

18  
KD

**Items for the attention of the Petition Committee:**

- A. Letter in response to letter received by Petition Committee from the Heritage Minister.
- B. Article (Welsh version) addressing the issue.
- C. Article (English version) addressing the issue.
- D. Copy of Architect A. B Phipson's 1875 report on the Old Dolgellau Parliament House property.
- E. Part of Huw J. Owen article.

If possible, I would appreciate these items photocopied for the convenience of each member of the committee.

Many thanks



Siân Ifan

Item A



Llysgenhadaeth Glyndŵr: 34, Bethesda Court, Prince of Wales Rd, Abertawe SA1 2EY.

☎:01792 533806 ♦ E-bost: [s.fan@ntlworld.com](mailto:s.fan@ntlworld.com)

**F.A.O. Petitions Committee, Welsh Government.**

February 6, 2013

**Re Petition requesting that the Welsh Government be instructed to purchase and renovate Plas Cwrt yn Dre aka Old Dolgellau Parliament House, on behalf of the Welsh nation.**

Annwyl Committee Members,

Many thanks for your correspondence dated 6 November 2012 inviting me to express my views on the correspondence that you as a committee had received from the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage in regards to my petition. I must first of all apologize to the Cymric speakers amongst you that this letter is not bilingual. You will note that it is quite a lengthy letter and I work entirely on an unfunded voluntary basis with constant work awaiting my attention so, as much as I would prefer to, I just haven't got enough time to translate everything I do; however, I have produced, both a Welsh and English version of my article, and am sending you both copies. So, I do hope you will understand the predicament I'm in if I'm to get this to you in time for you to be able to take it into consideration. Diolch for your patience and understanding..

Having read this correspondence, I would, in the first instance, wish to challenge Cadw's statement in stating that there is "little evidence to support Plas Cwrt yn Dre's traditional association with Prince Owain Glyndŵr". I wrote an article on this issue early in 2012, Cadw and Sain Ffagan have received copies of this article along with other documents of supporting evidence for the case of the old Dolgellau Parliament House and I am now enclosing the same article and supporting evidence for your attention as a committee.

My article hopefully lays out the claim clearly but also, as can be seen in the report of the architect A. B. Phipson (item D) dated 1875, Mr Phipson clearly refers to the building as "Old Parliament House Dolgelley". Further, in his report, he clearly states that he believes the house to be... *"of the middle or later part of the fourteen century and consequently that the traditional connection with Glendwr may be correct"*

I will endeavor not go on to quote further from Mr Phipson's very interesting report as I have enclosed a copy for your attention but his professional conclusion was further endorsed by the scholar Hugh J Owen who wrote in an early edition of *"Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Hanes Sir Feirionydd"* (item E)

What also must be taken into consideration of course is the strong local tradition of acknowledging Plas Cwrt yn Dre as Owain Glyndŵr's old Parliament House. Such traditions do not come out of "thin air" they have substance which have been passed down as general local knowledge throughout the generations. Initially, The property was substantial, consisting of a number of buildings and you have only to look at the plan of the Great Hall to see that this hall could have housed a Parliament of

Glyndŵr's most important officials and generals. Also, the name Plas Cwrt yn Dre is another clue, Plas, of course is Welsh for Palace or Mansion and Cwrt is Court meaning a place to hold Court so, undoubtedly, the property was a very important one in the middle of the town of Dolgellau.

Cadw, as always, chooses to dismiss such testament when it comes to any history associated with the native Cymric Princes – and especially so in regards to Prince Owain Glyndŵr, demanding 'concrete proof' but, as Mr Phipson states..."The building, independently of its historical association is valuable archaeologically as a relic of a bye-gone age" and let's be reminded that he wrote this report in 1875!

When the building was removed from its Dolgellau site to Newtown in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it took 32 railway wagons to transport it, so, this in itself indicates that a great deal of the original building and fittings must have been transported and reconstructed at Newtown. An up to date specialist examination of the property could determine its age and I would suggest that as Cadw's obviously disinterested in conducting such an examination that the North Wales Dendrochronology Project might be approached if funding was made available.

**How Llysgenhadaeth Glyndwr became involved:** On understanding that the property had been placed on the market due to the Quakers being no longer able to maintain it, I travelled to Newtown to view the property and discuss the situation with the Quakers. I was very upset to witness its current state of disrepair, broken windows and tiles etc and immediately wrote to Cadw and Sain Ffagan's Museum to inform them of the situation. Incredibly, neither was interested in saving what's left of this important historical and unique property. I set up the petition out of total despair!

As outlined in my article, in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century it had been the intention of a Dolgellau town based committee, who understood the importance and potential of the Old Parliament house, to raise money to purchase the property for the town and to renovate it to its original splendor as a museum and a tourist attraction. Even as it stood then, it was the main attraction in Dolgellau for artists and photographers as well as for the passing tourist; this again being solid testimony to the fact that its historical importance was recognized far and wide and undoubtedly, had Samuel Holland not distracted the fundraising for the Dr Williams School for girls project, the old Parliament House would have been the "Jewel in the Crown" for Dolgellau as, both, an educational and tourism asset today; a golden opportunity was missed then – but here we are today, with a Welsh Government and a Welsh Heritage Secretary and an office within that Welsh Government called Cadw that has been established to "keep" safe such "jewels" of our history on behalf of our nation. Likewise, we have a "Welsh National History Museum" that has, as its purpose, the same role in regards to such properties and we have a Welsh Tourism industry that is struggling to find a truly "unique niche" for Welsh Tourism and yet, not one of these bodies are prepared to recognize the importance of the Dolgellau Old Parliament House and save it from either being sold off on the open market or left to decay to the ground. Cadw's 'pathetic and supposed to be appeasing gesture of promoting its status on paper to a grade 11\* building will not save its ultimate fate.

Whatever the reasons are behind Cadw and the present Heritage Minister's reluctance to promote and educate in regards to any aspect of Prince Owain Glyndŵr associated history, we, as a nation claiming to be a confident nation in our own right, cannot – and should not censor our history. The whole of our history is an on-going development of the tapestry that is our nation and we cannot censor the Prince Owain Glyndŵr history out of that tapestry anymore than we can the Tonypany, Llanelli or Merthyr Riots histories.

I suggest that the most serious of consideration is given to purchasing Plas Cwrt yn Dre aka Old Dolgellau Parliament House for the nation – before the property is lost forever. I further suggest that it be both examined and accurately dated and then restored as a museum which would exhibit its "supposed" Owain Glyndŵr association as well as the Baron Owen and Quaker history. It should be remembered that 'definite' proof may one day come to light in regards to the Prince Owain Glyndŵr

history and by then, the property could be lost and it would be recorded in history as to how it was allowed to be lost. Note that it was It was 'instinct' and 'persistence' that revealed the truth in regards to Richard 111 at this very moment!

**Siân Ifan**

**C.E.O. Llysgenhadaeth Glyndŵr.**



## Trysor Cenedlaethol Arall Ar Fin Cael Ei Golli Am Byth!

Gwyddys y mwyafrif yng Nghymru sydd â diddordeb yn hanes ein cenedl - ac yn arbennig yn hanes ein harwr cenedlaethol mwyaf, Owain Glyndŵr a'i Rhyfel am Annibyniaeth, am gysylltiadau tref Machynlleth a'r cyffiniau â'r hanes hynny ond faint, sgwn i, sy'n ymwybodol o gysylltiadau'r arwr â thref Dolgellau a'r ffaith fod yna dystiolaeth ddogfennol yn bod yn nodi iddo ef a'i gynghorwyr gynnal cynullïadau pwysig mewn Senedd-Dŷ yn y dref honno'n ogystal.

Mae sawl ffynhonnell, yn cynnwys y croniclau Seisnig, yn croniclo i Dywysog Owain Glyndŵr anfon ei ganghellor dawnus, Gruffudd Yonge, ynghyd â John Hamner, ei frawd yng nghyfraith, o Ddolgellau ar y 10fed o Fai 1404 i Ffrainc gyda llythyr pwysig yn eu meddiant yn mofyn cymorth milwrol Siarl VI. Oherwydd y dystiolaeth ddogfennol sydd wedi goroesi, gallem dderbyn yn eithaf hyderus fod yr hanes uchod yn gywir ond, yn anffodus, does dim tystiolaeth bendant wedi dod i'r wyneb - hyd yma, parthed ymhle yn union yn Nolgellau bu i'r llythyr a gyfeiriwyd ato uchod gael ei gyfansoddi. Serch hynny, yn ôl traddodiad lleol - sydd wedi goroesi'r canrifoedd, adeilad o'r enw Plas Cwrt yn Dre, eiddo sylweddol o uchel radd yn ei ddydd ac adeilad a adnabuwyd ar hyd y canrifoedd fel 'Hen Senedd-Dŷ Owain Glyndŵr' oedd yr adeilad yn Nolgellau lle arferai Tywysog Owain Glyndŵr gynnal cyfarfodydd gwleidyddol pwysig gyda'i gynghorwyr a phenaethiaid pwysig eraill y genedl.

Hwyrach nad yw 'traddodiad lleol' gyfystyr a thystiolaeth ddogfennol bendant ond os cymerir y dystiolaeth ddogfennol bendant bod y llythyr wedi ei gyfansoddi yn Nolgellau i ystyriaeth, ynghyd a'r ffaith fod Plas Cwrt yn Dre wedi cael ei adnabod yn lleol i lawr drwy'r canrifoedd fel hen Senedd - Dŷ Owain Glyndŵr, yna tybiaf fod yna achos digon cryf dros dderbyn dilysrwydd yr adeilad yma fel un o adeiladau Cynulliad Tywysog Owain Glyndŵr - neu Senedd-Dŷ hyd yn oed, fel a'i adnabyddid yn lleol.

Yn ogystal, diolch i arolygiad ac adroddiad a wnaed ar yr adeilad gan bensaer o'r enw A.B.Phipson yn 1885 (a gyfeiria, gyda llaw, at yr adeilad yn ei adroddiad ac yn ei gynlluniau o'r adeilad fel "Old Parliament House Dolgellay") datgelwyd bod rhannau helaeth o'r adeilad yn perthyn i'r 14eg ganrif. Os felly, roedd yr adeilad ar ei draed cyn cychwyn Rhyfel am Annibyniaeth Owain Glyndŵr.

Ta waeth prun ai Cynulliad neu Senedd-Dy sy'n gywir yng nghyswllt pa ddefnydd a wnaed o'r adeilad gan Dywysog Owain Glyndŵr, beth sy'n bwysig, yn fy nhyb i, yw'r ffaith fod y dystiolaeth ffeithiol, ynghyd a'r gred leol a oroesodd, yn ei hun yn ddigon i roi dilysrwydd i Plas Cwrt yn Dre fel adeilad y dylid fod wedi ei drysori fel trysor cenedlaethol - ond, i gryfhau'r achos ymhellach pam y dylid bod wedi gwarchod yr adeilad yma, ymddengys bod yr eiddo wedi bod yn gartref i'r Barwn Lewis Owen wedi cyfnod Glyndŵr. Roedd y Barwn yn gymeriad pwysig yn Senedd Lloegr yn y 16eg ganrif, yn Ganghellor y Drysorlys ar gyfer Gogledd Cymru ac yn cynrychioli Sir Feirionydd yn y Senedd cyn iddo gael ei ladd gan y Gwylliaid Cochion yn 1555.

Erbyn canol y ddeunawfed ganrif, roedd yr hen Senedd-Dŷ ynghyd a nifer o adeiladau eraill a ffurfiau'r eiddo a adnabyddid fel Plas Cwrt yn Dre yn brysur dirywio ac yn 1874, gwerthwyd y cyfan i Mr Edward Jones, perchennog Gwesty'r 'Royal Ship'.

Ymddengys i'r Hen Senedd-Dy fod yn atyniad i ymwelwyr hyd yn oed yn y cyfnod hynny ac roedd nifer o bwysigion y dref yn dechrau sylweddoli ei werth. Ffurfiwyd pwyllgor gyda'r nod o godi arian i brynu ac adfer yr eiddo a dyna pryd benodwyd A.B. Phipson i gynnal archwiliad ar yr adeilad - ac yn ogystal â chadarnhau yn ei adroddiad fod rhannau helaeth o'r eiddo yn perthyn i'r 14eg ganrif, tynnodd sylw at nodweddion o bwys hanesyddol (megis ffram a drws a cholyn wedi eu naddu o un darn o goed) y dylid eu cadw tran'n atgyweirio.

Amcan bris y gost o atgyweirio oedd rhwng £150 - 200; swm bychan i'w godi i adfer adeilad mor bwysig hyd yn oed yn y dyddiau hynny ac ar y 5ed o Dachwedd 1875, cynhaliwyd cyfarfod

cyhoeddus yn Neuadd y dref er mwyn trafod y posibilrwydd o brynu'r adeilad hynafol ar gyfer y dref. Yn ôl papur lleol y Dydd (19 Tachwedd 1875) death Mr Edward Jones i'r cyfarfod a chynnig Plas Cwrt yn Dre i'r dref am y pris roedd o wedi talu amdano yn yr ocsiwn neu, roedd yn barod, hyd yn oed, i osod yr eiddo am bum mlynedd i'r dref am y swm rhesymol iawn o £21 y flwyddyn er mwyn caniatáu digon o amser i'r dref ystyried prynu ond, gwnaed y penderfyniad syfrdanol i beidio â lansio apêl i brynu Plas Cwrt yn Dre am fod Samuel Holland, Aelod Seneddol Meirionydd ar y pryd, wedi lansio apêl arall i godi £1,000 i sefydlu Ysgol fonedd i ferched sef, Ysgol Dr Williams.

Diwinydd o Wrecsam oedd Dr Daniel Williams; doedd ganddo ddim cysylltiad o gwbl â Dolgellau ond ar ei farwolaeth yn 1716, gadawodd swm sylweddol o arian i'w ddefnyddio ar gyfer elusennau addysgol yng Nghymru ac roedd ymddiriedolaeth yr elusen yn cynnig arian tuag at sefydlu a chynnal ysgol yng Ngogledd Cymru ar yr amod fod y swm o £1,000 yn cael eu gwarantu'n lleol, ynghyd a dwy acer o dir ar safle a fyddai'n addas ar gyfer yr ysgol. Byddai wedi gwneud mwy o synnwyr i godi'r ysgol yn Wrecsam, tref y Dr Williams ond roedd Samuel Holland yn benderfynol o gael yr ysgol yn Nolgellau ac oherwydd hynny, collwyd y cyfle i brynu Plas Cwrt yn Dre a blwyddyn yn ddiweddarach, gwerthwyd yr eiddo (ond nid y safle) i Mr Pryce-Jones (a ddaeth yn ddiweddarach yn Syr Pryce Jones) o'r Drenewydd.

Dymchwelwyd Plas Cwrt yn Dre a danfonwyd neuadd, oriel a grisiau allanol yr Hen Senedd-Dŷ, (mewn tri deg a dau o dryciau) ar y rheilffordd i'r Drenewydd. Ailgodwyd y rhan yma o'r adeilad ym Mharc Dolerw ar stad Syr Pryce Jones ond, yn anffodus, doedd y grefft o ail-leoli heb ei berffeithio yn y cyfnod hynny a chollwyd dipyn ar gymeriad yr adeilad holl bwysig yma yn ystod yr ailgodi ond, serch hynny, mae'n parhau i sefyll yn ddarn hynod o bwysig o hanes Cymru o hyd.

Yn ystod y ganrif ddiwethaf, cafodd yr adeilad ei ddefnyddio gan y fyddin yn ystod yr ail rhyfel byd ac yna gan Gymdeithas y 'Girl Guides' yn y pumdegau ac yna, yn 1968, yn anghredadwy, cafodd ei 'rhoi' yn rhad ac am ddim i'r Crynwyr gan y Fonheddes Sara Pryce Jones - a bu i'r Crynwyr gynnal eu cyfarfodydd yn yr adeilad tan yn weddol ddiweddar hyd nes iddynt benderfynu nad oedd ganddynt mo'r modd i'w gynnal bellach felly, cynigwyd yr hen Senedd-Dŷ am ddim i Sain Ffagan, yn y lle cyntaf, ac yna i Cadw. Yn anhygoel, bu i'r ddau sefydliad yma, sydd a'r cyfrifoldeb dros warchod ein henebion hanesyddol, wrthod y cynnig ar y sail nad oedd tystiolaeth bendant parthed y cysylltiadau hanesyddol - ac yn wir, yn achos CADW (Cipio A Dinistrio Walia) pan aethant ati i gofrestru'r adeilad yn y Drenewydd yn Adeilad Cofrestredig Radd 2 yn 2008, aethant ati yn ddigon hy a haerllug i nodi ar y ddogfen cofrestru "*Incorrectly termed Glyndwr's Dolgellau Parliament House*" a hynny heb gymryd unrhyw sylw o dystiolaeth arbenigol y pensaer Phipson na wneud unrhyw brofion arbenigol a manwl o'r adeilad eu hunain o gwbl!

Y gwir amdani yw nad yw CADW am roi unrhyw ddilysrwydd i unrhyw safle yng Nghymru sydd â chysylltiadau gwirioneddol dilys ag Owain Glyndŵr. Byddai cyfaddef bod hanes ein harwr cenedlaethol mwyaf yn hanes go iawn drwy roi dilysrwydd i safleoedd brwydrau neu adeiladau sydd yn bendant wedi chwarae rhan yn ei Rhyfel Fawr am Annibyniaeth ddim yn boddhau eu meistri Seisnig ac oherwydd, maent yr un mor barod i fanteisio ar bob cyfle i gladdu unrhyw dystiolaeth ddiriaethol sy'n ymwneud a'r hanes cenedlaethol pwysig yma pryd bynnag mae'n dod i'r wyneb - yn union fel ag y bu i haneswyr taegog ei wneud i lawr drwy'r oesoedd wedi i ryfel Glyndŵr ddirwyn i ben.

Dyna'r gwir rheswm, yn fy nhyb i, pam nad oes gan CADW unrhyw ddiddordeb mewn cynnal archwiliad manwl ar yr Hen Senedd-Dŷ a dyna paham nad oedan nhw am dderbyn yr adeilad (fel rhodd) a'i achub ar ran y genedl.

Erbyn hyn, mae'r hen adeilad hynafol yn y broses o gael ei werthu am £55,000 i aelod o'r Crynwyr sy'n byw yn Lloegr ond mae'r Crynwyr yng Nghymru wedi dweud eu bod yn barod i dynnu'r eiddo oddi ar y farchnad os daw cadarnhad oddi wrth CADW, neu'r Ymddiriedolaeth Cenedlaethol eu bod yn bendant am brynu'r trysor cenedlaethol yma ar gyfer y genedl - ac mae yna ychydig o

amser ar ôl sy'n caniatáu hyn os gweithredir ar frys gan fod y cyfreithwyr sy'n gyfrifol dros y gwerthiant wedi gofyn i CADW gynnal asesiad newydd o'r eiddo, felly, gellir ddim cario'n mlaen a'r gwerthiant nes y bydd CADW wedi gwneud hynny.

Yn ogystal, mae hyn yn golygu fod yna gyfle i ni fel cenedl achub yr Hen Senedd-Dŷ (neu'r hyn sydd ar ôl ohono) drwy yrru miloedd o lythyrau at Y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, Cadw a'r Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol yn mynnu, eu bod yn y lle cyntaf, yn prynu'r adeilad hynafol ar gyfer y genedl, ac yn ail, yn ei adfer, cymaint ag sy'n bosibl, i'w ogoniant gwreiddiol cyn ei agor i'r cyhoedd fel amgueddfa a fydd yn olrhain ei hanes o gyfnod Owain Glyndŵr i fynnu i'r presennol. Yn ogystal â bod yn atyniad deniadol a thu hwnt o ddiddorol ar gyfer ymwelwyr ac ysgolion, byddai'n ased pwysig iawn i'r Drenewydd. Felly, apelïaf yn daer ar bawb sy'n darllen yr erthygl yma i lythyru'n ddi-oed at y cyrff a nodwyd uchod. Dewch i ni beidio ag ail adrodd hanes a cholli'r cyfle unwaith ac am byth y tro yma i achub yr adeilad hynafol yma. Dewch i ni sicrhau Plas Cwrt yn Dre fel calennig gwerth ei roi i'r genedl.

Siân Ifan

Prif Weithredwr Llysgenhadaeth Glyndŵr

To the Committee for the Preservation of "The Old Parliament House" at Dolgelly.

Item D

GENTLEMEN,

I have made a careful examination of the building commonly known as the Old Parliament House, for the purpose of ascertaining its value as an historical memorial, its architectural and artistic merits and its present condition; also the best means for its preservation and its adaptability for a Museum or other useful purpose.

The historical interest of the building arises from its traditional connection with the name of Owen Glendwr, the correctness of which, in the absence of direct or documentary proof, can only be assumed if not at variance with the probable age of the building. Glendwr first appeared in arms against Henry IV., and caused himself to be proclaimed Prince of Wales, in the year 1400. He assembled the estates of Wales at Machynlleth in 1402, when he was formally crowned.

He appointed ambassadors to, and formed a league, with Charles VII. of France in 1404, which treaty was ratified at the camp before Lampeter in January, 1405. The appointment of Ambassadors is dated from Dolgelly, as given in Rymers "Foedera" *Dat apud Doleguelli decem die mensis Maii Mccc quarto; et principatus nostri quarto*; this was, I presume, the occasion of the Dolgelly Assembly or Parliament.

There is very little architectural moulding or ornament by which to judge accurately of the age of the building, which has undergone several alterations and mutilations; the most ornamental portion is the timber framing with the ogee headed door, and "linen pattern" panels at the end against the post office; this indicates a date not earlier than late in the fifteenth century, but it is so different in character and workmanship from all the other existing portions, that I believe the house itself is of earlier date, probably of the middle or later part of the fourteenth century, and consequently that the traditional connection with Glendwr may be correct.

The building, independently of its historical association, is valuable archæologically as a relic of a bye-gone age, as well as for the many features of architectural and artistic interest which it possesses, and is a very good specimen of a medieval mansion on a small scale; the accompanying measured Plans Nos. 1 and 2 will assist in explaining the following description of its arrangement. The Hall (the chief apartment in a medieval house) is to the right of the entrance passage, from which it is separated by the screen, and was formerly open to the roof, but is now subdivided and has had an upper floor inserted. In the screen are two original doorways, one of which is closed; over the entrance passage is a small room, formerly the minstrels' gallery, overlooking the Hall through the arch now filled up in the timber partition. To the left of the entrance is a room now sub-divided, having the cellar underneath, and a chamber, probably the Solar or private parlour over. At the end of the entrance passage is the wing containing the Kitchen, offices, and an upper story with three rooms. The original entrance to the Kitchen is at the end of the passage, the present doorway from same into court yard being modern. The internal stairs from the Hall are modern, but are in the original position. The outer steps and doorway from Court Yard to upper floor over Kitchen are modern, the head of the doorway shows the mortices for the timbers which have been removed. I am of opinion that these rooms originally communicated with the front portion of the building by a doorway corresponding with the Kitchen doorway underneath.

The most interesting portion of the building, architecturally, is the Kitchen wing with its very picturesque timber framing, curiously constructed upper floor with the diagonal tie beams and its ancient fire places.

The upper windows of the kitchen wing are very good but much mutilated, and the remaining shutters are worthy of note, the hinges being formed of pivots cut out of the solid wood of the shutter and inserted into sockets in the heads and sills. The door into the Solar chamber is constructed and hinged in a similar manner.

The other portions of the building of greatest interest are the timber arch of the gallery, and the linen panelled framing before mentioned at the end of the Hall; the chimney of the Hall contains some curious brickwork, which is ancient if not coeval with the original house.



The stone walls and chimney at the end of the kitchen wing are altogether modern, the angle posts and part of the original timber framing being now built in the masonry.

I have no doubt that the hall and other portions of the front part of the house were originally constructed of timber, as indicated by the excellent but mutilated framed gable at the end facing the proposed street; the stone front wall with the entrance archway is evidently of very late date, and the windows are entirely modern.

If it should be decided to preserve the building, the exterior should be put into a substantial state of repair. The outer stone work should be carefully repaired and pointed, that underneath the timber framing especially may require to be partially rebuilt. All deficient and decayed timbers should be reinstated, and the windows of the kitchen wing restored in their original character; the removal of the modern window from the framed gable and the restoration of the deficient timbers will involve a new window to the upper chamber, this should be made in character with the other old work and placed in the original position in the dormer roof, which will be seen after the removal of the adjoining cottage. The removal of this cottage will convert the party partition into an outer wall, which it may be necessary to complete in stone to match the front wall of the Hall.

The lath and plaster panels between the timbers should be repaired and restored where deficient.

The slating of the roof should be thoroughly examined and repaired to render the building water-tight. The framing of the upper story over the kitchen has been thrust outwards by the roof, and should be secured by an iron tie rod across the building.

In carrying out the above suggestions care should be taken that no existing old timbers are removed, unless so far decayed as to be useless.

The accompanying sketch No. 3, shows the appearance of the building when externally restored as suggested.

To restore the building internally and render it fit for inspection by visitors, I should recommend the following repairs and alterations:

The hall should be restored to its original form by removing the modern partitions, floor, and ceiling, the deficient foot of the principal, which has been cut away to allow for the modern back window, should be restored, and the window modified accordingly, and the roofing timbers generally of the hall and solar chamber repaired; the effect of the hall would then be as shown by sketch No. 4.

In the kitchen wing the loft floor should be removed from the roof, and the floor and roof strengthened by inserting a prop at each intersection of the floor beams, and between the beams and roof principals to prevent further sagging, also new flooring should be laid in these rooms and a communication opened with the front portion of the premises.

The modern internal partitions are shown on the plans without tint.

In addition to the above the interior generally should be thoroughly cleansed, the plastering repaired, the woodwork carefully scraped, and the deficient parts restored, and the old doors and other characteristic joiner's work carefully preserved where possible.

If it should be determined to utilize the building for the purpose of a local Museum it might be preferable to remove the ancient internal partitions from the kitchen wing, so as to convert each floor into one large room, and the living and bed rooms on ground floor might remain as at present for occupation as keeper's apartments.

The sheet of sketches No. 5, illustrates a few of the most interesting details, as a record in case the building should be destroyed.

It is difficult to form an estimate of the cost of carrying out these repairs and restorations, as it depends greatly upon the condition the old work is found in when uncovered, but I am of opinion that from £150 to £200 each for the external and internal restorations will be sufficient.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Yours obediently,  
A. B. PHIPSON,

Architect.

16, ANN STREET, BIRMINGHAM,  
December 9th, 1875.

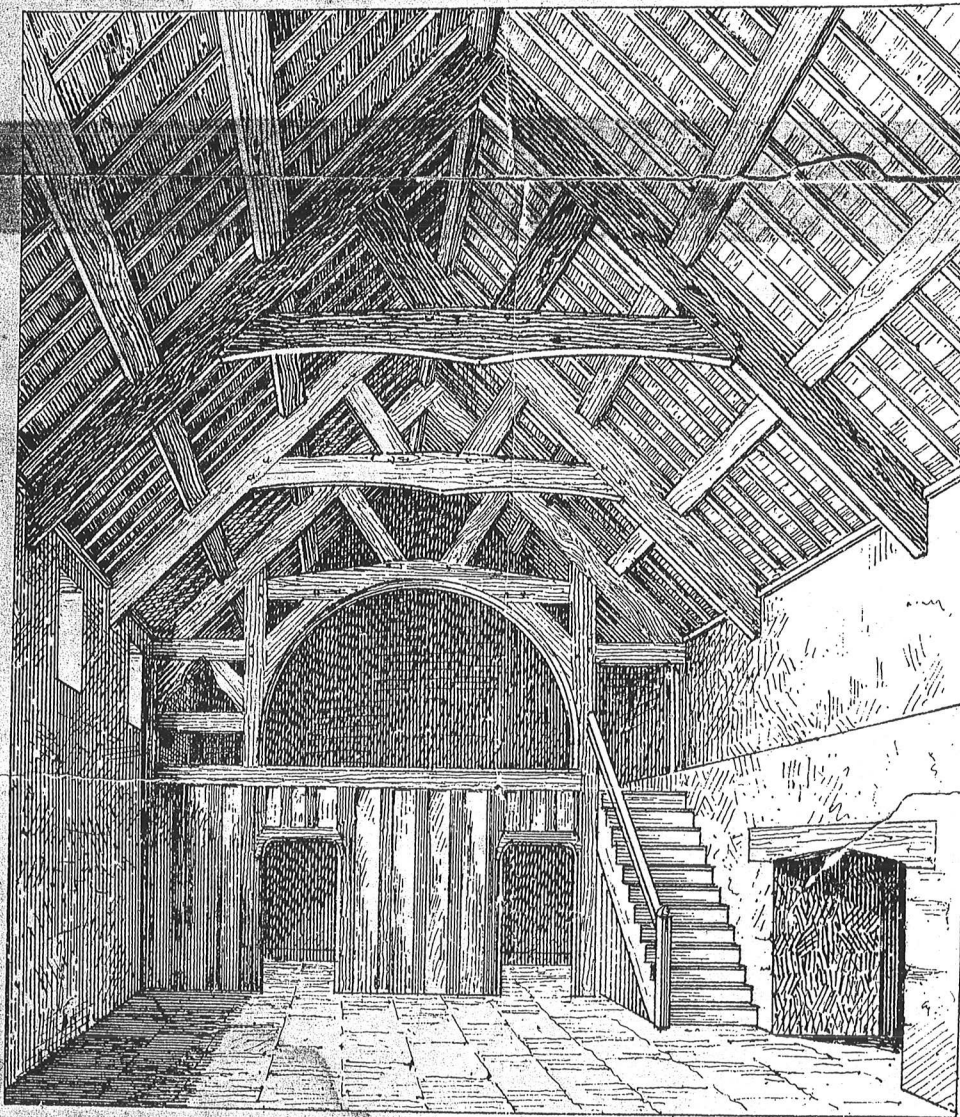


OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE DOLGELLY



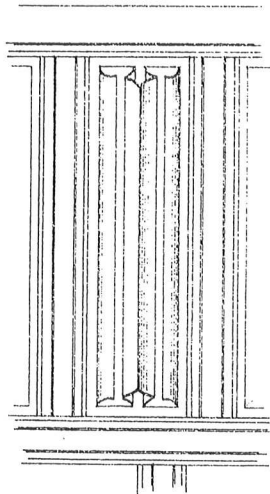
EXTERIOR VIEW.

*A. R. Phipson Arch<sup>t</sup> del.  
Birmingham*

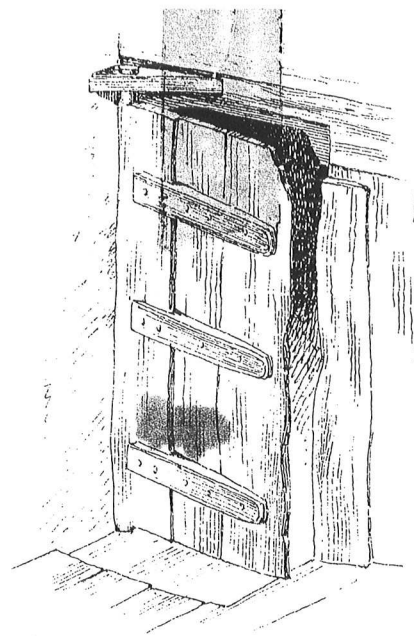


INTERIOR OF HALL

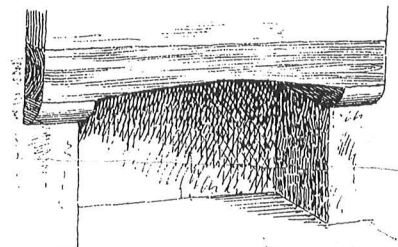




Linen panels in Hall

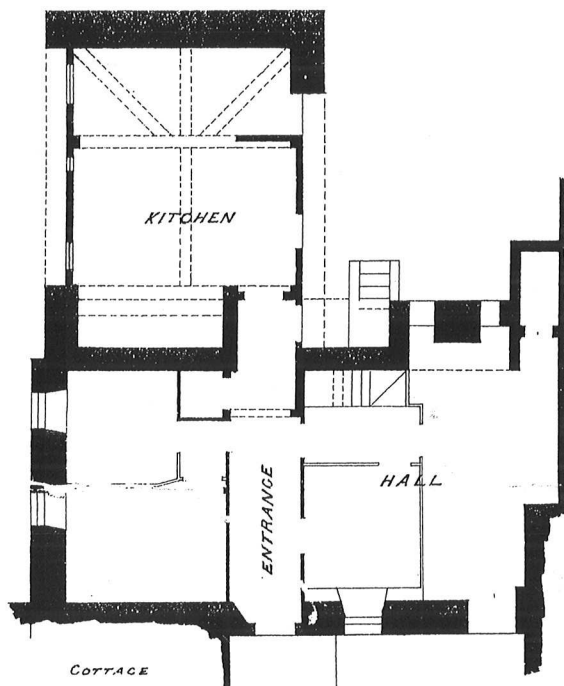


Door with wooden pivot hinges to Upper Chamber.



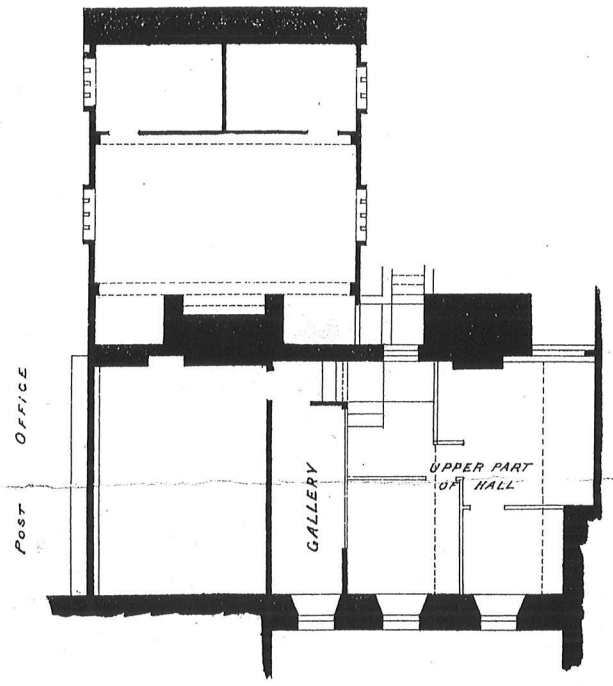
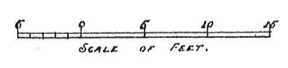
Fire place in room over kitchen

A.B. Phipps del.  
Birmingham



COTTAGE

GROUND PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Archifau Gwynedd Archives

Ni ddylid copio na chyhoeddi heb ganiatad

Not to be copied or published without permission



"Appertaining to the date of the building, one cannot refute lightly the opinion of Mr. Phipson, who, according to his report, "made a careful examination of the Building" and found that there is very little architectural moulding or ornament by which to judge accurately of the age of the building.

He is definite that the most ornamental portion indicates a date not earlier than late in the fifteenth century, he is equally definite in his statement "it is so different in character and in workmanship from all the other existing portions that I believe the house itself is of earlier date probably of the middle or later part of the fourteenth century and consequently that the traditional connection with Glendwr may be correct."

I would be inclined to favour the view of Mr. Phipson, who, after all, was obviously trained in his profession to give such an opinion, as against the opinion of Mr. E. Breese, who, because certain ornamental features are late fifteenth century, concludes that the whole structure is of the same period."

If, therefore, it is conceded that part of the building is of the 14th century, it is not unreasonable to associate it with Glyn Dŵr to the extent at any rate of his Appointment of the Ambassadors to France having been made in this particular building.

Apart from the argument with regard to the structure Mr. Breese also makes a point against the association of Glyn Dŵr with the building that out of a large number of writers who are named by him who visited Dolgelly in the 18th and 19th centuries only one makes any allusion to this house. Some of this is purely negative evidence and it is respectfully suggested that the fact that only one of the many writers named by Mr. Breese referred to this building is no evidence that it was not associated with Glyn Dŵr.

After consideration of all the facts and as there is no evidence to the contrary the writer is of the opinion that the Old Parliament House did have associations with the Welsh Patriot.

Whatever may have been the association of Glyn Dŵr with this old building it had association with another famous Welshman as it was the residence of Lewis Owen, better known as the Baron, by his being a Baron of the Exchequer of North Wales. He represented Merioneth in Parliament from 1547 to 1555 and in 1555 on his way back to Dolgelly from the Assizes at Shrewsbury on 11 October he was murdered near Dugoed, Mallwyd, by relatives of "Gwylliaid Cochion Mawddwy" (The Red Bandits of Mawddwy) out of revenge for having condemned to death members of their families.

*Dolgelly,*

HUGH J. OWEN