

## Fron Lwyd



*The house at Fron Lwyd in 2023.*


Today, Fron Lwyd (Grey Hill) stands as a new house in a commanding location on the hillside. Part of the Plas Uchaf estate it was, until recently, rented out as holiday accommodation. However, just twenty five years ago the buildings on the site were very different, comprising the ruins of the original house and the adjoining barn.



*The ruins of the original Fron Lwyd in the 1990s.*

The ruins of Fron Lwyd were fascinating, with many features still visible. Much of the tiled floor remained and several of the timber beams were still in place. There was a bread oven in the parlour at the eastern end of the building. The doorways and windows, still present in the ruined house, appeared to have been narrowed at some time in the past. The windows at the western end of the eastern building were blocked off, stones having been removed from the wall and the floor beams and cut to allow the construction of a chimney at that end of the building.

Edward Lhuyd mentions Fron Lwyd as another 'house of note' in Llangollen, in his answers to parochial questions in 1696. He says that it belonged to a Dr Rosendale and notes that lead was previously mined there. Michael Rosindale (gentleman) is recorded as owning a property with a value of £9 in Eglwyseagle at the turn of the 18th century. Rent records for Eglwyseg in 1715 again bring up this uncommon name in the



*In the name of God Amen I Michael Rosindale  
of Wrexham in the County of Denbigh Gentl. the nine and  
hundredth day of January in the tenth year of the reign of  
our Sovereign Lady Anne by the Grace of God Queen of  
great Brittain &c. Amoy, In 1711. Considering the  
Uncertainty of this Life doe hereby make and Ordain this my  
Last Will and Testament. Infirmis, I give devise and be-  
queath to my Siben. Margarett, Frances, and Elizabeth  
Rosindale all and every my Meffuages and Testaments*

form of a Margaret Rosendale. In 1711 a Michael Rosindale of Wrexham left his estate, consisting of properties in 'the severall countys of Denbigh, Chester or elsewhere in the Kingdom of Great Britain' to his sisters Margaret, Frances and Elizabeth, and so possibly Fron Lwyd was part of that estate. Looking further back in time, in 1666 Thomas

#### *Michael Rosindale's will of 1711.*

Rosindall had paid hearth tax for a property with two hearths in Eglwyseg, so possibly that was for Fron Lwyd also.

At the end of the eighteenth century Fron Lwyd belonged to the Reverend Mr Newcombe, but was rented out, first to John Jeffreys and then to Evan Edwards. Evan Edwards and his family were evidently comfortably off, because they owned two other properties in the valley as well as renting Fron Lwyd.

In 1841 Fron Lwyd was a farm, lived in by John Morris and his family of 8, but by 1844 the building was owned and lived in by Ebenezer Cooper, who also rented an adjoining piece of waste ground from Sir Watkins William Wynn. Ebenezer Cooper was a respected figure in Llangollen. He was the Currier and Commissioner of Income Tax in and was responsible for building the British School in 1846.

Over the following 40 years the Fron Lwyd alternated between being a farm and a house for different families, with shepherd James Ewart being there with his family in 1881 and farmer William Robson, with his wife and four children living there in 1887 and 1891. By this time, the rates record for Eglwyseg show that Fron Lwyd, along with a number of other properties in the valley, were owned by Thomas Jones Esquire. It was empty in 1901 and not included on the 1911 census or the 1939 electoral roll, so possibly the Robson's were the last family to live at Fron Lwyd.

We hope to have a more complete story of Fron Lwyd available soon.