

Hen Bonk/Bank/Bank Foel Faen Cottage, Oernant



The site of Hen Bonk in 2023.

There is no sign today at all of a house, or any kind of occupation, on the site of Hen Bonk. If it weren't for the tithe map of 1841 we would not even know where it had been. On that map and the accompanying apportionment the just over three acre site was owned and occupied by Gabriel Roberts. Strangely neither the cottage or Gabriel Roberts are listed in the Census of the same year, but it does appear in the Census records from 1851 to 1881 and the details of these are as follows:-



On the tithe map the location of Hen Bonk was shown as number 41.

1851 Bonk: y Graig Elizabeth Hughes (59, labourer's wife).

1861 Bank Foel Faen: Thomas Hughes (38, engineer), Jane Hughes (47, wife), Daniel Hughes (20, son, slate maker), Thomas Hughes (18, son, slate maker), Margaret Hughes (15, Daughter), Edward Hughes (13, son, slate maker), John Hughes (10, son, slate maker), William Hughes (8, son, slate maker).

1871 Bank: Robert Hughes (25, quarryman), Elizabeth Hughes (35, wife).

1881 Bank Cottage: Edward Hughes (70, pauper), Margaret Hughes (70, wife), Elizabeth Hughes (28, daughter, unmarried), Margaret Hughes (8, daughter, scholar), Robert Owen Hughes (5, son), Ellen Hughes (2, daughter) – the children are likely to be Elizabeth Hughes' son/daughters.

Although Hugheses lived in the house for over thirty years it has not been possible to discover whether there was any ancestral connection between the different occupants. After 1881 Bank Cottage vanishes from the records forever.

By: David Crane.