

NORTH WEST WALES DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES

BRYN YR ODYN (Bryn ‘Rodyn)

Maentwrog, Merioneth (Gwynedd)

NGR - SH 707 408. Bryn yr Odyn, Cwm Cynfal, Ffestiniog, Gwynedd. LL41 4RA
Ffestiniog Parish, sometimes included in Trawsfynydd or in Maentwrog Parishes.

Bryn yr Odyn means the hill of the (lime) kiln and is an ancient Snowdonia type house situated in Cwm Cynfal, a secluded valley near Llan Ffestiniog. Cwm Cynfal is remarkable for the survival of many place names recorded in the mediaeval Welsh tales (written c.1060) known today as The Mabinogi.

Bryn yr Odyn is situated in a wide, secluded valley south of Llan Ffestiniog. The house is entered by means of a cross passage flanked by post and panel partitions on each side. The passage divides the ground floor into two parts: the parlour or service room on one side and the hall with its large ingle-nook and winding stone stairs on the other. There is an attic above the first floor and a more recent two storey kitchen wing has been added on the north side. The house would have been built for a prosperous yeoman farmer who made a good living raising and exporting cattle to the markets of England

Dating Bryn yr Odyn by the North Wales Dendrochronology Project.

Dendrochronology results:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| c1503 (a) Fireplace lintel | <i>Felling date: c1503</i> |
| c1556-60 (b) Main range and north wing roof | <i>Felling date range: 1556-60</i> |
| After 1597 (c) Purlin in north wing roof | <i>Felling date: after 1597</i> |
| (a) Fireplace lintel 1503(36?C); | |
| (b) Top plate to screen 1518(+25NM); Door jamb 1533(h/s); Purlins 1525(h/s), 1526(2), 1531(h/s+24NM); Joists 1515(h/s), 1552(37+4NM); | |
| (c) Purlin 1586 (+5 NM). | |

Site Master 1414-1586 BRYNRDYN (*t* = 9.3 PENGWERN; 7.8 BEDGLRT7; 7.5 BEDGLRT6).

Number Timber and position	Dates AD	No of rings	Felling seasons spanning dates/date ranges(AD)
1536--66 Rear (North) Wing			
byr01 South-west upper purlin	1450-1526	77	1536-66
byr02 East principal rafter unknown	undated	NM	unknown
byr03 North-west lower purlin	1420-1525	106	1536-66
byr04 West principal rafter	1458-1586	129(+5NM)	after 1597
byr05 South-east upper purlin	1454-1531	78 (+24NM)	1555-60
byr13m Mean of 01 and 03	1450-1526	107	1536-66

Cross passage screens

byr06	South door jamb in west screen	1421-1533	113	1544-74
byr07	Top-plate to east screen	1436-1518	83 (+38NM)	c.1556

Ceiling joists

byr08	9th joist from south, east room	undated	87	unknown
byr09	4th joist from north, east room	1414-1515	102	1526-56
byr11a	Main north-south beam	1423-1536	114	-
byr11b	Main north-south beam	1496-1552	57	-
byr11	Mean of 11a and 11b	1423-1552	130c	1556

Fireplace lintel

byr10	Fireplace lintel, main G. Floor	1388-1503	116	1503?
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Roof timbers

byr12	Collar to east truss	1410-1556	147	Summer 1557
byr13	Collar to west truss	1408-1555	148	Summer 1556
byr14	North principal to west truss	1388-1516	129	soon after 1549

North Wing add. Timbers

byr15	Axial beam	1424-1639	215	Summer 1640
byr16	Mantel beam	1436-1555	120	Winter 1555/56

Dendrochronology Summary

Samples were taken from the roof of the rear (north) wing and the main roof, the cross-passage screens, the ground floor ceilings of the main range and a fireplace lintel in the main ground floor room. The fireplace lintel was the earliest timber dated – it had 36 sapwood rings, possibly including the outermost ring, although this is uncertain, its felling date is therefore given as **c1503**. Eleven timbers, including roof timbers from the main range and some north wing roof timbers, two from the cross passage screens, two ceiling timbers from the main range, and a rear range mantel beam, were felled over a period from winter 1555/56 to summer 1557, and appear to represent a single phase of construction, most likely in **1557**. The north (rear) range roof appears to have been reconstructed using some original purlins and a principal rafter with an outer heartwood ring formed in 1586, giving a likely felling date after 1597, which may be of the same date as the axial beam felled in **summer 1640**. ((*Dendrochronology Report by Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory 2010*; Report updated January 2011.)

House Description

A substantial house of Snowdonian type with voussoir-headed doorways and a screened cross-passage. The post-and-panel partitions originally had twin doorways into the outer rooms and a large central doorway into the hall. The house is fully storeyed with a habitable attic. Structural evidence suggests that the single-storey north-west kitchen wing has been added. Tree-ring dating showed that the principal rafters had a felling date of after 1597 but the purlins were contemporary or nearly so with the main house, and presumably reused. The early felling date for the fireplace beam indicates further reuse. The collar-beam trusses of the main range were not sampled because of potential bat disturbance.

Plan: see (*Houses of the Welsh Countryside* (2nd edn.), fig. 217 (h-l). Richard Suggett, RCAHMW)

DETAILS OF HOUSE OWNERS / TENANTS

- 1557 Likely date for building the main house (*dendrochronology report*)
- 1593 **Hugh Thomas** ap Evan gent. Mortgage of a moiety of Brynrodyn and Tythin-du' (*National Library of Wales Bachymbyd 105*)
- 1607 Hugh ap Thomas “drover” (*NLW Bachymbyd 767*)
- 16?? Repurchase by Hugh Thomas ap Ieuan (*NLW Bachymbyd 196*)
- 1619 Hugh Thomas provides for his wife's dower (in consideration of 144 in marriage goods) and the settlement of Brynrodyn on his son Thomas ap Hugh after his parents' death. (*NLW Nanhoran 1 288*)
- 1623 Crown Rentals
Hugh Thomas for Bryn yr Odyn 1s 5d
 idem pro Cae Iago 1s 4d
 idem pro Gweirglodd Llechrown 0s 10d
 idem pro terra Llechrown 0s 4d
 idem pro terra Rys ap Evan et Tyddyn y Bwlch 4s 2d
 idem pro Fridd Ddu et Moel Rudd 0s 2d
 (*NLW 12731E Rent Roll of the Chief Rents of the hundred of Ardudwy*)
- c1640 possibly date for building the rear wing. (Dendrochronology reports)
- 1652 1. Robert Lloyd of Ffestiniog, gent and Catherine, his wife.
 2. John Lloyd, Dduallt and **Howell Hughes** of Maentwrog, gent (owner of Bryn Rodyn.)
 Deed to lead to the uses of a fine to be levied on Bronn y Manod. 10/ 4 1652.
 (*NLW Elwes 851*)
- 1662 Hearth Tax: **Howell Hughes**, Brynrodyn 3 hearths
 (*Merioneth Historical and Record Journal Vol.11 Part 1 1953 p27*)
- 1678 **Howell Hughes** Maentwrog gent, made a will and left Bryn yr Odyn to his son Hugh. He also made small bequests to members of the family including 5 shillings to Maentwrog Church. (*NLW 27/2/1678/9. 1678/48*).
- 1690 Bryn yr Odyn, owned by Mr **Hugh Hughes**, named as one of the chief three houses in Maentwrog.
 Bryn yr Odyn, number 32 –under other houses
 (*Edward Lhwyd, Parochalia, printed in Arch Camb supplement July 1911 p104*)
- 1699/1700 Brun r Odin, Hugh Hughes (son of Howell Hughes)
 1. Evan John Evan of the parish of Festiniog Co. Merioneth, gent, and Eline Morris, his mother.
 2. **Hugh Hughes** of Brun r Odin and Hugh David Morris of the parish of Llanelltid, both of the Co. Merioneth, gentlemen.

3. Owen Griffith of the parish of Llanelltyd, gent, grant to uses
(post – nuptial settlement upon the marriage of 1 and Catherine, one of the daughters of
3) of the messuage called Kefen Perfedd, lands called Cae'r Fron, Cae Gwndwn, Cae
Du, Cae'r llech Ddu and Buarth bach and a cottage in the Alld Goch, all situate in the
parish of Festiniog. (*NLW Elwes 1075*)
- 1717 1. **Hugh Hughes**, Brynrodyn, gent
2. Maurice Wynn, Llwyn, Denb. and John Jones, Glan y gors, Denbigh. gent.
Recovery of Brynrodyn and Cae Iago, Tyddyn Griffith ap Evan, Ty'n Fedwen,
and Llechwedd Ronw. (*Bangor 10/4/1717 413*).
- 1717 Between **Hugh Hughes**, late of Bryn Rodan, (gent 1) and Maurice Wynne of Llwyn Co.
Denbs and John Jones Glangors gent 2 to which they are entitled to under the will of
Hugh Hughes. (*Bangor, Maenan 10/ 4/1717 23*)
- 1721 **Hugh Hughes**, Bryn yr Odyn Maentwrog, gent. Will. (*NLW Bangor Probate Records
1721-86*)
- 1741 **Maurice Davies**. Bryn'r Odyn, Maentwrog, Merioneth, Yeoman.
(*NLW Bangor Probate Records 1576 – 1858*)
- 1741 **Gaynor Hughes**, Bryn'r Odyn, Maentwrog, Merioneth, Spinster – will;
sister of Hugh Hughes – refers to him as her late brother
(*NLW Bangor Probate Records 1576 – 1858*)
- 1745 A stylised map of Brynyrodyn, a farm of 261 acres, owned by
Thomas Kyffin (of Maenan). (*Bangor. Mostyn . M5859*)
- 1745 21 July Evan Nanney Bryn yr Odyn aged 49 (*MI 394, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas
Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)
- 1747 Release and quit claim by Anne Jones of Bachymbyd Denbs. **Lowry Nanney**
(alias Evans of Brynrodin) widow and administratrix of **Evan Nanney** late of Brynrodin.
To Thomas Kyffin, Maenan and Elizabeth of all legacies and sums of money etc.
(*Bangor. Maenan 28/ 12 1747 23*)
- | | | |
|------|---|-----------|
| 1748 | Thomas Kyffin of Bryn yr Odyn and Maenan (294) | 21/3/1748 |
| 1758 | Thomas Kyffin of Bryn yr Odyin (295) | 25/3/1758 |
| 1759 | Thomas Kyffin of Bryn 'rodyn (296) | 17/4/1759 |
| | 'Dead' entered against Thomas Kyffin - omitted | 24/3/1760 |
| | <i>(Merioneth Quarter Sessions)</i> | |
- 1770 Lease 1. Thomas Kyffin of Maenan, Caernarvon esq.
2. **Morris David of Brynrodyn**, yeoman.
Lease for the life of 2. of Brynrodyn. Rent £5.0.0. p. a. (*Bangor, Maenan 417*)
- 1787 7 May Lowry (widow of *Evan Nanney*) aged 96 (*MI 394, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas
Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

- 1789 Inventory **Maurice Davies, Bryn Rodyn** Yeoman. £95 (NLW 30/12/39)
- 1789 Marriage Settlement **DID ELIZABETH MARRY 2?**
 1. Dame Elizabeth Kyffin of Maynan Co C'von, widow of Sir Thomas Kyffin, of Maynan and **Elizabeth Kyffin of Maynan**, spinster, eldest daughter and co heiress of above.
 2. **William John Lenthal of Besselsleigh, Berks.**
 3. Rev. David Hughes M.A. and Fellow of Jesus College Oxford and William Totty of Ruthin, gent.
 4. Robert Wynne, the elder, of Garthewin Co. Denb. esq and John Lloyd Havodyn Co. Denb. Esq
 Included in the long list of property is a messuage or tenements and lands called **Bryn'r Odyn** in the parish of Festiniog, Merioneth which descended to Elizabeth Kyffin as one of the daughters and heirs of Sir Thomas Kyffin. (*Bangor, Maenan 33*)
 (*See Griffith Pedigrees pp 196-7*)
- 1790 Bond, **Maurice Davies Bryn'r Odyn**, Maentwrog. (*Bangor Probate Records*)
 1790 will, **Maurice Davies Bryn'r Odyn**, Maentwrog, yeoman. (*NLW website – wills*)
- 1795 Bryn yr Odyn is mapped prominently on John Evans' map.
 (*NLW Maps – Maps of late 18th and 19th century*)
- 1798 Land Tax Owner - **John Wynne**
 Tenant - **Evan Nanney** £2.12. 0
 (*Merioneth County Record Office, Dolgellau*).
- 1809 20 Oct. Edward Jones, Bryn 'r Odyn aged 66yrs. (*MI 037 St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)
- 1818 March 27: burial of Griffith Morris of Bryn Rodyn, aged 67.
 (*NLW Trawsfynydd Bishop's Transcripts 1818*)
- 1820 Babell Chapel, Cwm Cynfal was founded in 1820 by **William and Robert Griffith, Bryn yr Odyn**. (*Hanes Ysgolion Sabothol Dosbarth Ffestiniog. p 164*)
- 1820 Jane Gryffydh, the daughter of Rev John Gryffydh, referred to as 'The milk-white maid' and 'White Snowdonia antelope' by Shelley, married the English novelist Thomas Love Peacock in 1820. Peacock died in 1866 and Jane in 1851. They had four children, 3 girls and 1 boy. (*Cydymaith i Lenyddiaeth Cymru. 1986 page 460*)
- 1823 3 Jan Elizabeth wife of Edward Jones, Bryn 'r Odyn (*MI 037, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)
- 1840 Tithe map & schedule
 Owner Rev. **David Griffith**
 Tenant farmer of 132 acres **Morris Griffiths**. £4.0.0. (*M.C.R.O.*)
- 1841 Census Brynrodyn (*M.C.R.O. Dolgellau*)

Morris Griffith	55 yrs	farmer	born in county
+Eleanor Griffith	55		
Griffith Morris	8		
Winifred Morris	3		
Thomas Roberts	21		
Mary Roberts	25		
Robert Roberts	17		
Laura Roberts	11		

1842 10 Feb. John, son of Edward Jones, Bryn 'r Odyn aged 66 (*MI 037, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1851 census Brynrodyn (*M.C.R.O.Dolgellau*)

Morris Griffith	Head	65	farmer, 134 acres	born in parish
+Elinor Griffith	wife	45		
Griffith Morris	son	18		
Gwen Morris	dau	13		
Thomas Evans		22	servant	
Robert Ellis		38	Ag lab	
Catherine Ellis		38		
Owen Ellis		15		
Hary Ellis		12		
Babra Ellis		9		
Catherine Ellis		7		

1854 12 Feb Ellinor, (2nd) wife of Edward Jones, Bryn 'r Odyn, aged 73 (*MI 037, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1856 March 20: Further Mortgage touching on messuages called Brynrodyn & Cae Iago, Maentwrog, Merioneth to secure £200 and interest (letter enclosed) (*Dolgellau Record Office Z/M/6850/13*)

1861 census Brynrodyn **CHECK NAME OF FARMER – Morris Griffith?**

Griffith Morris	Head	75	farmer	born in parish
+Elinn Morris	wife	55		
William Owen		34	carter	
John Jones		19	general servant	
Gwen Jones		19	dairymaid	
Gwen Jones	g dau.	5		
Richard Ellis		49	rockman	
Catherine Ellis		48		
Owen Ellis		25	quarryman	
Henry Ellis		22	stockman	
Catherine Ellis		16	dressmaker	

1864 16 Feb. Ellin Griffith, Bryn Rodyn. (daughter Griffith and Elizabeth Morris) aged 2 (*MI 160, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1864 8 June David Owens, Bryn Rodyn, Maentwrog aged 8 (*MI 161, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1864 22 June John Owens, Bryn Rodyn, Maentwrog aged 6 mths (*MI 161, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1866 31 July David Owens, Bryn Rodyn, Maentwrog aged 1 (*MI 161, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1867 23 May Ellin Griffith, Bryn Rodyn. (daughter of Griffith and Elizabeth Morris) aged 1 (*MI 160, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1867 1 Aug. Robert Owens, Bryn Rodyn, Maentwrog aged 1 week (*MI 161, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1869 26 Dec. Elizabeth, (wife of Griffith M Griffith) Bryn 'Rodyn aged 32 (*MI 141, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1869 31 Dec. Griffith M. Griffith aged 36. (*MI141, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1871 census Brynrodyn (*M.C.R.O. Dolgellau*)

=David Owen	Head	44	farmer and butcher	born in parish
*Gwen Owen		33	wife	
Gwen Owen		16	daughter	
^Morris G Owen		12	scholar	
Evan Owen		2		
Gwen Williams	visitor	35	dressmaker	
Robert Davies		20	servant	
John Jones		24	servant	
Catherine Jones		17	servant	
Evan Jones		40	servant	

1871 A declaration by Ellen Jones the wife of William Jones, Buarth y Foel, Anglesey stating that her grandfather, Rev. John Gryffydd, Cae yn y Coed, in his will dated 1805, bequeathed £600 to each of his two daughters namely Anne (who married Robert Williams, an Anglesey surgeon and Jane, who married Thomas Love Peacock, Also to David Gryffydd, his son, a bequest of £300.

1871 28 Apl. Ellin (daughter of Job and Barbra Davies) Bryn 'Rodyn aged 7. (*MI 820, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1875 22 Jan Morris Griffydd, Bryn 'rodyn aged 90. (*MI 1084, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1875 March 5: 1. Morgan Lloyd, 43 Chester Sq, London

2. Samuel Holland, Glanwillian. Esq.

Mortgage of land called Brynrodyn & Cae Iago. Maentwrog, Merioneth to secure £220 and interest. (*Dolgellau Record Office Z/M 6850/17*)

=1875 30.Mar David Owens, Bryn Rodyn, Maentwrog aged 49 (*MI 161, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1876 26 May David Owens, Bryn Rodyn, Maentwrog aged 9 mths (*MI161, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1875 June 15: 1. Samuel Holland, Caerdeon, Merionryj, esq.

2. Morgan Lloyd, 42 Chester Sq., London

Mortgage of land called Brynrodyn & Cae Iago, Maentwrog, Merioneth to secure £200 and interest) (*Dolgellau Record Office Z/M/ 6850/19*)

[Morgan Lloyd was a MP & QC and Samuel Holland was a MP on other papers. 300 acres together]

1876 The land surrounding Bryn yr Odyn farmhouse was owned by Morgan Lloyd.

In 1876 he obtained a mortgage of £3500 from Major William Hancocks of Worverly Worcs.

Major William Hancocks died on July 16 1883. (Abstract of title of Miss L. M. Tudor 1876 – 1969, with owners of Bryn ‘Rodyn).

^1879 15 Aug. Morris Owens, Bryn Rodyn, Maentwrog aged 21(*MI 161, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1879 The property was transferred to Evan Richard and in his will of 1885 it was bequeathed to his son Owen Richard. Evan Richard died the following year and his wife died in 1896. (Abstract of title of Miss L. M. Tudor 1876 – 1969, with owners of Bryn ‘Rodyn).

1879 Bryn ‘Rodyn – messuages or tenements land with field names

In the abstract of title and on the plan dated 1879 the land contained together 201 acres 3 roods and 37 perches, parts of farms called **Bryn ‘Rodyn, Cae Iago and Llechronw**. There were also grazing rights over the Mignant and Maentwrog mountains and sheep walks over common land called Ffridd y Mynydd.

Coed Isa	Yr Arlla
Cae Maen Isa	Gors Bara Gwin
Cae Tyn y Low	Buarth Glofar
Buarth Bouldu	Gors Tynlow
Gors y Gigfran	Coed Tanclogeingwyn
Bryn Mawr	Cae Maen Ucha
Parish Road	Gardens
Farmhouse Brynrodyn	Farm Yard Cae Tybach
Parts of Gors y Rodyn	Brynbach
Parts of Maesmorwynion	Parts of Buarth Llor
Cae Glas Isa	Ynyslas
Y Nurse	Cae Glas Ucha
Parts of Brachian	Ffridd y Drain
Cae Gors	Ffridd y Mynydd

1881 census Brynrodyn Farm (*M.C.R.O.Dolgellau*)

Richard Owen Richards	23	farmer 200 acres	born in parish
Joseph Jones	38	Ag lab	
Jane Jones	32	housekeeper	

Bryn Rodyn Cottage

*Gwen Owens	Head	43	widow
William Owens		12	
Jane Owens		11	
Griffith Owens		8	
+Ellin Griffiths	mother	76	annuitant
Catherine Jones		23	servant

1884 3 Apl Ellen (wife of Morris Griffydd, died at Bryn Brysgyll, Ffestiniog) aged 73. (*MI 1084, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1891 census Brynrodyn (*M.C.R.O.Dolgellau*)

David Jones	Head	45	farmer	born in parish	Welsh language
Elizabeth Jones	wife	44			“
Griffith Jones	son	12			“
Dorothy Jones	dau	10			“
Sarah Jones	dau	8			“

Morris Owen	Head	48	slate miner
Elizabeth Owen	wife	46	
Evan Q Owen	son	14	
Ann Owen	dau	12	
William Owen	son	7	

1892 20 Feb Margaret (daughter of David and Elizabeth Jones) Bryn ‘rodyn aged 6 mths. (*MI 1171, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1897 2 April. Richard (son of Job and Barbra Davies) Bryn ‘Rodyn aged 23 (*MI820, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1897 Hancocks sold the farm to Evan Evan Jones, Manod house, Ffestiniog, three farms totaling 201 acres formerly in the occupation of David Owen and Richard Owen, **David Jones** and **John Davies** of Trawsfynydd. (Abstract of title of Miss L. M. Tudor 1876 – 1969, with owners of Bryn ‘Rodyn).

1899 11 May. Sarah (daughter of David and Elizabeth Jones) Bryn ‘rodyn aged 16. (*MI 1171, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1901 census Brynrodyn (*M.C.R.O.Dolgellau*)

* David Jones	Head	55	farmer	born in parish	both languages
+Elizabeth Jones	wife	54			“
Griffith Jones	son	22	quarry slate maker		“
Dorothy Jones	dau	20			“
Lizzie Jones	dau	15			“
John O Hughes	serv	18	carter on farm		“

John Davies	Head	34	farmer		both
Margaret Davies	wife	30			“
David Davies	son	3			--
Robert Davies	son	2			--

Ella Davies	dau	1		--
Susannah Thomas	serv	29	servant	Welsh

1902 24 March Conveyance: 1. Augustus Talbot Handcocks of one part and 2. **Evan Evan Jones** of the other part. (*in the possession of the owners of Bryn 'Rodyn*)

1902 7 May +Elizabeth Jones aged 55 (*MI 1171, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1910 Land Tax Assessment: CHECK FOR OWNER & TENANTS

1911 census Brynrobyn (*M.C.R.O.Dolgellau*)

Evan E Jones	Head	50	farmer	born in parish	both languages
Sarah Elin Jones	wife	52			“
Sarah Alice Jones	dau	23		born in Patagonia	“
Mair Jones	dau	21		born in Patagonia	“
Elleanor Jones	dau	17		born in Patagonia	“
Ieuan Jones	son	11		born in Patagonia	“
Merionwen Jones	dau	7			Welsh
John Lewis Jones		61	servant		both

1916 – 14 February Conveyance: The Great Western Railway Company on the one part and the said **Evan Evan Jones** on the other part . (Bala and Festiniog Railway) (*in the possession of the owners of Bryn 'Rodyn*)

1922 6 May Gwen Owens Bryn Rodyn, Maentwrog aged 84 (*MI 161, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1924 2 Jan *David Jones aged 79. (*MI117, St. Michael, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd Family History Society*)

1932, 14 April. **Evan Evan Jones** bequeathed to Sarah Ellen Jones and W. J. Williams. (Abstract of title of Miss L. M. Tudor 1876 – 1969, with owners of Bryn 'Rodyn).

1941. Deed of Partnership between William John Williams. **David Tudor**, and Robert William Tudor. (Abstract of title of Miss L. M. Tudor 1876 – 1969, with owners of Bryn 'Rodyn).

1941 1 July Deed of Partnership David Tudor(1) Robert Tudor and I. A. Jones(2)
(*A 1991 Schedule of Title Deeds and Documents relating to Bryn yr Odyn*)

1941 16 December Conveyance: William John Williams of the one part and Robert William Tudor and David Tudor of the other part. (*in the possession of the owners of Bryn 'Rodyn*)

1950 22 August Conveyance between David Tudor, Robert William Tudor and Ivor Aneurin Jones of the one part, and **David Tudor and Laura Menai Tudor** of the other part. (*in the possession of the owners of Bryn 'Rodyn*)

1954 5 November Deed of Exchange: David Tudor and Laura Menai Tudor of the first part the said David Tudor of the second part and the said Laura Menai Tudor of the third part. (*in the possession of the owners of Bryn 'Rodyn'*)

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1969 Abstract of Title Miss L. M. Tudor (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

1969 14 October Conveyance between Laura Menai Tudor and **John Roberts**. On this conveyance it specified that the acreage of the land amounted to 55.749 acres. ((*Abstract of title of Miss L. M. Tudor 1876 – 1969, in the possession of the owners of Bryn 'Rodyn'*)

1969 14 October Conveyance Miss L. M. Tudor (1) J. Roberts (2) (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

1969 17 October Land Charges Certificate (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

1969 17 October Deudraeth. Rural District Council
(*A 1991 Schedule of Title Deeds and Documents relating to Bryn yr Odyn*)

1969 24 October Local Search Merioneth County Council
(*A 1991 Schedule of Title Deeds and Documents relating to Bryn yr Odyn*)

1969: 27 October Conveyance between John Roberts and **Linclon House Investments (Waybridge Ltd)** (*Abstract of title of Miss L. M. Tudor 1876 – 1969, with owners of Bryn 'Rodyn'*).

1969 27 October Conveyance John Roberts (1) Lincoln House Investments ltd. (2)
(*A 1991 Schedule of Title Deeds and Documents relating to Bryn yr Odyn*)

1969 27 October Conveyance J. Roberts (1) Lincoln House Investments ltd. (2) (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

1969 15 December Conveyance John Roberts (1) Bessie May Littler (2) (*in a 1991 Schedule of Title Deeds and Documents relating to Bryn yr Odyn*)& (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

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1973 22 February Conveyance between Lincoln House Investments and **Christopher Charles Nash and David John Ernest Nash**. (*Abstract of title of Miss L. M. Tudor 1876 – 1969; with owners of Bryn 'Rodyn'*).

1973 Feb. 22 Conveyance: Christopher Charles Nash, Abby Dene, Maenan, Llanrwst to **David John Nash** of Rhiw Chapel, Blaenau Ffestiniog. (*Documents are in the possession of the owners of Bryn 'Rodyn'*)

1973 22 February Conveyance Lincoln House Investments Ltd. (1) Christopher Charles Nash and David John Ernest Nash (2) (*A 1991 Schedule of Title Deeds and Documents relating to Bryn yr Odyn*)

.....
1975 10 February Local search Cyngor Dosbarth Meirionnydd (*A 1991 Schedule of Title Deeds and Documents relating to Bryn yr Odyn*)

1975 20 March Official Search (*A 1991 Schedule of Title Deeds and Documents relating to Bryn yr Odyn*)

1975 2 April Conveyance C C Nash & D J E Nash to Mr.& Mrs W J Smith

(A 1991 Schedule of Title Deeds and Documents relating to Bryn yr Odyn)

1975 – April 2 1975 Christopher Charles Nash and David John Nash to **Mr & Mrs W. J. Smith** of 13, Cambridge Street, Norwich. *(Documents are in the possession of the owners of Bryn ‘Rodyn)*

1975 Supplemental Abstract of Title *(in a 1991 Schedule of Title Deeds and Documents relating to Bryn yr Odyn)*

.....
1980 11 December Local Search Cyngor Dosbarth Meirionnydd *(Bundle of letters in current owners’ possession)*

1980 Dec. 24 William John Smith to Christine Cameron Smith. *(Documents are in the possession of the owners of Bryn ‘Rodyn)*

1980 24 December Mortgage *(Bundle of letters in current owners’ possession)*

1980 30 December Official Search *(Bundle of letters in current owners’ possession)*

1982 31 August Planning Permission Merioneth Co. Council (1) Atset (Midlands) Ltd (2) *(in a 1991 Schedule of Title Deeds and Documents relating to Bryn yr Odyn)*

1983 Release Christine Cameron Smith. *(Documents are in the possession of the owners of Bryn ‘Rodyn)*

1983 1 August Legal Charge Christine Cameron Harris to Midland Bank Plc *(Bundle of letters in current owners’ possession)*

1983 4 December Mortgage *(Bundle of letters in current owners’ possession)*

1986 1 October Enquiries before contract. *(Bundle of letters in current owners’ possession)*

1986 14 October Official Search *(Bundle of letters in current owners’ possession)*

1986 15 October Commons Registration *(Bundle of letters in current owners’ possession)*

1986 22 October Local search Cyngor Dosbarth Meirionnydd *(Bundle of letters in current owners’ possession)*

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1987 22 April Official Search *(Bundle of letters in current owners’ possession)*

1987 22 April Conveyance Bessie May Littler to Christine Cameron Smith *(Bundle of letters in current owners’ possession)*

1987 April 22 **Bessie May Littler** to Christine Cameron Smith. *(Documents are in the possession of the owners of Bryn ‘Rodyn)*

1987 11 May Contract Christine Cameron Smith (1) and Arnold and Sylvia Potter (2) *(Bundle of letters in current owners’ possession)*

1987 13 May Requisitions on Title (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

1987 22 May Official Search (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

.....
1987 22 May Christine Cameron Smith to **Arnold Potter and Sylvia Potter**. (*Documents are in the possession of the owners of Bryn 'Rodyn*)

1987 28 May Conveyance Christine Cameron Smith (1) Arnold and Sylvia Potter (2) (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

1987 16 June Cancellation Cert. (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

1987 10 July Land Charges Cert. (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

.....
1988 Arnold Potter and Sylvia Potter to **Geoffrey Allan Kemp and Terence John Palfrey**. (*Documents are in the possession of the owners of Bryn 'Rodyn*)

1988 6 July Search (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

1988 12 July Company Search Lincoln House Investments ltd. (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

1988 12 July 3 Land Charges Certificates (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

1988 5 August Conveyance. Arnold and Sylvia Potter (1) Geoffrey Allan Kemp and Terence John Palfrey (2) (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

.....
1995 –2012 The present owners: **Pegi Gruffydd and Dafydd Rhys**. (*Bundle of letters in current owners' possession*)

The above conveyances point to how frequently the property has changed hands especially at the end of the 20th century.

Conclusion

Bryn yr Odyn was built in the 16th century as the home of a prosperous Welsh farmer who bred and exported Welsh Black cattle to the markets of England. The property remained in the ownership of the same family for many generations. Howell Hughes was a cultured gentleman who corresponded with the Puritan mystic and author Morgan Llwyd (1619 – 1659) of Cynfal.

However, following the contemporary fashion of accumulating land and wealth by means of intermarriage among the gentry it became the property of the wealthy Sir Thomas Kyffin of Maenan.

By the 1800 it seems the owners no longer lived in the property and it was let to local tenant farmers and according to the 1881 Census was divided into two homes. The large families and their servants played an important part in the religious and social life of Cwm Cynfal.

In the early part of the 20th century the property remained in local hands but by 1969 the land was reduced to 56 acres. In 1975 it was sold to a Norwich family, reflecting the common trend of internal migration to rural Wales.

2012 Bryn yr Odyn is in the process of being restored and conserved.

Researched by Nan Griffiths and Gwenda Paul.

Revised 22 March 2013

Additional Items concerning Bryn yr Odyn:-

Copy of Ellen Jones' declaration 1871

Front page of the sale of Bryn yr Odyn 1878.

Map of Bryn yr Odyn 1879

Copy of Evan Evan Jones' will 1932.