

Snowdon View / Tan yr Wyddfa

The following is some history regarding the TyW property and its early use as the North Wales Narrow Gauge Railways (latterly the Welsh Highland Railway) station master's house at Rhyd Ddu.

The Watkin Path from Nant Gwynant on the south side of Snowdon, is the first designated footpath in Britain, and was opened in 1892 by Prime Minister William Gladstone. The path is named after Sir Edward Watkin, a Liberal Member of Parliament and railway entrepreneur who financed the path's construction. It was his second wife, Lady Anne Watkin (nee Ingram, m1892) who in 1895 leased the TyW plot ('Plot15') to a David John Jones of the Snowdon Temperance Hotel, Rhyd Ddu. This was a 99year lease, £3 pa.

1887-8 OS 6in map shows no building on the site but the revision of 1899 shows Snowdon View. Snowdon View, latterly Tan yr Wyddfa, was thus built between 1895 and 1899, alongside the railway from Caernarfon which had already been opened in 1881.

We have in the title deeds:

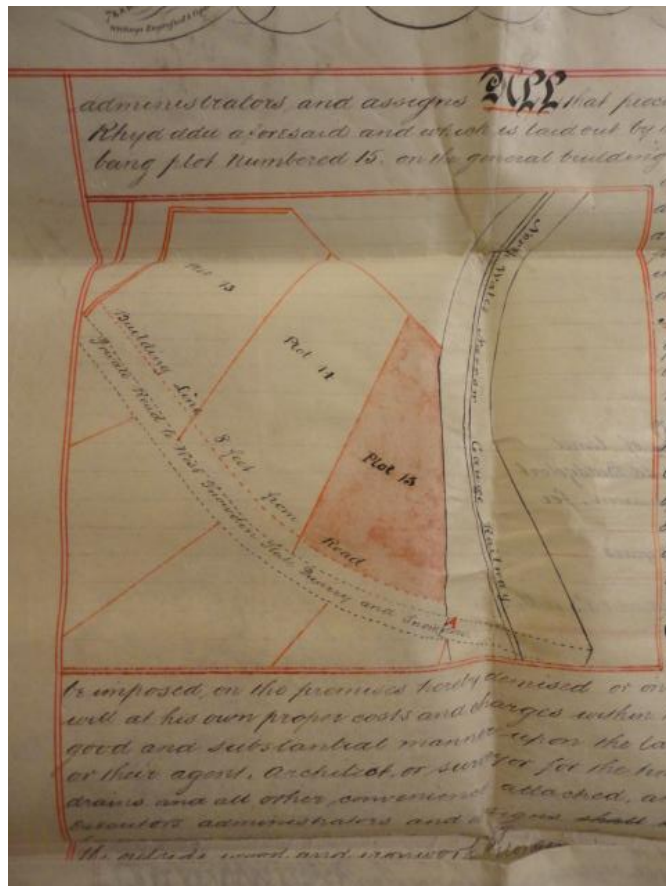
- 25 June 1906 Sir Alfred Mellor Watkin (son of Sir Edward Watkin and his first wife Mary Watkin (nee Briggs) agrees to assign Snowdon View to DJ Jones of Snowdon Temperance Hotel Rhyd Ddu (keeper & quarryman), and John Ogwen Owen (Quarryman) & Idwal Owen (Station master)
- 23 August 1906 the lease is surrendered by Mr Ellis Griffiths (farmer) to Mr David J Jones
- 24 August 1906 the lease is assigned by Mr D J Jones to Messrs John Ogwen Owen & Idwal Owen

The attached

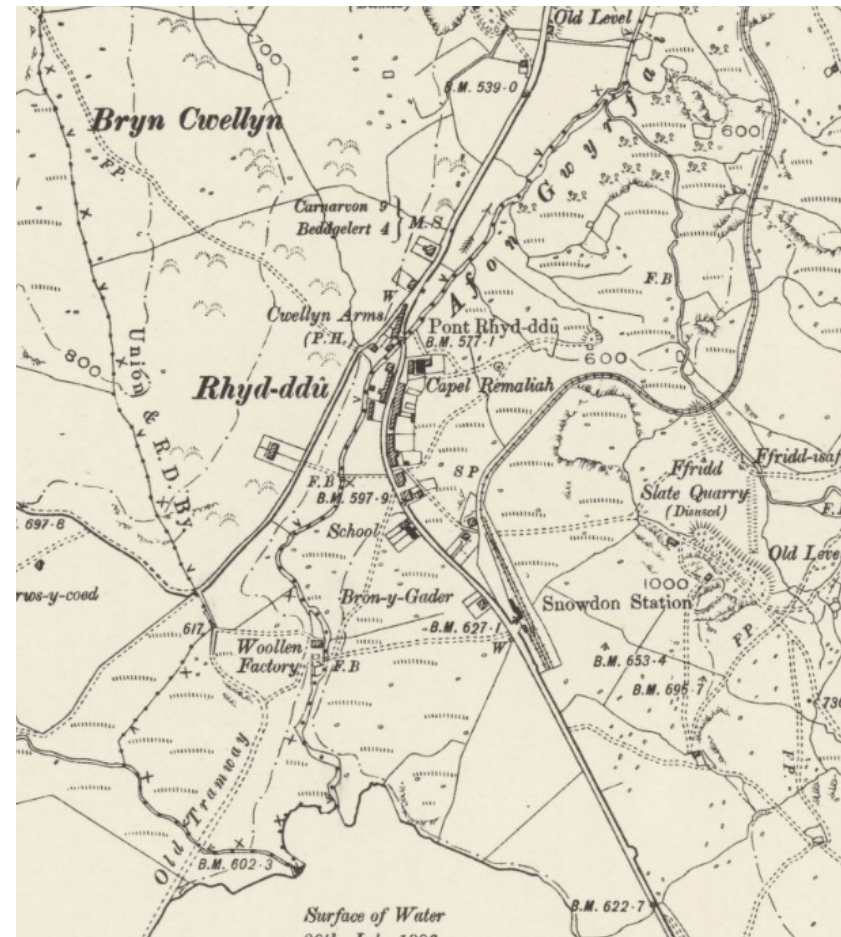
[<https://www.welshhighlandheritage.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/WHH-No-56.pdf>] tells us more about Idwal Owen, including a railway accident he had been involved in, and that by 1911 only his mother Ellen, brother John and sister Maggie are left in Rhyd Ddu at a house called Snowdon View. Idwal has left the railway and is living in Pwllheli and working as an Auctioneers Clerk. Perhaps the accident enquiry didn't go well?

The 1901 census records the Owens living at 47 Morgan Terrace. Today Stryd Morgan is the address of only 3 houses on the main road. In 1911 the Owens gave their address as Snowdon View. Perhaps they gave up estimating where all the other houses in Morgan terrace which would be built?

The Oread MC bought the property in 1958



1895 conveyance plan



1895 OS map [published 1901]