

# The Owen & Griffith Story

By James M. Burton

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A not for profit booklet published for the benefit of family,  
descendants of Owen and Griffith of Ystradgynlais, Cwmaman and Slough  
and the wider public, for assistance in their genealogical studies.

See also 'Palleg manor, Ystradgynlais 1215-1915'  
by the same author on above website or in local library.

# The Owen & Griffith Story

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# THE OWEN & GRIFFITH STORY

**This booklet is a private research paper detailing the lives, works and genealogy of the antecedents of the author through his mother's paternal line. The family concerned is Griffith and Owen, originating in Ystradgynlais, moving to Cwmaman then Buckingham.**

## 2nd Revision 2011

When researching for the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 'Owen Story' pamphlet published 2001, I remember telling myself not to procrastinate upon it as I had other fish to fry. It was as accurate as any analogue item could be at the time, but did not reach as far as it could have, 'twas merely an overview. So, with the coming of the internet and its far reaching tentacles, family research became easier, cheaper and accurate. It was possible for me to add much more previously hidden detail to the Owen family history.

The origins of my great grandmother Mary Lewis, which were obscure, are now traced to an obscure Welsh mining village. My grandfather Gwyn Morgan Owen has a much more heroic story to tell as we find him sailing the perilous U-boat ridden Atlantic amongst the convoys in WWII. My 4<sup>th</sup> grandfather Owen Owen was not just a farmer, but one of the first publicans in Ystradgynlais. And cousin Wendy Owen, turns out to be a pioneer in international female footballers playing for England in 1972!

And the most important news, that we have a positive lead for 5<sup>th</sup> generation Richard Owen's father (b.1762). Turns out he was the illegitimate child of an Owen Griffiths, and managed to 'inherit' the running of two farms on the *Palleg* estate in Ystradgynlais by 1800.

It gives us great insight to know where and what we came from in order to remember how the conduct of our forbearer's got them through the ages. It is their precedence which lights the way forward for our place in the ark of ages.

**Update 2020:** fixed errors, replaced copyright archive photos with transcriptions. Anomaly of Richard Owens x2 sons Owen Owen sons cleared up, he was son of his brother Griffith Owen.

## Original Preface 2001

I have, over the last year, had the time, pleasure and privilege to research the Owen family tree, my mother's male line, back to 1760. My success was due to several factors: The Owens were sensible and hard working God fearing people, down to earth, Welsh spoken, with no reason to escape anywhere. Hence they resided in southern Powys for centuries, making them easy to trace, along with the help of my knowledge of Welsh, and the fact that 4 generations were buried in the same graveyard. Although I had to work backwards to find the information I shall give the information in decent. Please refer to the family tree to trace your roots in history. The findings here are 100% accurate, but if you can add any detail or omit errors however small, it would make the pamphlet much more fulfilling for future generations.

## Methodology

My research references can be checked in the appendices. My mode of work is to double check, cross reference and order all certificates pertinent to the historical person being researched. At no time have I relied on guess work, false leads or family hearsay, of course I cannot be accountable for those who told white lies on certificates. You may um and err when for instance you read about Owen Owen who has 5 different addresses and 5 different jobs in 40 years. In those days however, man would turn to any labour he saw fit when opportunity arose and children were on the breadline. There were no lengthy induction courses and exams. If he could swing a pick for 8 hours with basic instruction he would be taken on that day, plus landowners built and supplied houses for their workers at a nominal rent and so were easily 'swappable'. His large brood of children followed with him assuring his identity.

## Acknowledgements

All records were accessed at the following public statutory organisations. Many thanks to the tolerant staff of those institutions, my Mother, Grandma Morrish, Uncle Rhyd, and cousin Vanessa for their help. And a big pat on the back to myself for being so thorough and focused.

General Register Office. Family Records, Myddleton Lane. Public Records Office. H.M.S. Centurion, Gosport. Greenwich Maritime Museum. The Mormons. St.Catherine. National Library Of Wales, Aberyswyth. Powys Record Office, Llandrindod. Glamorgan Record Office. West Glamorgan Record Office. Libraries of Brecon, Aberdare, Ystradgynlais, Merthyr, Slough. Ancestry.co.uk (whole extended family tree can be seen under the user name spooksprung). Superindendent registrars in Merthyr, Pontypridd, Ystragynlais. Electoral Registrars in Slough Town & County Halls. The Ordnance Survey. The farmer who let me walk over his fields to reach Penllwyn Teg. Amstrad Computers. Victoria photo studio, Aberdare. Staples, Llandaf. I have provided sources for pictures where possible, but I expect all the photographers copyright expired years ago.

## Abbreviations

|      |                 |            |                 |
|------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| b.   | birth           | M.         | Mother          |
| bp.  | baptised        | n.         | niece           |
| br.  | brother         | nph.       | nephew          |
| bl . | brother in law  | s.         | son             |
| bu.  | buried          | sl.        | son in law      |
| c.   | circa           | P.R.       | Parish Register |
| C.   | Census          | st br.     | step brother    |
| d.   | death           | v.         | visitor         |
| dl.  | daughter in law | W.         | Welsh spoken    |
| E.   | English spoken  | wd.        | widow           |
| F.   | Father          | wi.        | wife            |
| gd.  | grand daughter  | Y.         | years           |
| h.   | head            | Y' gynlais | Ystradgynlais   |
| m.   | marriage        |            |                 |

PW.R.O.: Powys Record Office. P.R.O: Public Record Office. N.L.W.: National Library Of Wales. Lib: library. G.R.O: Glamorgan Record Office. W.G.R.O.: West Glamorgan Record Office.

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## **Owen Nomenclature & Heraldry**

Owen is a Welsh surname of uncertain origin, which may have derived in the Sub-Roman period from the Latin *Eugenius*, which comes from the Greek, meaning 'well born' / 'the good offspring'. OR an old Celtic name, meaning 'born of Esos' a God in a pagan Gaulish cult. OR from the pre 7th century Celtic personal name *Ouein*, which itself was from the word 'oen' meaning a lamb. The Owen's are not entitled to a heraldic shield, as I have found no evidence, as yet, of royal or lordly governance in formality.

## **Griffith Nomenclature & Heraldry**

An ancient Welsh surname deriving from the Old Welsh personal name *Grippiud* which developed into *Griffudd*. The pronunciation in S. Wales is 'Griffidd' (the double d pronounced as th in 'that'). Medieval scribes and clerics who did not speak Welsh generally recorded it as *Griffith*, as being the closest phonetic spelling. This form, *Griffith*, and *Griffiths* the patronymic came to be used almost universally, as forename and surname, throughout Wales. The first element of the name, "Griff", is of uncertain origin, but is thought to mean "strong grip", with "(i)udd" the second element meaning "chief, lord".

## **Origins of our Owen family branch**

The maiden name of my mother, Owen, gives me sufficient claim to being deeply Welsh, more Welsh than those who question my nationality on hearing my accent and annunciation of proper English. To have such deep roots gives a sense of belonging and understanding of my behaviour, if not an excuse to confuse foreigners when they ask where I come from. Living in Aberdare, a stones throw from my origins was a natural spur to delving into the mists of time to find out why my family came to live in Slough after they had mined coal for so long in Cwmaman, and what brought them to that black trade.

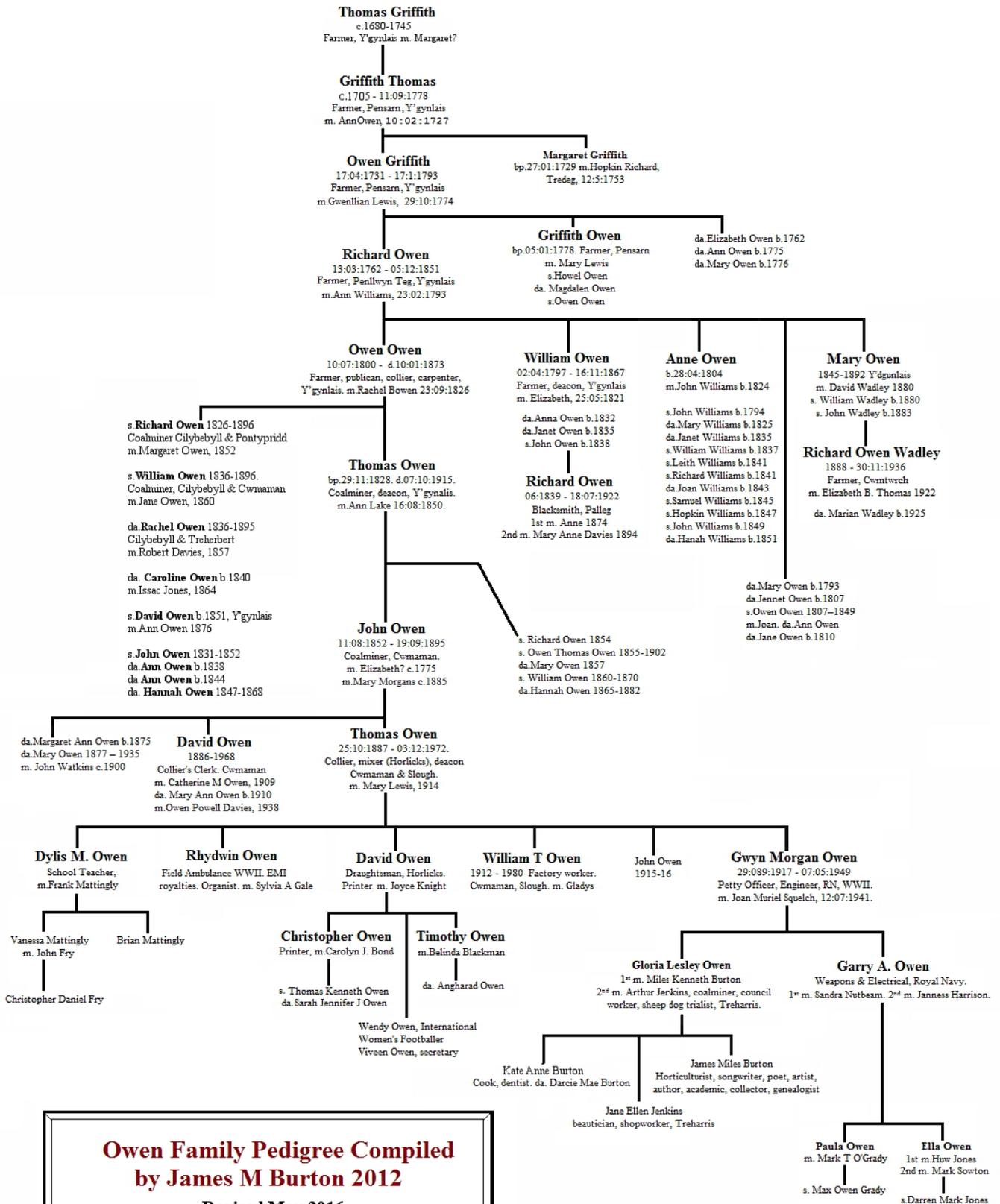
My first task was to question living family members who told me with assurance that the family originated in Ystradgynlais, and that their grandfather John Owen was taken by train from Cwmaman to be buried in said town of his birth in 1895. They came there from the former town during the boon in coal production, and through a very short and easy search of census were found living there for many centuries. From clear official evidence we came to Richard Owen born 1762, a farmer on the Palleg manor estate in Ystradgynlais renting Penllwyn Teg farm from Sir Charles Morgan of Tredegar. The reason our branch left the farm were simple, the eldest son always inherits, and as mining was the job of choice for the Welsh spoken working class of the period, that is where the other 7 children were destined to work. Some might say it was a fall from grace, but despite the toil and poverty, they sought to better their station by work with the chapel, many forefathers becoming deacons and probably preachers and teachers.

The stumbling block to 7<sup>th</sup> generation Richard Owen's paternity was finally overcome (after 10 years of deliberation) with two simple overlooked facts: 1. Patronymic naming of children was often in operation up to the 1800's. This is where the father gives his children his Christian name as a surname (or vice versa). 2. Illegitimacy. The parish and estate records being consulted again pointed to an Owen Griffith being the father to an illegitimate son

Richard Owen, born in 1762. This could have excluded Richard from inheriting the farm lease, but by negotiation, marriage, favour, skill and luck he takes on the running of Penysarn and Penllwyn Teg sheep and cattle farms by 1800.

The Palleg estate records of the Morgan family, coal magnates and landowners of Tredegar are the origin of the early history of the family. These are excellently well preserved documents in the Aberyswyth National Library. These are leather and vellum bound documents, a rare and great privilege to feast the eyes upon.

Therefore Richard Owen is the fixing point for the stability of our surname. Prior to that our forefathers were known as collectively as Griffith, the name being passed on alternatively by Christian name and surname for generations. The name Griffith appears in many documents back to Norman times. One assumes our family resided here, farming under an overlord, for eons, possibly from the Celtic period, but that is purely speculation at this point in time.



**Owen Family Pedigree Compiled  
by James M Burton 2012**  
Revised May 2016  
s: son. da: daughter. m: married.  
b: born. bp: baptised. c: circa. d: died

# Thomas Griffith?

c.1680 - 1745?

*10<sup>th</sup> Generation Grandfather (to the author)*

Due to the patronymic naming systems of the Welsh from time immemorial up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, children, especially the eldest son, were given their father's surname as a Christian name (or vice versa). i.e. in this instance, Griffith Thomas (page 9), would have a father named Thomas Griffith, thus Griffith (son of) Thomas. This explains the 'ap' in names such as Llywelyn ap Griffith. This makes it very difficult to trace Welsh ancestors further than 1700.

As the population of Ystradgynlais was around 200 families at this period, we are certain to a point that this is our most distant ancestor traced so far, although we cannot directly prove it other than by circumstance and tradition but we have at least some speculative documented evidence of his existence.

We can strongly assume that he is a farmer on the Palleg estate, as his sons inherit his skills in that area. For his son Griffith to have been granted a 99 year lease on Pensarn farm on a Lord's Manor Estate in 1747, by the Morgan family of Tredegar no less, they will have been in some standing in the farming community, especially if they were related or married to an offshoot of the overseers; nepotism and class politics of Welsh families of the period considered. Welsh copyhold leases would call for three living close relatives to be named as immediate successors to it, and the eldest son usually gaining the lease to the main farm or one adjacent by intermarriage and that he did in 1727.

We have 5 leads in the public records to give credence to this theory in the Ystradgynlais parish records and wills. Note the former only stretches back to 1715, so we miss his son Griffith's baptism by 10 years.

- **Thomas Griffith** as 2<sup>nd</sup> son to **Griffith Jeffrey** of Ystrad Fawr inheriting £1 (fee of acknowledgement) in will, 13<sup>th</sup> May 1712
- **Thomas Griffiths** & **Margaret** baptising a Daniel Thomas January 1715
- **Anna** wife to **Thomas Griffith Jeffrey** being buried on 29:03:1723
- 1747 Ystradgynlais Window Tax 2s x 5 = 10s paid by **Thomas Griffith's widow.**
- An un-named **Griffith** buried 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 1753

Note on the Griffith Jeffrey will of 1712 above, he left all his money to the Welsh diocese church of St Davids, (looks like £1811, see for yourself) and all belongings & executive to his son in law Rytherch Thomas. The fact that he left each of his 7 children only £1 each means they would have had to seek alternatives means, if they hadn't already, for my mind, explaining how Thomas (if he was his son) came to be renting a farm on Palleg. Also, witnessed by John Morgan overseer for Palleg estate.

There are also 3 Griffith's listed on the 1739 Ystradgynlais Tithe, which although having no link as yet to our family may prove useful in future research.

- **Llywelyn Griffith ; Rees Griffith ; Rees R Griffith**

In the Palleg estate rents **William Griffiths** of *Glyncunwal Isaf*, **Thomas Griffiths** of *Henglyn Uchaf* and **Richard Williams Griffiths** of *Tredeg* farmed there from 1728-1770, 1728-1761 and 1728-30 respectively and may be cousins or brothers to Thomas, the *Henglyn* entry might even BE him if he did not die prior to 1746 (referring to the widow above). The descendants of these people still farm Ystradgynlais today.

### **Early Origins of Griffiths prior to 1700**

As the surname Griffith has origins linked to the early princes and chieftains of Wales, it is a tenuous assumption that our family may actually be an offshoot of a distant line of them, or were once part of their tribe. Being head of farms at this early date certainly indicates stature and recognition as freemen, distinguished from serfs and slaves, but not of noble birth.

The parishes at this time were fortresses, the farms even more so, and the continuity of tenure by families under the trust of powerful country landlords, closely controlled by a very active court system is very much assured. Off shoots from the main family did not travel far, with the main nucleus of the family being carried on at the same farm by the eldest son for generations.

The other means of gaining a farm was of course by marrying into a closely associated or even related family, and in the Golden Grove pedigree, and those written by the County Herald, mediaeval family trees of renown, which are sometimes reliable, a **Thomas ap Gruffudd** of Defynnog (b.c. 1400) marries the daughter of **Ieuan "Gwyn"** (b.c.1430) of Palleg. Ieuan in turn was an offshoot and direct descendant of the lords of Glyntawe who claim **Bleddyn ap Maenyrch** (1070-1093), lord of Brecknock as their progenitor, who suffered indignities at the hands of the Normans upon their entry to the county. They descend to the Jeffrey-Griffith family noted above.

From my extensive research into the manor of Palleg, it is this family that oversaw the management of land in the parish until the rights of Welsh princes were eroded and they intermarried with the Aubrey family around 1300. Ieuan's father **Trahaearn ab Owain "Fwya"** (b.1370) came to live or was born on Palleg after a wave of the Black Death aka the bubonic plague had passed through Wales, and thus the marriage of his grand-daughter to Thomas of Defynnog might be explained by the need to repopulate and recover.

Later down the line we have another tenuous link from the Episcopal Registers of St David's in that "**Sir Thomas ap Gruffyth** was admitted (as reverend) to (the church) of Istrad Gynleys (Ystradgynlais)" in 1515, but he came from Carmarthen. It was known for vicars to also own farms at the time, or on their retirement, but again I have absolutely no proof that he married or owned or rented a farm on Palleg. Noted St Davids college in Carmarthen was where the lay clergy trained, so he could have come back home.

There is also during the Civil War of 1642-8 a mention of a **Thomas Griffith**, tenant, in 1648 petitioning the courts with the landowner **William Aubrey** against abuses by other tenants and soldiers in Ystradgynlais. This document is very old and crumpled with script that is hard to decipher, but may again contain clues, with no more authority than hope. All will probably remain speculation forever, as well as the true identity of **Griffith Thomas's** father unless a distant and well informed descendent takes up the gauntlet in years to come, of which the existence of such a man I doubt.

# Griffith Thomas

9<sup>th</sup> Generation Grandfather (to the author)

b.c.1705 - 11<sup>th</sup> September 1778

In the particulars of *Palleg* estate leases dated 1747, Griffith Thomas is detailed as running *Pen-y-Sarn* farm. Owen Griffiths is noted, along with his sister Margaret as being the son and lease-heir to the farm.

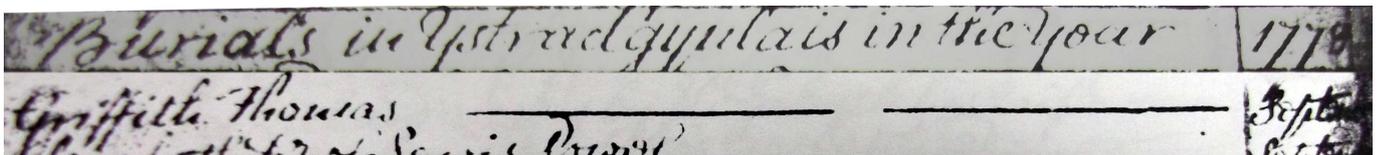
| The Heads of Palleg Leases Granted by the<br>Honorable Thomas Morgan Esq the 25th of April 1747 |          |   |        |
|---|----------|---|--------|
| Tenant  | Farm     | Names of Lives in Lease   | Rent   |
| Griffith Thomas   | Penysarn | <del>the said Griffith Thomas deceased</del><br>Owen his son and<br>Margaret his daughter | £5.0.0 |

A1. 1747, *particulars of Palleg Leases, part of, transcript by JMB*

This is sufficient proof to prove that Griffith Thomas is the father of Owen Griffith, plus further evidence of patronymic naming anomalies. He inherited his Christian name Owen from his mother Ann Owen, she being of some standing in a local Owen family yet to be traced, but certainly continues the Owen line rather than abates it. The parish registers do not stretch back far enough to record Griffith's birth, but we are certain of his death.

| Howel Price's Account of Palleg rents due to<br>John Morgan Esq at Mich. 1700 & Seventy Eight |        |
|---|--------|
| Rec'd to a herriot due on the<br>Death of Griffith Thomas                                     | £3.0.0 |

A2.1778, *Rent Book, herriott on death of Griffith Thomas, part of, transcript by JMB*



A3. 1778, *St Cynogs burials, Griffith Thomas, part of*

Griffith was running *Pen-y-sarn* farm from the first lease of 1747, and is recorded in the rent books from 1728-78. A 'death duty tax', i.e. a herriott of £3 was payable to Lord Tredegar in 1778 upon his passing. To have been farming for over 50 years in the upland moor lands, on a Lord's manor estate he must have been born into it and probably gained Pensarn by intermarriage with Ann Owen in 1727, thus his father had his origins nearby. William Owen who ran *Brynhenllysg* farm from 1779 seems a likely candidate to being at least a close relative.

## Griffith Thomas Public Records Synopsis

| <b>BIRTH</b>         | <b>MARRIAGE</b>   | <b>DEATH</b>                       |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| c.1700<br>Y'gynlais. | 1 <sup>st</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> February 1727.<br>St Cynog's, Y'gynlais. | Sep 1778<br>St Cynog's, Y'gynlais. |

**WIFE:** Anne Owen b.c.1705. d.17<sup>th</sup> June 1774, St Cynog's, Y'gynlais.

**CHILDREN:** Margaret Griffith bp.27:01:1729 St Cynog's, Y'gynlais  
(m. Hopkin Richard, Tredeg farm, 12:5:1753)  
Owen Griffith bp.17:04:1731 St Cynog's, Y'gynlais

| <b>DATE</b> | <b>AGE</b> | <b>RECORD</b> | <b>ABODE</b>         | <b>OCCUPATION</b> |
|-------------|------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1705        | 0          | Calculated    | Palleg?              | baby              |
| 1727        | c.27       | Marriage      | Palleg?              | Farmer?           |
| 1728-41     | 28-41      | Rent Account  | Pensarn              | Farmer            |
| 1747        | c.47       | Lease         | Pensarn              | Farmer            |
| 1747        | c.47       | Window Tax    | Pensarn              | Farmer            |
| 1760-78     | 60-78      | Rent Account  | Pensarn              | Farmer            |
| 1778        | 78         | Herriots      | Pensarn              | -                 |
| 1778        | 78         | Burials       | St Cynogs, Y'gynlais | -                 |

# Owen Griffith

17<sup>th</sup> April 1731 - 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 1793

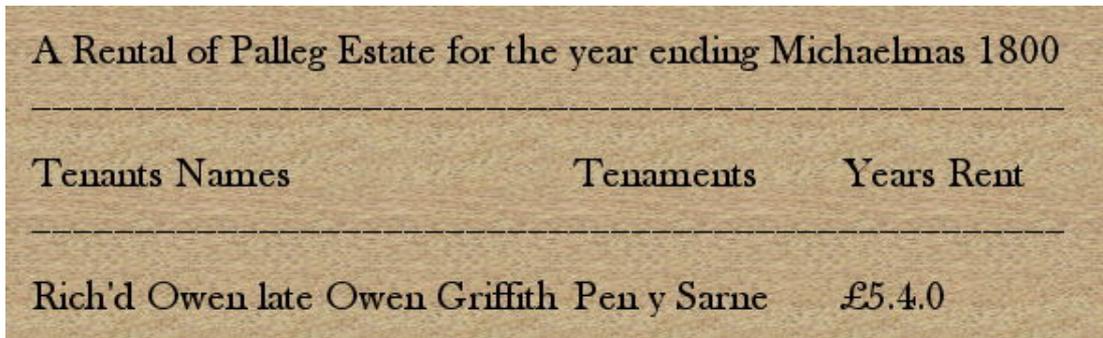
8<sup>th</sup> Generation Grandfather (to the author)

## The Search For Richard Owen's Father

The fact that his unique Cambrian heritage and local demography stands out, Richard Owen's father should have been a reliably easy find in the *Ystradgynlais* baptism records, but the correct match was just not there, even though reliably born in that parish. Family research can sometimes throw up seemingly insurmountable odds to bemuse the uninitiated. I mused over the fact that he might be illegitimate in 2001, but had no further evidence available at the time, the Powys archivist even confirmed my theory.

In 2011 I scoured every parish register within earshot of *Ystradgynlais*, that made difficult by it being on the threshold of three counties. What I should have done first of all to save my sanity was to consult the Tredegar estate papers where he was recorded as leasing a farm on Palleg.

Richard Owen took over the running of *Pen-y-sarn* farm after Owen Griffith's death in 1793. The estate rent accounts describes him as 'late of' the previous, indicating him to be the son. Inheriting the lease of a farm whereby close relatives had to be nominated as heirs seems fairly convincing evidence of paternity also. The fact that Richard marries a month after Owen Griffith's death also indicates that he may have had to provide extra surety of his worthiness to lease the farm.

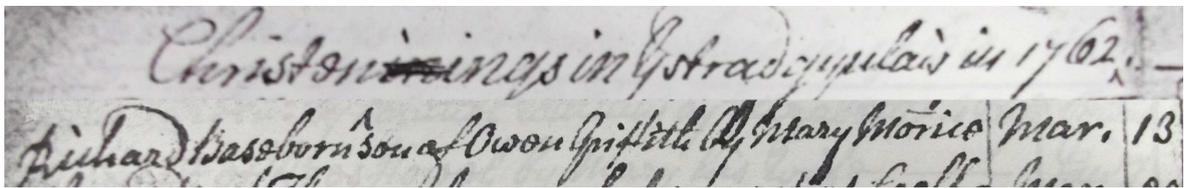


A Rental of Palleg Estate for the year ending Michaelmas 1800

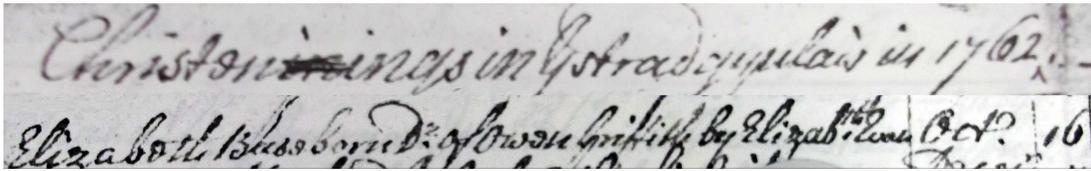
| Tenants Names                  | Tenaments   | Years Rent |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Rich'd Owen late Owen Griffith | Pen y Sarne | £5.4.0     |

### A4. 1800 Palleg rent account, part of, transcript by JMB

Richard is reliably recorded as being *born* in *Ystradgynlais* parish, as mentioned in marriage, 1793, census records of 1841 and '51 and burial in same year. In those parish records an Owen Griffith christens a Richard as his illegitimate son on 13th Mar 1762 of a Mary Morrice. This of course may not be his birth date. The only other feasible entry I considered briefly was that of a baptism on 13 July 1760, Owen base son of Owen Richard by Mary Morrice. Notice the same mother. If we take note of the patronymic naming system I have described previously, we realize that Richard takes his father's Christian name Owen as a surname, therefore annulling the 1760 entry, who would have become Owen Owen or even Owen Richard.



A5. 1762 Ystradgynlais baptism, Richard Owen, part of



A6. 1762 Ystradgynlais baptism, Elizabeth Owen, part of

Owen also produces another illegitimate child Elizabeth Owen in the same year by an Elizabeth Evans. Her and Mary Morrice may well have been farm servants or girls passing through the vale, there was a map maker named Mr Morrice in the area at the time. This type of 'unchristian' behavior was quite common (6% of all births illegitimate in 1800) but accepted if the male was prominent in the community and could afford to care for his offspring which he evidently did very well. The marriage act was not enforced until 1753, but the Welsh always had their own versions of law.

Owen then marries a Gwenllian Lewis in 1774 and produces 3 more children, Ann, Mary and Griffith. He runs the farm well enough from 1778 on the death of his father until his own death in 1793 as evidenced by the below entry. It should be noted that 1793 was a wet summer with crop failures, leading to near starvation, of which it is 'possible' he 'may have been' a victim to, although not enough of a famine to prevent his son's wedding feast. By rights his legitimate son Griffith Owen should have inherited the lease but as we see evidenced above Richard the illegitimate does so. Whether this caused a family feud is speculative, but it is certain Richard also gained the lease on Penllwyn Teg farm and had surrendered Pensarn to Griffith in 1804, not 10 years after.

Records, Images Relating To Owen Griffith

*Prosta Substantia, 1731.*  
*Oonus filius Griffithi Thomas*

A7. 1731, baptisms St Cynog, in Latin, for Owen Griffith. "Oonus filus Griffith Thomas" ; "Owen son of Griffith Thomas".

Banns of Marriage between Owen Griffith and Gwennllian Lewis both of this Parish were published on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Sept. the 17<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> days of Oct. 1774. by me M. Jones Curate  
 132. The said Owen Griffith of this Parish of Llystradgynlais within the County of Brecon, and Gwennllian Lewis of the same Parish and County aforesaid, were Married in this Church by banns this twenty ninth Day of October in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy four by me Morgan Jones Curate of the same. This Marriage was solemnized between Us Owen Griffith and Gwennllian Lewis by name In the Presence of George Williams; John Jenkins

A8. 1774, marriage St Cynog's, Owen Griffiths to Gwennllian Lewis

A Rental & Account of Palleg Estate in the county of Brecon Michaelmas One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety One

| Tenants names | Tenament   | Rent due to Walter Price |
|---------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Owen Griffith | Pen y Sarn | £5.4                     |

A9. 1791, rent accounts, Penysarn, Palleg, part of, transcript by JMB

Particulars of Palleg Estate John Morgan of Tredegar Esq 4th July 1791  
 Owen Griffith.....Penysarn.....Owen Griffith dyed Jan'y 1793

A10. 1791, Palleg leases, death of Owen Griffith, part of, transcript by JMB

## Owen Griffith Public Records Synopsis

### BAPTISM

### MARRIAGE

### DEATH

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 17 <sup>th</sup> April 1731<br>St Cynog's, Y'gynlais | 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1774<br>St Cynog's, Y'gynlais | 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan 1793<br>St Cynog's, Y'gynlais |
|--|--|--|

**MISTRESS 1:** Mary Morrice. Child, Richard Owen bp.1762

**MISTRESS 2:** Elizabeth Evans. Child, Elizabeth Owen bp.1762

**WIFE:** Gwenllian Lewis m. 29:10:1774

| DATE | AGE | RECORD | ABODE | OCCUPATION |
|------|-----|--------|-------|------------|
|------|-----|--------|-------|------------|

|           |       |                |                       |            |
|-----------|-------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 1731      |       | Baptism        | Penysarn, Y'gynlais   |            |
| 1761-1778 | 30-47 | Child Baptisms | Penysarn, Y'gynlais   | Farm hand? |
| 1774      | 43    | Marriage       | Penysarn, Y'gynlais   | Farm hand? |
| 1778-1793 | 46-62 | Rent Accounts  | Penysarn, Y'gynlais   | Farmer     |
| 1793      | 62    | Death          | Penysarn              | Farmer     |
| 1793      | 62    | Burial         | St Cynog's, Y'gynlais |            |

### CHILD

### BAPTISM

### LOCATION

### CHILD OCCUPATION

|                |                                |                      |                       |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Richard Owen   | 13 <sup>th</sup> March 1762    | St Cynogs, Y'gynlais | Farmer                |
| Elizabeth Owen | 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1762      | St Cynogs, Y'gynlais |                       |
| Anne Owen      | 10 <sup>th</sup> June 1775     | St Cynogs, Y'gynlais |                       |
| Mary Owen      | 17 <sup>th</sup> February 1776 | St Cynogs, Y'gynlais |                       |
| Griffith Owen  | 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan 1778       | St Cynogs, Y'gynlais | Farmer (m.Mary Lewis) |

## Richard Owen

13<sup>th</sup> March 1762 - 5<sup>th</sup> December 1851.

7<sup>th</sup> Generation Grandfather (to the author).

### **Origins, Marriage & First Farm**

The first records we find, of our most distant Owen show a Richard of *Ystradgynlais* being born illegitimately to an Owen Griffith and Mary Morrice in 1762. Due to traditional patronymic naming, he is given the first name of his father as a surname. He is persuaded by changing customs, laws and ease of tax collectors sanity to establish the prefix Owen for future generations.

The 77 acre farm *Pen-y-sarn* was leased on the *Palleg Estate*, owned by Sir Charles Morgan of *Tredegar*, on the provision that 3 lives were given to its running. In lease details of 1791 only his aunty Margaret is remaining along with his father. Margaret had already been married off to Hopkin Richard of *Tredegar* farm in 1753. So upon his father's death in 1793, Richard as the eldest son has 'inherited' the lease on the farm. Under the informally recognised traditions of Welsh law, being a bastard did not preclude you from this precedence. I have no doubt he proved and pleaded his case well with the *Palleg* tenant's court and Landlord's agents.

He also married a local farmer's daughter, Ann William a month later, for which he pays 2 shillings in an ancient *amobr* (loss of virginity) tax to Lord Morgan. There were at least 6 Williams families on the estate and so this also would have put him in good standing too.

His mother Mary Morrice seems not to be native of *Ystradgynlais*. The only credible link I have found so far is that a William Morrice was the cartographic surveyor of estates, completing the 1781 map of *Palleg*. Note she also had an illegitimate child named Owen with an Owen Richard in 1760, this date matches with Richards declared 90 years on his burial notice, so I could speculate that perhaps Richard was baptised twice, due to her debating who the actual father was, but a 2 year gap is a long time.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Farm Penllwyn Teg**

*Penllwyn Teg*, the farm next door is being run at this time by a Margaret Rees, widow. In 1801 she happens to die without issue, leaving Richard an opportunity to run the 2 farms for a few years. By 1804 he has passed the running of *Pen-y-sarn* to Griffith Owen, his brother-in-law, and is solely running *Penllwyn Teg* proper.



All. *Penllwyn Teg*, 1868 *Palleg* estate map, part of, transcript by JMB

## **Responsibilities Of The Farm**

*Penllwyn Teg*, was an average farm of 68 acres, just to the NW of *Ystradgynlais*. Glancing at estate maps of 1868 it looked to be a typical single storey long-farmhouse of the area, that being white washed local stone with a slate roof, previously thatched with very small windows (probably with wooden slats), parallel to it a 'beast pen' for 10 cows. It was geared for sheep & cattle raising, with some arable, oats and wheat, the livestock being droved out by pony and dog to the *Black Mountains* in summer to graze communally on *Palleg Hill* to the north east.

We calculate he owned an average of 200 sheep, wool fetched a good price in those days. Richard would have sold his fattened excess, mainly young steers and wethers to a middleman who then had them shod and droved on foot through *Brecon* and *Abergavenny* to the English markets, as far as *London*. To get to *England* they had to cross the *Severn* via a ferry near *Gloucester*, the *Aust Ferry*, described by Daniel Defoe at the time as being '*dangerous and inconvenient*'. The Welsh Black was the favoured beef cattle for this area, bred since the Roman period to withstand the harsh conditions and rough grass forage. The outer streets of *London* were said to be on cattle market day to be brought to a halt, inundated by up to 20,000 steaming herds of black bulls and unintelligible cries of gnarled faced Welshmen.

He also maintained allotments, woods, streams and a small cottage which was utilised by farm workers and later close family, Griffith William a miner with a large family sublet the *Pentwyn Teg* cottage from around 1835-1849. One would assume Richard also had a flock of geese and a pig or two, and was allowed to take coal or peat for heating & lime for painting from nearby open seams and pits.

## **Life In The Home**

Working conditions, food and clothing would indeed have been basic with a small income, Richard's illiteracy and Welsh tongue hampering further progress, but enough to raise 6 children in a Christian household, which was wholly Welsh speaking. We can imagine bare stone floors, tiny windows, a coal fire, scarcity of wooden furniture, and a daily meal (quoting from *Samuel Pepys*) of oat gruel, turnip soup, coarse bread, milk, with the luxury of bacon meat maybe once a fortnight, and the produce from the allotments.

There was no water, gas, electricity (until at least 1970 on some parts of the estate) and everything was done by hand or by horse and oxen. If the children did receive any education it would have been in the nearby *Capel Yorath* Sunday Schools which catered for the Welsh speakers, the 'British School' in the town was run wholly in English and confusing for many youngsters.

## **Social Life**

When not working from dawn to dusk on the farm or herding sheep on the moor, the Welsh were neighbourly folk who enjoyed a good knees up. A 'Noson Lawen' ; 'Merry Night' was held each week on a nominated farm. Story telling and folk singing by rush-light after the sun went down were the mainstay. There were 3 fairs a year, and many 'Holy Days' but only harvest time could be considered a holiday. The big fairs of *Brecon* and *Llangyfelach* were no doubt attractions for the

hiring of labour selling of produce and by 1800 prize exhibitions were beginning to be awarded by the Brecon Agriculture Society, the forerunner to the *Builth* summer show. There was also a small local fair and market in *Ystradgynlais*.

Harvest time when excess stock was sold, corn reaped and pigs slaughtered was a period, if husbanded well, of profits and a time of celebration. No doubt infidelity, mysterious deaths, illness, family feuds and madness plagued the best of families, but it seems the Owens passed the worst of it, they becoming part of the *Capel Yorath Welsh Chapel* nearby from its inception in 1804, Richard's children becoming the first of the deacons. This gave an opportunity for charity, teaching, education and more social life in a manner they could understand than Richard ever could have known.

### **Earnings In 1800**

We can calculate his possible profitable earnings to being around £100 in 1800 in a good year (£3,217 in 2005) based on cattle sales, rent books and tax% of the period. When we say 'good year' we mean those without animal disease, crop failures and typhoid outbreaks. I would consider that he broke even in most years due to the latter and fluctuating prices. 12 pence = 1 shilling. 20 shillings = £1.

#### **1800 Possible Yearly Outgoings Pen-y-sarn (£, shillings, pence)**

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1798 Land Tax            | £ 3.05.2         |
| 1800 Farm Rent           | £ 5.04.6         |
| (1839) Tithe Tax         | £ 3.00.6         |
| Income Tax               | £ 0.13.2         |
| Labour x3 men            | £ 30.00.0        |
| Plough boy               | £ 23.00.0        |
| Seeds                    | £ 20.00.0        |
| Coal                     | £ 0.05.8         |
| Lime/Manure              | £ 10.00.0        |
| Wear & Tear              | £ 5.00.0         |
| Children, food, clothing | £ 20.00.0        |
| <b>Possible Totals</b>   | <b>£120.07.8</b> |

#### **1800 Possible Yearly Income Pen-y-sarn (£, shillings, pence)**

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Cattle sold to dealer £5 x 10      | £ 50.00.0        |
| Wether sold to dealer £0.4.6 x 50  | £ 12.05.0        |
| Wool fleece 300 x 10d a lb x 270lb | £ 27.00.0        |
| Pigs, eggs, milk, cheese, hay etc  | £ 30.00.0        |
| Oats 4s a bushel. 48b per acre     | £115.02.0        |
| <b>Income Totals</b>               | <b>£217.07.0</b> |
| <b>Expenditure Totals</b>          | <b>£120.07.8</b> |
| <b>Possible Profit 1800</b>        | <b>£ 96.19.4</b> |

\* (Rent was based on acreage and included an annuity, payable at Michaelmas (29 September, end of harvest). Income Tax was 1 shilling to the pound of the total rent of the estate. Tithe Tax is based on 1839 figures and is 10% of the potential return of the 7 year average price of the main crop, based on arable land total, prior to 1800 10% of the actual physical crop was paid in kind. Cattle numbers based on the 10 stall barn on the farm, 26 acres of pasture = 20 cows and them producing at tops 10 calves a year. Sheep, with 4000 acres of common grazing land I assume at least 200 sheep. 12 acres arable, oats, barley (possibly turnip). 2 pigs, 10 geese, 3 dogs, 2 horses. Plough team, harvesters, lime, coal, wood, manure and building material would probably be provided by the estate at discount or bargained for locally).

## **Right To Vote**

We can assure that he was better off than most, in fact privileged in some respects, as he was allowed to vote in 1835. "*The 1832 Electoral Reform Act extended the right to vote to include certain leaseholders and householders. This gave 5% of adults a vote.*" This entitlement granted as he sub let a property and the farm was classed as freehold, although leased. He would have been considered one of the aldermen of the town. Noted he voted for "Wood" a liberal and not his landlord.

## **Agricultural Improvements**

Richard was farming at the time of the 'agricultural revolution' from 1750-1850, which saw a trebling of the population thanks to crop rotation with turnips and clover, improved drainage, high yield crops like wheat and barley and land reclamation. Although I do not know the true extent of its effects and improvements on the estate, we do know that his lot was better under the Lordship of *Tredegar* whom on all accounts was a fair man. In my mind anyone who binds his rent books in vellum and leather and fixes that rent for a 100 years disregarding inflation, deserves praise. Indeed the estate farms were enclosed with hedges or walls, well before the main Enclosures Acts of 1750.

## **Retirement & End of Life**

In 1849 Richard is forced to retire. The original 1747 lease had expired. At the age of 88 this might have come as a blessing. He surrenders the lease of *Penllwyn* to a Samuel Griffiths seen there in 1851, who was probably a distant relative. William Owen the eldest son rents a small parcel of land close to *Penllwyn* in 1847 (*a huge sealed indenture from Sir Morgan commemorates that*) and rebuilds the original *Pentwyn* cottage, renaming it *Ty-y-wain*, with his skill as a sawyer.

This generous son takes in his old father into his new home, and I doubt he was idle. However our founder dies of general decay aged 89 (documents record 91) after lodging there over the winter of 1851. Apart from William his eldest, his sons are not involved in farming ever again (a few of his daughters married local farmers). They prevail mainly in industry and involvement with the chapel.

The loss of a farm and the turning away to the black trade would be considered by many as a fall from grace, a great shame. Consider though the extreme poverty and lack of ambition, living on the poorest land of the district. 'Civilising' ones self by moving to town and assisting the poor, misguided and uneducated through the chapel would be considered a better goal than sitting with sheep for another 100 years.

Richard is recorded as being buried in the old graveyard of St. Cynog's which was probably cleared during the rebuilding of the church in 1861. However many of his descendants are buried in the *Capel Yorath* graveyard, a stones throw from *Penllwyn*.

## ***Pen-y-Sarn Farm***

**Grid Ref:** SN 78366 12440 **Postcode:** Palleg Road, SA9 2QJ

**Translation:** Head or end of the causeway, causeway referring to road over wetland. Or head of the Roman Road, if a tributary ever existed here.

**Name Variants:** Pen-Y-Sarn 1781. Pen-y-Sarne 1800+21. Pensarn 1845.

**Architecture:** (2012) modern house built onto and into the old longhouse, may conceal Victorian features. Longhouse portion shortened, one storey and loft, shaped stone, corrugated roof, flat beams protruding through walls, stone lintels, keystone archways. Similar outhouse near, but with brick archways, probably a later build. Load of old stone slates stored in a corner.

**Fate :** Rebuilt mid 1800's (CPAT). Auctioned 5th Aug 1915 at Mason's Arms Brecon. Sold 22 Sept 1915. **Status 2012:** Extant 2011. Sheep farm.

**Original Lessee:** 1747, Griffith Thomas (Owen s. & Mary da.)

**Previous Tenants:** 1747-77, Griffith Thomas d.1778  
1778-93, Owen Griffith s. (Margaret, si.) d.1793  
1798-00, Richard Owen s. d.1851  
1801-03, Richard Owen (+Penllwyn Teg)  
1804-26, Griffith Owen

**Deaths Herriots:** Griffith Thomas Sep 1778, £3.0.0

**Marriage Comortha:** 12th May 1753 Margaret Griffith (Pensarn) & Hopkin Richard (Tredeg). 1793, Richard Owen and Ann William £0.2.0

**Rent:** 1747-1808: £5.4. 1821-26, £18.

**Land Tax:** 1808: £0.5.2. **Tithe:** 1845, £2.12.5.

**Freehold Value 1915:** £1641. **Acerage:** 1781, 77a. 1861, 100a.



**A12. Pensarn farm in 2012**

## ***Penllwyn Têg Farm***

**Grid Ref:** SN 77445 11769. **Postcode:** Palleg Road, SA92QQ

**Translation:** head of the fair grove.

**Name Variants:** Tir Pellwyne Teugue, 1747. Various spellings

**Architecture:** (1972) mid 19th C, 2 storey, rendered, segmented window heads, narrow crowded front. (2012) House 2 storey stone built in Victorian style with polychrome brick windows, sash windows, built from remains of previous. Remains of longhouse opposite, built c.1709, dwelling part ruin, barn part a shed, arrow slit vent holes, flat beams protruding through walls, brick archways. Small stone pig house at rear, entry only through 2 brick arched low entrances, built c.1860.

**Fate:** Demolished and rebuilt 1896. Auctioned 5th Aug 1915 at Mason's Arms Brecon. Sold 22 Sept 1915. Abandoned 1970s. Demolished & rebuilt 2006.

**Status 2012:** extant as farm or house with land. Longhouse in ruins.

**Notes:** exact same named farm found in Cilybebyll, few miles SW, dating from 1500's.

**Original Lessee:** 1747, William Rees (Margaret wi., John Howell brl.)

**Previous Tenants:** 1747-88, William Rees (John brl.) d.1788

1788-00, Margaret Rees wid. d.1800

1801-50, Richard Owen (+Pensarn 1800-3)

1851, Samuel Griffiths

**Deaths & Herriots:** 1788, William Rees, £2.2.0 1800, Margaret Rees wid., £2.2.0

**Rent:** 1747-00, £3.14. 1801-1816, £15.15. 1820-31 £13.13. 1839-15, £21.17.4.

**Land Tax:** 1798, £0.5.7. 1808, 0.3.9. **Tithe 1845:** £3.0.6.

**Acerage:** 1781, 64.2.23a. 1861, 66a. 1868, **Freehold Value 1915:** £714

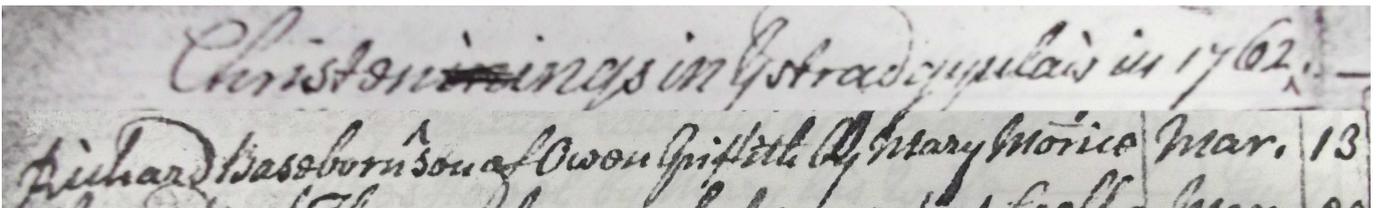


**A13.** *Penllwyn Teg farmhouse 2001, rebuilt 1896.*

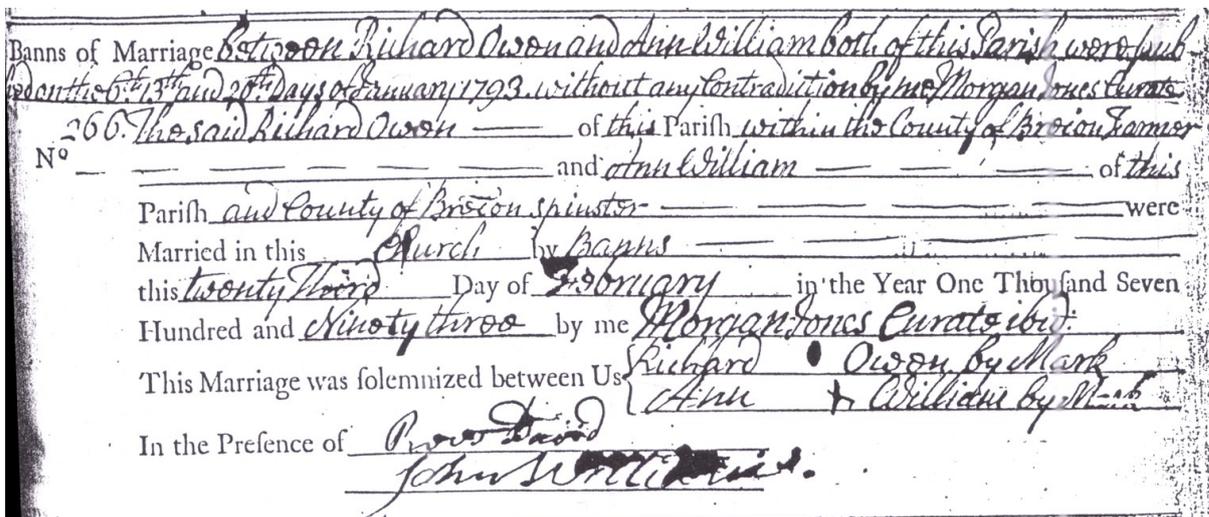


A14. Remains of the 1709 longhouse in 2012, note pigsty

Maps & Images Relating To Richard Owen



A15. 1762 Christenings, St Cynog's, Y'gynlais for Richard Owen  
 "Richard, base born son of Owen Griffiths & Mary Morrice Mar 13 1762"



A16. 1793 Marriage entry, Y.P.R., Richard Owen & Ann William

Received on the marriage of Richard Owen  
with A. William..... £0.2.0

A17. 1793, Comortha tax 2 shillings paid to Lord Morgan

Account of Palleg Estate in the County of Breconshire  
One Thousand Eight Hundred and One

| Tenants Names | Tenament        | Years Rent Michs 1801 |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Richard Owen  | PenySarne       | £ -5.-4.0             |
| Ditto         | for Penllwynteg | £15.15.0              |

A18. 1801 Palleg Rent Accounts, part of

| Landowner           | Occupier     | No. on Plan | Name of Premises                       |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|--|
| Morgan, Sir Charles | Richard Owen | 2144        | Penllwyn teg<br>Penllwyn teg allotment |

A19. 1839 Tithe Return Apportionments, Penllwyn Teg, part of

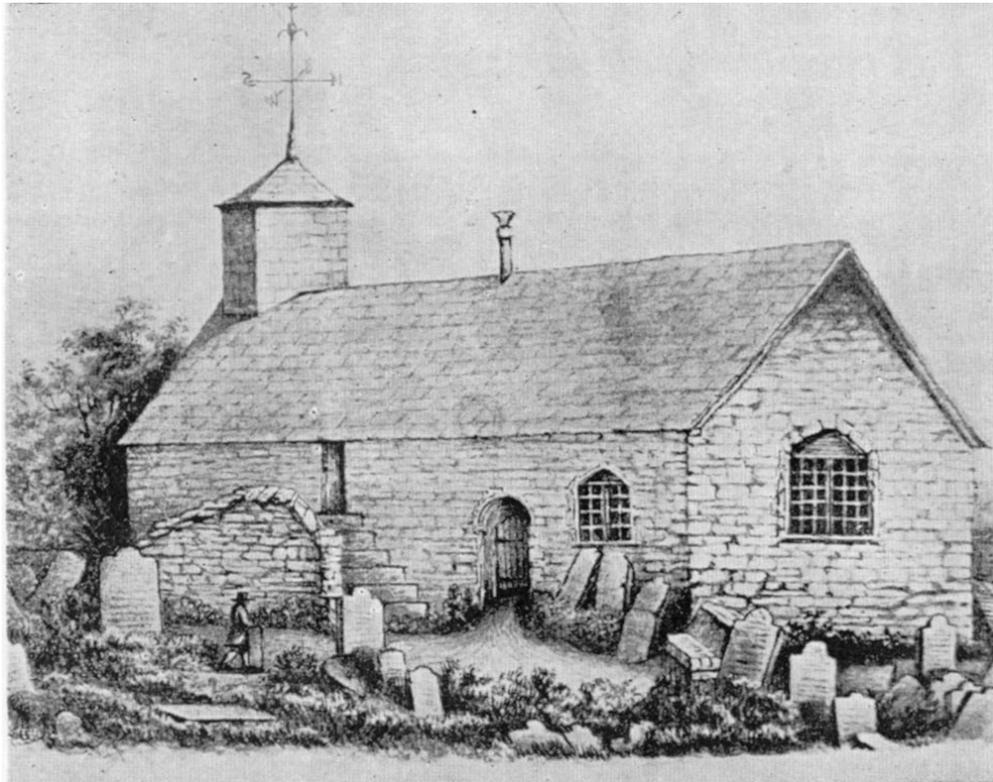
Parish or Township of ystadgwnlais Enumeration Schedule.

| PLACE        | HOUSES                     |           | NAMES<br>of each Person who abode therein<br>the preceding Night. | AGE<br>and<br>SEX |         | PROFESSION, TRADE,<br>EMPLOYMENT,<br>or of<br>INDEPENDENT MEANS. | Where Born                     |  |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------|---|-------------------|---------|--|--------------------------------|--|
|              | Uninhabited<br>or Building | Inhabited |   | Males             | Females |  | Whether Born<br>in same County | Whether Born in<br>Scotland, Ireland,<br>or Foreign Parts. |
| Penllwyn teg |                            | 1         | Zch Owen  | 75                |         | farmer   | ✓                              |  |
|              |                            |           | Ann do.   |                   | 75      | do   | ✓                              |  |
|              |                            |           | Owen Owen   | 30                |         | miner  | ✓                              |  |
|              |                            |           | Jean do   |                   | 25      | do   | ✓                              |  |
|              |                            |           | Ann do  |                   | 10      | do   | ✓                              |  |

A20. 1841 Census, Penllwyn Teg, part of (Zch Owen for Richard Owen)

| BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Ystradgynlais</i> |                       |              |                           |                                      |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| in the County of <i>Brecon</i>                |                       |              | in the Year <i>1851</i>   |                                      |
| <i>Richard Owen</i>                           | <i>Penllogys Leg.</i> | <i>Dec 5</i> | <i>91</i><br><i>years</i> | <i>John Roberts</i><br><i>Curate</i> |
| No. <i>481</i>                                |                       |              |                           |                                      |

A21. 1851 Death entry, Richard Owen, Y.P.R.



A22. St Cynog's church, Ystradgynlais c.1800, marriage place of Richard Owen

## RICHARD OWEN'S PUBLIC RECORDS SYNOPSIS

### CHRISTENING

13 March 1762  
St Cynog's, Y'gynlais

### MARRIAGE

23 Feb 1793  
St Cynog's, Y'gynlais

### DEATH

5 Dec 1851, (91)yr  
Penllwyn Teg, Y'gynlais

**WIFE:** Ann Williams b.1766 Ystradgynlais. d.1842 Ystradgynlais

| DATE    | AGE | RECORD         | ABODE                     | OCCUPATION  |
|---------|-----|----------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1762    | 0   | Rent Account   | Pen-y-sarn, Y'gynlais     | baby        |
| 1762    | 0   | Baptism        | Y'gynlais                 |             |
| 1793    | 31  | Marriage       | Y'gynlais                 | Farmer      |
| 1793    | 31  | Comortha Tax   | Pen-y-sarn, Y'gynlais     | "           |
| 1798    | 36  | Land Tax       | Y'gynlais                 | "           |
| 1798-00 | 36  | Rent Account   | Pen-y-sarn, Y'gynlais     | "           |
| 1801-03 | 39  | Rent Account   | Pen-y-sarn + Penllwyn Teg | "           |
| 1804-26 | 42  | Rent Account   | Penllwyn Teg, Y'gynlais   | "           |
| 1835    | 73  | Electoral Roll | Penllwyn Teg, Y'gynlais   | "           |
| 1837    | 75  | Electoral Roll | Penllwyn Teg, Y'gynlais   | "           |
| 1839    | 77  | Tithe Tax      | Penllwyn Teg, Y'gynlais   | "           |
| 1841    | 79  | Census         | Penllwyn Teg, Y'gynlais   | "           |
| 1845-49 | 83  | Electoral Roll | Penllwyn Teg, Y'gynlais   | "           |
| 1851    | 89  | Census         | Ty-Y-Wain, Y'gynlais      | Late farmer |
| 1851    | 89  | Death          | Penllwyn Teg, Y'gynlais   | -           |
| 1851    |     | Burial         | St Cynog's, Y'gynlais     | -           |

| CHILD   | BORN | LOCATION     | DIED | LOCATION      | CHILD OCCUPATION    |
|---------|------|--------------|------|---------------|---------------------|
| Mary    | 1793 | Pen-y-sarn   |      |               |                     |
| William | 1797 | Pen-y-sarn   | 1867 | Ystradgynlais | Sawyer, farmer      |
| OWEN    | 1800 | Pen-y-sarn   | 1873 | Waungynlais   | Publican, collier   |
| Anne    | 1804 | Penllwyn Teg |      |               | m.Williams a farmer |
| Jennet  | 1807 | Penllwyn Teg |      |               |                     |
| Jane    | 1810 | Penllwyn Teg |      |               |                     |

# Owen Owen

10th July 1800 - 10th January 1873.

6<sup>th</sup> Generation Grandfather (to the author)

Owen Owen born on *Pen-y-sarn* farm, marries Rachel Bowen in 1826, and puts his father's teaching to work by running *Abergynlais* farm, a little south of *Ystradgynlais* for a while, rented from the Gough Family Estates. Public houses were becoming as popular as chapels at this time and so he, his son and brother having sawyer's skills, construct a new inn the '*Sawyer's Arms*' in *Cilybebyll*, and he is taken on as the publican. The land was leased to him in 1838 by Richard Gough, Landlord of the *Ynyscedwyn Estates*, a huge indenture on vellum commemorates this. It would have been a popular resting point for those coming up from Swansea in horse drawn carriages, being as it is situated on crossroads a mile from the town.

As the coal industry flourishes at this time, he starts work in around 1850 at age 49 constructing the new railways coming through the town, later becoming a coal miner, ending his colourful career as a carpenter, then dying age 73 in *Ystradgynlais* town. After his stewardship at the inn his accommodation consists of a series of workmen's cottages, which were built and owned by the Gough family, and leased out to it's workers.

Of his nine children, Hannah dies in Kapunda, South Australia, age 21, in 1868. Kapunda was established in 1842 because of the significant deposits of copper and was fraternised by a large contingent of Welsh migrants miners. She did not marry, so one would assume that she eloped with a local Welsh lad in order to be able to travel there. Laws state that she had to be 18 to travel to Australia, so assuming she was not a convict (no records from the assizes found), she spent maybe 2 years as a domestic servant in generally poor conditions, before dying of typhoid fever, a long slow painful death in quarantine. His other daughter Rachel marries a Mr Davies a coal miner in the Rhondda, mentioned only as we have a possible photo of them in around 1880.

## Owen's Place Names Etymology

***Cilybebyll*** is a village south of *Y'gynlais*. Possibly means: '*retreat of the horse*' or '*site of the tents*', Roman camps found near here.

***Sawyer's Arms*** was built c.1838 and renamed '*The Traveller's Rest*' c.1878. Nicknamed as '*The Starvin*' by locals. Car park built in 1965, ceased to be an inn c.1990. Part of the *Ynyscedwyn Estates*. House rebuilt and extant in 2009.

***Abergynlais*** was a farmstead south of *Y'gynlais*, demolished c.1855 to make way for the railroads, which Owen coincidentally worked on. *Aber* means mouth of a river.

***Waungynlais*** was a collection of workers houses just outside *Ystrad*, near *Penrhos*, named after the farm nearby. *Waun* is a mutated form of *gwaen*, a moor or heath.

***Canal Street*** are workers cottages now known as *Rhestr Fawr*, built c.1800 collectively known as *Gough's buildings*, after the Gough landowners. The *Swansea-Abercrave* canal ran alongside.

Images & Maps relating to Owen Owen

Owen son of Richard Owen by Annis his wife was  
baptized July 10<sup>th</sup> 1800.

A23. 1800, baptism entry, Y'gynlais P.R., Owen Owen, part of

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Owen Owen                               | of this Parish  |
| and Rachel Bowen                        | of this Parish  |
| were married in this Church             | by Banns with Consent of                              |
|   | this Twenty-third Day of                              |
| September                               | in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Twenty Six |
|   | By me Tho' Price officiating Minister                 |
| This Marriage was solemnized between us | Owen Owen<br>Rachel Bowen                             |
| In the Presence of                      | William Owen<br>David Evans                           |
| No. 162.                                |   |

A24. 1826 Y'gynlais P.R., marriage entry Owen Owen & Rachel Bowen

| Landlord | Tenant     | No. on Map | Tenament                    | Value |
|----------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Gough    | Owen Owens | 800        | Sawyers Arms House & Garden | £.214 |

A25. 1839 Tithe entry for Owen Owen, transcript by JMB



A26. Possibly Rachel Davies (nee Owen) daughter of Owen Owen with family. As Mr Davies died in 1892, and the youngest boy looks around 8, I would date this to c.1884, Rhondda.



**B26. House formerly the Travellers Rest (Sawyer's Arms, 1838) in 2009**



**A27. Gravestone for Owen Owen's family, Capel Yorath, Cwmgiedd.**

**Transcript:** "Er cof am John mab Owen a Rachel Owen, Waungynlais or lle hwn. Yr hwn a fu farw Hyd 4<sup>th</sup> 1852 yn 21 mlwydd oed. Hefyd am Hannah merch yr uchod yr hon a fu farw yn Kapunda South Australia Mehefin 9 1868 yn 21 mlwydd oed. Hefyd am y rhagddywededig Owen Owen yr hwn a fu farw Ionawr 14 1873 yn 72 mlwydd oed. Hefyd am Rachel gwraig yr uchod, yr hon a fu farw Mai 11 1875 yn 70 mlwydd oed."

**Translation:** "In memory of John son of Owen and Rachel Owen, Waungynlais of this place, he who died Oct 4th 1852 aged 21. Also of Hannah daughter of the above who died in Kapunda South Australia 9 June 1868 at the age of 21. Also for the aforementioned Owen Owen whom died January 14 1873 aged 72. Also for Rachel wife of the above, the one who died May 11th 1875 aged 70."

## OWEN OWEN' s PUBLIC RECORDS SYNOPSIS

### **BAPTISM**

10:07:1800  
Y'gynlais

### **MARRIAGE**

23:09:1826  
Y'gynlais

### **DEATH**

10:01:1873, Waingynlais  
br.Capel Yorath, Cwmgiedd

**WIFE:** Rachel Bowen b.1805 in Llanon/Llandilo. d.1875, 70y, Ystradgynlais.

| <b>DATE</b> | <b>AGE</b> | <b>RECORD</b> | <b>ADDRESS</b>                   | <b>OCCUPATION</b> |
|-------------|------------|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1800        |            | Rent Book     | <i>Pen-y-sarn, Y'gynlais</i>     | -                 |
| 1800        |            | Baptism       | <i>St Cynog's, Y'gynlais</i>     | -                 |
| 1826        | 26         | Marriage      | <i>St Cynog's, Y'gynlais</i>     | <i>Farmer?</i>    |
| 1828        | 28         | Baptism       | <i>Abergynlais, Y'gynlais</i>    | Farmer            |
| 1839        | 39         | Tithe         | <i>Sawyer's Arms, Cilybebyll</i> | Publican          |
| 1841        | 41         | Census        | <i>Sawyer's Arms, Cilybebyll</i> | Publican          |
| 1851        | 51         | Census        | <i>2, Waungynlais, Y'gynlais</i> | Railway Laborer   |
| 1861        | 61         | Census        | <i>2, Waungynlais, Y'gynlais</i> | Coal miner        |
| 1871        | 71         | Census        | <i>Canal Street, Y'gynlais</i>   | Carpenter         |
| 1873        | 73         | Death         | <i>Waungynlais</i>               | -                 |
| 1873        |            | Burial        | <i>Capel Yorath, Cwmgiedd</i>    | -                 |

| <b>CHILD</b> | <b>BORN</b> | <b>LOCATION</b> | <b>DIED</b> | <b>LOCATION</b> | <b>OCCUPATION</b>                        |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|--|
| Richard      | 1826        | Cilybebyll      |             |                 | Sawyer                                   |
| THOMAS       | 1828        | Cilybebyll      | 1915        |                 | Collier                                  |
| John         | 1831        | Cilybebyll      | 1852        |                 | Net maker                                |
| William      | 1835        | Cilybebyll      | 1886        | Cwmaman         | Railway labourer, coal<br>miner, grocer. |
| Rachel       | 1836        | Cilybebyll      | 1895        | Rhondda         | Dressmaker. m. Davies                    |
| Ann          | 1838        | Cilybebyll      |             |                 | Dressmaker                               |
| Caroline     | 1840        | Cilybebyll      |             |                 |  |
| Hannah       | 1847        | Cilybebyll      | 1868        | Kapunda         | Migrant, servant                         |
| David        | 1851        | Y'gynlais       |             |                 | Colliery haulier                         |

# William Owen

2<sup>nd</sup> April 1797 - 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 1867

6<sup>th</sup> Generation Uncle (to the author)

William is worth noting as he is the eldest son of Richard, running two farms in *Y'gynlais* in the manner of his father, and cared for him in his last days at *Ty-Y-Wain*. The land on which he built *Ty-Y-Wain* was on part of the *Penllwyn Teg* farm, leased to him by Sir Charles Morgan in 1847, a huge indenture commemorates this. It appears to be a rebuild of the cottage known as *Pentwyn Teg* that Richard used to sublet. At a later stage in his life he became a deacon in Capel Yorath for 19 years. This fact is recorded on his gravestone which also reads,

*'Da, was da a ffyddlawn; buost ffyddlawn, ar ychydig mi a'th osodaf ar lawer, dos i mewn i lawenydd dy Arglwydd'.*

(Welsh translation) *'Good, a good and faithful servant. One of the faithful few. Thou wast faithful on a little, I will set you up on much. Go into the joy of your Lord.'* Mathew XX V 21.

Being a deacon would basically involve running the chapel. The security, booking preachers and ministers, arranging the hymns, advising and counselling members, administration and finance were all within his responsibility.

His wife survives him, expanding the let land from 4 to 10 acres over 10 years. His son Richard worked as a blacksmith at the home, which included a smith's shop from at least 1861 until around his 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage in 1894 whence he moved nearby to Brynmeurig Villa in the Gurnos area, he also has a gravestone in Yorath.

## William's Place Names Etymology

**Blaenygors:** head of the heath. A farm a mile or so South of *Y'gynlais* on Seahill Road, extant, probably rebuilt.

Cottage near *Penllwyn teg*, home of William. Named *Pentwyn Teg*, 1835. *Ty y Wain*, 1847. *Pentyle Gwys*, 1861. *Penrhiw Gwys*, 1871. *Gwys* cottage, 1935. *Pentre Ty Gwys*, 2012. ***Pentwyn teg:*** head of the fair hill. ***Ty-y-wain:*** house on the heath. ***Penrhiw Gwys:*** head of the sloping road near the river *Gwys*, meaning pig or boar. ***Pentwyn Gwys:*** head of the fair grove near the river *Gwys*. ***Pentre Ty Gwys:*** village house near the *Gwys*.

## Maps & Images Relating To William Owen



A28. Blaenygors Farm, 1812 OS Map



A29. Richard Owen Wedley & Elizabeth Blodwen Thomas, wedding day Sep 1922. The grandson of William, via daughter Mary.



**A30. 1862, grave of William, Elizabeth & Ann Owen, Capel Yorath, Y'gynlais**

**Transcript:** "Yma gorwedd gweddillion marwol Willam Owen, Penllwyn Teg yn y plwyf hwn. Yr hwn a fy yn ddiacón fyddlawn yn egwlys Cwmgiedd am yr yspaid o 19 flynyddoedd, ac a hunodd yn yr Iesu Tachwedd yr 16<sup>th</sup> 1867 yn 70 mlwydd oed. Hefyd Elizabeth, gwraig".

**Translation:** "Here lies the mortal remains of William Owen, Penllwyn Teg, of this parish. He who was a faithful deacon in the church of Cwmgiedd for the space of 19 years. He who slept in Jesus on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 1867 at 70 years old. Also Elizabeth, his wife."

## WILLIAM OWEN'S PUBLIC RECORDS SYNOPSIS

**BAPTISM**

2 April 1797  
Y'gynlais

**MARRIAGE**

25 May 1821  
Y'gynlais

**DEATH**

16 Nov 1867  
Y'gynlais

**WIFE:** Elizabeth Evans b.1802 *Bettws / Llanelly*. d.26:01:1885, 83y

| DATE | AGE | RECORD   | ABODE                                    | OCCUPATION                   |
|------|-----|----------|--|------------------------------|
| 1797 |     | Rent     | <i>Pen-y-sarn, Y'gynlais (birth)</i>     |                              |
| 1797 |     | Baptism  | <i>St.Cynog's, Y'gynlais</i>             |                              |
| 1821 | 24  | Marriage | <i>St.Cynog's, Y'gynlais</i>             |                              |
| 1841 | 44  | Census   | <i>Blaen-y-gors, Cadoxton</i>            | Farmer                       |
| 1845 | 48  | Lease    | <i>Land near Penllwyn Teg, Y'gynlais</i> | Farmer                       |
| 1851 | 54  | Census   | <i>Ty-y-Wain, Y'gynlais</i>              | Sawyer                       |
| 1861 | 64  | Census   | <i>Penrhiw Gwys, Y'gynlais</i>           | Farmer 4 acres               |
| 1867 | 70  | Death    | <i>Y'gynlais</i>                         |                              |
| 1867 | 70  | Burial   | <i>Capel Yorath, Y'gynlais</i>           |                              |
| 1871 | 68  | Census   | <i>Penrhiw Gwys (wife only)</i>          | <i>Widow Farmer 10 acres</i> |
| 1891 | 48  | Census   | <i>Penrhiw Gwys (son)</i>                | <i>Blacksmith</i>            |

| CHILD   | BORN | LOCATION        | DIED | LOCATION            | CHILD OCCUPATION |
|---------|------|-----------------|------|---------------------|------------------|
| Mary    | 1828 | ?               |      |                     |                  |
| Anna    | 1832 | <i>Morrison</i> |      |                     |                  |
| Janet   | 1835 | <i>Morrison</i> |      |                     |                  |
| John    | 1838 | <i>Morrison</i> |      |                     | Carpenter        |
| Richard | 1841 | <i>Morrison</i> | 1922 | <i>Pen y Gurnos</i> | Blacksmith       |
| Mary    | 1845 | <i>Morrison</i> |      |                     |                  |

# Thomas Owen (Senior)

29th November 1828 - 7th October 1915

5<sup>th</sup> Generation Grandfather (to the author)

As opposed to his father, a man of many skills, Thomas decides on something more permanent and employs himself in the coal mines for over 60 years, from the age of 13 or so. He marries Ann Lake in 1850, and has five children.

After 40 years on the coal face, he became a colliery fireman. This would involve stoking a fire that would be kept alight at one ventilation shaft to allow air to flow through the mine, a job given to the young, old or infirm. As a fervent Methodist, I can visualise him stoking the fires of men's hearts by singing hymns over his fire to those in the darkness.

Thomas has many addresses in *Ystradgynlais* over the years, one of which, *Water Street*, encounters frequent flooding which leads him to move next door to his father in around 1860.

As a regular attendee of the Welsh Methodist chapel *Yorath* since his youth, he is at the age of 82 considered to be the ripe age to become a 'flaenor', a deacon in 1910. There he raises or donates enough money for the communion chalice and paten and also brings in electric lighting.

Thomas dies age 87, outliving 4 of his 5 children, of senility & heart failure in 1915, leaving £191 to a David Owen, [colliery] fireman. One considers this may be his younger brother, as his grandson David worked as a colliery clerk at the time.

## Thomas's Place Name Etymology

**Oddfellows Street:** takes its name from the Independent Order of Oddfellows, a nationwide organization created as part of the great movement toward friendly and benevolent societies during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Part of '*Gough Buildings*' build c.1800.

**Smithfield Place:** now *Heol Maes Y Dre*. Part of *Gough Buildings*.

**Water Street:** "*Heol Giedd*" or what was once known as *Pen y Bont Row* used to be called *Water Street*. Part of *Gough Buildings*. Demolished and rebuilt due to frequent flooding.

Images & Maps relating to Thomas Owen

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of *Ystradgynlais* in the County of *Monmouth* in the Year 1828

|          |                |                    |             |                    |              |                    |
|----------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| No. 388. | <i>Wm Owen</i> | <i>Thomas Owen</i> | <i>Owen</i> | <i>Abergynlais</i> | <i>James</i> | <i>James Davis</i> |
|          |                | <i>Rachel</i>      |             |                    |              |                    |

A31. 1828 Baptism, Y'gynlais P.R., for Thomas Owen, part of

1851. Marriage solemnized *After Banns* in the Parish of *Ystradgynlais* in the County of *Monmouth*

| No. | When Married.                 | Name and Surname.  | Age.      | Condition.      | Rank or Profession. | Residence at the Time of Marriage. | Father's Name and Surname. | Rank or Profession of Father. |
|-----|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 303 | <i>August 15<sup>th</sup></i> | <i>Thomas Owen</i> | <i>22</i> | <i>Bachelor</i> | <i>Collier</i>      | <i>Wainygynlais</i>                | <i>Owen Owen</i>           | <i>Collier</i>                |
|     |                               | <i>Ann Lake</i>    | <i>22</i> | <i>Spinster</i> | <i>—</i>            | <i>Gough's building</i>            | <i>John Lake</i>           | <i>Collier</i>                |

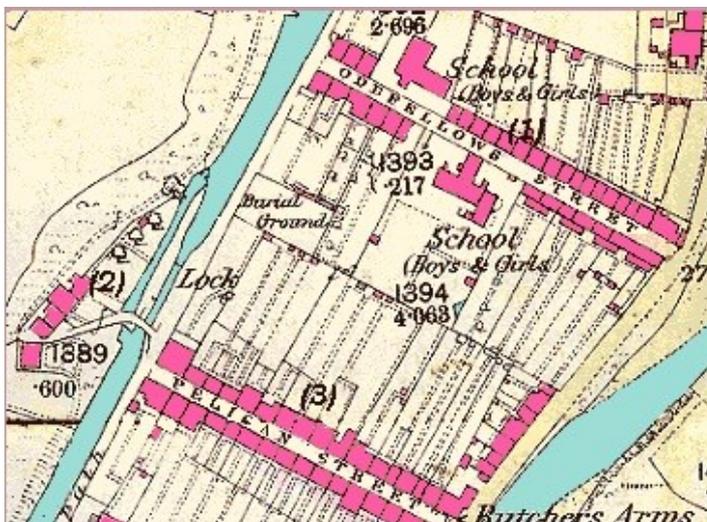
Married in the *Evangelical Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Established Church* by me, *Thomas Walter, Curate*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Thomas Owen* and *Ann Lake* by *Wm Owen* in the Presence of us, *William Lloyd* and *John Owen* by *Wm Owen*

A32. 1850 Marriage, Y'gynlais P.R. for Thomas Owen & Ann Lake, part of

**OWEN** Thomas of Smithfield-place Ystradgynlais Breconshire died 7 October 1915 Probate London 6 November to David Owen fireman. Effects £191 1s. 1d.

A33. 1915 Probate Thomas Owen



A34. Oddfellows Street 1877 map



**A35. Thomas Owen family gravestone, Capel Yorath, Ystradgynlais**

**Transcript:** "William mab Thomas ac Ann Owen o bentref Ystradgynlais yr hwn a fu farw Gorff yr 10fed 1870 yn 10 mlwydd oed. Hefyd Hannah eu merch yr hon a fu farw Gorff 23ain 1882 yn 18 mwlydd oed. Hefyd Ann Owen uchod a fu farw Ebrill 20 1898 yn 69 oed. Hefyd Owen eu mab a fu farw Mawrth 12 1902 yn 47 oed. Hefyd Thomas Owen uchod a fu farw Hyd 7 1915 yn 87 mlwydd oed."

**Translation:** "William son of Thomas and Ann Owen of the village of Ystradgynlais who died July the 10th 1870 at the age of 10. Also the Hannah their daughter who died July 23rd 1882 at 18 years old. Also Ann Owen of the above died April 20th 1898 aged 69. Also Owen their son who died March 12 1902 aged 47. Also the above Thomas Owen died Oct 7 1915 aged 87 years."

## THOMAS OWEN'S PUBLIC RECORD SYNOPSIS

**BAPTISM**

29:11:1828  
Y'gynlais

**MARRIAGE**

16:08:1850  
Y'gynlais

**DEATH**

07:10:1915 87yr  
br.Capel Yorath, Cwmgiedd

**WIFE:** Ann Lake b.1824 Y'gynlais. d.30:04:1893 Smithfield Place, Y'gynlais

| DATE | RECORD   | AGE | LOCATION                     | OCCUPATION           |
|------|----------|-----|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1828 | Birth    |     | Abergynlais Farm (baptism)   |                      |
| 1828 | Baptism  |     | St Cynog's, Y'gynlais        |                      |
| 1841 | Census   | 13  | Sawyer's Arms, Cilybebyll    | Coal miner           |
| 1850 | Marriage | 21  | Waingynlais, Y'gynlais       | Collier              |
| 1851 | Census   | 23  | 37, Water Street, Y'gynlais  | Collier              |
| 1861 | Census   | 33  | 3, Waungynlais, Y'gynlais    | Coal miner           |
| 1871 | Census   | 43  | Oddfellows Street, Y'gynlais | Collier              |
| 1881 | Census   | 53  | Smithfield Place, Y'gynlais  | Coal Miner           |
| 1891 | Census   | 63  | Smithfield Place, Y'gynlais  | Colliery fireman     |
| 1901 | Census   | 73  | Smithfield Place, Y'gynlais  | Colliery fireman     |
| 1910 | Book     | 82  | Smithfield Place, Y'gynlais  | Deacon, Capel Yorath |
| 1911 | Census   | 83  | Smithfield Place, Y'gynlais  | Retired              |
| 1915 | Death    | 87  | Smithfield Place, Y'gynlais  |                      |
| 1915 | Burials  |     | Capel Yorath, Cwmgiedd       |                      |
| 1915 | Probate  |     | London                       | £191 to David Owen   |

| CHILD            | BORN | LOC.      | DIED | LOC.      | CHILD OCCUPATION          |
|------------------|------|-----------|------|-----------|---------------------------|
| John Owen        | 1852 | Y'gynlais | 1895 | Cwmaman   | Collier, Timberman        |
| Owen Thomas Owen | 1855 | Y'gynlais | 1902 | Y'gynlais | Collier, Colliery Weigher |
| Mary Owen        | 1857 | Y'gynlais |      |           | Dressmaker                |
| William Owen     | 1860 | Y'gynlais | 1870 |           |                           |
| Hannah Owen      | 1865 | Y'gynlais | 1882 | Y'gynlais |                           |

# John Owen

11th August 1852 - 19th September 1895  
4<sup>th</sup> Generation Grandfather (to the author)

Within living memory we find John, baptised in *Ystradgynlais*, apprenticed as a collier and marries and has two children there. It is possible that his 1<sup>st</sup> wife dies as his two children are living with his father Thomas from 1881. However, from 1885 he is found in *Cwmaman*, *Aberdare* in a terraced house, *Fforchaman Road*, and has married again to a Mary Morgans, and has two more children, David and Thomas.

Unfortunately he suffers a fatal accident in *Shepherd's Pit* age 43, where the coroner describes that while John was working as a timberman he was, "...struck by a portion of certain machinery which broke loose". The mine accident report goes further in-depth stating that, "The framing of an incline sheave gave way while a journey of trams were descending and deceased was struck either by the sheave or brake handle". A timberman was one who shaped wood to prop up the ceilings of underground tunnels, these had to be well constructed to withstand shock, flood and cave ins. One assumes he may have been repairing a beam with his back to the trams and didn't know what hit him.

He was sadly missed, as a large article appears in a local workers paper, '*Tarian Y Gweithiwr*' (The Workers Shield). I have translated the article and it described John as "...a pious member of the Calvinistic Methodists, sincere, kind and full of good nature." His mortal remains were taken back to *Ystradgynlais* by train, where priests of *Aberdare* and *Ystrad* presided over the occasion.

It must have been hard for his widow to bring up David and Thomas on her own, they are listed as coal hewers at 15 & 13 in the 1901 Census. There was no state miner's welfare fund as such in 1895, but the coal community was know for it's social charity. Widows would receive free coal and the church would provide monies food and support, assuming that John had paid the 3p a week from his wages into the scheme.

## John's Place Name Etymology

**Fforchaman Road:** literal translation, fork (as in bifurcation) in the river Aman. Cheap and fast built worker's terrace, 1850.

**Shepherd's Pit:** also known as *Cwmaman Colliery*. Shafts sunk in 1849, funded by Thomas Shepherd and HJ Evans. Bought out by the *Cwmaman Coal Company* in 1873, several owners later under control of *Duffryn Associated Colliers* until it closed in 1935. Located near *Glynhafod*.

**Soar Welsh Calvinist Methodist Chapel, Fforchaman Rd.** built 1859 demolished 1998. 113 Sunday School members in 1870. 1900 had 264 members, plus 830 adherents.

**Timberman:** was the person who constructed the supports for the roof of the mine shafts. A man skilled in the shaping of wood that could bear 100s of tonnes.

**Rough translation of the below tribute & obituary for John Owen by M.Evans curate, Cwmaman in 'Tarian Y Gweithiwr' - 'The Workers Shield', 3rd October 1895.**

"A sad and uneasy task to complete, every time is to make know the departure of one close and beloved in the world, but if we possess the surety that the moving of such, profits eternity to him, the sadness and difficulty is easier to bear.

The brother that we wish to remember of is John Owen of Fforchaman Road, Cwmaman. He, like I have made known met his end in Cwmaman coal mine, on Thursday morning 19th of June, age 43. He had been in the coal mine and in our mists for 16 years, and was a pious member of the Calvinist Methodists for a long time. One who was sincere, kind and full of good nature. *"In your work is my life, in your work is my peace."* Nobody could ever have imagined about losing one so faithful in the vineyard of our Lord, but we remember, *"that our way, is not his way,"* and not to understand him, is to understand us.

We imbibe comfort to believe and obey the great governor. We have unshaken hope and belief, that our brother, departed, was dressed in the suit that cannot be changed by pain or grave, and has ample entry to his tranquil home, and there his gift is great.

He left an example after him, and we hope that we only follow his footsteps. The morning of the following Saturday, his mortal remains were taken to Ystradgynlais by train, and buried such, in a burial place, until where the sound of the trumpets of judgement play. The service of the occasion was taken by reverend W.D.Morris, Cwmaman, and reverend Adams of Ystadgynlais.

My wish is that Gods defence be over the widow, the four children, the relatives and friends in the face of grave circumstances. In the storm we bode them to believe that the father is at the helm, and that everything cooperates for those who love him. Peace to his dust. *"The graves of the world were opened with one word."* M.Evans, Cwmaman.

## CWMAMAN, ABERDAR.

Gorchwyl prud aidd, ac anhawdd ei gyflawni bob amser yw hysbysu am ymadawiad un fu yn anwyl ac yn agos genym yn y byd yma; ond os bydd genym ystierwydd hwnw yn ein meddiant fod symudiad y cyfryw yn elw tragwyddol iddo, y mae y prud-der a'r anhawsder yn hawddach i'w dyoddef. Y brawd y dymunwn goffa am dano ydyw **John Owen, Fforchaman, Road, Cwmaman**, yr hwn, fel yr ydys wedi hysbysu, a gyfarfyddodd a'i ddiwedd yn nglofa Cwmaman, boreu dydd Iau, Medi y 19eg, wedi cyrhaedd ei 43ain mlwydd oed. Yr oedd wedi bod yn y lle, ac yn ein plith am 16eg o flwydd-oedd, ac yn aelod crefyddol gyda'r Methodistiaid Calinaidd am amser maith. Un didwyl ydoedd, caredig, a llawn o natur dda.

“Yn dy waith y mae fy mywyd,  
Yn dy waith y mae fy hedd.”

Nid oedd neb erioed wedi dychymygu am goll un ffyddlon yn ngwinllan eu Harglwydd, ond cofiwn “mai nid ein ffyrdd ni yw ei ffyrdd Ef,” ac nid ei ddeall ef yw ein deall ni. Sugnwn gysur i greu ac ufuddhau i'r llywodraethwr mawr, Gobeithiwn a chredwn yn ddisigl fod ein brawd ymadawedig wedi cael ei wisgo a'r wisg ni newidir gan anghen na'r bedd, a chael mynediad helaeth i'w dragwyddol gartref, ac yna ei wobroedd fawr. Gadawodd esiampl ar ei ol, a gobeithiwn y byddwn o'n yn ceisio dilyn ei gamrau. Boreu y dydd Sadwrn canlynol, aethpwyd a'i weddillion marwol gyda'r tren i Ystradgynlais, a chladdwyd y cyfryw yn mynwent yn nghladdfa y lle hyd ddydd udganiad udgorn y farn. Gwasanaethwyd ar yr achlysur gan y Parch W. D. Morris, Cwmaman: a'r Parch — Adams, Ystradgynlais. Fy nymuniad yw ar i amddiffyn Duw fod dros y weddw, y pedwar plentyn, y perthynasau, a'r cyfeillion, yn ngwyneb yr amgylchiad dwys. Yn yr ystorm, boed iddynt greu mai y Tad sydd wrth y liw, ac fod pob peth yn cydweithio er daioni i'r rhai sydd yn ei garu Ef. Heddwch i'w lwch, hyd nes y byddo

“Dorau beddau'r byd,  
Ar un gair yn agoryd.”

Cwmaman.

M. EVANS.

TARIAN Y GWEITHIWR. HYDDREF 3. 1895.

AGOR LIG.

Images Relating To John Owen



A37. 19 Sept 1895 gravestone, John Owen, St Cynog's, Y'gynlais

**Transcript:** "Er gof am John Owen, Cwmaman, Aberdare, gynt o'r lle hwn, yr hwn a fu farw trwy ddamwain, Medi 19, 1895 yn 43 mwlydd oed".

"O'r Argwlydd y daeth hyn, hyn oedd rhymed yn ein golwg ni".

**Translation:** In respectful remembrance of John Owen Cwmaman, Aberdare previously of this place (Y'gynlais). He who died through an accident.

"From the Lord did this come, this was extraordinary in our sight".

## JOHN OWEN'S PUBLIC RECORDS SYNOPSIS

### BAPTISM

11:08:1852  
Y'gynlais

### MARRIAGE

1x Y'gynlais? 1875?  
2x Cwmaman? 1885?

### DEATH

d.19:09:1895 43yr  
Fatal Accident, Cwmaman Colliery  
br.21:09:1895, Ystradgynlais

| DATE | RECORD  | AGE | LOCATION                  | OCCUPATION |
|------|---------|-----|---------------------------|------------|
| 1852 | Baptism |     | St Cynog's, Ystradgynlais | -          |
| 1861 | Census  | 9   | Waungynlais Y'gynlais     | -          |
| 1871 | Census  | 19  | Oddfellows St Y'gynlais   | Coal Miner |
| 1891 | Census  | 39  | 41 Fforchaman Rd Aberdare | Collier    |
| 1895 | Death   | 43  | Sheperd's Pit, Cwmaman    | Timberman  |
| 1895 | Burial  |     | St Cynog's, Y'gynlais     | -          |

**WIFE:** 1<sup>st</sup> Elizabeth?

2<sup>nd</sup> Mary Morgans b.1854 d.c.1920. Ystradgynlais, da. of Thomas Morgan, coal miner in Cwmgiedd.

| CHILDREN      | BIRTH | LOC.      | DEATH | LOC.      | CHILD OCCUPATION           |
|---------------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Margaret Anne | 1875  | Y'gynlais |       |           |                            |
| Mary          | 1877  | Y'gynlais | 1935  | Y'gynlais | m.John Watkins             |
| David         | 1886  | Cwmaman   | 1968  | Cwmaman   | Collier                    |
| Thomas        | 1887  | Cwmaman   | 1972  | Slough    | Collier, Mixer in Horlicks |

## Thomas Owen (Junior)

25th October 1887 - 3rd December 1972.

*3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Grandfather (to the author)*

Some of the family in 2012 will remember Thomas in person, this is the earliest Owen that can be identified in photos. His father dying when he was but 8, he probably has no other choice impecuniously than to start work early down the mines, if he wasn't there already. His grandfather Thomas the deacon was alive until he was 28 and so I can assume he had some influence on his spirituality, although he obviously attended the Methodist chapel on his street nearby where he would have received a basic education.

He inherits *41 Fforchaman Road*, after his mother passes on in around 1920. David, his brother, moves to *33 Byron Street* nearby from 1909 to 1968 working as a colliery clerk and marries Annie, his daughter Mary working at the local *Cwmaman Miner's Hall*. Thomas continues to work in the coalmines, marrying Mary Lewis from *Rhyndwyclydach*, and bearing 6 children until the 'depression' of the 1930's hits the valleys, and coal mining starts to decline (*Shepherd's pit closing in 1935*).

He decides to try his luck in *Slough*, where lots of manufacturing factories are opening. We know he worked as a 'mixer' in the Horlicks factory, but as a deeply religious Welsh man in the middle of *Slough* he was sorely missing his roots. In prayer and fate, an answer was given to him...

### THE WELSH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Between the two World Wars, the Eglwys Annibynnol Cymraeg (Welsh Congregational Church) was established in Slough through a chance meeting of Tom Owen, a production worker at Horlicks, and D.E. Davies, Station Master at Burnham, on Christmas Eve, 1934, which led them to become the joint founders.

Meetings started in the vestry at the Baptist Church, Windsor Road, after the Baptists had held their services. Later a church was established at the Thomas Gray School. Capel-y-lon, Stoke Poges Lane (then Marystrong Church) was bought in 1946. It still holds its services in Welsh, and comes under the Welsh Congregational Union. (23)

#### **A38. From Slough churches by Maxwell Fraser**

We assume he paid for the purchase of the chapel from public donations, his hard earnings, family members and maybe the sale of his Cwmaman home.

*Slough* was described during the depression as a 'haven for unemployed Welsh people'. We can assume therefore that he had a healthy congregation, and that Thomas 'saved' and helped many people in those troubled economic times. *Capel-Y-Lon* was demolished in 1999 and is now the the *Jamia Masjid Islamic Centre*. The official opening was in 2001. Guests included Yousuf Islam, formerly pop singer Cat Stevens.

He dies peacefully, age 85 in 1972, of diabetes, stroke and pneumonia while living with son David at *Garvin Avenue, Bucks*, and is buried in Slough Cemetery with wife Mary. The gravestone reads, (Welsh translation) "*Empty their place, but wonderful their remembrance*". He is remembered as being very kind and pious.

Mary Lewis his wife was born in the rural and sparse Welsh speaking mining village of *Craig Cefn Parc* in the old hamlet of *Rhyndwy Clydach in the parish of LLangyfelach* near *Pontardawe*. Maps of 1890 indicate the family living in cottages near *Rhyd y Gwin*, a farm which her grandfather Thomas, a former *Aberdare* collier born in *Llannon, Carmarthen* was then running. See thesis on this website "*Lewis etc of Rhyndwyclydach*".

In the picture below, she is sporting an Edwardian coiffure that was formed using 'rats', false mats of hair. This is a formal portrait, holding of the book shows piety, learning and a dispensation for teaching, possibly in Sunday schools. Her childhood home was a step away from the *Pant y Crwys* congregational chapel. Indeed her gravestone records that she '*lived for Jesus*'. We can assume that Thomas and Mary met through the *Fforchaman chapel*, her father Morgan born in *Aberdare* had family connections, she worked as a domestic servant at no.17 *Fforchaman Road* in 1911, a stones throw from no.41 and the chapel.

### **Thomas's Place name Etymology**

**Horlicks:** In 1906, James Horlick, one of the eponymous founders of the malted milk company, opened a purpose-built red-brick factory near Slough Railway Station on *Stoke Poges Lane* to manufacture his malted milk product. In the vernacular Horlicks is used as an interjection, a substitute for the profanity "bollocks". Secondly it suggests a minor disaster or shambles, as in 'to make a complete Horlicks of something'.

**The Horlicks Process:** Milled malted barley and wheat flour are mashed together in hot water where the starch is converted into sugars. Dairy powders are added. Water content is evaporated off to form a syrup, dried in vacuum band driers to form a cake. This cake is milled into the finished powder.

**Capel-Y-Lon:** chapel of the lane, referring to Stoke Poges Lane. Formerly Marystrong church. Demolished 1999.

**Stoke Poges Lane:** named after the parish of Stoke Poges, 3 miles North of Slough. Stoke refers to a 'stockaded place' ie a hamlet. Poges, after Robert Poges, who was Knight of the Shire circa 1200.

**Aylesbury Crescent:** named after the town of the same name, meaning 'Fort of Aegel', referring to an iron age settlement.

**Cwmaman:** valley of the river Aman. Virtually uninhabited until the mining of coal in 1850.

**Slough:** from the 11<sup>th</sup> century known as Slo, referring to marshes and bogs in the area. Became a stopping point for stagecoaches travelling to London from the middle ages, later burgeoning into an industrial town in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Images, Maps Relating to Thomas Owen



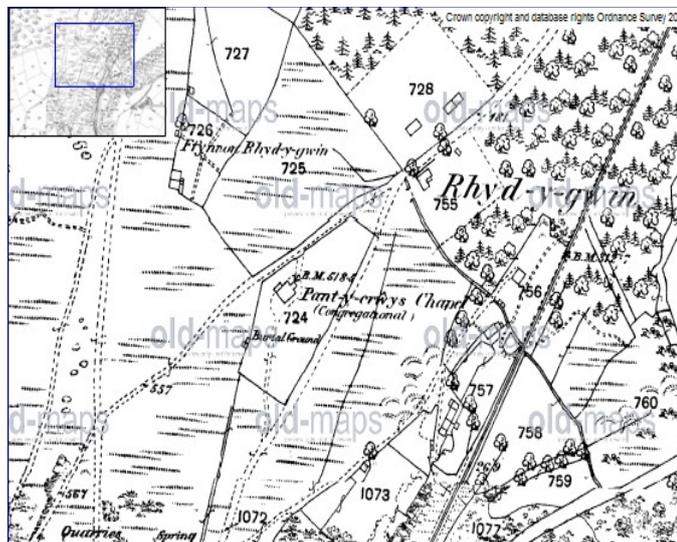
A39. Thomas Owen c.1965



A40. Mary Lewis, wife c.1920



A41. Horlicks Factory, Stoke Poges Lane, Slough in 2009



A42. 1878 map of Rhyd Y Gwin, in Craig Cefn Parc near the birthplace of Mary Lewis.



*A43. Slough Baptist Church, Windsor Road*



*A44. Thomas Gray School, Queens Road / Stoke Road*



*A45. Jamia Masjid Mosque, Stoke Pages Lane (site of of Mary Strong church)*

## THOMAS' S PUBLIC RECORDS SYNOPSIS

**BIRTH**

25:10:1887  
Cwmaman

**MARRIAGE**

J/M 1914  
Aberdare

**DEATH**

d.03:12:1972 85yr  
cerebral accident  
br.11:12:72, Slough

**WIFE:** Mary Lewis b.1890 Rhyndwy Clydach (near Pontardawe). d.1953 Slough.  
F:Morgan Lewis, coal miner. M: Magdalene Morris.

| <b>DATE</b> | <b>AGE</b> | <b>RECORD</b> | <b>ADDRESS</b>                             | <b>OCCUPATION</b>    |
|-------------|------------|---------------|--|----------------------|
| 1887        |            | Birth         | <i>41, Fforchaman Road, Cwmaman</i>        |                      |
| 1891        | 4          | Census        | <i>41, Fforchaman Road, Cwmaman</i>        | Scholar              |
| 1901        | 14         | Census        | <i>41, Fforchaman Road, Cwmaman</i>        | Coal Hewer           |
| 1911        | 24         | Census        | <i>41, Fforchaman Road, Cwmaman</i>        | Coal Hewer           |
| 1914        | 27         | Marriage      | <i>Aberdare</i>                            |                      |
| 1919        | 32         | Electoral     | <i>41, Fforchaman Road, Cwmaman</i>        |                      |
| 1930        | 43         | Electoral     | <i>41, Fforchaman Road, Cwmaman</i>        |                      |
| 1946        | 59         | Book          | <i>Capel-Y-Lon, Stoke Poges Ln, Slough</i> | Deacon               |
| 1949-59     | 62         | Electoral     | <i>35, Aylesbury Crescent, Slough</i>      | Mixer, Horlicks      |
| 1972        | 85         | Death         |  | Late Mixer, Horlicks |

| <b>CHILD</b>   | <b>BORN</b> | <b>LOC.</b> | <b>DIED</b> | <b>LOC.</b> | <b>CHILD OCCUPATION</b>               |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| William Thomas | 1912        | Cwmaman     | 1977        | London      | Factory worker                        |
| John           | 1915        | Cwmaman     | 1916        | Cwmaman     | -                                     |
| Gwyn Morgan    | 1917        | Cwmaman     | 1949        | Slough      | P.O. Engine Artificer, RN.            |
| Dylis          | 1920        | Cwmaman     | 2004        | Slough      | Schoolteacher                         |
| Rhydwin        | 1921        | Cwmaman     | 2004        | Cwmaman     | Music Industry EMI, WWII Ambulances   |
| David Thomas   | 1926        | Cwmaman     |             |             | Draughtsman, Printer, Leisure manager |

# Gwyn Morgan Owen

29th September 1917-7th May 1949

2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Grandfather (to the author)

An interesting character in the Owen story, but tragically a short story. Born in *Cwmaman*, moving to *Slough* c.1930 with a few years schooling there, Gwyn joins the Merchant Navy in 1934 as a Utility Steward in *Southampton*. This would entail kitchen duties, serving food, maintaining cabins, and charming the international variegation of beautiful young ladies. He serves aboard *S.S.Ormonde* and *S.S. Asturias* from around 1934 to 1937, and leaves with Very Good conduct as a 2nd Class Assistant Steward.

He works as a 'fitter, turner' before the war, and is mobilised in 1939 to the Naval Barracks in *Portsmouth*, on the outbreak of World War II to train as an Engine Room Artificer. He ranks to Petty Officer in the Royal Navy from 1939-'46, on board *H.M.S Ambuscade*, *Fowey*, *Wolfe* and *Forth*, seeing action in the Atlantic convoys. In 1941 when on home leave, and dressed in his best navy gear, he meets Joan Squelch working in the *Slough* launderette. Joan tells us it was an instant attraction, and they are soon married in *Windsor*.

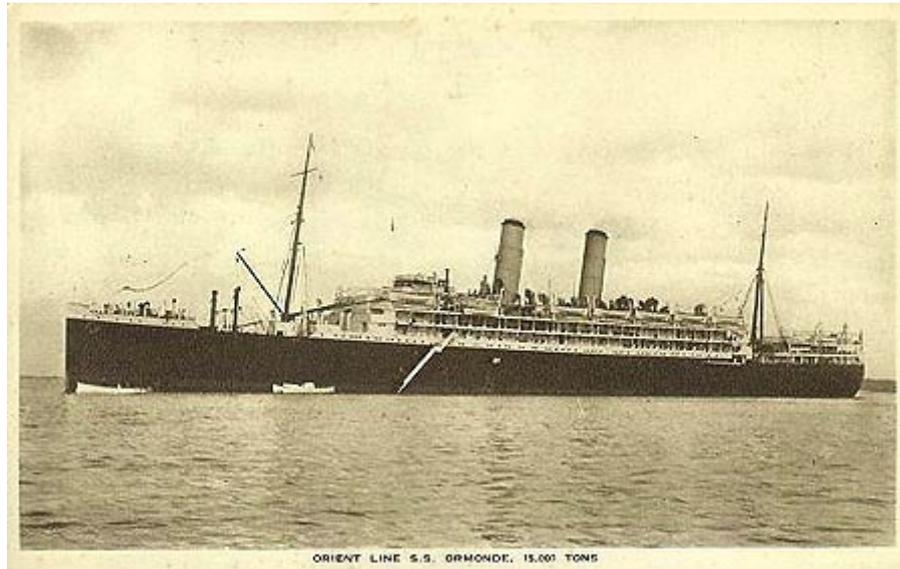
## Merchant Navy

The Merchant Navy is the title given to all seagoing maritime registered commercial vessels of the United Kingdom. The title was bestowed by George V after the service of marine registered shipping vessels appropriated for duty during the first world war. It has its origins in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. SS is Merchant navy acronym for Steam Ship. At the time of Gwyn's service, *SS Ormonde* was under contract to ship Royal Mail packages from Australia to England under Orient Lines, a company associated with P&O at the time. *SS Asturias II* carried trade goods, mail and some passengers to South America under Royal Mail Lines.

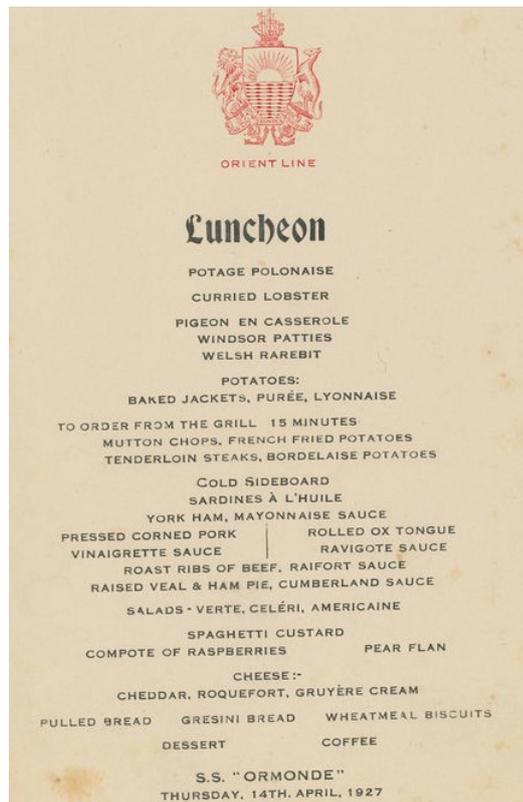
|                                     |                 |   |                       |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------|-----------|
| ● C.R. 1.                           | 385             | (6)   | No. of DIS. A issued. | R151743   |
| Surname                             | OWEN            |   |                       |           |
| [BLOCK CAPITALS] Christian Names    | GWYN MORGAN     |   |                       |           |
| Birth: Date                         | 29.9.1917       | Place   | Abedare Wales         |           |
| Rating                              | Utility Steward | Certificate: Grade & No. or P.R. No. (if any) |                       |           |
| Health Insce. } Society             | Richard's       | Branch  |                       |           |
|                                     | Membership No.  | 1815/364                                      |                       |           |
| Unemployment Insee. :- Local Office | Slough          | No.   |                       |           |
| Height                              | 5'9"            | Colour Eyes                                   | Blue                  | Hair Fair |
| Complexion                          | Medium          | Distinguishing marks                          |                       |           |
| [TURN OVER]                         |                 |   |                       |           |

A46. 1937, *SS Ormonde* discharge card for Gwyn Morgan Owen

## A47. R.M.N. & S.S. Ormonde

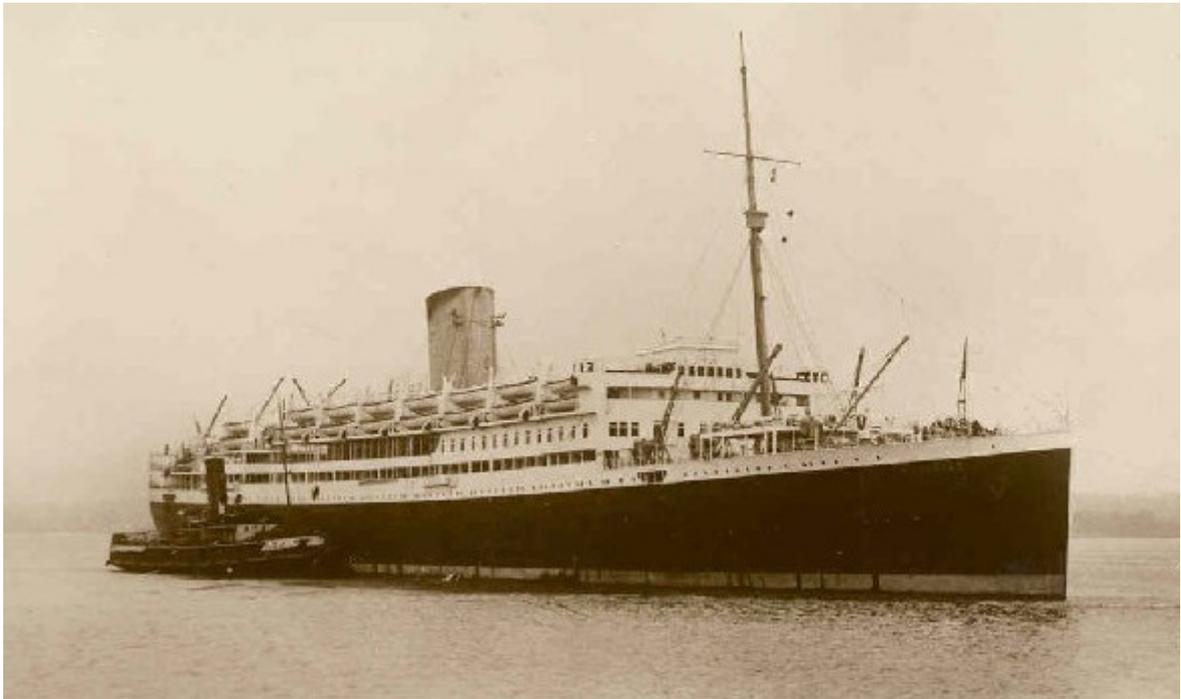


"Ormonde" was built by Orient Lines in 1917 as a troopship. She served the UK - Suez - Australia route between the wars. Converted to one-class in 1933. Troop carrier in WWII. Returned to commercial service in 1947, again on the Europe - Australia route. The 15,000 ton R.M.S. "Ormonde", launched in 1917, was the largest ship yet built for the Australian trade and the Orient Line's first ship to feature a cruiser style stern and to be fully steam turbine powered. She was scrapped in Scotland in 1952. She was sold for breaking up at Dalmuir, Scotland in Dec.1952.



A48. Typical menu from RMS Ormonde, 1927

## A49. RMN & SS Asturias II



Asturias (2) 1925-1939 Armed Merchant Cruiser, 1945 became a government owned emigrant ship and troopship. (Played the part of TITANIC in film "A Night to Remember"), 1957 scrapped.



## Royal Naval Career & World War II Action

Gwyn certainly saw a lot of sea action in the war. He was mobilised by a general call up when World War II broke out and sent to *HMS Victory*, the shore based royal Naval Barracks (*named after Nelsons flagship, launched 1765, still preserved at the docks*) to train as an Engine Room Artificer, due no doubt for his skill and interest as a turner/fitter before the war and sea faring background.

*Germany* bombed the town throughout this period due to it being one of the largest navy ship harbours in the UK, the barracks being hit shortly after he finished training. Mobilisation was a rigorous process for both the Reserves and *HMS Victory* staff. Naval doctors, dentists and optometrists checked over all reservists before they were issued with kit and some advance pay.

A speculative report from his brother David (alive in 2020) states in May 1940 he commandeered a Greek fishing ship and ordered them to sail to Dunkirk to rescue troops stranded there, all within the realms of possibility, but no further evidence.

After his speedy 4 month induction he was posted upon *HMS Ambuscade (D38)* which patrolled the *Atlantic*. More schooling at *HMS Victory* then posted to *HMS Fowey* in 1940-3. This is where his mettle was put to the test in the *Atlantic* convoy defence runs. His rank as a non-commissioned Petty Officer meant that he had responsibility over the men in his team in the engine room.

Cargo ships crossing to and from *America* had to be protected from U Boats and other phenomena. Known as the *Battle of the Atlantic*, it was the longest military campaign in WWII. 3,500 merchant ships, 175 warships, 72,200 allied sailors and merchant seamen were sunk for the loss of 783 German U-boats and 30,000 sailors, 3/4 of it's fleet. U boats were stealthy and hard to detect and scuttle and laid in wait, attacking as a 'wolf pack'. He was lucky to survive this early period. His wife Joan remembers seeing one of his ships docked for repairs having being struck by a torpedo. "The hole was as big as a double decker bus", she recalls.

1940-41 was a disastrous period as *Britain* had not prepared for U boats as they had outlawed submarine warfare prior to the war. Churchill would later write: "...the only thing that ever frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril". Detection methods evolved from ASDIC, an echo location system then short wave radio, spotting planes, to High-Frequency Direction-Finding which intercepted radio broadcasts and finally the Enigma code breaker and radar. Once located, depth charges would be dropped from ships onto U boats that exploded after a set time. However *German* engineering was much superior, they could dive 400 feet deeper than the charges could reach. The 'Squid' and 'Hedgehog' mortars improved on this by exploding upon hitting a target. The U Boat threat was finally overcome by a combination of the improving detection technology above, blockades of *German* ports, *American* escorts and air superiority.

The U boats main task was to disrupt the supply of goods to the *UK* and so weaken it for invasion. The success of this campaign meant that enough hardware reached *Britain* enabling the D Day landings and the overthrow of *Germany*.

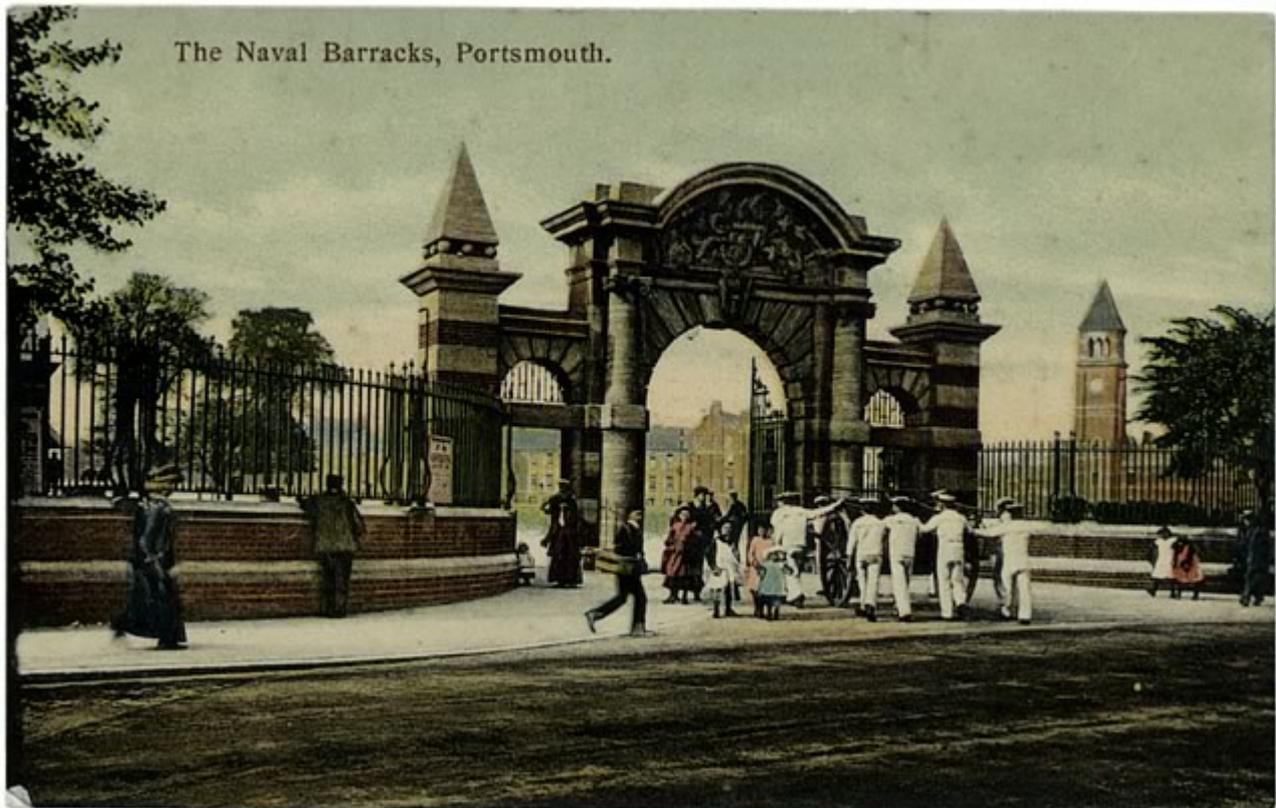
At the end of the war he is demobilised. Like many men returning from war, although victory in their hands, work is hard to find. He is employed as a cleaning companies representative for a time, which is I presume demonstrating and selling Hoovers and such

ephemera. He puts his engineering talents later to good use by inventing a series of steam combustion toy boats in the back shed which he hopes to market to a toy company, family hearsay says to Hamlyn's of London. Garry his son remembers floating them on *Black Park Lake*. However, the toll of the war, substances encountered and his impecunious state brings about stresses in his body causing a carcinoma and he passes away at the young age of 31 in 1949 at the *Canadian Red Cross Hospital* in *Taplow*.

His grave is found to the right of his father Thomas, above, in *Slough*. Leaving a widow and 2 children, a little insurance money, and help from the Red Cross, Thomas Owen and family. They get by, and in 1951 George Morrish kindly takes on the family.

### **Ships Served on by Gwyn Owen in WWII**

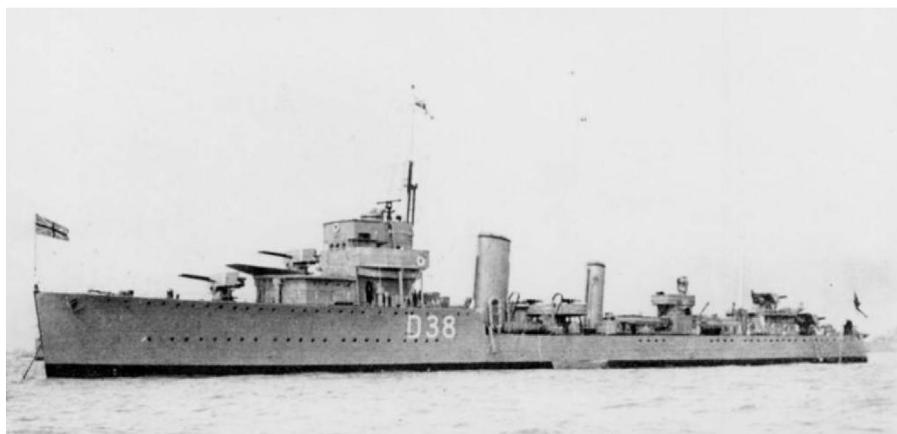
The following ships have been identified as those serving in WWII on the dates that correspond with RN records stating Gwyn was posted upon them. This does not take into consideration shore leave, sickness or training, but we can assume that most of the action of the ships were experienced by him also, if from below deck.



A50. *HMS Victory RN Naval Barracks, Portsmouth*

## A51. HMS Ambuscade (D38)

*Motto: Tempore insidier : 'Bide My Time'*



HMS Ambuscade (D38) was a British Royal Navy destroyer which served in the Second World War. She was launched at Yarrow on 15 January 1926, served in World War II, and was broken up at Troon in 1946.

One of two Prototype Fleet Destroyers intended to determine the design of first new destroyers to be ordered for the RN after the end of WW1. 6th RN warship to carry the name, introduced for the 5th Rate French EMBUSCADE taken as Prize in 1746. Commissioned 9th April 1927, deployed for Fleet duties in Home waters and Mediterranean until 1937 when Paid-Off after problems with her turbine machinery. Replacement of these items deferred until 1939 and on completion in 1940 her war service was interrupted by further machinery problems, relegated to non-operational use. Whilst deployed as a Trials ship in June 1945 she was reduced to Reserve status and used for shock trials. In February 1942, following a successful WARSHIP WEEK National Savings campaign the ship was adopted by the civil community of Crewe, Cheshire.

### 1 9 4 0

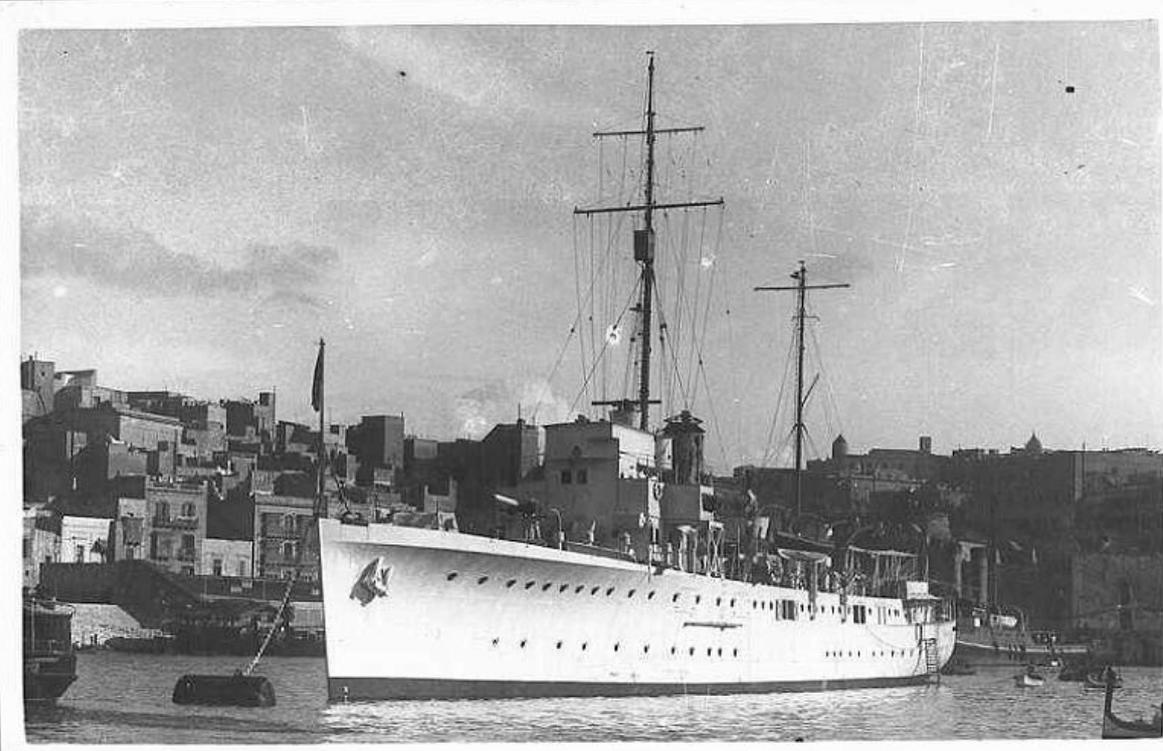
- July** Deployed at Harwich with Flotilla for convoy escort and anti - invasion patrols in North Sea. Came under air attack whilst assisting HM Trawler TURQUOISE which had been disabled in an earlier attack.
- August** Escorted coastal convoy between Nore and Rosyth.
- 27th** Joined Convoy OA205 as escort for passage to NW Approaches via north of Scotland.
- 30th** Detached from OA205 when convoy dispersed in NW Approaches.
- Sept** Transferred to 12th Destroyer Flotilla based at Greenock for convoy escort for passage to and from Dispersal points.
- 12th** Withdrawn from operational use due to turbine defects and took passage to Tyne.
- 13th** Taken in hand for repair at commercial shipyard.
- Oct** Under repair.
- Nov 8<sup>th</sup>** On completion of post repair trials took passage to rejoin Flotilla then based in Iceland for convoy escort.
- Dec** Deployed with Flotilla in Iceland for escort of convoys.

### 1 9 4 1

- Jan-Apr** Icelandic deployment with Flotilla in continuation.
- May** Passage to Clyde for refit.
- 9th** Taken in hand for refit in commercial shipyard.

## A52. HMS Fowey

*Motto: Tien te foy : 'Hold thy loyalty'*



SHOREHAM-Class Sloop ordered under the 1929 Programme from HM Dockyard Devonport on 4th Dec 1929. Laid down on 24th March 1930, launched by Mrs Treffery on 4th Nov 1930, 8th RN ship to carry the name. Build was completed on 11th September 1931 manned by Devonport Port Division. This Sloop served in the Persian Gulf until August 1939 when she went to Bombay for repair. In 1939 she was manned by the Portsmouth Port Division. Following a successful WARSHIP WEEK National Savings campaign during March 1942 she was adopted by the civil community of Wincanton, Somerset.

### 1 9 4 1

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>August</b>    | Resumed Atlantic convoy defence duties.   |
| <b>September</b> | Atlantic convoy defence in continuation.  |
| <b>October</b>   | Joined HM Sloop ROCHESTER HM Corvettes BLUEBELL, CAMPANULA, CARNATION, MALLOW, HELIOTROPE, STONECROP, LA MALOUINE in 37th Escort Group in continuation of Atlantic convoy defence duties. |
| <b>Nov-Dec</b>   | Deployed with Group for Atlantic convoy escort  |

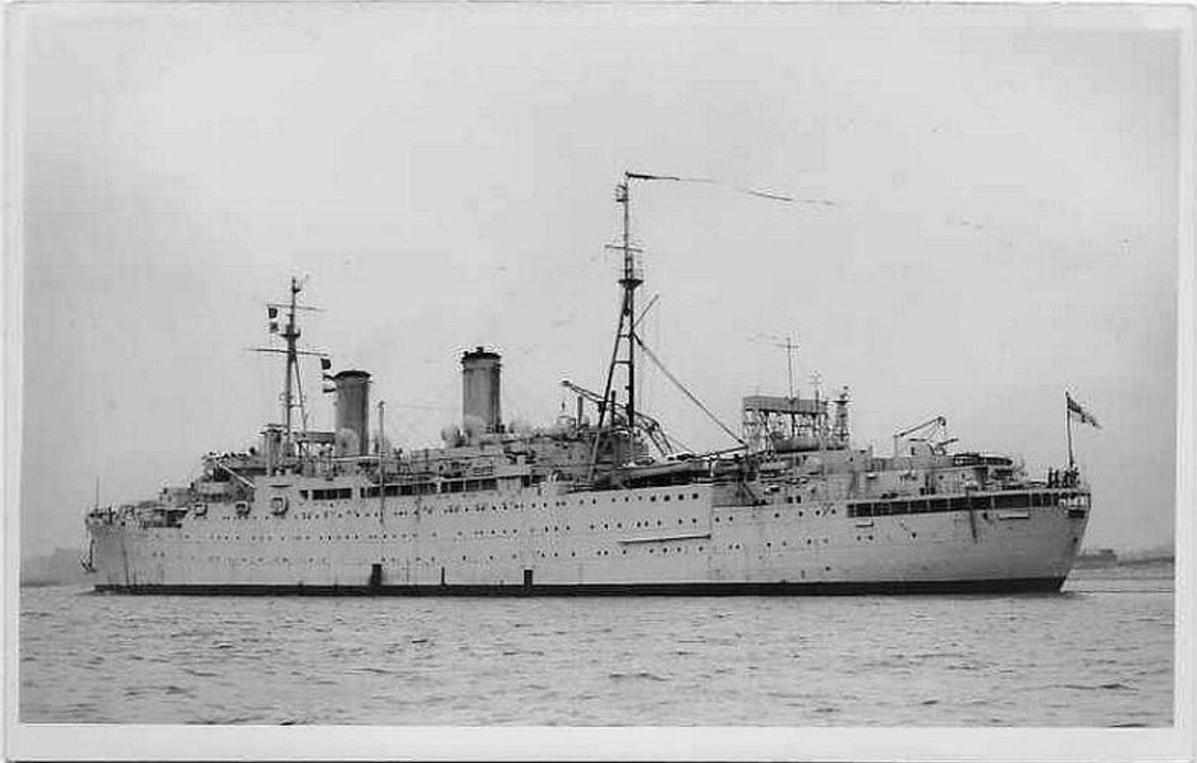
### 1 9 4 2

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Jan-Feb</b>   | Group deployment in continuation.               |
| <b>March-Apr</b> | Under refit at Liverpool.                       |
| <b>May</b>       | Post refit trials.                              |
| <b>June</b>      | Rejoined Group for Atlantic convoy defence.     |
| <b>July-Sept</b> | Resumed deployment for Atlantic convoy defence. |
| <b>October</b>   | Under refit at Liverpool.                       |
| <b>Nov-Dec</b>   | Resumed duty with Group in North Atlantic.      |

### 1 9 4 3

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Jan-Apr</b> | Taken in hand for major refit at Milford Haven. HEDGEHOG Anti-Submarine Mortar Outfit fitted Four additional 20mm guns fitted and 0.5 inch machine guns landed. |
|----------------|---|

## A53. HMS Wolfe



SS MONTCALM belonging to the Canadian Pacific Steamship Ltd Passenger Liner requisitioned on 28th August 1939 for use as an Armed Merchant Cruiser. The ship was completed for service on the UK - Canada route in 1921. She was the 4th RN warship to carry this name. The earlier name used was that of the animal but later name commemorates the General Wolfe who was killed during the captured of Quebec in 1759.

Submarine Depot Ship

Deployed in Clyde for support of submarines.

Operations by the Flotilla included service in Western Approaches, support of passage of Arctic convoys in view of threat of attacks by German surface ships and submarines as well as interception of enemy supply ships in Bay of Biscay.

## A54. HMS Forth (A187)



HMS Forth, pennant number A187 or F04, was a submarine depot ship adapted to operate and maintain the Royal Navy's submarines. She was completed in 1939. Based in home waters during the Second World War apart from a brief period in Halifax, Canada in 1941. HMS Forth was stationed at Trincomalee, Ceylon during the end of the Second World War. During her stay in Malta in the 1950s she was moored on the east side of Msida creek. She left Malta in 1960. HMS Forth took the first Hovercraft to Australia in 1968, a small two or three seater hovercraft. She left Singapore for the U.K. on 31 March 1971. She arrived back in the U.K. on 7 June 1971. Renamed Defiance in 1972. Scrapped on 25 July 1985.

## GWYN MORGAN OWEN PUBLIC RECORDS SYNOPSIS

### **BIRTH**

29:09:1917  
41 Fforchaman Rd,  
Cwmaman

### **MARRIAGE**

Joan Muriel Squelch  
12:05:1941, Sheet St.  
Windsor

### **DEATH**

07:05:1949. Age 31. Red  
Cross H. Taplow, Eton.  
Kidney Cancer. Buried  
Slough Cemetery, plot K702

### **DATE RECORD**

### **AGE**

### **ADDRESS**

### **OCCUPATION**

```
=====
1917 Birth                41, Fforchaman Rd. Cwmaman    Baby
1937 Discharge           20 42 Carlisle Rd. Slough      Utility Steward
1937 Discharge           20 42 Carlisle Rd. Slough      2nd Class Assistant Steward
1939 Navy                21 35 Aylesbury Crnt, Slough  Fitter, Turner
1940 Navy                23 35 Aylesbury Crnt, Slough  Engine Room Artificer
1941 Marriage             24 35 Aylesbury Crnt, Slough  Petty Officer RN
1945 Child Birth         27 18 Arthur Road, Windsor     Petty Officer RN
1946 Child Birth         28 35 Aylesbury Crnt, Slough  Cleaning Company Representative
1949 Death               31 83 Borderside, Slough      Toy Combustion Engineer
=====
```

### **CHILDREN**

### **BIRTH LOC.**

### **DEATH LOC.**

### **CHILD OCCUPATION**

```
=====
Garry Argyll Owen 1945 Argyll 2012 Barry    Weapons & Electrics RN
Gloria Lesley Owen 1946 Slough                Shop worker
=====
```

### **MERCHANT NAVY CAREER**

---

**MERCHANT NAVY:** c.1934-08:11:1937? **NO OF DIS A ISSUED:** R151743

**RATING:** Utility Steward **HEALTH INSURANCE:** Richabilis 1815/364

**SHIPS:** SS Asturias & SS Ormonde

SS Ormonde 141866. DOE: 05:12:1936. Discharge: HP 14000 Glasgow 8951 11:03:1937

SS Asturias 148146. DOE: 07:08:1937

Crew Agreement SS Asturias 19:07:1937. S'hampton-Jersey-Barty Bay-S'Hampton.

492. G.M.Owen Discharged from SS Ormonde 1937. Utility Steward. Discharged  
03:08:1937 S'hampton. Ability & Conduct: V.G.

Crew Agreement SS Asturias 14:09:1937. S'hampton-Cherbourg.

361. G.M. Owen 2nd class Assistant Steward. Discharged 08:11:1937 S'hampton

### **ROYAL NAVY CAREER**

---

**ROYAL NAVY:** 12:03:1940-11:03:1946 **SERVICE NUMBER:** PMX 65481

**RANK:** Petty Officer **OCCUPATION:** Engine Room Artificer

**HMS Victory** 12:03:1940-29:07:1940

**HMS Ambuscade** 29:07:1940-14:06:1941

**HMS Victory** 14:06:1941-15:08:1941

**HMS Fowey** 15:08:1941-18:03:1943

**HMS Wolfe** 18:03:1943-14:06:1943

**HMS Forth** 14:06:1943-1945

**HMS Victory** 1945-11:03:1946

**DISCHARGE:** Class A, character Very Good.

# Appendix 1 - Capel Yorath, Cwmgiedd

*Capel Yorath* is a small chapel in the *Cwmgiedd* valley, a village just outside *Ystradgynlais*, a stones throw from *Penllwyn Teg* farm. It's denomination is Calvinistic Methodist and only admits Welsh speakers. Starting from a small meeting hut in 1804 with 14 members on land leased to the cause for 999 years by *Gwern Yorath* farm, it expanded rapidly in the religious fervour of the time. *Yorath* takes its name after a nearby farm *Gwern Yorath*, which may refer to an earthwork or fortification or after a previous owner *Iorwerth*. Maps of 1812 give the name *Gwernyroth*. Leases of 1612 give the name *Gwern Jovan*. Chapel rebuilt or adapted 1824, 1858, 1899.



*Capel Yoarth* by JMB 2012

## The Owen Connection

Many of Richard Owen's descendants from 1715-1900 appear in the *Ystradgynlais* parish registers of *St Cynogs* (at the time Church of England), but are buried here in the chapel. That means they had the money to pay for official registration, but *Yorath* is considered 'independent' of the Church of England, and kept it's own records. Some of them therefore have dual records of baptisms. Although there are no records of Richard worshipping here, his eldest son William was a deacon there for 19 years and therefore I would assume that he participated in the chapel activities to some extent.

However Richard was buried in *St Cynogs* church, indicating that by previous experience or faith that he did not

approve of the independence movement. Or wished to be buried with his wife, or remain loyal to a church that had married and baptised all his children and collected 10% of his income over 60 years!

Six families of Owen are buried here from 1849. Two of those we know of were deacons. This was a faith which stayed in the family until Thomas Owen who died in 1972. We conclude that the family were ardent supporters, contributing to it's foundation, growth and success in the valley and beyond.

## **Founding Of The Movement**

The Calvinistic movement was inspired by the theology of John Calvin 1509-1564 who died in *Geneva*. Preachers of his faith came to *Wales*, and a Howel Harris in 1735 was enlightened while listening to Rev Pryce Davies in *Talgarth*. He in turn began preaching in *Palleg* upon the farms. John Richard & John Jones were made overseers of *Palleg* in 1743 amongst other parishes. Morgan John was appointed to help who lived at *Maespica* farm, who's debts of £100 were cleared. In 1750 the seat disappeared due to competition. In 1780 it began again, meeting in lofts and the farms of *Maespica*, *Brynygroes* and *Gwern Yorath*. In 1800 there were 14 members. No other churches existed in the district bar *St Cynogs*. So they needed a meeting place. They initially decided on building a church in *Brynygroes* farm, but were leased land by Samuel Williams of *Gwern Yorath* who had apparently bought it from the Gough Estates in 1795, after being in the estate since 1488.

## **Founding & History Of The Chapel**

The small hut they opened in 1806 was still considered church of England by the authorities so they could not ordain, baptise or marry. Therefore they became independent in 1811 and the members grew, the church rebuilt in 1824 and the first minister John Walters of *Brecon* was ordained. Thomas Levi of *Penrhos* also help form a Sunday School. In 1849 they built new chapels in the district and in 1858 the walls and roof were extended to admit up to 500. In 1900 or so *Henglyn Uchaf* farm on the *Palleg* estate with the assistance of the tenants and landlord Sir Charles Morgan allowed it to be turned into a Sunday School (now in ruins). Many waves of religious fever broke out in the district. One example is of an Evan Roberts who after a 6 weeks course in preaching ascended to the pulpits and preached whatever the spirit directed him to. He would become so emotional he would break into tears and speak for hours. In *Cwmafon* he preached until 3am, until the congregation smashed all the windows. He gave up in 1905 and never went to chapel again.

The chapel became a popular fad for a 150 years as it was solely governed in Welsh by local educated men, the language most understood. The town church held mass in Latin, later English, and all were forced to attend there on pain of hefty fines which might lead to excommunication, loss of the farm or even prison! Due to the Act of Toleration being passed in 1689, religious gatherings were allowed in farm houses, but as these became so popular, chapels were built to accommodate them. Chapels you will notice always have a 'coalpit engine house' appearance to them. This is because those two types of buildings had the same architects and builders.

In 1910 Thomas Owen, (my 5<sup>th</sup> generation grandfather), of *Heol Maes Y Dre* (previously Smithfield Place)

became a 'flaenor', a deacon in the chapel at the ripe age of 82. He bought for the church or acquired with donations the first 'llestri cymun' the communion chalice and plate and brought electric heating and lighting there in 1912. He served until his death in 1915 and is buried in the graveyard along with his uncle William Owen who was also a deacon for 19 years, circa 1850-70.

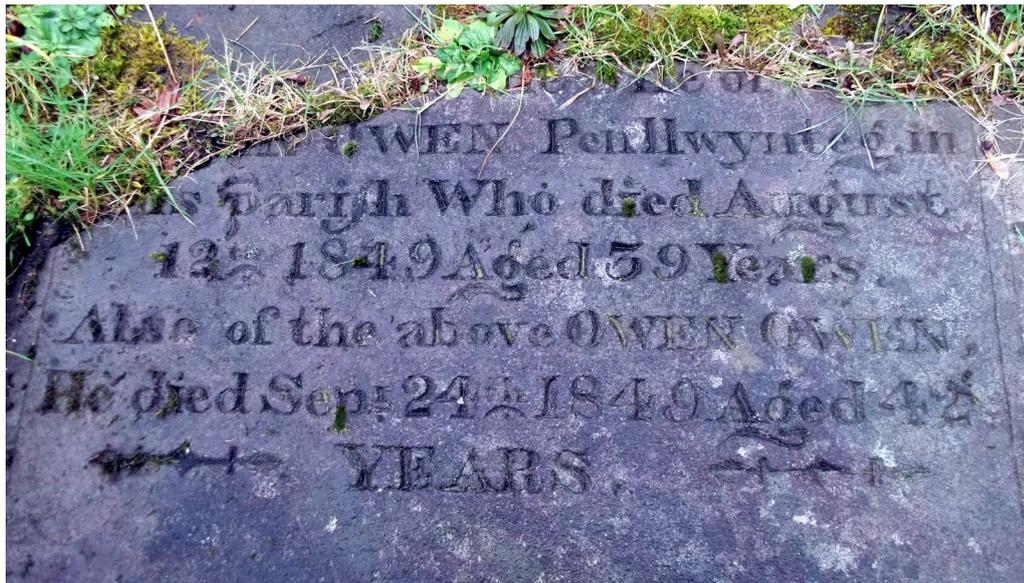
In 1954 Mrs Pritchard Rees of *Yoarth* farm decided to donate the land on which the chapel stood to the movement. A new façade was constructed in commemoration. There were 50 members attending regularly in 2006. In 100 years the chapel established 4 new chapels, educated many of the underprivileged, baptised and made many lives happier with outings music festivals etc. I visited the chapel in 2012 and met a descendent of Lleyson Griffiths one of the ministers he told me there was a congregation of about 12.

The chapel and congregation featured in the opening credits of the film 'The Silent Village' (1943), a war based drama re-enacting the plight of the execution of villagers in Lidice, Czecks under the Nazis, acted out by residents of the village. The hard working villagers appear innocent, repressed and rather backward, and is an emotive film, set in a realistic poverty and calmness of the mid 40s. The minister in the chapel reminding me of Thomas Owen.

Also *Cwmgiedd* was a setting for S4C series 'Licyris Olsorts' in 1980, a light hearted 60's comedy based on the book by Dafydd Rowlands.

# Gravestones Relating to Owen at Capel Yorath

## Owen Owen, Penllwyn teg, 1807-49, Family Grave



A56. Gravestone of Owen Owen 1807-49, son of Griffith Owen 1779-1841

**Transcript:** "(Ann) Owen, Penllwyn Teg in this parish who died August 12<sup>th</sup> 1849 aged 39 years. Also of the above Owen Owen. He died Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> 1849 aged 42 years"

The fact that they died young, within a month of each other indicates that they may have been victims of the cholera outbreak recorded in that year.

## Richard Owen, 1826-96, Family Grave



A57. Gravestone of Richard Owen's 1826-96 family, eldest son of Owen Owen 1800-73.

**Transcript:** "Er Gof am Elizabeth gwraig Richard Owen o Waungynlais yn y plwyf hwn, yr hwn a fu farw Chewfror 20fed 1854 yn 27 mlwydd oed. Hefyd Mary merch y Richard uchod a fu farw Mawrth..."

**Translation:** "In memory of Elizabeth wife of Richard Owen from Waungynlais in this parish who died February 20<sup>th</sup> 1854 aged 27. Also Mary daughter of Richard above who died March..."

## William Owen, 1835-86, Cwmaman, Family Grave



A58. William Owen 1835-1886 & wife Jane, 4<sup>th</sup> son of Owen Owen 1800-73.

**Transcript:** "Er cof serchog am William Owen or lle hwn. Yr hwn a fu farw yn Cwmaman, Aberdare, Tach 9 1886 yn 54 oed. Hefyd Jane gweddw yr ychod a'u gladdu yn yr un lle, Meh 6 1905 aged 69 years".

**Translation:** "In respectful memory of William Owen of this place. He who died in Cwmaman, Aberdare, Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 1886 aged 54. Also Jane his widow who is interred in the same place, June 8 1905 aged 68 years".

## Richard Owen, Blacksmith, 1846-1922, Family Gravestone



A59. Richard Owen 1846-1922, 2nd son of William Owen 1797-67

"Cof annwyl am Richard Owen Brynmeurig Villa, Pen Y Gurnos (Cwmtwrch Isaf). Yr hwn a hunodd yn yr Iesu, 18 Goph 1922 yn 76 oed. Hefyd ei briod Mary Ann yr hon a hunodd yn yr Iesu, 22 Tach 1922 yn 56 oed. Eu henwau perarogli sydd a'u hun mor dawel yw".

"In beloved remembrance of Richard Owen, Brynmeurig Villa, Pen Y Gurnos, (Cwmtwrch Lower). He who rested in Jesus on 18 Aug 1922, at 76 years. Also his wife Mary Ann, she who rested in Jesus on 22 Nov 1922 at 56 years. Their scented names endure, that itself is so peaceful".

## Appendix 2 - Reference & Bibliography

These records append to those no longer mortal in this earthly plane

### Abbreviations Of Public Record Offices

A.C.L.: Aberdare Central Library.  
Anc : Ancestry.co.uk.  
G.R.O.: General Registrars Office.  
N.L.W.: National Library of Wales.  
P.C.A.: Powys County Archives.  
P.R.O.: Public Records Office.  
S.T.H.: Slough Town hall.  
S.C.L.: Slough Central Library.  
W.R.O.: West Glam Record Office.  
Y.C.L.: Ystradgynlais Central Library.  
Y.P.R.: Ystradgynlais Parish Records.

### Image Reference

Full references given in pages below or above

**A1, A2, A4, A9, A10, A17, A18, Palleg, Tredegar Rent & Lease Accounts @ N.L.W. Cover Page, A12, A13, A14 A27, A30, A35, A37, A55, A56, A57, A58, A59**

by James M Burton, author 2001-2012

**A3, A5, A6, A7, A8, A15, A16, A21, A23, A24, A31, A32**

Ystradgynlais Parish Records via Ancestry.co.uk

**A11.** Palleg Estate Map, 1868 @ N.L.W.

**A19, A25.** Ystradgynlais Tithe Returns @ N.L.W.

**A20.** Ystradgynlais Census via Ancestry.co.uk

**A22.** Pamphlet, 200th anniversary of St Cynog's @ Y.C.L.

**A26.** Davies family, via Gary Owen, uncle

**B26, A41, A43, A44, A45.** Google Street Images

**A28.** 1812 OS Map; via British Library Online

**A29.** via descendants of Richard Owen Wedley via Ancestry.co.uk

**A30, A40.** Burton & Owen Family photo album

**A33.** Probate, 1915 via Ancestry.co.uk

**A34.** via <http://history.powys.org.uk/school1/ystradgynlais/swanmenu.shtml>

**A36.** Tarian Y Gweithwyr 1895. A.C.L.

**A38.** 'Slough Churches' by Maxwell Fraser via Slough History Online

**A42.** 1878 OS map, online via oldmaps.co.uk

**A46.** London PRO Merchant Navy Register via Ancestry.co.uk

**A47.** S.S.Ormonde via <http://sharpesonline.com/>

**A48.** Menu via Ebay

**A49.** via <http://www.ssasturias.net/>

**A50, A51, A52, A53, A54** see ROYAL NAVY (UNDISCLOSED) below

### RECORDED BIRTHS

-**Gwyn Morgan Owen**, 29:09:1917. 41 Fforchaman Road, Cwmaman.

Merthyr Tydfil District, 07:11:17. F:Thomas Owen. coalhewer.

M: Mary Owen (Lewis). Merthyr Tydfil dist. Aberdare. Mid Glam.

-**Thomas Owen**. 29:10:1887. 41 Fforchaman Road, Cwmaman.

Merthyr Tydfil District, 28:11:87. F: John Owen, Coalminer.

M: Mary Owen (Morgans). Merthyr Tydfil dist., Aberdare. Mid Glam.

### RECORDED BAPTISMS & CHRISTENINGS

-Children of **Richard & Anne Owen**. (Y.P.R.1793-1810)

P.73 William Owen 02:04:1797 P.? Owen Owen 10:07:1800

P.? Mary Owen 10:12:1793 P.80 Anne Owen 28:04:1804

P.90 Jane Owen 05:05:1810 P.? Jennet Owen 04:04:1807

-**John Owen**, 11:08:1852. F:Thomas Owen, collier. M:Ann Owen. Abode: Waen.

Baptised by John Roberts. curate. (Y.P.R.,1852.P.93.No.744)

-**Thomas Owen**, 29:11:1828. F: Owen Owen. Farmer. M: Rachel Owen. Abode: Abergunlais. Baptised by Timothy Davies. (Y.P.R.1828,P.49,No388)

-**William Owen & Elizabeth Evans** Capel Yorath Baptism via IGI Batch no.C089911  
Mary Owen b.15:8:1828. bp.13:10:1828  
Anne Owen b.12:2:1832 bp.27:5:1832  
Jennet Owen b.11:2:1835. bp.12:04:1835

-**Owen Owen & Rachel Bowen** Capel Yorath Baptism via IGI Batchno.C089911  
John Owen b:14:12:1831. bp:14:2:1832

## RECORDED MARRIAGES

-**Richard Owen & Ann (William)**. 23:02:1793. Bachelor farmer, spinster.  
Banns 06, 13 & 20:01:1793. Witnessed by Rees David & John William.  
Morgan Jones curate. Signed with marks. Y'gynlais P.R. 1793. P.67.N0.266.

-**Owen Owen & Rachel (Bowen)**, 23:09:1826. Solemnized in presence of William Owen & David Evans. Minister Thomas Price. Y'gynlais P.R., 1826, P.54, No.162.-Rhydwin Owen  
Spouse: Gale O-D1947 Eton Buck 6a865

-**Thomas Owen & Ann (Lake)**, 16:08:1850. 22, bachelor, collier, Waingynlais.  
22, spinster, Gough Buildings. Fathers: Owen Owen, collier & John Lake, collier.  
By Thomas Walters, Curate. Witnessed by William Lloyd & John Evan.  
Y'gynlais P.R., 1850, P.152,No 303.

-**Thomas Owen m. Lewis** J/M 1914 Merthyr Tydfil 11a 1162 26yr

-**Gwyn Morgan Owen & Joan Muriel (Squelch)**. 12:05:1941.23, bachelor, Petty  
Officer, Engineer, Royal Navy, P.M.X.65 481. 35, Aylesbury Crsnt, Slough. 20,  
spinster, laundress, 18 Arthur Road, New Windsor. F:Thomas Owen, Mixer, Horlicks. F:  
Ernest Victor Squelch, postman, Windsor dist. Berks. No. 122. St. Catherine's Index.  
2c. 1719, Fiche 4092. JuneQtr., 1941.

## RECORDED DEATHS

-**Owen Griffith**, 17:01:1793. Pen-y-sarn, Y'gynlais. 1791 Lease Particulars  
Palleg Estate.

-**Richard Owen**, 03:12:1851, 91y. PenllwynTeg, Y'gynlais. General decay.  
Farmer. No.4 Neath district.

-**Thomas Owen**, 07:10:1915, 85y. Smithfield Place, Y'gynlias. Senility,  
Cardiac failure. 21days, J.Watson M.B.Retired colliery fireman.  
No.239 Pontardawe district.

-**John Owen**,19:09:1895, 43y. Accidental death, struck by broken machinery.  
R.J.Rhys, inquest 23:09:1895. Timberman in colliery. No.185 Merthyr Tydfil  
dist. Also Ian Winstanley, 'Mining Deaths in Great Britain Vol.5'

-**Gwyn Morgan Owen**. 07:05:1949. 31y. Canadian Red Cross Memorial H.  
Cachexia. Carcinomatosis, lymphosarcoma.Alison M.S.Bell. Combustion engineer. 83,  
Boderside Road. Slough. St.Cath Indx.6a324. F.4670, Eton District, Berks.

-**Thomas Owen**, 03:12:1972, 85y. Garvin Avenue. Beaconsfield. Bronchopneumonia,  
Right cerebral vascular accident, diabetes mellitus, M.S. Watkins MRCS.  
Production worker, food factory, retired. Garvin Av. No.146 Amersham Dist.  
Owen. Signed John Jones,

## RECORDED BURIALS

-**Richard Owen**. Penllwyn Teg.5<sup>th</sup> Dec 1851. 91yr. St Cynog's, Y'gynlais.(No.481)

-**John Owen**. Cwmaman. Buried 21:09:1895.43yr. St Cynog's, Y'gynlais.  
(Y.P.R.1895.P.345.No.2968)

## RECORDED GRAVESTONES

Capel Yorath, Heol Giedd, Cwm Giedd, Y'gynlais. (Y.C.L)

-**Joan / Ann** wife of Owen Owen 12:08:1849, 39y. **Owen Owen** 24:09:1849, 42y.  
Penllwynteg.

\*All Plot 7.6\*

12. **Owen Owen**, d.10:01:1873, 72y. 16. Rachel, wife, d.11:05:1875, 70y.  
09. John, son, of Waungynlais. d.04:10:1852, 21y.  
06. Hannah, da, of Kapunda, S.Australia. d.09:06:1868, 21y.

-**William Owen** d.16:11:1862, 70y. Elizabeth, wife, d.26:1:1885, 83y.  
Penllwyn Teg. Deacon of Capel Yorath 19yrs.  
Ann, wife of Richard Owen, 09:05:1893, 46y.

\*AllPlot9.7\*

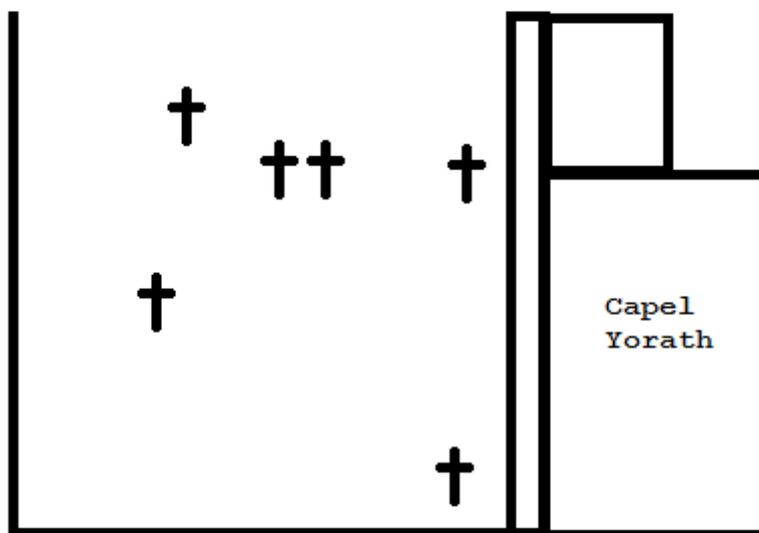
22. **William Owen** d.09:11:1886, 52y, Cwmaman. 08. Jane, wife, d.03:06:1906, 69y.  
10. John, son, d.06:05:1867, 5y. 17. Rees, son. d.14:07:1872, 14m.

\*All Plot 8.7\*

19. **Thomas Owen**, d.07:10:1915, 87y. 02. Ann, wife. d.30:04:1893, 69y.  
21. William, son. d.19:07:1870, 10y. 07. Hannah, daughter. d.25:07:1882, 18y.  
14. Owen, son. d.12:03:1902, 47y.

-**Richard Owen** d.18:07:1922, 76y. Brynmeurig Villa, Pen Y Gurnos.  
Mary Ann, wife, d.22:11:1922, 66y.

### Owen Grave locator, Capel Yorath



Slough Cemetery. Stoke Road, Slough, Berks.

-**Gwyn Morgan Owen**. Grave K702. 11 May 1949. Burial Reg.2694.

-**Thomas Owen**, Grave K698. 03:12:1972, 85y. Mary Owen. 02:12:1953, 63y.

"Lived for Jesus. Empty her space. But beautiful her remembrance.

Peace, perfect peace. (Welshtrans).

## PROBATE

-**Thomas Owen**. Date: 6 Nov 1915. Death: 7 Oct 1915. Place: Brecon.  
£191 1sld to David Owen, fireman.

-**Richard Owen**. Date: 14 Sep 1922. Death: 18 Jul 1922 Place: Brecon.  
£510 to wife Mary Ann Owen.

## ELECTORAL REGISTERS

### -RICHARD OWEN

1835, '36, '37. Devynnock 100. Y'gynlais Lower Div. (N.L.W.Mayberry 6447)  
1230. Owen, Richard. Penllwyn Teg. Griffith William, Tenant.  
1837. Devynnock 100, Y'gynlais. (N.L.W.Poll Manager Book (B/D/BM/A29/5/8)  
1230. Owen. Richard. Voted for Wood.  
1845, 46, 47, 48, 49. Reg. Of Elec., Y'gynlais. (P.C.A.B/QS/Rec)  
Owen Richard, Penllwyn Teg. No.1926.2432.2379.2331.  
Freehold House & Garden with Griffith William, tenant.

-**THOMAS OWENS** snr 1885-86. Y'gynlais. Lower Div. Dis.V. (P.C.A.D/D/JGW/CC/1-25)  
V 422. Owen, Thomas, Smithfield Place.  
1891-92. Lower Y'gynlais. Palleg. Dis. V. (P.C.A.B/QS/Ree)  
655. Owen, Thomas, Smithfield Place.

### -JOHN OWEN

1889, 1890, 1895. Aberaman Ward. Aberdare. (A.C.L.)  
Owen, John. 41 Fforchaman Road. (No.AK328.320.353.D.H.Q.)  
1915, Owen, Mary. 41 Fforchman Road. (County 5 Parochial AN844)

### -THOMAS OWEN Jnr

1919. Aberaman Ward. Aberdare. Pol.Dis.O.Div1. (A.C.L.)  
84. Owen, Thomas. 41 Fforchaman Road. 0.0.  
1930. Aberaman Ward. Aberdare. (A.C.L.)  
125. 126. Owen, Thomas & Mary. 41, Fforchman Road. R.O.Q.  
35, Aylesbury Cres., Bucks. Eton, Slough, Stoke(2). (S.T.H.No.115-139)  
1949 Owen, Thomas & Mary  
1950-2 Owen, Marv & Thomas.  
1953 Owen, Mary & Thomas.  
1954-59 Owen, Thomas.

## CENSUS RECORDS

Abbrev: **bd**: boarder. **da**:daughter. **dl**:daughter in law. **E**:English spoken. **gd**: grand daughter. **h**:head. **ldg**:lodger. **m**:married. **mn**: months. **n**:niece. **OCCUP.**: Occupation. **REL.**: Relation to head. **s**:son. **STAT.**: Status. **U**:Unmarried. **v**:visitor. **wi**:wife. **W**:Welsh spoken. **wd**:Widow

**ADDRESS**                      **NAME**                      **REL.** **STAT.** **AGE** **OCCUP.**                      **BIRTHPLACE**                      **LANGUAGE**

### 1841 Y'gynlais (Age to 5 years)

Y.C.Ref: C:HO107 P:1367 B:19 En:14. F:23. P:4. GSU:464300.(Anc.)

Penllwyn Teg    Richard Owen    h                      75    Farmer                      Breconshire  
                    Ann            Owen    wi                      75  
                    Owen           Owen    s                      30    Miner  
                    Joan           Owen    dl                      25  
                    Anne           Owen    gd                      11  
                    Rebecca Lewis    v                      13

### 1851 Y'gynlais

C:HO107. P:2464. F:59. P:23. GSU:104211-104212.(Anc.)

Ty-Y-Wain            William Owen    h    M                      54    Farmer                      Y'ynlais  
                    Elizabeth Owen    wi    M                      45    Farmer's wife                      Llanelly, Carmarthen  
                    Anne Owen            da    U                      19                                      Moriston  
                    Janet Owen            da    U                      16                                      Moriston  
                    John Owen            s    U                      13    Sawyer                      Moriston  
                    Rees Owen            s    U                      11    At Home                      Moriston  
                    Mary Owen            da    U                      6    At Home                      Moriston  
                    Richard Owen        ldg    Wd                      90    Late Farmer                      Y'gynlais

### 1841 Cilybebyll(Age to 5 years)

C:HO107.P:1421.B:16.En:11.F:19.P:3.L:20.GSU:464330.(Anc.)

Sawyers Arms    Owen Owen            h                      40                                      Publican  
                    Rachel Owen        wi                      35  
                    Richard Owen        s                      14    Sawyer  
                    Thomas Owen        s                      11    Miner  
                    John Owen            s                      9  
                    William Owen        s                      7                                      Breconshire  
                    Rachel Owen        da                      4  
                    Ann Owen            da                      2  
                    Caroline Owen        da                      5mn

### 1851 Y'gynlais

C:O107. P:2464. F:86. P:12. GSU:104211-104212.( Anc.)

Waungynlais    Owen Owen            h                      49    Railway Lab.                      Y'gynlais  
                    Rachel Owen        wi                      45                                      Llandilo, Carmarthen  
                    John Owen            s                      19    Netmaker                      Y'gynlais  
                    William Owen        s                      17    Rail Lab.                      Cilybebyll  
                    Anne Owen            da                      12    AtHome  
                    Caroline Owen        da                      11    Scholar  
                    Hannah Owen        da                      4  
                    Hannah Thomas      n                      6                                      Y'gynlais

**ADDRESS                    NAME                    REL. STAT. AGE OCCUP.                    BIRTHPLACE                    LANGUAGE**

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**1861 Y'gynlais**

C:RG9; P:4089; F:82; P:26; GSU:543232.(Anc.)

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|               |              |    |   |    |            |                    |
|---------------|--------------|----|---|----|------------|--------------------|
| 2 Waungynlais | Owen Owen    | h  | M | 60 | Coalminer  | Y'gynlais          |
|               | Rachel Owen  | wi | M | 55 |            | Llanon, Carmarthen |
|               | William Owen | s  | M | 26 | Coalminer  | Cilybebyll         |
|               | Ann Owen     | da | U | 23 | Dressmaker |                    |
|               | Hannah Owen  | da | U | 14 | At Home    |                    |
|               | David Owen   | s  | U | 10 | Scholar    | Y'gynlais          |

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**1871 Y'gynlais**

C:RG10; P:5434; F:29; P:17; GSU:848044.(Anc.)

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|              |               |    |   |    |           |                 |
|--------------|---------------|----|---|----|-----------|-----------------|
| Canal Street | Owen Owen     | h  | M | 68 | Carpenter | Breconshire     |
| Cottages     | Rachel Owen   | wi | M | 65 |           | Carmarthenshire |
|              | Rachel Davies | gd | U | 11 | Scholar   | Breconshire     |

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**1861 Y'gynlais**

RG9; Piece:4089; Folio:83; Page:27; GSUroll:543232.(Anc.)

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|               |              |    |   |    |           |            |
|---------------|--------------|----|---|----|-----------|------------|
| 3 Waungynlais | Thomas Owen  | h  | M | 33 | Coalminer | Cilybebyll |
|               | Ann Owen     | wi | M | 33 |           | Y'gynlais  |
|               | John Owen    | s  |   | 9  |           |            |
|               | Owen Owen    | s  |   | 6  |           |            |
|               | Mary Owen    | da | U | 4  |           |            |
|               | William Owen | s  |   | 1  |           |            |

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**1871 Y'gynlais**

RG10; P.:5434; F.:25; P.:9; GSUroll:848044.(Anc.)

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|               |             |    |   |    |         |             |
|---------------|-------------|----|---|----|---------|-------------|
| Oddfellows St | Thomas Owen | h  | M | 43 | Collier | Breconshire |
|               | Ann Owen    | wi | M | 42 |         |             |
|               | John Owen   | s  | U | 19 | Collier |             |
|               | Owen Owen   | s  | U | 16 | Collier |             |
|               | Mary Owen   | da | U | 14 | Scholar |             |
|               | Hannah Owen | da | U | 7  | Scholar |             |

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**1881 Y'gynlais**

RG11; P:5346; F:65; P:3; GSU:1342288.(Anc.)

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|            |                 |    |   |    |            |           |
|------------|-----------------|----|---|----|------------|-----------|
| Smithfield | Thomas Owen     | h  | M | 53 | Coalminer  | Y'gynlais |
| Place      | Ann Owen        | wi | M | 52 |            |           |
|            | Owen Owen       | s  | U | 26 | Coalminer  |           |
|            | Mary Owen       | da | U | 23 | Dressmaker |           |
|            | Hannah Owen     | da | U | 16 |            |           |
|            | Margaret A Owen | gd | U | 6  | Scholar    |           |
|            | Mary Owen       | gd | U | 4  |            |           |

ADDRESS NAME REL. STAT. AGE OCCUP. BIRTHPLACE LANG.

1891 Y'gynlais

RG12; P:4467; F:55; P:2; GSU:6099577.(Anc.)

|            |                   |    |   |    |                       |           |     |
|------------|-------------------|----|---|----|-----------------------|-----------|-----|
| Smithfield | Thomas Owen       | h  | M | 62 | Colliery Fireman      | Y'gynlais | E+W |
| Place      | Ann Owen          | wi | M | 62 | "                     | W         |     |
|            | Owen Thomas Owen  | s  | U | 36 | Check Weigher Machine | "         | E+W |
|            | Margaret Ann Owen | n  | U | 16 | Milliner Dressmaker   | "         | E+W |
|            | Mary Owen         | n  | U | 14 | Dressmaker            | "         | E+W |

1891 Cwmaman, Aberdare

RG12; Piece:4447; Folio106; Page9; GSUroll:6099557.(Anc.)

|               |             |    |   |    |           |           |   |
|---------------|-------------|----|---|----|-----------|-----------|---|
| 41 Fforchaman | John Owen   | h  | M | 38 | Coalminer | Y'gynlais | W |
| Road          | Mary Owen   | wi | M | 38 |           | W         |   |
|               | David Owen  | s  |   | 5  |           | Cwmaman   | W |
|               | Thomas Owen | s  |   | 3  |           | Cwmaman   | W |

1901 Y'gynlais

Class:RG13; Piece:5063; Folio:71; Page:5.(Anc.)

|            |                 |    |    |    |                  |           |  |
|------------|-----------------|----|----|----|------------------|-----------|--|
| Smithfield | Thomas Owen     | h  | Wd | 72 | Colliery Fireman | Y'gynlais |  |
| Place      | Owen Thm. Owens |    | M  | 46 | Colliery Weigher |           |  |
|            | John Watkin     | bd | M  | 22 | Coalminer        | Abercrave |  |
|            | Mary Watkin     | bd | M  | 22 |                  | Y'gynlais |  |

1901 Cwmaman Aberdare

RG13; Piece:5039; Folio:33; Page:7.(Anc.)

|               |             |   |    |    |                       |           |     |
|---------------|-------------|---|----|----|-----------------------|-----------|-----|
| 41 FFORCHAMAN | Mary Owen   | h | Wd | 47 |                       | Y'gynlais | W   |
| Road          | David Owen  | s | U  | 15 | Underground coalminer | Cwmaman   | E+W |
|               | Thomas Owen | s | U  | 13 |                       | Cwmaman   | E+W |

1911 Y'gynlais

Class:RG14; Piece:32713; Schedule Number:53(Anc.)

|            |              |    |    |    |                         |           |     |
|------------|--------------|----|----|----|-------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Smithfield | Thomas Owen  | h  | Wd | 82 | Child:5 Alive:1 Retired | Y'gynlais | E+W |
| Place      | Mary Watkins | gd | Wd | 34 | Child:0 Dressmaker      | Y'gynlais | E+W |

1911 Cwmaman, Aberdare

Class:RG14; Piece:32521; Schedule Number:129(Anc.)

|               |           |   |    |    |                   |           |     |
|---------------|-----------|---|----|----|-------------------|-----------|-----|
| 41 Fforchaman | Mary Owen | h | Wd | 58 |                   | Y'gynlais | E+W |
| Road          | Tom Owens | U |    | 23 | Coalminer (hewer) | Cwmaman   | E+W |

## **ROYAL NAVY (UNDISCLOSED)**

Naval Pay & Pensions, Gosport

-Gwyn Morgan Owen. Service No. MX.65481. 12:03:1940-11:03:1946.

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- [www.britishpathe.com/record.php?id=53741](http://www.britishpathe.com/record.php?id=53741) British Pathe Movie Artificers
- <http://www.seayourhistory.org.uk> Naval History
- <http://www.navy-net.co.uk> Naval Forums
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## **MERCHANT NAVY**

-Registry of Shipping & Seamen: Agreements & Crew Lists, Series II(P.R.O.)  
SS Asturias. Ship No.:148146. G.M.Owen 19:07:1937-03:08:1937  
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-Merchant Navy Seamen 1918-1941. BT349 1921-1941 Cardtype: CR1385(P.R.O)  
OWEN,Gwyn Morgan Discharge number: R151743, SS Ormonde, 11:03:1937,Glasgow

- <http://sharpesonline.com/S.S.Ormonde.htm>
- <http://www.ssasturias.net/>
- SS Asturias, 1950 Photo courtesy of Mr Malcolm Ginsberg, UK

## **TREDEGAR ESTATE RENT ACCOUNTS (N.L.W. Tredegar)**

### **ABA (N.L.W. Tredegar)**

- ABA 1/27 Bocs 629 Palleg Estate Rent Account Book 1750-1799.
- ABA 1/1: Breconshire estate rental 1762-1800
- ABA 1/2: Dderw, Palleg and cottage rents settled accounts 1786-1797
- ABA 1/3: Breconshire estate settled accounts 1786-1797
- ABA 1/4 Palleg Estate Rent Account Book 1799-1808.
- ABA 1/5: Dderw and Palleg estate settled accounts 1798-1807
- ABA 1/6: Palleg, Dderw and Tredegar settled accounts 1808-1816
- ABA 1/7 Palleg Estate Rent Account Book 1821-1828.
- ABA 1/8: Breconshire estate arrears settled accounts 1787-1801
- ABA 1/9: Breconshire estate chief rents arrears settled accounts 1787-1789
- ABA 5/1 Palleg Estate Rent Account Book 1860-1900.(N.L.W.Tredegar )
- ABA 5/2 Palleg Estate Rent Account Book 1893-1902.(N.L.W.Tredegar )
- ABA 5/3 Palleg Estate Rent Account Book 1900-1935.(N.L.W.Tredegar )
- ABA 5/4 Palleg Estate Rent Account Book 1902-1937.(N.L.W.Tredegar )

## **TREDEGAR ESTATE PARTICULARS & VALUATIONS (N.L.W. Tredegar)**

- ABA 1/27 Palleg Estate Abstract of Leases 12/4/1781 4/6/1791
- Brecs 74 Palleg Estate Auction Catalogue 1915.( N.L.W.Tredegar )

### **ABS (N.L.W. Tredegar)**

- ABS/1: Breconshire estate valuations and lists of leases, 1815-1889
- ABS/2: Breconshire and Herefordshire survey, 1821
- ABS/3: Palleg estate valuations 1846-1916
- ABS/6: Breconshire estate valuations 1906-1926
- ABS/7: Ystradgynlais provisional valuation book 1914
- ABS/8: Breconshire estate valuations [c.1915?]
- ABS/9: Breconshire estate valuations [c.1915?]
- ABS/10:Particulars of Ystradgynlais leaseholds 1917
- ABS/11:Particulars of Ystradgynlais leaseholds 1917

### **AES (N.L.W. Tredegar)**

- AES 1/1: Breconshire and Monmouthshire surveys [1730x1770]
- AES 1/3: Tredegar, Dderw, Palleg, Ruperra and Hereford estates rental survey, 1808
- AES 3/6: Abstracts of Breconshire and Glamorgan deeds [post-1738]

- AES 3/7: Abstract of deeds [1740x1760]
- AES 3/9 (Bocs651) A list of deeds and papers,1578-1769, Tredegar and Dderw estates
- AES 4/1: Estate map reference book 1782
- AES 4/2: Estate map reference book 1782

- AMA1/42 Vol.4028/7/4: Morrice,William,1732-1797. Survey of the estate of Tredegar [cartographic material]: Imprint 1764-1774.(Not seen)
- AMA 1/1: 1600-1699 Tredegar Estate Rent Account Book
- AMA 1/42: 1722-63 Tredegar Estate rentals

## **D (N.L.W. Tredegar)**

- D 1/1: Breconshire and Radnorshire leases 1776-1781
- D 1/4: 1915 Breconshire estate sale 1915, Nov.-1916, Feb.
- D 1/5: 1915 Breconshire estate sale 1915, Oct.-Dec.
- D 1/6: 1915 Breconshire estate sale 1915, Oct.-1916, Jan.

## **MAPS**

<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?hl=en&tab=wl> Google Maps

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/> OS maps

- Ref. to Palleg Estate Maps 1781. Ed Thomas (N.L.W. Tredegar AES4/1 Bocs 609)
- A few farm maps on Palleg Estate 1820. Williams (N.L.W. Ms. Maps Vol.56094/9/4)
- Ms. Maps Vol.56094/9/4 Map, Palleg 1820 properties, field names and land use.
- Palleg Estate Maps 1845 by Williams. (N.L.W. Tredegar P3801 094/8/3 Vol17)
- Palleg Estate Maps 1868 J.Whatman(N.L.W. Tredegar Vol 6a+b028/7/3)
- Cwmtwrch Morgan Estates 1907 CJ Large NLW Tredegar 1044 132/3/53
- Brecknock OS Map 6to 1 mi.1906. (N.W.L.Shelves.)

-OS1-1Aberdare.Budgen,Thomas.1814.(British Lib. Online Gallery)

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## **ESTATE INDENTURES, LEASES, PLANNING**

- Tredegar Deeds, Leases, Wills 1747-1863 (N.L.W.Tredegar Park Parcel 1537/16/1-21)
- Ynys-Cedwyn Estate. Cilybebyll Leases. Richard Douglas Gough to Owen Owens, 1838, "The Sawyers Arms" in Cilybebyll. (W.R.O<D/DYc1167/1,2>)
- Indenture Palleg Estate. Landowner: Sir Charles Morgan. Occupier: William Owen Date: 1847. Details: Lease of land close to PenllwynTeg.(N.L.W. Tredegar 154/251-276)
- Planning Application. B/06/0258SN773116 Messrs. W T D Williams + Earland-Approval-Con 24-Nov-2006 Proposed renovation of farmhouse and additions. Improvements to access (Full),Penllwyn-teg, Palleg, Ystradgynlais Rural Council.

- ABL 3/1: Ystradgynlais leases 1747, 1785,1805-1844
- ABL 3/2: Ystradgynlais leases 1847,Nov.23
- ABL 3/3: Ystradgynlais leases 1850-1923
- ABL 3/4: Ystradgynlais leases 1859-1880
- ABL 3/5: Ystradgynlais leases 1881-1926
- ABL 3/6: Ystradgynlais leases 1894-1900
- ABL 3/7: Ystradgynlais leases 1901-1905
- ABL 3/8: Ystradgynlais leases 1906-1916
- ABL 3/9: Ystradgynlais leases 1910-1925
- ABL 5/1: Breconshire leases 1716-1787
- ABL 7/1: Breconleases, [1717]-1915 (gap1718-1807)

## **MANUSCRIPT BOXES (N.L.W. Tredegar)**

- manuscript-45/537.: ACCOUNT(settled)ofrent,taxofPalleg1811,Jan.8.
- manuscript-45/539.: ACCOUNT(settled)ofincometaxofPalleg,1811,Jan.8.
- manuscript-45/538.: ACCOUNT(settled)of expense attending the 'walk of procession' Between the lord of Palleg and the Yniskidwen estate1811,Jan.8.
- manuscript-45/1,209.: Account (settled) of rent of Palleg 1818, Feb.13.

-manuscript-84/222.: Account of rents of Palleg 1832.  
 -manuscript-119/266-8.:Leases granted on the Palleg estate, 1747,1780.  
 -manuscript-119/261.:Letter, John Morgan of Palleg to Thomas Bryan concerning the Palleg estate accounts. 1765,Dec.22.  
 -manuscript-119/290.: Account Book of chief rents in the borough of Brecon, 1765-72.  
 -manuscript-119/253-5.: Receipts of John Morgan, esq., for Palleg rents,1769-72.  
 -manuscript-119/233-52.: Accounts of rents from the Palleg estate, 1769-90.  
 -manuscript-119/257-9.: Receipts for building work done on the Palleg estate,1775.  
 -manuscript-119/265.:List of dead tenants of the Pallegestate, [c.1785].  
 -manuscript-119/266-8.:Particulars of leases on the Palleg estate,1747,1780.  
 -manuscript-121/117.: lease for 3 lives Tir Pellwyne Teugue, 1747, April 18.  
 -manuscript-121/125.: Account of deduction s made from the estimated rental of the Palleg estate, on which the purchase money for same was..., [c.1747].  
 -manuscript-121/220.: Heriots to Thomas Morgan, Palleg estate, 1757,Aug.26.  
 -manuscript-121/138.: Receipt for £101.12. 3 on account of rents of the Pallege state paid by John Morgan to ThomasBryan, 1760,Dec.20.  
 -manuscript-121/148.: Copy letter from [GeorgeMorgan] to Charles Morgan concerning the arrears of chief rents due on the Palleg estates 1771,Nov.3.  
 -manuscript-121/139.:Receipt for £206.15.0 paid by John Morgan to Thomas Bryan on account of Palleg rents and cordwood sold for Thomas...,1761,April2.  
 -manuscript-121/143.:Letter from John Morgan of Palleg to Thomas Bryan concerning business relating to the management of the Palleg estate,1763,Dec.25.  
 -manuscript-121/144-5.: Letters from John Morgan Palleg to Thomas Bryan conceing the collection of rents, the sale of cordwood, the settlement 1764, Oct.25& Dec.23.  
 -manuscript-121/146.: Letter from John Morgan of Ystradgynlais to Thomas Bryan concerning the collection of rent son the Palleg estate, payment for 1766,Dec.30.  
 -manuscript-121/227.: Account of Palleg rents collected by John Morgan, 1766-8.  
 -manuscript-121/971.: Account of rent and duties received by Walter Price from tenants in the lordship of Palleg due to Sir Charles...,1827,March25.  
 -manuscript-121/978.: Account of rents in the lordship of Palleg received by Walter Price for Sir Charles Morgan for the year ending...,1828,March25.  
 -manuscript-137/259.:Rental and Account(settled) of Palleg estate in co.Brec. belonging to John Morgan, esq., for the year ending Michaelmas...,1791,Dec.31  
 -manuscript-137/334.:Rental of the Palleg estate, including comments on the character of the tenants, state of the farms,etc,1816.  
 -manuscript-146/99.: Appointment of Thomas Bold of Brecon, esq.,as steward of the manors of Brecknock, Priory, Alexanderstone, Maira Mote and Palleg...,1822.

## **LAND TAX**

-26th Nov 1798. Defynnog, Y'gynlais Lower. Prop: Sir Charles Morgan  
 Occupier: Richard Owen. Tax: £3.5.2 (N.L.W.Film 901p.88f.99.P.R.O.IR/23/112)  
 -1744 (N.L.W. Penpont 908-924 WINDOW TAX 1747 (N.L.W.Penpont 1896)  
 Griffith Thomas 4 windows 2s x 4=8s  
 -1754-87(N.L.W.Penpont 2158-2387)

## **WINDOW TAX**

-1747(N.L.W.Penpont1896) Griffith Thomas 4 windows 2s x 4=8s  
 Thomas Griffith widow 2s x5=10s.  
 -1761(N.L.W.Penpont1897-1926)  
 -1763(N.L.W.Penpont1941-1970)  
 -1771(N.L.W.Penpont1985-1999)  
 -1787(N.L.W.Penpont2028-2096)

## **TITHE APPORTIONMENT**

-1839 Y'gynlais Map & Apportionments (P.C.A.AC584/R33-34)  
 -ABT1/1: Ystradgynlais tithes [c.1840 N.L.W.]

## **WEBSITES CONSULTED (Live as of 2011)**

I have endeavoured to include reference to every website consulted,  
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- [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) Online Bookstore
- <http://www.llgc.org.uk> National Library Of Wales
- <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/> West Glam Archives
- <http://www.powys.gov.uk/> Powys County Archives
- <http://www.glamarchives.gov.uk/> Glamorgan Archives

## **HISTORY OF WALES**

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- <http://www.pant.org.uk/Files/history/1966%20The%20Great%20Forest%20of%20Brecknock.pdf>
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- <http://www.cpat.org.uk/projects/longer/histland/usk/muadmi.htm>
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## HISTORY OF MINING

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- Tarian Y Gweithwyr 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1895 (A.C.L.)- workers newspaper for Aberdare

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