

Ty Canol



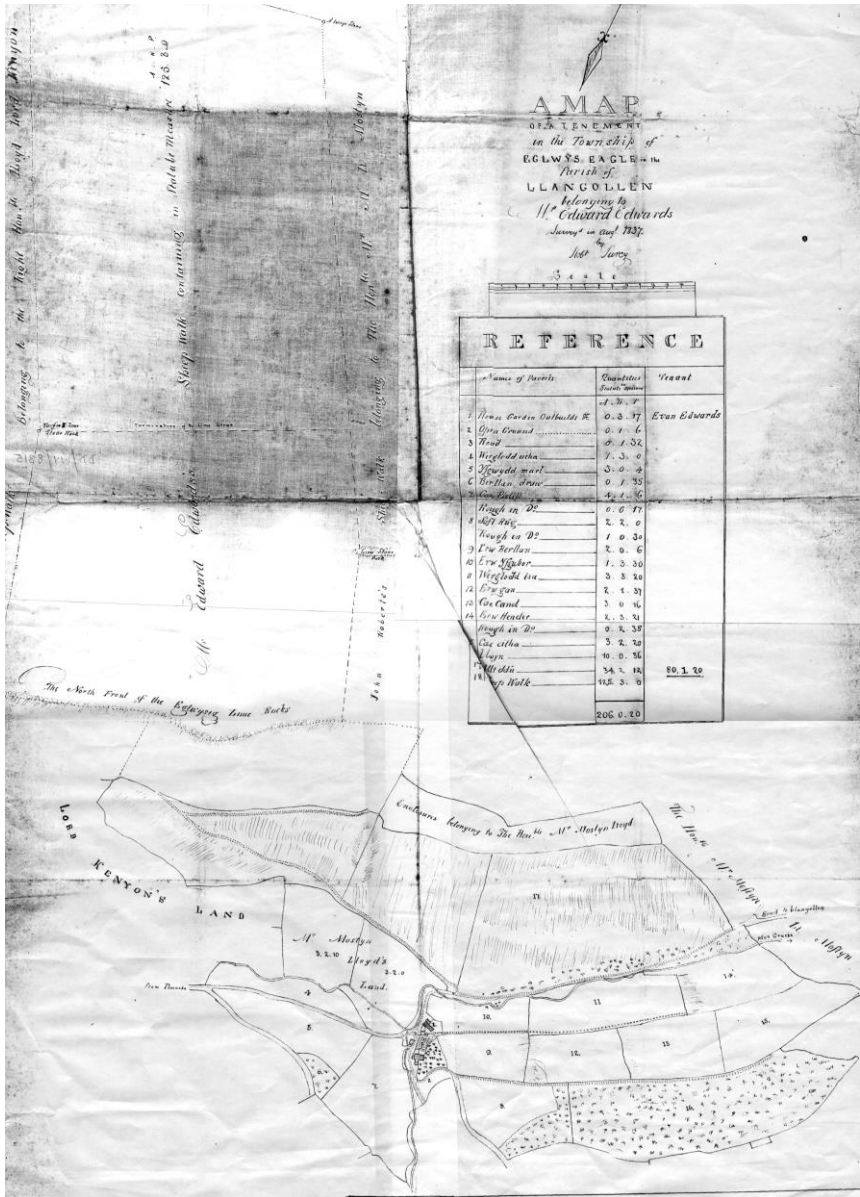
Ty Canol in 2023

Ty Canol (Middle House) was most likely built in the latter part of the 17th century. The building that is there now, however, was re-built after the original building was gutted by fire in 1987. All the timber was destroyed, including a beam bearing the date 1674, which was probably the year of construction. A stone dated 1705, which was previously in the chimney, was lost during re-construction.



Ty Canol as it appeared on the tithe map in 1844.

The recorded history of Ty Canol dates back to 1778, when Edward Edwards was paying £1-4-0 land tax for the farm. Whether Edward lived at Ty Canol is not certain, but by 1790 the farm was rented by Evan Edwards. Evan also rented nearby Fron Lwyd from the Reverend H. Newcombe, as well as owning another property in the valley. Whether there was any familial connection between Edward and Evan it has not been possible to discover.



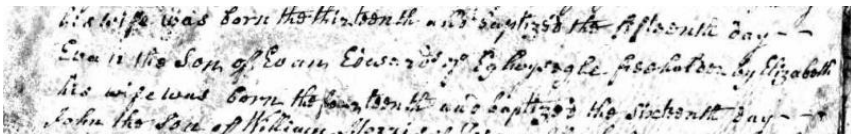
A plan of Ty Canol Farm and sheepwalk drawn in 1837.

Evan Edwards rented Ty Canol from Edward Edwards until about 1797, at which time, along with Fron Lwyd, he appears to have purchased the farm, as the 1798 land tax showed him paying a combined amount of £4-0-0 for three properties in the Eglwyseg Valley.



Ty Canol was marked on an 1835 Ordnance Survey Map.

Strangely, on a plan of Ty Canol Farm drawn in 1837, the property was described as belonging to Mr Edward Edwards, strengthening the case for a connection between Edward and Evan. Sixty year old Evan was farming at Ty Canol in 1841, which means that either he got his age wrong for the census or it must have been his father (or an entirely different Evan Edwards) renting the farm in 1790! The only likely record for the birth of an Evan Edwards in Eglwyseg is from 1790, and so it looks as though this may be for Evan junior and Evan senior knocked about ten years off his age on the census.



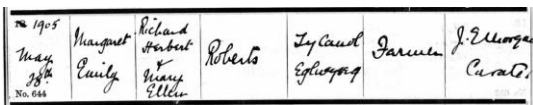
Evan Edwards baptism in October 1790.

In 1851 Ty Canol (although not named) was recorded as uninhabited, and so possibly Evan Edwards senior had died by then. George Borrow reports the mention of the house in 1854, by the owner of Plas Uchaf, higher up the valley. In answer to his question as to whether it was named Plas Uchaf because it was the highest in the valley, the man replied "It is, sir; it is the highest of three homesteads; the next below is Plas Canol – and the one below that Plas Isaf."

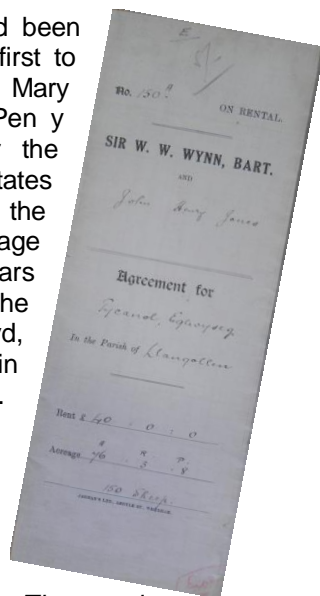
By 1871 it was occupied and farmed by the Roberts Family. Richard Roberts and his wife Elizabeth were both originally from Monmouthshire, he from Festiniog and she from Ysbyty, but had lived in Llangollen since the 1840s, having two sons, William in 1849 and John in 1855. Ten

years later William and his new wife Sarah had taken over from his father farming the 80 acres at Ty Canol. They were still there in 1891, but then with three children, Elizabeth (10), Paul (7) and Annie (6), as well as Williams widowed mother Elizabeth. At this time (1887) the farm was recorded as belonging to the executors of the late Mrs Edwards.

By the turn of the 20th century Ty Canol had been bought by Trevor Tower Estates and was let first to Thomas and Mary Jones, then to Richard and Mary Roberts and by 1911 to Thomas Roberts of Pen y Graig Farm in Ruabon. Twenty years later the property had been acquired by the Wynnstay Estates and, in 1921, was let to Francis Kenrick, of the Kenrick family who presently run the garage business in Llangollen. Over the next twenty years the property was let to a number of people from the local area, including Oswald Walker of Bryn Hyfryd, John Henry Jones of the White Hart Inn in Pentredŵr and Edward Evans of Tan y Fron farm.



The baptism of Richard and Mary Roberts' daughter Margaret in 1905.



The rental agreement for Ty Canol in 1936.



At the start of World War II it was lived in by gamekeeper Ivor Williams and during the War Mrs Ellison from ****Liverpool**** lived there to escape the bombing in her home city. Today it forms part of the Plas Uchaf organic farm estate.

Ty Canol in the 1940s.

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