

## Fron Haul, Oernant



*Fron Haul in 2023.*



*On the tithe map the location of Fron Haul (highlighted with a blue dot) was part of the common land.*

*Courtesy The National Museum of Wales.*

On the tithe map of 1841 the location of Fron Haul was located on common land and so it seems less likely that there may have been a property built there at that time.

The house doesn't seem to appear in the records until the 1861 Census. Then known as Tŷn y Graig, Oernant, it was lived in by 33 year old rockman Edward Thomas, his wife Elizabeth and their two daughters Anne and Sarah.

They also had a boarder, Thomas Thomas, although whether he was related to Edward we do not know.

Edward and Elizabeth went on to have three more children – twins Mary and Martha, born in 1862, and John Edward, born in 1867. Maybe looking to better their family's prospects, in 1891, after thirty years of quarrying and living at Fron Haul, Edward, Elizabeth and John Edward were recorded as farming down at Pentredŵr Farm, although John Edward was still working as a rockman at the slate quarry. At that time Fron Haul seems to have been unoccupied.

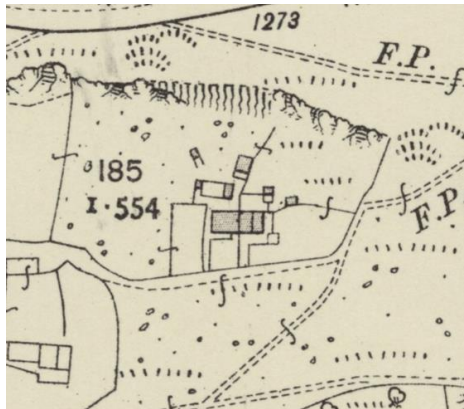
In 1893 John Edward Thomas married Elizabeth Ann Davies at Llantysilio Church. Elizabeth was the daughter of Hugh and Elizabeth Davies, and she had grown up on Post Office Terrace in Pentredŵr.

1893. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Llantysilio in the County of Denbigh									
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.	
227	April 28 1893	John Edward Thomas	26	Bachelor	Rockman	Pentebow	Edward Thomas	Farmer	
		Elizabeth Ann Davies	20	Spinster		Pentebow	Hugh Davies	Quarryman	
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church after Licence by Mr. J. J. Jones, Vicar									
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		John Edward Thomas			Elizabeth Ann Davies		in the Presence of us,		
		Robert Owen			Martha Thomas				

*John Edward and Elizabeth Ann's marriage  
at Llantysilio Church in April 1893.*

The newly married couple, needing somewhere of their own to start a family, moved back up to Fron Haul, where, over the following ten years, they had four children – Jane, Sarah, Hugh and Gladys. By 1921 only Hugh and Gladys were still living at home with John and Elizabeth. John was still a rockman, as was son Hugh and Gladys helped her mother with the household duties.

At this time there were two houses at Fron Haul. The 1912 Ordnance Survey map seems to show two separate dwellings. Neighbours to John and Elizabeth were 27 year old slate splitter Edward Thomas, his wife Jessie and their very young daughter Eleanor.



*The 1912 Ordnance Survey map  
shows two adjoining properties  
at Fron Haul.*

Edward and Elizabeth would remain at Fron Haul for the remainder of their lives, making over eighty years of occupation by the same family (apart from a small gap around 1891). By the start of World War II their neighbours had changed, with

the other house being lived in by writer/lecturer Mary Palmer and Polish textile worker Scyja Oszpicyn and his wife Rosa.

Bronhaul - Pentebow	83	1	Thomas, John E.	M.	29 Sep. 66	M. Rockman (Slate Quarry)
dito	83	2	Thomas, Elizabeth A.	F.	14 Mar. 67	M. Unpaid Domestic Duties
Bronhaul - Pentebow	84	1	Palmer, Mary	F.	21 Nov. 04	M. Writer - Lecturer

*The 1939 Electoral Roll for Bronhaul. The gap between the two sections  
is where records have been redacted.*

dito	84	5	Oszpicyn - Scyja	M.	12 Jan. 97	M. Textile Worker - Polish
dito	84	6	Oszpicyn - Rosa	F.	6 Oct. 01	M. Unpaid Domestic Duties

John Edward and Elizabeth Ann died within 18 months of each other, in 1941 and 1942, and were interred together in Llantysilio Churchyard.



*The grave of John Edward and Elizabeth Ann Thomas in Llantysilio Churchyard. The inscription reads:-*

*Er serchua gof am JOHN EDWARD THOMAS, Oernant, Pentredŵr yr hwn a hunodd Mai 3, 1941 yn 75 mlwydd oed. Hefyd ELIZABETH ANN, annwyl \_\_\_\_\_, hon a hunodd Hydref ?? 1942 yn ?? mlwydd oed.*



Following John and Elizabeth at Fron Haul, local recollections say, were the Bennisons. Records are not certain but it looks almost certain that it was Anne Bennison and her husband, possibly Alexander, who were there. At the end of the 1950s the Bennisons moved down to Maesyrychen, where Anne passed away in 1977.

In the late 1950s Mike and Pat Bird-Jones moved into Fron Haul. Mike was Chairman of the Flint and Deeside Railway Preservation Society and Pat was the senior physiotherapist at Llangollen Community Hospital until her untimely death in 1981. They and their children lived there continuously from the late 1950s, and Fron Haul is still today (2023) in the ownership of the Bird-Jones family.

*By David Crane.*