

Pentredŵr Farm, Brookside and Avonlea



Pentredŵr Farm on the left, with the barn on the right, in 2023. The building behind in the middle is Yr Efail.

Pentredŵr Farm is situated in the middle of the village in the area that used to be called Yr Efail (the Smithy). It consisted of a farm house and

two cottages, barn and buildings, 20 acres of pasture land and mountain grazing on the Horseshoe Pass.

The Tudor family owned the farm from the mid 1700s and it was lived in by the same family until the beginning of the 20th century.

In 1741, Roger Tudor from Llangollen married Sarah Price at St Oswald's Church in Oswestry. The couple went to live in Crogen Wladis, near Chirk Castle, where, in 1742, their son Henry was born.

At some point in the next thirty years the family moved to Llantysilio, owning two properties - Pentredŵr Farm and Garth y



John Evans' map of North Wales, drawn in 1795. Pentredŵr Farm (most likely) is highlighted in red.

Pistyll. It seems likely that Roger and Sarah were living at Pentredŵr Farm and Henry at Garth y Pistyll. In 1772 Henry married Margaret Evans at Llantysilio Church. Henry Tudor signed the register and Margaret Evans made her mark. The witnesses were Robert Jones and Evan Parry. We know that Sarah Tudor was still alive at the time of the marriage, as her burial at Llantysilio Church was recorded in 1784.

1784	Sarah Tudor of the Township of Maesyrychen, the Wife of Roger Tudor, Sawyer, -	84	Oct. 7 th	Oct. 10 th
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Sarah Tudor's burial at Llantysilio Church in 1784.

On the burial record Sarah is recorded as the wife of Roger Tudor, sawyer, and so it is possible that Henry's father was also still alive at the time of Henry's marriage to Margaret.

Henry and Margaret went on to have five children – Sarah, born in 1773, Godfrey, born in 1777, Mary, born in 1779 and John, born in 1782. There was also a third sister, Catherine, born in 1775 who, for some reason, was christened in Chirk rather than Llantysilio.

In the 1793 land tax records Henry Tudor was listed as owning three properties in Maesyrychen. It appears that Henry and his family continued to live at Garth y Pistyll, whilst letting the other two properties (which together formed Pentredŵr Farm) out to Robert Roberts, following the death of his parents. However, by 1798 Henry was using both farms.

Henry Tudor	himself	0	6	5	2
Do	Robert Roberts	0	9	4	2
Do	Do	0	3	2	2

The 1793 Land Tax records (above) show Henry Tudor owning three properties in Llantysilio and letting two of them (one was probably just a field) to Robert Roberts. In 1798 (below) Henry was using both properties himself, with the two separate parts of Pentredŵr Farm now combined into a single unit.

Henry Tudor	Self	6	5	2
Do	Do	12	10	

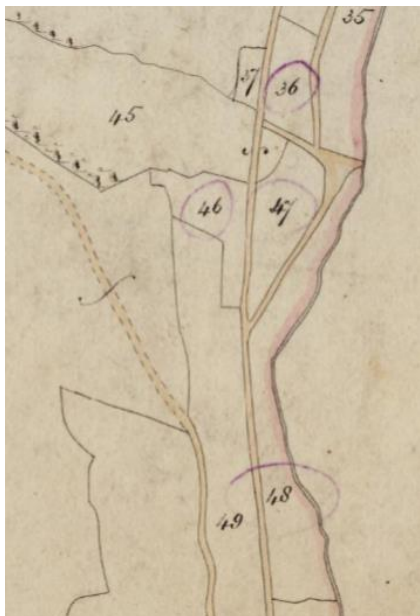
From the parish records of Nannerch we learn that “on 20th March 1809 Godfrey Tudor of this parish (Nannerch Flintshire) age 30 son of Henry Tudor and Margaret his wife of the Parish of Llantysilio, and Elizabeth Phillips of this parish aged 24, daughter of John Phillips and Mary his wife of Llantysilio, were married by banns”. Godfrey Tudor made his mark as did Elizabeth Phillips.

It was possibly a bit of a shotgun wedding as, just four months later, in July 1809, the Llantysilio parish records show the baptism of their son John!

12 John of Godfrey & Eliz. the Tutor of Fawm, hope, July 1809

The baptism of John Tudor, Godfrey and Elizabeth's son, in July 1809.

It would seem that the newly wed couple took over from Henry and Margaret at Pentredŵr Farm as, when Henry died the following year, he was recorded as living in Llangollen Fawr. In his will Henry left both Garth y Pistyll and Pentredŵr Farm in trust, for the use of his sons John and Godfrey. Henry was very clear that John would have to pay rent for Garth y Pistyll, and Godfrey for Pentredŵr, in order to give Margaret an income of £10 per year "for the rest of her natural life".



And so Godfrey and Elizabeth Tudor continued farming at Pentredŵr. By 1841, in the Tithe Apportionments, Godfrey Tudor owned and occupied four fields, including the one on which Pentredŵr Farm stood. He also rented a field further up the valley from Robert Price. His brother John Tudor was owner of Garth y Pistill which he was renting to James Houseby. The census for Maesychron, in the same year, showed that Pentredŵr Farm was occupied by Godfrey Tudor (60) Farmer, his son John (30) Farmer, his daughter in law Mary (30), his grandson Godfrey Henry Tudor (10 months), and Mary Roberts (15) their Servant. Sadly, Elizabeth had passed away seven years earlier in 1834.

The tithe map of 1841 (above). The numbers owned by Godfrey Tudor, 36, 46, 47 and 48, have been circled on the map. Below is shown Elizabeth Tudor's burial record from 1834.

Elizabeth Tudor	Pentredŵr	April 16	50	D. Hughes Minister
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No. 216.

Godfrey's grandson Godfrey Henry would be joined by two sisters, Margaret, born in 1842 and Elizabeth in 1844. A brother Richard, born in 1846, sadly died aged just 11 months. John and Mary had another son in 1848, who they also named Richard, but he too died at the start of the following year aged only 7 months. Eleven days earlier, on January 4th 1849, Godfrey had also passed away, aged 74. He and his two grandsons were interred together in Llantysilio graveyard.

On the 1851 census for Pentredŵr Farm, John and Mary were still living there with Godfrey Henry, then ten years old, and their two daughters Margaret Jane Tudor (9) and Elizabeth (7). They had four servants John Hughes (55), John Jones (31), Joseph Hughes (12) and Mary Jones.



Godfrey Tudor and his two grandsons, both Richard, were commemorated together.



Godfrey Henry Tudor and his mother Mary were commemorated on a joint gravestone.

Godfrey Henry sadly died in 1854 at just 13 years old. The family were still at Pentredŵr in 1861, but now had another son, John Richard Tudor (9), who was at school. They also had a visitor, the Reverend Robert Owens, a Calvinistic Minister from Llanfihangel, Caernarvon. By 1871 it was just John and Mary Tudor, now in their early sixties, with their youngest son John Richard and 17 year old Lydia Jones, who was working as a general servant.

The following year, in 1872, Mary died and was buried with her son Godfrey Henry in Llantysilio Churchyard. By the 1881 census Pentredŵr Farm was home to John Tudor, widow (70) farmer of 21 acres, employing 2 servants, and John Tudor (29), his son, along with Naomi Bobber (26) who was the housekeeper.

In the 1891 Census Pentredŵr Farm was occupied by the Edward Thomas (60, farmer, b. Llantysilio) and his wife Elizabeth (54, b. Bala) together with their son John E Thomas (25), a rockman in the slate

quarry (b. Llantysilio). John Tudor had then moved to Abbey Farm with his children.

On June 26th 1893, John Tudor of Abbey Farm died aged 84 and was buried at Llantysilio Churchyard. His son John Richard took over the farming but just six years later he also passed away aged just 43.

In the 1901 Census Pentredŵr Farm was occupied by the Pugh family. Thirty one year old Hugh Morris Pugh was originally from Dolgellau, but in 1892 had married Mary Tudor Roberts from Llantysilio. Moving into Pentredŵr Farm they had two children, Elizabeth, born in 1897 and John, born two years later.

In the 1901 Census for Garth Pistyll the next residents of Pentredŵr Farm were the tenants: Cadwaladr Lewis Farmer (35 b. Llantysilio) and Annie Lewis his wife (38 b. Llangollen), Cadwalader Owen Lewis (10, son), Rhoda Lewis (8, d'ghter), Margaret Elizabeth Lewis (6, d'ghter), John Kendrick Lewis (2, son).

The Pughs did not stay in Pentredŵr, however, but moved down to Ty Brethyn in Llangollen in the early 1900s. Around 1910 Pentredwr Farm was sold to Cadwaladr Lewis and the 1911 census shows him living and farming there with his family:-

Cadwalader Lewis Head, 46, married, farmer b. Llantysilio.

Anne Lewis, 48, married 21 yrs, 8 children 7 survived.

Cadwalader O. Lewis, son, 20, single, farmer.

Rhoda Lewis, daughter, 18, single, farmer.

John K. Lewis, son, 13, school,

Eleanor A. Lewis, daughter, 11, school.

Myfanwy Lewis, daughter, 8, school.

Trevor Lloyd Lewis, son, 6, school.

Pollie Thomas, 20, boarder, single, assistant teacher, (working at the new school in Pentredŵr).



The gravestone of the younger John Richard Tudor.



Eleanor Lewis returned to be teacher at Pentredŵr School. Here she is on the very left of the photograph.

Cadwalader Lewis was a manager at the new Pentredŵr School for many years and his children were pupils there. Eleanor A. Lewis won a scholarship to the County School in Llangollen and later became a much loved teacher back at Pentredŵr School.

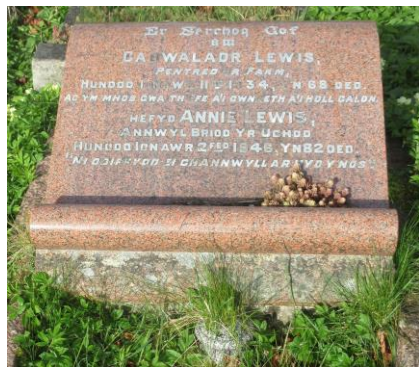
The census in 1911 was the first time that Brookside appeared as

a separate residence from Pentredŵr Farm. Then it was lived in by two families. Rockman William Henry Bond, with his wife Catherine, and their three children John Henry, Thomas Charles and David William, shared Brookside with the Roberts family.

Thomas Roberts, a rockman in the slate quarry, was originally from Llandegla, and his wife Maggie from Llangollen. They had lived in Ffestiniog but then moved to Pentredŵr, and were living in Post Office Terrace in 1901, prior to their move to Brookside.

Following the Lewis' taking on the farm there was a naming dispute with the neighbouring Pentredŵr Farm, Eglwyseg, just across the stream. The result was that the Lewis' farm was, for a period of time, renamed as Pen y Bont Farm. The Lewis family stayed at Pentredŵr Farm for nearly forty years.

Cadwalader Lewis died in 1934 and Annie died in 1946 age 82. In 1950 the farm was bought by John and Margaret Pickett, who had moved down from Bwlch Mawr. The Pickett family continue to live at Pentredŵr Farm, although very sadly, Margaret, who helped write this history, passed away in 2023.



Cadwaladr and Annie Lewis' gravestone in Llantysilio Churchvard.

By John and Margaret Pickett and Heather Aspinwall.