

Pentredŵr Farm Eglwyseg



Pentredŵr Farm in 2023.

Pentredŵr Farm, Eglwyseg, first appears in the Wynnstay rental records around 1700. This may indicate the date that it was built, or it may simply be the time that it was acquired by the Wynnstay Estate. Timber framing within the house could indicate an earlier, 17th century date. The farm was not named in the rental records, but by comparing the rents and the acreage of the property with other farms that are named, we can be reasonably sure which records refer to Pentredŵr Farm. In 1719 Hugh Edward was renting the farm from Sir Watkin Williams Wynn for £4 per year. John Hughes was renting a small nearby property for £1 10s per year. This continued until 1736, when John Hughes took over the leases of both tenements for £5 10s per year, and continued to do so until 1746, when the rental records stopped.



*The timber framing exposed inside
Pentredŵr Farm.*

We next catch up with the occupants of Pentredŵr Farm thirty years later, when the land tax records showed Edward Jones paying 11s tax for the property, which was still owned by Sir Watkin Williams Wynn.

Edward Jones stayed at the property until 1790, but by 1792 John Williams had taken over the farming at Pentredŵr Farm.

April 1795
Rob^t. Son of Rob^t. Williams of Eglwyswyn by Eliz^{is} his wife was born the 5th of 6th mo 1795
Roger Son of Roger Lloyd of Manngollen parish on the North by Anne his wife born 14th 6th mo 1795
Ed^d. Son of Henry Williams Manngollen parish on the North by Eliz^{is} his wife was born 20th 6th mo 1795
John Son of Jⁿ. Williams of Eglwyswyn by Jane his wife was born 23rd 6th mo 1795

The birth of John Williams in 1795.

It seems likely that it was this John Williams, along with his wife Jane, that had their son John baptised at Llantysilio Church in April 1795, and the family were still resident at Pentredŵr Farm in 1798, when the annual land tax records finished.

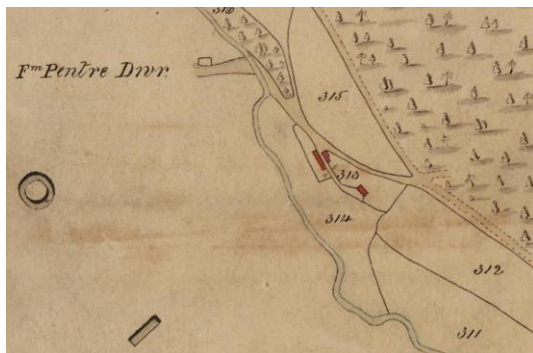
From 1841 onwards we can find out in much more detail about the people living at different houses in the area. The 1841 census showed sixty year old farmer John Roberts living there with two servants, and the tithe map and apportionment from 1844 also records him renting the property off the Wynnstey Estate.

COUNTY of Denbigh PARISH of Manngollen 227

An Act made in Pursuance of an Act of Parliament passed in the 5th Year of His Majesty's said Majesty King George the Third for granting an Aid to His Majesty by a Land Tax to be levied in Great Britain, for the Service of the Year 1794

No. of Houses	Names of Proprietors	Names of Occupiers	Sum Affixed		Date of Contract
			£	s	
<i>Township of Eglwyswyn</i>					
	<i>Rob^t. Williams</i>	<i>Ed^d. Jones</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>15</i>	
	<i>Jⁿ. Williams</i>	<i>Rob^t. Roberts</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>16</i>	
	<i>Jⁿ. Williams</i>	<i>Jⁿ. Jones</i>		<i>11</i>	
	<i>Jⁿ. Williams</i>	<i>Rob^t. Roberts</i>		<i>16</i>	

A composite of sections of the land tax record for 1798.



The buildings of Pentredŵr Farm shown on the 1844 tithe map.

Courtesy The National Library of Wales.

By 1851, however, 55 year old farmer John Williams had moved into Pentredŵr Farm, with his wife Catherine (45) and his children Jane (6) and Edwin (4), as well as labourer on the farm Edwin Evans (24) and lodger Richard Barnat (23), who was a slate quarryman. John was originally from Llantysilio and Catherine was born in Llangollen. Possibly, but by no means proven

yet, this John Williams was the son of John and Jane Williams, Eglwyswg, who had been born in 1795. Descendents of the Williams family would continue to farm in Pentredŵr for the next 170 years.

Representative of Mr Wm. Cheatham, Gwrychteg, Marchwiel.
 Mr Richard Davies, Plas Eglwyseg Farm, Llangollen.
 Mr Simon Hughes, Eglwyseg Mill, Llangollen.
 Mr Samuel Pugh, Eagles Inn, Llangollen.
 Mr Wm. Jones, Hendre Farm, Llangollen.
 Mr Elias Jones, Tynyfnon Farm, Llangollen.
 Mr Edward Davies, Dergoed Farm Llangollen.
 Mr David Jones, Rock House Farm, Llangollen.
 Mr Robert Roberts, Tanybwich Farm, Llangollen.
 Mr John Williams, Pentredwr Earm, Llangollen.
 The Rev. E. R. James, vicar of Llangollen.

The report on the grand banquet for the tenantry at Wynnstay in 1875 lists John Williams from Pentredwr Farm.

1871 saw John and Catherine Williams still at Pentredwr Farm, though now just their 25 year old son Edwin was still living in the family home. John was recorded in a list of tenants that were invited to a grand banquet in 1875, given at Wynnstay Hall by their landlord Sir Watkin Williams Wynn.

Catherine Williams died on 24th January 1876 aged 70. She was buried at St John's Churchyard in Llangollen. Very sadly she would miss her son's wedding as just eighteen days later, on the 11th February, Edwin married Catherine Barnett in the Bethesda Chapel in Pentredwr. Catherine was the daughter of Richard and Margaret Barnett, who lived in the house next door to the Post Office on Post Office Terrace.

MARRIAGES.

Feb. 11th, at Pentredwr Calvinistic Methodist chapel, by the Rev. H. Jones and Mr. E. Roberts, registrar, Llangollen, Mr. Edwin Williams, Pentredwr, to Miss Catherine Barnett, of the same place.

Edwin and Catherine's marriage announcement in the Llangollen Advertiser, 18th February 1876.

They had two daughters fairly quickly, with Catherine Anne being born in 1877 and Jennie in 1879. But 1879 would not be a happy year for Edwin and Catherine as both daughters would die in that year. Catherine Anne died in February, aged two and Jennie in December, aged just nine months old. They were buried in St John's graveyard with their grandmother.

In the following year, Edwin's father John also passed away, aged 80. He too was interred with Catherine and his two granddaughters.

The grave of the Williams' family in St John's Churchyard, Llangollen.



Edwin and Catherine took over the farming at Pentredŵr Farm, with just them being listed on the 1881 census. However, ten years later the farm was fully occupied again. Edwin and Catherine were there with their four children, Margaret (9), Barnet Wynn (6), Matthew (4) and Alice (1). In addition they had 14 year old Sarah Hughes, who was a general servant, and Catherine's older brother William Barnett (40) who was helping on the farm. Also living at the Farm was a Richard Barnett (20), but whether this was Catherine and William's younger brother with his age recorded incorrectly (he would have been 30 at this time) or another member of the Barnett family we do not yet know.

In December 1891 Catherine died at the very young age of 37. She too was buried in St John's Churchyard. Edwin, however, stayed at Pentredŵr Farm for another thirty years, and in the 1921 census was still recorded as farming at 74 years of age. He was helped by his son Barnett. Barnett had married

Margaret Jane Ellis in 1916, and they too were living at the Farm with their two daughters Olwen (4) and Jane Eluned (2). Margaret's family were originally from Rhydycroesau near Oswestry, but she had been working as a general servant for the Thomas family in Weston Rhyn before marrying Barnett. Her father and mother, David and Jane Ellis, had taken on the lease of nearby Penyclawdd Farm, which is undoubtedly how she had come to meet Barnett.

DEATHS.

Nov. 28th, aged 52, at Trefynant, Sarah Edwards.
 Nov. 29th, aged 24, at Bridge-street, Llangollen, Emily, the beloved wife of Mr. F. R. Gale, photographer.
 Dec. 1st, aged 52, at Chapel-street-square, Llangollen, Mr. David Roberts, labourer. The funeral will take place at 3 p.m. on Saturday.
 Nov. 30th, aged 37, at Pentredŵr Farm, Pentredŵr, Catherine, the beloved wife Mr. Edwin Williams.

Catherine's death notice in the Llangollen Advertiser, 4th December 1891.



Edwin Williams' gravestone in Llantysilio Churchyard.

In 1922 Edwin died, although he was not buried along with his parents, wife and daughters at St John's, but in the graveyard at Llantysilio. Barnett and Margaret continued to farm Pentredŵr Farm, having another daughter, Alice Ceridwen, later that same year. They would stay there for another fifteen years but then, in 1936, Margaret's father David Ellis passed away at Penyclawdd Farm. Barnett and Margaret moved with their two younger daughters to help her

mother and sister at Penyclawdd, leaving Pentredŵr Farm in the capable hands of their oldest daughter Olwen and her new husband Trevor Lloyd Hughes. Trevor was the son of Martha, one of the twelve children of Edward and Sarah Hughes of Maesyffynnon, just outside Glynceiriog.

Trevor and Olwen Hughes had eight children whilst at Pentredŵr Farm - Jane Alwena (b. 1938), Bronwen Mair (b.1939), Matthew Wyn (b. 1941), Eryl Lloyd (b.1943), Ceinwen Nerys1(b.1949), Emyr Barnett (b. 1949), Trevor Rhys (b. 1956) and Dafydd Alun (b. 1958). Eventually the Farm was purchased by Trevor and Olwen off the Wynnstay Estate.

Other residents and visitors remember fondly the Hughes family at Pentredŵr Farm.

'We got our milk from Hughes farm. Mrs Hughes was a lovely homely person who always had the kettle on and made us very welcome. Mr Hughes used to let us help with haymaking and other jobs around the farm, the highlight of the year was the harvest and people from all around would come and help to get the hay in, Mrs Hughes would make tons of food to feed the helpers and a good time was had by all'.

There are also family stories from the time at the Farm. Rhys Hughes recalls one day that he went 'missing'. 'When I was young, about 6 or 7 years old, I walked over to the White Hart to see if Richard was home so I could play with him and his toys, but unknown to me, they were actually away on holiday. I quickly realised there was no one home, so tried the door. I thought I would just push the door and lo and behold the door moved, so I pushed a bit more and squeezed in and made my way into the house. I found Richard's toys and happily played there for what seemed like hours. Unknown to me my parents, and my brothers and sisters, were all looking for me and the word was out that I was missing. For a small amount of hours there was a great panic in the village, to which I was oblivious. After a few hours I was found by my sibling. I think there must have been relief all round, as I don't actually recall getting told off! The Parks family were informed on their return regarding the unassuming intruder'.

Pentredŵr Farm is still owned and run by members of the Hughes family, continuing to keep traditional farming alive in the valley.

By Siân and Rhys Hughes, Eryl and Mary Hughes and David Crane.



Pentredŵr Farm in 1988.