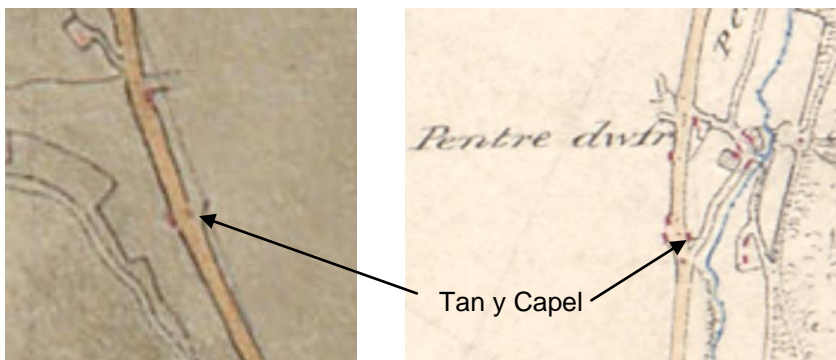


Tan y Capel



The site of Tan y Capel in 2023.

Tan y Capel (Under the Chapel) was a house that previously stood on the narrow strip of land opposite the Siloh Chapel, where the road forks down towards Pentredŵr Farm. Two Ordnance Survey drawings, one from 1819 and the other from 1835, both show this area of Pentredŵr. Tan y Capel is marked on both, although not labelled.



Ordnance Survey plans of Pentredŵr from 1819 (left) and 1835 (right) both show Tan y Capel. © The British Library Board.

The 1841 census recorded thirty year old agricultural labourer Evan Griffiths living at Tan y Capel, with his wife Mary and three daughters Jane, Mary and Martha. The name of the house in 1841 demonstrates that there was already a chapel across the road, even before the replacement was built in 1844.

Tan y Capel	Evan Griffiths	30	Ag Lab	50
	Mary	35		24
	Jane	3		2
	Mary	5	Other	4
	Martha	5	Other	2
Bryn Clawdd	Edw Foulkes	80	Farmer	9

The 1841 Census.



The 1841 tithe map.
Courtesy The National Library of Wales.

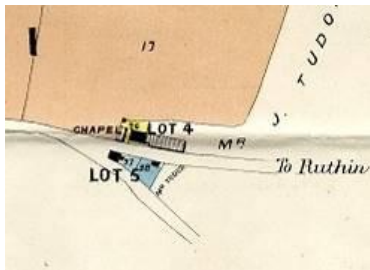
Sadly, the tithe survey for Llantysilio, made in 1841, did not mark any buildings on the map, but it can be seen that Tŷ Capel stood on the portion of land bearing the number 47. This was owned and used by Godfrey Tudor of Pentredŵr Farm, so possibly Evan Griffiths was a labourer on the farm.

The building of the new Siloh Chapel in 1844 gave the Griffiths family the opportunity to relocate, and they moved across the road into the Old Chapel. They shared the building with Evan Evans, his widowed daughter Jane Chubb and her daughter, also Jane, who had moved up from the centre of the village.

At the end of the 1850s quarryman Robert Williams moved into Tŷ Capel, with his wife Ann and their four children John, Winifred, William and Mary. They had moved from Llangynog in Montgomeryshire just in time for their youngest daughter Mary to be born in Pentredŵr.

In 1871 Margaret Hughes was living at Tan y Capel. Margaret and David Hughes had formerly lived at Bryn yr Odyn with their children Barbra, John and Hannah. They then moved to Pentreuchaf, having had two more children, George and David. Sadly David (senior) had died and so by 1871 Margeret had rented Tan y Capel with her two youngest sons, who both also became quarry workers.

A few years into her tenancy Margaret Hughes had a change of landlord. September 1874 saw Tan y Capel put up for auction. It was the last of five lots in the sale of the Penyclawdd Estate, following the death of Elizabeth Foulkes the year before.



LOT 5.				
In the occupation of Margaret Hughes.				
37	Cottage, Garden and Waste	0	0	56
38	Garden	0	0	7
		0	0	17

The auction documents for the Penyclawdd Estate from 1874. Tan y Capel and the adjoining garden were Lot 5.

The whole of the Penyclawdd Estate was purchased by Charles Frederick Beyer of Llantysilio Hall for the sum of £4,800 and the Llantysilio Estate continued to rent out Tan y Capel. In 1881 Margaret and her son David were still in Pentredŵr. However, David married and moved to Glyn Ceiriog and then Margaret died in 1888. Tan y Capel was recorded as uninhabited on the 1891 census and it would never be lived in again. By 1912 the building had vanished from the Ordnance Survey maps and nobody alive today has any memory even of ruins at the location of Tan y Capel.

By David Crane



Although nothing remains of Tan y Capel, the wall of the adjoining garden can still be seen today.