

DYDDIO HEN DAI CYMREIG

DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES

PROSIECT DENDROCRONOLEG
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NORTH WEST WALES
DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

Maenan Hall

Llanrwst, Caernarvonshire



researched and written by
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1a. Building Description

Maenan Hall, Llanrwst, Caernarvonshire

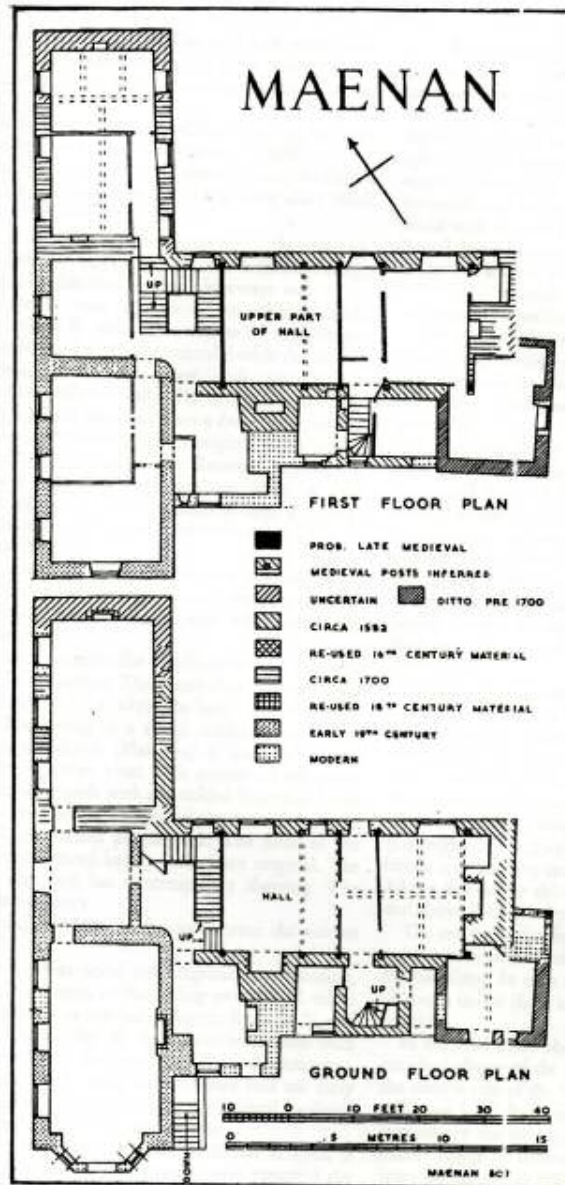
Medieval Hall House

NGR SH 794 650

Grade I listed

Dendrochronology Dating - September 2014

The original timber framed house has been dated to 1509.
(Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory – Dr. M.C.Bridge FSA – 2014)



p.166 An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Wales & Monmouthshire Vol.1 East 1956



From a description by C. McLaren 2013 with additional notes by the authors

Early 16th century hall house - Tudor

The original house was a timber frame construction comprising 6 bays, from the back of the study wall to a point some 3 meters W of the double storey plaster hall; the massive horizontal purlins, now encased in plaster, run on to this point in the roof.

The main feature is the double storey hall with its huge oak cruck and 1582 plasterwork. Originally the fire would have been in the centre of the room, the smoke escaping through a hole in the roof (part of the supporting louvre truss for this structure is just visible). The family would have sat on a raised dais at the W end.

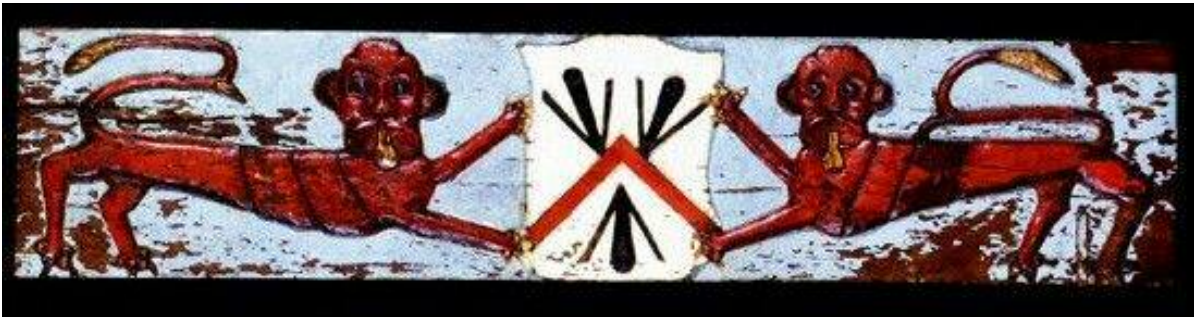
The timber frame construction can be clearly seen on the 1st floor at the E end and also on the main staircase at the W end. One of the uprights of the frame is seen at the NE corner of the plaster hall.

Mid 16th century – King Edward VI

Four carved and painted oak panels, one bearing the Kyffin coat of arms, are now in the Victoria & Albert Museum. They are believed to have come from the great hall. They were sold to the museum by Miss A.C.Snee of Bowes Park in 1933. (www.collections.vam.ac.uk)

These panels were examined by a team of experts at the V&A Museum – Ralph Edwards (woodwork), H.S.Smith (heraldry), Oliver Brackett (medieval wall paintings). They concluded that they were from the period of Henry VIII and date to about 1550. If this is correct then it is possible that they were commissioned by David Owen (Kyffin) after he acquired the house in 1545.

*Richard Bebb (Honorary Research Fellow – National Museum of Wales) features these panels and also two more, which are in the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff, in his book – *Welsh Country Furniture 1250-1950* (1994) and suggests that they are likely to date from about 1530.*



Panel showing the Kyffin coat of arms
on display in the Victoria & Albert Museum, London
Museum no. W.31-1933



Museum no. W.32-1933



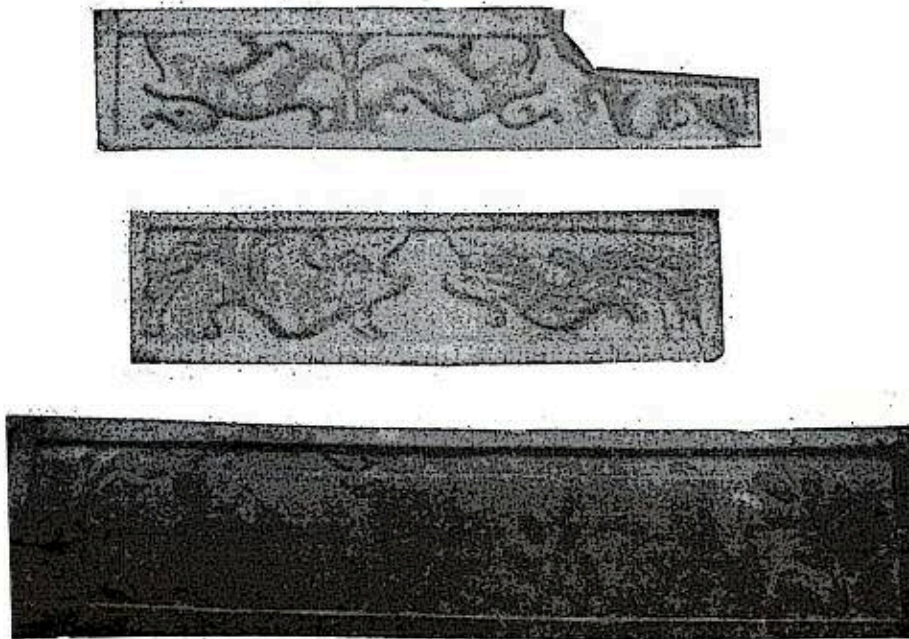
Museum no. W.29-1933



Museum no.W.30-1933
The three panels held in storage at the Victoria and Albert Museum

In 1582, Maurice Kyffin altered and extended the building, adding extensive plasterwork. Peter Welford (Gwydir Castle) considers that the panels are stylistically consistent with this later period.

Three more heavy carved panels, denoting an Abbot in a cowl (possibly one of the last Abbots of Maenan), a Priest, two wreathes of acorns, and the heads of a dolphin and a unicorn, were found in the possession of Miss Lenthall of Bessels Leigh Abbey, Berks who was a descendant of the Kyffin family.



The three panels 'Lenthall' panels

Late 16th century - Elizabethan

It is probably in the 1582 reconstruction that the load bearing walls were built with the chimney flue in the S wall and a 2nd roof above the old timber frame roof. The upper window could be from this period or later.

The plasterwork is believed to have been created by the craftsmen who had recently completed the plasterwork at Plas Mawr, Conwy. They used many of the same motifs. Similar contemporary plasterwork is in the upstairs bedroom (Solar).

During the reign of Henry VIII (1509-1547) legislation was passed relating to the use of armorial devices. In order to ensure that they used the correct forms, carvers and painters are known to have owned and consulted pattern-books. Unfortunately, no such patterns survive.

The plasterwork in the house is twice dated 1582 and includes the initials of Maurice Kyffin and his wife, as well as those of Queen Elizabeth. There are also various heraldic and quasi-heraldic badges and rebuses, together with vinescroll motifs. The solar also includes the Kyffin arms (3

broad arrows) and vines, sunflowers and leaping heraldic beasts. The initials of Maurice's 2nd son, Edward, also appear here, although these may have been added later as he was only 12 years old in 1582.

The NE end of the NW wing of the house was built in 3 separate parts, being extended one bay at a time. The oldest of these parts, possibly Elizabethan, may well have constituted the kitchen and other serving rooms.

Late 17th century – Queen Anne

In the late 17th century alterations are visible in two parts of the building; the panelling in the Solar (plastered bedroom) at the SE end, and the NE end of the NW wing, both in the masonry and in the first floor bathroom and bedroom panelling.

Early 19th century – Georgian

1810-1820 - This is the period of the SW end of the NW wing; on both ground and first floors, of the main staircase and hall and the whole unifying front facade.

This would have been commissioned by William John Lenthall, who was the owner during this period.

Post 2nd world war

1947-1991 – When Lord Aberconway (*Henry Duncan McLaren 2nd Baron Aberconway*) bought Maenan in 1945 it was in a terminal state. Occupied as a farm house and with no apparent maintenance for decades, the roof leaked, there were multiple outbreaks of dry rot, the plasterwork was partially fallen, partially non-existent, chickens and a milk churn were in the Plaster Hall, and the Solar contained a grain store.

The roof was repaired and the dry rot eliminated; the tenant farmers moved out of the older, back part of the house so that the plasterwork in the Hall and in the Solar could be restored by the plasterer who had restored the Hercules Hall at Port Merion for Clough Williams Ellis; the Plaster Hall was stripped of later panelling below the plaster on the W wall and covering the bottom of the plaster on the E wall.

The old panelling revealed on the W wall and the doorway into the Staircase Hall were remodelled to restore them to the original design, with the inclusion of a new oak door of the old pattern made at Bodnant. The broken and badly damaged hexagonal stones of the floor were replaced with similar stones from the site of the old Maenan Abbey.

A new window was made in the Study and chimney pieces were purchased from Parlour Mawr, the old home of Archbishop John Williams in Conwy, which was being demolished, and installed in the Plaster Hall and in the Study. In 1952 a bay window was constructed on the W wall of the present Drawing Room, at that time divided into the farm kitchen and a storage space on the W wall.

In 1953 Lord Aberconway died and the farmer and his family moved into the nearby Bryn Rhudd house, previously purchased for the purpose.

S.Colwyn Ffoulkes and Co. of Colwyn Bay were engaged as architects and the extensive remodelling, principally involving the accreted rooms on the S and E sides, was put in hand.

In 1963, a small conservatory was designed by Clough Williams Ellis and positioned at the N corner of the house.

In 1990, a conservatory was added to the SW facade of the house by Christopher McLaren and his wife, Janey.

In 1974 Christabel Aberconway, the widow of 2nd baron, died and Maenan Hall passed to her son, Christopher McLaren, in whose possession it still remains.

The website for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales has a good collection of photographs of the house, both outside and interior views. There are many showing the elaborate plasterwork.
www.coflein.gov.uk

1b. The Name

The name 'Maenan' means – 'place of the big stone'.

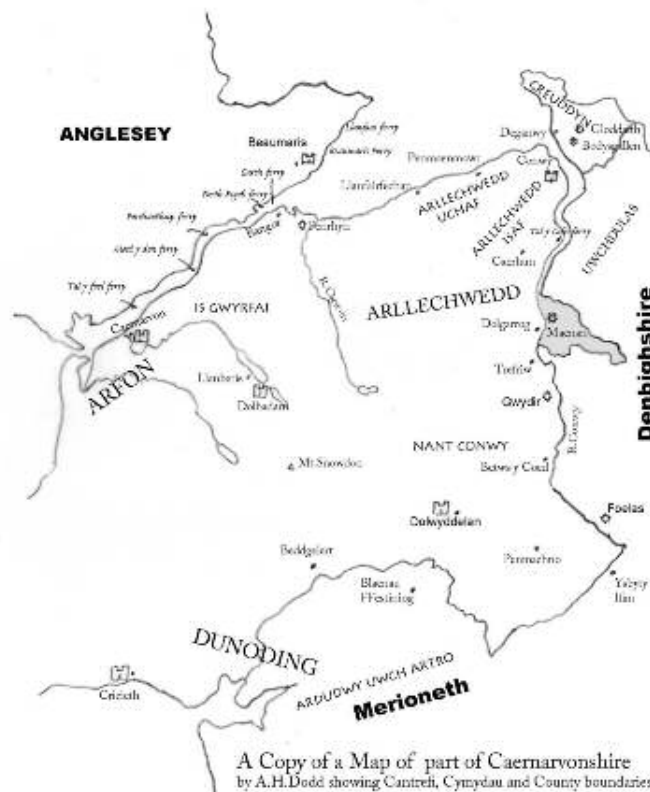
Maenan Hall may have been given this name for a number of different reasons.

1. Near the entrance to the current main driveway is a large outcrop of rock. At the time the house was built this almost certainly would have been on the track between the Abbey site and the house. This may have been used as a descriptive term to name the house built in its near vicinity.
2. There are a number of dolmens in the Conwy Valley. Was there perhaps one somewhere close to where the house was built and which has since disappeared?
3. The Conwy Valley is littered with glacial boulders. The township, Abbey and Hall could all have been named 'Maenan' because of the abundance of stones in the location.

2a. Aberconwy Abbey - Historical Background

In the late 12th century the Cistercian monks from Rhedynog Felen near Caernarfon relocated to Conwy to establish Aberconwy Abbey. The house of Rhedynog Felen had been founded in 1186 by a group of monks from Strata Florida Abbey near Tregaron in the county of Ceredigion. They transferred to Conwy just four years later.

In 1283 Edward I had the Abbey moved from Conwy to Maenan so that he could build a fortress town. This move was completed by 1284. The new monastery at Maenan was on the eastern bank of the River Conwy, and so Edward had the boundary of the shire looped across the river at this point so as to retain it in Caernarvonshire. It became a township of Eglwysbach even though the rest of this parish was located in Denbighshire.



2b. The Welsh Revolt or Glyndwr Rising

Aberconwy was a monastery where, prior to the conquest of Wales, loyalty to the ruling prince of Gwynedd seems to have been one of the chief qualifications for the position of abbot. This was evident in the years of the Glyndwr Revolt when the abbot of Aberconwy (1406) was noted as being a rebel.

(Atlas of Cistercian Lands in Wales – David H. Williams – 1990 University of Wales Press, Cardiff p.14)

Owain Glyndwr, the last Welshman to hold the title of Prince of Wales, began a fierce and long running, but unsuccessful revolt against the English rule of Wales by Henry VI of England. It began as a local border issue in 1399 but by 1400 had spread into Gwynedd. Henry became so alarmed at the prospect of Gwynedd once more being in arms that he marched his army to Bangor and Caernarvon to receive the submissions of some, including the abbot of Maenan, and to wreak his vengeance on the monks who failed to submit.

(A.H.Dodd *ibid.* p.18-20)

2c. Monastic Granges

Granges, as first developed in the 12th century by the Cistercians, were demesne farms staffed by lay brothers known as 'conversi'.

Aberconwy Abbey had granges in Anglesey, Caernarvonshire and Denbighshire. (see map p.10)

Granges typically consisted of a manor house/capital messuage, fish ponds/fisheries (to supply Friday meals to the monastery), mills, gardens, granaries/barns. Aberconwy's home grange of Maenan had a mill, a fishery called the 'warles' (weir) but no references have been found of a 'capital messuage' or manor house separate from the Abbey.

In the early years of the monastery's existence, when the monks worked the lands themselves, a large part of their income, perhaps nearly the whole, came from the sale of **wool**. Sheepraising was the only possible gainful occupation on much of Aberconwy's land. The Abbey also had property in Chester, which was a centre for the wool trade.

Wood was another of the monastery's important assets. It seems to have been particularly fine at Maenan. John Leland, writing about the time of the dissolution, observed, 'Meately good wood about Conway abbay', and a document of the time of Elizabeth I says of Maenan, 'There is neare the said scyte upon the lands of the saide monasterye store of greate Timber for Shippes or for the repayre of her highness decayed castles which is mete to be preserved for that the quenes highness hath elleswhere within the Shire smale store for the purpose.'

(R.W.Hays ibid. p.170)

Between the 13th and 14th centuries the Welsh Cistercians found themselves in straitened circumstances and often heavily in debt, and so their granges became increasingly let to lay tenants, with the exception of the 'home farm/grange' and any other demesne land still in use by the monks themselves, or which was being worked under their, or their lay officials' supervision.

By the 15th century even home granges and parts of the land that for a time had been retained as demesne also had become tenanted, although this land was still listed separately in accounts. Nothing is heard of the sale of wool during the last century and a half before the dissolution. Its chief source of revenue by this time consisted of rents from its tenants.

(R.W.Hayes ibid. – p.163)

Tenants on the Aberconwy land might hold that land by one of three types of tenure: freehold, leasehold, or tenure at will. Freeholders were rare and only five tenements out of more than 100 in all were held in freehold, all in the vill of Cornwy Llys (Anglesey). Of the rest, two thirds were held by lease, the remainder at will.

(R.W.Hayes ibid. - p.163)

Tenants at will

These were men who had no tenancy rights at all. They had nothing in writing and could be evicted without any notice at the will of the Lord of the Manor.

Tenants at Lease

These leases were granted by the abbot for a specific period of time and with greater security. Some were for long periods e.g. 99 years which meant that the tenant could plan for the future.

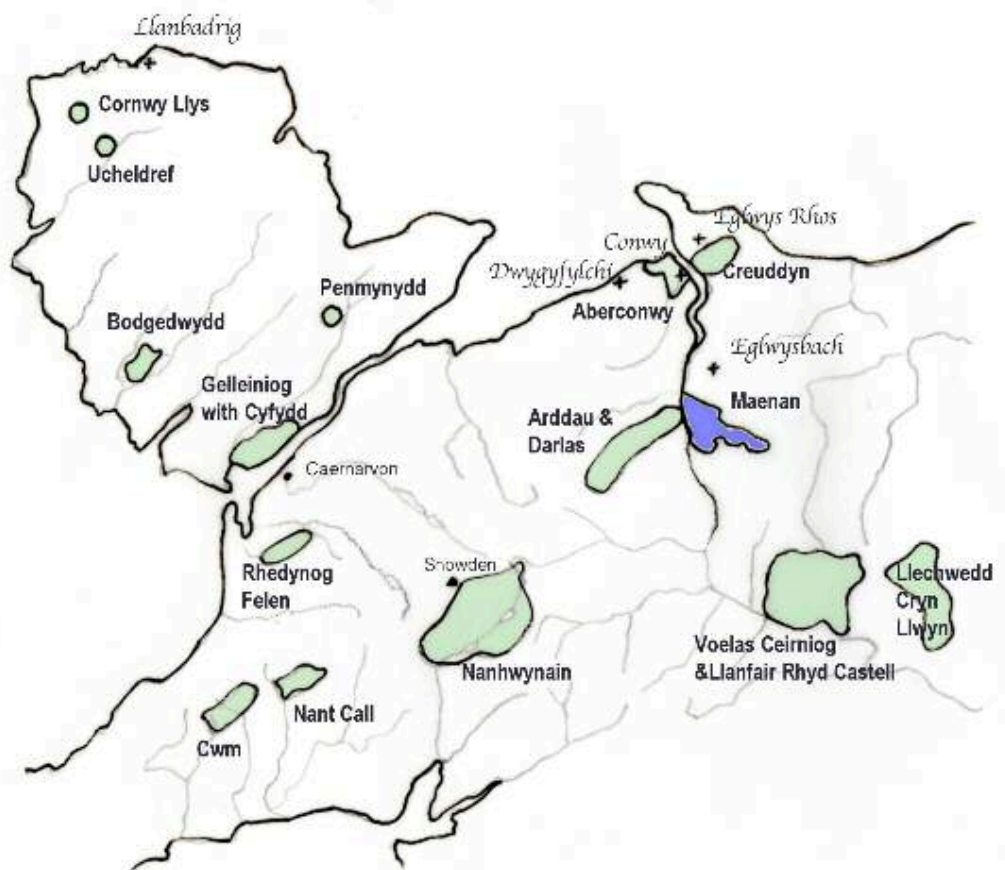
Tenants did not necessarily live on their holdings. Many doubtless did, but quite a few held two or more pieces of land. Tenants sometimes also rented their holdings to sub-tenants, and very likely did so more often than the records show. All rents in Aberconwy by the 15th century were paid in money. (*rather than in kind*).

Two types of dues were paid by tenants - the **comortha** and the **anregis**. (*cymorth* – modern Welsh for aid) The **comortha**, in the period of tribal rule in Wales, had been a seignorial tribute, payable to princes and chieftains in services and gifts. Later it had become a charge on the land, and at Aberconwy had evidently been commuted into a money payment due every fourth year from certain tenants. Maenan's share was 9s 6d due every fourth year.

The **anregis** (*anrheg* – modern Welsh for gift) was a present or annual gift by the tenants to the abbot, probably originally in kind, but at Aberconwy again commuted into a money payment. The yearly payment at Maenan was 3s 4d.

Perquisites from mills and fisheries had also formerly accounted for a part of the abbey's revenue. **The Valor Ecclesiasticus** lists (see below p.11), under Maenan, a mill and a fishery in the Conway, but describes the income as coming, not from perquisites, but from the rents. The mill brought in £1 6s 8d yearly, the fishery 4s. Evidently, rents from mills and fisheries didn't provide a very large part of the abbey's income. (R.W.Hayes *ibid.* p.170)

Aberconwy Abbey had also appropriated five churches; Eglwys Bach, Eglwys Rhos, Conwy, Dwygyfylchi and Llanbadrig. When a church was appropriated, the monastery became its rector thereby enabling it to acquire a varied and often substantial source of food supply (by means of the rectorial or greater tithes) as well as diverse financial offerings and obligations. (Atlas of Cistercian Lands in Wales – David H. Williams – p.34)



Copy of a map by David H. Williams showing the land possessions and the appropriated churches of Aberconwy Abbey

2d. The Act of Suppression

At the time of the Act of Suppression in 1534, when Henry VIII was made 'Supreme Head of the Church of England', there were four religious houses in Caernarvonshire. They were all small and had ceased to play any significant part in the life of the county for more than a century. Bardsey and Beddgelert had been reconstituted as Augustinian, Bangor was a Dominican friary and by far the most important of the Caernarvonshire houses was the Cistercian abbey of Maenan. It had an income of £162 and housed 8 monks.

(A.H.Dodd *ibid* p.41)

It was not until 1537 that these religious houses were finally suppressed, but it seems to have taken place without incident. The King took the properties into his hands and either gave them away to favoured courtiers, or sold them to speculators who generally re-sold them locally.

(A.H.Dodd *ibid* p.46)

Shortly before the suppression, the King wanted an up-to-date record of the financial condition of all the churches and monasteries in the kingdom, and on 30 January 1535, appointed commissioners in all dioceses of England and Wales to compile the collection of reports known as **Valor ecclesiasticus**.

(The history of Aberconwy Abbey – R.W.Hayes (Cardiff) 1963 – p.158)

The visitation of the Welsh monasteries by the royal commissioners took nine months from August 1535 – April 1536. There were three visitors, Dr. Ellis Price, Dr. Adam Becansaw and Dr. John Vaughan. Of these, Price was much the best known. He was the second son of Robert ap Rhys, of Plas Iolyn, and the elder brother of Hugh Price, abbot of Aberconwy, who had died in 1528.

(The history of Aberconwy Abbey – R.W.Hayes (Cardiff) 1963 – p.159) (Appendix 3 - Price family pedigree)

Dr. Ellis Price of Plas Iolyn was also a brother of Richard Price, who was appointed the Abbot of Aberconwy Abbey in 1535.

Ellis eventually had his nomination as commissioner cancelled after protests by his colleagues , Adam Becanshaw and John Vaughan, because of concern about his life and reputation.

(The Welsh Cistercians – David H.Williams 2001 p.77-81)

According to the **Valor**, the largest number of tenancies on Aberconwy's granges was 23. These particular tenancies were on the home grange of Maenan. 19 were held by tenants at will and 4 by lease.

(The history of Aberconwy Abbey – R.W.Hayes (Cardiff) 1963 – p.165)

name	Valor value	Account value	No. of holdings	Highest rent	lowest rent
Maenan	£10.12.8	£9.13.6	23	13s 4d	5s 0d
fishery	0. 4.0				
demesne	0.13.4				
mill	1. 6.8				

(R.W.Hayes *ibid*. – p.165)

The '**Account**' value was a separate minister's record dated from 28th year of the reign of Henry VIII and contains a full report of the finances of the abbey in 1536, to the extent that they were handled by Ieuan ap John David Vaughan, king's collector of rents on the abbey's lands. No records survive from the monasteries themselves.

(R.W.Hayes *ibid*. – p.161/162)

The **Valor** lists profits from working the demesne land only at Maenan (13s 4d) and at Arddau (£1 3s 4d). Similar income on the abbey's other possessions seems to have been counted in with the

income from rents, since it is certain from other sources that the abbey possessed demesne in some of its other properties. The **Account** gives the abbey's income from demesne lands as £4 1s 4d yearly, with no breakdown as to location. It also makes no mention of a mill or fishery at Maenan. (R.W.Hayes *ibid.* – p.168)

In the **Account**, there is evidence that the word 'grange' was being used only to refer to demesne land, whilst the word 'vill' was being used for each entire holding.

When talk about the possible closure of the abbeys started to circulate, the abbots began granting leases, often to family and friends in anticipation of the dissolution.

2e. Early sixteenth century leases at Maenan

1. 1503 May 10

1. David Abbot of the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Conway.
2. David Lloyd ap Meredydb

LEASE for 99 years of a tenement called y Tyddyn du in the township of Maynan in the commote of Issaph co. Carnarvon

Rent 5s st----- p.a.

Comhortha & Anrregion & other ancient customs

seal pendant (fragment) red wax

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.1279)

2. In **1506** Sir Robert ap Rhys of Plas Iolyn (Powys Fadog V.363) had a **lease** from David Owen (*Syr Dafydd ap Owain*) 'Abbot of the monastery of our Blessed Lady St.Mary of Conwey' for 99 years of many of the Abbey farms, at a reserved rent of 32s 4d and these he again devised to his son David, to his nephew Robert Gethin of Cerniogau and to other relatives.

(W.Bezant Lowe M.A. - *The Heart of Northern Wales* 1912 p.280)

3. In a document of 1565, there is the mention of a '**residue of a term of 99 years recited in a Lease dated 20 June, 1525** from Jeffrey, late abbot of the dissolved monastery of Conway, to the said Philip (*Philip ap Richard of Maynnan, co. Caernarvon, yeoman*) and Elizabeth, his wife, of a messuage or tenement and lands called Tythvn Dycus ap Eignion, Kae Rig, Kae yr gof, Kae Jevan ap Iorwerth in Maynnan.'

(Maenan MSS, Bangor no. 1283)

4. 1531 Oct 23

1. Geoffrey abbot of the monastery of the B.V.M. at Conway
2. Jeuan ap David

LEASE for 99 years of a tenement in the township of Maynan in the commote of Issaph called Tythyn garthmayn uchaff.

Rent 6s 8d per annum

cum omnibus consuetudinibus ab antiquo usitatis viz. comortha et anregion

Seal fragment

(Maenan MSS Bangor no. 1280)

2f. The Abbots and monks of Maenan from the late 15th century

N.B. The list of known abbots of Aberconwy Abbey is not complete and the names and dates of the holders of this position do differ in various accounts.

There is ample evidence that many Welsh monks and abbots did not adhere to the papist rule of celibacy.

David ap John

In **1480**, David ap John, monk of Aberconwy, received a dispensation from Pope Sixtus IV (1414-1484) allowing him to hold office in the Cistercian Order, even though he was the illegitimate son of a monk of the same Order and an unmarried woman.

(R.W.Hayes *ibid.* – p.135)

In **1482**, the general chapter took notice of two annual payments being made by Gruffydd, prior of Aberconwy. The first payment, of 16s a year was to one Lewis; the second was to David, described as a son of Reginald, a former abbot of Aberconwy.

(R.W.Hayes *ibid.* – p.136)

Bribery and family connections rather than free elections and spiritual concerns had also become the machinery by which abbots were appointed.

David Wynchcombe and David Lloyd

In **1489**, there was a struggle for the abbacy of Aberconwy between David Wynchcombe, the incumbent abbot since 1482, and David Lloyd who successfully challenged him to become the new abbot on 20 November 1489.

Syr Dafydd ab Owain

Syr Dafydd ab Owain was the next abbot of Aberconwy and the only one who could be called famous. He studied canon and civil law at Oxford, where he is said to have obtained the degree of doctor of laws. He was abbot successively of Strata Florida and Strata Marcella, and sometime after 1489 became abbot of Aberconwy and in 1503 he was also made bishop of St.Asaph.

Syr Dafydd ab Owain was abbot of Aberconwy at the time that Maenan Hall was built. It is possible that he was responsible for building the mansion.

N.B. Syr Dafydd ap Owain is sometimes confused with an ordinary monk called David Owen (Kyffin) who was living in the abbey at the time of the Dissolution and who later purchased the Maenan Hall estate.

Syr Dafydd ab Owain was known as a builder. His episcopacy was notable for the rebuilding of the episcopal palace, destroyed by Owain Glyndwr, and for the erection of the tower of Wrexham church, one of the great sights of Wales. He is said to have built a wooden bridge over the river Clwyd. More importantly, he restored and rebuilt the monastery of Aberconwy, which had in part fallen into decay. He was known also as a patron of bards. While not a man of great spirituality, Dafydd ab Owain was outstanding in learning and practical ability, and for these qualities should rate high among Welsh ecclesiastics of the time. He died on 12 February 1512 (*Julian Calendar*) or 1513 (*Gregorian calendar*) and was buried in the cathedral of St.Asaph.

(R.W.Hayes *ibid.* – p.137)

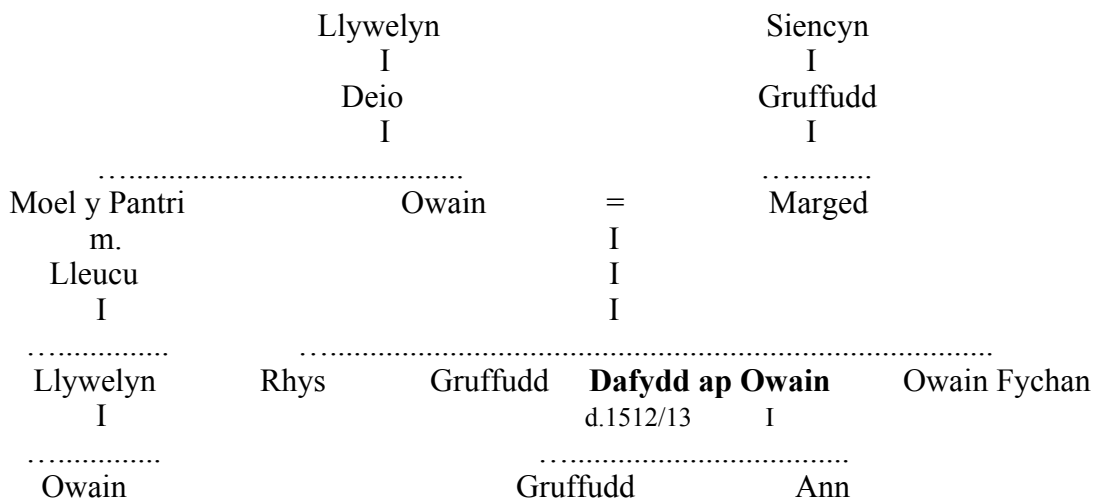
Syr Dafydd ab Owain had at least fourteen eulogies written to him by many bards. Some poems were begging types; some extolled his learning and generosity; some his fame as a builder;

particularly in connection with the restoration of the abbey buildings at Maenan. In particular, Tudor Aled, who spent much of his life at Aberconwy Abbey, wrote more poems than any other bard.

(R.W.Hayes *ibid.* p.155) (www.gutorglyn.net)

(Appendix 2 - poem by Tudor Aled re. Syr Dafydd ap Owain)

Dafydd ap Owain is known to have had at least two children. Was Maenan Hall perhaps built to house his wife/mistress and his children?



Another person who may have been responsible for building Maenan Hall was Sir Robert ap Rhys, chaplain and crossbearer to Cardinal Wolsey, who had acquired a lease of many of the Abbey farms in 1506. (see p.12)

Did he perhaps have it built for a member of his family? He also ignored the rule of clerical celibacy and had at least 16 children - 12 sons and 4 daughters who were all said to be illegitimate. He was also known to have secured property and offices for a number of his relatives.
(Appendix 3 - Rhys family pedigree)

Some accounts list a David Floyde as the next abbot.

David Floyde

A document of 1517 mentions that a David Floyde was elevated from the abbacy of Conwy to that of Cymer and then to Strata Marcella where he was presiding as abbot in 1517. David M. Smith (*The Heads of Religious Houses in England and Wales III*, CUP 2008 p.285) explains that he should perhaps be identified with the David Lloyd (above) but if this report is correct then he was abbot of Conwy from about 1513 – 1515.

Geoffrey Kyffin

Geoffrey Kyffin is next mentioned as abbot of Aberconwy.

R.W.Hayes gives the date he became abbot as 3 November 1517. David H.Williams says he was abbot from 1513 until 1526 and does not include David Floyde (above) in his list. The website – www.monasticwales.org – states that he is mentioned as abbot of Conway on various occasions between June 1515 and September 1526.

Geoffrey Kyffin was called 'the red abbot', presumably because of the colour of his hair or of his complexion. He came from an important local family, and may have been chosen through their influence.

(Appendix 1 - Kyffin family pedigree)

Three local families dominated the Cistercian life in North Wales – the Salusbury, Ap Rhys (Price) and Kyffin families. The Kyffins wielded less power than the other two.

Geoffrey was the uncle of one of the ordinary monks who was at Aberconwy at the time of the Dissolution – **David Owen (Kyffin)**.

Like Syr Dafydd ab Owain, Geoffrey was known as a patron of bards and as a builder. Professor Glanmor Williams suggests that he rebuilt the abbey in such a way as to set the abbot's quarters apart from those of the monks. Such a proceeding would have been in violation of the spirit of the Cistercian rule, but seems to have been undertaken in other Welsh Cistercian houses at this time.

(R.W.Hayes ibid. p.138) (History of the Abbots of Aberconwy pp 139-40)

Abbot Geoffrey Kyffin also had a poem addressed to him by Tudur Aled. By Geoffrey's time, the abbey had evidently fallen on hard times, and the poet, while praising the abbot, in particular for his rebuilding of the abbey, compares the present poverty of the house with its former luxury.

(R.W.Hayes ibid. – p.156-7)

Huw ap Rhys

Huw ap Rhys – was the next known abbot. **1526-28**. He was under the canonical age of 25 years but this did not appear to matter. He was after all, the son of **Syr Robert ab Rhys**, chaplain and crossbearer to **Cardinal Wolsey**.

(Appendix 3 - Price family pedigree)

Huw died in July 1528, whilst studying at Cambridge. He was the brother of Richard Price, the last abbot of Conwy (below) and also the brother of Dr. Ellis Price, the commissioner appointed to carry out the Valor Ecclesiasticus survey. John Price, abbot of Strata Marcella has also been named as a brother of Huw, although he does not appear on any of the pedigrees of the family.

Geoffrey Johns

Geoffrey Johns – Geoffrey is mentioned as abbot of the house on several occasions from November 1531 until 30 August 1535 when he resigned from office. In 1535 Geoffrey nominated an ordinary monk at Maenan to succeed him. His name was **David Owen (Kyffin)** but his nomination was ignored.

(Appendix 1 - Kyffin family pedigree)

Richard Price

Richard Price (aka:- ap Rice; Price; y Person Gwyn – the white parson) son of **Sir Robert ab Rhys** was appointed instead even though he was below canonical age. His brother, Dr. Ellis Price, had been ousted as a commissioner, but he still had the favour of Bishop Lee, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield and president of the Council of the Marches, who had been a friend of his deceased father. The Bishop wrote to **Thomas Cromwell** on his behalf.

'Thanks for your entertainment and expedition of my causes when I was last at Court with you. For the old friendship of Mr.Robert ap Rice, deceased, I write to you on behalf of his son Richard, a monk, to be preferred to the abbey of Conway, N.W. He is a man of good qualities and much loved by his brethren.'

(Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, of the reign of Henry VIII (2nd ed. HMSO 1920-) p.488)

Outside interference in Cistercian abbatial elections had obviously become strong, if the bishop could so casually request Cromwell to appoint an abbot.

On 1 September 1535, Becansaw and Vaughan wrote to Cromwell, 'On 30th Aug, according to our commission, we received the resignation of the monastery of Conway by Geoff. Johns, late abbot, and proceeded to a new election, when dan Richard ap rhes was unanimously chosen abbot, the monks saying that he was 24 years of age to their belief, which did stay us from confirming the election. There was exhibited to us his dispensation. So that matter is sped, saying only that we have stayed the installation until we hear from you.'

The dispensation presumably allowed Richard to become abbot while under the canonical age of twenty five. It could hardly have come from the pope; perhaps it was from Cromwell himself. It is not surprising that Richard's age constituted no bar to his election, since his brother Hugh had been chosen abbot while he was still a minor. Professor Davis Williams surmises that (Ellis) Price succeeded in intimidating the abbot of Aberconwy and obtaining his resignation, substituting for him his own brother who was abbot there for the last few months before the dissolution. The reference to the monks' unanimity suggests intimidation, since it is found later that they were not in fact unanimous in their sentiments.

(R.W.Hayes *ibid.* p.160)

O'Sullivan J.F. 1947 p.120 *Cistercian Settlements in Wales and Monmouthshire* (New York)

Geoffrey was unwilling to let his resignation stand, and it was some time before Richard's installation took place. On 5 May 1536, **Sir Richard Bulkley**, an important member of the landed gentry of North Wales, wrote to **Cromwell**, 'Dan Richard Ris, monk of Conway, N. Wales, is making suit to be abbot. The present abbot opposes it, knowing him to be a wilful and misruled person, who would utterley destroy the abbey.' **Bulkley** therefore begged **Cromwell's** favour for **David Owen (Kyffin)**, who is 'meet to be ruler', and 'to whom the present abbot will resign. If you consent, you shall have £100 for your pains at any day you appoint. I will send you a bill of an annuity of £20 during my life.' Bulkley's attempted bribe was not successful, however, and on 3 June 1536, we find Richard Price calling himself abbot. The **Prices** had evidently offered **Cromwell** a larger bribe.

(R.W.Hayes *ibid.* p.161)

(Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, of the reign of Henry VIII (2nd ed. HMSO 1920-) VIII p.205-6)

The upshot of all this was that on 30 August the two commissioners received the unwilling resignation of Abbot Geoffrey Johns.

(LP *Ibid* IX 83 (244))

(Hays R.W. *ibid* p.161)

N.B. Thomas Pennant (1726-1798) wrongly stated that Richard ap Rhys was from the Kyffin family.
(W.Bezant Lowe – *Heart of Northern Wales* 1912 - p.273)

A document held at Bangor University Archives dated 1846 also quotes this erroneous fact in a dispute over nonpayment of Tithes – “The last Abbot of the Monastery was Richard Kyffin who at the Dissolution had a pension of £20 per annum settled upon him. He was also left the Grange or farm and demesne lands of the monastery for his maintenance and it has been the inheritance of his descendents up to this day.”

(Maenan MSS Bangor Archives – Tithes no. 442-449)

2g. Lay Officials of the Abbey

The sum of the abbey's receipts according to Valor was £179 10s 10d, while the Account gives it as £169 1s 9d. Before paying the annual tenth demanded by the king for 1535 and subsequent years, the monasteries were allowed to deduct certain necessary expenses. For Aberconwy, these fall into two classes: salaries or fees paid to lay officials, and expenses connected with spiritualities.

The lay officials were often from important local families. The chief officer was the steward. He was the representative of the monastic jurisdiction, and had the duty of presiding over the monastic court. Aberconwy had three stewards.

Stewards

John Wynne ap Maredudd, one of the important family of Wynns of Gwydir was responsible for the Abbey's Caernarvonshire lands. Abbot Dafydd ab Owain had appointed John Wynne and his father joint stewards for life of the lands in Caernarvonshire on 20 January 1506.

Maredudd ap Thomas – Anglesey. Appointed for life by Abbot David Lloyd on 21 August 1501.

Morris Gethin, (also called Morris (or Maurice) ap Rhys ap Maredudd, brother to the abbot's father, Sir Robert ap Rhys. – Denbighshire. He was also appointed for life on 21 August 1501.

Bailiffs

Next in importance were the bailiffs, who supervised the working of the demesne, and saw that the tenants kept their holdings in good repair.

Hugh ap Maredudd was bailiff for Caernarvonshire lands.

Cadwaladr ap Morris, son of Morris Gethin, for the land in Denbigh.

John ap Heylan was bailiff for Maenan.

Ieuan ap Gronw for Arddau

Ieuan ap Geoffrey is mentioned as an official in Anglesey

Receivers

The receivers, the only other officials of whom there is a record at Aberconwy, had the task of collecting the rents. **Ieuan ap John David Vaughan** is mentioned as the collector of rents on the abbey's lands in connection with the 'Account'.

(R.W.Hayes *ibid.* p.162)

Several of the officials were also tenants of the abbey.

John Wynne – had land in Nanhwynain

Morris Gethin – Hiraethog (brother of Syr Robert ap Rhys)

Maredudd ap Thomas – Gelliniog

Cadwaladr ap Morris (s/o Morris Gethin) - Hiraethog

Local families, particularly the abbot's, had clearly gained extensive control over the abbey's affairs
(Hays R.W. *ibid* p.174-176)

2h. The Final Suppression of the Abbey

Richard Price tried his utmost to save the Abbey. He wrote twice to **Thomas Cromwell**. On the 3 June 1536 he offered Cromwell an annuity if the house was spared and from the letter it appears that Richard had already bribed Cromwell to obtain the position of abbot, and was prepared to do so again to secure his sanction for the abbey's continued existence.

(L.P. Ibid X, 434)

On 14 January 1537 he sent Cromwell £40 and promised daily prayers 'as for a founder of the house'. Richard's pleas and bribes came to nothing. By 25 March 1537 the abbey had been dissolved.

(Hays R.W. ibid p.178) (L.P. Ibid Pt. I, 108)

The names of four of the monks at the time of the dissolution are known.

1. Richard Price, the abbot who received a pension £20 and the rectories of Llanbadrig and Eglwys bach both of which belonged to the abbey. Another account states that Richard became the rector of Cerrigydrudion. (W.Bezant Lowe ibid p.273)
2. Geoffrey Johns the former abbot.
3. **David Owen (Kyffin)**, whom Geoffrey wished to have as his successor. He is said to have become a farmer in Eglwysbach. Not long afterwards his name appears as the vicar of Eglwysbach.
4. David Lloyd

David Owen (Kyffin) came from a family of monks. His ancestors were based in the border area not far from Oswestry.

(Appendix 1 - Kyffin family pedigree)

If David Owen (Kyffin) was a farmer at the time of the Dissolution, it is quite likely that he was responsible for working the home grange whilst serving as a monk. He married Margaret d/o Maredudd ap Ieuan ap Robert of Dolwyddelan. His eldest son, Maurice, was born abt. 1530 (seven years before the dissolution). David was also not celibate as a monk. He had two other sons, Jeffrey and Griffith.

The accounts of what happened next to the Abbey and all of its lands at Maenan are a little confused. In 1885 the Cambrian Archaeological Association noted discrepancies.

(Arch.Cambs. 1885 vol.2 p.110)

This is partly because many of the accounts do not make clear which parts of the Abbey's Maenan properties and lands were sold to whom. The name, Maenan (Maynan) was used to refer to the township in the parish of Eglwysbach which lay within Caernarvonshire, the Abbey and its demesne lands, the Hall and its estate. There are at least three accounts of what happened after the suppression.

The Abbey Site After the Suppression

Aberconwy (Maenan) Abbey was built 1283/84.

1534 - The Act of Suppression

1535/36 – Visit of the Royal Commissioners

Abt. 1537 – The Abbey site was sold by the Crown.

1. The Abbey site, and probably also the demesne land, was supposedly acquired by the wealthy merchant Sir Richard Clough of Plas Clough, Denbighshire. He was married to Kathrin of Berain by whom he had two daughters. The elder, Anne, married Roger Salusbury and inherited

Richard's property known as Bachygraig. The younger, Mary, married William Wynne of Melai by whom she had a son named John Wynn. She is said to have inherited Maenan Abbey.

“ in the pedigree of Wynne of Garthewin, we find it stated that William Wynne of Melai married Mary, **heiress of Maenan Abbey**, being daughter and co-heir of Sir Richard Clough of Plas Clough, co. Denbigh. She died in 1632, and the abbey descended in the male line to her son John Wynne of Melai and Maenan, Sheriff of Denbighshire in 1712, who married Sydney, second daughter of Sir William Williams of Llanvorda, by whom he left two co-heirs, of whom Jane, the elder, married Sir John Wynn of Bodvean, and was the mother of Thomas Wynne, created Lord Newborough 23 July 1776.”

(Arch.Cambs. 1885 vol.2 p.110)

According to Bernard Burke's – 'A genealogical and heraldic history of the landed gentry of Great Britain and Ireland', Mary Wynn (nee Clough), her son John Wynn (d.1630), his son Col. William Wynn (1611-1644 an eminent loyalist of Charles I) and his daughter Jane Wynn (b.abt.1636) are all listed as of Melai and **Maenan Abbey**.

Powys Fadog p.371 has a pedigree of the Wynns of Melai that states that 6 generations of Mary Wynn's (nee Clough) family were of Melai and Maenan Abbey. The name of Elizeus Wynn (below) is not one of them.

The date of Mary Wynn's (nee Clough) death varies. The Welsh Medieval database gives the date as 1596 aged 27 years; other accounts give the date as 1632.

The Medieval Welsh Database and Burke's genealogy both state that John Wynn (d.1630), s/o William Wynn & Mary Clough, married Dorothy d/o Hugh Wynne of Berthddu near Llanrwst and not Sydney d/o Sir William Williams of Llanvorda.

2. Another account states that Elizeus Wynn of Bodvean was granted the Abbey site in 1563.

Sir William Dugdale (1605-1686) says, in his Monasticon, vol. v, p. 671:—"The site was granted in the fifth year of Queen Elizabeth (1563) to Elizeus Wynne, in whose family it still continues, Lord Newborough being the present owner. A large house built from the materials of the abbey still remains."

Richard Fenton states, "In 1563, Elizeus Wynn 'of Bodvean' and the ancestor of Lord Newborough, was apparently granted the abbey site and the township of Maenan by Queen Elizabeth I. It is said that Elizeus demolished many of the abbey's buildings and used the materials to construct a new mansion on the site."

(Tours in Wales (1804-1813) by Richard Fenton p.166)

In 'Papers on Welsh Abbeys it states that Elizeus was 'of Melai' not of Bodvean.

(Papers on Welsh Abbeys – The Architectural Remains of the Mendicant Orders in Wales – A.W.Clapham – p.41)

3. A third account says that the monks were allowed to remain at Maenan after the Dissolution.

“The establishment at Maenan ... continued to be occupied by monks, and flourished until the period of the Dissolution, and according to some writers, the king did not remove the original monks from Maenan into Cheshire, but allowed them to remain here. In 1563, **the site of the abbey, together with the township of Maenan**, was granted to Elizeus Wynne, who took down a great part of the buildings, and erected a mansion near the spot with the materials. The original

edifice was equally remarkable for the pleasantness of its situation and the beauty of its architecture: a small arch is the only portion of it now standing. The inhabitants attend the parish church of Llanddoget, in the county of Denbigh, for the performance of ecclesiastical rites.”
(A Topographical Dictionary of Wales by Samuel Lewis – first pub.1831 - Vol. 2 p.10)

The Maenan Hall Estate After the Suppression

Maenan Hall was built in 1509. The three people most likely to have been responsible for its construction are:-

- a) Syr Dafydd ap Owain - Abbot of Aberconwy (Maenan) Abbey
- b) Syr Robert ap Rhys of Plas Iolyn – chaplain and crossbearer to Cardinal Wolsey.
- c) Owen ap Gruffith ap David Vaughan of Garthyr, Llanrhaiadr ym Mochnant – father of the monk David Owen. (see the lease no.4 below)

1. The **Account** of 1536 records the names and properties in 3 out of the 4 leases granted in the Maenan township between 1503 – 1531.

1. Tyddyn Argon Lan Rice, Kay Ieuan ap Crewerth, Kay I Gough – held by Philip ap Richard who aquired the lease in 1525.
2. Two holdings called Tenement Croverred (Erowerde, Y werrid) which had been leased in 1531 by Ieuan ap David ap Howell
3. Tyffyn Due leased by David Lloyd in 1503
4. unnamed *but was this the land leased in 1506 to Sir Robert ap Rhys? ... and was some of this land subsequently sold on to **Owain ap Gruffith ap David Vaughan**, the father of the monk, **David Owen (Kyffin)**. (see the notes re. the document dated July 11th 1545)*

It becomes clear in 1545 that the lands which later comprised the Maenan Hall Estate had been left in the tenure of the leaseholders for several years after the dissolution. These leaseholders would simply have become tenants of the Crown rather than tenants of the Abbey.

The lands of the Maenan Hall estate together with a number of small tenements, were eventually purchased from the Crown by two land speculators from the west country in 1545, but there is no mention of the 'Hall' in this document. It does, however, include the lands originally leased by Ieuan ap David Howell in 1531 – Kay Ieuan ap Crewerth (Erowerde): and the lands leased by David's father, Owain ap Griffith.

3. The Purchase of the Maenan Hall Estate

Eight years after the dissolution of the monastery, the Maenan estate was purchased by two land speculators. George Loosemore, a clothier and 'true entrepreneur' from Tiverton in Devon. He had become a wealthy merchant producing and selling woollen cloth. He was accustomed to travel regularly to London and as a result was also employed as an official courier (equivalent to our registered post).

The other purchaser was John Strangman from of Wynterborne Marten in Dorset. His role in the purchase is believed to have been a legal device.

They applied to purchase a mixed parcel of Crown lands on the 8th June 1545. Disposal of the monastic lands was controlled by the Court of Augmentations, established in 1536 for that purpose. Its policy was to grant away properties in blocks working through agents who parcelled attractive properties with others which were less so. This enabled the court to dispose of remote properties quickly at a higher price than would have been otherwise possible.

The mixed parcel purchased by Loosemore & Strangman included the manor of Templeton, in Devon, and also lands in Dorset, Nottinghamshire, Denbighshire and Caernarvonshire. The Caernarvonshire lot was described as, 'Also the messuage called Erowered formerly in tenure of Jevan ap David ap Hoell in the parish of Eglösevaugh, co. Caernarvon, and other messuages and lands there (named and otherwise specified) in tenures of Hoell ap Dyo and **Owen ap Griffith ap Dd. Vaughan**. The pair paid the full price - £432.10.10 for Templeton + £5.3.4 for 88 acres of woods there. The remaining properties and lands cost £146.15.0 making a total price of £597.5.10. The final document was signed on **10th July 1545**.

George Loosemore was only interested in the Templeton property and lands.

John Strangman relinquished all rights to this principal property of Templeton the following day for a certain sum and subsequently bought the lands in Dorset.

On the **11th July 1545**, the Maenan Estate was sold to David Owen (Kyffin).
(ch.4 - Loosemore of Devon – an Outline Family History by W.R.Loosemore (1923-2007)
www.loosemore.co.uk/)
(Letters and Papers – Henry VIII Vol.20 Part 1, January - July 1545 HMSO 1905 pp.663-664)

There is still no mention of the house itself in this purchase document.

David Owen (Kyffin) was said to have initially become a farmer in Eglwysbach after the Dissolution.

- 1. Was he already living in the house with his family at the time of the Dissolution and was granted it as part of the final settlement?*
- 2. Was he moved from the Abbey building into the house at the time of the Dissolution so that he could continue to farm the land as a tenant of the Crown?*
- 3. Was the existence of the house not declared to the commissioners and so he could assume ownership?*

If the carved and painted panels in the V&A Museum and the National Museum of Wales do date from about 1530 it would suggest that David's family was possibly living in the house prior to its purchase.

David Owen (Kyffin) made it his family seat and the Kyffin family retained it in their possession until the 18th century. It is assumed that this David Owen was the monk from the Abbey who became a farmer after the dissolution, and later also the vicar of Eglwysbach.
(Appendix 1 – The Kyffin family pedigree)

1545, July 11

- 1.** George Losemore of Tyverton, co. Devon, yeoman and John Strangman of Wynterborne Marten, co. Dorset, yeoman.
- 2. David Owen, clerk.**

BARGAIN AND SALE ENROLLED of a messuage and tenement called Erowerde, formerly in the tenure of Ievan ap David ap Howell in the Parish of Eglösevaugh, co. Caernarvon; a messuage and tenement called Maisgyon, formerly in the tenure of Howell ap Dyo in the said parish; lands called kay Tudder Bache, Bryn and Velyn, formerly in the tenure of **Owen ap Gruffith ap David Vaughan**, also in Eglösevaugh; a parcel of land called ywernelas in Eglösevaugh, in length from places called kae yrabat and Pull y Gylynen to a place called Ewerglothe Gleyson, and in breadth from the highway leading from the late monastery of Conway towards the township of Llanroste as far as the river Conway; lands called Pull y Gewdder and Cored Pull y Gewdder late in the tenure of

the said **Owen ap Gruffith ap David Vaughan** in Eglosevaugh below the river Conway there and formerly belonging to the monastery of Conway. All which premises were granted to 1. by letters patent, 10 July 1545.

Endorsed: 'The Purchase Deeds of Maynan by S^r David Owen

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.146)

(Appendix 4 – glossary of names of tenements, messuages and lands)

According to this document, the Kyffin lands stretched in many directions, but particularly towards Llanddaged and Llanrwst, Denbighshire. Up the hill to the east of Llanrwst is Plas Ucha, which was the home of William Kyffin, Maurice's eldest son and heir, and later of Richard Kyffin, Maurice's grandson, before they inherited the demesne of Maenan.

1553 July 11

1 COUNTERPART of No. 146.

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.147)

If the carved and painted panels date to about 1550, David Owen probably installed them soon after he purchased the property.

As one generation followed another more estates were added so that there were Kyffin lands near Wrexham as well as in Flintshire, Denbighshire, Anglesey, Merionethshire and Caernarvonshire.

Here are just a few of the land transactions. These documents simply describe David Owen (Kyffin) as being of 'Maynan'. The house itself does not seem to have been known as Maenan Hall until the 19th century.

1553, Oct. 6

1. Robert Edwards and Robert Lloyd, clerks.
2. **David Owen of Maynan Co. Caernarvon, clerk.**

FEOFFMENT of six parcels of land in the township of Rythlyn in the commote of Vghdulas, co. Denbigh, of which the first three are called y drill dan y dderven, Dryll vreare and y kae ar y bryn; the fourth lies between the land late of Benet ap Robyn and the land called Erwr ffos, and extends in length from the land of John ap Rees ap Ievan ap Gruffith to the stream called aber Rodyn; the fifth parcel is called Cayr yskyborbache, in breadth between the river calle avon Rythlyn and the land of the said John ap Rees and abuts at one end on the stream called aber y nant and at the other end on the lands of the said John ap Rees; and the sixth is called y kae meiriog, in breadth between the stream called y nant mawr and the said John ap Rees, and in length between the lands of the lands of the said John ap Rees and the lands of Tanglust verch David ap Tuder, together with other parcels of land (unspecified) in Erethlyn and Kyffylog in the parish of Egloisvaghe, co. Denbigh. To the use of 2. for his life, and afterwards to the use of Jeffrey Kyffyn, Maurice Kyffyn and Griffith Kyffyn.

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.107)

1553, Oct. 15

1. David ap Gruffith ap David ap Howell of Pennant, co. Denbigh
2. **David Owen** and John Gruffith, clerks.

GIFT of a messuage or tenement called Tythyn Tuder goz in the township of Erethlyn in the commote of Vghdulas in the lordship of Denbigh, lying there between the highway leading from bulche Tuder, towards Rydbenglek, south, the lands of David ap Ievan ap Howell, north, the stream called Rythlyn, west, and the mountains, east; which 1. lately acquired in fee farm by Deed of Gift from Hugh Holand of the parish of Eglois Vaughe, gent. The following condition is stipulated: 2.

are within 30 days after the execution of the present Deed to make a good and sufficient estate of and in the premises to 1. for his life, with remainder to John ap David ap Gruffith, his son.
(Maenan MSS Bangor no.108)

1553 Oct 20

David Owen and John Gruffith, clerks.

David ap Gruffith ap David ap Howell of Pennant, co. Denbigh.

FEOFFMENT of the same property and lands above dated October 15th 1553.

(Maenan MSS no.109)

In 1553 David Owen had a Deed of Settlement drawn up which named his eldest son, Maurice Kyffin, as the heir to his estate. This still does not specifically mention a 'capital messuage' as part of the estate.

1553 Oct. 22

1. David Owen of Maynan, co. Caernarvon, clerk.

2. Robert Edwards and Robert Lloid, clerks.

GIFT of two messuages or tenements in Egloys vach called y Weryd and Maes Gweon and other lands and tenements there called Kay Tudder bach, and bryn y Velyn; a parcel of land called y Wern las in the parish of Egloys vach extending in length from places called kay yr abbat and pull y glynnen to a place called gwerglothie gleyssion, and in breadth from the highway leading from the late monastery of Conwey in the township of Llanrost towards the river Conwey: and other lands called pull y gwether and kored pull y gwyther lying in the said parish below the River Conway. All the aforesaid lands formerly belonged to the monastery of Conway and came to 1. by the Gift and Feoffment of George Losemore of Tyverton, co. Devon, yeoman, and John Strangman of Wynturburn Martyn co. Dorset, yeoman, 11 July 1545.

The following condition is stipulated: 2. are within thirty days after the execution of the present Deed to make a good and sufficient estate of and in the premises to 1. for his life, with remainder to one Maurice Kyffyn and his heirs, with remainder to the right heirs of 1., with remainders successively to Jeffrey Kyffyn and Gruffith Kyffyn, with remainder to the right heirs of 1.

Endorsed: 'David Owen's Deed of Settlement on his eldest son Morris Kyffin.'

(Maenan MSS Bangor no. 148)

1553 Oct 26

3. Robert Edwards and Robert Lloyd, clerks

4. David Owen of Maynan co. Caernarvon, clerk

FEOFFMENT of the same properties and lands above dated October 22nd 1553; **and also**, four messuages or tenements in the commote of Istulas, co. Denbigh, two of which are called tythyn yr henblase and y kay gwenyth together with other parcels of land there called Dol ysgrogennan, ynys y Dylllan, y ryvoryn, y dryll dan y dderwen, Dryll yr ear and y kay ar y bryn which the said David Owen conveyed to 2. to be held by them on condition that they within thirty days reinfeoffed him of and in the premises to the use of 1. for his life, with remainder to Maurice Kyffyn and his heirs, and in default thereof to the right heirs of 1, and in default to Jeffrey Kyffyn and his heirs, and in default to Gruffith Kyffyn and his heirs, and in default to the right heirs of 1. TO THE USE of 1. for his life, and afterwards to the use of Maurice Kyffyn and his heirs, and in default to the use of the right heirs of 1.

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.149)

There is a document dated 1563 which shows that Elizeus Wynn sold all of the Maenan land he had acquired that year, but this did not include the Abbey house or the site of the late monastery, to Dr.

John Gwyn, who was a son of John Wynn ap Maredudd of Dolwyddelan. John Gwyn died in 1574. The land granted to Elizeus and sold to John Gwyn obviously did not include Maenan Hall and the lands already acquired by David Owen (Kyffin) in 1545.

1563, Oct. 26

1. Ellice Wynne, gent.
2. John Gwyn, doctor of the law.

BARGAIN AND SALE ENROLLED of all the said Ellice Wynne's messuages, tenements and lands in Maynan, co. Caernarvon, late parcel of the possessions of the late dissolved monastery of Conway; also, a certain custom in Maynan 'every fowrthe yere called Comortha and one other custome ... called Anregia', except the house and site of the said late monastery, two meadows lying near the said monastery, and three closes lying together there, one fishing there called the Warles, a corn mill and a fishing both near the said monastery.

(Mostyn MSS, Bangor no. 1281)

Subsequently, there seems to have been a dispute about some of the lands sold to John Gwyn by Elizeus.

1563, Nov. 22

AWARD INDENTED of Robert Griffith of Caernarvon in a dispute between Hugh Puleston of Maynan, co. Caernarvon, esq. and John Gwynne of Dolewethelan, co. Caernarvon, Doctor of the Law, concerning lands in the township of Maynan belonging to the dissolved monastery of Conway.

Endorsed: The Adward & Settlement toucheinge the demaines & tenantries of Maynan made 6^o Elizabeth whereby the meares of what Hugh Puleston was to enjoy are set forth & the rest without those bounds D'tor was to enioy'.

(Mostyn MSS, Bangor no. 1282)

David Owen (Kyffin) is said to have made some alterations to the house but its first known occupant was his son and heir Maurice Kyffin, who altered and extended the house in 1582.

If the panels from the V&A Museum and the National Museum of Wales date to the second half of the 16th century, then it is likely that they were installed when Maurice altered the building in 1582. If they date from the first half of the 16th century, they were probably removed when these alterations were carried out.

(V&A collections – re. carved panel probably from the Great Hall – V&A Museum & The National Museum of Wales)
(W.Bezant Lowe – The Heart of Wales 1912 p.274)

In the documents from 1553, David Owen (Kyffin) is described as 'of Maynan'. This also suggests that he may have lived in the house.

David Owen (Kyffin) had died by 1565 as Maurice, rather than his father, is named in subsequent documents. In 1565 Maurice acquires a mortgage on the land originally leased in 1525 to Philip ap Richard of Maynan.

1565, Nov. 6

1. Philip ap Richard of Maynnan, co. Caernarvon, yeoman.
2. **Morice Kiffyn of Maynnan, gent.**

MORTGAGE of a parcel of land, part of a tenement called Y Dyoske Mawr or Dvoske William ap Hugh in Maynnan; also the residue of a term of 99 years recited in a Lease dated 20 June, 1525 from Jeffrey, late abbot of the dissolved monastery of Conway, to the said Philip and Elizabeth, his

wife, of a messuage or tenement and lands called Tythvn Dycus ap Eignion, Kae Rig, Kae yr gof, Kae Jevan ap Iorwerth in Maynnan.

Consideration: £6 8s.

(Mostyn MSS, Bangor no. 1283)

In 1575 Maurice had a marriage settlement drawn up in which the mansion house itself is first mentioned.

1575 May 16

1. Moris Kiffyn of Maynan, co. Caernarvon, gent

2. Sir Rees Gruffith of Penrhyn, co Caernarvon, kt., Rychard Mostyn of Conway, co. Carnarvon, esq., and Roland Mostin of Bangor, co. Caernarvon, gent.

SETTLEMENT (before the marriage of 1. and Margaret Mostyn, sister to the said Richard and Roland Mostyn) of his **capital messuage or mansion house** and tenements called yea weyne goz, tythyn y goo, bryn y velyn, y werrid and maise gwyon all in the township of Maynan.

(Maenan MSS, Bangor no.1575)

In 1582 **Maurice Kyffin** transformed the house. He commissioned the heraldic panels, to display his status and allegiance to the Queen, Elizabeth I (ruled 1558-1603).

Maurice and Margaret had eight known children. In 1590, Maurice drew up a Deed of Settlement on his eldest son, William Kyffin for his properties and lands in Denbighshire.

1590, Sept. 15

1. Maurice Kyffin of Maynan, co. Caernarvon, esq.

2. John Lloyd of Yeale, co. Denbigh, esq. and Rowland Mostyn of Place Drain, co. Denbigh, gent.

DEED TO LEAD THE USES OF A FINE of messuages, tenements and lands called yr henblace, Bryn bedwas Issa, Tythyn Nant y Glyn, y ffrith lace, y Tythyn Bagh, Maes y vedowe, y Ty Mawr, Cae Eden, y Ty hene, Pen y Garth, Tythyn David Lowries, y Tythyn Bagh, Brw'r Onen, y Dryll glase, y Dryll gwenith, y Dryll gwernog, Colythyn Eden, y Thole lase, yr Erow gam, yr Brow gogh, yr Erow ver, yr Brwey cochion, ynyssoeth Rees ap David ap Howell, Cae hova dduy, Rhyvorryn, ynyssoeth y Tythyn, ynys Dreiniog, y pelanne Dyon, Gweirgloth y pelanne and Gweirglothie ffythion, Llanrust, Garthgyvanneth, Brynmorvyth and Scrogennan, co. Denbigh.

Endorsed: Morris Kyffin's deed of Settlement of his estate in Denbighshire on his son Wm. etc
(Maenan MSS)

William Kyffin, married Jonet d/o Humphrey Meredydd of Clynnog. They had no issue but William did have an illegitimate son named Thomas Kyffin. It is not known when William Kyffin died but in 1593/94, he was granted places of worship and burial at Llanddodged.

1593/94 Feb 15

1. Jonet verch Lewies of pa pf Llanddodged in the Lordship of Denbigh.

2. William Kyffin of Maynan gent. son and heir of Maurice Kyffin esq.

GIFT of two benches, kneeling places and places of burial in the parish church of Llanddodged.

Consideration: 10s

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.224)

Maurice Kyffin died in 1603 and was buried at Llanddodged on 30th March 1603. He was succeeded by his son William. His wife, Margaret, moved to a close called Kenlyn. (Will – National Archives – ref.1082)

4a. 17th Century

1603 Oct 20

1. Margaret Kyffin, widow, late wife of Maurice Kyffin, late of Maynan, co. Caernarvon, esq., deceased, and his sole executrix.
2. William Kyffyne, son and heir of the said Maurice Kyffyne.

Assignment of parcels of silver plate and household stuff, viz. sixe sylver toones (?tuns), towe sylver goblets, towe sylver gylded salt sellers, one dosen of sylver spoones, sixe bedds ffurnished and all bedsteadfs nowe remayning in the late mancone house of the said Maurice Kyffyne called and knowen by the name of Maynane in Maynan, co. Caernarvon, 'And allsoe all the Tables Benches Fforomes Weynscottes glaswyndowes Coupords Coffers and stooles' now remaining in the said house 'excepte suche bedsteeds as nowe be in the lofts and Chanbers over the kitchine . . . and excepte towe square tables and the stooles to the said tables belonginge And alsoe excepte one Cheeste'. The said Margaret to be allowed to use and enjoy the same during her lifetime. Also, ASSIGNMENT of a term of years yet unexpired of and in a close called Kenlyn.
(Maenan MSS Bangor Archive no.5)

William appears also to have had an illegitimate daughter named Luce.

1623, Nov. 15

1. **William Kyffin of Maynan**, co. Caernarvon, gent.
2. Hugh ap Moris, son and heir of Moris Gruffith Lloyd of Tybrith, gent., Hugh ap John ap Robert of Tybrith gent., and John ap Ellis David Lloyd of Tybrith, gent.

SETTLEMENT (after the marriage of the said Hugh ap Moris and Luce, the reputed daughter of 1.) of a messuage and tenement in Garthgyvaneth, co. Denbigh, called Tythyn Bryn Bedwas; a close in the parish or Llanddoged, co. Denbigh, called Ynys y Rhwyfa; and a close in the parish of Trevryw, co. Caernarvon, called Kenlyn.

Attached: LETTER OF ATTORNEY 7 Jan., 1624/25, from the said William Kyffin to William David of Tybrith Ucha, yeoman, to deliver seisin of the premises to the said feoffment.

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.8)

1632/33, Feb. 5

Thomas Owen ap David of Erethlyn, co. Denbigh, gent.

William Kyffin of Erethlyn, co. Denbigh, gent.

QUITCLAIM of three closes in Erethlyn in the commute of Uwch Dulas, co. Denbigh, called Cae Bedw Robin, yr Erw and kaer llwyn.

Consideration: £10.

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.120)

*When William died, the Maenan estate went to his nephew **Richard Kyffin** of Northop born 1610, the son and heir of William's brother, Edward Kyffin. William's illegitimate son, Thomas Kyffin, was not able to inherit. He married Mary Davies and they had a son, George Kyffin, who was educated at St.John's College, Cambridge and who became Rector of Llanddoget, in 1686, Vicar of Eglwysbach in 1702 and Vicar of Llandrillo in 1715.*



The Saker cannonball

In 1660/61 there was a dispute regarding the seats and burial places at Llanddoged.

1660/61 Feb 7

- 1. Richard Kyffin of Maynan co. Caernarvon, gent. and William Kyffin son and heir of the said R.K.**
2. Thomas Lloyd of Scrogennan, co. Denbigh gent. and Robert Lloyd of the same gent. son and heir of the said T.L.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT concerning seats and burial places in the north aisle of the parish church of Llanddoged co. Denbigh over which the said parties have lately been at variance.
(*Maenan MSS Bangor no.225*)

4b. Hearth Tax

In England and Wales, a tax on hearths was introduced on the 19th May 1662. Householders were required to pay a charge of 2s per annum for each hearth, with half of the payment due at Michelmas and the other half at Lady Day. Exemptions were those in receipt of poor relief and anyone whose house was worth less than 20s a year.. A revision of the Act in 1664 made the tax payable by all who had more than two chimneys. It was eventually abolished in 1689.

In **1662** the Hearth Tax records for Caernarvonshire show that **Richard Kyffin** had 5 hearths in Maenan Hall. In the Maenan and Abbey townships there were altogether 56 properties with hearths taxed. John Wynne esq. paid for four hearths in his property; the remaining 28 in Maenan township and 26 in the Abbey township all had just a single hearth.
(Caernarvon Archives – Hearth Tax 1662)

Richard Kyffin died in 1684 and was buried at Llanddoged on the 22nd January. His eldest son, Robert b.1635 died as an infant in 1636. His second son, William, born in 1536 married twice. His first wife was Jane daughter and heiress of Edward Lloyd of Cefn in Meriadog. They had no issue. His second wife, Ermine, was the daughter and co heiress of Roger Davies of Erlys. They had six known children. William predeceased his father and therefore on Richard's death the estate went to two of the surviving children of William and Ermine – Anne Kyffin and Roger Kyffin, to be held by them for 21 years. After the expiry of this period it passed to **Richard, the eldest son of William and Ermine.**

(Appendix 1 Kyffin pedigree)

Richard was born in 1659. At the age of eighteen years he married Jane, the daughter of Thomas Price of Giler and sister of Baron Price. They had eight known children.

In 1683 **Richard** was granted a seat and burial place in Llanddoged church.

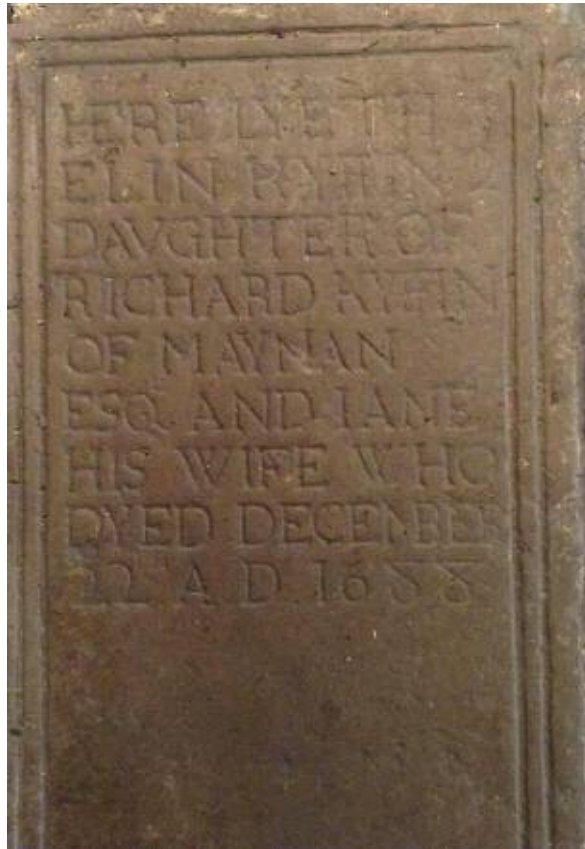
1683 Dec.18

DECREE OF THE CONSISTORY COURT of St.Asaph granting to Richard Kyffin of Maynan esq. and to his successors the use and possession of a seat and burial place in the north aisle of the parish church of Llanddoggett, co. Denbigh.

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.226)

In 1684, Richard's infant daughter, Jane, died. She was buried in the North Aisle of Llanddoget Church on May 25th. She had been baptised in the church on March 2nd 1683.





Inscription on a Stone in South aisle of Llandogget Church. “ Here lyeth Elin Kyffin daughter of Richard Kyffin of Maynan Esq. and Jane his wife who died Dec, 22nd 1688.” She had been baptised in Llandogget Church on March 2nd 1683.



Llandogget Church

Richard died in 1690 aged 34 years.

The fragmentary inscription of Richard Kyffin's tombstone, and his wife Jane, at Llandogget Church, appears to contradict the statement on p. 375 of vol.V Powys Fadog, that Richard Kyffin was buried at Beaumaris. He and his wife apparently lie buried in Llandogget; perhaps only the monument is at Beaumaris.

Llandogget burial register records that he was buried on January 16th 1690. His memorial stone gives the date of his death as 'the 24th' (?December 1689).

Portion of an Inscription on a Stone almost under the Chancel Rails in Llandogget Church, the remaining PORTION UNDECIPHERABLE.

“.....the body of Richard Kyffin of Maynan Esq. who died the 24th
(Powys Fadog p.279)

Richard's eldest son and heir, **Thomas**, was born in 1678 and educated at Lincoln's Inn and became a Barrister-at-Law.

5. 18th Century

Thomas (b.1678) married at Beaumaris, Ellen, daughter of Owen Roberts of Caerau. Their firstborn, Ellen, was born at her mother's home on the 16th November 1707.

She was baptised in Eglwysbach church on November 18th.

'Ellen Kyffin daughter of Thomas and Ellen esq. born 16th November 1707 at Bellomarism (Beaumaris). Guardians were Thomas Roberts of Castellor, Owen Roberts her gr.f., Ellen Wynne of Bodysgallen and Margery Jones of Bellomarism.'

(Eglwysbach parish registers)

Thomas was made JP and served as Attorney General for the counties of Anglesey, Caernarvonshire and Merionethshire. He had a legal practice at Wrexham in collaboration with his son.

In 1713, **Thomas Kyffin** acquired a Lease for lands in Denbighshire called Pennant.

1713 July 31

1. Humphrey Jones of Erithlyn in the parish of Eglwysfach, co. Denbigh, gent., and John Humphreys, clerk, his son and heir, now vicar of Llandrillo, co. Denbigh.
2. **Thomas Kyffin of Maynan, co. Caernarvon, esq., and Ellin, his wife.**

LEASE for six months of a messuage, tenement and lands called Pennant and closes belonging thereto called ffrith fynidd, ffrith drull y gamada, Cae yr bryn ucha, Cae yr Brvn issa, Nant y Clogwyn, Cae'r ffynnon, y Suchnant ucha, y Suchnant issa, y Cae tan y Tu, y Cae Gwenith y Coed issa, pen ucha'r Cae gwair, pen issa'r Cae gwair, y Cefney mawr, Pant y Coed, y Cae tan y groesffordd, y Pant pella and Rhyd y Benglor, all in Erithlyn and Pennant in the parish of Eglwys Vach, co. Denbigh.

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.132)

1713 Aug.1

1. Humphrey Jones of Erithlyn in the parish of Eglwysvach, co. Denbigh, gent., and John Humphreys, clerk, his son and heir, now vicar of Llandrillo, co. Denbigh.
2. **Thomas Kyffin of Maynan, co. Caernarvon, esq., and Ellin his wife.**

RELEASE of the premises mentioned in No.132

Consideration: £270 to be paid by 2. to the various creditors of 1.

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.133)

In 1715 he acquired more lands in Denbighshire.

1715/16, Jan. 3

1.Griffith Thomas of Carwedfynidd, co. Denbigh, yeoman, son and heir of Thomas ap Jeffrey, late of Erithlyn, co. Denbigh, yeoman, deceased, Rose Powell of Carwedfynidd, widow and relict of the said Thomas ap Jeffrey.

2. **Thomas Kyffin of Maynan, co. Caernarvon, esq. and Ellin, his wife.**

LEASE for six months of a messuage or tenement and lands in Erithlyn and Pennant, co. Denbigh, called Gwerne Bowys issa and closes belonging thereto called Cae yn drws, y Cae ucha, y Waen bach, Cae'r Berthen, y waen tan y skybor, y Cae Canol, y Waen fawr, y Cae eithin, y Cae Gwyn, y Cae tan y fedw ucha, Cae'r Bryn, Cae tan y fedw issa, y deill melyn and Cae Llidiart r hwylfa.

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.134)

1715/16, Jun. 4

1. Griffith Thomas of Carwedifynidd, co. Denbigh, yeoman, son and heir of Thomas ap Jeffrey, late deceased, Rose Powell of Carwedifynidd, widow and relict or the Thomas ap Jeffrey
2. **Thomas Kyffin of Maynan, co. Caernarvon, esq and Ellin, his wife.**

RELEASE of the premises mentioned in No. 134.

Consideration: £78

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.135)

1715/16, Jan. 4

1. William ap Evan of Cornwall, co, Denbigh yeoman.
2. **Thomas Kyffin of Maynan, Co. Caernarvon, esq., and Ellin, his wife.**

ASSIGNMENT of a Mortgage of a messuage or tenement and lands in Erethlyn, co. Denbigh, called Gwerne Bowys issa, and closes belonging thereto called Cae yn Drws, y Cae vcha, y Waen bach, Cae'r Berten, y Waen tan y Skybor, y Cae canol, y Waen fawr, y Cae eithin, y Cae Gwyn, y Cae tan y fedw vcha, Cae'r Bryn, y Cae tan y fedw issa, y drill Melyn and Cae Llidiart r'hwylyfa.

Consideration: £50

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.136)

Thomas Kyffin died in 1745 aged 67 years. He was buried at Llanddogged.

Inscription on a Monument in Llandogget Church to Thomas Kyffin of Maenan.

“ Here lyeth the remains of Thomas Kyffin of Maenan Esq, descended in a direct line from Maurice Kyffin of Maenan Esq. in the reign of Henry the eighth. He served the crown aud his country in the commission of the peace and the office of Attorney General in the counties of Anglesea. Caern. and Merion. to Queen, Anne, King George the first and to his present majesty king George the second with ability and Integrity. As also the remains of Ellen his wife, daughter of Owen Roberts of Caerey. Esq. in the county of Anglesey. This pair lived in the conjugal state near 40 years and died lamented the June 20th 1745 aged 67. She Nov. 20th 1739 aged 65. Their only son & heir Thomas Kyffin out of filial regard to the memory of his most tender & indulgent parents erected this monument a.d. 1752.”



Thomas Kyffin was succeeded by his son **Thomas Kyffin** (b.1710). He married Elizabeth d/o John Salusbury of Ruthin. Thomas and Elizabeth had six known children. Their only son, Thomas, was born in 1739 and was the last of the male line.

It is not known when **Thomas Kyffin** (b.1710) died but either his name or that of his son, Thomas Kyffin, appear on the Land tax assessments 1746-1776.

Land Tax Assessments

Llandudno Archives

Hundred of Arllechwedd		£	s	d
1746	Thomas Kyffin esq.	2	2	10
1747	“	2	2	10
1748	“	2	2	10
1750	“	1	12	2½
1751	“	1	12	2½
1775	“	1	9	3
1776	“	2	3	10½

Thomas Kyffin (b.1739) had also entered the legal profession and, in addition, participated in public affairs. In 1762 the Lord Lieutenant of Denbighshire, Richard Myddleton Esq. of Chirk Castle, appointed Thomas Kyffin Deputy Lieutenant for the county and his post was renewed by the next Lord Lieutenant, Sir Watkin Williams Wynn in 1778. In 1772 he was made a Justice of the Peace. He received a knighthood in 1782.

Sir Thomas Kyffin (b.1739) married Elizabeth, sole heiress of Hugh Hughes of Coed y Brain co. Flint. According to a mural in Llanddoged Church they had seven daughters, but three are recorded to have died at a young age.

Elizabeth Kyffin d/o Thomas & Elizabeth esq.	bap 23/9/1756	d.1791 aged 26 years
Cathrin Kyffin	“ not known	bur. 31/3/1767
Cathrin Kyffin	“ bap.13/8/1767	bur. 22/9/1767
Margaret Kyffin	“ bap 20/7/1769	d.1789 aged 21 years
Anne Kyffin	“ bap. 1/1/1771	d. 1823 aged 52 years
Ermin Kyffin	“ bap 26/1/1772	d. unknown

(Eglwysbach & Llanddoged Parish registers)

Two wine bottle seals have been found in the grounds of Maenan Hall. One features the name 'Maynan' and the other the initials TK and Maenan.



Sir Thomas Kyffin died on June 7th 1784 at the age of 45 years.

His memorial in Llanddoget Church reads:-

In the Family Vault
near this Place are entombed the Remains
of Sir THOMAS KYFFIN KNIGHT
eldest son of Thomas Kyffin of Maynan Esq.
by Elizabeth his Wife
In his Publick Character as Magistrate
He impartially administered Justice*
To a Mind richly gifted by nature
And improved by an Acquaintance
With several branches of polite Literature
He joined a most humane benevolent Heart
Respected by his Family and Friends
He died justly and generally lamented
the 7th day of June 1784 Aged 45
Having married ELIZABETH only D
and Heiress of Hugh Hughes of
Coed y Brain in the county of Flint Eqs.
By whom he had Seven Daughters
Four of whom
ELIZABETH, MARGARET, ANNE and ERMIN
Survived him
Sacred to his Memory
This Monument was erected by
Lady Kyffin his Affectionate Widow

* see below p.37



The National Library of Wales holds a document entitled 'Instructions in English and in Welsh for holding courts at Maenan co. Caerns..'

Was this the court at which Sir Thomas Kyffin presided as a magistrate?

'Oh yea Oh yea Oh yea

To all those people who are indebted to officiate and serve the main court and the Lord's Court here pertaining to the reverend Lord Bishop of Bangor is to be held this hour within and for the Lordship draw near

be present and reply to your names'

(Welsh Manors and their Records – Helen Watt – NLW p.146 & 184)

(NLW ref. WCC E.C.E. EL/B343)

In 1792 Sir Thomas Kyffin's widow was still living at Maenan.

Land Tax Assessments

1792	Lady Kyffin living at Maenan	1	19	0
1795	“	1	19	0
1796	“	1	19	0

The male line at Maenan ended with Sir Thomas Kyffin. Elizabeth, one of the surviving daughters, Elizabeth, married **William John Lenthall of Bessels Leigh Manor, co. Berks.**, who became High Sheriff of Caernarvonshire in 1796. The marriage took place in Eglwysbach on 12th January 1789.

William John Lenthall and Elizabeth Kyffin had two children. Kyffin John William Lenthall b.1789 and Ann Margaret Lenthall b.1791. Elizabeth died soon afterwards in 1791 aged 26 years. She was outlived by her mother. Ann Margaret Lenthall died aged 4 years in 1795.

(Appendix 6 – Lenthall family pedigree)

Land Tax Assessments.

1797	William John Lenthall living at Maenan	1	9	0
1797	“	1	9	0
1798	“	1	19	0
1798	“	1	19	0

6a. 19th Century

Lady Kyffin continued to live in the house as a tenant of her grandson, Kyffin John William Lenthall.

Rentals, accounts (a sample)

(Maenan MSS Bangor no.428-435;1802-11)

1802

Eglws fach – parish

	£	s	d
Lady Kyffin – tenant			
Maynan house, garden & Orchard	25	0	0
Cae'r Clomendy	7	0	0
Cae'r Dwr	5	10	0
Hen Berllan	3	0	0
Cair Ty mawr	2	10	0
	43	0	0

5th May

paid Lady Kyffin half year's Dower due this day

87 5 3

1803

Lady Kyffin	25	0	0
	7	0	0
	5	10	0
	3	0	0
	2	10	0

43 0 0 rental paid 29th Dec.

1804

43 0 0 “ 27th Dec.

1805

43 0 0 “ 21st Dec.

Taxes paid for Maynan 1805 Dec.21st

Desmesne	9	10	0
property tax	6	2	0
chief rent issuing out of Gwern Brwis	2	5	0
paid for repairing Cambwll embankment	1	2	6
paid for fencing round Maynan		15	0
paid for felling timber for making a new & mending an old gate at Maynan	1	0	0

1805 Feb.19th

Mr Arthur Davies for valuing Maynan Estate 10 10 0

March 23rd

Robert Evans for slating & repairing part of the barn 1 19 3

July 5 th			
Rev.J.Hughes a year's Modus due St.Peter's		2	0
Nov. 21 st			
Miss Hughes – Lady Kyffin's Dower due this day	174	10	6
blacksmith for iron for each gate		11	9
sawyer for cutting down timber for repair at Maynan		6	0
slate for repairs done at Maynan		15	0
Rev.Holland Edwards chiefly issuing out of Pennant Ucha			
due Michalmas 1804		6	8
“ 1805		6	8
Lord Gwydir Modus due St.Andrew's 1805	3	0	0
Stamps for receipts for tenants		13	9
William Roberts salary due St.Andrew's 1805	7	0	0
House Bill in receiving rents at Llanrwst	4	16	0

	225	13	5

balance to W.J.Lenthall esq.	300	9	5

8 Jan 1806 settled & allowed of the above account and the above balance £300.9.5 was paid by the said Rowland Williams to the said William J.Lenthall.

Total rentals of each farm – Maenan Demesne.			
The Mansion, Garden & outbuildings	30	0	0
Abt. 90 acres arable at 35/- (at 30 years £1800)	157	10	0
Abt. 40 of woodland at 30/- “	60	0	0

	247	10	0

Value of timber to be added	1500		
Game	6950		
Park supposed to be at 50 acres 20/- (at 27½ years £1925)	70	0	0
Abt. 18 acres of woodland at 30/- (at 30 years £810)	27	0	0

Lady Kyffin (w/o Sir Thomas Kyffin) died at Belmont in Llandoged in 1813. In her will, (NLW ref. SA1813/W/66) she left her estate, which included Belmont as well as land and properties in Flintshire, Denbighshire and London, to her two surviving daughters – **Ann** and **Ermine** - and to 'their heirs and assigns'.

There seems to be some confusion about when **William John Lenthall** died. The Welsh Medieval Database says 1796. The Gentleman's Magazine May 1835 p.559 has report that he died in 1835 in Paris aged 72 years. Burkes Landed Gentry and the Oxford Alumni records say he died in 1855. (*There were several members of the Lenthall family with the same name*) The Tithe Survey of 1847 names him as the owner of Maenan Hall but this is almost certainly incorrect because in the 1841 census there were tenants living in the house and his son, Kyffin John William Lenthall was named as the owner during a dispute which preceded the Tithe Survey. (p.41) This seems to suggest that he probably died in 1835.

William's son and heir **Kyffin John William Lenthall** (1789-1870) (portrait on the main stairs) did not live in the house. In every census from 1841 until his death in 1870, he was residing at the family seat of Besselsleigh in Berkshire.

Kyffin John William Lenthall married, Mary, daughter of John Ashton of the Grange, Chester.



Kyffin John William Lenthall

Ann Kyffin married the Rev. John Wynne Nannau but had no children. **Ermine Kyffin** married Colonel Richard Hughes Kenrick and had six children. Ann was living at **Belmont**, in Llanddoged when she died in 1823. The date of Ermine's death is not known. Ann bequeathed her estate to her niece, **Elizabeth Kenrick** on the condition that she changed her surname to Kyffin.

Belmont

Elizabeth and her brother **Henry** (who also changed his surname to Kyffin) were living at Belmont when the 1841 census was recorded. Both were unmarried. Henry died later that year. In 1851, Elizabeth then aged 60, was living at Belmont with 5 servants. She was described as a 'land proprietor'. She was recorded there again in 1861. She died in 1869 and in the 1871 census a widow named Mary Jones was living in the property with her daughter. Mary was described as 'in charge of the house' and her daughter as 'a gentlewoman'. In 1881 William Hughes, gamekeeper, was

recorded at the house with his family. In 1891 and 1901 an Edward Williams, gamekeeper, was there with his family. In 1911 Katherine Lenthall, her sister Edith and her niece, Betty Lenthall were recorded living in the house with four servants. The three Lenthall women had all been born in New South Wales, Australia. Katherine and Edith were the daughters of Walter Ellison Lenthall. (Appendix 6 – Lenthall family pedigree) (Appendix 4 – map showing the location of some Kyffin properties)

There is a note with the Kyffin MSS in the Bangor University Archives which states that Ann Wynne (nee Kyffin) left Belmont to her nephew Kyffin John William Lenthall (the son of her eldest sister, Elizabeth). This is clearly incorrect but it is possible that Elizabeth Kyffin (Kenrick) left the house to Kyffin J.W.Lenthall when she died in 1869 and the house was then rented to tenants until the three Lenthall ladies from Australia took up residence.

In 1846 there was a dispute concerning the nonpayment of Tithes. **Kyffin John William Lenthall** is named in these documents.

6b. The Dispute over Tithe Payments (Maenan MSS Bangor Archives nos.442-449)

This arose because of ancient rights dating back to the time of the monastery.

'Eglwysbach (Eglwysfach) and the township of Maenan.

Eglwysbach is a parish chiefly in the hundred of Is Dulas in the County of Denbigh, Eglwysbach which consisted of five townships – Esgairebrill, Pennant, Cefn y Coed, Bodnod and Maenan. In 1833 the average annual expenditure for the maintenance of the poor of the whole parish amounted to £809.3 of which sum, £578.16s was raised for that portion which was situated in the county of Denbigh. Maenan separately supported its own poor in the hundred of Llifenwenn U, county of Caernarvon. Maenan extended over the whole of that portion of the parish of Eglwysbach which was within Caernarvonshire and claimed all the privileges anciently enjoyed by the abbots of the monastery which formerly existed there.'

(A Topographical Dictionary of Wales:comprising the several counties, cities, boroughs, corporate and market towns, parishes, chapelries and townships – Samuel Lewis – 1833)

The township of Maenan, in the hundred of Llechwedd Isaf in Caernarvonshire, was also subdivided into Maenan Isaf, Maenan Ganol, Maenan Uchaf and Garthmyn.

Sir Watkin Williams Wynne of Wynnstay, who owned 4 of the townships of Eglwysbach, was expected to pay Tithes, but the Maenan Demesne was exempt. The dispute centred on the fact that the Lenthalls paid just £3 annually in lieu of tithes and to the vicar 2 shillings yearly in lieu of tithes of wool and lactuals.

In 1791 the Vicar of Eglwysbach wrote under an entry re. wool and lactuals, "Upon what grounds the above exemption is claimed it is not known at present."

Estate maps from 1701 were examined and also existing accounts from 1741 – 1846. These showed that the owners of the Maenan Estate had indeed only paid a fixed and uniform charge of £3 for the demesne land whilst the price of the tithes of Garthmyn* varied as the value of the tithes increased. Numerous meetings were also held in the District with the landowners and tithe owners.

**The township of Garthmyn was owned by Lady Kyffin until 1796 when it was put up for auction and sold to Owen Jones, a blacksmith at Eglwysbach for £21.*

The final decision of Aneurin Owen, Assistant Tithe Commissioner, was that, 'whereas I find that customary payments are payable throughout the District certain lands in the said District of Maenan Demesne containing by estimation three hundred and twenty one acres statute measure of which **Kyffin John William Lenthall** being its owner are covered from under the Improprate Tithes in kind by annual prescriptive payment of £3 to the owner of the said tithes and from under

of lieucurial Tithes in kind by an annual payment of two shillings to the Vicar of the said parish of Eglwysbach.'

6c. Tithe Schedule 1847

Maenan Hall

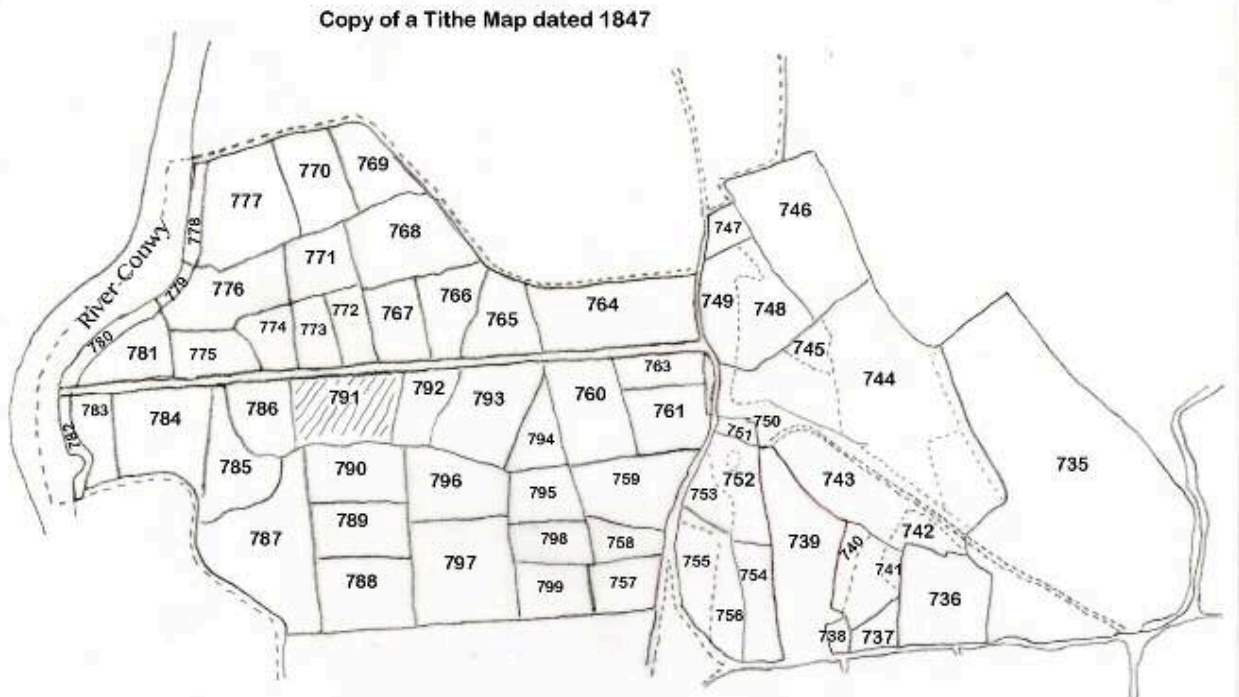
Landowner: Lenthall William John esq. Occupier: on hand & others

(This should have been recorded as Kyffin John William Lenthall and the tenant as Evan Hughes.)

			acres	roods	perches	
735	Park ucha	pasture	29	1	10	
736	Berllan	orchard	4		22	
737	Cae canol	arable	1		33	
738	Offices yard, etc			1	10	
740	Cae ysgybor	arable	2	1	8	
741	Wood			1	27	
742	Homestead		1			
743]	Park part of	pasture	6	2	36	<i>[there are no entries on this side of the page because no tithes payments were required.]</i>
750]						
744	Park isa	“	15			
745	Wood in ditto		1			
746	Park pella	pasture	6	1	37	
747	Wood			2	30	
748	“		3		5	
749	Park	pasture	2			
751	Lodge etc			2	2	
752	Cae graig isa	arable	2		15	
753	Wood in ditto		1	1		
754	Cae graig part of	arable	2			
755	Caer bryn	“	2			
756	Wood in ditto		2		22	
757	Ddol maenan	pasture	2			
758	ditto	arable	1	1	7	
759	ditto	pasture	4			
760	ditto	“	3	3	24	
761	ditto	“	2	2	38	
762	ditto	arable		1	12	
763	ditto	“	1	3	16	
764	Werglodd Iolyn	pasture	6		30	
765	“	past & arable	2	2	4	
766	“	“	2	1	32	
767	“	“	2		22	
768	“	“	4	2	2	
769	Ddoled Maenan	pasture	2	1	34	
770	“	arable	3		24	
771	Werglodd Iolyn	pasture	2	1	4	
775		arable	1	3	28	
776		“	3	2		
777		“	4	2	20	
778		pasture		3	26	
779		“		1	12	
cont. & brought forward			136	2	32	

brought forward		136	2	32
780	pasture	1	1	20
781	arable	2		18
782	pasture		2	36
783	arable	1	3	4
784	arable	4	1	26
785	pasture	3		38
786	"	2	1	32
787	"	7		8
788	"	3	2	8
789	"	2	3	14
790	"	3		10
792	"	2		
793	"	4		32
794	"	1	3	6
795	"	2	1	8
796	arable	3	1	18
797	"	3	1	8
798	"	1	2	6
799	"	2		22
	total	191	3	26

N.B. 40 perches = 1 rood
4 roods = 1 acre



Plot 791, named as 'Werglodd' containing 4 acres 30 roods, is recorded under another holding – Park Farm with a total acreage of 64 acres 1 rood 4 perches – owned by Kyffin John William Lenthall and tenanted by a John Hughes. Other properties in Maenan listed under Lenthall ownership are:-

NantyGath – tenant Robert Price – with 12 acres 3 roods 11perches

Park – tenant Elizabeth Kenrick – 2 acres 3 rood 32 perches

enclosed woods – on hand - 49 acres 1 rood 2 perches.

6d. Census Records

By 1841 there were tenants living at the house, which is simply recorded as 'Maenan'.

1841 census

Township of Maenan, Co. of Caernarvon (PRO ref. 107/1393/4)

Maenan		born in county	
Evan Hughes	30	farmer	yes
Anne Hughes	30		yes
Robert Hughes	12		yes
Grace Hughes	9		yes
Anne Hughes	2		yes
Grace Hughes	65	midwife	no

1851 census

Township of Maenan, Carnarvonshire (PRO ref. HO/107/2508)

Maenan

Evan Hughes	H	M	45	farmer of 100 acres	b. Maenan, Caerns.
Ann Hughes	W	M	41	farmer's wife	b. “
Grace Hughes	dau		18		b. “
Ann Hughes	dau		12		b. “
James Hughes	son		2		b.
John Williams	visitor un	m	37	annuitant	b.
Margaret Jones	visitor un	m	23	house servant	b. Trefriw, Caerns.

The 1861 census is missing.

Kyffin John William Lenthall died in 1870

England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1861-1941 (ancestry.com) gives: ADMINISTRATIONS. 1870. / LENTHALL Kyffin John William Esq. / Effects under £20,000. / 5 April. / Letters of Administration of the Personal estate and effects of Kyffin John William Lenthall late of Besselsleigh in the County of Berks Esquire a Widower deceased who died 11 February 1870 at Besselsleigh Manor in the County aforesaid were granted at Oxford to Edmund Kyffin Lenthall of Besselsleigh aforesaid Esquire the Son and one of the Next of Kin of the said Deceased he having been first sworn.

Edmund Kyffin Lenthall was the eldest son and heir to the Lenthall estates at Besselsleigh, Burford and Maenan. Like his father, Edmund remained living at Besselsleigh in Berkshire.

1871 census**Township of Maenan, St.Asaph diocese, Carnarvonshire** (PRO ref. RG10/5676)**Maenan**

Arthur Davies	H	M	45	farmer of 90 acres 3 men	b. Llandoget, Denbigh
Elizabeth Davies	W	M	40	farmer's wife	b. Eglwysfach, Denbigh
Elizabeth Davies	dau		12	scholar	b. Llandoget, Denbigh
Mary Davies	dau		11	"	b. "
John T. Davies	son		10	"	b. "
Tiffiah? Davies	dau		8	"	b. "
Arthur Davies	son		7	"	b. "
Jane Davies	dau		6	"	b. "
Margret Davies	dau		1	"	b. Eglwysfach, Denbigh
Sarah Davies	mother	W	87	farmer's widow	b. Shropshire
Anne Roberts	serv.	unm	20	dairy maid	b. Llanbedr, Caerns.
William Roberts	serv.	unm	24	ploughman	b. Wrexham
Richard Davies	serv.	unm	21	"	b. Llansanffraid

In the 1881 census, the house is named as 'Maenan Hall' for the first time.

1881 census**Maenan Hall**

D ^d Williams	H	M	24	farmer of 120 acres employing 6 men	b. Capel Curig, Caerns.
W ^m Owen	serv.	unm	20	farm servant indoors	b. Llandrillo, Denbigh
Griffith Jones	serv.	unm	28	cowman	b. Llandoget, Denbigh
Jno Roberts	serv.	unm	24	carter	b. Llanrhos, Denbigh
Edward Rowland	serv.	M	24	"	b. Merionethshire
Catherine Williams	serv.	unm	30	general servant	b. Llangian, Caerns.

In 1891 it has reverted back to just 'Maenan'

1891 census**Maenan**

David Williams	H	unm	30	farmer	b. Llanllyfni, Carnarvonshire
Elizabeth Thomas	serv.	unm	25	general servant	b. Llandoget, Denbigh
William Thomas	serv.	unm	19	farm labourer	b. "
John Jones	serv.	unm	20	"	b. "
Edward Jones	serv.	unm	13	"	b. "

7. 20th Century

By 1901 the house was being called Maenan Farm.

1901 census

Township of Maenan, Eglwysbach, Carnarvonshire (PRO ref. RG13/5242)

lang. spoken

Maenan Farm

John Jones	H	M	56	farmer employer	b. Llandoget, Denbigh	both
Phebe Jones	W	M	56		b. “	“
Owen Jones	son	unm	30	farmer's son, worker	b. “	“
Margaret Jones	dau	unm	28		b. “	“
William Jones	son	unm	24	farmer's son, worker	b. “	“

Edmund Kyffin Lenthall died unmarried on 24th July 1907. He bequeathed the Maenan estate to his nephew **Walter Ellison Lenthall** who died in 1908 at the Lenthall family home - Besselsleigh, Berkshire. He had 10 children, who were all born in Australia. Walter's youngest son, **Lieutenant Edmund Henry Lenthall** inherited Maenan Hall but died suddenly in 1909 in Hampshire aged 29 years. He was also unmarried.

1911 census

Township of Abbey & Maenan, Llanddoget, Denbighshire (PRO ref. RG 14/34177)

Maenan Farm

John Jones	H	W	66	farmer	b. Bettws y Coed, Caerns.	Welsh
William Jones	son	unm	31	labourer on farm	b. Llandoget, Caerns.	Both
Lizzie Hughes		unm	24	dairymaid	b. ?	Welsh

15 rooms in this dwelling

In the 1921 Electoral rolls, George Maitland Davies, Llewelyn Goronwy Jones and Frederick Howell Jones were living at Maenan Farm.

In 1926 Lewis Lloyd Williams and Annie Lloyd Williams were listed there. They remained as tenants until 1953.

During the second world war the estate belonged to a Mr Green, a timber merchant who presumably had bought it for the timber. In the autumn of 1945 Maenan Hall was bought by the 2nd Lord Aberconwy owner of the Bodnant estate, as a dower house for his wife Christabel whose house it was until her death in 1974.

In 1953, after the death of Lord Aberconway, the farmer, Lewis Lloyd Williams, and his family moved into the nearby Bryn Rhudd house, previously purchased for the purpose.

Following the death of Lord Aberconway's wife, Christabel, in 1974 the house passed to their son, Christopher McLaren.

Gill. Jones

Ann Morgan

February 2015

updated May 2015

updated July 2015

Appendix 1

The Kyffin Pedigree

(Tribe: Bleddyn ap Cynfryn - 3rd Royal tribe)

Einlon Efell, Lord of Cynllaith, m. Arddyn d/o Madog Vychan ap Einion ap Howel
 Llansilin, Montgomery of Maen Gwynedd
 b.abt.1140 d.1196 I

.....
 Rhûn of Cynllaith m. Elizabeth d/o John, Lord Strange of Knockyn
 b.abt.1170 I

.....
 Cuhelyn m. Eva d & h's of Grono ap Cadwgan y
 of Cynllaith Saethydd, Lord of Henfachau in Mochnant
 b.abt.1200 I

.....
 Ieuan of Cynllaith m. Eva d/o Adda ap Awr of Trevor
 Constable of Knockyn Castle
 b.abt.1240 I

.....
 Madog Gôch m. Lleuki d & co. h's of Howel Gôch ap
 of Lloranucha, Llansilin Meredydd Vychan of Abertaned
 b.abt.1280 I

(he took the surname Kyffin being nursed in a place of that name in Llangedwyn, to distinguish himself from his father. He lived in Lloran Ucha) i.e. Kyffin/Cyffin = border

.....
 Madog Kyffin m. 1. Alice d/o Gruffydd ap Rhys
 of Lloranucha I ap Madog ap Rhirid Ffaidd,
 b.abt.1310 I Lord of Penllyn

.....
 David of Lloranucha 2. Tanglwst
 b.abt.1340 m.

Catherine d/o Morgan ap David ap Madog of Brynbwa in
 I Maelor Gymraeg

.....
 David Vychan of Gartheryr, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, Montgomery
 b.abt.1380 m.

Gwerfyl, d/o Gruffydd ap Rhys ap Gruffydd ap Madog ap
 I Iorwerth ap Madog ap Rhirid Ffaith, Lord of Penllyn

.....
 Geoffrey
 Abbot of Aberconwy

.....
 Gruffydd Vychan of Gartheryr
 b.abt.1420 m.

1. Margred ferch Llewelyn of Meifod
 I 2. Tibot d/o Meredydd ap Tudur ap Goronwy ap Howel
 I I y Gadair

.....
Owain Elen Gwenllian
 of Gartheryr
 m.
 Annes d/o Jenkin ap Rhys
 descended from Rhirid Ffaith
 I

.....
Dafydd 'Llwyd' Huw 'Fychan' Morris
 ap Gruffydd of Gartheryr

.....
David Owen (Kyffin) b.abt1500
 of Gartheryr, Llanrhaiadr ym Mochnant
 Rector of Nannerch & Llanddoged,

N.B. Griffith's Pedigrees gives his name as Syr Dafydd Owain.
 In all the original documents found, he is referred to simply as **David Owen**.

& Vicar of Eglwysfach 1537

m. ?

Margaret d/o Meredydd ap Ifan ap Robert of Dolwyddelyn

I

.....
Maurice Kyffin H.S.C.1579

of Maenan
b.abt.1530 ob. 1603

m.

Jeffrey Kyffin

m.

Dows ferch Owain

Griffith Kyffin

1. Margaret d/o Thomas Mostyn of Mostyn

m. 2. Ales d/o John Wynne of Melai

I

I

I

.....
William Kyffin

of Maenan

Edward Kyffin

Rector of Northop
and Caerwys
b.1570 ob. 1623

m.

m.

Jonet

Winifred

d/o Humphrey

d/o Thomas Evans

Meredydd

of Plas Llaneurgain

of Clynnog

no issue

I

I

.....
Thomas Luce
Kyffin

natural son natural dau.

m.

m.

Mary

Hugh ap Moris

m.

1. Ellin

d/o Cadwaladr Wynne of Voelas

H.S.C. 1662

bur. 1655

I

I

.....
Richard Kyffin

b.1610 d.1684
of Maenan. H.S.C. 1662-3

Morus

Thomas

Margred

Mary

2. Anne d/o William Owen of

Bodeon, Anglesey. Wid. of
William Glynne of Plas Newydd

.....
George Kyffin

ad. to St.John's Coll. Camb
1665 aged 17 1686

Rector of Llanddoget

Vicar of Eglwysfach 1702

Vicar of Llandrillo 1715

.....
Robert William Kyffin

b.1635

b.1637

Thomas

Morus

Catrin

Elen

Jane

He died before his father

m. 1652

1. Jane d. & h's of Edward Lloyd of Cefn in Meriadog, then living Glascoed.

no issue

2. Ermine, d & co h's of Roger Davies of Erllys

I

.....
Richard Kyffin

b.1659 d.1693 aged 34
bur. Llanddoged

m.

Jane

d/o Thomas Price of Giler

I

.....
Thomas Kyffin
b.1678 d.1745 aged 67

William Robert Uvedale Margred Elspeth Elen Magdalen

bur. Llanddoged
Bar. At Law & Attorney General for Anglesey, Caernarvon & Merionethshire

m.
Ellen, d/o Owen Roberts of Caerau in Anglesey ob.1739 aged 65
I

.....
Ellen Ellen **Thomas Kyffin** Margaret
b.1707 b.1709 b.1710 b.1712
Attorney at Wrexham
m.
Elizabeth d/o John Salusbury of Ruthin
I

.....
Sir Thomas Kyffin Catherine Catherine Margaret John Elizabeth
b.1739 d.1784 bur. Llanddoged
H.S.D. 1726-7
knighted 1782
m.
Elizabeth sole h's of Hugh Hughes of Coed y Brain co. Flint d.1812
I

.....
Elizabeth Cathrin Cathrin Margaret Anne Ermine unknown
bap. 23/9/1765 b. ? bap.13/8/1767 bap.20/7/1769 bap.1/1/1771 bap.26/1/1772
d.1791 aged 26 yrs bur.31/3/1767 bur.22/9/1767 d.1789 aged 21yrs d.1823
co. h's of Maenan co. h's of Maenan co. h's of Maenan
m. 12/1/1789 Eglwysbach unmarried m. 1795 m.
William John Lenthall Rev. John Wynne Colonel Richard
(see Appendix) of Nannau Hughes Kenrick
no issue I
I

.....
Richard Thomas **Henry** Margaret **Elizabeth** Harriet
Kyffin **Kyffin**
(formerly Kenrick – inherited)
Belmont)

N.B.
H.S.C. = High Sheriff of Caernarvon
H.S.D. = High Sheriff of Denbigh

Appendix 2

**Poem to Syr Dafydd ap Owain by Tudor Aled
to request a horse on behalf of Lewys ap
Madog.**

Gydag un a geidw Gwynedd
y cawn ar Ian **Conwy'r** wledd
abad tros wythwlad y sydd
Aberconwy barc gwinwydd
Arglwydd yn rhoi gwleddd yn rhad
arfer ddwbl ar fwrdd abad
powdrau yn nysglau y naill
a'r oraits i rai eraill.

Conwy rhyd dyffryn llw caf win ffres
Glyn Grwst a glan Gaer Awstin
glyn gwyrdd y galwynau gwin
tri phwys cegin y tywysog
trio mae'r gwaith trwm ar ei gog
tai aml am win temiau medd
tresti a bwtri osgedd
ar ei winoedd ar unwaith
no bu ben am bob iaith
Ple cyrchwn sesiwn y saint?
Gypsy er a'i gyd gwffaint
gwyr yn rhif gwerin Rhufain
gwyn a rhudd yw gynau rhain
Os gwyn ei fynwes a'i gob
o'r un wisg yr a'n esgob.
Fe ai'r mab dan fur a main
be'i profid yn bab Rhufain.

Gwaith blin ac anoethineb
ymryson oll am ras neb
hwythwy mil o renti man
yntau fynnai rent **Faenan**.
Mae ar wyneb Meirionnydd
blaid i'r gwr fel blodau'r gwydd.
Hyder **Lewys Amhadawg**
am erchi rhoi march yrhawg
milwr rhwng Maelor a Rhos
Tegaingi ei geraint agos
a'i ddewis erbyn mis Mai
.....

On **Conwy bank** have I been feasted
by one who is keeper of Gwynedd,
an abbot over eight regions.
In **Aberconwy's** vine enclosure,
a lord who freely gives feasts.
doubly the habit at an abbot's table;
spices in one man's dish.
oranges in another

Conwy in a temperate valley.
at the river's verge where I get pure wine;
Grwst's Vale and fair Caer Awstin,
green valley of the wine casks;
three times worth any prince's kitchen,
where the work turns heavily on his cook;
houses for wine, mead temples....
a trestle and a trim buttery?
At once on the head of all his wines
he has been named on every tongue.
Where would I go for a saint's prayers?
On him and his fellow monks,
Men numbered in Rome,
white and crimson their gowns.
If his bosom and cope are white,
thus dressed he'll make a bishop,
and thus he'd go caped fine ermine

on trial, to be Pope of Rome.....

It's irksome work and folly
to strive for patronage....
Some asked a thousand petty rents,
he asked for that of **Maenan**.
This man's sanction the bloom of foliage
Hung over the cliff of Meirionnydd....
Lewis, son of Madoc, boldly
Will now ask for a stallion - He,
a soldier between Maelor and Rhos
and close linked with Tegeingl.
He wishes to have him mounted, ready
In May for

The Family of Rhys Fawr ap Maredudd

Rhys Fawr ap Maredudd (fought at Bosworth Field with Henry VII)
of Plas Iolyn

I

.....
Morris Gethin of Voelas
(steward of Aberconwy Abbey)

m.

I

Sir Robert ab Rhys MA of Plas Iolyn
(chaplain and crossbearer to Cardinal Wolsey)

m.

I

Margaret d & co h's of Rhys Lloyd ap Gruffydd of Gydros in Penllan

I

I

I

I

I

I

.....
Cadwaladr ap Morris
(bailiff on the Abbey's
Denbighshire lands)

Robert Gethin

David Pryse	Dr. Elis Pryse of Plas Iolyn	Cadwaladr Pryse of Rhiwlas	Sir Richard Pryse Abbot of Aberconwy 1535-37	Thomas Vychan of Pant Glas	Harri	Robert Wynn	Thomas & William twins	Owain	Arthur	Huw Pryse Abbot of Aberconwy 1526-28	Catherine Llwyd	Margaret Wen	Lowri	Elsbeth
m.	m.		m.		m.						m.	m.	m.	m.
Margaret d/o Robert Salusbury	Erillyw d/o Sir Owain Pool, a priest, parson of Llandecwyn nr. Harlech		Janet d/o Elis ab Harri		Jane d/o Ffoulk ap Robert of Fronheulog & Dugoed						William Salusbury of Llanrwst translated New Testament	William ab Reignallt of Careg Hwfa	Robert Salusbury	Robert ab David Anwyl
	I		I											
.....													
Thomas Pryse	Richard Pryse		Sir Thomas Wynn of Plas Newydd, Llanrwst											
			m.											
+ 4 daughters Jane, Marfaret, Catherine, Gaenor			Catherine d/o Robert ab Richard ab Einion Vychan											

N.B.

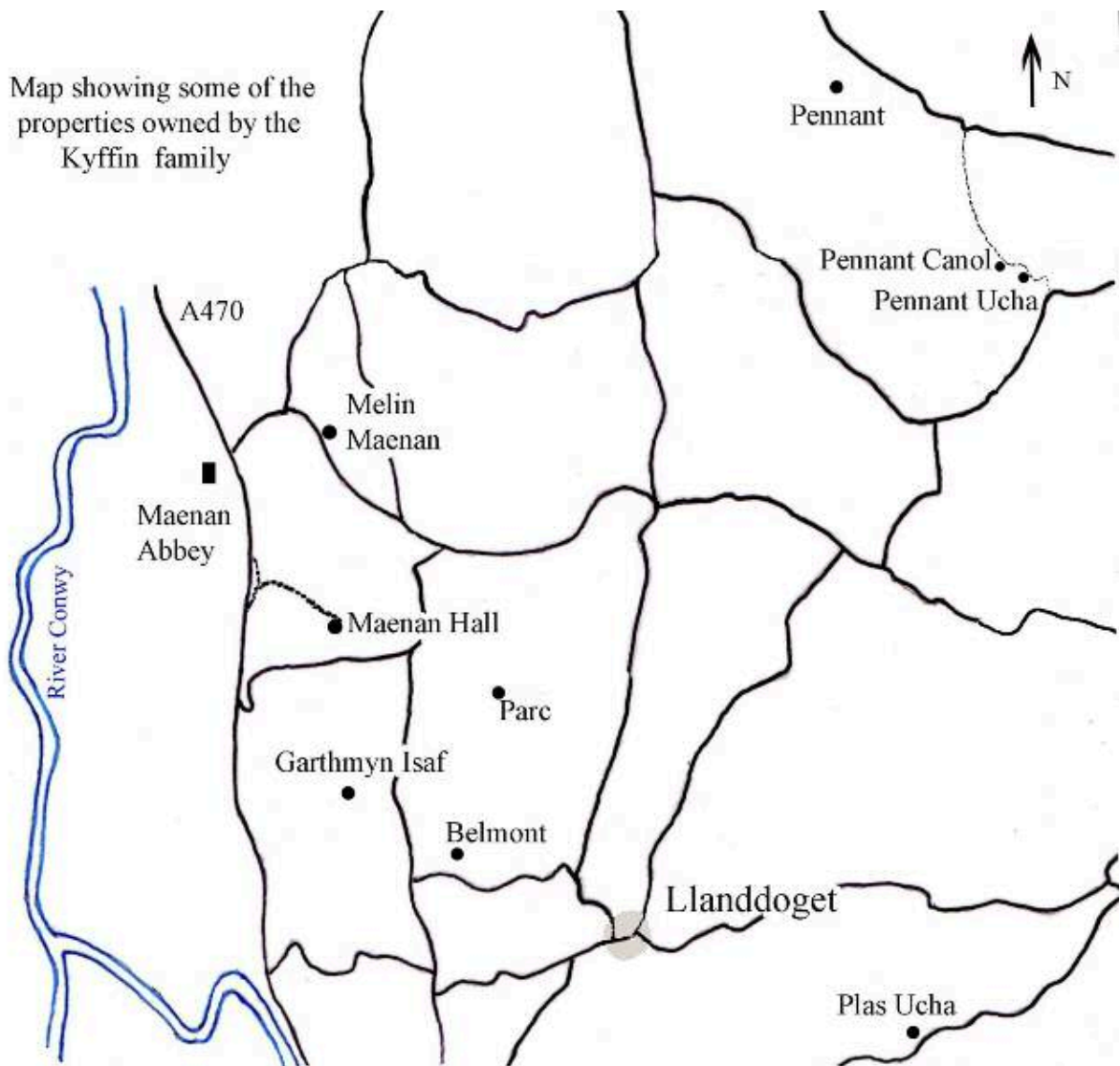
Sir Robert ap Rhys is said to have married Margaret d/o Rhys Lloyd, but several accounts say that Robert had 12 illegitimate boys and 4 girls. It's not known whether Margaret was the mother of all these children. Sir Robert and Thomas Cromwell were close colleagues in Cardinal Wolsey's household.

Dr. Ellis Pryse, the notorious 'doctor coch' (the red doctor) was well known as 'a true sycophant': 'a subservient creature of the Earl of Leicester, devoted to all his bad designs'.
(Thomas Pennant – Tours in Wales Vol.3 p.140)

Sir Richard Pryse – 'y Person Gwyn' (the white parson) The last Abbot of Aberconwy.

John Pryse was Abbot of Strata Marcella. Several accounts state that he was a brother to Richard, Ellis and Huw but none of the pedigrees include him. Perhaps he was a cousin.

Appendix 4



Appendix 5

Glossary of Names of Tenements, Messuages and Lands

Aber y nant	estuary of the stream	Cored Pull y Gewdder/Kored pull y gwyther Korea	pull y gwether	the weir of / the pool of ?
Aber Rodyn	estuary of the kiln	Colythyn Eden		
Bedw Robin/Coed cae bedw Robin	Robin's birch/birch trees field	Cae'r Clomendy	dovecote field	
Berllan/Llen Berllan	orchard	Cae'r Dwr	water field	
Bryn bedwas issa/Tythyn bryn bedwas	lower birch hill/small farm of birch hill	Ddol maenan/Ddoled Maenan	Maenan meadow	
Yr Brow gogh	the red 'breast' of a hill	Dol ysgrogennan	Croesonnen meadow	
Bryniog issa	lower hill	Scrogennan	farm today known as Croesonnen – ash tree cross	
Brynmorvyth	Morfudd's hill	Dryll vreaire/Dryll yr ear	fresh green strip	
Brw'r Onen/ Tythyn Brw'r Onen	ash thicket farm	Y Dryll glase	green strip	
Bryn y velyn/ Bryn velyn	yellow hill	Y drill dan y dderven/Y dryll dan y dderwen	strip under the oak	
Bulche Tudor	Tuder's gap	Y dryll gwernog	alder tree strip	
Cae'r Berthen/Cae'r berten	field of bushes/bushy field	Y drill melyn/ Y dryll melyn	yellow strip	
Cae canol	middle field	Dvoske William ap Hugh /		
Cae eden	Eden's field	Dyvoske William ap Hugh/ Y Dyoske Mawr ?		
Cae graig isa	lower rock field	Erowerde/ Y Weryd/y werrid/ Croverred/	green acre	
Cay lliadiart r hwylfa	gate path field	Yr Erow ver/ Ky Weryd	the short acre/ earth field	
Cae y lloyn	calves' field	Erwr ffos	ditch acre	
Cay yr bergen	orchard field	Ewerglothe Gleyson/ gweglothe gleyssion	the green meadows	
Cay yr bryn	hill field	Y ffrith lace	green pasture/mountain	
Cay tan y fedw issa	field under the low birch	Y gadlan	enclosure	
Kae yr bryn issa	lower hill	Garthgyvanneth	inhabited enclosure	
Cayr yskyborbache/Cae ysgybor	barn field/ small barn field	Gweirglothe ffythion	faithful meadows	
Y cay yn draws	the field across	Gweirgloth y pelanney	? meadows	
Y cay eithin	gorse field	Gwerne bowys issa	lower alder grove	
Y cae vcha	upper field	Kenlyn	lichen lake	
Y kay gwenyth/Y cae gwenith y coed	wheat field by the wood	Maes y vedowe/Maes y vedoewe	birch field	
groesffordd	crossroad	Maisgyon/Maes Gweon/maise gwyon/Maise	Gweon	white field
Y dryll gwenith	wheat strip/part	Nant y clogwyn	cliff stream	
Y cay gwin/ Y cae gwyn	white field	Y nant mawr	the big stream	
Y cae tan y fedw ucha	field under the upper birch	Park pella/Y pant pella/Park isa	furthest	
Y kay ar y bryn	field of the hill		park/furthest hollow	
Y kae meriog	?	Pen y garth	top of the garden	
Kae Jevan ap Iorwerth/Kay Ieuan ap Creweth	Ieuan ap Iorwerth's field	Pull y Gylynen/pull y glynnen	holly pool	
Kae rig	field of the trench	Pull y Gewdder/pull y gwether	pool of the wether(sheep)	
Kae yrabat/kay yr abbat	the abbot's field	Pull y gelynion	pool of the enemies	
Kay Tudder Bache	Young Tudor's field	Rydbenglek /Rhrydbenglor/Rhyd y benglor	ford of the skull	
Kae yr gof/Kay I Gough	smith's field	Rhyvorryn/Y ryvoryn/Y tryvoryn	?	
Yea weyne goz	the red moorland	Y Tythyn Bagh	the small farm/cottage	
Kay y gwayr	hay field	Tythyn Dycus ap Eignion	Dycus ap Eignion's small farm	
Kay y gwayr kefn	hay at the back field	Tythyn garthmayn uchaff	upper garden stone	
Colythyn Eden	?			

cottage

Tythyn yr henblase/Yr henblase **old manor house**
cottage

Tythyn Nant y Glyn **valley stream cottage**

Tythyn Tudor goz **red Tudor's cottage**

Werglothie gleyssion **green meadow**

Werglodd Iolyn **Iolyn's meadow**

Y wernlas/yea weyne gos/y Wern las **the green meadow**

Y pelanne Dyon **the black orchard**

Y ty hene **the old house**

Y ty mawr **the big house**

Y Thole lase **the green meadow**

Y waen fawr **the big meadow**

Y warn bach **the little meadow**

Y warn tan y skubor **the barn meadow**

Y Tyddyn du/Tythyn y goo/Tyddyn Due /Tythyn
y goo/Tyddyn Due **the blacksmith's cottage**

Tythyn David Lowries **David Lowries**
cottage/smallholding

Tythyn Argon Lane Rice **Argon Rice's**
cottage/smallholding

Yr Erow gam **the crooked acre**

Ynyssoeth Rees ap David ap Howell
the islands of Rees ap David ap Howell

Ynyssoeth y Tythyn **cottage islands**

Ynys y Dyllyan **owl island**

Ynys Dreiniog **briar/thorny island**

Ynys y rhwyfe **oar island**

The Lenthall pedigree

John Lenthall m. Jane Hill

I

.....
 (successor to his older brother William L.Esq. of Burford who died unmarried.) John Lenthall 1722-1783 m. Ann Shute of Broadwell, Gloucs. 1732 – abt. 1785
 I

.....
 John Lenthall
 of Burford, Oxfordshire
 1750-1820
 m.
 Sarah Caswall
 of Kempsey, Worcestershire
 1764- abt. 1837
 I

.....
William John Lenthall
 of Besselsleigh, Berks.
 b.1764
 m. 12/1/1789
Elizabeth Kyffin
 co. h's of Maenan Hall
 b.1756 d.1791 aged 26yrs
 I

.....
 William John Lenthall
 abt. 1788-1860 died Quebec, Canada
 m.
 Frances Mary Terry
 of Beverley, Yorkshire
 1783-
 I

.....
Kyffin John William Lenthall
 of Besselsleigh, Berks.
 b.1789 d.1870 aged 81yrs
 m.
 Mary Ann Ashton
 d/o John Ashton of the Grange, Chester
 abt. 1796-1866 died Sussex
 I

.....
 Edmund Henry Lenthall
 1810-1894 died Australia
 m.
 Ann Man
 of London
 1810-1887
 I

.....
Edmund Kyffin Lenthall
 of Burford, Besselsleigh and Maenan Hall
 1821-1907
 unmarried

*He bequeathed his estates to his
 2nd cousin Walter Ellison Lenthall*

.....
Walter Ellison Lenthall
 of Besselsleigh, Berks.
 1838-1908
 m.
 Mary Ross Donnelly
 1844-1892 died Australia
 I

.....
Lieutenant Edmund Henry Lenthall
 b.1881
 d.18/5/1909 aged 29yrs
 unmarried

N.B. Walter & Mary had 10 children all
 of whom were born in Australia

