

# **Ty'r Pwca ym Mhant y Cyfrwy**

## **Puck's House in the Saddle Hollow**

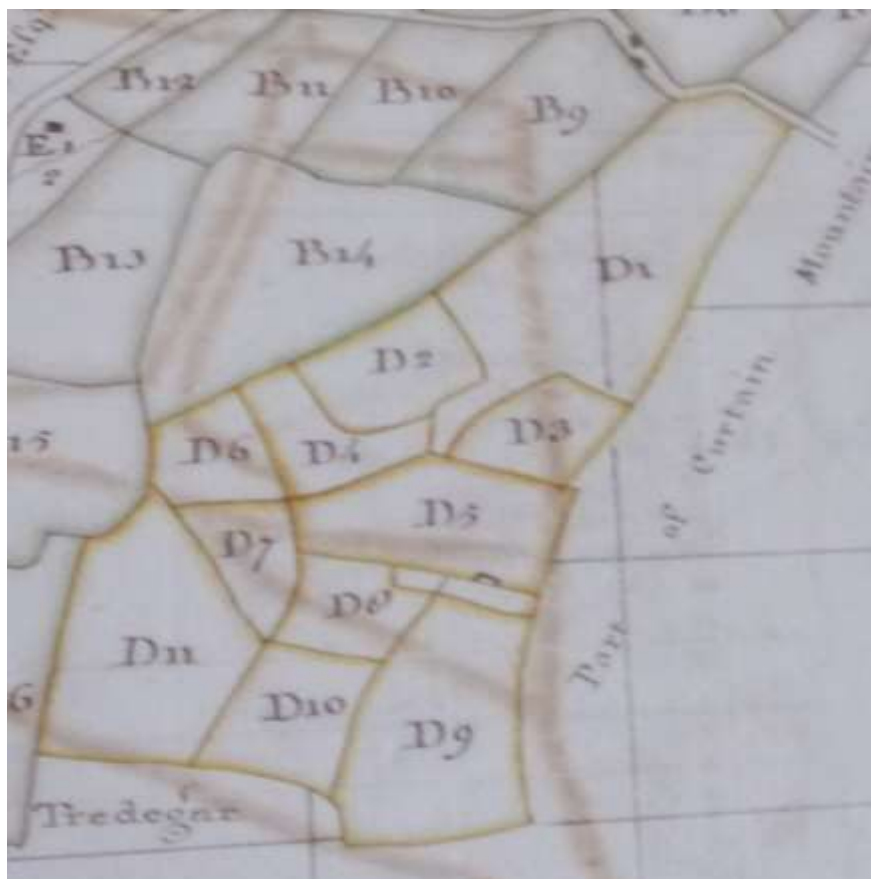


**The history of a Lost Farm in the Parish of  
Machen**

**Robert Jeffrey Southall**

## Introduction

In the middle of the Eighteenth Century Pant y Cyfrwy was a Tredegar Estate farm consisting of 44 acres enclosed in 11 parcels of land of sizes varying from 11 acres down to just over an acre, a farm house with living accommodation and possibly an attached cow house, a barn and at least one additional agricultural building or labourer's cottage. The name translates from the Welsh as 'The Saddle Hollow' and this is an accurate description of the farm's location, at grid reference ST 20034 90368, on a low ridge between two gently rising hills. To the east the slope rises towards Penrhiw Warren and Mynydd Machen while to the west it ascends towards the enclosed fields of Penheol Machen Farm, known locally as Pen-y-Lan. Today there is no one who recalls the original stone built farm buildings which may have dated from the eighteenth or even seventeenth century. It is possible from the representation of the buildings on maps that the farmhouse was of the longhouse variety with the living accommodation upslope and the cow house downslope, however archaeological excavation would be required to confirm this. Similarly excavation would also be required to confirm the functions of other buildings on site. The farm is first represented on the Tredegar Estate maps dating from 1760 and 1773, which can be viewed at the National Library of Wales.



*Figure 1 Pant-y-Cyfrwy as it appears on the 1760 Tredegar Estate map. The only building represented (at the bottom of field D5) appears as an outline which may mean that it was either derelict or unoccupied at this time (Robert Snell NLW)*

## The Fields and their names on the 1760 Apportionment

Pant y Cyfrwy in 1760 was a 43 acre tenanted farmstead consisting of 11 enclosed fields. The farm was tenanted at this time by Mary Jones, a widow, although nothing more is known about her at this time as she is not listed by name in Tredegar Estate rental books from this period and there is no Last Will and Testament by anyone of that name among the NLW's diocese of Llandaff probate papers.

Number	Name 1760	1773	Acreage
D1	Coed Ca	Coedcaia *	11, 2, 0
D2	Knap	Knap	2, 2, 10
D3	Ca Garrw	Ca Garw *	2, 1, 30
D4	Gursley	Gursley	2, 1, 2
D5	Gruffydd	Ca Gryffrydd *	5
D6	Gursley	Gursley	1, 2
D7			1, 2, 30
D8			1, 3
D9	Ca' r Ochr	Ca' r Ochr	6, 1
D10	Ca Crwn	Ca Crwn	2, 3
D11	Ca Fynnon	Ca'r Ffynnon *	5, 2
<b>TOTAL 1760</b>			<b>43, 0, 33</b>
		Enclosed part of Curtain Mt.	1, 2
<b>TOTAL 1773</b>			<b>44, 3, 32</b>

\* Place-name spellings can vary between documentary sources

The field names are comparable with other farms in this part of the county of Monmouthshire with Cae (field) being shorted to 'Ca' which is the local Gwentian pronunciation of Cae and many of the terms are given in non-standard Welsh.

### The Names

There is a Coed Ca (coed cae referred to as coed caia on the 1770s map) which translates as wood field, a Ca Garrw (Cae Garw) the rough field, Ca'r Ochr (Cae Ochr) the side field, Ca Crwn which could be 'crown field' or simply 'rounded field' and a Ca Fynnon (Cae Ffynnon) which translates as 'spring field.' One field is called 'Knap' and this is obviously descriptive referring to its position on the crest of a hill which rises towards the adjacent Pen-y-Lan farm. Two of the field names may derive from personal names with Ca Gruffydd meaning Griffith's Field and Gursley which seems English but may have had Welsh origins –'Gwr' being the Welsh term for husband. As the farm house is situated in Ca Gruffydd it might be reasonable to assume that the farm was first settled by someone of that name.

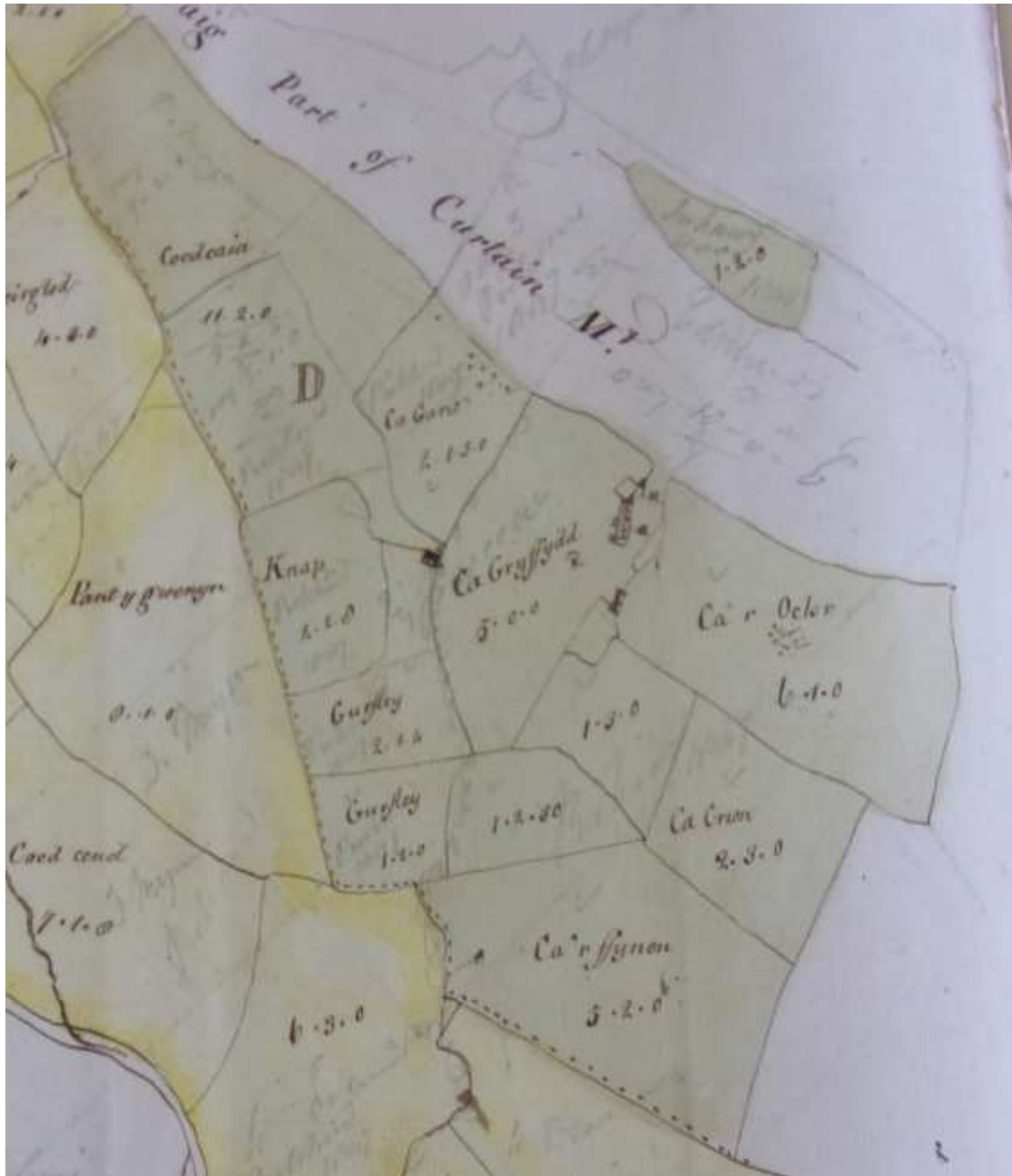


Figure 2 Pant y Cyfrwy as it is represented in the 'Exact survey of the freehold estate of Tredegar' dated 1773 (William Morrice NLW)

### Residents of Pant y Cyfrwy from 1760 -1829

Mary Jones, Widow, is named as the Tredegar Estate tenant of Pant y Cyfrwy on the two Estate maps dating from 1760 and 1773. No one by that name is included in the rent books for 1763 and there are only two women named in the entry for Machen – David Evan Morgan's widow – who is paying 12 shillings per year in rent which seems a very small sum for a farm of 44 acres and Edward Rees's Widow who is paying £5. The latter seems a more realistic rent for a farm such as Pant y Cyfrwy. Rather confusingly in Wales at this time many women did not take their spouses' surname upon marriage and so is it quite possible that Edward Rees's widow was in fact

our Mary Jones. Edward Rees's widow is also featured in the Tredegar rent book of 1744 (Evan Evans Account) and is also paying £5 per year.

Following the end of Mary Jones's tenancy the Tredegar Estate map has a pencilled in note stating that she was followed by William Morgan. No date is given for this change of tenant on the estate map but the 1798 Tredegar rent book of William Williams gives William Morgan paying £14 10s for a property referred to as 'Late Mrs Mackneal' and this is followed in 1800 by William Morgan £14 10s (rent) and 13s 10 1/2d (land tax) for 'Late Mackneal'. The total rent for William Morgan for the year 1801 amounts to £40 and which indicates that at this time he was rapidly expanding his Tredegar landholdings. However the land tax for 'late part of Wm Mackneal,' what has been identified as Panty Cyfrwy, remains the same at 13s 10 1/2d. William Morgan seems to have taken an area of land which was formally a part of Ty Canol's holdings i.e. 9s 3d for Late Edmund Wm. This would not be surprising as Ty Canol's land bordered that of Pant y Cyfrwy. The last entry for William Morgan is in the land tax assessments for 1819 and by the next taken in 1829 the entry reads 'Widow of William Morgan 13s 12 1/2d' so we can assume that he died at some point during the 1820s.

Unfortunately there is no surviving information on either Mary Jones or William Morgan. However there are a few possible clues to Morgan's family connections in the Tredegar Estate records of the eighteenth century and the tithe apportionment of the early 1840s. The Tredegar Estate maps of 1760 and 1773 name a Morgan William as the tenant at Ysgubor Fach (Scibbor Vach) in Machen. This was relatively close to Pant y Cyfrwy being next down the hillside to Ty Canol farm, on the edge of the modern settlement of Machen, and given the system of patronymic naming still used in Wales in the late eighteenth century it is quite plausible that William Morgan is the son of Morgan William.

The Tithe apportionment for Machen compiled in 1842 names a William Morgan as the Tredegar tenant at Nantycesiad (Nant y Cyshed) farm in Machen. The 1841 Census shows William Morgan, farmer, aged 55 resident at Nantycesiad farmhouse. Also in residence is Mary Morgan who may be his wife or his daughter. In 1842 Nantycesiad, which was directly below Ty Canol farm, was a mixed farm made up of meadow, pasture and arable fields and consisted of 72 acres and 3 roods, making it substantially larger, more fertile and better located than Pant y Cyfrwy. If William of Nantycesiad was the son of William of Pant y Cyfrwy then, although still a tenant of the Tredegar Estate, he may be sufficiently upwardly mobile within the local farming community to consider himself a noteworthy farmer. Unfortunately all of these possible connections with Morgan William and William Morgan are tenuous at best as Morgan is an extremely common surname in south Wales and the 1841 census records 8 people by that name of various ages in Machen with a total of 1,854 in all of Wales. So without a more thorough investigation of parish registers we may never know the truth about William of Pant y Cyfrwy.

## Pant y Cyfrwy on the tithe map and apportionment of 1842

At the completion of the tithe map and its accompanying apportionment in 1842 Pant y Cyfrwy had been incorporated into the adjacent Ty Canol Farm now with a total combined acreage of 130,2,12. The farm continued to be owned by the Tredegar Estate and, as previously determined by the census, the tenant was William Edwards. The details follow the tithe apportionment for the lands previously belonging to Pant y Cyfrwy.



Figure 5 Pant y Cyfrwy on the 1842 Machen tithe map. The fields are now a part of Ty Canol farm but the house is in-coloured red by the Tredegar Estate and may have been rented out separately to the fields at this time. (NLW)

Number On1760 map & tithe	Name 1760	Name on tithe apportionment (fields belonging to Ty Canol Farm)	Acreage on tithe apportionment
D1 (378 & 377a)	Coed Ca	Cae Cefn – pasture (David Morgan)	8, 1, 30 (Penheol Machen)
		Cae'r Cefn - pasture	4, 2, 0
D2 (371)	Knap	Cae Gware - pasture	4, 0, 32
D3 (377)	Ca Garrw	Cae Gwyn - pasture	3, 0, 26

D4 (374)	Gursley	Cae Grusly Ucha - arable	2, 0, 0
D5 (375 & 376)	Gruffydd	Cae Gryfydd - Pant y Cyfru - House Garden	4, 2, 36 0, 1, 6
D6 (373)	Gursley	Cae Grusly Isha - arable	1, 3, 10
D7 (357)		Cae dan y ardd - arable	3, 0, 30
D8 (357)		Cae dan y ardd - arable	ditto
D9 (355)	Ca' r Ochr	Cae Ocher -pasture	6, 3, 37
D10 (356)	Ca Crwn	Cae Crwm - pasture	3, 1, 1
D11 (358)	Ca Fynnon	Cae Ffynnon - arable	4, 3, 10
379	Enclosed part of Curtain Mt.	Graig - pasture & wood	7, 3, 13

### **The Farmhouse and other agricultural buildings at Pant y Cyfrwy**

Nothing now remains above ground of the house or other farm buildings and to the author's knowledge no excavations have ever taken place at Pant y Cyfrwy (see photos in appendices). It is also extremely unlikely that a photo exists, or indeed ever existed, of these buildings given that they may have become derelict at an early date. The 1760 Tredegar Estate map features just one building and this is drawn only in outline perhaps indicating that the house was under construction at this time.



*Figure 6 Tredegar Estate map 1772 (NLW)*

The 1773 Estate map features three buildings the largest obviously being the house which is drawn as a long low pitched building with two chimneys constructed downslope towards the gateway onto the parish road that runs from Rhiwderin near Basseleg Newport towards Bedwellty Church. If this drawing is accurate, rather than simply a generic representation, the living accommodation would have been on the upslope i.e. the lower end on the drawing below and a cow house at the downslope (the higher end illustrated below).

Two other buildings feature on the 1772 map and both were probably barns, or animal houses, as neither is drawn with a chimney. One was directly south of the main building and this featured on all the available maps apart from the first, from 1760, and last from 1948 while the other is to the left on the map on the far side of Cae Gruffydd. This later building was evidently short lived and is only featured on the 1773 Estate map. Traces of both these buildings can be found by visitors today (see Appendices).



*Figure 7 Pensidan Farm at Bassaleg. This was another Tredegar Estate farm of a similar age. Could Pant y Cyfrwy farm house have looked something like this? (Source: Roger Powell - Tredegar: The history of an agricultural estate 1300-1956 1 Jan 1990)*

One unusual feature of the farm house at Pant y Cyfrwy is the fact that its shape on the tithe map and subsequent ordnance survey maps is never consistent. The tithe map shows a long building with a block jutting out at its rear, i.e. that side facing Cae Gruffydd (see Fig. 8) whereas the first OS map of 1875 represents the building almost as an inverted T shape, with a block at the back and the front (see Fig. 9). The last OS map to feature the



house (1898) shows the house as a long narrow building with no blocks off either the front or the back of the building. It is of course possible that these blocks were actually semi-temporary lean-tos and the fact that neither appears on the 1773 estate map representation of the houses may suggest just this. Unfortunately we may never know as all traces of the house above ground have now disappeared. One feature which appears only on the 1875 OS map is the two gardens. One is adjacent to the lower (northern) end of the farm house edging the trackway that descends towards the parish road. The other is adjacent to the southern end of the barn seen directly below the house on the map. Both of these features have disappeared by 1898.



Figure 8 Machen tithe map 1842 (NLW)

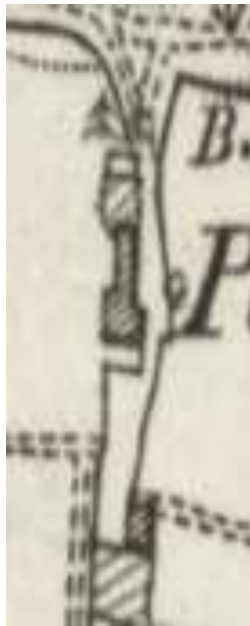


Figure 9 1875 OS map (NLS)



Figure 10 1898 OS map (NLS)



Fig 11 1915 OS map (NLS)

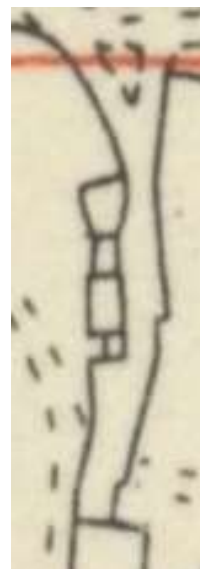


Fig 12 1948 OS map (NLS)

The farm house appears to have been rendered roofless and partially dismantled between 1898 and 1915 with the remaining low walls being converted to use as animal pens. On the 1915 map the barn to the south of the house appears to remain intact but by the 1948 map there is no trace of this.

### **Pant y Cyfrwy and Ty Canol Farms on the 1841 census**

In the 1841 census Pant y Cyfrwy farm and its fields had already been incorporated by the Tredegar Estate into the adjacent Ty Canol farm. No date has yet been identified for the merging of these two farms. Very little information is provided on this census but the former farmhouse is named on the census as P Cyfyru (sic). It is likely that both the old longhouse and barn conversion were occupied by different tenants at this time. A re-examination of the census suggests that the longhouse was occupied by a 25 year old farmer, or more likely farm labourer, called Thomas Williams, his wife Hannah (20), their children Ann (5) and David (3) and Martha Williams, a 90 year old lady of independent means, who may have been a grandmother to Thomas. It is possible that this family were connected in some way to the tenants farming at either Ty Canol or Penylan (Penheol Machen). They may have been relatives of the tenants or Thomas could have been employed as a labourer on one of these farms. The census seems to point to his employment by David Morgan of Penylan, however it is impossible to know for certain. An attempt to trace Thomas and Hannah points to the couple relocating to the hamlet of Penmaen (between Crumlin and Newbridge) in the nearby parish of Mynyddislwyn where they feature on the 1861 and 1881 censuses. On both of these Thomas is employed as an agricultural labourer.

It is now appears probable that James Bevan, a 70 year old besom maker, and his 55 year old wife Rachel were the first residents of the barn which had been converted for use as a cottage –although the tithe map does not indicate that this is an occupied property which are coloured pink on the copy of the Machen tithe map at NLW. No further information is provided apart from an indication that James had been born outside of Monmouthshire and his wife within the county. The couple do not appear on the 1851 census which might have allowed for their details to be verified. James Bevan made besoms which were traditional brooms constructed from a bundle of twigs tied to a stout pole of variable length. He probably sourced the wood for the handle and twigs from local woodland. The brush of the besom is rounded instead of flat as a result of its construction around a central pole which serves as the handle.



*Figure 3 Albert Wymer, besom birch broom-maker of Hevingham demonstrates his craft in April 1960 (Source: <https://www.edp24.co.uk/features/from-the-archives-celebrating-halloween-through-brush-and-broom-making-1-4292867>)*

Traditionally the handle is of hazel wood and the head is of birch twigs. The bristles on the head can be made of many materials including, but not limited to straw, herbs, or twigs. Traditional construction uses split withy to bind the head onto the pole and the head is secured by a wooden dowel. A besom maker was a maker of these brooms and would have been considered a traditional woodland craftsman but by the 1840s brushes and brooms were already being mass produced and the income of a besom maker would have been paltry so it would have been necessary to combine the occupation with other woodland, or agricultural, tasks in order to make a living. Today, there are fewer than five craftspeople in the UK who make brooms on a commercial basis, combining the work with other coppice products.

In 1841 Pant y Cyfrwy was actually being farmed as a part of Ty Canol farm (Called Ty Kenol on the census) by a 25 year old farmer called William Edwards. William is featured on the 1841 census along with his wife Margaret (25) and their son Edward aged 2. Also in residence are three servants Daniel Williams (25) agricultural labourer, Isaac Lewis (20) male servant, Mary Benjamin. At the time the 1851 census was taken William and his family had relocated to Risca in the Ebbw valley where he was employed as a butcher. The 1851 census also provides a little more detail on the Edwards family.



*Figure 4 Ty Canol Farm Machen pictured in 1958. The house would have looked very different in William Edwards's time with a low pitched roof like the adjacent cow house. (Source: [https://www.peoplescollection.wales/users/10904/Machen Remembered](https://www.peoplescollection.wales/users/10904/Machen%20Remembered))*

William Edwards had been born at Merthyr Tydfil in Glamorganshire however his wife Margaret and their two sons Edward (now 12) and Thomas (9) had all been born at Machen. Young Edward would later establish a successful grocery and provisions business in Machen where he resided with his family and an array of servants and shop assistants for many years before eventually passing away in the 1891 at the age of 52 leaving a personal estate of nearly thirteen thousand pounds, a small fortune in those days.

### **From Pant y Cyfrwy to Ty'r Pwca (1841 to 1934)**

There are no specific references to Pant y Cyfrwy after the 1841 census however both the 1875 and 1898 OS maps clearly represent the farm house as roofed and habitable. We now know that the house and later the barn, which was converted to a cottage, were sub-let by the tenants of Ty Canol farm for latter part of the nineteenth century and the cottage would continue to be occupied until just before World War Two. There is nothing which points to an entry for Pant y Cyfrwy on the 1851 census but 1861 comes up trumps and it is the first time that the name Ty'r Pwca appears. We now know that name Ty Pwca farm was used by the tenants of Ty Canol who also leased Pant y Cyfrwy for the land there. The 1861 census indicates the name was used to refer to all the cottages at the farm, although it later became for name specifically used for the barn converted to a cottage to the south of the old decaying, and eventually demolished, farmhouse buildings. The 1861 census has four entries for Ty'r Pwca. The first entry is for Thomas

Thomas, a 49 year old labourer, who had been born in Upper Machen, his wife Elizabeth (48) and their children, Edward(20) a collier, John (16) labourer, Thomas (13) and Ruth (9) both scholars, and the youngest son Manuell (6) yet to start scholar. In an adjacent cottage is William Harris (64) a woodward and his wife Jane (55), in the next cottage is Thomas Pritchard, a 42 year old labourer and Ann (36) his wife. Lastly there is a single man living alone, William Phillips a 67 year old agricultural labour born at Michaelstone-y-Fedw, possibly in one of the old barns or animal houses at the farm.

**Figure 5: What's in a Name - Pant y Cyfrwy to Ty'r Pwca**

At some point between 1841 and 1861 the old name of the farm – **Pant y Cyfrwy**, the saddle hollow, was replaced initially by **Ty'r Pwca** (the pwca's house) and later by the simplified **Ty Pwca** (Pwca House) or anglicised **Ty Poooca**. The original name of the farmstead is descriptive of its geographical location and would have predated the building of the farmhouse there. According to Adam N. Coward, writing in his article 'Edmund Jones and the Pwcca'r Trwyn' (Source: Folklore, Vol. 126, No. 2 (August 2015), pp. 177-195) *the term pwca is a lone word which probably has Cornish (bucca), Irish (pooka) or modern English (puck) origins and it first appeared in Welsh around 1780 just a few years before Edmund Jones wrote about the Pwca'r Trwyn*. There are several things we can infer from this. Firstly that the name Ty Pwca was modern, Secondly, given the frequency of the appearance of this name in south Wales (the name Ty Pwca is also found nearby at Risca and Pontnewydd near Cwmbran), it is very likely that the appellation was used for any ancient house that appeared decrepit and was rumoured to be haunted. Finally there is no recorded reference to a pwca (mischievous spirit, ghost, or goblin) appearing at this location. Neither is there a folk tale associated with this location as was certainly the case for the Trwyn farm at Abercarn and Ty Trist at Tredegar. This author is of the mind, but without conclusive evidence, that the name was attached to Pant y Cyfrwy by the Tredegar Estate tenants, initially Thomas Jenkins, and after him by John Roberts and his son Cornelius, in order to deter squatters. This plan may not have been successful though which resulted in the Roberts converting the barn at what was now referred to as 'Ty Pwca Farm' into a cottage and housing a shepherd there.

Thomas Pritchard the labourer, now 51 year old, and his wife Ann (48) also appear on the 1871 census under Penylant (sic) however as there was no entry specifically for Ty'r Pwca it seems probable that the census taker saw the property as an extension to the adjacent farm. 1881 also sees a lack of references but it is possible that Charles Edmunds, a 26 year old platelayer from Machen, along with his wife Sarah (28) and their children Ivor (5), George (3) and the 11 month old Jane Ann were possibly inhabiting one of the buildings Ty'r Pwca

By the 1880s is very likely that the old farmhouse had gradually become more and more rundown and severe dereliction eventually took place. This may have occurred as the old farm buildings at Pant yr Cyfrwr were seen by the Tredegar Estate as surplus to Ty Canol's tenancy and the estate had no interest in either maintaining or improving them. Many of the Morgan's

Tredegar tenanted farms, including Ty Canol and Pen-y-lan, were modernised by the estate in the later part of the nineteenth century but the tenants would not have had the resources to maintain the ancient farm buildings which had become surplus to needs of a modern farm. However it is possible that the Tredegar tenants would have wanted to gain value from the old property as a source for extra revenue especially during the frequent agricultural depressions that occurred in the late nineteenth century. The 1891 census provides us with a direct reference to Ty Pwca (referred to as Ty Pocca). The occupier is a 42 year old sheppard (sic) named Francis Jenkins who had been born at Usk (see Fig 5). With him are his wife Hannah (32) and their children David (10), Margaret (8) and Frederick (7) who are all described as scholars i.e. attending the local school. Additionally there are two younger children Mary (3) and William (1).

Ten years earlier, in 1881, Francis had been at Bedwas where he was engaged as a farm labourer by Thomas Jackson, a Tredegar estate tenant, of Glyn Gwyn farm in what is now the village of Trethomas. Also employed, as a housekeeper, at Glyn Gwyn at this time was Hannah Cooper, Mr Jackson's 22 year old niece. Once it was known by Thomas Jackson that Francis and Hannah were in a relationship he would have dismissed them. It could also have been the case that the 9 month old child named David Cooper, described as nephew on the 1881 census, was in actual fact the very same child referred to as David Jenkins on the 1891 census. Jackson may not have cast Francis and Hannah out entirely though as, given that Hannah was his niece, it is plausible that he may have been able to find the Francis a shepherding position at a nearby Tredegar farm on the condition that he married Hannah and adopted David as his own son. This could be the reason Francis found employment with the Roberts at Ty Canol farm and the family got to reside at Ty Pwca. It is probable that the Jenkins remained at Ty Pwca for several years and during this time ordnance survey maps appear to indicate that the old Pant y Cyfrwy farm house was dismantled and converted for use as sheep pens. By 1901 Jenkins were residents at Colliers Row in Upper Machen village.

For a few years from 1893 to circa 1898 Ty Pwca was occupied by Isaac Symonds (aka Simmonds) and his family. Isaac, along with his wife Maria and infant son had lived in lodgings at the Copper works at Danygraig Risca in 1891 but they had relocated to Ty Pwca by 1893 where their daughter Adelina was born. By 1901 the Symonds had relocated to Heol Fawr at Nelson where Isaac was employed as a collier.

At the 1901 Census Ty Pwca now referred to as 'TwyPwcca Farm' was occupied by Frederick Hardacre and his wife and child. Frederick was a 29 year old general labourer and with him are his 27 year old wife Mary Ann and their two female children; Mary-Ann June aged 3 and 1 year old Beatrice. Frederick had been born at Berrow in Somerset to George Hardacre, an agricultural labourer, and his wife Hannah. By 1881 George and his family had crossed the Bristol Channel to seek work at Machen as a forge labourer. The family reside at a cottage at Nantyceisiad close to the White Hart public house and ten years later in 1891 the family's situation is

unchanged but Frederick, now aged 20, and is employed as a general labourer. It is probable that the Hardacres moved into Ty Pwca shortly after marrying at Bassaleg on 19 Apr 1897 and that both children were born there. Ten years later The Hardacres had relocated to nearby Warren Cottage (then referred to as Ty Mynydd Cottage) and Frederick was employed as a timberman at a local colliery. The family relocated again later across the Sirhowy valley to the new colliery village of Cwmfelinfach after the sinking of Nine Mile Point Colliery. Between 1904 and 1910 the electoral registers indicate that Ty Pwca was occupied by a single woman named Ann Edmunds. Her appearance on the electoral register might appear strange in the days before women gained the vote in general elections but as a householder she may have been able to vote in local council elections. Ann was previously employed as a servant at the Griffin Inn at Rudry (1881) and Quarry Cottage at Nine Mile Point (1891 and 1901). At the later Ann, by then a single parent, was employed as a housekeeper by Morgan Evans, a widower employed as platelayer on the railway and his son John. Ann was accompanied at Quarry cottage by her son Taliesin who had been born at Machen in 1886. Morgan's son John Evans married in 1903 and after his first child was born in 1904 there no longer employment or accommodation available at Quarry cottage thus requiring Ann and her son to look elsewhere for both. In 1901 Taliesin had been employed as a farm labourer but following the loss of Quarry cottage he would have looked elsewhere for employment, perhaps moving to lodgings close to one of the new collieries in the valley. The electoral register indicates that Ann was alone at Ty Pwca, but presumably Taliesin was close by in lodgings in nearby Wattsville. This appears to be confirmed by the 1911 census which finds Ann and Taliesin occupying two rooms at 15 Duffryn Terrace Wattsville. Ann is now 60 and not in employment while her son is 25 and employed as a coalminer hewer. The remaining three rooms at 15 Duffryn Terrace are occupied by David James, a 48 year old coalminer, his wife Mary Ann and their five children. There is no indication when Ann passed away but her son had married in 1914 and relocated to 78 Gladstone Street Crosskeys (1915). By 1939 the Edmunds family are at Penhriw Risca. Taliesin passed away aged 60 at Cribarth Farm Risca on 20 June 1945.

At the 1911 census day, 2 April, another family had arrived at Ty Pwca. These, the Bayntons, were headed by William Albert, a 31 year old coalminer hewer, who had been born at Risca. His wife Sarah Ann Summers had been born at Abertillery and the couple had married in the first quarter of 1897. In the fourteen years since her marriage Sarah had given birth to 7 children but two had died in infancy. Like the Hardacres, the Baynton family had originated from Somerset. William's father John Baynton was a limestone quarryman. The family had lived at Risca for around two years at the turn of the 1880s but returned to Somerset for several years when John and his family resided at Lower Vobster, near Mells. By 1891 the family were back in south Wales living with a daughter and her husband at Wattstown in the Rhondda valley. At this time John was employed as a coalminer. William and Mary had married at St David's Church at Llanwonno in the first quarter of 1897. It hasn't been possible to locate William and Sarah on the

1901 census but evidence from the 1911 census document suggests they had arrived at Machen prior to 1905 after a period living at Hafodyrynys near Crumlin. William Albert and three of his son had been baptised into the Anglican Church at Upper Machen during 1905. William's father John Baynton and his family had relocated from the Rhondda to Pen-y-park cottages at Lower Machen and John was once again employed as a collier so father and son were in close proximity to each other. In 1911 William and Sarah are at Ty Pwca along with their children William James (14) employed as a miner's helper, Bertie George (12), Alfred John (10), Arthur Leonard (7) and Lily May (5). Ten years later in 1921 William and Sarah Baynton had relocated down to Craig yr Haul farm at Bovil near Upper Machen village leaving eldest son William James (24), his wife Flossie (Florence Elizabeth) and their two year old daughter at Ty Pwca. The younger William was now an out of work collier hewer who previously worked at Ynysddu. William and his family would remain at Ty Pwca until 1928 but the family then moved en-mass to Uxbridge in Middlesex. William Albert Baynton died at Uxbridge in the first quarter of 1947 at Uxbridge aged 66 and his wife Sarah passed away at the same location in early 1961. Their son William James Baynton died at Hackney London in the second quarter of 1964.

The last people to live at Ty Pwca were David and Emily Samuel and both appear on every electoral register for the cottage between 1930 and 1934 which would certainly place them there from the summer of 1929 until late 1934. Unfortunately it has not been possible to conclusively identify this couple and it is uncertain whether they were a married couple or siblings. The late Alun Booth (1927-2023) recalls that as a young boy in the early 1930s he and a friend would walk from Cwmfelinfach over the mountain to his uncle's farm at Penllwyn between Machen and Trethomas. They would walk via Nine Mile Point station and up the lane past Warren Cottage. Alun remembers that the Stephens family lived at Warren cottage and Mrs Stephens used to come out to talk to them at the front gate so they would stop there for a short time before walking on to Ty Pwca. After leaving Warren cottage they would walk on to Ty Pwca and talk to the old couple who lived there. Alun had no memory of the cottage at Ty Pwca as they only went and chatted at the gate. The c no later than the early 1930s. By the time Alun moved to Wattsville in 1938 Ty Pwca was closed up and derelict. The remains of Ty Pwca continued to stand prominently on the watershed between Wattsville and Machen for many years and there are still several older residents living at Hafod Tudor Terrace in Wattsville who remember glancing up at the hill top and seeing the ruin on the skyline. Eventually these remains were deemed unsafe and cleared by the farmer at Ty Canol who may have used the stone to repair stone walls on his farm. There is little to see now at the site of Pant y Cyfrwy longhouse or Ty Pwca cottage aside from some loose stones in the hollow where the farmhouse once stood and the ridges which once marked the cottage's garden.

**FIN**



## Appendix 1: Location of Pant y Cyfrwy Farm House in 2018



*Figure 1 Looking downslope at the location of the farm house (© R J Southall)*



*Figure 2 Looking upslope at the location of the farm house. The rubble marks the location of the former cow house (© R J Southall)*



*Figure 3 The site of the house was centre right in this photograph (© R J Southall)*



*Figure 4 the site of the house from Cae Gruffydd (© R J Southall)*

**Appendix 2: Location of barn to the south of Farm House in 2018**



*Figure 5 Location of southern barn. The remains consists of rubble which is now largely buried beneath several inches of soil and decayed vegetation (© R J Southall)*



*Figure 6 Just visible in a sheep scrape is a part of the rubble that once formed the walls of the southern barn. Excavation here could come up with interesting results (© R J Southall)*

***Appendix 3: Location of barn or animal house to the west of Farm House in 2018***



***Figure 7 the lower remaining portion of original eastern gable wall has been badly tied into a dry stone wall of inferior construction (© R J Southall)***



*Figure 8 Site of the western barn or animal house. Only the lower portion of the eastern gable wall remains as a part of this wall (© R J Southall)*



*Figure 9 Site of the western barn or animal house. This photos suggests a raised area where there may be remaining stone rubble from the building beneath the soil (© R J Southall)*

## Bibliography and Sources

1. National Library of Wales: Tredegar Estate Maps
  - Robert Snell: A survey of the Tredegar Estate : in the parishes of St. Brides, Peterstone, Coedkernew, Marshfield, St Mellons, Llanfihangel Vedw, Machen, Bedwas, Mynyddislwyn, Bedwellty, Eglwysilan, Gelligaer and Llantarnam 1760
  - William Morrice: An exact survey of the freehold estate of Tredegar: belonging to the Honourable Thomas Morgan Esq. with maps of the same, 1764-1774 (1773)
2. National Library of Wales: Tredegar Rent books:
  - Lazarus Herbert's Accounts Book 1730-1732
  - Evan Evans Accounts Book 1744
  - William Morgan's Accounts Book 1744
  - Rental Accounts Collected 1722- 1764
  - William Williams Accounts Book 1798-1801
3. Ancestry.co.uk: 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911 Censuses
4. Gwent Archives: Land Tax Assessments for the Parish of Machen: 1804, 1805, 1806, 1808, 1811, 1814, 1818, 1819, 1829
5. National Library of Scotland: Ordnance Survey Maps - Six-inch England and Wales, 1842-1952
6. Machen Remembered: <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/users/10904>
7. Roger Powell - Tredegar: the history of an agricultural estate, 1300-1956 (Upton-upon-Severn: Self Publishing Association, 1990)