

Cae'r Hafod



The ruins of Cae'r Hafod

A preparatory map prepared for the Ordnance Survey in 1835 shows no building on the site where the ruins of Cae'r Hafod stand today, although there is a kiln marked right next to the location.



*Ordnance Survey map from 1835.
© The British Library Board.*

The records of the tithe survey in 1844 show Cae'r Hafod (field of the summer dwelling) belonging to the Right Honourable Lord Kenyon, and rented to Robert Price, there appears to have been no building there at this date and the field called Cae'r Hafod was simply noted as being pasture.



The tithe map and apportionment of 1844 shows Cae'r Hafod as being just pasture.

Courtesy National Library Wales.

The house was built sometime in the next 7 years, however, as in 1851 John Roberts, a rockman (probably in the nearby Pant Glas Quarry), and his family of 10, lived there. By 1871 Cae'r Hafod was being used as a small farm by David Davis but this was short lived as in 1881 it was again just used as a dwelling by Richard Jones, a labourer, and his family. Richard Jones' youngest son, born in 1871, was given the unusual name of Christmas and went on to work in a drapers shop in Llangollen. The 1887 rates book for Eglwyseg records Cae'r Hafod as being owned by George Rooper Esquire, and lived in by Samuel Humphries, but by 1891 David Roberts, a labourer at a steelworks, had moved from Llandrillo into Cae'r Hafod, with his wife Diantha and their seven children. Their eldest son Samuel was also a laborer, but in a lead works. Ten years later Cae'r Hafod lay empty, and it was not listed on the 1911 census either. However, we do know that it was occupied again after the First World War.

Ernest Nicholls was born in Oldham in 1881 and grew up there. After the First World War he had no wish to go back to his business ways and so moved up to Llantysilio. At first he and his wife lived in Cae'r Hafod. She was the first president of the Pentredŵr Women's Institute in 1926, and older members remember her walking down through the forest, carrying a storm lantern, to light her way to the village school for meetings. After Cae'r Hafod Ernest Nicholls moved to Hen Bandy, but there is no record of his wife ever having lived there.

Cae'r Hafod was occupied well into the 20th century and there are residents of Eglwyseg who have told of visiting the house as children.

We hope to have a more complete story of Caer Hafod available soon.