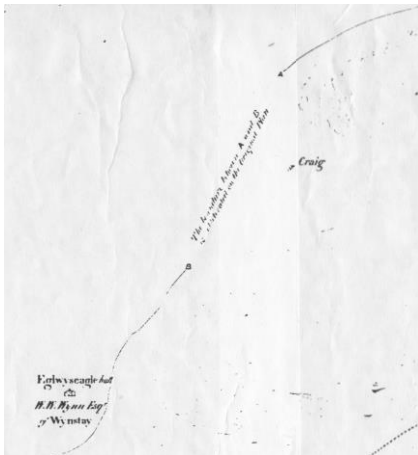


Tan y Graig



Tan y Graig in 2023

The appropriately named Tan y Graig (Below the Rock or Cliffs) is half timbered house nestling at the foot of the majestic Eglwyseg Crag. On a 1741 map of the area produced by the Grosvenor Estate there is a feature marked and labelled Craig close to the location of the house. It does seem more likely, however, that the Craig marked refers to cliffs above, named Craig Arthur, rather than the house.



A section of the 1741 Grosvenor map. Eglwyseg Hall (Plas yn Eglwyseg) is shown at bottom left and the feature labelled Craig is further up and to the right.

That being said it still seems almost certain that Tan y Graig dates back until at least the 18th century. In the 1840s the Mostyn family owned two properties in Eglwyseg, Pant Glas, lived in by eighty year old Edward Davies, along with his son (also Edward Davies) and his family, and Tan y Graig, occupied by farmer Ellis Lloyd, with eighty year old John Roberts (father in law?) also living there off his own independent means. Forty five years previously, in 1798, the Mostyns had owned

three properties in the township. One of those was being farmed by Edward Davies and so was almost certainly Pant Glas. The other two properties, occupied by Robert Roberts and John Price respectively, had a combined relative value almost identical to that of Tan y Graig. As the two had been combined into a single property, it seems likely that one had consisted of just farm land, whilst the other was Tan y Graig. The Mostyns had purchased Robert Roberts' tenement from Evan Vaughan Esquire around 1798. It has not been possible to identify which of the two original properties was Tan y Graig, but both can be traced back in the land tax records to 1778.

On an 1835 Ordnance Survey plan the name is not clear – Tan yr yn ??? – but on the tithe map of 1844 it is clearly labelled Tan y Graig and the name has remained up until the present day.

Another clue to the age of the house is from the half timbered construction, which can be seen at the rear of the building.



The back of Tan y Graig in 1988.



Tan y Graig marked on the 1835 Ordnance Survey plan appears to have been named slightly differently, although exactly what is unclear.



The tithe map of 1844.

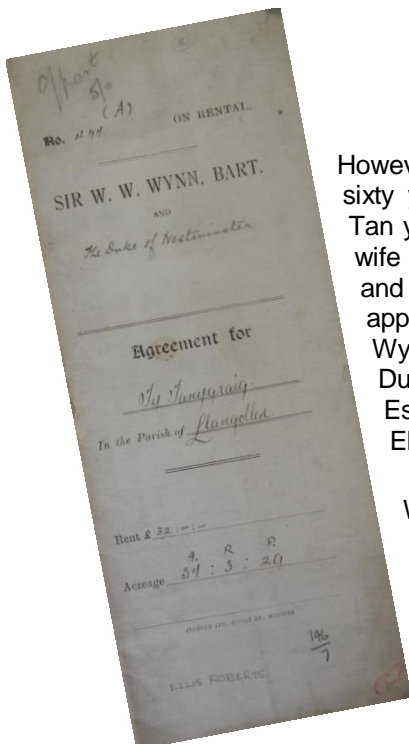
At some point in the next 20 years Ellis Lloyd and his wife Elizabeth left Tan y Graig, to be replaced in the 1860s by miner Thomas Evans and his wife Jane, both natives of Llangollen. They had evidently moved to Tan y Graig with the intention of a lifestyle change, as by 1871 Thomas had started to farm the land.

Thomas and Jane stayed at Tan y Graig into the 20th century, helped for over 20 years by Thomas' second cousin Mary Roberts, and for some of the time also by her brother Thomas Roberts.

Sadly, in 1902, at the age of 72, Thomas Evans died. He was buried in Llantysilio Churchyard. Jane continued to farm at Tan y Graig, supported by Mary and her new husband Edward Jones, along with their two daughters Jennie and Annie, until she too passed away in 1915 and was buried with Thomas. Mary's husband Edward also died and in 1921 a widowed Mary was farming at Tan y Graig, still with her two daughters.



Thomas and Jane Evans' grave in Llantysilio Churchyard.



However, by the start of World War Two sixty year old Ellis Roberts was operating Tan y Graig as a dairy farm, along with his wife Elizabeth and their children Edward and Anne. At this time the 37 acre farm appears to have belonged to the Wynnstay Estate, but was being let to the Duke of Westminster (the Grosvenor Estate), who in turn was sub-letting to Ellis Roberts.

We hope to have a more complete story of Ty Canol available soon.

The rental agreement for Tan y Graig in the 1930s.