

# History of Troserch Woodlands and Mills

Compiled by Alwyn Charles

Author Of The History Of Llangennech

*The properties known as Troserch Woodlands and Mills lie approximately one mile to the north of the village of Llangennech in Carmarthenshire. The neck of ancient woodland up the Morlais River was first aquired by the Forestry Commision from the Stepney Estate in 1955 . In 1961, further woodlands on the eastern side of the river Morlais were sold by the Havard family of Goitre-Wen to the Forestry Commision. The area involved is shown in Appendix 1. The Second World War brought timber shortages, and to ensure future supplies , these woods were stripped of their native trees and replanted with fast-growing conifers . A generation later, privatisation ruled , and in 1994 the Commision sold the woodlands on either side of the river Morlais to an English Consortium . In return for grants , the new owners agreed to open forest tracks to the public and create new “ permissive tracks” along the river bank. Early in 2006 ,with the ten year agreement coming to an end , the woods were up for sale again . Neighbours and walkers were alerted by the purchase and enclosure of an adjoining lot and realised that a change of ownership could mean the fencing-off or parcelling-up of the remaining 85 acres . The campaign to aquire the woods took off in April 2006 , with a public meeting .*

*With the support of the Llangennech Community Council , local M.P. and Assembly Members, The Troserch Woodland Society ( T.W.S. ) was formed to win wider public support and find the necessary funds . The Society is open to all and is committed to public ownership , preservation of wildlife and regeneration of broadleaved woodland . After six months , membership topped 220 and on September 29<sup>th</sup> , thanks to a grant from Cyd-Coed ( The Forestry Commision in Wales ) the woods were bought back for the community. The T.W.S. is based on a Charity Commision model and provides for an Executive Committee elected by all members at an annual general meeting . Membership is open to anyone over 16 years of age, with a subscription of £ 5.00 a year.*

*The Cyd-Coed purchase grant totalled £ 125,000 , but a bid of £ 115,000 secured the deal. T.W.S. was allowed to keep £ 6,000 of the remaining £ 10,000 to cover legal and safety costs , and returned the rest . Subscriptions brought in about £ 1,000 , the Community Council and Chairman’s fund provided £ 300 and the Chairman of the County Council also contributed. On advice from solicitors , the T.W.S. steering committee set up a non-profit company, namely Troserch Woodlands ( Property ) Ltd to take on formal ownership and management of the woods . With three experienced foresters on call , the committee has agreed on a plan , and major works could begin in the summer of 2007 , following wider consultations with members in the spring of 2007 .*

## HISTORY OF THE WOODS AND MILLS

*The history of Troserch Woods can be traced as far back as 1081, when the Welsh Prince Rhys-ap-Tewdwr ruled over the kingdom of Deheubarth, which included all Llangennech lands. Rhys died in 1093, and following the Norman invasion of Wales, the claims of his two sons were not recognised, subsequently all Llangennech lands were included in the Norman Lordships of Kidwelly and Carnwallon. A "Survey of the Duchy of Lancaster" reveals that in 1141, Maurice de Londres, received at the hands of Henry I, the two forementioned Lordships. The ownership of Llangennech lands remained with the de Londres family until 1244, when a female descendant, namely Hadwisa de Londres married Patrick de Chaworth I. The Chaworth's held other lordships in South-Wales, and held lands in our area until one of the female descendants, namely Maud, married Henry, the Earl of Lancaster and Leicester in 1297. Thus by this marriage, all Llangennech lands became part of the massive domains of the Duchy of Lancaster. Henry died in 1345 and was succeeded by his son, Henry of Grosmont (born 1300). Henry was a great benefactor in the building of churches in our area, and since the first Llangennech Church was built in 1345 it would not be unreasonable to assume that he contributed towards its construction. It is recorded that his daughter Maud, who succeeded him, empowered a Chaplain to purchase within the Lordships of Kidwelly and Carnwallon (which included Llangennech), lands and tenements for the building of churches. Maud died of the plague in 1362, and her share of the estate was taken over by her younger sister Blanche and her husband John of Gaunt, who was the Earl of Richmond and fourth son of Edward III. It was through John of Gaunt that the whole of the Lancaster estates, including Llangennech lands came to be vested in the Royal House. John of Gaunt became the most powerful Marches Lord during the latter part of the fourteenth century in South-West-Wales. It was on the death of his wife Blanche, that John of Gaunt obtained patronage of the Llangennech Parish Tithes, and it was during this period that he passed them on to the Collegiate Church of St. Mary's, Leicester, where they remained until the dissolution of the Roman Catholic Church in the mid sixteenth century.*

*Reverting back to Troserch Woods, Mr Geraint Jenkins, in his excellent publication on the "Welsh Woolen Industry" records, quote: - "There existed in the Llanelli area by the end of the fourteenth century many fulling mills, which were used to cleanse, shrink and thicken cloth, located on the river Lliedi in Llanelli, and on the river Morlais at Troserch near Llangennech when it was owned by the Duchy of Lancaster", end of quote. The first "Furze Mill", which was owned by John of Gaunt was erected on the river Morlais in Troserch Woods around 1390. It was situated approximately 150 yards to the north of the currently disused "Troserch Corn or Oat-Mill". The water which powered the mill was supplied by means of a mill-race or trench several hundred yards in length upstream to the river Morlais. Appendix 2 (Principal Landowners in the Parish of Llangennech in the 1800's) shows the*

*approximate location of the 1390 Furze Mill , whilst appendix 3 , shows the exact location , together with the track of the mill-race. A fulling mill used running water to drive heavy hammers that thickened the cloth after weaving . “ Fulling “ was a repetitive process , using firstly human urine , then fullers earth and finally , soap , before being well rinsed by a constant supply of water. It is recorded that John of Gaunt and his successors generally leased the mills to prominent landowners , who then leased them to tenant millers . Many of the local mills were leased for periods of many years , with sums of 8 shillings a year being quoted . By the beginning of the sixteenth century the Troserch Fulling Mill or Furze Mill had been converted to a Corn Mill ,and became known as “ Troserch Pandy Mill “ . Mr. Dylan Rees in his book, entitled “ The Concise History of Carmarthenshire “ quotes : - “ Local records refer to the existence of “ Pandai “ mills in many areas of the county including Glyncothy , Abergorlech , Llangennech , Kidwelly and Carmarthen “ end of quote . Troserch Mill and Troserch Woods were to remain under the control of the Duchy of Lancaster until the beginning of the 1600’s.*

*Between 1609 and 1613 , Gerald Bromley, Esquire , who was a surveyor to the Duchy of Lancaster, carried out a detailed survey of the Lordships of Kidwelly and Carnwallon ( which included Llangennech lands ) and the relevant information is recorded in a book entitled “ A Survey of the Duchy of Lancaster in Wales “ , written by William Rees , and published by the Board of Celtic Studies and the University of Wales Press. The survey provides an invaluable record of conditions prevailing in our area , for example , during that period , all taxes collected in the village of Llangennech were paid to the Duchy of Lancaster, and as an extra form of taxation , all the farmers were compelled to grind their corn at the specified mill , with both the Lord of the Manor and Lessees benefitting from the monopoly. The survey quotes : - “ They say the freeholders do owe their suites and services to her Majestie’s*

*Milles in their several Manor’s viz ,All the inhabitants of the Parish of Llaneddi, together with all the Inhabitants of the Parish of Llangenneche on the eastsyde of a brooke called Morleis doe owe their suite and services to one gryste myll newly erected upon the fforeste of Keven Gorach . The Inhabitants of the Parishes of Llangenneche westwards to the brooke called Morleis doe owe their thyer suite and services to Llangenneche myll “ end of quote . Apparently the mill at Tal-y-Clun , Hendy , which was working in the fifteenth century had been replaced before 1610 by a new grist mill upon the forest of CefnGORACH to which all the farmers in Llangennech on the eastern side of the river Morlais were compelled to take their corn for grinding .( This would have included some of the following farms ,eg , Tyr-Eglwys, Wernycwm , Parc Farm , Tyrvernel , Penlan ,etc. ) The mill at Cefn-Gorach was situated on the River Gwili, slightly to the north of the existing Hendy outdoor swimming pool . Similarly , the farmers of Llangennech on the western side of the river Morlais had to take their corn for grinding at the Troserch Furze Mill ( see Appendix 2 ) . This would have included some of the following farms, eg, Troserch , Llwyn-y-Fodda, Cornhwrdd , Llwnifan , Brynshafre , etc. It is also recorded that the local gentry appointed the millers , who received as a toll, the fourth dishful of corn ground . Llangennech village members were also compelled to assist as a public duty in maintaining the mill in working order and keeping the mill- pond clear ,etc. It is known that by the early 1600s , more winter corn was being sown in Llangennech, although oats still remained the most important part of the*

diet . Oaten straw was also a valuable fodder which enabled the farmers to maintain their cattle over the winter .Further reference is also made of the Troserch Furze Mill in the Duchy of Lancaster Survey, quote- “ Also they presente one gryste myll within the Parishe of Llangenneche being reparcion houlden in farme by Griffith Penry, gent, att what route or what walwe they know not “ , end of quote.

Griffith Penry was the son of Lewis Penry , descended from Sir Elidir Ddu who was one of the ancestors of Lord Dinefwr. He bought extensive properties in Llangennech from Thomas Lloyd of the Alltycadno Estate ( Llangyndeyrn ) and became High Sheriff of Carmarthenshire in 1630 . He lived at the Bwch llaethwen mansion which was situated slightly uphill to the White Mansion on the Parc Farm Estate .

In the early 1600s, due to shortage of money both by the Crown and the Duchy of Lancaster , areas of land within our area became available for renting,leasing, or outright purchase.

The ownership of Llangennech lands began to be established during this period, and the main landowning families associated with our village and especially Troserch Woods and Mill in the 1600s were :--

a.) The Vaughan's of Llanelli

b.) The Lloyd family of the Alltycadno Estate

The Vaughan's of Llanelli were descended from the Vaughan's of Golden Grove.

They were the largest landowners in West Wales , and in the late 1500's would have been involved in managing the affairs of Llangennech lands on behalf of the Duchy of Lancaster.

In the 1600's , the Vaughan's lands in Llangennech included :-

Troserch Woods , Clyngwernen , Pantyddaublwyf , Pencoed Ushef , Isel and Ganol , Penprys, Alltyfran , Tirgof , Penlan , Cwmynbwch and the central part of the existing village .

Of major importance regarding Llangennech lands is that in 1691 , Sir Thomas Stepney 5<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Prendergast , Pembrokeshire , married one of the Vaughn sisters of Llanelli and eventually the Stepney family aquired the Llanelli Vaughan lands in Llangennech .

The Lloyd family had lived in the mansion at Llangyndeyrn from 1480 to 1763.

The Lloyd family descended from Jenkin Lloyd of Blaiddpwll, Pembrokeshire , an ardent Yorkist supporter during the War of the Roses . Through inter-marriage the former Penry family lands in Llangennech became the property of the Lloyd family of Llangyndeyrn . They owned extensive lands in Carmarthenshire in the 1600's and within Llangennech these included Bwchllaethwen Mansion and Estate , Blaenhiraeth , Penylan ( Hendre Road ) Troserch Furze Mill , Troserch Farm , Glyncyre , Gwaelod – y – Maes , Tyfry ( Hendre Road ) , and Talyclun.

Two prominent members of the Lloyd family lived at the Bwchllaethwen Mansion in the 1600's, both of whom were named John Lloyd and who became Llangennech Squires. The first named John Lloyd was a member of Parliament for Carmarthenshire from 1646 to 1653 and from 1660 to 1661 . The second named John Lloyd served as High Sheriff of the County of Carmarthenshire in 1674 and 1697. A “ Rent Roll “ published in 1697 reveals the second named

*John Lloyd as being as the owner of the “ Troserch Pandy Mill “ ( also known as the Furze Mill ) , under the tenancy of Morris Tucker , and the mill later became known as Tucker’s Mill . Following the death of the second named John Lloyd , the estate , including the “ The Troserch Furze Mill “ or “ Pandy Mill “ passed on to his only child Elinor , who married Sir John Stepney , 6<sup>th</sup> Baronet in 1718 . Elinor was described in 1724 as , quote : - “ Sole issue and heir of John Lloyd , Esq. , late of Bwchllaethwen , Llangennech , deceased “ end of quote . Elinor died in 1734 , aged 32 , and the Llangennech lands belonging to the Lloyd family became the property of the Stepney family , who then also owned Troserch Woods and Mill.*

*Historically , it is interesting to note that in the mid 1600’s, Troserch Woods and Goitre - Wen were closely associated with the founding of the Nonconformist movement in Carmarthenshire . The first Llangennech nonconformist services were held in 1657 at the home of Jenkin Franklin in Llwyn-Ifan farm .Franklin was a close associate of the Lloyd family of Bwchllaethwen. However , by 1664, religious gatherings similar to those held in Llwyn-Ifan were outlawed by the State and by 1670, further laws extended the penalties . In the Llangennech area , the strict Baptists showed not the slightest sign of surrendering the advantages they had previously gained . They continued to meet as best as they could for worship, in remote cottages , farmhouses , barns , and isolated places , and a favourite meeting place seems to have been the hollows of Goitre-Wen and the thick forest of Troserch Woods . In 1673 further restrictions were imposed with a renewal of the persecution of the Llangennech Baptists . In 1684 , their leader Robert Morgan and others were arrested for holding illegal meetings . However , they continued to meet until the 1690’s . The question must therefore be posed :- “ Where were the members baptised and were did they meet for religious services , epecially during the winter months ? “ . It would not be unreasonable to assume that the Troserch Furze Mill would have been utilised as a meeting place. This assumption is supported by the fact that approximately 100 yards downstream from the Troserch Furze Mill in the river Morlais is a pool known in Welsh as “ Y Pwll Bediddio “ or the “Baptism Pool “ . Records reveal that between 1749 and 1800 persons were baptised in the river Morlais at this pool , the exact numbers are not known . It was also used on occasions in the 1800’s for baptisms. It is also known that some members of the Baptist Chapel in Llangennech were baptised in the river Morlais by the Rev. John Rees who lived at the Troserch Mill. The last baptism at the pool took place on a summers evening in 1984 , when the Rev. Sion Alun , the Minister of Bethesda Chapel , ably assisted by Mr. Gravell , the local Chemist baptised up to ten persons before a large congregation of people .*

*Reverting back to the ownership of Troserch Woods and Mill. Sir John Stepney , 6<sup>th</sup>Baronet , who had married Elinor Lloyd of Bwchllaethwen , died in 1748 and the estate passed on to his son Sir Thomas Stepney 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet .Hhe died in 1772 and was succeeded by his son John who at the age of 29 years , became the owner of Stepney lands in Llangennech . He had little interest in his inheritance apart from the income it produced , and*

*in 1793 attempted to sell part of his estate , and engaged a firm from London to draw up a document entitled :- “ Rough particulars of the Llanelli Estates within the County of Carmarthen “ which contained detailed information on lands relating to Llanelli and Llangennech . His attempts to sell the lands were unsuccessful. Documents are available which indicate the rents charged for properties in 1801 . The following gives some examples of properties adjacent to Troserch Woods :*

<i>Tenement</i>	<i>Landlord</i>	<i>Tenant</i>	<i>Rates</i>
<i>Troserch Farm</i>	<i>Sir John Stepney</i>	<i>William Hopkins</i>	<i>8 shillings</i>
<i>Bayly Glas</i>	<i>Sir John Stepney</i>	<i>Thomas Engoed</i>	<i>4 Shillings</i>
<i>Pandy Bach</i>	<i>Sir John Stepney</i>	<i>Sir John Stepney</i>	<i>1 Shilling</i>
<i>Blaenhiraeth</i>	<i>Sir John Stepney</i>	<i>John Lewis</i>	<i>2 Shillings</i>
<i>Gwern-y-Cwn</i>	<i>Sir William Clayton</i>	<i>D.Morris</i>	<i>12 Shillings</i>
<i>Troserch Fach</i>	<i>Sir William Clayton</i>	<i>John Jones</i>	<i>6 Shillings</i>
<i>Tyreglwys</i>	<i>Rev. John Lloyd</i>	<i>Elisabeth David</i>	<i>10 Shillings</i>

*No reference was made to the rates for Troserch Woods , however, Pandy Bach relates to the Furze Mill within Troserch Woods .Reference should also be made to the fact that another mill was in existence within Llangennech in 1801 , and this is referred to as “ Llangennech Mill the landlord and tenant being Sir William Clayton for which an annual rent of twelve Shillings a year was charged . Llangennech Mill , which later became known as Bayliss’ Mill was situated in Troserch Road , approximately three hundred yards to the north of the Troserch Roundabout on the Llanelli to Hendy Link Road . The Property of Dr. Davies , the local practitioner stands on the site of the former Llangennech Mill.*

*Having failed to sell his lands in Llangennech , including Troserch Woods and Mill , Sir John Stepney , 8<sup>th</sup> Baronet in 1802 drew up his Will , and for reasons which are not apparent , virtually disinherited his family . The Estate on his death was to be conveyed to his” three dear friends “ one of whom was the Earl of Cholmondeley . After his death the estate was to pass*

*in turn to a number of named friends , the last of whom was William Chambers , Senior. It is known that Sir John Stepney was in debt and was trying unsuccessfully to sell his lands in Llangennech and other areas. However , he must have sold his lands, shortly after drawing his Will, for shortly afterwards most of the Llangennech lands came under the ownership of John Symmons , a land-speculator from Paddington Green , London . However , appendix 4 indicates that Troserch Woods and Tuckers Mill had not been sold to John Symmons . The Llangennech Parish Rates for 1806 show that Troserch Mill ( Tuckers Mill ) was still owned by Sir John Stepney for which a rent of 8 Shillings per annum was charged , and that the tenant of the mill was William Hopkins . No reference is made to the rent charged for Troserch Woods .*

*Sir John Stepney 8<sup>th</sup> Baronet died in 1811 , and in accordance with the terms of his Will , Troserch Woods became the property of the Marquess of Cholmondeley as indicated in Appendix 3 . After the deaths in very quick succession of all the legatees mentioned in the Will of Sir John Stepney , 8<sup>th</sup> Baronet , on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 1824 , William Chambers, Senior, aquired all the lands of the Stepney Estate .*

*The Stepney family , or more precisely , John Cowell Stepney was not overjoyed that William Chambers , Senior , had inherited the Stepney Estate . During the 1830's , there was continual pressure and attempts by John Cowell Stepney to regain the Estate . In 1831 a Bill was filed in Chancery by John Cowell Stepney alleging that trees on the Stepney Estate , including Troserch Woods were being decimated by William Chambers , Senior .*

*The issue of timber on the Estate was dealt with at great lengths and the amount of wood obtained from each property , including Troserch Woods was carefully noted . Timber sold to timber merchants in the area amounted to £ 800. a vast sum of money in those days. Having lost the case , efforts were then made by John Cowell Stepney to prove that William Chambers, Junior, was illegitimate and therefore could not claim the Stepney Estate on the death of his father . At that time all marriages had to take place before Anglican Clergy to ensure the legitimacy of the offspring . Since the marriage of William Chambers , Senior had taken place in France without Anglican Clergy , the legitimacy of William Chambers Junior was challenged . Attempts were made in 1838 to come to financial agreement between the two parties , in order that William Chambers Senior could withdraw from the Estate . However , all efforts seemed to have failed since the Tithe Maps of 1842 show that William Chambers , Senior was the owner of the following properties :*

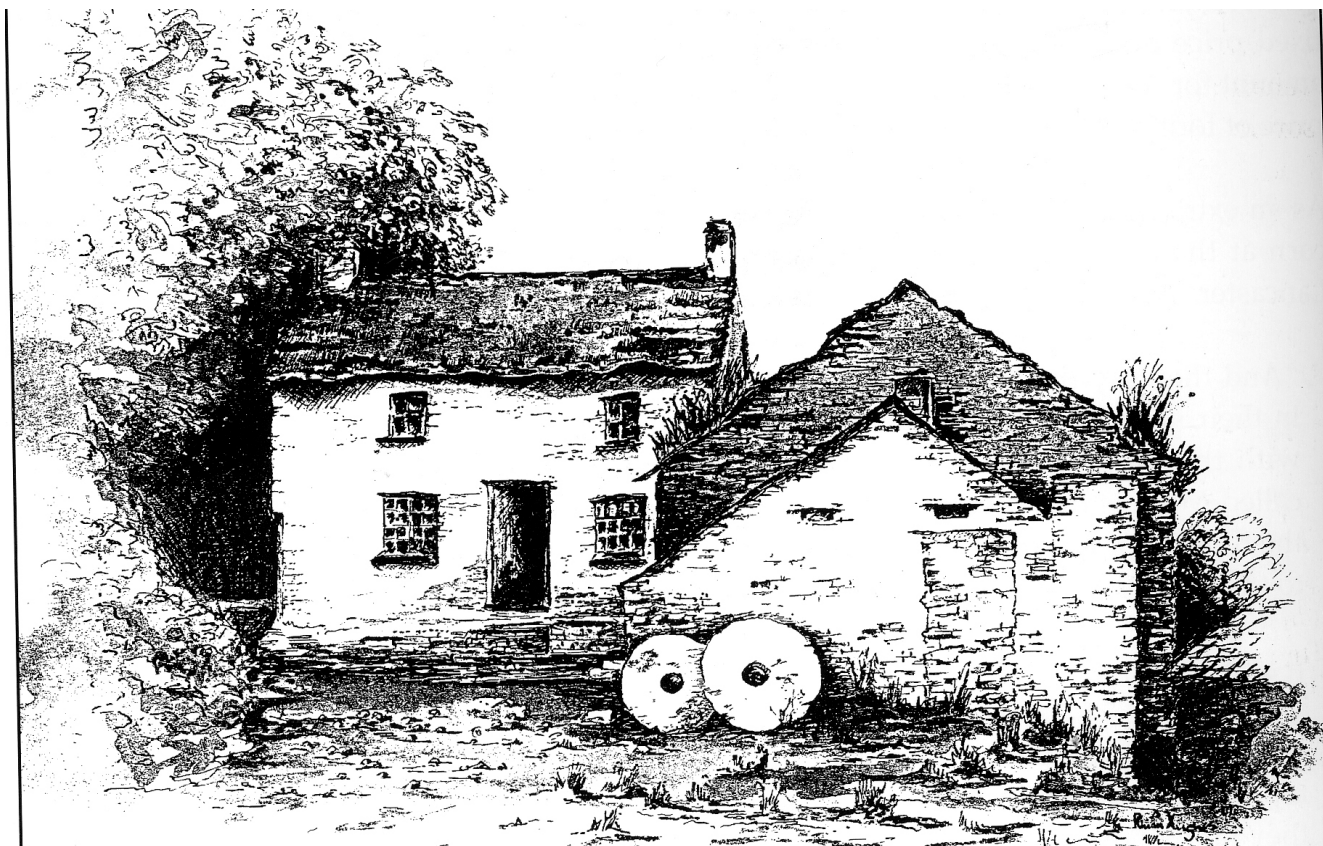
*a.) Huntsman's Lodge and new Troserch Mill , the landlord and tenant was William Chambers Senior.s was paid .*

*b.) Troserch Woods ; the landlord was William Chambers Senior , the tenant was Griffith Henry, the area was 53 acres , for which an annual rent of three shillings was paid*

*Lands on the eastern side of the River Morlais , which formed a part of the Llannon Parish in 1842 , were owned by TB Lott, Esq.*

*By the late 1810's , the original Furze Mill , also known as " Tuckers Mill " " see (Appendix 3 ) had been replaced by a newly erected " Oat Mill " , which was owned by the Marquess of Cholmondeley and became known as Troserch Mill , a sketch of which is shown in Fig. 1 . The mill was erected approximately 150 yards downstream from the original Furze Mill and was powered by water from the River Morlais by means of an extended mill-race*

*Fig. 1*



### ***The New Troserch Oatmill***

*The Old Mill was still known as Tuckers Mill or Pandy Bach at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century . By the 1830's or 1840's the old mill had been converted to a pair of cottages known as " Pandy Cottages " . The newly erected Troserch Mill was occupied in 1841 by a William Hopkins , a joiner by trade, his wife Mary and four children . They did not reside at the mill for long, since the 1851 Census indicates that the mill was occupied by John Rees ,*



his wife Hannah and two children, namely Mary aged 8 years and John B. Rees, aged 1 year. The former named boy, J.B. Rees ( 1849 – 1928 ) was to become well known in Wales, by his Bardic name of “ Morleisfab “. He was a founder of the Llanelli “ Cymmrodorion Society “. The 1895 National Eisteddfod of Wales was greeted by an “ englyn “ from Morleisfab, and in 1910 he won the Crown at the National Eisteddfod held in Bethesda, North Wales. He won prizes at four further National Eisteddfodau held in Caernarfon, Colwyn Bay, Llangollen, Swansea, and at an Eisteddfod held in London. Having been born and raised in the Troserch Corn Mill, on the banks of the River Morlais, it was fitting that he adopted the Bardic name of “ Morleisfab “, in English Morlais’ Son. His mother died at the mill in 1858, when he was nine years of age.

As previously stated, by the 1830s or 1840s, the original “ Furze Mill “ had been converted to two cottages, known as “ Pandy Cottages “ or “ Troserch Wood Cottages “, as indicated in the 1861 Census. The first cottage was occupied by Anne Thomas, aged 60 years of Llanarthney and her daughter Margaret, aged 28 years. The second cottage was occupied by William Bowen, aged 38 years, a labourer from Llannon, his wife and two children. The two cottages must have been vacated by 1871, for there is no further reference to the occupants. In the meantime, John Rees, the father of ( Morleisfab) the Bard was re-married and fathered a further 14 children at the mill. He was a man of many professions, for he is described a Mason, a Miller, A Stonemason, and a Baptist Minister of a Chapel in Pontlliw near Pondarddulais. He died in 1883 at the Mill when he was 70 years of age. His second wife lived at the mill until 1905 when she was 69 years of age. John Rees and his descendants were to occupy the Troserch Mill for nearly 100 years, that is, well into the 1940’s.

Reverting back to the ownership of Troserch Woods and Mill, William Chambers, Senior, died in 1855, and the Stepney Estate passed on to his son William Chambers, Junior. However, in 1860, William Chambers, Junior surrendered the leases of the Stepney Estate for an annuity of £ 700. per annum for 30 years, from March 1860. The arrangements were finally completed in October 1862 and the Stepney Estate, including Troserch Woods and Mill passed on to John Cowell Stepney –Cowell. He became Sir John Cowell Stepney-Cowell in 1871 and he died in 1877. He resided at the “ Dell “, near the present Stradey Park Hotel and also at No. 5, St. George’s Place, Hyde Park, London. He was known as “ Old Colonel “ or “ Old Whalebone “. He became the second largest landowner in Carmarthenshire. On his death, the Stradey Estate passed on to his second son, namely :  
Sir Emile Algernon Arthur Keppel Cowell Stepney, Bart ( 1834 – 1909 ), who was usually called Sir Arthur. He was an absentee landlord and rarely visited Llanelli. He seldom visited his daughter Alice ( Aley ) Catherine Merriel Stepney who was born in 1876. Sir Arthur went to America in 1902 and in 1909 was found dead in a wayside station in Arizona. His body was brought home for burial in the Stepney family vault in the Llanelli Parish Church. Consequently the ownership of Troserch Woods passed on to his daughter Alice, who in 1911

*married Sir E. Stafford Howard K.C.B. ( 1851 – 1916 . Sir Stafford Howard was the first Chartered Mayor of Llanelli and was a kinsman of the Duke of Norfolk. He resided at Cylymaenllwyd and Bryncaerau ( Park Howard Mansion ) having been born in Cumberland he learned and spoke Welsh with some fluency .*

*It is interesting to note that in the late 1890's , clogs ( boots ) were favoured by many who worked in wet conditions and heavy industries , eg. tinsplate workers ,etc. A large clogmaker in the Llanelli area , was Samuel Clayton of Park Street , the regions largest clogmaker . He utilised wooden soles for clogs , made of alder or beech . In the late 1890's, clog sole cutting at Troserch Woods was heralded as a new industry that would help relieve unemployment at the time of depression in the tinsplate-industry at Llangennech . it is not known as to the number of people he employed .*

*Up to the present time research has failed to establish the current ownership of Troserch Mill . It is known that Troserch Mill was purchased in 1892 by David Evans at the same time as he bought the Llangennech Estate from J.C. Allegron Sartoris . David Evans was a self-made man , having been born in Dolauhirion , near Llandovery . He spent some years in London , and in 1868 was offered a partnership by the grain merchant Henry Thomas . The firm Thomas & Evans was eventually amalgamated with John Dyer, Swansea , to form a Joint Stock Company with David Evans , as Managing Director. Small scale corn-milling had become uneconomic in the late nineteenth century in the face of competition from huge mills located at major ports , including Swansea , which ground North-American grain . David Evans became one of the largest importer of grain in Wales. The Troserch Mill ceased milling around the 1890's and was superseded by the Llangennech Mill situated in Troserch Road , which was owned by Joseph Joseph . He was the son- in-law of David Evans and lived at Plas Derw. He operated the Llangennech Mill from 1880 to 1912. The ownership of Troserch Mill eventually passed on to the son of David Evans , namely Morton Glyn Evans and thence to the grandson , Kenneth Morton Evans. It is known that up to the 1950's , rent money for the occupancy of Troserch Mill was collected by Tom John, who was the Land Agent for the Llangennech Estate .It has been difficult to establish the ownweship of Troserch Mill since the 1950's since the tenants have mostly passed away and the Llangennech Estate records appertaining to the Mill seems to have been lost when the Plas-Isaf Mansion, where the records were kept was burnt to the ground in 1926 .*

*From the early 1900's up until the closure of Acorn Colliery in 1932 , numerous persons were employed by Mr. James Bayliss , a local timber merchant and builder in cutting timber for the adjacent colliery in the Goitre-Wen woods. In 1914 , Mr. Bayliss moved his business to the disused Llangennech Mill in Troserch Road . For many years other persons , including the Emmanuel Brothers ,were employed in cutting pit props in Troserch Woods for collieries in the Gwendraeth Valley . In 1953 . licenses were given to David Griffith and John Griffith to mine one seam of coal at a shallow depth within the vicinity of*

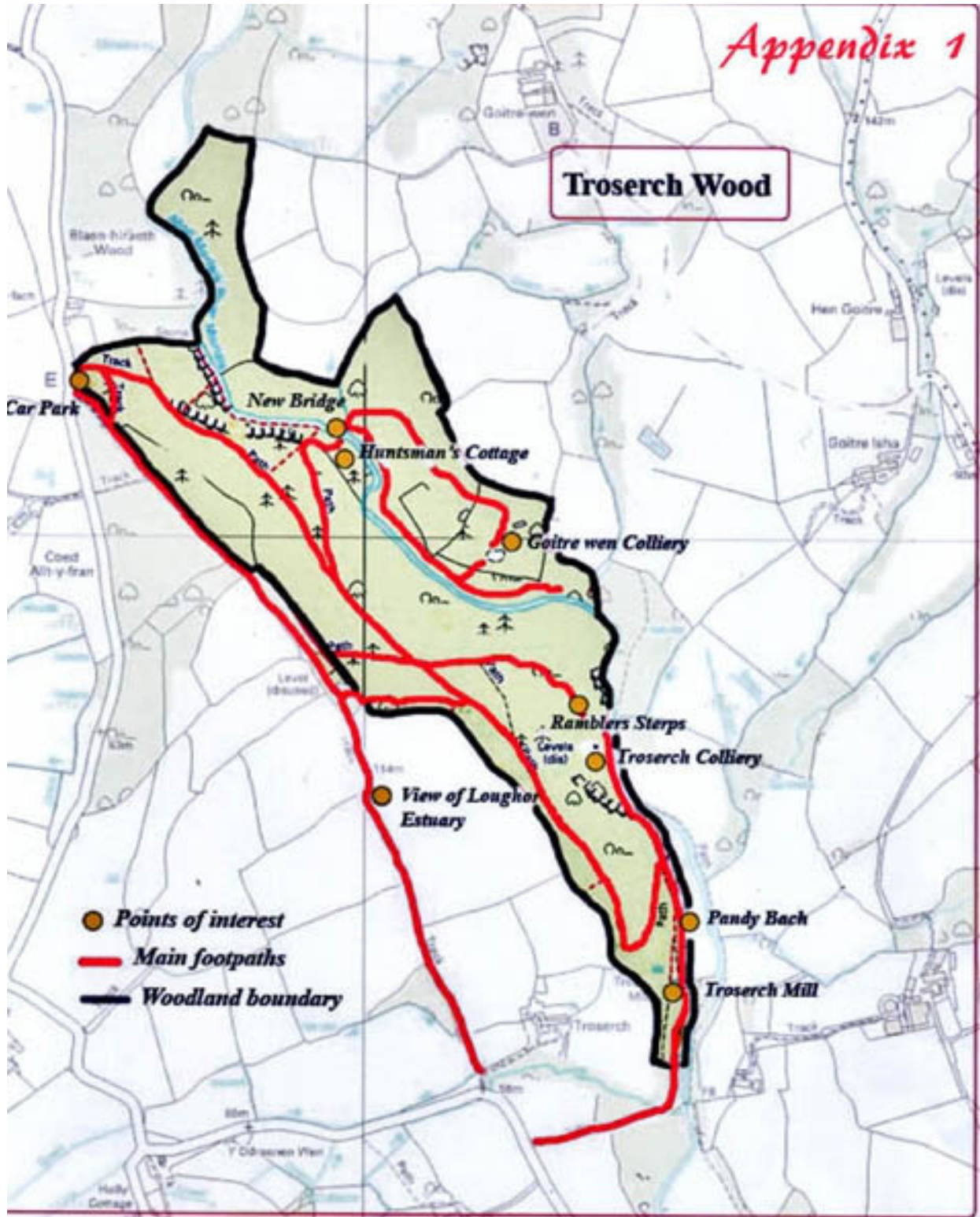
*Goitre-Wen woods , and operations continued until 1959 . The last family , to occupy Troserch Mill were the Taylor family , who vacated the premises around 1970 . Sections of the family have since emigrated to Australia .*

*Reverting back to the ownership of Troserch Woods , it is recorded that the marriage of Alice Catherine Meriel Stepney to Sir Stafford Howard produced two children , namely a daughter Marged Stepney Howard Stepney , and a son Stafford Vaughan Stepney Howard Stepney . Sir Stafford Howard died in 1916 , and his widow Alice became the owner of the Estate in succession to her late husband. Alice Stepney eventually moved her family to Ascot in Berkshire , where she passed away in 1953 . Her daughter Marged Stepney who had married Patrick Wyndham Murray Threipland, died one year after after her mother, and one half of the Stepney Estate consequently passed to her son-in-law. On the 20<sup>th</sup> January 1955 , Stafford Vaughan Stepney and Patrick Threipland sold Troserch Woods to the Forestry Commission , thereby terminating the ownership of all the Stepney Estate Lands in Llangennech .*

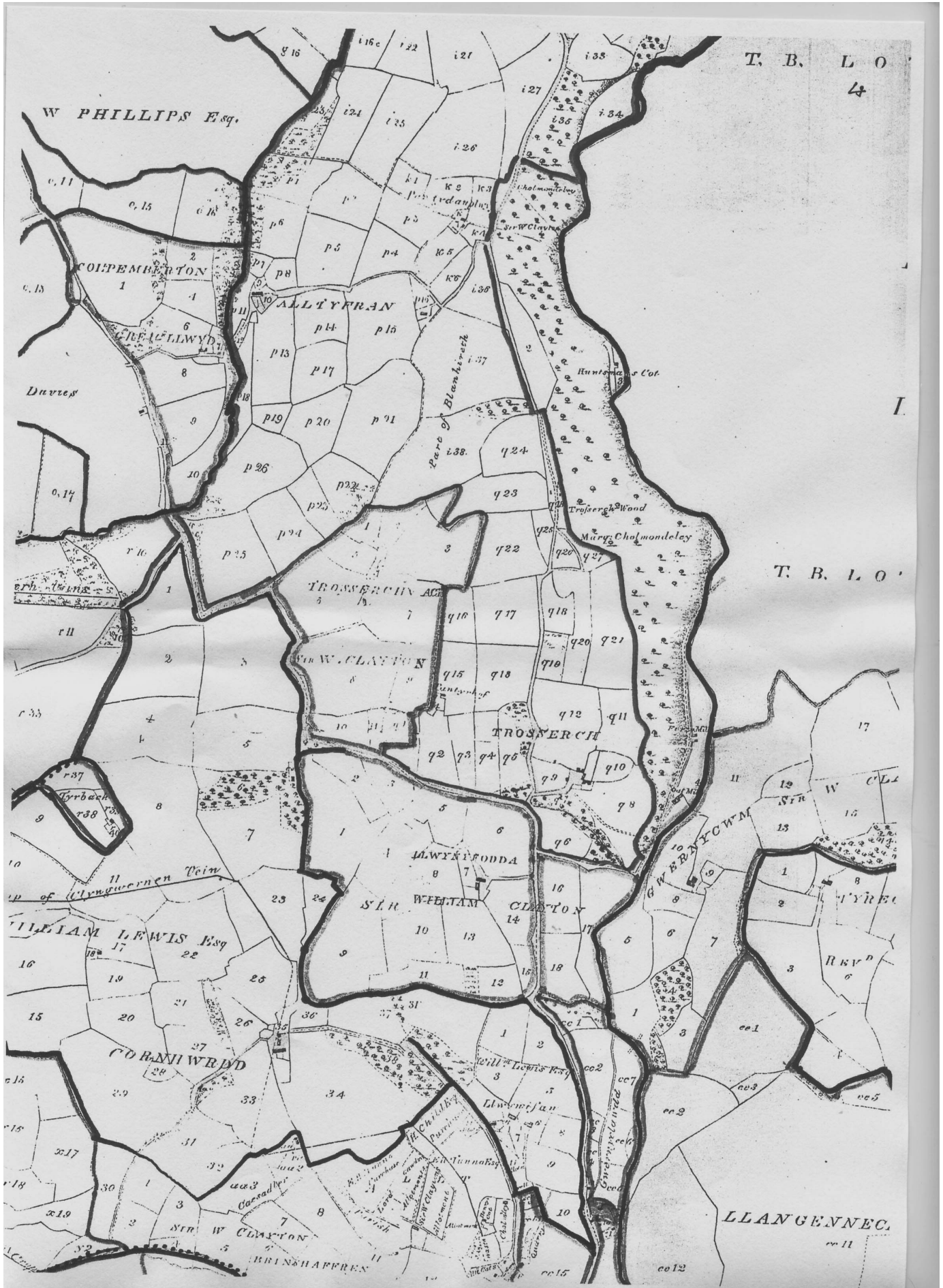
*Addendum :*

*My grateful thanks to Arno Wolff for typesetting this document*

*Appendix 1*





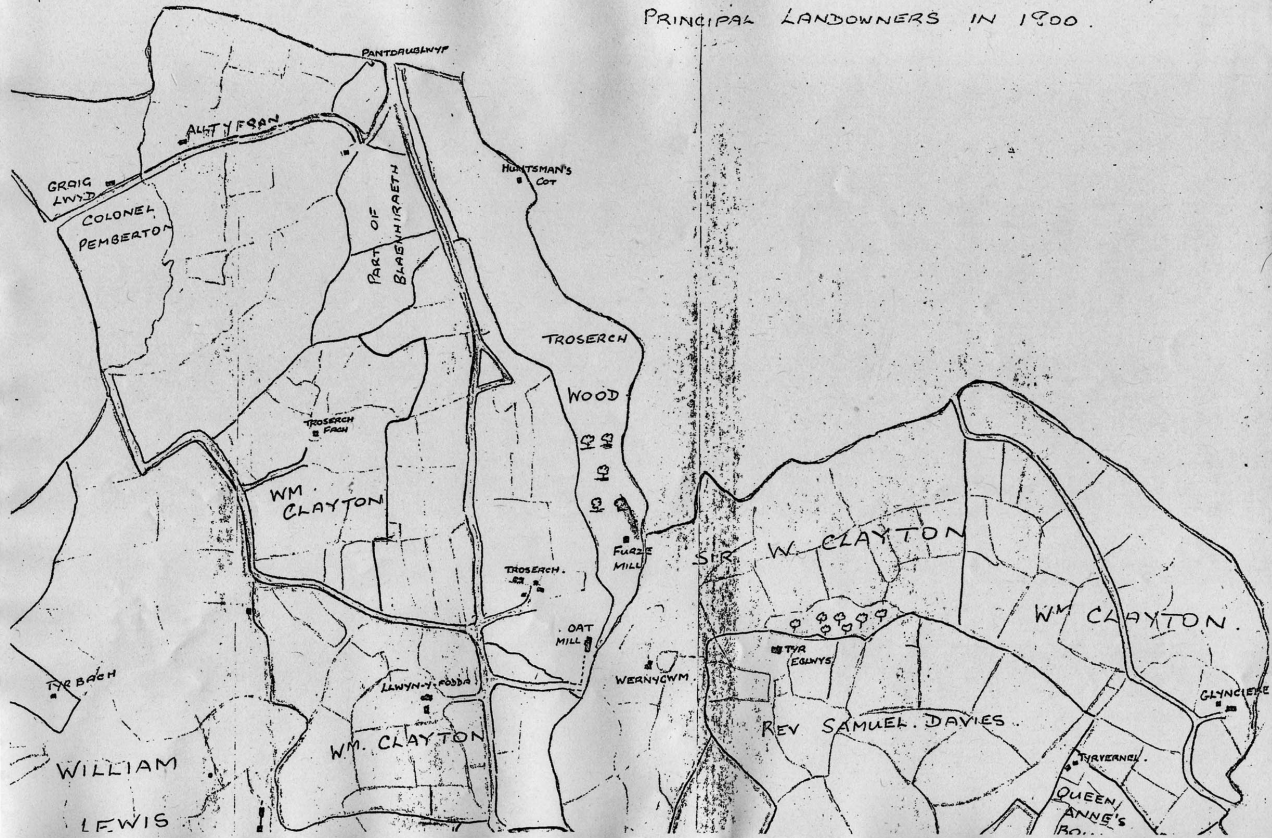


T. B. L. O.  
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T. B. L. O.

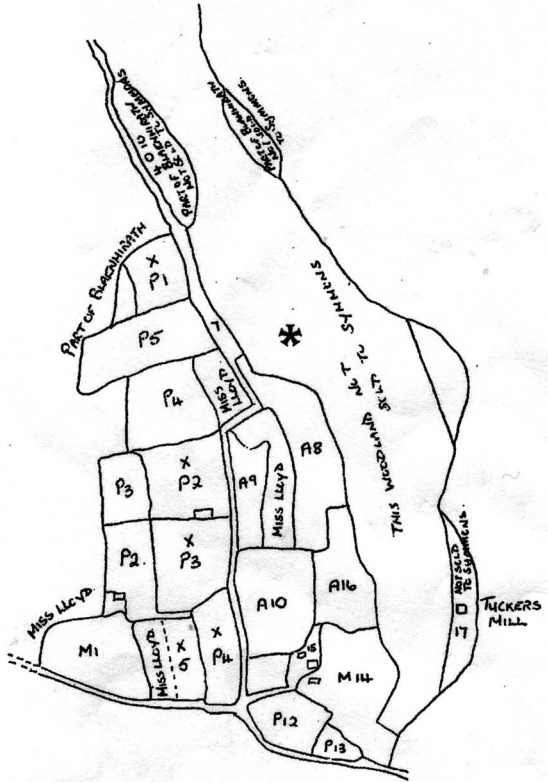
# PARISH OF LLANGENIECH

PRINCIPAL LANDOWNERS IN 1900.



**Map of Tir Trosserch Occupied by Mark Evans: Tir y Bili glas Occupied by Dd Rees & marked X Both under tenants to Wm Engoed.**  
*Trosserch Wood marked \* now in Sir Thomas own hands. Llangennech Parish.*

### Appendix 3



1. *Maun Hefa*
2. *Cx yr hen Wil*
3. *Cx Brost*
4. *Plant yr*
5. *Cx Cefen*
6. *Rhandir Cx Wil*
7. *Wood on the road*
8. *Cx Craig*
9. *Cx heol*
10. *Cx Sghbor*
11. *Ti Bank*
12. *Cx Cwm*
13. *Cx Bach*
14. *Main Newidd*
15. *Wood & Garden*
16. *Cx Handy*
17. *Field by Tucking Mill*

	A	R	M
1. <i>Cx Wil</i>	2	3	10
2. <i>Cx Gwar y Ti</i>	4	0	32
3. <i>Cx Ban y Ti</i>	4	2	16
4. <i>Cuo Cx</i>	3	1	10
5. <i>Main Bili Glas</i>	1	3	00
	16	2	25

**Notes:**  
 The descriptions "Not sold to Symmons" were added in pencil after 1801.  
 P=Pasture, A=Arable, M=Meadow.  
 The acreage for the fields above are no longer visible although that of Trosserch Wood is given as 53a 0r 29p

**A Copy of An Estate Map of Sir Thomas Stepney, dated 1767,  
 held at Carmarthen Record Office**

