

Pant Glas



Pant Glas in 2023.

Pant Glas (Green or Blue Valley) is one of the properties in the valley that did not belong to the Wynnstay Estate. An interesting story, related by Thomas Pennant in his *Tours in Wales* at the end of the 18th century, concerns an Edward Davies who lived in Eglwyseg around 1650, according to local folklore in Pant Glas. "I pursued a path up a steep ascent to the left; and about midway visited a house noted for being the residence of one Edward Davies, a low partizan and plunderer on the side of the usurper during the Civil Wars. He was best known in his own country by the title of Cneifiwr Glas, or the Blue Fleecer. The Cneifiwr seems to have not been true to his own party, when his interest stood in the way. He was accustomed to take even the royalists under his protection, on receiving a proper reward. He once concealed Sir Evan Llwyd of Bododris at the time that a considerable sum was ordered for his apprehension. He lodged him in a cellar below the parlour (at Bodidris Hall); then summoning his people, ordered them, in a seeming rage, to sally out in quest of Sir Evan, stamping his foot, and declaring that if the knight was above ground, he would have him."

Edward Davies held a high position, working for the Myddeltons of Chirk Castle. It was said that it was through the Fleecer's influence with Oliver Cromwell that Chirk Castle escaped being destroyed. Another piece of local folklore says that, during the Civil War, General Myddelton was concealed for a long time in the parlour of Pant Glas.

In 1778 Pant Glas was owned by Evan Vaughan and the 130 acre farm was rented by Edward Davies. Although a line of Edward Davies' can be traced back from this one for two generations, it has not been possible to discover if this one was a descendent of the Blue Fleecer.

When Evan Vaughan died in 1792 his estates passed to his niece Margaret, wife of Sir Roger Mostyn of Mostyn Hall in Flintshire. Pant Glas was evidently a property of some significance as it was marked by John Evans on his map of North Wales in 1795. For over 50 years from 1778, it was rented and farmed by Edward Davies and his son (also called Edward Davies).



John Evans' map of North Wales. Pant Glas is highlighted in red.



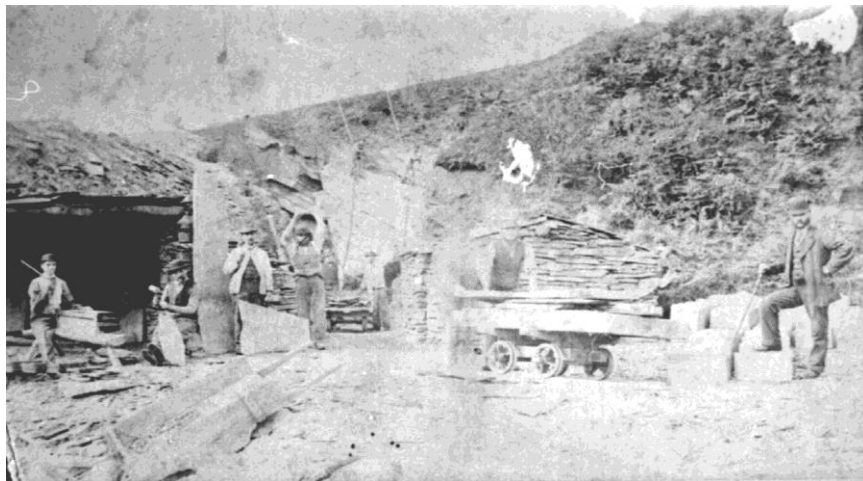
Pant Glas house and barn were marked and named on an 1835 Ordnance Survey map.

Following Edward Davies senior's death in 1846, the family moved away and a much reduced 70 acre Pant Glas was taken on by 34 year old farmer John Watkin, his wife Sarah, their four young children and three servants.



Pant Glas house and barn (No. 74) on the 1844 tithe map.

By 1868, however, 43 year old farmer Evan Parry had taken on the 70 acre farm, living there just with two servants. Evan was to stay at Pant Glas for around 30 years, although half way through his tenure the peace of Pant Glas was shattered by the development of the adjacent quarry.



Workers in the quarry in Eglwyseg in 1881. Although it is not certain whether this is at the Pant Glas Quarry or another quarry that was ¼ mile further down the valley, it is known that the photographer Lettsome, who took this photograph, did take photographs at Pant Glas in the early 1880s.

Initial exploration started around 1880 and the prospects looked very promising. In October 1882 the Llangollen Advertiser reported 'It is pleasant to hear the extremely satisfactory reports which continue to reach us of the splendid prospects of the Pant Glas Slate Quarry, which is situated in the same (Eglwyseg) valley, and of the strong probability which now exists that during next year a tramway will be constructed for the transit of the slates from that quarry to Llangollen'. In April of the following year the Pant Glas Slab and Slate Quarry Company was formed, with a prospectus aimed at raising £50,000 capital from the sale of shares. The two directors, Mr George Rooper and Mr Thomas Jones, were so confident in the success of the venture that they invested £12,000 of their own money in shares.

APPLICANTS				R A T E S									
Number	Date of Assessment	Name of Applicant	NAME OF OCCUPIER	NAME OF OWNER	Description of Property Rated	State or Situation of Property	Rational		Gross		Rateable		
							Rate	Value	Rate	Value	Rate	Value	
21			Evan Parry	Pantglas Slate Co	do	Pantglas	120	27	57	5	48		
22			William Roberts	Part of the Pantglas	do	Hywel	80	20	37	6	32 50		
23			Thomas Jones	Parry Brothers	do	Hywel	20	5	15	7	13 50		
24			John Humphreys	Geo Rooper Esq	do	Pen-y-bont	7	23	7	7	6 50		

The rates book for Eglwyseg in 1887 shows Evan Parry still farming at Pant Glas, which was then owned by the quarry company.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT PANT GLAS QUARRY.

On Monday last one of those awful and heart-rending calamities which send a thrill of horror not only in the immediate neighbourhood where it occurred but throughout the country far and wide, took place at the Pant Glas Quarry, Eglwysseg, whereby three poor fellows have met with a fearful and instantaneous death by the fall of a rock.

Our readers are no doubt aware that the Quarry which is the scene of this sad accident is comparatively a new undertaking, having been opened about five or six years ago by two or three practical working quarrymen. Impressed with the excellent character of the slate there produced, Mr. George Rooper, London, invested some capital in the concern, and finally a company was formed under the title of the "Pant Glas Slate and Slab Quarry Co. Limited," of which Mr. Rooper is chairman. The works have been opened with great skill and energy under the practical direction of Mr. Price Evans, the local manager, and everything that care and foresight could do to secure the safety and even the comfort of the men has been resorted to. The Quarry is situated about five miles from Llangollen, and within a short distance of the portion of the Eglwysseg Valley, familiarly known as the "World's End."

All was going to plan, but in February 1886 a rock fall caused the death of three quarry workers – Evan Evans, Edward Lloyd and George Griffiths – who were caught under a fall of around 800 tons of rock. Although the quarry company were found not to blame, in September of the same year operations were 'temporarily' discontinued due to the possibility of another fall of rock. The workers were drafted over to the Wynne and Cambrian quarries in Glynceiriog, which George Rooper had also acquired.

The Pant Glas quarry never appears to have worked again, with George Rooper focussing all of his energies on the quarries in the Ceiriog Valley. Peace returned to the farming life of Evan Parry who, at 68 years old, was still farming there in 1891.

In 1901 Pant Glas was recorded as uninhabited but in occupation – meaning that someone was living there, but were not in on the day of the census. Ten years later only one servant, Ernest Payne, was there on census night, but it was recorded that William Griffiths was the head of the household. We do not find out any more about the inhabitants of Pant Glas until 1939, when the electoral roll records 31 year old farm bailiff Frank Seymour Bellis living there with his wife Jessie and gamekeeper and farm labourer David Roberts.

The building that stands today is Victorian, although the barn (now converted into a house) appears to be much older. After the Second World War it became somewhat neglected and by the 1970s was almost a total ruin. Repaired and improved by the present owners, the rather unusual vertical slate covering on some of the walls was added in 1997.



The barn at Pant Glas has been converted into a house.