

Fron Newydd



Fron Newydd in 2016.

Fron Newydd sits in the crook of the Horseshoe Pass road just below Oernant Uchaf. The fields were marked as Oernant on an 1819 Ordnance Survey drawing, but no buildings were shown in the area of Fron Newydd.



No buildings were marked on the 1819 Ordnance Survey map in the area later (on the 1841 tithe map) ascribed to Fron Newydd.

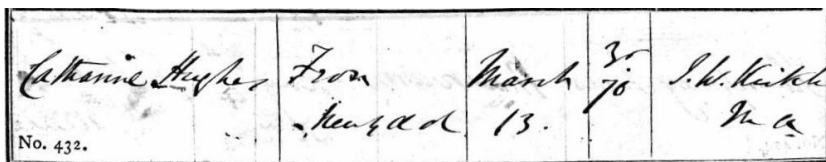
© The British Library Board.

However, by 1841, the Tithe showed a small field (number 46 on the plan) and reported this as Fron Newydd saying that it was owned by Robert Price and occupied by Catherine Hughes who paid a tithe of £0 3s 4d. Robert Price also owned Tan y Bwlch.

PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born Whether Born in Same County, or Foreign Place.
	Disinhabited or Vacant	Inhabited		Males	Females		
Fron Newydd		1	Richard Roberts	44		Sl. P.	W.
			Catherine Hughes	65			W.
			Rich. J.	20		Sl. Quarryman	W.
			Edward	50		Sl. Quarryman	W.
			Mary Anne Phillips	15			W.
			John	8			W.

The 1841 Census showing Catherine and Richard living at Fron Newydd.

The 1841 census confirmed the tenancy and reported that Catherine was 65 and shared the house with Richard Hughes, a twenty year old rockman, who may be presumed to have been her son. But by March 1845, Catherine was dead at the age of 70.



Catherine Hughes' burial record from 1845.

By 1851, the Census reported the house as home to six people. Thomas Hughes, age 35, was steward for the flag and slate company. He and his wife Jane had two children (Jane aged 2 and Catherine aged just 7 months). Thomas and the children were all born in Llantysillio, while Jane came from Whitford in Flintshire, some 30 miles away.

Robert Parry, an agent at the slate quarry was a lodger in the house, and this merited a servant (Elizabeth Jones from Llangollen) with the inflated title of Head Servant. The proximity of the house to the quarry presumably made it an ideal place for administrators to live.

It is possible that Thomas Hughes was related to Catherine and Richard who lived in Fron Newydd just a few years before, but Hughes is a common enough name in the area for that to not be certain.

21	Thomas Hughes	Head	35	Wales	Llantysillio
	Jane	Wife	32	Wales	Whitford
	Jane	Daughter	2	Wales	Llantysillio
	Catherine	Daughter	7	Wales	Llantysillio
	Elizabeth Jones	Servant	21	Wales	Llangollen
	Robert Parry	Lodger	24	Wales	Llangollen

The 1851 census, showing six people resident at Fron Newydd.

Ten years later, in 1861, the Census shows Fron Newydd packed with ten people. Ellis Evans, a 49 year old quarryman up from Llangollen, shared the house with his wife Catherine, his sons Evan, George, and Edwin, and his daughters Mary and Elizabeth. Labouring in the slate quarry was in the family with Ellis and Evan both working as quarrymen, and George, at just 13, a slate maker's apprentice.

The house was also home to Richard Hughes and his wife Ann who were boarders. Richard, at 42, was more or less the same age as the Richard Hughes who lived there in 1841, and could conceivably be the same person.

The household was completed by Mary Jones, a 12 year old girl up from Llangollen working as house maid.

The 1871 Census showed the house still in use by a family of Evanses, but they were a completely different group of people. Jonah, was a 48 year old quarryman, and his son David was a slatemaker. Jonah and his wife Elizabeth had two other sons, Richard 10 and Thomas 7, who were shown as scholars, meaning that they were enrolled in school.

82	Evans	1	Mariah	40	Wife	5	5	John	10	Scholar	Denbighshire	Swansea
			John	40	Head	43		John	10	Scholar	Denbighshire	Swansea
			Elizabeth	40	Wife	32		Richard	10	Scholar	Denbighshire	Swansea
			Richard	10	Son	10		Thomas	7	Scholar	Denbighshire	Swansea
			Thomas	7	Son	7						
			Mary	12	Wife	12						

The Fron Newydd entry from the 1871 Census.

The Evans family were resident at Fron Newydd for over 30 years, a period of stability for the house. The 1881 Census shows Elizabeth and Jonah still there, with Jonah still working in the quarry. Their sons Richard and Thomas were also still there and working in the quarry as well. By 1881, Elizabeth's place of birth had been refined from Llangollen to Trevor.

The Llangollen Advertiser and Denbighshire Merionethshire and North Wales Journal of 18th May 1883 recorded that the wife of Richard Evans, a quarryman from Pentredŵr, had given birth to a daughter, whilst in February 1889 the Baner ac Amserau Cymru reported another child for Richard Evans of Fron Newydd.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.	GENEDIGAETHAU.
<p>BIRTHS.</p> <p>May 12th, at Plas-yn-Grove, Ellesmere, the wife of J. D. Owen, of a son.</p> <p>May 10th, the wife of Mr. George Roberts, quarryman, Pentre-ucha, Pentredwr, near Llangollen, of a daughter.</p> <p>May 10th, the wife of Mr. John Griffiths, quarryman, Oernant, near Llangollen, of a daughter.</p> <p>May 11th, the wife of Mr. Richard Evans, quarryman, Pentredwr, near Llangollen, of a daughter.</p>	<p>ELLIS—Chwefror 10fed, priod Mr. Evan Ellis, Swan Inn, Llangollen, ar ferch.</p> <p>EVANS—Chwefror 1st, priod Mr. Richard Evans, Fron Newydd, Pentredwr, Llangollen, ar ferch.</p>

Llangollen Advertiser of 18th May 1883 (left) and Baner ac Amserau Cymru from 20th February 1889.

The 1891 Census showed that Richard and his wife Ann (a local girl born as Ann Pritchard) had been busy. They had William (9), Elizabeth Ann (7), John Richard (6), Price (4), Maria (2), and 3-month old Muriel. Over the next ten years a Richard and Ann would have a further 6 children – Jonah, Thomas, Mary Ellen, Ellen, Fred and Emllyn. The naming of daughter Ellen, following Mary Ellen, is explained by the Births, Marriages and Deaths column of the Llangollen Advertiser from the

18th October 1895 and the 29th November 1895, which reported the birth and death of Mary Ellen Evans daughter of Richard Evans, Fron Newydd. In 1901, Richard Evans was still living at Fron Newydd and, at age 40, was still working as a quarryman, as were his sons William (19) and John Richard (16). The rest of the family were Pryce (14), Maria (12), Muriel (10), Jonah (8), Thomas (6), Ellen (Nellie) (4), Fred (3), and Emlyn (1).

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.	
BIRTHS.	
Oct. 13th, at Anerley, Rhyl, the wife of Mr. Richard Bromley, county coroner, of a son.	
Oct. 9th, the wife of Mr. Richard Evans, Fron-newydd, Pentredwr, near Llangollen, of a daughter.	
DEATHS.	
Nov. 22nd, aged 1 month, Mary Ellen, infant daughter of Mr. Richard Evans, Fron Newydd, Pentredwr, Llangollen.	

The notices of Mary Ellen Evans' birth and death in the Llangollen Advertiser in 1895.

HOUSE	PREVIOUS	NAME	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	RELATION	REMARKS
15	Fronnewydd	Richard Evans	Head	19	40	Stone Quarryman	Married
		Ann Evans	Wife	19	38		
		William Evans	Son	19		Stone Quarryman	Married
		John Richard Evans	Son	16		Stone Quarryman	Married
		Pryce Evans	Son	14			
		Maria Evans	Daughter	12			
		Muriel Evans	Do	10			
		Jonah Evans	Son	8			
		Thomas Evans	Son	6			
		Ellen Evans	Daughter	4			
		Fred Evans	Son	3			
		Emlyn Evans	Son	1			
16	Front Street	Thomas Williams	Head	19	42	Stone Quarryman	Married

The 1901 census showing the ever-growing Evans family.

A few years later, the Evans family and dog were captured in a photo, posing outside Fron Newydd. The whole family is shown. Thomas sits between his parents, and Jonah is standing behind Ann's left shoulder.



Richard and Ann Evans, with all of their children (and dog), outside Fron Newydd.

By 1911 (as recorded in the Census), the Evans family had moved to Bryn yr Odyn. Richard, by then 50 still lived with his wife Ann and several of his children: Mariah (22), Jonah (18), Thomas (16), Nellie (14), Emlyn (11), and two new children Lora Sarah (6) and David (1). They later moved to farm at Hendre, while their son William was farming at Tan-y-Fron with his wife Annie (26), daughter Margaret (2) and his brother Fred (13).



A later photograph of the Evans family.

Meanwhile, back at Fron Newydd, the 1911 Census showed the house relatively empty after all of the Evanses. John Davies (55), a quarryman born in Llangollen, was in residence with his wife Sarah (from over the mountain in Minera) and their 19 year old daughter Betty Ellen. Ten years later, in 1921, Fron Newydd was home to yet another small family. John Roberts (31) continued the tradition of Moel y Faen quarryworkers living in the house. While John and his five-month old son Howell were born in Pentredŵr, his wife Jenny came from Bala.

The Tottenham rent roll from 1926 (included in a collection of 1957 sale documents) recorded S. M. Jones as the resident of Fron Newydd. This may be a relative of the next recorded inhabitants, Elis and Elizabeth Jones. Elizabeth had lived with her husband, Elis Jones, at Fron Newydd and their three children. James Roberts, who worked with Elis as a threshing machine driver, rented a room in the house. Elis was sadly killed in a motorbike accident before 1939 and so did not appear on the electoral roll for that year, showing five people living at Fron Newydd.

Fron Newydd - Pentredwr		131		ROBERTS Elizabeth		- D. 21st 02 W. Nuffield Double Dishes	
This record is officially closed.							
Fron Newydd	ditto	131	3	Jones Robert E	-	M. 18 June 30	S. at school
	ditto	131	4	Jones Frank	-	M. 11 Nov. 33	S. at school
	ditto	131	5	Roberts James	-	M. 9 Feb 12	S. Teaching Machine Division
Bryngoban - Pentredwr		132	1	Roberts John	-	M. 26 Feb 90	M. Lockman (State Quarry)

The 1939 Electoral Roll.

Elizabeth Jones was shown as widowed, but her name was later amended to Roberts, with a date of 1942. James had remained lodging at the house after Elis' death. During the war, when James was possibly employed at the sawmill in Pentredwr, he and Elizabeth married which accounts for the later over-writing of the roll entry to show Elizabeth's name as Roberts. They shared the house with Elizabeth's three children who carried her previous husband's surname: Robert, Frank, and David Jones (David's record has been redacted from the roll).

In 1957 James and Elizabeth purchased Bwlch Issa from the Tottenham Estate for £775, when it was sold off along with many other properties, and moved down there.

After 1957, Fron Newydd and Oernant Isaf were owned by Elsie May Gollan, who had perhaps also purchased them from the Tottenham estate. Elsie passed ownership of the two properties jointly to her son Donald and his cousin John Pickett. When Donald moved to Shropshire following his marriage in 1964, John and his wife Margaret bought out Donald. At some time during this period, and into the 1970s, Joe Mills Junior lived at Fron Newydd.

Fron Newydd changed hands again in the early 1990s when John Bromfield bought both properties from John Pickett. John Bromfield put some of the fields from Oernant Isaf with Fron Newydd, and the property passed some considerable time later (2016) into the ownership of Clive Patel and Rebecca (Becky) Rowe.

There was previously a hydraulic ram pump in the stream below Oernant to pump water up to Fron Newydd. Although the pump is long since defunct, Fron Newydd still has the right to take the water from the stream noted in the deeds.

By Adrian Farrel.