

Ty'n y Wern

A public footpath, favourite with dog walkers, leads from old Mill Road (Ffordd yr Hen Felin) near Glyn terrace at the northern (lower) end through fields via the ruins of Ty'n y Wern to Conwy Old Road. This path served the isolated pile of boulders. The lower track would have linked the farmstead to church and shore – the church for prayer, salvation, baptism, marriage and burial and the shore fertilizer, fuel, food and trade. It was also the direct route to the flour mill of Pentrefelin or Felin Newydd which was close to the present Glyn Terrace. The upper track led to the hills and moorland originally but its route was interrupted in 1772 by the Conwy to Bangor toll road which passed through the parish from the Sychnant to Penyclip.

Reference to the farm is found in parish documents from 1767 but is also shown on 17th Century road maps. Its entry on maps was probably because of its position in the open fields made it conspicuous to travellers. It was no stately home just a simple hovel roughly built from local materials – boulders from field clearance and reeds for thatching from marshy areas nearby hence the name of the hovel – 'House in the Wetland'.

In 1841 the cottage was occupied by a fourteen year old boy and his twelve and seven year old sisters watched over by a thirty year old female servant, Ann Williams. It must have been extremely stressful for Owen, Elen and Ann. In August 1836 they had lost their mother who died aged only thirty three years soon after the death of her infant son Rowland at thirteen months old. To add to their sorrow their father Thomas died in January 1837 at the age of thirty seven.

On the Tithe Map and apportionment dated 1847 for Dwygyfylchi young Owen is described as the tenant of the nineteen acre holding owned by Sir Richard Bulkeley Williams Bulkeley of Anglesey. Much of the land with its north facing slope was under cultivation testifying the hard labourers of the teenage farmer. By 1851 Owen and his family had left the parish and the hovel (there is no other fitting description for it) was occupied by two families – Robert Jones, an agricultural labourer with his wife Mary and their two young children had possibly lived there since 1837 while the other occupants Edward Watson, a quarryman and a native of Llanrwst might have moved in a little later. He and his wife Ann with their two children were to occupy the cottage for some years and are strongly associated with it. Edward Watson came originally to the parish to work on the construction of the Chester-Holyhead railway. A story popular amongst the Watson-Jones family is of him working as a tunneller at Penmaen Bach. In December 1846 tunnellers working from both ends of the headland finally met. When finally broke through Ann the five or six years old daughter of Edward had just arrived with her father's lunch. She was taken by her father and others and passed through the opening – the first person to pass through the tunnel at Penmaen Bach. The ninth occupant of the overcrowded abode was lodger Robert Rowland, a seventy five year old former tailor who was receiving parish relief. Where on earth did they all eat and sleep? Unfortunately such conditions were quite common in both town and country at this time. It is interesting to note that the reference to Edward Watson as a quarryman strongly suggests the shortage of accommodation in the parish for workers and their families in the rapidly expanding quarries.

By 1910 the cottage which at one time had substantial outbuildings with a large orchard was condemned by Penmaenmawr Urban District Council as unfit for habitation and abandoned.