendrochronology Report 2005)

### **2005: Dendrochronology results:**

The number of suitable timbers available was very limited. Two cruck blades, truncated some time in the past, were both sampled by taking thin slices from their exposed ends (samples 01 and 02, Table 1). Two samples were taken from apparently later features including a bressummer beam over as inserted (?) fireplace (sample 04), and the collar of a roof truss over the fire (Sample 3) (Figure 3: site of samples taken). The samples from the cruck blades and that from the bressummer beam proved suitable for analysis and have all dated, cross-marching against each other and timbers from Hafod Lwyfog.

Dating of both cruck blades indicate felling in AD 1508. The bressummer beam, with possible heartwood/sapwood interface, located over an apparently inserted fireplace, has been dated to an estimated felling date range of AD 1539-754?

Samples: [Table 1]

01 origin of core: Truncated E cruck blade. Slice sample; sapwood poorly preserved;  
date of sequence: AD 1322-1483. felling period: AD 1483-1513.

02 origin of core: Truncated W **cruck blade**. Slice sample.  
date of sequence: AD 1302-1508. felling period: **AD 1508**.

03 origin of core: Collar from truss over bressummer beam; badly fragmented and few rings; date of sequence: unmeasured felling period: undated.

04 origin of core: **Bressummer beam**.  
date of sequence: AD 1335-11529. felling period: **AD 1439-75?**

(Nigel Nayling, University of Wales, Dendrochronology Report 2005, Tree-Ring Analysis of Timbers from Selected Buildings in the Beddgelert Area, North Wales)

*Gwastad Annas house lies in a level shelf 100m above O.D., in an area of rocky outcrops above the valley bottom on the E side of the upper Nantgwynant valley. It is orientated almost N-S with the main door facing west, down into the valley; the inserted fireplace opens onto the hall towards the south. There was a well just to the north of the house but that has been blocked in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is a mountain stream close by, to the south of the building.*

# The History of the Owners and Tenants of GWASTADANNAS. A chronological summary in note form.

Introduction: Circa 1199 Llywelyn ap Iorwerth granted the township of Nanhwynan to the Cistercian house of Aberconway. From circa 1508-1681 Gwastadannas was leased from the monastery and then the Crown, and was later bought by the ancestors of the Wynn family of Gwydir. From circa 1681 it was sold and became part of the Nant, Bettws Garmon estate which itself was later part of the vast Baron Hill estate. These notes draw together information from a variety of sources concerning the house and some of its occupants.

## History of the holding:

The township of Nanhwynan, in the commote of Is Gwyrfaï in the south of the cantref of Arfon, in medieval Gwynedd, was an area of scattered farmsteads, most extending from the valley-bottom river to the watershed along the surrounding mountain ridges.

The valley served, from an early period, as a mountain redoubt, containing “lands” with fixed boundaries for the temporary maintenance of stock, and was a strong point supported by bond *gafaelion*, at least by the twelfth century. After the need for places of retreat had for various reasons ceased to exist, the “lands” became summer grazings for lowland cattle,

Although Nanhwynan was surrounded by high mountains, the valley bottom was only some few hundred feet above sea-level. As soon as the monks gave up trying to work so large a district on their own as a true monastic grange, if indeed they ever managed to do so, the tenants that they introduced on long leases would have begun to clear the trees covering the flat alluvial land beside the river and lakes, and the stones from the slopes just above, thus creating for themselves permanent holdings. ... In the mountains of Gwynedd, the type of land tenure used was the *gafael*, a piece of land with a fixed boundary round it.

(C A Gresham, 1983, The Aberconwy Charter; further consideration, BBCS XXV, p 335).

Around 1200, probably soon after Llywelyn ab Iorwerth (Prince Llywelyn the Great) gained control of Dinas Emrys and the township of Nanhwynan (now Nantgwynant), he granted the whole township as a grange to the Cistercian Abbey of Aberconwy. The grant charter of circa 1199 lists fifteen separate lands situated in Nanhwynan, starting with **Gwastat Onnos**. The separate boundaries of each are not noted, but they were plainly natural features for the most part, such as rivers and mountain ridges.

The boundary ridges are described thus by Gresham:

“**eranongoch**. For *er avon goch*, modern *Yr Afon Goch*, “The Red River”. The stream indicated is now called *Nant y Llys*, but the name *Afon Goch* occurs elsewhere in the district.

“*Lledat, edrych*. For *llegat yr ych*, modern *Llygad yr ych*, “The eye of the Ox”. The name was known until recently on the farm of Gwastad Annas in *Gwaun Llygad yr ych* and *Pwll Llygad yr ych*. It is connected with the well-known story of the drawing of the *Afanc* out of the lake by the twin Ychain Bannog. This was the point at which

one of the oxen lost its eye through the awful strain of pulling the monster. (See Edward Llwyd's version of the story, *Cambrian Journal*. 1859, pages 142-3.)

“*Cerric, ery-ch*. There has been an erasure in the middle of the second word and over it have been added in a darker ink two letters, the first of which is a y and the second doubtful. The word was thus read by Dugdale as *eryypch*. It seems likely that the scribe was copying the name *cerric erych*, but wrote *eryrych* by mistake. He therefore erased the redundant *ry* and so left a space, which was later filled in by someone else, who tried to copy what was left of the two letters. This, amongst a number of other readings, strongly suggests that Dugdale never saw the original Charter but made his copy from this *Inspeximus*.

“*llech, edear*. “either *llech Edcar* (=Edgar), or *llech y ddar*, “the rock of the oak, or *llech y dyar*, “the rock of the noise, or tumult”. Cf. *Cerrig Lafar*. Ifor Williams. (C A Gresham “The Aberconwy Charter”, 1939, *Arch. Camb.*, pp 150-7)

pre 1899: Jenkins comments on the name Gwastad Annas: A sensible derivation can be given – *Gwastad* – level ground or land -, and *onnos*- an old plural used in these parts for the singular “*onen*” - an ash tree. If Edward Llwyd's generally accepted view of the derivation of the name of Hafod Lwyfog is correct, it is only natural to suppose that “*Onnos*” is the original form of *Annas*, because there was a large number of ash-trees growing there.

There is a word in everyday use, among sheep farmers, which means driving up the sheep to the mountains. The word is “*annos*”. In times gone by fences were not much used, and every sheep farmer had his shepherd or shepherds. At certain times in the year, these farmers gathered their flocks to one great centre for the purpose of taking stock, exchanging breeds, buying and selling. ... It does not seem at all unlikely that the name originated from this practice, coupled with the fact that the new shepherds entering into the service of a new master would begin their “*annos*” work at this place, so as to have a good opportunity of knowing their sheep before they were driven to the open mountain land. ... Gwastad Annas might stand for *Gwastad Danas*, the plain of the deer. (D E Jenkins, 1899, *Beddgelert Its Facts Fairies and Folklore*, p 291-2)

Concerning the name *Gwastad Onnos* Gresham comments: “See J Ll Jones, *Enwau Lleodd* page 16, where *Annas, Annes and dannas* are suggested. There is, however, a possibility that *onnos* may be from *onn* – ash. Cf in the same district (*g*)*wernos* (noted below). In a name like *rhedynossydd* (*Life of Gruffydd ap Cynan*, page 144) the ending *-os* is not a diminutive (as in *plantos*, little children), but is used of a place where *rhedyn* grows, a “a fern brake”. So *gwernos*, a place where alder abounds. I suggest that *onnos* may be almost synonymous with *Llwyn On* “Ash Grove”. (There is an Irish noun *onn*, “stone, rock”, but it is safer to connect this *onnos* with *onn*, “ash”, known to exist in Welsh, than to guess that *onn* might be a cognate of the Irish word for “rock”, without being able to prove its existence.)” (C A Gresham “The Aberconwy Charter”, 1939, *Arch. Camb.*, pp 150-7)

Over the following centuries the Cistercians began to lease out their holdings, and this probably also occurred in Nanhwynan. (C A Gresham “The Aberconwy Charter”, 1939, *Arch. Camb.*, pp 150-7)

1503: Presentments at an Inquisition held at Nantgwynant by Sir Richard Pole, Seneschal of the Abbey of Conway:

1. Dd Goch ap Gruff, ap Ll of Dinorwic, on the charge of horse stealing
2. Guttyn ap Meurig Pyrs Lloyd of Brithdir (Merioneth) on a charge of cattle lifting.  
(?Bangor, Porth yr Aur, ms 59)

### **1. The Wynn Family of Gwydir: circa 1506 Monastic and Crown tenants, then owners up to circa 1681.**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> lessee of Gwastadannas & owner of the Wynn estate:**

##### **Maredudd ab Ieuan ap Robert (c1460-1525)**

In 1506 Maredudd ab Ieuan ap Robert (c1470-1525) and his oldest son John Wynn ap Maredudd (c1492-1559) were appointed, by Abbot Dafydd ap Owain, stewards for life of the Nanhwynan lands and the other Caernarfonshire lands of the Aberconwy monastery, joining Maurice ap Rhys (Morris Gethin) of Plas Iolyn who had been appointed steward in Hiraethog in 1501. (R W Hays, *The History of the Abbey of Aberconway*, 1963, pp174-75; C A Gresham, 1983, *The Aberconwy Charter*; further consideration, *BBCS XXV*, p 337).

In 1508 Maredudd ab Ieuan ap Robert obtained from Dafydd, the abbot of Aberconwy the leases, of the holdings in Nanhwynan of Bwlch Murchan, **Gwastadannas**, Hafod Tandreg, Llyndy, Hafod-y-porth, Cwmdyli, Wernlasdeg and Glasdraian.

In 1590 John Wynn recovered control of these land holdings and Hafod Nether and Dinas Moch. (UWB, Baron Hill Ms 3206; NLW CWP ms 132; C A Gresham, 1983, *The Aberconwy Charter*; further consideration, *BBCS XXV*, p 337).

Maredudd ap Ieuan ap Robert's will has not survived, but it appears from later documents that at his death in 1525 the monastic lease of much of Nantgwynant passed to his eldest son, **John Wyn ap Maredudd**.

The lease is mentioned around 1700 by Bishop Humphrey Humphreys who noted in a manuscript of Sir John Wynn's *History of the Gwydir Family*, now lost, concerning "Maredudd Wynn ab Ifan ab Rhobert of Gesail Gyfarch in the township of Penyfed in Eifionydd" who died aged about 65 years, on 18th May, 1525: "that at his death by his will dated 4<sup>th</sup> May 1525 he left his estate to certain Trustees to be divided among his four sons, **John Wyn**, Rees Wyn, Humphrey Wyn and Kadwalader. To John Wynne: Gwyder and his lands in Nanconway Dolwyddelan and Llanfrothen; (Rees dy'd [c1531] before ye partition); to Humphrey: Gesail gyfarch etc; etc; Cadwaladr (who was several times member of parliament), Wenallt etc." (J. Wynn, *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Askew Roberts (1878), p. 85).

In 1525 Maredudd ap Ifan ap Robert, died at Gwydir and was buried at Dolwyddelan church. He had sired twenty children (J. Wynn. *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Daines Barrington (1827), 97-98), or twenty six to over thirty children according to other sources. (J. Wynn, *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Askew Roberts (1878), p. 87)

His fourth and youngest son Cadwaladr was then aged one year and John Wyn ap Maredudd, his eldest half-brother was aged 32 years. Cadwalader was said to have then been placed in the custody of his elder half-brother, **John Wynn of Gwydir** (PRO SP. 12/185/96; J Gwynfor Jones, *The Wynn Estate of Gwydir c. 1500-1580*, NLWJ 22, (1981), p 143; J E Griffith, 1914, *Pedigrees*, p 185; J. Wynn, *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Daines Barrington (1827), p. 98; C.A. Gresham, *Eifionydd* (1973), pp. 259).

**2. Owner of the Wynn estate: John Wyn ap Maredudd**, son of Maredudd was born c1493, inherited in 1525 and died in 1559. He was the eldest of the four sons of Maredudd ab Ieuan ap Rhobert. Some time after the death of their brother Rhys Wyn in 1531, **John Wyn ap Maredudd**, Humphrey ap Maredudd & Cadwaladr ap Maredudd received their inheritances as set out by their father Maredudd. Cadwaladr, aged 7 years, was still too young to control his lands which were probably still held in trust by his eldest half-brother John Wyn ap Maredudd.

He continued to consolidate the estate of Gwydir, and adopted the surname Wynn. On 30 January 1535, John Wynne ap Maredudd was one of the commissioners for the diocese of St Asaph appointed by Henry VIII to compile a record of the financial conditions of churches and monasteries - the "Valor Ecclesiasticus". In 1536 John Wynne ap Maredudd was steward of the Aberconway abbey's possessions in Caernarfonshire; his salary was £2 13s 4d and he was paid an additional 16s 8d for acting as receiver in his territory. Aberconway Abbey was dissolved by 25 March 1537. (R W Hays, *The History of the Abbey of Aberconway*, 1963, p 158, 159, 174 & 178)

At the dissolution of the monasteries the greater part of the Cistercian Aberconwy grange of Nanhwynan came into the possession of the Wynn family of Gwydir (John Ballinger, *Calendar of Wynn (of Gwydir) Papers. 1515-1690* (1926), nos. 1094, 1483, 1592; U.C.N.W. Baron Hill MS 3206; J Gwynfor Jones, *The Wynn Estate of Gwydir c. 1500-1580*, pp. 142,143,144; C.A. Gresham, 'The Parish of Beddgelert', TCHS 30, (1969), p 24).

In the 1536 Ministers' Accounts preceding the dissolution of the Monasteries, the property **Gwastadannas** is named. All the Nanhwynan holdings were leased out by the Crown:

**John Wyn ap Maredudd** obtained six tenancies: **Gwastadannas**, Bwlch murchan, Hafod y llan, Hafod Tandreg, Llyndy & Hafod y Porth (£10 1s 8d) plus Hafod Kyske (£2 6s 8d) & Hafod Lwyfog (£1 6s 8d).

Robert ap Howel ap Rhys leased Wernlasdeg (£2 13 4d) & Hafod Nether (£1 10s)

No tenants' names are given for Comyenly, Crafflaene, Glastreane or for one unnamed holding. (PRO Ministers' Account, Henry VIII, 4972)

Dinas Moch may be the unnamed holding as it was part of the grange of Nanhwynan.

"At the Dissolution of the Monasteries when the larger blocks of land ceased to be monastic granges they had not only to be brought into some form of parochial system within the diocese, but also merged with the civil administration of the counties. For this purpose they were made into manors with courts and bailiffs to administer them and collect rates. The Manor of Nanhwynan lasted well into the nineteenth century, and a surviving court book covering the years 1747-1827 is preserved in the National Library of Wales. (NLW ms 7854A; C A Gresham, 1983, *The Aberconwy Charter*; further consideration, BBCS XXV, p 337).

Britain became Protestant and was no longer Roman Catholic; the local effects of the Reformation are not known, but the Wynn family appear to have adapted as necessary in order to continue to improve their status politically and socially in the county.

**John Wyn ap Maredudd** was High Sheriff of Caernarfonshire in 1545 and 1557, achieved considerable prominence in local government and was elected to Parliament.

In February 1547 Edward VI, aged 9 years, succeeded King Henry VIII.

In 1553 Queen Mary succeeded King Edward VI and returned Britain to Roman Catholicism.

In 1558, on 17 November, Queen Elizabeth succeeded Queen Mary, and Britain again became protestant. She died on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1603.

**3. Owner of the Wynn estate: Morus Wynn** was the eldest son of John Wyn. He was born in 1520, inherited in 1559 and died in 1580. In 1559 when John Wyn ap Maredudd died, Morus Wynn, his eldest son and heir succeeded to much of the Gwydir estate, including **Gwastadannas**, Hafod y Porth and Llyndy in Nantgwynant. Morus Wynn leased or bought Meillionen & Cae'r ychen.

Morus's brother Gryffudd Wynn inherited Hafod y llan & he or his brother Robert Wynn inherited Bwlch murchan. At their brother, Dr John Gwynne's, death in 1574 John's estate went to Robert Wynn who built Plas Mawr, Conway around 1576, & who died in 1598. Robert Wynn assigned Bwlch murchan to Owen Wynn of Caemilwr, who died in 1590.

*Hafod Lwyfog is not listed in John Wyn ap Maredudd's will. It may have been left to Maredudd's son Humffrey Wynn of Gesail Gyfarch as his descendant Evan Lloyd later lived there.*

? 1568 Jan 14: Letter from John Wynne to his brother (?Maurice Wynn)

He is sustaining more and more loss in maintaining the poor stock of cattle his father left him. If they could have remained at Koytmor, their accustomed place, for a year or two, while he had provided for them, they would have done better. ... He has been very angry with his brother Griffith for having sent them to Llanfrothen. He would rather have bestowed them one by one on his friends.

He has spoken to him about having the tenancy of **Gwastad Annas**, parish Bethgelert, and was told he could have it if **Morgan** could be persuaded to relinquish it and take another place as Morus Wynn would not put him out against his will. John Wynn is prepared to give up tenancy in Llanfrothen and would have hoped to some exchange with him through his brother the ?parson/patron. If he can have Gwastad Annas he would be prepared to yield up Hendre in occupation of William ap Nicholas ... (GAS XQP/32N)

|   |      |       |     |
|---|------|-------|-----|
| 1569 Gwastad Anas stock: cattle, all ages | 110; | sheep | 78  |
| 1787 " " "                                | 39   | "     | 357 |

(UWB, Bangor mss 2133-2141, Farm Inventories)

FARM STOCK: Up to the end of the seventeenth century and well into the eighteenth century, in many areas, the summer stock was predominantly horned cattle stock, and these ranged to the open crests of the highest peaks. ... ample testimony of the autumn flow of store cattle to England from early in the fifteenth century.

... Sheep economy was very restricted in Wales until the Inclosure Movement with its provision of walled-in enclosures, made hill sheep farming as understood in our day possible. The intermediate land unit of the *ffridd*, walled in and lying between the lowland enclosures of the farm and the open high hill sheep-walks, for summer use, made possible the modern self-contained hill farm; this was not possible before the days of inclosure. (R A Roberts, Ecology of Human Occupation and Land Use in Snowdonia, Journal of Ecology 1959, p 317-323)

**\*\*\*1568-74: Rentals & Estate Memoranda of Maurice Wynn of Gwydir & Stock accounts for several farms (GWASTAD ANNES) (NLW CWP ms 61) SEE**  
“Of the stock maintained on this upland terrain (mainly Dolwyddelan + Gwastadannas) c1569-71, the numbers of sheep on these farms were greater than those of cattle and goats, contrary to the traditional view that cattle and goats together outnumbered sheep”. (J Gwynfor Jones, 1995, The Wynn Family of Gwydir, p 47)

1569 July 10: Gastadannos: names a Thomas ap Morgan & Eliza ap Jn  
Long Welsh list of cattle of various types: total without calves: 94  
(NLW, Llanstephan 179b, page 34). **Have photocopy - TRANSLATE**

1569 November: Recd .... The day and year above – of Eliza ap John ap Hoell ap David and John/Jevan ap Nicholas the sum of £20 on this consideration following that if I did not repay the sum again on this said May day next May (Feast of St Philip & St James) in 1570 but the said Eliza and Jevan their guarantees or assigns that they are to have the **tenement of Gastodannes** for 4 years the next immediately following to be yielded paying only the Queen’s Rents thereof due and services and they are to pay me £4 or other ?considerations to that value and for ther yeares to commence and begin at the feast aforesaid for witness of the promises Sir (Gr) Thoms ap Morgan  
And that the said £20 above was repaid the said Eliza the first day of Aprill in yr 1570. (NLW, Llanstephan 179b, page 47 (9)).

1570 July Gwastodannos stock list in Welsh; total without calves 87; names Elisa ap John (NLW, Llanstephan 179b, page 79) Have photocopy - TRANSLATE

**1571 Gwastadannos stock (NLW, Llanstephan 179b, page 145)**

**1572 Gwastad Annes.** John ap Rhys ap Gr ap John ap ?Rhys + Maes ....ddion.  
(NLW, Llanstephan 179b, page 152)

**1572 Gwastad annas:** Demised the said year to Richard ap John ap Preese and Griffith ap John ap Preese for 4 years from May Day in the said year, the Queen Majesties rents and duties reserved, the fine or income beforehand paid at Christmas their presents with service of ye reparations and amendings etc.  
(NLW, Llanstephan 179b, page 153)

On February 20 1569 an Indictment was issued “against Owen ap Res Bedo and Dd’ ap Res Bedo, both formerly of Nanmor, yeomen, who broke and carried off timber from oak trees growing in Her Majesties forest at Nanhuyen.” (GAS, XQS, 1569.1, Footnote: Fined. Endorsed: Billa Vera.) These men may have been of the family at Fedw bach, Nanmor, where William ap Bedo is mentioned in 1612 (NLW, Dolfriog 289) and his son David ap William in named in 1641 and 1667 (NLW Dolfriog 167, 312 & 314). This case indicates the wooded environment of Nanhwynan at that time.

late 1600s: Edward Llwyd says: “This kingdom was formerly nothing but wilderness, as you know, and there were several places that have received their names from trees (in Wales). At Nanhwynen trees were so thick that a man on a white horse could not be seen from Llyn Dinas to Pen y Gwryd, except in two places, and one of these places has ever since been called Goleугоed”. (D E Jenkins, 1899, Beddgelert Its Facts Fairies and Folklore, p 291)



The way leading into these valleys entered at Drws y Coed – The Door of the Woods , and it is said that only in one place could the sky be seen the whole way through, except at Bwlch Mwlchan, and that was Bwlch Goleugoed. There was no real gap even there, but the trees were thin enough to leave a clear view of the heavens. (D E Jenkins, 1899, Beddgelert Its Facts Fairies and Folklore, p 310)

#### **Litigation concerning Hafod Riske:**

“Little evidence survives to show that Maredudd ab Ieuan and John Wyn ap Maredudd became involved in litigation. It was during the period when the estate was in its more expansive phase, c1560-1627, when Morus Wynn and his son owned the estate, that claims and counter claims to property began to reveal bitter and deep-seated rivalries. ... Judging by contemporary evidence he (Morus Wynn) appears to have lacked initiative when the need rose to stand firm in defence of his private interests. ... Judging by Morus Wynn’s involvement in estate matters, however, it appears that he devoted himself to conducting his domestic affairs with meticulous care to a far greater degree than any other member of the family before or after. Diffident he may have been in some respects but, like others of his rank, he devised skilful methods of counteracting tenants’ actions against him.

“For example, he was accused by the tenants of Hafod-y-rhisgl of suppressing their rights to leases although he “used faire speech and protested great friendship unto them being his nigh kynffolkes” promising them a forty-year lease. He was described as being “of an ill mynde and bad disposicon who, contrary to his former promises made ... did in secrett sort use and devyse some ungodly and covetous with an intencon to defeate them as well of their interest and terme of yeares ... in suppressing and keeping of ... leases”.”

(refs: PRO SP 12/185/96; NLW Ms 9051E.132; J Gwynfor Jones. The Wynn Family of Gwydir, 1995, p 81-2: Property & other Disputes 1570-1627)

This must have occurred between 1559 and 1580, when Morus Wynn owned the estate.

Morus Wynn’s will states that his son John was to receive his rights, titles and interest in **Gwastadannas**, Hafod-y-porth and Llyndy with their appurtenances in Nanhwynan yielding the accustomed Crown rents. (NLW, MS 463B, 68-9; According to the 1580 will Jane Wynn, Morus’ daughter by Katherine, was either to keep **Gwastadannas** for twenty years or to sell it to her half-brother John Wynn, for £200 (E Roberts, Priodasau Catrin o Ferain, Denbighshire Hist. Soc., 20. 1971, p 43)

... Morus Wynn’s first wife, during her eldest son’s nonage, was to keep her cattle at **Gwastadannas**, Hafod-y-porth and Llyndy paying the accustomed rents, and, when the heir attained his majority, she was to transfer the tenements to him. (NLW, MS 463B, 70)

4. Owner of the Gwydir estate: **John Wynn of Gwydir**, son of Maurice Wynn, was born in 1553, inherited in 1580 and died in 1626/7 aged 73. He wrote notes for his “History of the Gwydir Family” and his “Memoirs”, probably from the 1590s onwards, and maybe before he was knighted in 1606.

On 11<sup>th</sup> December 1581, John Wynn at Gwydir received a letter from “his loving cosen” William Thomas in Caernarvon concerning Thomas’ title to the rent of Nanhoynen to the Queen’s use, which is claimed by the Queen’s auditor. (NLW, CWP 97 not copied here).

On 20 March 1589-90 Sir John Wynn (of Gwydir) recovered control of monastic lands in Nanhwynain, once belonging to the abbey of Aberconway, leased to his ancestor Maredudd ap Ieuan ap Robert and others by David the abbot in 1508, Bwlch Mwrchan, **Gwastad Annas**, Hafod Anthreg, Llyndy, Hafod y Porth, Glastrain etc. (UWB, Baron Hill Vol II, 1329-1752, Caernarfonshire Papers, Ms 3206)

“The **1580s and 1590s** saw Sir John Wynn becoming more intensively involved in litigation and bitter quarrels with neighbouring families equally ambitious to advance their claims to property. ... One of the disputes that caught Sir John Wynn unawares and caused him some anxiety in **1585** was that involving tenants rights in a holding called **Hafod-y-rhisgl in Nanhwynan**. The tenant, Janet verch Thomas - determined to avenge the wrong done her by her landlord - petitioned the Privy Council concerning his alleged acts of oppression against her and her family, (refs: PRO SP 12 185/96; NLW Ms 9051E.132)

1617 June 13: Warrant to apprehend & attach John ap Jeuvan Lloyd ap Gryffiths .... Appended statement by Ryce Johns, constable of the manor of Nanhoyan that he had often searched for William John ap Jevan Lloyd, but had never caught him. Before John Wynne of Gwydir. (GAS, XQS/1617/45)

“The years of famine between 1621 and 1623, and, later, from 1629 to 1631 had adverse economic and social effects on the county of Caernarvonshire. A series of bad harvests led to a policy of imposing a severe limitation on the quantity of malt that could be used for brewing. Provisions for the alleviation of social despair were outlined by the Privy Council in 1622; all the unnecessary alehouses were to be suppressed, since a considerable quantity of barley was being used to brew strong ales; now it was to be used to relieve the poor. (C. S. P. D. CXXXIII, 455)

In the western part of the county a survey had “found the countrey exceedinge poor, past beleefe, because the cattel whereon the live, for the foure last yeares bare no price and bread come ys exceedinge deare whereof they have greate scaritie”. These communities, “having neither money nor sale for the produce of the county”, when the harvest failed were reduced to total misery and wretchedness. (C. S. P. D., CXLII, 4; NLW, CWP no 1064, Add MS 466) ...

Late in 1622 complaints were voiced that corn was scarce in the county, and enquiries were made to discover whether or not it could be imported from Germany. (NLW, CWP nos 1060, 1078) The eastern commotes of Caernarvonshire were in dire need, and since the price of cattle had dropped a sharp increase had taken place in the price of bread corn. (C A J Skeel, *The Cattle Trade between England and Wales from the Fifteenth to the Nineteenth Centuries*, in *Trans. Royal Historical Society*, 1926, 135-58) Sir John Wynn complained of the unseasonableness of the weather nad begged for a loan of £500 from Sir Thomas Myddelton. His rents had fallen considerably because his tenements for the most part lay in remote, mountainous country where no corn would grow, and where, for two years prior to 1623, neither cattle, wool, sheep nor butter yielded a reasonable price. Wynn recorded that many had died of starvation, while others “bear the impression of hunger in their faces”. (NLW, CWP nos 1075, 1085, 1152, 1184, 1205) (J Gwynfor Jones, *Caernarvonshire Administration: The Activities of the Justices of the Peace, 1603-1660*, *Welsh History Review*, 1970-71. p 144-5)

**5. Owner of the Wynn estate: Sir Richard Wynn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet**, second son of Sir John Wynn. He was born in 1588 and inherited in 1627. He lived at his Brentford mansion in Middlesex, was a courtier in the royal court, a Royalist in the civil war, and died childless in 1649. In 1642 the poor harvest and much poverty greatly affected the tenants.

CIVIL WARS: From 1642 - 1648 the brothers Morus and Owen Wynn of Gwydir nominally supported the Crown but did not participate actively in the Civil War.

**6. Owner of the Wynn estate: Sir Owen Wynn of Gwydir 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet**, third son of Sir John Wynn. He was born in 1600 inherited in 1649 and died in 1660. He lived in Gwydir Uchaf.

In 1647 the Gwydir estate rental included details of properties in Nanhwynan, where the rents were £157 1s 2d. There are Lists of Morus Wynn's accumulated properties dated 1653. (Lincolnshire Record Office 4 Anc 4/8 36pp; NLW Ms 9064E.2032) **(NOT SEEN)**.

In 1654 Owen Wynn's son Richard Wynn married Sarah Myddleton and as part of the marriage settlement, Owen Wynn was to grant Richard Wynn properties in trust, including in Beddgelert, valued at £600. (Marriage settlement owned by Lady Willoughby at Grimsthorpe Caetle, near Bourne, Lincolnshire; see NLW Gwydir (British Records Association), 5. Family Settlements) Checked at NLW, not found

**7. Owner of the Wynn estate: Sir Richard Wynn of Gwydir, 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet**, was the son of Sir Owen Wynn. He was born in 1634, inherited in 1660, and died in 1674. He inherited the manor of Nanhwynan and lands in the parish of Beddgelert as part of the vast estate. (NLW Ms 9064E.2031; NLW Gwydir (British Records Association), 6.; NLW Ms 9046E.2447-8, 9068E.2574, 2581)

Richard Wynn succeeded as fourth baronet in 1660. He was High Sheriff of Caernarfonshire in 1657-8, Member of Parliament for Caernarfonshire in 1647-53 and 1661-74, and was associated with the municipal government of Denbigh. In 1659 he appears to have been implicated in the royalist insurrection by Sir George Booth and Sir Thomas Myddelton, whose daughter Sarah he had married in 1654, and was for a while imprisoned at Caernarfon. (Check at NLW for post 1660 papers; not found.)

1662: No person referred to in the Beddgelert Hearth Tax of 1662 can yet be definitely linked with Gwastadannas. The 1662 Hearth Tax for Nanhwynan includes a John Morris (parchment torn so number of hearths unknown) next in list to Evan Lloyd (Probably of Hafod Lwyfog. This may be the John Morris, father of Pierce John Morris, Gwastad annes, whose will is dated 1732. (GAS, Hearth Tax, Is Gwyrfa, Nanhwynan)

In 1671 Sir Richard Wynn settled his debts of £100 but £66 7s 0d remained. (NLW Ms 2309; NLW Gwydir (British Association), 6; NLW Ms 9068E.2651; Add Ms 4069E.2645) **(Checked at NLW, not found.)**

On his death in 1674 his estate passed to his only daughter Mary (1661-89) who in 1678 married Robert Bertie, baron Willoughby de Eresby, later marquis of Lindsey and duke of Ancaster, in whose family Gwydir remained until 1895. (Wynn family of Gwydir, Dictionary of Welsh Biography to 1940, 1959, p1098)]

On 25 May 1681 a letter sent from Gwydir by a Mr Birch to John Rowlands implies that a deal has been concluded satisfactorily & that Lord Willoughby has been paid.

Letter from [Doctor] Andr[ew] Birch, Gwydder, to Mr John Rowlands, of the Post Office, Lombard Street, London.

“The trustees have sealed Rowland’s writings. The latter’s purchase money will be £2,916 13s 4d instead of £2,865 5s 4d, the 13s 4d being abated in the deed. In this Rowlands has had nothing but justice, for Mr Ed Pierce was so satisfied that made the proposal, and the writer accepted it, that is to allow £40 per annum for Wernlas Deg, which it always paid, and in consideration of the lordship to take the tenement of Tho[mas] Hughes for £2,916 to Mr East and order him to receive it for Lord Willoughby: the order from the trustees is so penned that Rowlands is secure in every way. Piers Griffith and some of the tenants were here yesterday and drank Rowland’s health. Told them they could expect fair dealing and civility from him. Will search for 2 or 3 weeks to lay aside old writings which concern Sir Jo[h]n Wynn’s and Rowlands purchase. Will be in London next May.

Subscribed: Mrs Grace Lloyd presents for service to him; the writer presents the same to her brother.

Endorsed: Me Birch’s letter upon several accounts relating to Nanhwynan in 1681.”

(NLW Llanfair Brynodol ms C233, in B E Howells, A Calendar of letters relating to North Wales, History & Law Series No XXXIII, p 140)

Beddgelert parish records commence in 1676, giving only personal names and no dwellings.

PIERCE JOHN MORRIS (tenant of Gwastadannes)

1677 Feb 1: baptism of John, son of Pierce John Morris (BT)

1685 Aug 19: baptism of Griffith, son of Pierce John (BT)

1689 July 15: baptism of Mary, daughter of Pierce John Morris (BT)

*1700 Nov 15: baptism of Alice, daughter of Griffith Pierce (BT): of Gwastadagnes or Craflwyn ?*

## **2. Notes on the history of the Owners and Tenants of Gwastadagnes from circa 1681.**

Around 1681 Gwastadannas, amongst other Wynn lands in the former township of Nanhwynan, was acquired by the Rowlands of Plas y Nant, Betws Garmon. (See above). The lands were probably purchased from Sir Richard Wynn’s daughter Mary & her husband Lord Willoughby. **(GET WILL TRANSCRIBED)**

### **c1681-1703 Owner of the Nant estate: John Rowlands of Nant, Betws Garmon**

Much of the former Wynn of Gwydir lands in the parish of Beddgelert passed into the hands of John Rowlands of Nant, Betws Garmon. He was born around 1645 and married Frances Owen, the third daughter of William and Catherine Owen of Porkington and Clennau and granddaughter of the celebrated Royalist, Sir John Owen of Clennau. They had eleven children. In addition to managing his own and his wife’s estates, John Rowlands was a wealthy London Banker with offices in Lombard Street; he underwrote many debentures for land sales around North Wales and he also purchased estates around Plas y Nant, Betws Garmon, when the original owners either needed money urgently or had died, whereby the land had to be divided amongst the heirs. Plas y Nant was built for him in 1671. He continued to enlarge his

estate in the late seventeenth century, buying more property around Betws Garmon and Beddgelert, including the land up to the summit of Snowdon. He was High Sheriff of Caernarvon for the years 1688, 1689 and 1692 when he was living at Plas y Nant.

1702 Gwastad Agnes            Tenant \*\*\*    CHECK  
Rental of tenements in ... Beddgelert, prepared by Henry Jones for Mrs Rowlands, Nant, co Caerns. (NLW Llanfair Brynodol Rents; R134)

In 1703 March 14: **John Rowlands of Nant, Betws Garmon**, died aged 58 years, leaving ten children. Lists messuages and lands to raise portions for her daughters:

Cwn Dyli issa            then in John Rowlands' possession

**Gwastadannas,            tenant Pierce John Maurice**

Cwm dyly uwch            Griffith William

Gwyfron            then in John Rowlands' possession

Llyndu issa            Griffith John

Havod y porth            Robert Griffith

Yearly rent charge of 6s 8d issueing yearly from Berthlwyd, Namore, lands of Thomas Williams, deceased.

Leaves to Frances his wife: Wernes-deg, Glasdraine, Havod wedir, Havod y rhyске and Wenallt. (NLW Llanfair Brynodol D 635; page 363 - will of John Rowlands, repeated in 1722)

From 1703-1718 the owner of the Nant estate was Mrs Frances Rowlands, of Nant, Betws Garmon. She died in 1718 aged 62 years.

In 1719 aged 23 years, their heir, Richard Rowlands died and the estate was inherited by the second son, Thomas Rowlands.

1704-11: Rental of tenements in ... Beddgelert, co Caerns, bequeathed on Madam [Frances] Rowlands by her husband to raise portions for her daughters; the account shows receipts and taxation. (NLW, Llanfair Brynodol Rents R 135)    CHECK

1722 Bill of complaint of Samuel & Katherine Wynne & others; quotes 1682 deed of feoffement; 1699 bond & 1703 last will of John Rowlands:

Gwastad Agnes            tenant Pierce John Maurice [unclear]

Lists messuages and lands: Cwm Dyly Issa, Gwastad Agnes, Cwm Dyly uwcha, Geyfron, Llyndu issa, Hafod y Porth (& Berthlwyd) ; Wernes-deg, Glasdraine, Havod wedir, Havod y rhyске and Wenallt.            (NLW, Llanfair Brynodol D 642)

From 1719-1763 the owner of the Nant estate was **Thomas Rowlands of Nant, Betws Garmon**. In 1724 Thomas Rowlands married Ellin Roberts, daughter and heiress of Emma and William Roberts of "Cayrey" [Caerau], Llanfairynghornwy, Anglesey, where they lived. He died in 1763 and his daughter Emma Rowlands inherited.

*1715 May 10: baptism of Pierce, son of William Pierce (BT)*

*1724 Aug 9: baptism of Ellena, daughter of William Rice (BT)*

*1727? :            baptism of William, son of William Pierce (BT)*

1732 Will of Pierce John Morris, Gwastad Agnes.

Left £5 to daughter \*Alice Pierce  
 £30 to daughter \*Mary Pierce  
 £40 to granddaughter Ellin Roberts  
 £10 to grandson Pierce Griffith  
 £1 to son in law Griffith Williams  
 Executors: two sons \*William Pierce and \*Griffith Pierce  
 Will signed by David Lloyd, clerk; witnessed by Ellis Williams & Rice Williams.  
 (T C Griffith, 1989, Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon, p 27)

\*Alice Pierce (living 1742), Gwastadannas, had married Robert John Griffith (1680B-1741B) Bwlchmwlchan. (T C Griffith, 2002, Achau rhai o deuluoedd hen siroedd Caernarfon, Meirionnydd a Trefaldwyn , p [121])

1747-1827: The Manor of Nanhwynan lasted well into the nineteenth century, and a surviving court book covering the years 1747-1827 is preserved in the National Library of Wales. (NLW ms 7854A; C A Gresham, 1983, The Aberconwy Charter; further consideration, BBCS XXV, p 337).

The earliest known family was Hugh Dafydd and Ellen, who married in February 1746. Their son David Hughes & his wife Mari followed his father as tenant. A granddaughter to Ellen was Mari Hughes who became the wife of William Humphrey, Hen Capel and mother of the late Wm Humphrey, Pantlleni. All Gwastadagnes land was farmed by Hugh Dafydd and his son David Hughes for many years. The first division was when Hugh Dafydd gave part to William Roberts, son of Bwlch and Ellen his sister; they later moved to live in Ty Isaf, Beddgelert. (1903: UWB, Bangor 15723: The old ruins ... of the parish: No 46 Gwastad agnes)

1747 Aug 12: *Baptism of Gaenor, daughter of Hugh David, Croesor, & Elinor. (BT)*  
 1749 Feb 29: *baptism of Catherine, daughter of Hugh David, labourer & Ellin. (BT)*  
 1755 Mar 21: *baptism of Elin, daughter of Hugh David, farmer, & Elin. (BT)*  
 1758 Jan 17: *baptism of Jane, daughter of Hugh David, **Gwastad Annas** & Ellin (BT)*  
 1760 Oct 26: *baptism of Margaret, daughter of Hugh David, Gwastad Annas & Ellin. (BT)*  
 1763 Dec 10: *baptism of William, son of Hugh David, Gwastad Annas, farmer, & Ellin. (BT)*  
 1763 Dec 14: *death of William Hughes, Gwastad Annas, infant, (BT)*

#### TENANT'S FAMILY TREE

Morris ap John Owen of ??? (d 1640) = ?

John Morris of ??? (d 1677 Llanfihangel y pennant) = ?

**Pierce John Morris**, Gwastadagnes (d 20 Oct 1732, Beddgelert) = ?

|                |                     |          |                |           |                        |                           |        |   |  |  |
|----------------|---------------------|----------|----------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------|---|--|--|
|                |                     |          |                |           | I                      |                           |        |   |  |  |
| I              | I                   | I        | I              | I         | I                      |                           |        |   |  |  |
| Margery        | *Alice              | *Mary    | John           | *Griffith | <b>*William Pierce</b> | = Ellen Griffith, Castell |        |   |  |  |
| Dolwyddelan    | Bwlch               | b1689    | b1676          | b1685     | d 12 July 1769         | B I                       | d 1780 | B |  |  |
|                |                     |          |                |           | I                      |                           |        |   |  |  |
|                |                     |          |                |           | I                      |                           |        |   |  |  |
| I              | 14.2.1747           | B        |                |           | I                      | I                         | I      | I |  |  |
| Ellin Williams | = <b>Hugh David</b> | David =? | Gaynor = Ellis | Pierce    | William                |                           |        |   |  |  |
| Gwastadagnes   | I Croesor &         | Wms I    | d pre 1769     | I ?       | b1715                  | b1727                     | B      |   |  |  |

\*1724B-1818B I Gwastadagnes I I  
aged 90 I d 8 5.1787B William David William Bellis

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I I I I I I I I  
Gaynor Catherine **David Hughes**= Eleanor Ellin Jane Margaret William William  
1747B 1749B c1753 I ??? 1755B 1758B 1760B 1763B 1766B-98B  
-1832 I -63B

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I I 1819 siblings I  
Mary = Wm Humphreys ^**Hugh Dafydd** = Mary Wms.... **William Wms** = +Eleanor  
I Hengapel Gwastadagnes I Caeddfafydd Tanrhiw & I 1802B-  
I [20] b1793B I & Tanrhiw Gwastadagnes I [165]  
I b 1794 b 1789

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I I I I I I I I I I I I  
Hugh Wm Dafydd Gwen Wm Hugh Owen Eliz. Eleanor Catherine Griffith Mary  
David 1820 1821 1822 1824 1825 1828 1829 c1832 1833 1835 1839  
1820 -22 -43 -49 [20,30] -1905[20] -42  
(T C Griffith, 2002, Achau rhai o deuluoedd hen siroedd Caernarfon, Meirionnydd a  
Trefaldwyn , p [30] with [20] & [165])

**William Williams'** brother Evan Williams, b 1792B, of Garthllwynog, Clogwin y  
gwin, Tanrhiw & Gwastad Agnes married Ellen Roberts, Beudy Newydd, Nantmor &  
Llyndy Isaf & they had William in 1835 & James in 1837. (T C Griffith, 2002, Achau  
rhai o deuluoedd hen siroedd Caernarfon, Meirionnydd a Trefaldwyn , p [165])

FAMILY TREE

William Williams, yeoman (1758-1834) = Jane ??? (1762-1815)  
BA Oxon, Caeddfafydd I  
I +7 more, inc Robert Anwyl, Caeddfafydd

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I I 1831 I (1788-1875)  
William Wms = +Eleanor Evan Wms = Ellen Roberts Mary Wms = ^**Huw Dafydd**  
(1789- I Gwastad (1797- [47] I *Beudy Newydd* (1794- I Gwastad Agnes  
I Agnes Garthllwynog I & *Llyndu isaf* Tanrhiw I [30]  
I [30] **Clogwyn y gwin** I I  
had children Tanrhiw & I I  
Gwastad Agnes:1832 Margaret; 1834 Wm; 1836 Jane I

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I I I I I I I I I I I I  
Hugh Wm Dafydd Gwen Wm Hugh Owen Eliz. Eleanor Catherine Griffith Mary  
David 1820 1821 1822 1824 1825 1828 1829 c1832 1833 1835 1839  
1820 -22 -43 -49 [20,30] -1905[20] -42

From 1763 - 1770 the owner of the Nant estate was **Emma Rowlands, Thomas  
Rowland's heiress**. Emma had married the Right Honourable James, 1st **Viscount  
Bulkeley** in 1749 and lived at Baron Hill. He died (of consumption) in May 1752,  
shortly before the birth of their only son and heir, Thomas James, 7th Viscount  
Bulkeley (Dec 1752-1822). She was now the Dowager Lady Bulkeley.  
In 1760 Emma married Sir Hugh Williams the 8<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Penrhyn and had four  
children by him. Emma died in 1770.

1761 Gwastadagnes tenant: William Pierce Land Tax £2 2s 2¼d.  
1761 Penylan tenant: William Pierce. Land Tax 14s 0¼d

(GAS Land Tax Assessment, XLT 6/4)

1766 Feb 2: baptism of William, son of Hugh David, Gwastad Annas, farmer, & Ellin. (BT)

1769 Will of William Pierce, Gwastad Annas, Sir Gaernarfon.  
£80 to his wife Ellin Griffith, 2 cows, bed frame & bed clothes (iron kettle)  
£30 to son Pierce Williams  
£6 to grandson William Bellis, son of his late daughter Gaynor Williams  
a one year old calf to each of his two grandsons, William David, son of his son David Williams, and David son of Ellin Williams.  
.... Share ... between his son David William and his daughter Ellin William, who were to be executors;  
Will signed 3 April 1769 with William Owen, Thomas Pritchard & David Williams, clerk as witnesses.

**INVENTORY in beautiful hand) SEE**

Estate valued at £239 14s 0d mainly animals, (350 sheep, 5 goats), by Robert Roberts and Edwart David. (T C Griffith, 1989, Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon, p 36)

1769 July 12: burial of William Pierce, Gwastad Annas, yeoman. (BT)

In the will, dated 1 June 1770, of Dame Emma Williams, Lady Viscount Bulkeley, wife of Sir Hugh Williams of Baron Hill, county Anglesey, Bart. "... she devises the reversion or remainder expectant of Nanhwynan etc ... to the use of her son Robert Williams and his issue ... the Manor or Lordship of Nanhwynan, and all lands etc in Caernarvonshire." [No properties or tenants named] (UWB, Baron Hill Ms 7350) She died in 1770 aged 43 years.

From 1770-1794 the owner of the Nant estate was **Sir Hugh Williams**, Emma's widower. He died on 17 August 1794.

1785 (25 Geo III): 1. Sir Hugh Williams of Fryars, co Anglesey, Bart.,  
2. Edward Griffith of Caernarfon, Richard Griffith of Bangor, co Caern, clerk; Griffith Roberts of Aber, co Caern, clerk & others  
LEASE for 21 years of houses and lands and MINES in the parish of Beddgelert called Hafod y Rhisg, Gwastad agnes, Hafod y porth & Cwmdyli. Royalties 1/8th.  
(GAS, X Poole 5303)

1787 May 8; burial of Hugh David, Gwastad Annas, farmer. (BT)

1793 Dec 22: baptism of Hugh, son of David Hughes, Gwastad Annas, farmer, & Eleanor. (BT)

1787 will of Hugh David, yeoman, Gwastad Annas  
£2 to his oldest son David Hughes  
£2 each to the children of his late daughter Gaenor Hughes, namely Ann, Eleanor and Griffith, on their 21<sup>st</sup> birthdays; if any dies before that, share between the remaining;  
\*£5 to daughter Catherine Hughes  
£2 to each of her children Hugh, Anne and Jane;  
£1 each to the children of his daughter Eleanor Hughes, namely Robert, Eleanor & Alice;  
£1 to his daughter Jane Hughes;



£4 to his daughter Margaret Hughes;  
 £1 each to his grandsons Hugh and Williams, sons of Margaret Hughes;  
 £60 to his youngest son William Hughes;  
 Executor: his wife Eleanor Williams. Will signed 16 January 1786 with William Owen and Evan Griffith as witnesses. Proved 20 June 1787, by J Kyffin, deputy bishop. Value of estate, mainly animals: £276 18s 0d, valued by Griffith Howel, John Roberts and David Williams.

(T C Griffith, 1989, *Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon*, p 46)

INVENTORY:

|                        |      |     |
|------------------------|------|-----|
| 15 cows                | £57  | 10s |
| 1 bull                 | £4   |     |
| 10 steers at 2 years   | £27  | 10s |
| 13 yearling old calves | £22  | 15s |
| 357 sheep              | £124 | 19s |
| 1 mare                 | £6   | 6s  |
| bridle & saddle        |      | 18s |
| wearing apparel        | £1   | 15s |
| household stuff        | £20  |     |
| husbandry              | £1   | 5s  |

(UWB, Bangor 2139 p 1282, Bob Owen notes)

\*Catherine merch **Huw Dafydd, Gwastad annas**, married Rice Roberts, Cwmdylif (1833-?); son of Rice Roberts, Cwmdylif (1799-1861) & Catherine. \*They moved to Dolwyddelan in 1870. (T C Griffith, 1989, *Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon*, p [20])

1771-1783 **Gwastadagnes** tenant: Hugh David. Land Tax £2 2s 2¼d

& Penylan 14s 0¼d (GAS Land Tax Assessment XLT 6/4)

1784 tenant: Hugh David, yeoman. Gwastad Agnes £2 13s 7½d, & Penylan 10s 8½d

Owner: Sir Robert Williams, Bart. (GAS Land Tax Assessment XLT 6/4)

1788-89 tenant: Ellinor Williams, widow. Gwastad Agnes £2 13s 7½d,

& Penylan 10s 8½d. (GAS Land Tax Assessment XLT 6/4)

It is recorded that William Roberts and Cadwalader Owen let half the tithe Gwasdeanes to Ellinor Williams and David Hughes [*her son*] for 7 years for £5 5s 0d a year paid Michaelmas each year. **1789**. signed Wm Roberts & Cadwalad Owen.

(1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, *Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish*, page 5-9)

1792-1822 tenant: David Hughes, yeoman. Gwastad Agnes £2 13s 7½d, (GAS Land Tax Assessment XLT 6/4)

1792-95 William Hughes: Penylan 10s 8½d. (GAS Land Tax Assessment XLT 6/4)

1801-1817: David Hughes: Penylan 10s 8½d. (GAS Land Tax Assessment XLT 6/4)

1817-1830: John Price: Penylan 10s 8½d. (GAS Land Tax Assessment XLT 6/4)

1794-1826 Rice & John Roberts, Cwmduli. (UWB, Baron Hill 4870, p 62)

1799-1826 John Roberts, Geufron. (UWB, Baron Hill 4870, p 82)

1794-1826 **David Hughes**, Gwastadagnes. (UWB, Baron Hill 4870, p 63, 95, 96)

1794-1799 Michaelmas: £70 rent p.a.

1800-1807 Michaelmas: Gwastadagnes £57 1s + Penylan £19 19s = £84  
 1808-1810 Michaelmas: Gwastadagnes £68 + Penylan £23 = £91  
 1811 Michaelmas: Gwastadagnes £75 + Penylan £26 = £101  
 1812-1815 Michaelmas: Gwastadagnes + Penylan = £108  
 1816 Reduction of £15% = £85 17s  
 1817 Allowance also of £15% = £73 0s 6d  
 1818 Advance of £5% = £75 15s  
 1819-20 Gwastadagnes £56 5s + Penylan £19 10s  
 1821-22 Gwastadagnes £53 9s + Penylan £18 10s 6d  
 (UWB, Baron Hill 4870, p 63)  
 1823 Gwastadagnes £50 16s; Penylan £17 12s  
 1824 Advance of £10% : Gwastadagnes £56 5s; Penylan £19 10s  
 1825 Gwastadagnes £67 10s; Penylan £23 8s  
 (UWB, Baron Hill 4870, p 95 & 96)  
 1826 **Hugh David & William Roberts**: Gwastadagnes £67 10s; Penylan £23 8s  
 (UWB, Baron Hill 4870, p 95 & 96)

**From 1794-1830 the owner of the estate was Sir Robert Williams**

He had inherited the estates of his father and shared his mother's estate with her first son, Sir Thomas James Bulkeley. Sir Robert was MP for Caernarfonshire from 1790-1826 and for Beaumaris from 1826-1830 when he died on 1 December.

Post 1794: Rental of the Estate of the late Sir Hugh Williams, deceased, in Caernarfonshire, which farms are in lease granted by Sir Hugh Williams only:  
 Havod y porth, Llyndu isaf, Cwmdully, **GwastadAgnes**, Havod y Rhysk  
**(UWB, Baron Hill 4820) GET DETAILS**

In 1795 the position of **Gwastad annes** is marked on John Evans's map of North Wales. (Gwynedd Archives Service, John Evans' Map of North Wales.)

c1795: Rental of Sir Robert Baronet's Estate: Caernarvonshire:

|             |                       |                      |                 |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Beddgelert: | Rice & Jn Roberts     | Cwmduli              | rent £42        |
|             | <b>William Hughes</b> | <b>Gwastadagness</b> | <b>rent £70</b> |
|             | Griffith Powell       | Havodyrhysk          | rent £54 3s     |

(UWB, Baron Hill ms 4821, Page 20)

late 1700s-early 1800s: Early Methodists in Nant Gwynant were William Williams, Hafod y Rhisgl,; Rhys William, Hafod y llan; **William Hughes, Gwastad Annas**, Thomas Williams, Ty'n y coed cae. They were member at Beddgelert.

(Nant Gwynant, ei Hanes, ei thraddodiadau, a'i thrygolion, Wm Humphrey, written in 1899, published in Cymru, June 1911, vol XL, nos 239, p 295)

**Rentals: Beddgelert**

|                     |                      |                        |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1799 Gwastad annas: | David Hughes £51 2s  | (UWB, Baron Hill 4829) |
| 1799 Penylan:       | David Hughes £18 18s | (UWB, Baron Hill 4829) |
| 1802 Gwastad annas: | David Hughes £63     | (UWB, Baron Hill 4829) |
| 1802 Penylan:       | David Hughes £21     | (UWB, Baron Hill 4829) |

1811-1825 David Hughes  
1811 Gwastad Agnes + Penylan: £68 + £23 + Property Tax £8 14s  
1812-15 “ “ £75 + £26 Recd £82 6s  
(UWB, Baron Hill 4839)  
1813 David Hughes : Gwastad Agnes £75 + Penyllan £26.  
Property Tax £8 14s; received £92 6s (UWB, Baron Hill 4841)

1816 “ “ £63 15s + £22 2s Property Tax £8 14s  
Recd £10; arrears £77 3s  
1817 “ “ Arrears £140 3s 6d  
(UWB, Baron Hill 4839)  
1816-17 David Hughes : Gwastad Agnes + Penylan £73 0s 6d. Arrears £111 3s 6d  
Cumauli: Rice Roberts £36 2s 6d  
Gaifron: Jno Roberts £7 4s 6d (UWB, Baron Hill 4844)

1818-20 Recd £56 5s + £19 10s  
1821 Recd £75 + £26. arrears £14 9s 6d  
1822 £53 9s + £18 0s 6d’ pd £20  
1823 Rent £53 15s + £18 10s Arrears £46 19s  
1824 £56 5s + £52 15s arrears, Pd £109  
£19 10s pd in full  
1825 £67 10s + (£23 8s pd in full) arrears £75  
(UWB, Baron Hill 4839)

Sir Robert Williams, Bart. held a manorial court at Beddgelert, for the former Cistercian lands, from at least 1797-1820.

Manor of Nanhwynan. Court Leet.

1797 June 27: 12 Members of the Grand Jury. 11<sup>th</sup> – David Hughes of Gwastad anas.  
1800 Sept 26: Names of homagers summoned – David Hughes of Gwastad anas.  
1801 Dec 7: 12 Members of the Grand Jury. 4<sup>th</sup> – David Hughes of Gwastad anas pd  
1802 June 21: Names of homagers summoned: David Hughes of Gwastad anas 1/6d  
1803 May 30: 12 Members of the Grand Jury. 3<sup>rd</sup> – David Hughes of Gwastad anas pd  
1805 Dec 4: 12 Members of the Grand Jury. 2<sup>nd</sup> – David Hughes of Gwastad anas  
1807 June 26: 12 Members of the Grand Jury. 11<sup>th</sup> – David Hughes of Gwastad anas.  
1809 June 28: 12 Members of the Grand Jury. 8<sup>th</sup> – David Hughes of Gwastad anas.  
1812 Mar 4: 12 Members of the Grand Jury. 7<sup>th</sup> – David Hughes of Gwastad anas.  
(NLW ms 7854A)  
1820 Mar 20: 12 Members of the Grand Jury. 11<sup>th</sup> – Hugh David of Gwastad anas.  
(NLW ms 7854A)

1798 Mar 19: burial of William Hughes, Gwastad Annas, batchelor, (BT)

1799 May 22 in Beddgelert, marriage of William Prichard, Refal bach & Pen y bont (1769-1844) and Eleanor Hughes, daughter of **Hugh Williams, Gwastad Annas**. (T C Griffith, 1989, Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon, p [54])

1799 May 22: Settlement preceding marriage of Sir Robert Williams of Nant, co Caernarvon, Bart., to Ann Hughes, daughter of Edward Hughes – touching upon £10,000 given by the Rev Edward Hughes of Kinnell Park, co Flint, clerk, to Sir Robert Williams, and upon lands called ....

Gwastadagnes tenant David Hughes rent £51 2s 0d. (UWB, Baron Hill 7351)

1802 Sept 2: baptism of Eleanor, daughter of David Hughes, Gwastad Annas, farmer, & Eleanor. (BT)

1810 Oct 8: burial of Gwen David, Gwastadannas, singlewoman, (BT)

1810 Oct 10: death of Gwen Hughes, aged 20 years, daughter of David Hughes, Gwastadannas by Eleanor his wife. (Beddgelert Memorial Inscription A168)

1813 Accounts of David Hughes & his mother:

Wheat £2 2s; Flour £2 12s; Money 6s; "Fialod" of flour 2s.

Wheat £2 2s; Money 6s; cutting peat 13/9d; "stored" flour 14/0d; carrying timber 2/0d; hobed wheat £2 2s 0d; rake 3/3d.

(1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

1814 May 4: marriage of Mary Hughes, Gwastad annes (b Llanberis or Dolwyddelan), and William Humphreys, Hen Capel, Tan y bryn & Pant perlleni [20]. (T C Griffith, 2002, Achau rhai o deuluoedd hen siroedd Caernarfon, Meirionnydd a Trefaldwyn , p [176])

**1819** May 4<sup>th</sup>: Account book shows that Hugh Dafydd's grandmother and his father were joint tenants of Gwastadagnes for many years. (1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

1816-1820: **Gwastadagnes** is shown on the 1816-1820 survey for the 2" to 1 mile Ordnance Survey Map and on the 1841 tithe survey map of Beddgelert parish. (Gwynedd Archives Service, O.S. 2" to 1 mile. 1st edition. Caerns. 306. Portfolio 25).

c1824: Oil painting by Revd John Parker from inside Gwastadannes doorway looking out towards Cwmdyly old farm and Crib Goch. (NLW collection)

1825: Beddgelert Tithe Account: Nant Wynant Small tithes for year ending April 30:

Cwmdyly £3 4s

Geufron 5s

Penlan £2 3s

Gwastadannas £2 18s (Vawdrey papers; no reference given)

1826-1830 Gwastadagnes tenant: Hugh Davies and William Roberts. (GAS Land Tax Assessment XLT 6/4)

1826 Hu David & Wm Roberts Gwastadagnes £33 15s

Wm Roberts Gwastadagnes £33 15s

Wm Roberts Penylan £23 8s

1827 No 70 Hugh David Gwastadagnes £33 15s. Arrears £20 5s

No 71 Wm Roberts another part of Gwastadagnes £33 15s. Arrears £3

No 72 John Roberts Penylan £23 8s pd in full

(UWB, Baron Hill 4839)

The family of Hugh Davies, or Hugh Dafydd as he was known, were tenants for many years. I have an old account book mostly written by his father David Hughes, and another written by Hugh Dafydd – well educated and well written. One page records sheep owned jointly by Hugh Davies and Robert Jones ... They split the loss on the wool. (1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

I think I have heard that there was once a tavern in Gwastadagnes, and I have seen a page of a book to prove this. **1828** December 19:

|                  |         |       |
|------------------|---------|-------|
| Wm Roberts       | 8 pints | 2/8d; |
| Robert Jones     | 3 pints | 1/0d  |
| William Humphrey |         | 1/3½d |
| William Lloyd    |         | 6d    |
| Owen Jones Dinas | 5       | 1/8d  |

(1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

|       |                                       |              |         |
|-------|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| 1828: | No 73 Gwastad Agnes                   | Hugh David   | £33 15s |
|       | Llanberis road goes through this farm |              |         |
|       | No 74 Another part of Gwastadagnes    | Wm Roberts   | £33 15s |
|       | No 75 Penylan                         | John Roberts | £23 8s  |
|       | House wanted applies ? like no 73     |              |         |

Rentals of Sir Robert Williams, Bart's Estates: Beddgelert (UWB, Baron Hill 4873)

|      |                              |              |                                    |
|------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| 1829 | No 65 Gwastad Agnes          | Hugh David   | £33 15s arrears £25 15s recd £20   |
|      | No 66 Another part of G'gnes | Wm Roberts   | £33 15s arrears £33 15s rd £13 15s |
|      | No 67 Penylan                | John Roberts | £23 8s pd in full                  |

Rentals of Sir Robert Williams, Bart's Estates: Beddgelert (UWB, Baron Hill 4873)

|      |                              |              |                                  |
|------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 1830 | No 63 Gwastad Agnes          | Hugh David   | £33 15s arrears £39 10s recd £10 |
|      | No 64 Another part of G'gnes | Wm Roberts   | £33 15s arrears £53 15s          |
|      | No 67 Penylan                | John Roberts | £23 8s pd in full                |

Rentals of Sir Robert Williams, Bart's Estates: Beddgelert (UWB, Baron Hill 4873)

|      |                              |              |                                    |
|------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| 1831 | No 10 Gwastad Agnes          | Hugh David   | £33 15s arrears £23 15s recd £5    |
|      | No 11 Another part of G'gnes | Wm Roberts   | £33 15s arrears £33 15s pd £29 15s |
|      | No 12 Penylan                | John Roberts | £23 8s pd in full                  |

Rentals of Sir Robert Williams, Bart's Estates: Beddgelert (UWB, Baron Hill 4873)

|      |                              |              |                                    |
|------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| 1832 | No 10 Gwastad Agnes          | Hugh David   | £33 15s arrears £18 15s pd £11 10s |
|      | No 11 Another part of G'gnes | Wm Roberts   | £33 15s arrears £4 15s pd £37 15s  |
|      | No 12 Penylan                | John Roberts | £23 8s pd in full                  |

Rentals of Sir Robert Williams, Bart's Estates: Beddgelert (UWB, Baron Hill 4873)

|      |                              |              |                                |
|------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 1833 | No 10 Gwastad Agnes          | Hugh David   | £33 15s arrears £41 pd £32 10s |
|      | No 11 Another part of G'gnes | Wm Roberts   | £33 15s arrears 15s pd £20     |
|      | No 12 Penylan                | John Roberts | £23 8s pd in full              |

Rentals of Sir Robert Williams, Bart's Estates: Beddgelert (UWB, Baron Hill 4873)

1834 No 10 Gwastad Agnes Hugh David £33 15s arrears £42 5s pd £11 10s  
No 11 Another part of G'gnes Wm Roberts £33 15s arrears £14 10s pd £20  
No 12 Penylan John Roberts £23 8s pd in full  
Rentals of Sir Robert Williams, Bart's Estates: Beddgelert (UWB, Baron Hill 4873)

1835 No 10 Gwastad Agnes Hugh David £33 15s arrears £64 5s pd £68 Wm Wms  
No 11 Another part of G'gnes Wm Roberts £33 15s arrears £40 10s pd £48 5s  
No 12 Penylan John Roberts £23 8s pd in full  
Rentals of Sir Robert Williams, Bart's Estates: Beddgelert (UWB, Baron Hill 4873)

1836 No 10 } Gwastad Agnes Hugh David & Wm Williams £67 10s pd in full  
No 11 }  
No 12 Penylan John Roberts £23 8s pd in full  
Rentals of Sir Robert Williams, Bart's Estates: Beddgelert (UWB, Baron Hill 4873)

c1836 (No Date)

No 10 Hugh David Gwastadagnes £ 33 15s Arrears £82

Let the whole farm to William Williams for £66. Hugh David still lives in our house with 10 children. The whole of the land between the old and new road is well situated for planting.

No 11 Wm Roberts – another part of Gwastadagnes: £33 15s. Arrears £91 10s. Has quitted .... Beddgelert village. There is £26 due to him from the contractors of road.

No 12 John Roberts Penylan. No house; keeps 2 cows grazing for £20 per year. In summer sells 50 sheep. May 10: let to John Roberts for £23 8s.

Same Tomos Lyster & Co from Conway have not worked for some time.

John Roberts to have a lease of part of Gwry – 4 acres of land at the Rent of 15/- for the uses of himself 32 years and his wife Jane aged 35 years + 21 years to run concurrent. (UWB, Baron Hill 4883)

### **1830-1875 Owner of the Nant estate: Sir Richard Bulkeley Williams-Bulkeley**

In 1830, the eldest son, Sir Richard Bulkeley Williams-Bulkeley, 10<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Penrhyn, inherited. He had succeeded in 1827 to the property of the childless son of Emma, Thomas James, 7th Viscount Bulkeley, his uncle, having had to add Bulkeley to his surname. He lived in London and made changes to the estates in Caernarfonshire, selling part of the land around Clynnog in 1831. He owned the Nant estate at the Tithe Commutation. He died on 28 August 1875.

1830-36: A valuation of the Tithe of the Parish of Beddgelert according to the Average from the year 1830-1836:

Gwastadagnes £ 3 3s. Owner: Sir R B W Bulkeley, Bart.

(Vawdrey papers: no reference given (preparatory work before Tithe Commutation))

*1830 Sept 14: death of Jane, aged 1 yr 4 months, daughter of William Roberts, Ty Isa by Elinor his wife. (so born 1829). (Beddgelert Memorial Inscription A168, see 1810)*

*1844 Apr 1: death of David Roberts, Ty isa, her brother, aged 16 years. (so b c1828) (Beddgelert Memorial Inscription A168, see 1810)*

1832 July 14: Marriage settlement of Sir Richard Bulkeley on his wife for life:

|               |                               |      |            |
|---------------|-------------------------------|------|------------|
| Cwmduli       | Rice Roberts                  | rent | £45        |
| Gaifron       | John Roberts                  |      | £ 9        |
| Gwastadagness | Hugh Davies & William Roberts |      | £67 10s 0d |
| Penylan       | John Roberts                  |      | £23 8s od  |

[NO GWRYD listed yet]  
(UWB, Baron Hill, Nant Estate, 7354)

1835 July 15: Hugh David, Gwastad annas witnessed will of Rice Roberts, yeoman, Cwmdylif. (T C Griffith, 1989, *Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon*, p 55)

c1835-38: Rent & Tithe settings (UWB, Baron Hill 4883)  
Gwastad Agnes

1838 Tithe Valuers Meeting 14 May 1841 – date signed by Tithe Commissioners

|                     |        |                  |              |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|--------------|
| No 66 Cwm Dylif     | tenant | Rees Roberts     | 1,270 acres  |
| No 67 Penlan        |        | John Pryse       | 711 acres    |
| No 68 Geufron       |        | Owen Jones       | 142 acres    |
| No 69 Gwryd         |        | -                | 205 acres    |
| No 70 Gwastad Agnes |        | William Williams | 1,050 acres. |

NO FIELD NAMES Owner: Bulkeley, Bart.

1840

|                |                  |                               |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cwmduli        | Rice Roberts     | £45                           |
| Gaifron        | John Roberts     | £9                            |
| Gwastadagnes   | William Williams | £67 10s                       |
| Penygwryd      | John Roberts     | 15s                           |
| Quarry (Hones) | Robert Evans     | £5                            |
| Penylan        | John Roberts     | £23 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4887) |

1841

|                |                  |                               |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cwmduli        | Rice Roberts     | £45                           |
| Gaifron        | Henry Roberts    | £9                            |
| Gwastadagnes   | William Williams | £67 10s                       |
| Penygwryd      | John Roberts     | 15s                           |
| Quarry (Hones) | Robert Evans     | £5                            |
| Penylan        | John Roberts     | £23 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4888) |

In 1841 *Gwastad agnes* is shown on the tithe survey map of Beddgelert parish. (Gwynedd Archives Service, Beddgelert Tithe Map. Caerns. 306. Portfolio 25).

1841 census Gwastad Annas Isa

|                   |         |        |         |
|-------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| John Jones        | 30      | farmer | born C? |
| Jane              | 25      |        |         |
| Margaret          | 1       |        |         |
| Jane              | 1 month |        |         |
| Margaret Williams | 17      | Ag Lab |         |

1841 census: Gwastad Annas Ganol  
*Hugh Davies* 47 **farmer** \*\*\*

|             |    |                             |
|-------------|----|-----------------------------|
| Mary “      | 47 | Not born in Caernarfonshire |
| David “     | 19 | *** etc                     |
| Gwen “      | 18 |                             |
| William “   | 17 |                             |
| Hugh “      | 16 |                             |
| Elizabeth “ | 11 |                             |
| Elenor “    | 9  |                             |
| Catherine “ | 8  |                             |
| Griffith “  | 5  |                             |

Mary (1794-) wife of Hugh Dafydd, was a daughter of William Williams, (1757-1834) gent., Caedafydd, Merionethshire, & Jane (1762-1815) of Portreuddyn. (Anwyl Family p 105)

It seems that Hugh Dafydd had been tenant for 20 years, because he gave the tenancy to the brother of his wife, Mary Williams, namely William Williams. Hugh Dafydd held no land in 1844 and the names of Wm Williams and O Williams are in the Tax assessment book for the years 1844-1848.

Dafydd was holding the land with his brother in law William Williams for some time around 1848/9; I am sure he was there in May 1849.

... Nothing remains of the house where Hugh Dafydd lived about 1852/3.

(1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

1841 census: Gwastad Annas Uchaf

|                  |    |        |                             |
|------------------|----|--------|-----------------------------|
| William Williams | 50 | farmer | Not born in Caernarfonshire |
| William Williams | 20 | Ag lab | “                           |
| Ann Jones        | 29 | Ag lab | “                           |
| Lowry Jones      | 33 | Ag lab | Born in Caernarfonshire     |
| Elinor Jones     | 26 | Ag lab | “                           |
| Henry Davies     | 36 |        | Not born in Caernarfonshire |

Next William Williams, a son of Cae Ddafydd, came and held the tenancy for 2-3 years. Then he let part of the land to his brother Evan Williams who came with his wife Ellen around 1841. William Williams died around 1850. (1903: UWB, Bangor 15723: The old ruins ... of the parish: No 46 Gwastad agnes)

1842

|              |                    |                               |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts       | £45                           |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts      | £9                            |
| Gwastadagnes | William Williams   | £67 10s                       |
| Penygwryd    | John Roberts       | 15s                           |
| Penylan      | John (Robert) Prys | £23 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4889) |

1843

|              |                    |                                     |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts       | £45                                 |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts      | £9                                  |
| Gwastadagnes | William Williams   | £67 10s                             |
| Penygwryd    | John Roberts       | 15s                                 |
| Penylan      | John (Robert) Prys | £23 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4890, 4895) |



|              |                  |                                     |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1844         |                  |                                     |
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts     | £45                                 |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts    | £9                                  |
| Gwastadagnes | William Williams | £67 10s                             |
| Penygwryd    | John Roberts     | 15s (Mrs Hughes ms 4895)            |
| Penylan      | John Prys        | £23 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4891, 4895) |

|              |                  |                                     |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1845         |                  |                                     |
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts     | £45                                 |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts    | £9                                  |
| Gwastadagnes | William Williams | £67 10s                             |
| Penygwryd    | John Roberts     | 15s (Mrs Hughes ms 4895)            |
| Penylan      | John Prys        | £23 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4892, 4895) |

|              |                  |                                     |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1846         |                  |                                     |
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts     | £45                                 |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts    | £9                                  |
| Gwastadagnes | William Williams | £67 10s                             |
| Penygwryd    | John Roberts     | 15s (Mrs Hughes ms 4895)            |
| Penylan      | John Prys        | £23 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4893, 4895) |

|              |                  |                                     |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1847         |                  |                                     |
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts     | £45                                 |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts    | £9                                  |
| Gwastadagnes | William Williams | £67 10s                             |
| Penygwryd    | Mrs Hughes       | 15s                                 |
| Penylan      | John Prys        | £23 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4894, 4895) |

|              |                  |                                     |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1848         |                  |                                     |
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts     | £45                                 |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts    | £9                                  |
| Gwastadagnes | William Williams | £67 10s                             |
| Penygwryd    | Mrs Hughes       | 15s                                 |
| Penylan      | John Prys        | £23 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4895, 4896) |

|              |                  |                               |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1849         |                  |                               |
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts     | £45                           |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts    | £9                            |
| Gwastadagnes | William Williams | £67 10s                       |
| Penygwryd    | Mrs Hughes       | 15s                           |
| Penylan      | John Prys        | £23 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4895) |

1849/50: 3 receipts from Gwastad Agnes.  
 1849 Dec 13: half year's rent £29 9s 0d Ladyday last  
 1850 Aug 9: half year's rent £47 Michaelmas last  
 1850 Dec 12: half year's rent £33 15s 0d Lady Day last  
 to William Williams by steward of Sir Richard Bulkeley Williams Bulkeley  
 (UWB, Bangor ms 2382 vii)

1850

|              |                          |                                     |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts             | £45                                 |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts            | £9                                  |
| Gwastadagnes | W Williams reps          | £67 10s (died 3/8/50 ms 4896)       |
| Penygwryd    | Mrs Hughes               | 15s                                 |
| Penylan      | John Prys (died 25/5/50) | £23 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4898, 4902) |

(1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

2 or 3 houses here; 2 farmhouses; Hugh Dafydd lived there all his life. Now there is only one poor house that William Williams, son of Cae ddafydd, lived in for many years until his death c1850.

1848 March 25: marriage of **John Williams**, Gardd llygad y dydd (1822B-?) and Ellin Owen. Gelli'r Ynn [108]. They moved to Gwastad Agnes and had Elizabeth (1850B-?), Ann, USA, & John, Gardd llygad y dydd who married a girl from Bronmeirion & had children. (T C Griffith, 2002, Achau rhai o deuluoedd hen siroedd Caernarfon, Meirionnydd a Trefaldwyn, p [178], [204]).

Another family came to farm half this farm, again from the family of Wm Williams Caeddfydd – his grandson and son of Sion Williams and Elizabeth Williams, Garddlygaidydd (Her mother was a daughter of Caeddfydd). His name was **John Williams** and he married one of the daughters of Owen Cadwaladr, Gelli'r Unn; they went without a lot to start and they were a very young active hard working married couple. They worked hard improving the land, opening drains to dry the land and were very successful. But they were not able to enjoy the fruits of their labour ... old Lawrie, steward of Sir R Bulkeley ... that they must go to look at ... Blaen y Nant and instead stay at home to receive the “big man”. John Williams went to chapel Bethania to listen to the preacher/s... Soon John Williams ... was thrown out ...

The farm was let to Henry Owen, Penygwryd Hotel. So John Williams did not farm Gwastadagnes for more than 12-14 years; I am sure he moved out before 1867.

(1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

Next William Williams, a son of Cae Ddafydd, came and held the tenancy for 2-3 years. Then he let part of the land to his brother Evan Williams who came with his wife Ellen around 1841. William Williams died around 1850. After his death his nephew John Williams, (a son of his sister) came. His wife was Ellen Williams, and they were there for 10 years. Their son was Revd W Curig Williams, Rhosgadfan MC. In 1860 they received notice to quit and they went to Cwm uchaf, Capel Curig and later to Rhos.

(1903: UWB, Bangor 15723: The old ruins ... of the parish: No 46 Gwastad agnes)

1851 census schedule No 37: Gwastadannas

|                      |           |               |                  |                 |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>John Williams</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>farmer</b> | <b>100 acres</b> | born Beddgelert |
| Ellinor              | 24        | wife          |                  |                 |
| Elizabeth            | 1         |               |                  |                 |

1851 census schedule No 38: Gwastadannas

|                   |    |        |                   |
|-------------------|----|--------|-------------------|
| <i>Hugh Davis</i> | 57 | ag lab | born C Beddgelert |
| Marry “           | 56 | wife   |                   |

|             |   |    |                   |
|-------------|---|----|-------------------|
| David “     | U | 29 | quarryman – slate |
| Catherine “ |   | 17 | employed at home  |
| Griffith “  |   | 15 | quarryman         |

1851 census: schedule No 39: Gwastadannas

|                      |           |                                  |                     |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Evan Williams</b> | <b>50</b> | <b>farmer, 100 acres</b>         | born Merionethshire |
| Ellin                | wife 50   |                                  | “                   |
| Margaret             | 19        | employed at home                 | Beddgelert          |
| William              | 17        | employed on farm                 | “                   |
| Jane                 | 15        | employed on farm                 | “                   |
| Gwen                 | 9         |                                  | Born Merionethshire |
| John Owens           | 10        | pauper, on receipt of the parish | Beddgelert, C       |

1851

|              |                                |                                     |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts                   | £45                                 |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts                  | £9                                  |
| Gwastadagnes | John Williams & Owen Cadwalder | £67 10s                             |
| Penygwryd    | Mrs Hughes                     | 15s                                 |
| Penylan      | Mrs John Prys/Wms              | £23 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4899, 4902) |

1852

|              |                                |                               |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts                   | £45                           |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts                  | £9                            |
| Gwastadagnes | John Williams & Owen Cadwalder | £67 10s                       |
| Penygwryd    | Mrs Hughes                     | 15s                           |
| Penylan      | Mrs John Prys/Wms              | £23 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4902) |

1853

|              |                                |                                    |
|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts                   | £45                                |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts                  | £9                                 |
| Gwastadagnes | John Williams & Owen Cadwalder | £67 10s                            |
| Penygwryd    | Mrs Hughes                     | 15s                                |
| Penylan      | Mrs John Prys                  | £23 8s                             |
| Hones Quarry | 2 years 10s                    | (UWB, Baron Hill 4901, 4902, 4903) |

1854

|              |                                |                            |
|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts                   | £45                        |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts                  | £9                         |
| Gwastadagnes | John Williams & Owen Cadwalder | £67 10s                    |
| Penygwryd    | Mrs Hughes                     | 15s                        |
| Penylan      | Mrs John Prys                  | £23 8s                     |
| Hones Quarry | 2 years                        | 10s (UWB, Baron Hill 4902) |

1854

|              |                                |                               |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts                   | £45                           |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts                  | £9                            |
| Gwastadagnes | John Williams & Owen Cadwalder | £67 10s                       |
| Penygwryd    | Mrs Hughes                     | 15s                           |
| Penylan      | Mrs John Prys                  | £23 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4902) |

1855

|              |                                |     |                           |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts                   | £45 |                           |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts                  | £9  |                           |
| Gwastadagnes | John Williams & Owen Cadwalder | £67 | 10s                       |
| Penygwryd    | Mrs Hughes                     | 15s |                           |
| Penylan      | Mrs John Prys                  | £23 | 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4904) |

1856

|              |                                |     |                           |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts                   | £45 |                           |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts                  | £9  |                           |
| Gwastadagnes | John Williams & Owen Cadwalder | £67 | 10s                       |
| Penygwryd    | Henry Owen                     | 15s |                           |
| Penylan      | Mrs John Prys                  | £23 | 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4905) |

1857

|              |                                |     |                           |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts                   | £45 |                           |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts                  | £9  |                           |
| Gwastadagnes | John Williams & Owen Cadwalder | £67 | 10s                       |
| Penygwryd    | Henry Owen                     | 15s |                           |
| Penylan      | Mrs John Prys                  | £23 | 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4906) |

1857 Dec 25: death of Gwen, daughter of Evan & Ellen Williams, Gwastadagnes, aged 16 years. (Beddgelert Memorial Inscription A 302)

1858 May 4: death of Evan Williams, Gwastadagnes, aged 65 years. (Beddgelert Memorial Inscription A302)

Evan Williams, another son of Wm Williams, Cae Ddafydd, came there from Garddyllynog, having farmed there for 3 years and before that at Clogwin y gwin. Evan Williams lived in a rather small house in the meadow nearest Cwmdyli, but there is no trace of it now. ... **(DETAILS)** Follow the river between Cwmdyli and the wall / bank ... Nothing remains of the house where Hugh Dafydd lived about 1852/3. (1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

1858 Nov 13: lease of land & house – Penygwryd Inn to Henry Owen. (UWB Baron Hill 7427)

1858

|              |                                |     |                           |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| Cwmduli      | Rice Roberts                   | £45 |                           |
| Gaifron      | Henry Roberts                  | £9  |                           |
| Gwastadagnes | John Williams & Owen Cadwalder | £67 | 10s                       |
| Penygwryd    | Henry Owen                     | 15s |                           |
| Penylan      | Mrs John Prys                  | £23 | 8s (UWB, Baron Hill 4907) |

1860 Oct 16: Henry Owen takes lease of Gwastadagnes as well as Gwrrhyd for £50. (UWB, Baron Hill. Uncatalogued larger bundle, envelope of many items, No 54 )

Gwastadagnes 1858 Sept –1830 Dec: John Williams & Owen Cadwalader £67 10s

1860 Nov 13: Gwastadagnes Let to Henry Owen £80 (UWB, Baron Hill, 4909)

Cwmdyli 1858 – 1862 June: Rice Roberts £45 (UWB, Baron Hill, 4909)

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1858 Rice Roberts £36 12s in arrears             | (UWB, Baron Hill 4010)  |
| 1862 March Catherine Roberts                     | (UWB, Baron Hill, 4909) |
| Penylan 1858 Mar–1862 Sept Mrs Gwen Price £23 8s | (UWB, Baron Hill, 4909) |
| Geufron 1858 Sept-1862 Sept Henry Roberts        | (UWB, Baron Hill, 4909) |
| Penygwrhyd 1858 Sept -1862 Sept Henry Owen       | (UWB, Baron Hill, 4909) |

Pre 1899: Gwastad Annas house was once the home of three families, one of which kept the farm, while the others were able to keep some cattle and a number of sheep. Today it is only a little mountain cottage, sheltering one family. One of the tenants of the larger farmhouse still lives in the memory of the people as a genial old scholar and wit. A man did not require much learning to be considered a scholar in **Hugh Dafydd's** time, and as he knew a little English, and could use his pen, he was considered one. He kept a school in "the upper room" of Bethania Chapel for some years, and one of his scholars is still living. (D E Jenkins, 1899, Beddgelert Its Facts Fairies and Folklore, p 288)

1861 census Schedule No 48: Gwastadagnes

|                             |         |         |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------------------------------|
| <b><u>John Williams</u></b> | 36      | ag lab  | born Beddgelert, Merionethshire |
| Ellen                       | 33      | wife    | " "                             |
| John                        | 13      | scholar | " "                             |
| Elizabeth                   | 11      |         | " Caernarfonshire               |
| Catherine                   | 9       |         | " "                             |
| Jane                        | 7       |         | " "                             |
| Ellen                       | 5       |         | " "                             |
| Owen                        | 4       |         | " "                             |
| Margaret                    | 2       |         | " "                             |
| Cadwalader                  | 9 month |         | " "                             |

1861 census: schedule No 49: Gwastadagnes

|                |          |                        |                |
|----------------|----------|------------------------|----------------|
| Ellen Williams | widow 60 | formerly farmer's wife | born Merioneth |
| William U      | son 26   | carter                 | Beddgelert, C  |
| Jane U         | dau 24   |                        | " "            |

1862 Aug 21: death of Ellen, aged 61 years, widow of Evan Williams, Gwastadannas. (Beddgelert Memorial Inscription A302)

1861 census: schedule no 50: Gwastadagnes

|                    |                |                |                            |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Hugh Davies</i> | H 66           | ag lab         | born Beddgelert            |
| Mary "             | wife 65        | wife           | born Beddgelert, Merioneth |
| Griffith "         | U 24           | slatequarryman | " C                        |
| Catherine Roberts  | dau 27         |                | born Beddgelert            |
| Rees Roberts       | s in law 29    |                | "                          |
| Mary Roberts       | g dau 4        |                | born Beddgelert            |
| Gwen Roberts       | g dau 2        |                | "                          |
| Catherine Roberts  | g dau 9 months |                | "                          |

1862 Rental (UWB, Baron Hill 7431)

|                        |                        |      |
|------------------------|------------------------|------|
| 693. Henry Owen,       | Gwastadagnes           | £80  |
| Henry Owen,            | ground rent Penygwrhyd | 15/- |
| 694. Catherine Roberts | Cwmdyli                | £55  |

|                    |                   |                 |                              |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 695. Gwen Price    | Penylan           |                 | £23 8s 0d                    |
| 696. Henry Roberts | Gaifron           |                 | £ 9                          |
| 1863               |                   |                 |                              |
| Gwastadagnes       | Henry Owen        | £80             |                              |
| Penygwryd hotel    | Henry Owen        | 15s ground rent |                              |
| Cwmdyli            | Catherine Roberts | £45             |                              |
| Penylan            | Gwen Price        | £23 8s          |                              |
| Geufron            | Henry Roberts     | £9              | (UWB, Baron Hill 4911)       |
| 1864               |                   |                 |                              |
| Gwastadagnes       | Henry Owen        | £80             |                              |
| Penygwryd hotel    | Henry Owen        | 15s ground rent |                              |
| Cwmdyli            | Catherine Roberts | £45             |                              |
| Penylan            | Gwen Price        | £23 8s          |                              |
| Geufron            | Henry Roberts     | £9              | (UWB, Baron Hill 4912)       |
| 1865               |                   |                 |                              |
| Gwastadagnes       | Henry Owen        | £80             |                              |
| Penygwryd hotel    | Henry Owen        | 15s ground rent |                              |
| Cwmdyli            | Catherine Roberts | £45             |                              |
| Penylan            | Gwen Price        | £23 8s          |                              |
| Geufron            | Henry Roberts     | £9              | (UWB, Baron Hill 4913)       |
| 1866               |                   |                 |                              |
| Gwastadagnes       | Henry Owen        | £80             |                              |
| Penygwryd hotel    | Henry Owen        | 15s ground rent |                              |
| Cwmdyli            | Rees Roberts      | £45             |                              |
| Penylan            | Gwen Price        | £23 8s          |                              |
| Geufron            | Henry Roberts     | £9              | (UWB, Baron Hill 4914)       |
| 1867               |                   |                 |                              |
| Gwastadagnes       | Henry Owen        | £80             |                              |
| Penygwryd hotel    | Henry Owen        | 15s ground rent |                              |
| Cwmdyli            | Rees Roberts      | £45             |                              |
| Penylan            | Gwen Price        | £23 8s          |                              |
| Geufron            | Henry Roberts     | £9              | (UWB, Baron Hill 4915, 7432) |
| 1868               |                   |                 |                              |
| Gwastadagnes       | Henry Owen        | £80             |                              |
| Penygwryd hotel    | Henry Owen        | 15s ground rent |                              |
| Cwmdyli            | Rees Roberts      | £45             |                              |
| Penylan            | Gwen Price        | £23 8s          |                              |
| Geufron            | Henry Roberts     | £9              | (UWB, Baron Hill 4916)       |
| 1869               |                   |                 |                              |
| Gwastadagnes       | Henry Owen        | £80             |                              |
| Penygwryd hotel    | Henry Owen        | 15s ground rent |                              |
| Cwmdyli            | Rees Roberts      | £45             |                              |
| Penylan            | Gwen Price        | £23 8s          |                              |

Geufron                      Henry Roberts                      £9                      (UWB, Baron Hill 4917)

1870

|                                   |                        |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Henry Owen,                       | Gwastadagnes           | £80                    |
| Henry Owen,                       | ground rent Penygwrhyd | 15/-                   |
| Rees Roberts                      | Cwmdyli                | £55                    |
| Gwen Price                        | Penylan                | £23                    |
| Henry Roberts                     | Gaifron                | £12                    |
| 1870 Oct 4: Letting Cwmdyli farm. |                        | (UWB, Baron Hill 4918) |

1871 Rental (UWB, Baron Hill 4919)

|                       |                        |      |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------|
| Henry Owen,           | Gwastadagnes           | £80  |
| Henry Owen,           | ground rent Penygwrhyd | 15/- |
| Henry Owen & W Hughes | Cwmdyli                | £55  |
| Henry Owen & W Hughes | Penylan                | £23  |
| Henry Owen & W Hughes | Gaifron                | £12  |

1871 census Gwastad Agnes 1 uninhabited

1871 census Cwm dylif                      “

1871 census Geufron                      inhabited schedule no 119

1871 census Penylan                      inhabited schedule no 118

1871 census: schedule no 117: Gwryd

|                  |    |   |                 |
|------------------|----|---|-----------------|
| Henry Owens      | 49 | Inn Keeper, 1,200 acres employing 2 men | born Beddgelert |
| Ann              | “  | wife                                    | Llanbeblig      |
| Henry            | “  | home duties                             | Beddgelert      |
| Catherine        | “  | “                                       | “               |
| Jane             | “  | “                                       | “               |
| John             | “  | “                                       | “               |
| Owen             | “  | “                                       | “               |
| Anne             | “  | “                                       | “               |
| Griffith         | “  | “                                       | “               |
| Hugh             | “  | “                                       | “               |
| William Williams | 24 | U Ag lab                                | Pwllheli        |
| Robert Parry     | 20 | U visitor, slatequarryman               | Llanfihangel    |

Harry Owen developed his unpretending cot (Pen y Gwryd) into a fairly good country hotel, and attracted well-known men under his roof. Besides developing the hotel business, he also took to some kind of farming, which reflects something quite the opposite to credit his name. We have already mentioned Gwastad Annas, Cwm Dyli, Penlan and Geufron, the first two as being the simple dwelling of one family each, and the second two as being in ruins. All these were thriving farms up to about 27 years ago (ie c1872), having well-stocked pens and cattle-folds. On the four farms there were about forty milch cows, about 80 or 90 cattle of all sorts, and no less than 3,000 sheep. Mr Owen worked up the sleeve of Sir Richard Bulkeley's agent, and got all the land which had been connected with some of these homesteads for centuries attached to the hotel, with results that are quite painful to observe. Instead of the lively movements of living beings, the sound of the meal-time horn, the crack of the team driver's whip, the neighing, lowing, and bleating of horses, cattle and sheep, respectively, together with the hundred other features of farm life, we have only a few stray sheep, a cow, or an ox here and there, and perchance a living being far from the

reach of gesture or voice. (D E Jenkins, Beddgelert its Facts, Fairies and Folklore, 1899, p 306)

1872 Rental (UWB, Baron Hill 4920 & 4921)

|                       |                        |      |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------|
| Henry Owen,           | Gwastadagnes           | £80  |
| Henry Owen,           | ground rent Penygwrhyd | 15/- |
| Henry Owen & W Hughes | Cwmdyli }              |      |
| Henry Owen & W Hughes | Penylan }              | £95  |
| Henry Owen & W Hughes | Gaifron }              |      |

1872

|                 |                        |                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Gwastadagnes    | Henry Owen             | £80             |                        |
| Penygwryd hotel | Henry Owen             | 15s ground rent |                        |
| Cwmdyli         | Henry Owen + Wm Hughes | £55             |                        |
| Penylan         | William Hughes         | £28             |                        |
| Geufron         | William Hughes         | £12             | (UWB, Baron Hill 4921) |

1873

|                 |                        |                 |                           |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Gwastadagnes    | Henry Owen             | £80             |                           |
| Penygwryd hotel | Henry Owen             | 15s ground rent |                           |
| Cwmdyli         | Henry Owen + Wm Hughes | £55             |                           |
| Penylan         | William Hughes         | £28             |                           |
| Geufron         | William Hughes         | £12             | (UWB, Baron Hill 4922-23) |

1874

|                 |                        |                 |                           |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Gwastadagnes    | Henry Owen             | £80             |                           |
| Penygwryd hotel | Henry Owen             | 15s ground rent |                           |
| Cwmdyli         | Henry Owen + Wm Hughes | £55             |                           |
| Penylan         | William Hughes         | £28             |                           |
| Geufron         | William Hughes         | £12             | (UWB, Baron Hill 4924-25) |

1875

|                 |                        |                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Gwastadagnes    | Henry Owen             | £80             |                        |
| Penygwryd hotel | Henry Owen             | 15s ground rent |                        |
| Cwmdyli         | Henry Owen + Wm Hughes | £55             |                        |
| Penylan         | William Hughes         | £28             |                        |
| Geufron         | William Hughes         | £12             | (UWB, Baron Hill 4926) |

1873 -1875 Rentals (UWB, Baron Hill 4922 to 4926)

|            |                        |      |
|------------|------------------------|------|
| Henry Owen | Gwastadagnes           | £80  |
| Henry Owen | ground rent Penygwrhyd | 15/- |
| Henry Owen | Cwmdyli }              |      |
| Henry Owen | Penylan }              | £95  |
| Henry Owen | Gaifron }              |      |

**1876 (UWB, Baron Hill 4927)**

1876-1884 Sir Richard Lewis Mostyn Williams-Bulkeley

Sir Richard Bulkeley Williams-Bulkeley's son Sir Richard Lewis Mostyn Williams-Bulkeley (1833-27 July 1884) succeeded him, **but not to the Nant Estate which for**



**her lifetime, belonged to the Dowager Lady Williams-Bulkeley from 1876 to 1889.** Around 1880 Plas y Nant, Betws Garmon was sold to Rev John Parry who rebuilt the house and built the chapel there.

**1876-1889 Owner of the Nant estate: The Dowager Lady Williams-Bulkeley** inherited the Nant estate for her lifetime, after her husband's death.

The 1876 Valuation of the estate of the Dowager Lady Bulkeley which describes each holding. (UWB Baron Hill, un-catalogued larger bundle).

|            |            |         |                     |
|------------|------------|---------|---------------------|
| 4. Cwmdyli | 1030 acres | 0 r 0 p | } yearly value £120 |
| Penylan    | 704        | 2 26    | }                   |
| Geufron    | 142        | 1 24    | }                   |
| Gwryd      | 205        | 1 24    | }                   |

Henry Owen & William Hughes.

Houses and buildings are all in ruins. Several of the doors and windows have been taken away. The land and fences are in a very dilapidated and slovenly state. This holding ought to be under one tenant so that the land and fences might be under his sole care and looked after. Henry Owen has not half the stock on Gwastadannes.

**6. Gwastadannes:** House and land 1050 acres 2r 23 p. Yearly value £105.

Henry Owen. House and buildings on this farm are mostly in ruins. This farm is very much neglected. There is some good meadow land but it is very badly treated and gets no dressing.

1876 Valuation of Gwastadagnes, Penllan & Geufron. Tenant: Henry Owen

These sheep farms are now held under one tenant and compromise in all 1,897 acres or thereabouts of sheep pasture and a small portion of meadow land. They are situated fronting the old and new roads leading from Beddgelert to Penygwryd.

There is only one small shepherds house, but there are substantial outbuildings.

These farms in addition to the foregoing are all well watered.

Amount of tithe: £5 15s 0d. Annual rent: £125. Est. value: £3,500.

(UWB, Baron Hill 7596)

**SEE 1889 identical entry**

1876-82 Rentals of the Dowager Lady Williams-Bulkeley's Plas y Nant Estate.

1876-77

|   |      |               |
|---|------|---------------|
| Gwastadagnes : Henry Owen               | £80  | (£90 in 1877) |
| Ground rent for Penygwrhyd : Henry Owen | 15/0 |               |
| Cwmdyli : Henry Owen & Wm Hughes        | £55  |               |
| Penlan : Henry Owen & Wm Hughes         | £28  |               |
| Geufron : Henry Owen & Wm Hughes        | £12  |               |

1878-82

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Gwastadagnes : Henry Owen               | £90  |
| Ground rent for Penygwrhyd : Henry Owen | 15/0 |
| Cwmdyli : Henry Owen                    | }    |
| Penlan : Henry Owen                     | }    |
| Geufron : Henry Owen                    | }    |
|   | £100 |

1879 Rent charge for new building at Gwastadagnes £10 7s 10d received from Henry Owen. (UWB, Baron Hill 7422, repeated in 7425)

1878: Specification or New Buildings in parish of Beddgelert

Cwmdyli Proposed new dwelling house

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Hafod y porth                                       | Proposed new buildings & alterations           |
| <b>Gwastadagnes</b>                                 | <b>Proposed new hay houses and cow house</b>   |
| Hafod rhyagl  | Proposed new hay house & repairs to cow houses |
| (UWB, Baron Hill, uncatalogued larger bundle No 47) |  |

1878 Dec 19: Absolute Order of the Inclosure Commissioners No 508: The Dowager Lady Williams-Bulkeley's Farm Building & Fencing Improvements.

We, the Inclosure Commissioners for England and Wales in pursuance of the General Land Drainage and Improvements Company's Act 1849 hereby declare and absolutely order that the inheritance of the lands mentioned in the schedule hereto is absolutely charged with the sum of £1,359 11s 7d for the improvement – by the erection of farmhouses, farm buildings and Iron wire fencing of the lands mentioned in the schedule hereto and mentioned in a contract for their improvement date 1 July 1878 and entered into by the Dowager Lady Frances Maria Williams Bulkeley of Baron Hill, Beaumaris, in the county of Anglesey with the General Land Drainage and Improvement Company and with the sum of £43 18s 5d paid for the cost charges and expenses properly incurred preparatory to, for, or in relation to and consequent on, such contract, and that such charge is to be satisfied and extinguished as follows, that is to say, By a rent charge of £81 17s 8d issuing out of the scheduled lands and to be paid as hereinafter mentioned for the period of 3 years from the date of this order such rent charges being after the rate of £5 16s 8d for every £100 of the said sum of £1,359 11s 7d and £43 18s 5d and to be payable by equal half yearly payments thereof to be made on 19 June next and such rent charges being compounded of principal and interest as expressed in the following table (See 1879-1909).

1. Name and description of lands
2. Landowner: the Dowager Lady Frances Maria Williams Bulkeley.
3. Occupiers.
4. Parish of Beddgelert.
5. County Carnarvon.

Parts of the Beddgelert and Plas y Nant Estate containing together by estimation 3,482 acres 2 roods 9 perches.

|                          |                      |                 |                               |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Gwastadagnes farm</b> | <b>1,059a 2r 23p</b> | <b>occupier</b> | <b>Henry Owen</b>             |
| Hafodrhysgl farm         | 680a 3r 15p          |                 | Robert Williams               |
| Hafodyporth farm         | 920a 1r 16p          |                 | Hugh Jones                    |
| Caergors farm            | 420a 3r 26p          |                 | Frances Roberts               |
| Plas Issa farm           | 409a 3r 9p           |                 | Thomas Hughes (Bettws Garmon) |

(UWB, Baron Hill, uncatalogued bundles)

1879 Letter to the Dowager Lady Bulkeley:

We there undersigned your ladyship's tenants beg humbly to submit to your ladyship's consideration that the reasons stated below give us a fair and just right to claim some considerable remission of our rents which in 1877 were raised. The exceptionally bad season which we have this year experienced has rendered all our efforts to get in our hat in anything like good condition an utter failure, the corn harvest has been equally bad.

The enormous importation of cattle and sheep from abroad has reduced the prices of home bred stock by 1/3<sup>rd</sup> their value in last year's markets, and consequently to that degree decreased our ability to pay our rents.

These facts will we believe induce your ladyship to grant us the reduction of 10% in our rents, which we see, under the same circumstances has been granted to their tenants by a great number of the landowners throughout our United Kingdom.

We beg to subscribe ourselves your ladyship's most humble and obedient servants  
 Robert Williams, Hafodyrhisgl; Henry Owen, Pen y Gwryd; Pierce Roberts, Llynduisaf; Hugh Jones, Hafod y Porth; Rice Williams, Glasdraian farm; William Hughes, Wernlasdeg; John Prichard, Hafodwydyr; Frances Roberts. Caergors; Robert Roberts, Snowdon Ranger; (+ Llwynnon, Caeau Gwynion, Penygaer, Trosgol). (UWB Baron Hill, un-catalogued larger bundle).

1878 Dec 27: John Williams Contract at Gwastad agnes £320

A Laurie's travelling expenses inspecting new buildings on the Beddgelert Estate: £5

1879 June Receipts to tenants of ... Gwastadagnes --- proportion of Rent Charges for new buildings due 19 June

1879 June 23: Payments General Land Drainage & Improvements Co, per the Scottish Widow's Fund & Life Assurance Society. Half years rent charge for new buildings in Beddgelert ... Hy Owen Gwastadagnes tax £10 7s 10d

1880 Dec 29: Rent charges for new buildings – Gwastadagnes £\*\*\*\*\*

1881 ½ year's interest from tenants of Caergors, Hafod y porth, Hafod rhisgl, Gwastadagnes & Plas Isa : £40 5s 4d.

1887 Jan 5: Gwastad agnes rent \*\*\*\*\*

1887 Oct 29: Gwastadagnes balance of rent \*\*\*\*\*

(UWB, Baron Hill 4930 Dowager Lady Williams-Bulkeley Beddgelert Estate Account)

1881 census schedule no 94 Gwryd

|             |    |   |                          |                 |
|-------------|----|---|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Henry Owens | 59 | hotel keeper, <b>farmer 3,877 acres</b> | employing 2 men & 2 sons | B               |
| Anne        | “  | wife                                    |                          | Born Llanbeblig |
| Owen        | “  | son                                     | farm servant             | “               |
| Anne        | “  | daughter                                | general servant          | “               |
| Griffith    | “  | son                                     | farm servant             | “               |
| Hugh        | “  | son                                     |                          | “               |

+ 7 other workers & visitors

|             |              |             |                   |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1881 census | GWASTADANNAS | MISSING     | CHECK end of reel |
|             | Cwmdyli      | “           |                   |
|             | Penylan      | “           |                   |
|             | Geufron      | uninhabited |                   |

1876-88 Beddgelert Estate Account

1875 house built at Caergors

1878 Dec 27: John Williams contract at Gwastadagnes £320

1879 July 18: Plans for dwelling house, Cwmdyli

1879 June 23: Rent charge on new building Gwastadagnes Henry Owen £10 7s 10d

1882 Hy Owen allowance for building boathouse at Cwmffynnon lake Gwryd £6 17/6

1887 Jan 5: Hy Owen Cwmdyli etc £17 10s

1883 Jan 31: H Owen Gwastadagnes in full £25

1888 Henry Owen Cwmdyli, Gwastadagnes etc £72 1s 6d

1888 July: Henry Owen balance of rent due £25 16s 0d (UWB, Baron Hill 4930)

1883-87 Rentals of the Dowager Lady Williams-Bulkeley's Plas y Nant Estate.

Gwastadagnes : Henry Owen £95

Ground rent for Penygwrhyd : Henry Owen 15/0

Cwmdyli, Penlan, Geufron : Henry Owen £100

1883 H Owen allowance for building boathouse at Cwnffynnon Lake Gwryd.

(UWB, Baron Hill 7423)

### 1884-7 July 1942 Sir Richard Henry Williams-Bulkeley

Sir Richard Lewis Mostyn Williams-Bulkeley's son Sir Richard Henry Williams-Bulkeley succeeded him, and on 4 March **1889** (death of Dowager Lady Maria Frances Williams-Bulkeley) **he also succeeded to the Nant Estate.**

1887 June: **Gwastadagnes**, Penllan & Geifron.

Annual rent: £125; market value £3,500.

These sheep farms are now held under one tenant, Henry Owen, and comprise in all acres 1,897 or thereabouts and a small portion of meadow land. They are situate fronting the old and new roads from Beddgelert to Penygwryd.

There is only a small shepherd's house but there are substantial outbuildings. These farms in addition to the foregoing are all well watered. Amount of tithe: £5 15s 0d.

(UWB, Baron Hill, Valuation of Beddgelert Estate 1887)

1888 Gwastadagnes : Henry Owen £95

Ground rent for Penygwrhyd : Henry Owen 15/0

Cwmdyli, Penlan, Geufron : Henry Owen £100

(UWB, Baron Hill 7424 & 7426)

1889 4 March: death of Dowager Lady Bulkeley

|  |             |            |            |
|--|-------------|------------|------------|
| 1889                                     | due 13 May  | A          | B          |
| Gwastadagnes : Henry Owen                | }£47 17s 6d | £29 7s 2d  | £18 10s 4d |
| Ground rent for Penygwrhyd : Henry Owen} |             |            |            |
| Cwmdyli, Penlan, Geufron : Henry Owen    | £50         | £30 13s 3d | £19 6s 9d  |

A = proportion due to Dowager Lady Bulkeley up to 4 March 1889

B = proportion due to Sir Richard H W Bulkeley Bt from 5 March to 13 May 1889

(UWB, Baron Hill 7427)

1889 Wm Humphrey's father's memories of people at Gwastad Annas – y ty uchaf:

Dafydd Hughes & Elin Gruffydd

William Roberts & Elin Defis

William Williams & Beti Williams

John Williams and Elin. All except Elin, widow of John Williams were dead by 1889.

(Nant Gwynant, ei Hanes, ei thraddodiadau, a'i thrygolion, Wm Humphrey, written in 1899, published in Cymru, June 1911, vol XL, nos 239, p 296)

1890 and 1891 Rentals:

Gwastadagnes : Henry Owen £95

Ground rent for Penygwrhyd : Henry Owen 15/0

Cwmdyli, Penlan, Geufron : Henry Owen £100

(UWB, Baron Hill 4934 & 4935)

1891 census Schedule No 73 Gwastadagnes (at least five rooms)

|             |    |         |                 |                        |
|-------------|----|---------|-----------------|------------------------|
| John Owens  | 35 | farmer  | born Beddgelert | W/E ?son of Harry Owen |
| Catherine " | 36 | wife    | Llanfihangel?   | W                      |
| Annie Owens | 12 | scholar | Dolbenmaen      | W                      |
| Ellen "     | 9  | scholar | Beddgelert      | W                      |
| Grace "     | 7  | scholar | Beddgelert      | W                      |
| Jane "      | 1  |         | Beddgelert      | W                      |

1891 census schedule no 94 Cwmdauli only 4 rooms

|           |    |          |              |   |
|-----------|----|----------|--------------|---|
| Owen Owen | 33 | shepherd | C Beddgelert | W |
| Anne Owen | 26 | wife     | C Beddgelert | W |

?Geufron

?Penylan

1891-94 rent charges

|                      |                               |                           |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Geufron:             | Mrs Henry Owen (pt Penygwryd) | 6/8d to Rev R Williams    |
| Cwmdylif             | Henry Owen                    | £3 to Mr Priestley        |
| Penlan               | Henry Owen                    | £2 15s 0d to Mr Priestley |
| Gwastadannas / agnes | Henry Owen                    | £3 to Mr Priestley        |

(UWB, Baron Hill 4936)

1892-1893 Rentals

|                                  |                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Gwastadagnes Ann Owen            | pd £47 10s Sept '91; | } £97 17s in Sept '93 & in Mar '93 |
| Ground rent Penygwryd Inn A Owen | 7/6d "               | } abatement £19 10s, recd £176 5s  |
| Cwmdyli etc Ann Owen             | £50 "                | }                                  |

(UWB, Baron Hill 4937, 4938)

In August 1893 much of the Nant Estate was sold by auction, however **Gwastadagnes**, Cwmdyli etc were not included.

**1893 (UWB, Baron Hill 4939)**

**1894 (UWB Baron Hill 4940)**

1894 Rental

|                           |          |                                    |
|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Gwastadagnes              | Ann Owen | }                                  |
| Ground rent Penygwryd Inn | Ann Owen | }pd £97 17/6d in full March & Sept |
| Cwmdyli etc               | Ann Owen | }                                  |

(UWB, Baron Hill 4941)

1895 Rental

|                           |          |                                |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Gwastadagnes              | Ann Owen | £95 }                          |
| Ground rent Penygwryd Inn | Ann Owen | 15s }pd £195 17/6dl March 1895 |
| Cwmdyli etc               | Ann Owen | £100 }                         |

Ann Owen, Penygwrhyd, Llanberis  
(UWB, Baron Hill 4942)

1897 Rental

|                           |          |                                |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Gwastadagnes              | Ann Owen | £95 }                          |
| Ground rent Penygwryd Inn | Ann Owen | 15s }pd £195 17/6dl March 1895 |
| Cwmdyli etc               | Ann Owen | £100 }                         |

(UWB, Baron Hill 4945)

1898 Gwastadagnes rent £95; Cwmdyli rent £100;  
 & ground rent for Penygwrhyd Hotel 7/6d  
 Tenant: Repts of the late Ann Owen [she died 1896] (UWB, Baron Hill, 7499)  
 Due 13 Nov 1898; ground rent 15s due 25 March (UWB, Baron Hill 4944)

1899 Rental  
 Gwastadagnes £140 IN HAND Transfer from working A/C  
 Cwmdyli etc  
 G Griffith ground rent Penygwryd Hotel 15 /- paid  
 (UWB, Baron Hill 4943)

Pre 1899: Gwastad Annas house was once the home of three families, one of which kept the farm, while the others were able to keep some cattle and a number of sheep. Today it is only a little mountain cottage, sheltering one family. (D E Jenkins, 1899, Beddgelert Its Facts Fairies and Folklore, p 288)

1899 Nov 17: from John Lawrie (agent) Baron Hill Estate Office to  
 \* Mr William Jones, Maesgwm, Dolgellay

Dear Sir, Your account up to present for stock stands as follows:

|                               |         |                  |
|-------------------------------|---------|------------------|
| 820 sheep @ 18/-              |         | £730             |
| Hay in stock                  |         | £ 90             |
| Hay Rack                      | 14/- }  |                  |
| Ladder                        | 4/- }   |                  |
| 23 chains for tying cows @ 6d | 11/6d } |                  |
| Grinding stone                | 15/- }  | <u>£ 2 4s 6d</u> |
|                               |         | £830 4s 6d       |
| 1899 Sept 22: Paid on account |         | £650             |

I understand that you have agreed to pay for any more sheep that may be gathered during the next few weeks. I am obliged to you for doing so. Kindly send me your cheque for £200 now. A contract for doing up the shepherd's house and Gwastadannas has been signed. Yours truly, John Lawrie.  
 (W O Williams, Pers comm., Hafod Rhisg, 2005)

\*William Jones moved to Gwastad Annas, but stayed at Hafod Rhisg whilst work was done on the house. He rented Gwastadannas until around 1913/14. He was a bachelor & died at Gwastadannas. (W O Williams, Pers comm., Hafod Rhisg, 2005 & 2008)

1900 -1908 Gwastadagnes, Cwmdyli & tith: William Jones £190 rent. Got in arrears, but all paid up by 1908. (UWB, Baron Hill, 7500-7506, 7461-7464 & 7466-7568)

1901 census schedule no 89 Gwastadannas

|                  |      |     |                  |                 |               |
|------------------|------|-----|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Robert Lloyd     | M    | 45  | shepherd         | born M Llanbedr | W             |
| Elizabeth        | "    | M   | 42               | house keeper    | M Trawsfynydd |
| *Robert          | "    | son | 18               | shepherd        | M Llanbedr    |
| Laura            | "    | dau | 12               | at school       | M Llanbedr    |
| Ellis            | "    | son | 8                |                 | M Llanbedr    |
| William Williams | serv | 51  | houseman on farm | C Bettws y Coed | W             |

Cwmdylif not in occupation (not uninhabited)  
 Penlan, Geufron ??

Robert Lloyd lived in Cwmdyli for a while. (W O Williams, 2008)

\*Robert Lloyd, the son, moved to Ty hwnt i'r bwch property at Penamser; he returned to Gwastadannes area to fish & poach salmon. He helped with the Hafod y Rhisgl haymaking c1935-47.

1903 Gwastadagnes (UWB, 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)  
2 or 3 houses here; 2 farmhouses; Hugh Dafydd lived there all his life. Now there is only one poor house that William Williams, son of Cae ddafydd, lived in for many years until his death c1850.

The family of Hugh Davies, or Hugh Dafydd as he was known, were tenants for many years. I have an old account book mostly written by his father David Hughes, and another written by Hugh Dafydd – well educated and well written. One page records sheep owned jointly by Hugh Davies and Robert Jones ... They split the loss on the wool. (1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

**1819** May 4<sup>th</sup> account book shows that Hugh Dafydd's grandmother and his father were joint tenants of Gwastadagnes for many years.

(1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

It is recorded that William Roberts and Cadwalader Owen let half the tithes Gwasadagnes to Ellinor Williams and David Hughes for 7 years for £5 5s 0d a year paid Michaelmas each year. **1789**. signed Wm Roberts & Cadwalad Owen.

(1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

Also, accounts of David Hughes & his mother in **1813**:

Wheat £2 2s; Flour £2 12s; Money 6s; "Fialod" of flour 2s.

Wheat £2 2s; Money 6s; cutting peat 13/9d; "stored" flour 14/0d; carrying timber 2/0d; hosed wheat £2 2s 0d; rake 3/3d.

(1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

I think I have heard that there was once a tavern in Gwastadagnes, and I have seen a page of a book to prove this. **1828** December 19:

Wm Roberts 8 pints 2/8d;

Robert Jones 3 pints 1/0d

William Humphrey 1/3½d

William Lloyd 6d

Owen Jones Dinas 5 1/8d

(1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

It seems that Hugh Dafydd had been tenant for 20 years, because he gave the tenancy to the brother of his wife, Mary Williams, namely William Williams. Hugh Dafydd held no land in 1844 and the names of Wm Williams and O Williams are in the Tax assessment book for the years 1844-1848.

Dafydd was holding the land with his brother in law William Williams for some time around 1848/9; I am sure he was there in May 1849.

(1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

Evan Williams, another son of Wm Williams, Cae Ddafydd, came there from Garddylwynog, having farmed there for 3 years and before that at Clogwin y gwin. Evan Williams lived in a rather small house at the edge of the field next to Cwmdyli, but there is no trace of it now except ruins.

You go down from the only house left [old Gwastadannes] between that house and the river following the wall between the meadow and the rougher ground. After you arrive half way along the meadow, if you look carefully at the wall, you can see some of the foundations of the house ...

... Nothing remains of the house where Hugh Dafydd lived about 1852/3.

(1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

Another family came to farm half this farm, again from the family of Wm Williams Caeddafydd – his grandson, and son of Sion Williams and Elizabeth Williams, Garddlygaidydydd (Her mother was a daughter of Caeddafydd). His name was **John Williams** and he married one of the daughters of Owen Cadwaladr, Gelli'r Unn; they went there without many belongings and they were a very young active hard working married couple. They worked exceptionally hard improving the land, opening drains to dry the land and were very successful. But they were not able to enjoy the fruits of their labour ... The old Lawrie, steward of Sir R Bulkeley gave notice that he was coming to inspect the farms at Blaen y Nant, but instead of staying at home to receive the “big man”, John Williams went to chapel Bethania to listen to a sermon. The important man was furious and as soon as he could he turned them out of the farm.

The farm was let to Henry Owen, Penygwryd Hotel. So John Williams did not farm Gwastadagnes for more than 12-14 years; I am sure he moved out before 1867.

(1903 Gwastadagnes: UWB, Bangor 33242, Essay of the old ruins ... of the parish, page 5-9)

1903 (UWB, Bangor 15723: The old ruins ... of the parish: No 46 Gwastadagnes)

There were two houses here in the old days; one family lived in an old cowshed nearby, now demolished to make new buildings. (1903: UWB, Bangor 15723: The old ruins ... of the parish: No 46 Gwastadagnes)

The earliest known family was Hugh Dafydd and Ellen, who married in February 1746. Their son David Hughes & his wife Mari followed his father as tenant. A granddaughter to Ellen was Mari Hughes who became the wife of William Humphrey, Hen Capel and mother of the late Wm Humphrey, Pantlleni. All Gwastadagnes land was farmed by Hugh Dafydd and his son David Hughes for many years. The first division was when Hugh Dafydd gave part to William Roberts, son of Bwlch and Ellen his sister; they moved to live in Ty Isaf, Beddgelert. (1903: UWB, Bangor 15723: The old ruins ... of the parish: No 46 Gwastadagnes)

Next William Williams, a son of Cae Ddafydd, came and held the tenancy for 2-3 years. (1903: UWB, Bangor 15723: The old ruins ... of the parish: No 46 Gwastadagnes)





there. Ted Roberts moved to the Lodge, Bryn Gwynant in 1933 on his marriage. He worked as a labourer at Cwm Dyli power station. Gwenant Roberts is his daughter. Maggie was born in 1909, either at Dyffryn Mymbyr or after their move to Gwastadannes. Ciss was born at Gwastadannes in 1911 & moved to Penmaenmawr in 1956 with her father. In 2008 she lives in a home there.

Ifor Roberts was born in 1914 at Gwastadannes. He worked there as a labourer for a while pre 1939, & moved to Hafod y Porth pre 1943 after marrying Leah Jones who worked at Hafod Lwyfog. In 2008 he lives in a home in Porthmadog.

David Roberts was a shepherd / bailiff at Gwastadannas and moved to work at Cwmdyli Power Station after David Jones took the tenancy of Gwastadannas.

Martha died aged 46 of throat cancer at Gwastadannes.

The family moved to Bryn Afon & later David Roberts & Ciss moved to Ty Capel before going to Penmaenmawr in Nov 1956. David Roberts died in 1975, aged 93.

(Gwenant Roberts, 2008)

Ciss & Ifor were delivered by Charlotte Griffith, postwoman, Glanaber near the school. (Idris Evans, 2008)

1911 census not seen

1913 at Gwastadannes: David J Davies; David & Martha Roberts with Edward. Maggie and Lizzie; Rowland Griffith. (Capel Bethania Annual Report)

c1921 Short particulars of Gwastad Agnes, Cwm Dyli & Moel Perfedd in parish of Beddgelert, the property of Sir R Williams-Bulkeley, Bt, KCB

The holding has a reputed area of 3,150 acres, of which about 150 acres are meadow and pasture-land, with a small area of arable, the remainder being enclosed and unenclosed sheep walk and mountain areas.

The farm premises include a stone and slated house containing seven rooms, and outhouses, and the buildings which are detached are substantially built structures comprising stable with loft over, 4 bay hay barn with shippens for 12 and 8, two bay cattle shed and yard, dipping bath etc.

The farm is let at present on annual tenancy to Mr William Jones and his son at a temporarily reduced rent of £160 including tithe and Land Tax amounting to £1 5s 0d. The original rent was £200, and it is considered that the place is fully worth this. The abatement has been made for special reasons.

The present tenants have gradually improved the number and quality of the stock. The land is under agreement on the termination of the tenancy at any time to take over the stock at a valuation with a limit of 2,700 head of sheep. (UWB, Baron Hill 7594)

The 1921 Sale of the Beddgelert "Heart of Snowdonia" lands offered Cwm Dyli, Gorphwysfa, **Gwastad Agnes**, Hafod Wydyr, Saracen's Head. They were not all sold. (Felin Faesog draft, Sophia Pari Jones, chapter 2; J E Griffith, 1913, Pedigrees; GAS XSC 530)

Lot 12 Cottages & buildings at Gorphwysfa Tenants: DJ & R Davies. £120 to Vaynol

Lot 13 Moel Berfedd Tenants: D J & R Davies, 245 acres £750

Lot 15 Boating & Fishing Rights Llyn Cwm Ffynnon: Mr Hampson

Lot 16 Portion of licensed hotel on summit of Y Wyddfa Withdrawn

Tenants: Snowdonia Mountain Tramroad & Hotel Co Ltd. (O R Owen)

Sporting (rights) let to Mr Hampson on annual tenancy.

Indenture 13 Nov 1899: Vendor & Sophia de Bourbal.

**Lot 14 Gwastad Agnes & Cwm Dyli. Tenants: DJ & R Davies 2,908 acres.**

**No offer** 29 Sept yearly tenancy

Lot 14 Conditions: (part) Purchaser shall take over all the vendor's interests and liabilities in the lease to the **outgoing Tenants, Messrs Davies**, and satisfy all claims of the Tenants at the termination of the lease by taking over the sheep stock in accordance therewith (such number being limited therein to **2,200 head**) and for all other matters, except that the Vendor will pay for the fixed sheep dipper and all fences erected by the Tenants.

The Farm Premises include: a stone and slated dwelling house, occupied by the shepherd, containing seven rooms and out-offices.

Substantial stone and slated buildings, comprising:- Stable for 2 and loft over, four-bay hay barn with shippens for 12 and 8, and two-bay cattle shed and yard.

The Farm comprises:-

Excellent lowland meadow & pasture land with a small portion of arable 150 acres

Enclosed sheep walks 260 acres

Unenclosed sound mountain grazings 2,498 acres

Total reputed area of about 2,908 acres

[most of the boundaries are watershed boundaries and are not marked or fenced on the ground]. (GAS, XSC 530)

1921 Dafydd John Davies left Gwastadannas to look after his father & lived near Porthmadog. (Gwenanr Roberts, 2008)

1936 Gwastad Agnes: Robert R Davies. (Bethania chapel annual report)

1939 Feb 8: death of David John Davies, Gwastad agnes, aged 56 years.

David John Davies was a son of Richard Davies (1851-1922), Tu hwnt i'r bwlch, Portmadog & Jane William (d 1903), Hafod Lwyfog. (T C Griffith, 1989, Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon, p [77] & T C Griffith, 2002, Achau rhai o deuluoedd hen siroedd Caernarfon, Meirionnydd a Trefaldwyn, p [77]) (Beddgelert Memorial Inscription B520)

1922 Gwastadagnes, Cwmdyli IN HAND

£194 allowed to outgoing tenant in valuation of stock. [This was actually the same amount which the tenant owed in rent] (UWB, Baron Hill 7480)

1923 Gwastadagnes, Cwmdyli IN HAND. 388 (SOLD in pencil) (UWB, Baron Hill 7481)

Then no tenants for 2-3 years. (W O Williams, Pers comm., Hafod Rhisg, 2005)

Ifor Roberts (now aged over 90 years) was shepherd and lived at Gwastadannas. He was a son of David Roberts, shepherd/bailiff at Gwastadannas.

1924 -1930 RENTAL: Gwastadagnes + Cwmdyli: tenant **William Jones** Rent £200

1924 William Jones brought his family from Plas Uchaf, Glan Conwy. Dafydd Jones & his sister Sarah came to Gwastadannas; they lived rent free for a year. (W O Williams, Pers comm., Hafod Rhisg, 2005)

1924 William Jones £100 pd March 1924 (UWB, Baron Hill 7482)

1925 " £200 (UWB, Baron Hill 7483)

1926 " £200 (UWB, Baron Hill 7484)

1927 " £235 incr £35 on fencing outlay (UWB, Baron Hill 7485)  
Pd £200; £35 arrears

1928 " Pd £100; £175 arrears (UWB, Baron Hill 7486)

|  |                  |  |
|--|------------------|--|
| 1929                                     | “                | Pd £182; arrears £185 10s 0d. Rent reduced. (UWB, Baron Hill 7487)   |
| 1930                                     | “                | Pd £240; arrears £105 10 0d (UWB, Baron Hill 7488)<br>Rent reduced temporarily owing to agricultural depression. |
| 1931-1942 RENTAL: Gwastadagnes + Cwmdyli |                  |  |
| 1931                                     | Wm & David Jones | £160; arrears £105 10 0d (UWB, Baron Hill 7489)  |
| 1932                                     | “ “              | £80; arrears £185 10 0d (UWB, Baron Hill 7490)   |
| 1933                                     | “ “              | £160; arrears £185 10 0d (UWB, Baron Hill 7491)  |
| 1934                                     | “ “              | £200; arrears £145 10 0d (UWB, Baron Hill 7492)  |
| 1935                                     | “ “              | £160; arrears £145 10 0d (UWB, Baron Hill 7493)  |
| 1936                                     | “ “              | £nil; arrears £305 10 0d (UWB, Baron Hill 7493)  |
| 1937                                     | “ “              | £160;arrears £305 10 0d (UWB, Baron Hill 7493, 7433)   |
| 1938                                     | “ “              | £240;arrears £225 10 0d (UWB, Baron Hill 7493, 7434)   |
| 1939                                     | “ “              | £205 10 0d;arrears £180 (UWB, Baron Hill 7497, 7435)   |
| 1940                                     | “ “              | £200; arrears £140 (UWB, Baron Hill 7436)  |
| 1941                                     | “ “              | £200; arrears £100 (UWB, Baron Hill 7437)  |
| 1942                                     | “ “              | £260; arrears nil (UWB, Baron Hill 7438)   |

1928 Sept 25: **David Jones** & Lily (Pierce, living 1996) married in Beddgelert.

They had the tenancy of the 3,000 acre **Gwastadannes** farm.

[See D Jones, in Richard Griffith (Carneddog), *O Greigiau i'r Grug, Dinbych, 1930*, p 50]

Lilian Pierce's parents were William Pierce, Cefn-nen & Ffridd Uchaf (1862-1908B) who in 1886 married Elizabeth, (c1860-Aug 1928), daughter of John Owen Hendregwenllian.

See Richard Griffith (Carneddog). *O Greigiau I' Grug, Dinbych, 1930*, p 34 & 28.

(T C Griffith, 1989, *Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon*, p [16])

1929: They had Gwilym

1932 They had a daughter Eirwen. Died 2005 in a home in Llanrwst.

1934 They had Lucy, who married Harold Williams (*not Roberts*) & lives in Criccieth.

*David Jones's sister Sarah Jones, Plas Uchaf, Nant Conwy, married Edward Owen Williams, Hafod y rhisg, and had William Owen Williams. (T C Griffith, 1989, Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon, p [58])*

Pre 1934: W O Williams remembers going to Gwastadannas aged about 3 years and seeing the large wireless kept on the stairs. He also remembers visiting at shearing time when 20-30 men were have their meal seated in the large kitchen and in the parlour. He recalled hearing of a shepherd ?Robert who came from a big estate to manage the flock of sheep while there was no tenant.

#### 1934 NEW HOUSE BUILT

1935: Gwastad Agnes: David & Lily Jones; Gwilym Pyrs Jones; Eurwen Elizabeth Jones; Lucy Gwendoline Jones. Griffith J Griffith. Owen Morris.

1936: Gwastad Agnes: David & Lily Jones; Gwilym Pyrs Jones; Eurwen Elizabeth Jones; Lucy Gwendoline Jones. Humphrey Evans.

1937: Gwastad Agnes: David & Lily Jones; Gwilym Pyrs Jones; Eurwen Elizabeth Jones; Lucy Gwendoline Jones. Ifor G Roberts.

1938: Gwastad Agnes: David & Lily Jones; Gwilym Pys Jones; Eurwen Elizabeth Jones; Lucy Gwendoline Jones. Ifor G Roberts. Emyr Morris.

1940: Gwastad Agnes: David & Lily Jones; Gwilym Pys Jones; Eurwen Elizabeth Jones; Lucy Gwendoline Jones. Ifor G Roberts.

1941: Gwastad Agnes: David & Lily Jones; Gwilym Pys Jones; Eurwen Elizabeth Jones; Lucy Gwendoline Jones.

1943: Gwastad Agnes: David & Lily Jones; Gwilym Pys Jones; Eurwen Elizabeth Jones; Lucy Gwendoline Jones. Megan Griffith; Thomas Morris.

1944: Gwastad Agnes: David & Lily Jones; Gwilym Pys Jones; Eurwen Elizabeth Jones; Lucy Gwendoline Jones.

1950: Gwastad Agnes: David & Lily Jones; Gwilym Pys Jones; Eurwen Elizabeth Jones; Lucy Gwendoline Jones.

1954: Gwastad Agnes: David & Lily Jones; Gwilym Pys Jones; Eurwen Elizabeth Jones; Lucy Gwendoline Jones.

1957: Gwastad Agnes: David & Lily Jones; Gwilym Pys Jones; Eurwen Elizabeth Jones; Lucy Gwendoline Jones.

1958: Gwastad Agnes: David & Lily Jones; Gwilym Pys Jones; Eurwen Elizabeth Jones;

1958 May 21: Gwastad Agnes: Lucy Gwendoline Jones married Harold Williams, Llanrwst.

1959: Their son David Thomas Williams was baptised at Capel Bethania.

1960 March Mr & Mrs Harold Williams & young son moved from Gwastad Agnes to Criccieth. (Capel Bethania Annual Records)

1942 William Jones died.

1943-1956 Gwastadagnes + Cwmdyli tenant: David Jones

|                  |              |                        |
|------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 1943 David Jones | £160 rent pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7439) |
| 1944 David Jones | £160 rent pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7440) |
| 1945 David Jones | £160 rent pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7441) |
| 1946 David Jones | £160 rent pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7442) |
| 1947 David Jones | £160 rent pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7443) |
| 1948 David Jones | £160 rent pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7444) |
| 1949 David Jones | £160 rent pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7445) |
| 1950 David Jones | £160 rent pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7446) |
| 1951 David Jones | £160 rent pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7447) |
| 1952 David Jones | £160 rent pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7448) |
| 1953 David Jones | £160 rent pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7449) |
| 1954 David Jones | £160 rent pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7450) |
| 1955 David Jones | £160 rent pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7451) |
| 1956 David Jones | £160 rent pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7452) |

1956-1967 Gwastadagnes + Cwmdyli tenant: David Jones & Gwilym Pierce Jones

|                           |         |                        |
|---------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| 1957 David & Gwilym Jones | £160 pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7453) |
| 1958 David & Gwilym Jones | £160 pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7454) |
| 1959 David & Gwilym Jones | £160 pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7455) |
| 1960 David & Gwilym Jones | £200 pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7456) |
| 1961 David & Gwilym Jones | £200 pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7457) |
| 1962 David & Gwilym Jones | £200 pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7458) |
| 1963 David & Gwilym Jones | £200 pd | (UWB, Baron Hill 7459) |

1967 David & Gwilym Jones        £200 pd        (UWB, Baron Hill 7460)

1964 **Gwilym Jones**, who was unmarried, took over the tenancy from his father who moved to Anglesey.

1988 David Jones died; he was living on Anglesey.

1990 Lily Jones moved to live with her daughter Lucy in Criccieth and died 24 December 1991.

1996 Gwilym Jones decided to retire to Criccieth where he died, 30 August 2001.

c1997 **Bedwyr & Helen Jones** took out a 20 year tenancy agreement

In 2008, Gwastadannas, farmed together with the lands of Cwmdyli, Geufrom and Penlan, still remains part of the Baron Hill Estate.

2012 same situation.

Research by Margaret Dunn

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