Pandy

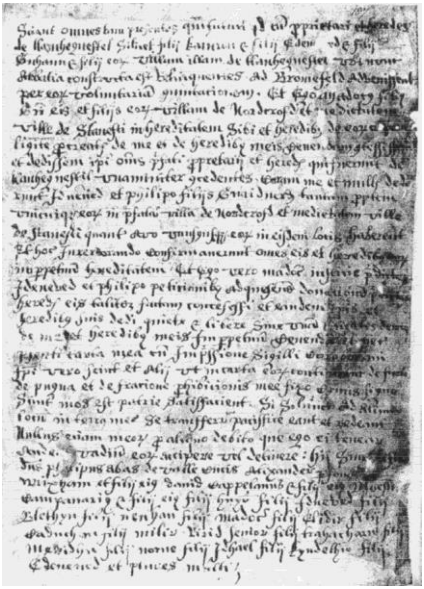
Pandy in 2020.

Pandy (Fulling Mill) stands a short distance from Valle Crucis Abbey, two miles outside of Llangollen. The house that is there today was built around 1920, but until relatively recently there stood in the garden the ruins of the original building, thought to have been the fulling mill for the Abbey.

There is evidence for prehistoric activity in the immediate area of the site. Crop marks of ring ditches 200 metres away, in the field containing the Pillar of Eliseg, may be of Bronze Age date. The round barrow on which the Pillar currently stands was partly excavated in 2012. The earliest stages of the cairn can loosely be classified as a kerbed platform cairn and as such should date to around 2000 BC. The second phase of the mound featured burial cists, one of which contained burnt bones. These also dated to the Early Bronze Age[1].

The area was clearly also of some importance in the early medieval period. The Pillar of Eliseg is a 9th century stone cross shaft of Anglo-Saxon design carrying a long, but now badly degraded, inscription recording the reconquest of land by the kings of Powys from the Anglo-Saxons. It was set in this location to illustrate the importance of Eliseg, King of Powys in the 8th century, in this borderland area.

Eliseg's Pillar



Prior to the arrival of the Cistercian monks from Strata Marcella in 1200AD to establish the Abbey, there was a small township called Llynegwestl located on the site, although exactly where any buildings were located is unknown. With the granting of the land to the Cistercians by Madoc, Prince of Powys, the inhabitants of Llynegwestl were relocated ten miles to the north east to the townships of Stansty and Northcroft.

Add. MS21253 at the British Library records the gift of Northcroft and half (moiety) of Stansty by Prince Madoc to the inhabitants of Llynegwestl.

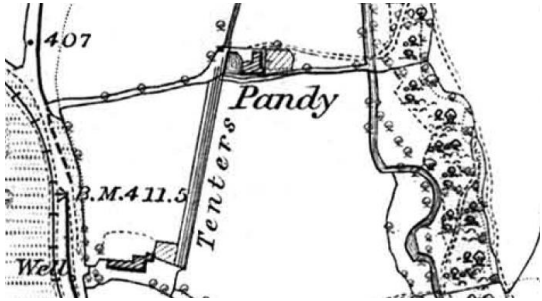
'Let all know both present and future that when the proprieters and heirs of Llanegwestel that is to say the sons of Kamron the sons of Edenved and the sons of Inhan and their sons had left that country estate of Llanegwestel where now an Abbey has been constructed ……and I Madoc the son of Gruffyd had granted to them and their sons the country estate of Northcroft and the moiety of the country estate of Stansty …...'. Courtesy British Library.

It is most likely that the original fulling mill at Pandy was contemporary with Valle Crucis Abbey. Over 70 fulling mills are known to have belonged to Cistercian monasteries in England and Wales including, in Wales, Margam, Whitland and Strata Florida, which all had at least four or five such mills on their lands[2]. However, all references to the Pandy at Valle Crucis Abbey come from records dating to after the dissolution in 1536. The earliest reference is in a 1537 Augmentation grant to William Pickering, which refers to 'one fulling mill with a tenement and appurtenance'[3].

More detailed evidence comes from a 1606 rental which was part of the renewal of the 100-year lease of the abbey estates to Edward, Lord Wotton. It reads:-

'…one close called mays y denture about 21h. One fullinge myll adioyninge to the same close, one field called mays y groes now devyded into three severall closures & one close called dole y pandy, containing all 24 acres…'[4].

And so we can see the reference to the fulling mill being adjacent to a close (a small field) called mays y denture (tenter field) and another close called dole y pandy (Pandy meadow). The tenter field was a field where the cloth would have been dried on wooden frames after the fulling process. It is a simple task to identify the Tenter Field as it is marked on the 1874 edition of the Ordnance Survey map. Tenter racks were often put on steps created in a sloping field, in order to best expose rows of cloth to the wind and the sun.



The tenters at Pandy, marked on the 1874 map. Courtesy Ordnance Survey.

In a photograph from around 1935 (below), the tenter steps can still be clearly seen in the field in front of the house.The remains of the original Pandy can be seen on the right hand side of the photograph in the background. Sadly, although still there in the 1950s, nothing now remains of this original building above the ground, making it more difficult to establish whether this was actually the Pandy that stood there at the time when the Cistercian monks occupied the Abbey. An excavation conducted in 2008 was also unable to date the debris below the surface.

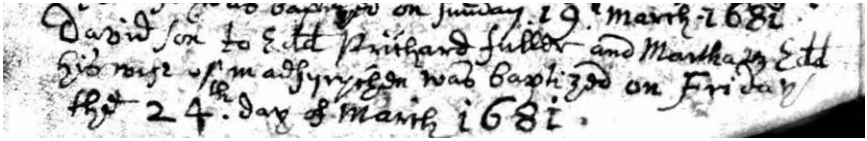
The new Pandy, with the tenter steps in the foreground of the picture. In the background the dilapidated building of part of the original Pandy building is visible.

A photograph of the original Pandy from around 1900.

A photograph of the original Pandy from around 1900 shows an L-shaped building. The visible part in the photograph runs west-east and has two south-facing gables, each of which has a double-light pointed window. It is not possible to tell from the photograph whether these windows are medieval or later copies. If medieval, it is not clear whether they are in situ or re-used from the abbey following the Dissolution.

It seems that fulling continued at Pandy after the Dissolution. At that time the immediate lands around Valle Crucis Abbey were leased by Henry VIII to William Pickering, knight-marshal to the King. In turn the land passed to his son, also William Pickering and then, by marriage, to the Wootton family. It was Baron Edward Wootton who extended the 100 year lease, mentioned above, in 1606. As described in the section on Pentrefelin Mill (page **) much of the Abbey estate passed into the hands of the Trevor family between 1650 and 1680, and it is around this time that we begin to get some possible indication of who was living and working there.

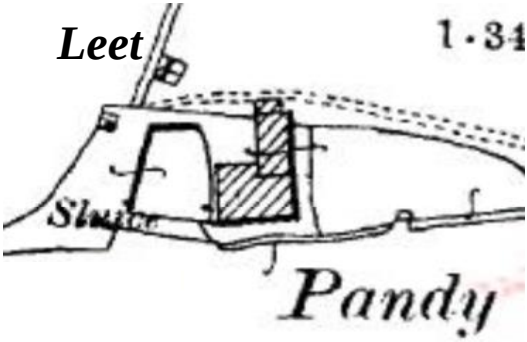
The first mention of a name was the record of the birth of David, son of Edward Prichard, fuller, and Martha, of Maesyrychen, in the Llantysilio Parish registers for March 1681. Although not mentioning Pandy by name, the family were living in Maesyrychen. Pandy is the only recorded fulling mill in that township and so it seems very likely that is where Edward Prichard was fulling.



The birth of David on 24th March 1681. His father Edward Prichard was a fuller in Maesyrychen.

The process of fulling used hammers, powered by a millwheel, to beat and thicken the woollen cloth. The cloth was then cleaned and dried by stretching it from hooks on the wooden tenter frames.

At Pandy, an artificial ditch, leet, or, as labelled on the Ordnance Survey map (left), mill race was dug, (the line of which can still be seen) diverting some of the water of Nant Eglwyseg to the Pandy.

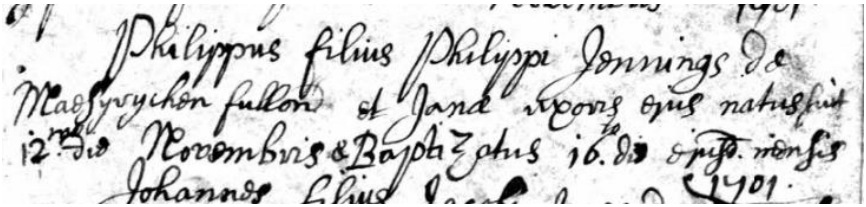


The 1874 Ordnance Survey map (left) shows the mill race. The 1899 map (right) shows the mill pond and sluice. Courtesy Ordnance Survey.

Often, water feeding a mill would be stored in a mill pond at a higher elevation than the mill, in order to create a head of water to help power the mill wheel. However, looking at the large scale Ordnance Survey map (above) it can be seen that the mill pond is situated right next to the building, with a sluice on the lower side, appearing to let water out into the tail race, after being used by the mill. This could indicate that the mill wheel was small and undershot, requiring a minimal head of water. Looking at the 1900 photograph more closely, however, it seems to show a pipe leading overhead from the leet to the west end of the building, possibly indicating the use of a small overshot wheel, mounted on the end of the small annex, with the pool being used simply for water storage after being used to power the mill wheel.

Close up of the 1900 photograph.

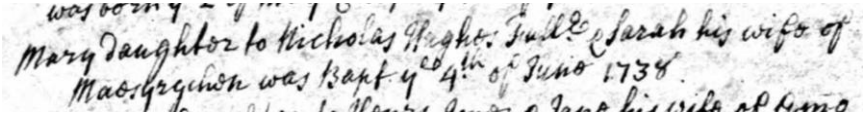
Edward and Martha Prichard's son David sadly died at just a year old, and no further records of the Prichard family have been found. The first decade of the 18th century saw Philip Jennings as the only fuller in Maesyrychen, again very likely living at Pandy with his wife Jane. The parish records for Llantysilio show the baptism of a son Philip in 1701 and a daughter Elizabeth in 1704.



The baptism of Philip Jennings on 16th November 1701.

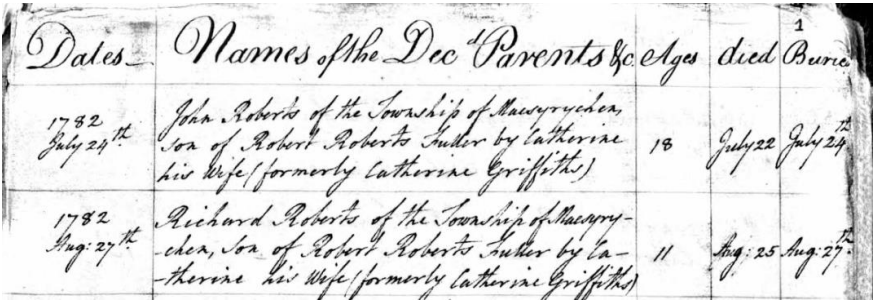
As with the Prichards, after the birth of Elizabeth in 1704 the Jennings disappear from the records. Twenty years later John (or Jon) and Dorithy Morris are fulling in Maesyrychen, with daughter Mary being born on 25th April 1721. It would seem that Mary died at just a month old, but the following November John and Dorithy had another daughter, who they also named Mary. Three years later Mary was joined by brother Morris, followed by a younger sister Jane in September 1732.

Not long after the birth of Jane, John and Dorithy evidently moved out of Pandy as, by 1738 Nicholas Hughes was recorded as being the fuller in Maesyrychen, when he and his wife Sarah had a baby girl called Mary.



The baptism of Mary Hughes on the 4th June 1738.

It is then another forty five years until we catch up with the likely occupants of Pandy, with the recording of the deaths, just a month apart, of John, aged 18, and Richard, aged 11, both sons of Robert Roberts, fuller, and Catherine his wife (formerly Catherine Griffiths).

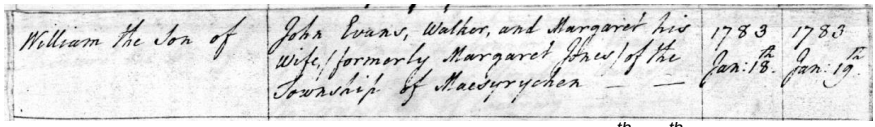


Dates	Names of the Dec[d] Parents &c.	Ages	died	Buried
1782 July 24th	John Roberts of the Township of Maesyrychen, Son of Robert Roberts Fuller by Catherine his Wife (formerly Catherine Griffiths)	18	July 22	July 24th
1782 Aug: 27th	Richard Roberts of the Township of Maesyrychen, Son of Robert Roberts Fuller by Catherine his Wife (formerly Catherine Griffiths)	11	Aug: 25	Aug: 27th

The tragic double deaths of John and Richard Roberts in 1782.

It seems possible that the deaths of the two sons, so close together, was related in some way, maybe an infectious illness of some kind. Whatever the cause, it must have had a devastating effect on their parents. It would seem that Robert and Catherine left the area that year as there are no further records of them either in Llantysilio or Llangollen.

At the beginning of the following year John and Margaret Evans of Maesyrychen had a son, William. John was noted in the birth record as being a 'walker'. A walker did essentially the same job as a fuller, but pounded the cloth using their bare feet, rather than hammers powered by a mill wheel. However, the terms walker and fuller were often used interchangeably and so it is quite possible that John and Margaret had moved into Pandy.

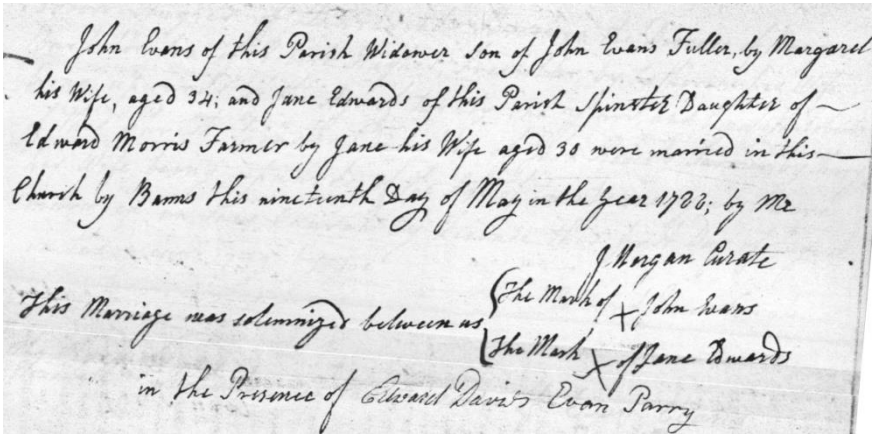


William the Son of	John Evans, Walker, and Margaret his Wife, formerly Margaret Jones of the Township of Maesyrychen	1783 Jan: 18.	1783 Jan: 19.

The birth and baptism of William Evans on the 18th/19th January 1783.

A second son, David, followed two years later in April 1785.

Three years after the birth of David there was a marriage at Llantysilio Church. John Evans, son of John Evans (Fuller) and Margaret, his wife, was married to Jane Edwards. John was a widower and 34 years old when he was married, and so would have been born around 1754.



John Evans of this Parish Widower Son of John Evans Fuller, by Margaret his Wife, aged 34; and Jane Edwards of this Parish Spinster Daughter of Edward Morris Farmer by Jane his Wife aged 30 were married in this Church by Banns this nineteenth Day of May in the Year 1788; by Mr J. Morgan Curate

This Marriage was solemnized between us { the Mark of + John Evans / the Mark X of Jane Edwards }

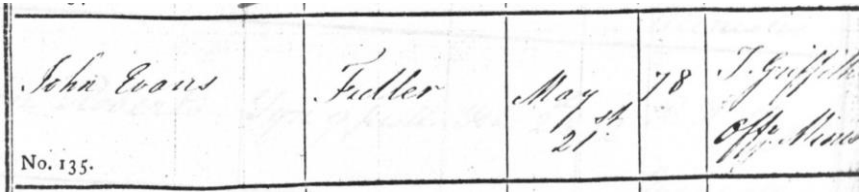
in the Presence of Edward Davies Evan Parry

John and Jane's marriage in May 1788.

It seems too much of a coincidence that it would not be the same John and Margaret Evans who are mentioned in the birth records of William and David, although the twenty nine year age gap between John and William is very large.

Further support that John Evans (younger) is William and David's older brother is that he seems to have taken over fulling operations in Maesyrychen from his father. In 1792 he and Jane had a son, Samuel, born on the 24th April, and on the baptism record John is also noted as being a 'walker'.

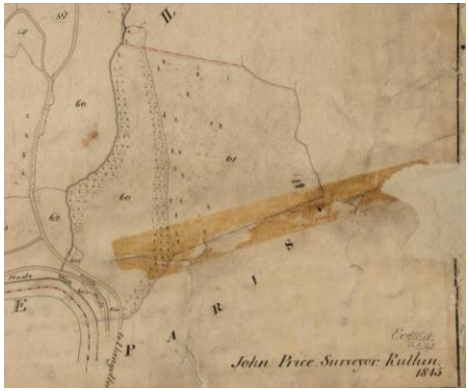
The Evans family (father and son) seem to have run fulling operations in Maesyrychen for around 45 years, ceasing only with the death of the younger John Evans in 1827 at the age of 78. He was buried in Llantysilio churchyard on the 21st May.



John Evan's burial in May 1827.

Whether directly after John Evan's death or sometime over the next decade or so, William Williams became the next fuller at Pandy. Aged 45 he is recorded as a 'fuller' on the 1841 census, living with his wife Mary, who was five years his senior, and children Anne, Miriam and Goronwy.

Tthe tithe survey in 1845 indicates that there was no individual ownership of Pandy in the mid 19th century. It is included, along with Valle Crucis Abbey, Maes y Llyn Farm and Llwyn Palis as numbers 56, 59 and 60, owned by Thomas Trevor Mathers and others. Thomas Trevor Mathers was from Pentrehobin in Flintshire and had become the owner of the former lands of the Abbey when he had married Margaret Thomas, descended through marriage from John Trevor of Trevor Hall, who had purchased the Abbey lands in the 17th century. Margaret's sister Pennant had inherited Pentrefelin Mill (see pp. **), whilst Margaret had inherited the land on and around where the Abbey stood, including Pandy. Henry Jones was renting and farming Maes y Llyn Farm (No. 59). Edward Evans was living and farming at Valle Crucis Abbey (there was a house in the cloisters at this time) but evidently sub-letting Pandy to other families.



The tithe map of 1845.
Courtesy National Library Wales.

William Williams' tenancy at Pandy seems to have been relatively short lived, as by 1846 there appear to have been two families living at Pandy. In October 1846 Robert Roberts and his wife Elizabeth had a daughter Mary Catherine. They already had a son David, but very sadly he died aged twelve in May 1848. Their grief was compounded with the loss of Mary Catherine just seven months later when she was just two years old. Elizabeth must have become pregnant again almost straight away, as she gave birth to another daughter at the end of September 1849. She and Robert named their new daughter Mary Catherine as well.

November 1846 also saw the death of Humphrey Richards, the baby son of Thomas and Jane Richards, also living at Pandy. Humphrey was buried in the cemetery at St John's Church, his tombstone recording that he was just a few months old.

Humphrey Richards' grave in St John's churchyard. It reads:- In memorial of Humphrey, son of Thomas and Jane Richards, the Monastery Pandy, who died Nov. 7 1846 at a few months old.

Elizabeth Roberts was to suffer another tragedy when her husband Robert died in July 1850. This evidently led to her and her baby daughter leaving Pandy as, by the census of 1851, just the Richards family remained, and Thomas was recorded as the fuller. Thomas and his wife Jane had left Welshpool around fifteen years previously, living in Oswestry for a couple of years before moving up to work at Bache Factory in Llangollen for about five years (see page **) and then on to Llantysilio. In 1851 they had seven children – Josua, James (both also fullers), Thomas, John, Jane, Margaret and Mary, aged between 5 months and 17 years.

By 1861 son Josua had married Elizabeth and they had moved over to the Ceiriog Valley, where he was a flannel weaver. They had two sons, Thomas and James and a daughter Mary. By 1871 they had returned to Llangollen, now with eight children. Josua was still as a weaver. They were living on Price's Square and so it is very likely that he was working at the adjacent Maesmawr Mills (page **).

Back at Pandy there were still Richards' living there at the time of the 1861 census, although now it was 58 year old John Richards who was the fuller, living just with his wife Jane, who was five years older. It seems likely that John was Thomas' older brother, who had worked with him at Bache Factory (see page **) but it is not certain. John and Jane were still at Pandy ten years later, but now John's widowed older brother James was staying with them, as was their seven year old grandson Richard Phillips.

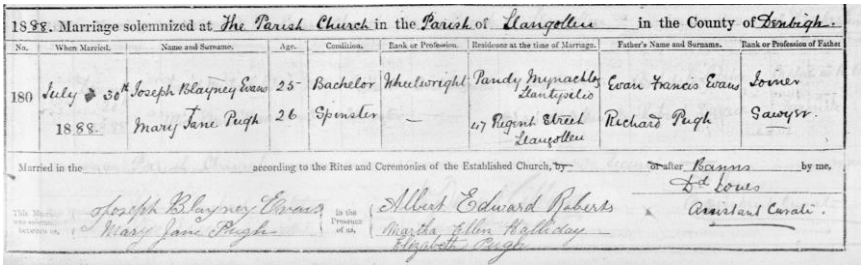
It would appear that Pandy had been split into two separate dwellings as Isaac Williams, a 36 year old mason from Corwen, and his family had moved into the 'cottage adjoining the Fulling Mill'. Isaac and his wife Ellen had three children, Hannah, aged 9, John, aged 4 and William, aged 1. Two years later, in 1873, the three children were all baptised at Llantysilio Church.

Whether one of the Richards' died or they just moved away, their departure marked the end of fulling at Pandy. By 1881 the Williams' had also gone and two new families had moved into 'Pandy House'. Evan Evans had lived in Trefolwern, Montgomeryshire, where he had been a carpenter for 20 years, before moving to Bridge Street in Llangollen in the 1860s as a joiner, and then out to Pandy, again as a carpenter. Evan was sixty nine years old and lived with his wife Mary, who was a year younger, and their two grandsons, Joseph, also a carpenter, and Evan.

Although fulling operations had ceased at Pandy, it is quite possible that Evan Evans and his grandson Joseph were still using the millwheel to power carpentry machinery – saws, drills and the like. This would explain why the 1900 photograph seems to show a pipe leading to the mill from the leet. Living in the other part of Pandy in 1881 was thirty two year old coal miner Samuel Jones, his wife Maria and their three children Richard, Mary and John.

As well as being a carpenter Evan Evans evidently kept horses, and was fond of a bit of competition, winning prizes for his cob mare and foal in the 1887 Edyrnion Agricultural Show[5].

Sadly, less than a year after his win, Evan Evans died aged 77[6] and his grandson Joseph took over as carpenter, joiner and wheelwright at Pandy. In 1888 Joseph Blaney Evans married Mary Jane Pugh, who lived on Regent Street in Llangollen. Mary's father Richard was a sawyer and so possibly they had met through his connections with Joseph through work.



1888. Marriage solemnized at *The Parish Church* in the Parish of *Llangollen* in the County of *Denbigh*.

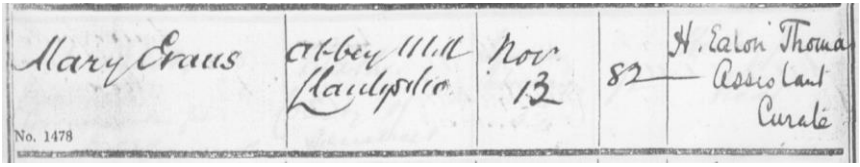
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father
180	July 30th 1888.	Joseph Blayney Evans	25	Bachelor	Wheelwright	Pandy Mynachlog Llantysilio	Evan Francis Evans	Farmer
		Mary Jane Pugh	26	Spinster	—	47 Regent Street Llangollen	Richard Pugh	Sawyer

Married in the according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by after Banns by me, D^d Jones Assistant Curate.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Joseph Blayney Evans, Mary Jane Pugh, in the Presence of us, Albert Edward Roberts, Martha Ellen Halliday, Elizabeth Pugh.

Joseph and Mary's marriage in 1888.

A year after their marriage Mary and Joseph had their first child, Mary Elizabeth in August 1889, followed by a second daughter, Harriet Jane, in August 1893. Joseph's grandmother Mary continued to live with the family until her death in November 1895.

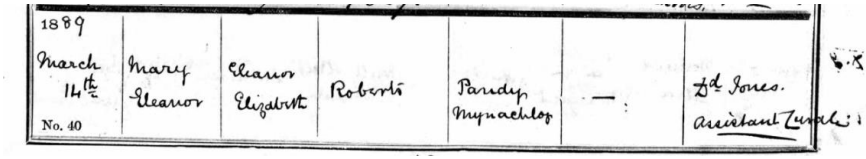


Mary Evans — Abbey Hill, Llandysilio — Nov 13 — 82 — H. Eaton Thomas, Assistant Curate

No. 1478

Mary Evans, Josephs grandmother's burial in 1895.

The Evans' remained at Pandy for more than twenty years, adopting two further children, Mary Eleanor (Nellie) Roberts and Stanley Evans. Nellie was a few months older than Mary and Joseph's first daughter Mary Elizabeth. She was the daughter of Eleanor Elizabeth Roberts and had been born in February 1889. Her baptism in March shows her mother living at Pandy. She had initially been adopted by Mary Jane's parents, Richard and Harriet Pugh, but they were both in their sixties when they adopted her and maybe thought that their daughter and her new husband would be able to give Mary Eleanor a more secure future.



1889						
March 14th	Mary Eleanor	Eleanor Elizabeth	Roberts	Pandy Mynachlog	—	D^d Jones. Assistant Curate

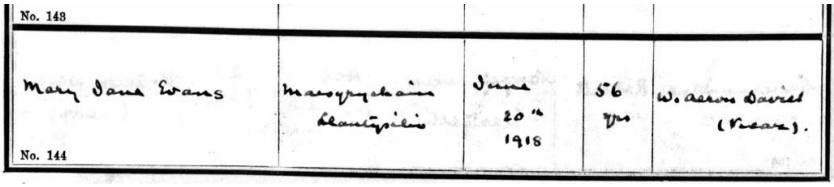
No. 40

Mary Eleanor Robert's baptism at Llangollen Church in 1889.

Stanley was twelve years younger than Harriet, the second daughter. The reason for the large age gap became clear when it was discovered that Stanley was, in fact, the son of their adopted daughter Mary Eleanor Roberts, born in 1905 when she was just 15 years old. The story in the family is that Mary Eleanor was in service (maybe at the nearby Abbey Grange Hotel) when she became pregnant, and had possibly been raped[7].

In the 1911 census Joseph and Mary were still at Pandy with Mary Elizabeth, Harriet Jane and Stanley. It is not known where Mary Eleanor was living at the time of the 1911 or 1921 census', although she was still around as she was in a photograph taken at her sister's wedding in 1918 (see below). Her adoptive mother Mary Jane was also pictured in the photograph, but very sadly, just a month later, passed away. but at some time in the intervening decade Joseph and Mary and the family moved just up the road from Pandy to Ty'n-y-Pistyll. Both of their birth daughters married and moved away, but Stanley became a wheelwright and continued to live with the family at Ty'n-y-Pistyll. He grew up believing that Nellie was his older sister and did not discover until later in life that she was, in fact, his mother[7].

The wedding of Mary Elizabeth Evans with George Carter at Llantysilio Church in 1918. Back row (L-R); Maurice Junior, Maurice Ward (Hilda's husband), Stanley Evans (Nellie's son), Unknown, Mr Mitchell (Eva's husband), Frederick Carter (groom's father), Wally (groom's friend), Unknown, Jack Taylor (groom's friend), Joseph Blaney Evans (bride's father), Eleanor (Nellie) Roberts (bride's adopted sister. Front row (L-R); Angelina Rose Carter (groom's mother), Hilda (groom's sister), Eva (bride's friend), George Horace Carter (groom), Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie) Evans (bride), Harriet (bride's sister), Elizabeth Pugh (bride's aunt), Mary Jane Evans (bride's mother). Courtesy Joanne Crewe and Ken Carter.



No. 143				
Mary Jane Evans	Mucopurulent bronchitis	June 20th 1918	56 yrs	W. Aaron Daniel (Niece).
No. 144				

Joseph died in 1937, leaving effects worth £211 to his daughter Mary Elizabeth and to Stanley.

EVANS Joseph Blayney of Tyn-y-Pistyll Pentredwr near Llangollen **Denbighshire** died 15 February 1937 Probate **Chester** 23 April to Mary Elizabeth Carter (wife of George Carter) and Stanley Evans wheelwright. Effects £211 17s. 8d.

Record of Joseph Blaney Evans' probate.
England & Wales, National Probate Calendar
(Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995.

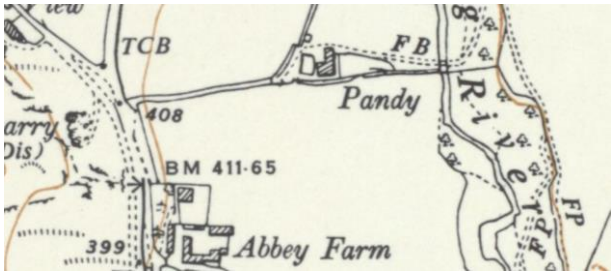
Mary Eleanor (Nellie) Roberts/Evans.

Although not in Joseph's will, Mary Eleanor evidently did not abandon Stanley, her birth son, as they were both still living together at Ty'n-y-Pistyll in 1939.

During the period of the First World War it appears that a Mr. H. Davies was living at Pandy, as he donated two shillings and sixpence to a collection for the prevention of relief and distress during the War[7].

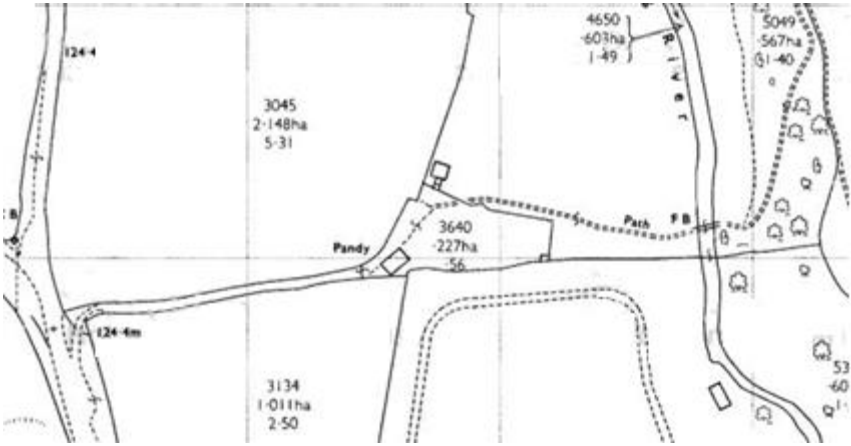
It was around this time that the new cottage was built at Pandy. Usually it is fairly simple to find a time window during which a house was built by examining the Ordnance Survey maps. However, the new Pandy does not appear on any of the maps until 1971, even though it is known for certain that the new Pandy was there in the 1920s when Charles and Emily Edwards moved in.

As late as 1963 the Ordnance Survey maps were still showing the original Pandy and mill pond (see below), although a photograph (bottom) taken by William Hawkes, who was living at the Abbey Grange in the 1920s and 1930s, clearly shows the new building at Pandy.



The 1963 1:10,560 map.

William Hawkes' photograph. The Abbey Grange is bottom left and Valle Crucis Abbey top right. The new Pandy can be seen almost in the middle of the photograph and the ruins of the old Pandy just to the left of it in the trees.



The new Pandy finally appears on the 1971 map.

Charles Edwards was born in 1869 in Llanraeadr ym Mochnant, his father Hugh being from there and his mother Jane being from nearby Llansilin. In 1919 he married Emily Davies from Llantysilio and they decided to set up their home there. Their son Thomas Charles Edwards was born two years later. A photograph (right) shows the Edwards family with friends outside the new Pandy. Thomas Charles Edwards, second from the left, was born at Pandy on Christmas Day 1921[8]. In the picture he is, at most, 8 years old, showing that the new building was there in the 1920s and very likely before. It seems likely that, with the departure of the Evans family and the lack of need to keep and maintain the mill building, the Trevor Estate had decided to build a new house for their future tenants. Certainly the recollections in the Edwards family were that when they moved in to Pandy it was a relatively new building[9].

The Edwards family stayed at Pandy for nearly forty years. Charles Edwards senior died in 1938, leaving all of his effects, worth nearly £600 (around £40,000 in today's terms), to Emily.

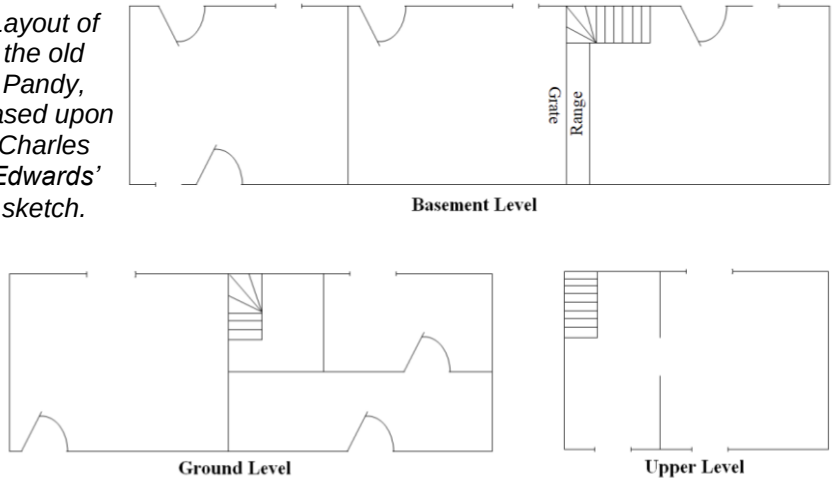
EDWARDS Charles of Abbey Mill Llantysilio **Denbighshire** died 31 March 1938 Administration **London** 8 November to Emily Edwards widow. Effects £596 3s. 3d.

Record of Charles Edwards' probate in 1938.
England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995.

At some point Emily purchased Pandy from the Trevor Estate. It is thought that this was most likely to have been after the Second World War, when many large estates had to sell off property in order to cover the costs of death duties[7]. Emily continued to live at Pandy until 1957, renting out rooms to different tenants. During that time the original building fell more and more into disrepair. The story goes that the final curtain for the old building was drawn when the Ministry of Works were carrying out repairs to Valle Crucis Abbey between 1959 and 1961. Needing a supply of suitable materials they were permitted to use stone from the ruined Pandy.

The remains of the original Pandy, now totally vanished.

Layout of the old Pandy, based upon Charles Edwards' sketch.



In his eighties (Thomas) Charles Edwards junior sketched the layout of the remaining building of the original Pandy, as he recalled it from his younger days. In his memory it had a basement, a smaller ground floor level and a yet smaller upper level, although it is not clear how this plan ties in with the photographs that we have of the building.

OBITUARY

The Late
Mrs. EMILY EDWARDS

Mrs. Emily Edwards, who died at Llangollen Hospital, on Oct. 41, after only a few hours illness, was a native of Pentredwr, and was 75 years of age.

Her husband, the late Mr. Charles Edwards of Llansantffraid, died twenty years ago, and Mrs. Edwards continued to live at the Abbey Pandy, where all their married life had been spent, until about twelve months ago when she sold the property and went to live near her only son in Pentredwr, to whom our sympathy is extended.

The funeral took place on Sat., Oct. 18. The service was conducted at Pentredwr C.M., Chapel. by the Rev. G. Aled Williams and Rev. G. M. Gruffydd.

Family mourners were Mr. & Mrs. Charles Edwards (son and daughter-in-law) ; Mrs. Corfield, Shrewsbury and Mrs. Topping, Bury (sisters) ; Mr. & Mrs. G. Davies, Abbey Terr.; Miss E. Davies, Mrs. Hughes & Mrs. Thomas (cousins) ; Mr. D. Edwards, Llansantffraid (brother-in-law).

In 1957 Emily moved out of Pandy, going to Paris House in Pentredwr, No. 4 on Post Office Row, to be closer to her son, his wife Elza and his family, who lived at No. 10. Pandy was put up for sale.

On October 14th 1958 Emily Edwards died, aged 75 years old. Pandy, however, got a new lease of life when it was bought by Eddie and Eluned Evans, who lived at Pen-y-Clawdd Farm just up the valley. For twenty five years they rented out the house, for the majority of the time to Evan Williams.

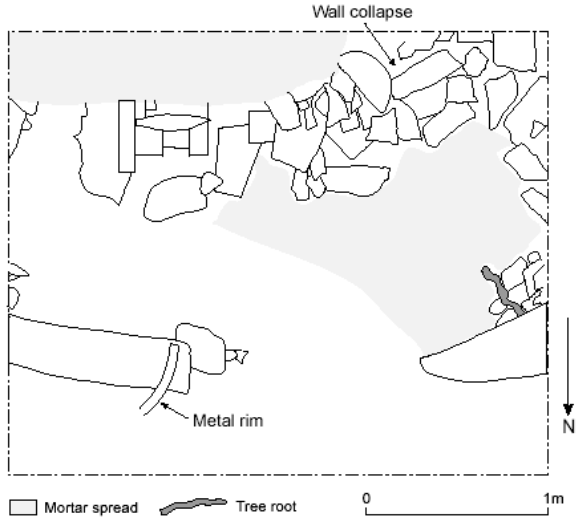
FOR SALE— SMALL HOLDING known as Pandy, Abbey, Llangollen— Apply Edwards, Post Office Pentredwr Llangollen 3238.

Advert in the Tuesday Review April 22nd to May 13th 1958.

When they gave up farming at Pen-y-Clawdd in 1984 they moved into Pandy, adding an extension to the east end. Eddie sadly died in 1990, but Eluned continued to live there until 1997, when she moved into a house on Green Lanes, Llangollen. Pandy was bought by Paul and Rita Coleman.

Fascinated by the history of Pandy, in 2008 Paul and Rita agreed to have teams from Durham and Chester Universities conduct an archaeological dig on the site of the original Pandy building to see what could be discovered. The team dug two main trenches, one at the eastern edge of the site in an attempt to locate the wheel pit of the mill structure and another placed to intercept the probable edge of the mill pond. A number of smaller subsiduary pits were also dug.

Two of the excavation team working on Trench 1, sited hopefully close to the location of the wheel pit.



An initial archaeologist's sketch of Trench 1, showing the collapsed wall on the south side.

Four of the many items uncovered during the excavations at Pandy. Clockwise from top left:- a donkey shoe, fragments of clay pipe, a rifle bullet and a fragment of grain drying kiln tile.

Sadly no diagnostically medieval finds were discovered in the main trenches. Trench 1 contained part of the western exterior wall of the probable mill structure and a small 19th or 20th century fireplace. This was buried beneath mid-20th century demolition deposits. Trench 2 located the edge of the probable mill pond. The test pits excavated by local school children revealed no structural remains, but did recover a range of post-medieval pottery and artefacts[9]. Over six hundred items were found and recorded during the excavations, with almost all dating from the 17th to 20th centuries. Only one piece of possible 16th century cup was recovered and only a single piece of very abraded medieval potsherd, probably Cheshire red/grey ware from the 13th or 14th century[10].

So although milling at Pandy finished one hundred and fifty years ago, and the use of water power possibly just over one hundred years ago, the story of Pandy continues into the 21st century. Hopefully more will be discovered about the history of the now vanished original mill building, whilst the new Pandy continues to provide a home for future generations.