

**Results of Archaeological Building Recording
And Archival Research at**

Plas Tanalltran, Anglesey

NGR SH 24920 82156



Report Number CR137-2017



C.R Archaeology

Compiled by Catherine Rees

on Behalf of Isle of Anglesey County Council

Acknowledgements

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Results of Archaeological Works at Plas Tanalltran, Holyhead, Anglesey

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1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology were instructed by the Isle of Anglesey County Council to conduct archaeological recording works at Plas Tanalltran, Holyhead Anglesey (figure 1). This report has been compiled to inform an option appraisal and feasibility study which will determine the most appropriate course of action for the future of this structure.

It must be noted that there have been a number of slightly different names and alternative spellings used for this building including Plas Alltran, Plas Tan Alltran, Plas Tanalltran and Plas Altran. In order that any confusion is avoided the name Plas Tanalltran will be adopted and utilised throughout this document as it is the earliest form of the building name which was found in documentary sources. It is the name given as the abode of the Fox Russell family on the baptismal certificated of John Fox-Russell in 1893.

Plas Tanalltran is a Grade II Listed Building (Cadw ID: 5727). It was commissioned by Jane Henrietta Adeane (O.B.E), a niece of Hon. W.O Stanley of Penrhos, in 1890-1891 as part of her redevelopment of the Blackbridge area of Holyhead. The architect was Mr Arthur Baker F.R.I.B.A and the builder was Mr. Owen Morris of Caernarfon. It was part of a wider redevelopment of the Blackbridge area of Holyhead.

Miss Jane Adeane is now a largely forgotten figure in the history of Holyhead but during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries she was a leading figure in the town and gave freely of her time and money for the betterment of the town. In addition to the Blackbridge development detailed in this report Jane Adeane was responsible for works at renovation of St. Cybi's Church Walls and for the redevelopment of the rear of Stanley House. This redevelopment incorporated Stanley House into the Roman Wall and was undertaken so that the view of Holyhead when entering the town by sea was greatly enhanced. As a staunch royalist, she was particularly desirous that Queen Victoria see this view during her visit to the town.

The philanthropy of Miss Jane Adeane was concentrated in two key areas, health and education, although her works were by no means confined to these areas. In relation to health Jane is responsible for bringing the first qualified medical doctor to Holyhead, for assisting with the establishment of and later for the financing and running of the Stanley Hospital, for financing and hosing the first qualified nurse to the town and was heavily involved in the Holyhead Water Company which was responsible for ensuring clean drinking water in the town.

In the field of education Jane was a reformer in the lives of the young, particularly the young women of Holyhead. She sought to bring vocational training to the area and established evening classes in crafts and domestic sciences and founded, ran and financed a Girl's Training Institute where poor girls were trained to become domestic servants.

Plas Tanalltran was one element of a much larger and more ambitious redevelopment of the Blackbridge area and there are a number of buildings associated with Plas Tanalltran. These are the Tanalltran Institute, a stable block and two pairs of cottages. The stable (Cadw ID: 5728) and both cottages on the Llanfawr Road side (Numbers 1 and 2 Tanalltran Cottages Cadw ID: 5726 & 14734) are also Grade II Listed Buildings. The site lies outside of the Holyhead (Central) Conservation Area.

Plas Tanalltran was originally built as a doctor's surgery and house for Dr William Fox Russell, who lived and worked at Plas Tanalltran. Fox Russell and his wife Ethel were resident at Plas Tanalltran when their oldest son, Captain John Fox Russell (Victoria Cross, Military Cross) was born. It is believed that his son Lieutenant Henry Thornbury Fox Russell (Military Cross) was also born at Plas Tanalltran prior to the family moving to Victoria Terrace.

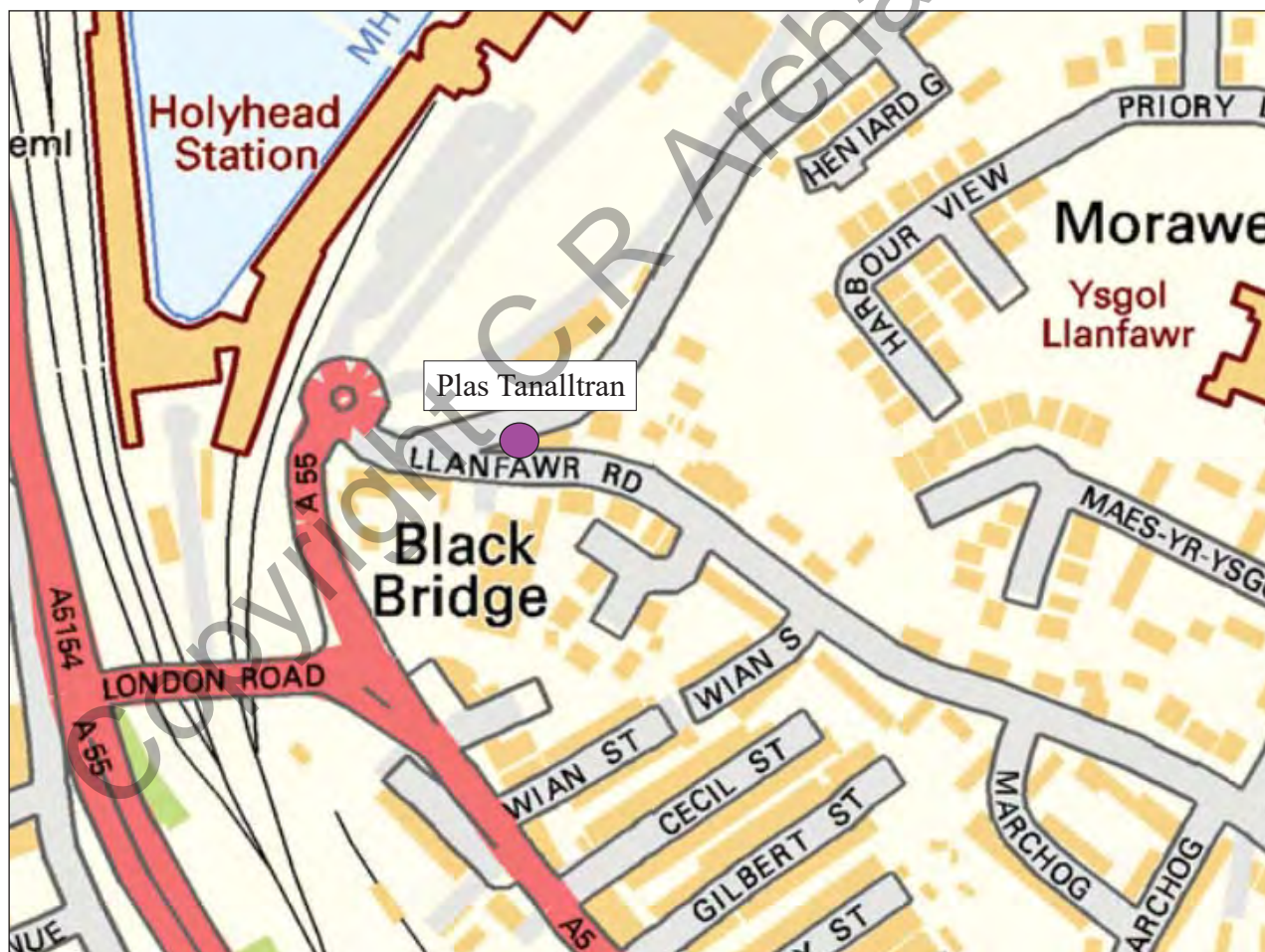
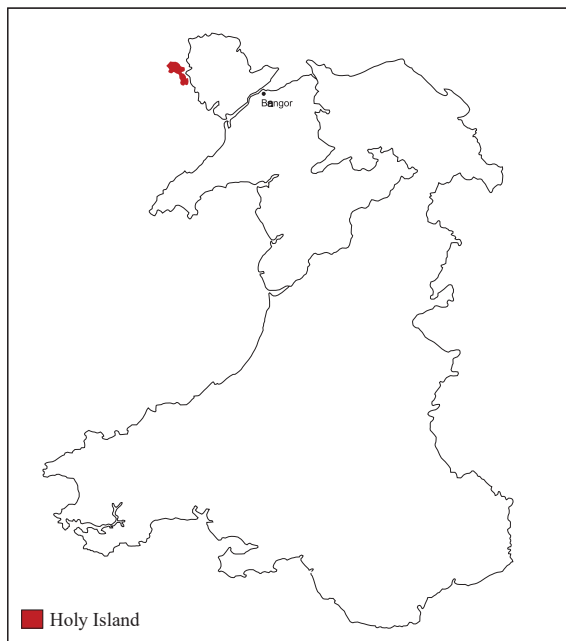


Figure 1. Empire Cinema Location Map
(Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017)

Following the relocating of the Fox Russell family the house was rented to a succession of families and individuals. It has been recorded by a local historian that during the First World War the building was a First Aid post and soup kitchen. The house was used as a boarding house during the 1930's and appears to have served a variety of functions including a convalescence home for Tuberculosis sufferers and a dance school. By the early 1960's it was being rented out as a unit with a self-contained flat was created on the ground floor.

Plas Tanalltran was occupied until around 1970 and remained empty until it was bought by the Isle of Anglesey County Council in the 1990's to be demolished in preparation for a road widening scheme. It was purchased in 2013 by Simon Thomas and Hee Sun-Kim who had hoped to restore the property and convert it for use as a hostel but this plan has yet to be undertaken.

Works undertaken at the site comprised a Level 3 Building Recording of the structure in its current state prior to any works being undertaken on site. The exterior and all interior spaces which were safe to enter were photographed with scales. Certain rooms on the first and second floor levels were however unsafe to enter and could not therefore be recorded. As full a history as possible was compiled of the site.

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

The aim of this programme of works was to create a Level 3 Building Record of the derelict building to inform the tender for an option appraisal and feasibility study which will determine the most appropriate course of action for the future of this structure.

It aimed to fulfil the mitigation criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Building Recording as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents (2014).

The objectives of the archaeological programme were to provide an archive record of the building; to increase understanding of the site's history, development and significance and to make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

3.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

The archaeological works were conducted in phases and each is detailed separately below.

3.1 Scheme of Works – Methodology for Building Recording

The methodology employed conformed to the requirements for a Level 3 Building Record as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016) and The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2014).

The following points are detailed in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016).

The record created for the site consists of:

Written Account	Points 1-3, 5-13, 15-18, 21 & 22
Drawings	Points 1-2, 7-9
Photography	Points 1-2, 4-5 & 7.

3.1.1 Desk Based Research

A history of the site was compiled utilising information sourced from Anglesey Archives, Chester Archives, the National Library Wales and Bangor University Archives. A map progression was undertaken along with a general archival research. Historic newspapers, census records and web resources were also utilised.

The works were conducted in accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (2014) and includes the information required to fulfil points 1-3, 5-13, 15-18, 21 & 22 as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016).

This material forms the historical background of this archaeological report. The report also includes the results of the photographic survey and an additional compact disc containing all site images in Tiff format.

3.1.2 Drawn Survey

Architects plans of the building were produced by Donald Insall Associated. These drawings have been utilised to fulfil points 1, 2 & 7 as specified in “*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*” (Historic England 2016). Location plans and historical material were produced/sourced by C.R Archaeology to fulfil criteria 8-9 in the aforementioned document.

3.1.3 Photographic Survey

A photographic survey of the building was undertaken. This included:

- 1) A photographic survey of the exterior including general shots of the site
- 2) A photographic survey of the interior with all accessible interior spaces photographed. There were however certain rooms, particularly at first floor level, which were unsafe to enter.

At the time of the site visit the building was derelict and had been seriously damaged by vandals, squatters and neglect. Many interior features were not insitu but were found elsewhere in the building. Floors had been removed and fires set on the floorboards at first floor level and the staircase between the first and second floors had been removed. The rear of the building and an outbuilding were overgrown and obscured by vegetation, fallen building rubble and general material which had accumulated on the site.

The methodology employed conformed to the requirements of photographic recording to the equivalent of a Level 3 Survey, as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016) and consists of works specified in points 1-2, 4-5 & 7.

3.1.3.1 Equipment

The photographic survey was undertaken using a 20.1 mega-pixel Sony Alpha58 digital camera with a variety of standard and other lenses using a tripod where necessary. Images were captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIFF files.

Where possible all exterior and interior elevations of the building were photographed with scales from ground level. Additional photographs were taken detailing important architectural features and the general setting of the site.

3.2 Archive Compilation

All records created during the fieldwork were checked for consistency and accuracy and form part of the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* (EH 2006). The archive contains all data collected, including records and other specialist materials. It will be ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.

The archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission 1994), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

3.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

Site works were conducted on December 21st 2016. Further time was allotted for archival research, report compilation and site archiving.

3.3.1 Staffing

The project was managed by Catherine Rees (BA, MA, PgDip HEC, MCIfA). Fieldwork was undertaken by Catherine Rees and Matthew Jones (BA, MA). A representative from DU Construction was present on site at all times.

All projects are carried out in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

3.3.2 Monitoring

The project was not subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services. The report will be submitted to Nathan Blanchard at Isle of Anglesey County Council for approval prior to the deposition of the report at the Anglesey County Archives, Llangefni.

3.3.3 Health and Safety

A risk assessment was conducted prior to the commencement of works and site staff were familiarised with its contents. A first aid kit was located in the site vehicle.

All staff were issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work.

This consisted of:

- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear – steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)
- Gloves
- Antibacterial Gel

All staff have passed a CITB health and safety test at operative level and carry a Construction Related Organisation (CRO) White Card for Archaeological Technician (Code 5363). No lone working was permitted and a representative from the construction company (DU Construction) was present at all times during the works. A ladder was supplied to provide safe access to the upper floors and the ladder was held by a representative of DU Construction whilst in use.

C.R Archaeology staff also complied with Health and Safety Policy and specific on-site instructions provided by the client or their appointed Principal contractor or H&S coordinator.

3.4 The Report

This report clearly and accurately incorporates information gained from the programme of archaeological works. It presents the documentary evidence gathered in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record. The report contains a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

The report combines the results of the various phases of works and contains:

- A location plan
- A descriptive and interpretive written account of the building, building history and building phases
- Architects plans
- A plan illustrating the location and direction of any photographs or drawings
- A full bibliography of sources consulted
- An archive compact disc

The report details the results of the Level 3 Building recording and combines the results of the photographic survey with the archival research.

Copies of the reports in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the Isle of Anglesey County Council for approval before formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version and a bound paper copy of the final report and will be lodged with the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record and Anglesey Archives within six months of completion of fieldwork.

3.4.1 Copyright

C.R Archaeology and sub-contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the local authority for the use of the report by the client and the local authority in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

4.0 Historical Background

The following section places Plas Tanallt in its historical context. In order to achieve this the development of the building and its environs has been studied in relation to the history of the town of Holyhead. Particular emphasis is placed on the Blackbridge and Allt areas of the town.

4.1 Early Development – Prehistory to Medieval Holyhead and Parish

The town and port of Holyhead lie in the area of the parish defined as Holyhead Urban. This area is described in the 1937 Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments as containing only limited structures of historic interest, namely the Roman Fort of Caer Gybi, the Parish Church of St Gybi, and the Chapel known as Eglwys-y-Bedd (RCAHMW 1937: 28). The town of Holyhead originally clustered around the aforementioned fort of Caer Gybi and the sixth century church of St Cybi was founded within the fort walls. The current church was built during the thirteenth century and it is believed that Edward I stayed at the fort in 1283 (www.anglesey.gov.uk).

Within the wider area of the Holyhead Parish, defined as Holyhead Rural, there are a number of monuments of much greater antiquity and important sites from a variety of periods. The earliest of these sites is the Neolithic burial chamber at Trefignath, approximately a mile to the south-east of Holyhead town. Other prehistoric monuments include a number of cairns on Holyhead Mountain and there is a concentration of Iron Age activity in the parish which includes the hut circles at Ty Mawr, Holyhead Mountain and the hillfort at Cae Y Twr. An important early medieval chapel dedicated to St. Bride with associated cemetery is located at Towyn-Y-Capel (RCAHMW 1937:22-28).

The aforementioned site list is by no means exhaustive and the sites are not discussed in any great detail. They have been included merely to provide a context for the urban area whose earlier remains are likely to have been destroyed by later development.

4.2 The Development of the town of Holyhead – Sixteenth to Late Eighteenth Century

The fortunes of the town of Holyhead are closely interwoven with those of the harbour and the route to Ireland. As the shortest sea crossing to Dublin Holyhead was of key strategic importance in the governance of Ireland and in 1561 John ap Pierce of Holyhead was contracted by the Vice Treasurer of Ireland to supply a vessel for the conveyance of Government Messages (www.anglesey.gov.uk).

Holyhead continued as a centre of trade and transport, albeit on a relatively modest scale. This is documented in a number of late seventeenth and eighteenth century sources. The earliest of these is part of a strip map produced by John Olilby in 1675 detailing the route from London to Holyhead (www.anglesey-history.co.uk). Although schematic this source shows the church at Holyhead and two rows of houses lining the main street. Other than the church it is not possible to identify individual properties and the level of detail is such that outlying structures are not shown. A similar level of development is shown in a sketch of the town by Francis Place produced in 1699 (figure 2) but although this document also shows some outlying properties the Blackbridge area is not shown (Williams 1950: 65). There is however mention of the name “Alltran” being applied to the rock outcrop facing the town. A sketch map of the town produced in 1737 by Lewis Morris also fails to show the Blackbridge area (Anglesey Archives WMaps 53).

The Alltran area of Holyhead is shown on a Sea Chart of 1748, drawn by Lewis Morris (figure 3). This document further enforces this idea of a much reduced centre of the town developing in a strip between the church and the port. The houses at Penrhos and Llanfawr are shown but there are no properties drawn between Llanfawr and the main strip of the town. It must again be noted that due to the schematic nature of the source this does not necessarily prove that there was no outlying farmstead or the like in this area.

Figure 3 shows the old harbour in its “natural” state prior to the later improvements. It is “*a long creek extending from Salt Island at the entrance to Black Bridge, where the Afon Drip meandered from the Cytir of Kingsland into the sea. The Trip formed a small channel under the rocks of Alltran, past Turkey Shore and Parys Island (then called Ynys Rug) where it entered the sea at low tide, but at high water the sea came up to Black Bridge and past the bottom of the cliffs, on which St. Cybi’s church stands encircled by the Roman fort*” (Williams 1939: 86).

William’s history of Holyhead written in 1950 records that Turkey Shore had the first commercial quay on the creek and that the Wood-Roberts family held a chain of holdings prior to the end of the 17th century, although unfortunately no detail is given on this area (Williams 1950: 52).

Her 1939 paper gives more detail of the Blackbridge/Turkey Shore area of the town in the 17th century. She writes “*on Turkey Shore is a small house called Tyddyn Lantern, where a lantern placed in the window was the earliest harbour guide. Cae Mawr, close by, was the home of sea captains from 1600 till 1878, when it was vacated and the contents dispersed. These were characteristic, consisting of fine Jacobean furniture, early Bristol Delft and glass, silver spoons, shoe buckles and seals, books in Welsh and English (mostly religious) back to 1675, where generations of sailors had jotted personal notes on the fly-leaves. Other isolated cottages on Turkey Shore were the homes of owners of coasting ships of 20-40 tonnes carrying coal and grain, who paid William Morris for “protections”* (Williams 1939: 87). She continues “*on the outskirts of the town were the houses of farmers, in many cases allied with the old tribal aristocracy of Anglesey by a network of inter-marriage. The boundary between “farmer” and “gent” was so shadowy that in one parish register entry we find “farmer” crossed out and “gent” written over it*” (Ibid: 88).

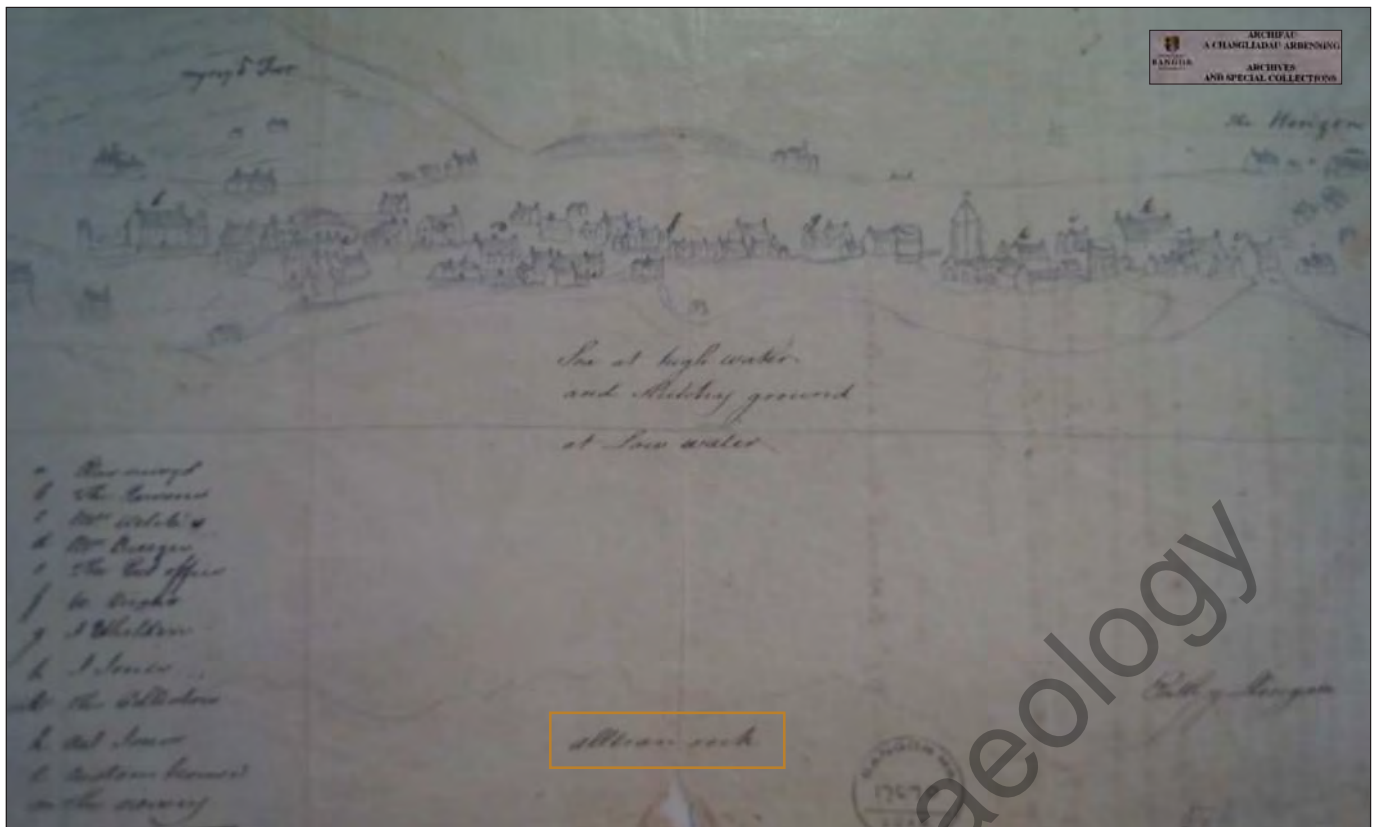


Figure 2. 1699 Sketch of Holyhead from Alltran Rock
(Source: Bangor University Archives BMSS 17670)

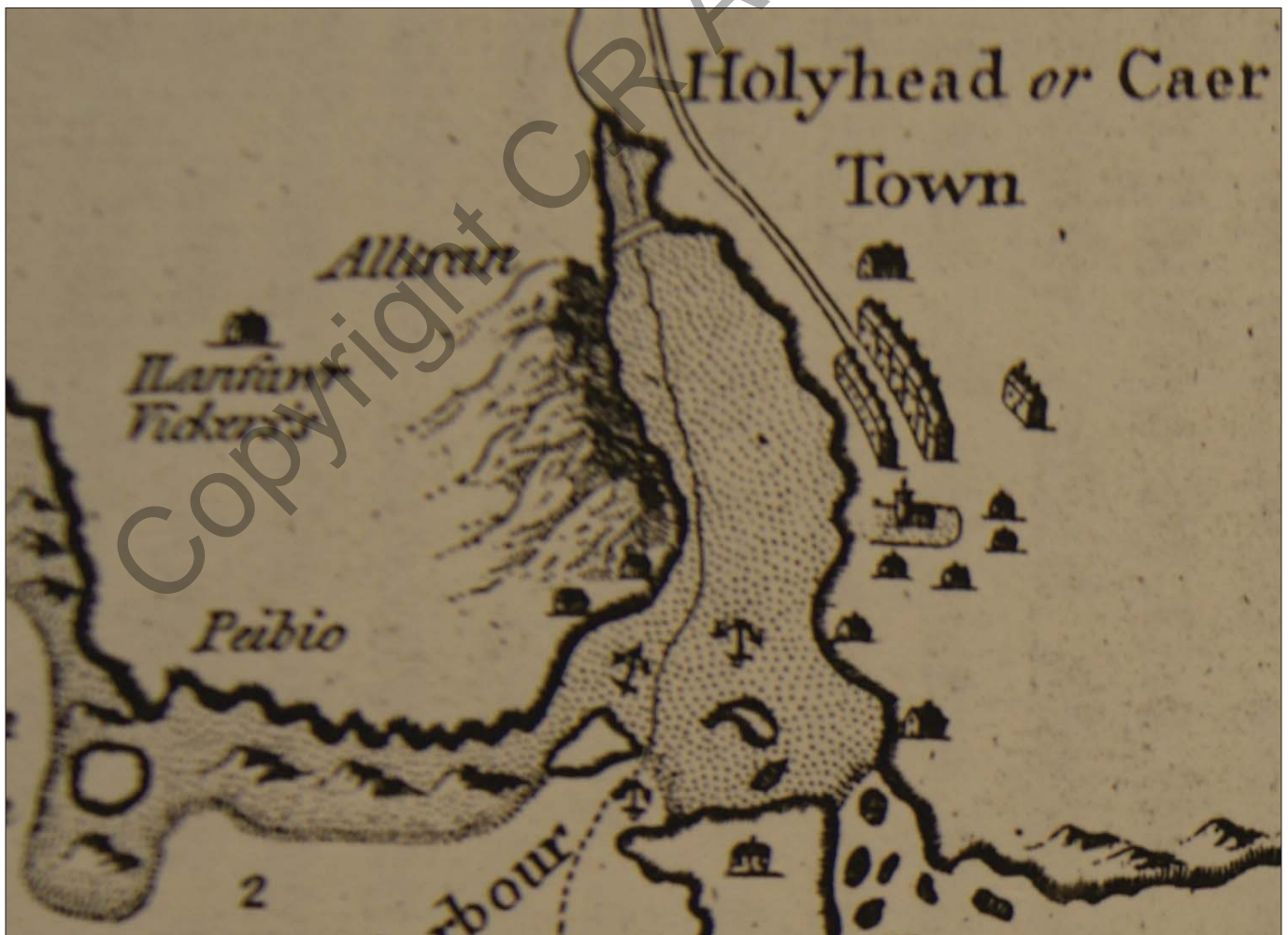


Figure 3. Lewis Morris Sea Chart 1748 (Source: www.anglesey.gov.uk)

A Penrhos Estate map dated c.1769 shows a plot of land in the development area named Tanalltran (figure 4). No house is marked as this particular plan does not show structures, but rather it details plots of land. Given the naming of the plot and the subsequent changes to this area of Holyhead it is interesting to note that a second map in the series contains an illustration of the bridge from which this area of Holyhead was to take its name (figure 5). The Tanalltran area is however not drawn. Although one cannot be certain that this area of the town was not built up at this time it would seem unlikely that it would not appear on any documents. It is however possible that there is a farm of a reasonably high status or possibly a minor country house near the site of Plas Tanalltran by this date.

There are a number of interesting descriptions of Holyhead written around this time which emphasise the vernacular nature of the housing. In a discussion of this period the work of Williams (Williams 1950:53) draws on the work of Defoe in which he describes Holyhead as unpretentious and straw thatched but with “*good accommodation in lodgings and diet within*”. Rowlands work of 1989 also describes much of mid eighteenth century Holyhead as undeveloped with many greenfield areas and few houses and cottages. He includes a contemporary description which details the lack of capacity of the town to house its increasing volume of visitors and states “*there were so many Lords and Ladies in the town that the inns were full and they are compelled to put up at houses with thatched roofs*” (Rowland 1989: 11).

A watercolour of the market place produced in 1776 (figure 6) graphically illustrates this and the area of the town shown is characterised by traditional stone built houses with small windows and thatched roofs. The caption describes the town as “*small, but being the station of the Irish packet-boats is much resorted to by passengers; five of these boats, stout vessels, well found and manned, ply backwards and forwards between this port and Dublin*”. A slightly earlier source of 1770 records Holyhead as “*little more than a fishing town, rendered considerable by being the place of general passage to Ireland*” (Unknown 1783: 18). The volume of this traffic is shown in the letters of William Morris and writing in 1753 he notes that “*we had eight coaches, chariots and post chaises in the compass of 48 hours from Chester*” (Rowland 1989: 11).

In the years leading up to the Act of Union with Ireland in 1801 Holyhead was to undergo rapid development, spurred on by improvements in transport networks notably the turnpike roads of the mid-late nineteenth century. These improvements were begun between Oswestry and Froncysyllte in 1756 and in 1765 the road across Anglesey from Porthaethwy to Holyhead was turnpiked (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 10). The success of these roads was however called into question in an account of the town written in 1770 which states that “*the turnpike road from Porthaethwy to Holyhead, 26 miles, is very ill kept for the first five miles, being pitched with great stones, but suffered to lie in great holes. The best part is that between Gwinde and Holyhead, 13 miles. The descent to the ferry-house is execrably rough and dirty; yet here are two toll-gates on this road and one would think traffic sufficient*” (Unknown 1783:19).

The aforementioned 1770 account records three good inns – “*The Eagle and Child or English House, The Welsh Head or Irish House, kept by the widow Arthur, and remarkably neat, and Lord Boston's Arms or the Welsh House. These houses, although by the names they seem to be appropriated to particular people, divide the business between them, especially the two first*” (Unknown 1783: 18). These inns are by no means the earliest recorded with the Black Lion dating back to at least 1727 and the house named Widow Welch on Morris' 1737 map of the town has been identified as a boarding house (Williams 1950: 64).

Although undergoing great change and offering new employment opportunities, Holyhead was not without its problems and poverty with all its associated problems was still rife. An account written by William Bulkeley in 1742 described the particularly harsh treatment faced by Irish vagrants at this time. He wrote that when he was a Justice of the Peace he had ordered two Irish men whom he deemed



Figure 4. Penrhos Estate Map of Holyhead 1769 - Tanaltran is Marked in Orange
(Source: Bangor University Archives Penrhos Manuscripts 772-3)

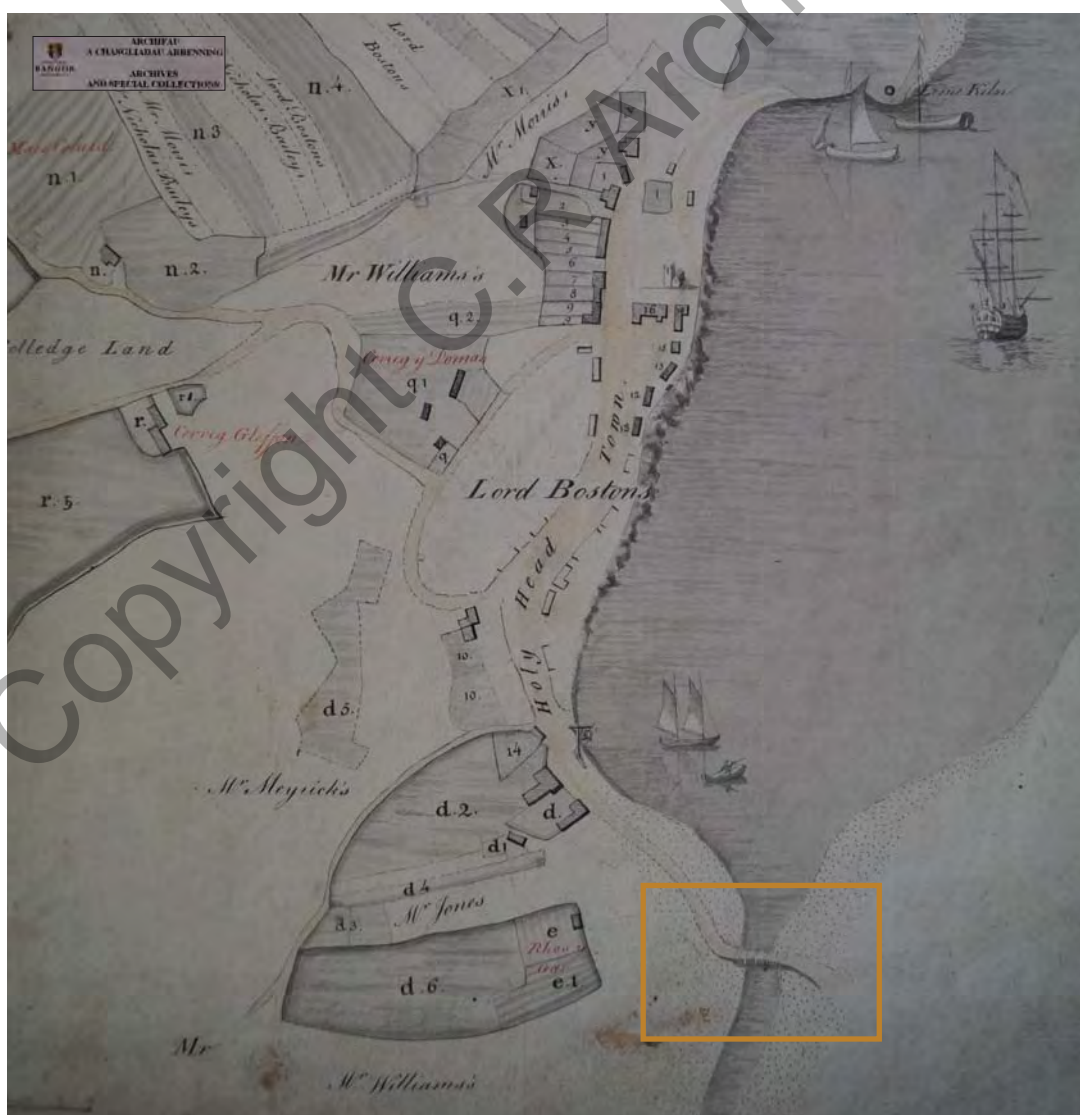


Figure 5. Penrhos Estate Map of Holyhead 1769 - Black Bridge is Marked in Orange
(Source: Bangor University Archives Penrhos Manuscripts 772-3)



Figure 6. 1769 Print of the Market Place, Holyhead (Source: Anglesey Archives WSD/421)

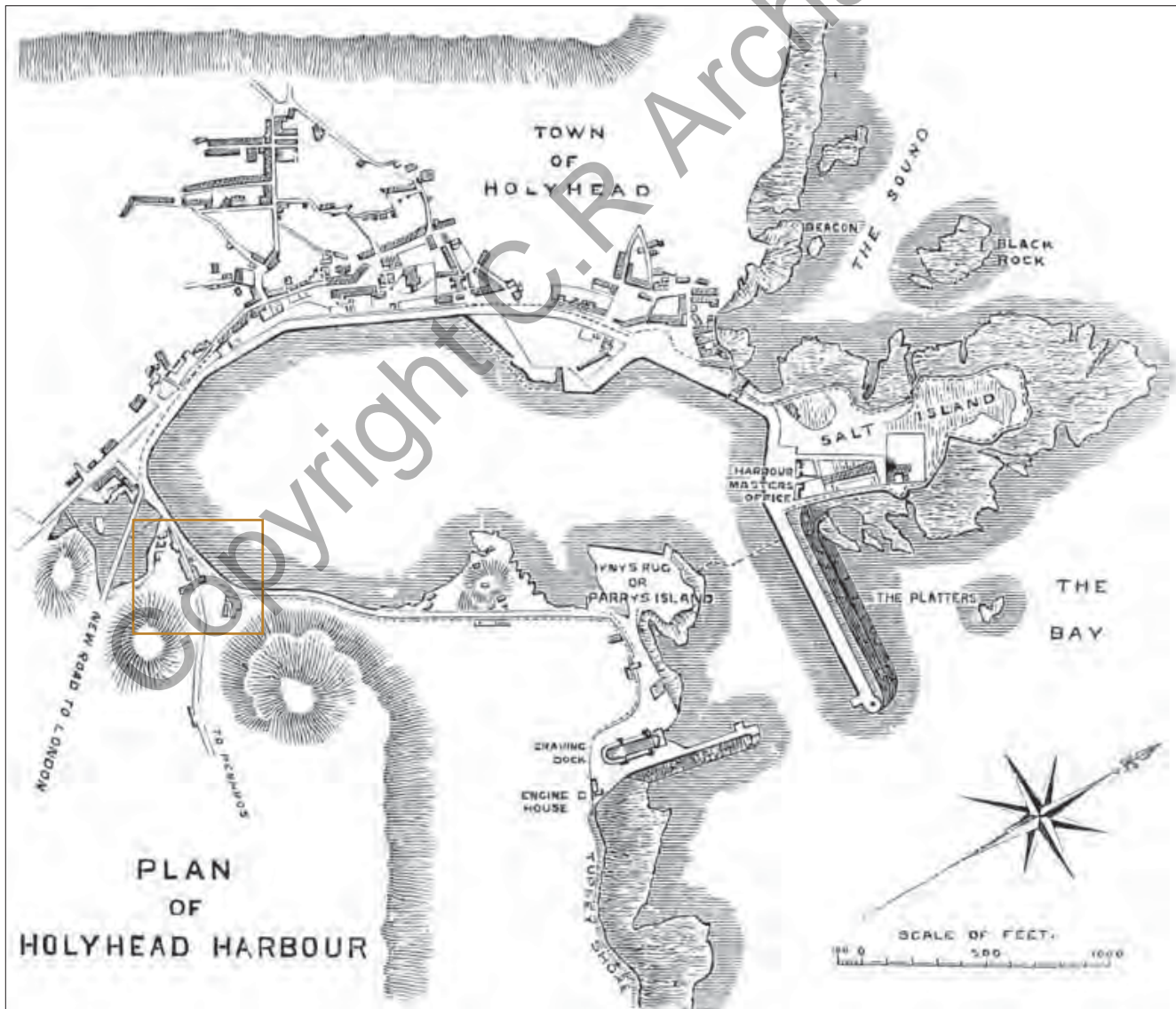


Figure 7. 1802 Harbour Plans (Source: www.gerald-massey.org.uk)

“incorrigible rogues” to be sent to the Holyhead House of Correction to carry out a month of hard labour. He ordered that every Saturday they were to be well whipt from Pepper Hall to Cold Harbour. Following their incarceration the men were to be transported (Rowlands 1989: 11 – 12). Williams adds *“owing to wrecks and death from disease in ships abroad, Holyhead abounded in widows and orphans, who lived on the kindness of their neighbours and by their own wits. Dean Swift records their curtseys, and Lewis Morris has tolerant quips about their activities as carriers of small parcels of smuggled goods – tea, coffee, soap, brandy, candles”* (Willaims 1939: 91).

Whilst the majority of the population lived in poor conditions, a number of prominent landowning families in the area had foreseen the rising market for land in the parish. They were in a position to seize upon the opportunity to add to their wealth through making provision for the increased number of visitors the improved road links brought into the town. The Eagle and Child, an imposing English style inn bearing the Stanley crest, was built by Margaret Owen (Penrhos Estate) just before 1770. The Eagle and Child was the principle terminus for coaches and the erection of the nearby Hibernia Inn, with a pleasure house on Salt Island and a tidal bathing pool, was a direct challenge to the family by the Llanfawr Estate. Both places were run by lessees rather than family members which represented a change in the traditions of the town (Williams 1950: 63).

4.3 The Act of Union and Thomas Telford's Holyhead Road – 1801 to 1840

The Act of Union between the Irish and British parliaments was passed on the 1st January 1801 and from this point Irish MPs and peers sat in the parliament of the United Kingdom. It was therefore necessary that there was a fast and reliable communication route between London and Dublin for the transportation of mail, members of parliament, officials and, when necessary, troops. The current turnpike system, although much improved, was not sufficient to allow this - particularly around the dangerous crossings of the Afon Conwy and Menai Straits (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 1-2).

The first elements along this route to be improved were the two ports of Dublin and Holyhead and works were begun c.1802 on John Rennie's massive Admiralty Pier which protected the ports inner harbour. Works on this ambitious project were completed in 1821 (ibid: 3).

A number of maps and plans from this development survive and, although most do not detail the town as a whole, they show the seaward side of the town. A map dated 1802 (figure 7) shows terraced buildings in the future location of Plas Tanalltran which line both side of the street. This area around the harbour is becoming increasingly developed as the employment opportunities for those associated with the harbour increase. Also shown is a concentration of buildings in the area of the Blackbridge foundry which are presumably the early beginnings of the development.

Between 1810 and 1824 the government spent £150,000 improving harbour facilities. This included the building of a pier at Salt Island and the creation of a “graving dock” which allowed ships to be floated for cleaning and repair. These improvements allowed the Post Office to use paddle steamers rather than the traditional sailing packets to take mail between Holyhead and Dublin. The early nineteenth century was however also a time of great hardship for the working classes of the United Kingdom with unemployment, social unrest, and rising food prices. These works provided employment for local people and the prospect of work attracted a large number of incomers to the area (Rowlands 1989: 15-16).

The employment and trading opportunities offered by the harbour development in Holyhead were very attractive and the town was to benefit from an influx of money and there was a sense of optimism in the assured future of the town. The increase in the status of the town was exemplified in 1821 when King George IV visited Holyhead. The new-found confidence in the town is also reflected in the population numbers and between 1801 and 1841 the number of inhabitants increased from 2,132 to 3,869 (Rowlands 1989: 15-16). 1801 was a key year for the population of Holyhead as, for the first time, it overtakes that of the Island's previous principle town of Beumaris (www.anglesey.gov.uk).

An estate map produced for the Stanley family in 1820 (figure 8) shows the continued increase of housing density in the main area of the town. The Blackbridge area appears largely unchanged and the two opposing terraces are still present. They do not appear to have been extended and there is less detail shown than in the 1802 harbour plan.

Telford's Holyhead road was completed in 1826 with the opening of the Menai Suspension Bridge (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 3) and by 1828 the coach journey from London to Holyhead had shortened to 29 hours and 17 minutes (Rowlands 1989: 24). This road, although intended primarily to take mail coaches and their passengers, generated a considerable volume of stage coach, posting and private travel along with a more limited amount of freight transport (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 5).

Despite being the first major civilian, state-funded infrastructure scheme of modern times the heyday of this route was limited to a relatively short period between the late 1820's and the 1830's. Technological advances of the era were to rapidly supersede this great achievement and between 1837 and 1850 the successive opening of railways between London and Holyhead caused a steep decline in the traffic using the road. In 1851 Parliamentary funding for the maintenance of the road was stopped (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 3-4). A plan of the harbour and town produced as part of Telford's scheme in 1838 (figure 9) shows little change to the Blackbridge area from the 1802 plan.

4.4 The Arrival of the Railway in Holyhead 1841 - 1890

The next great phase of development in the history of Holyhead was to be heralded by the advent of the railway. Throughout the 1840's there was a programme to construct a railway across Anglesey and in 1848 the first train arrived in Holyhead (Rowlands 1989: 24).

The momentum of the preceding period was continued and further port improvements, in particular the building of the breakwater, attracted national attention due to the sheer magnitude of the operation (Rowlands 1989: 24). The population increase between 1801 and 1841 was eclipsed by that which occurred between 1841 and 1851 when it increased by a further 4,994 to reach 8,863 – a figure which shows a more than doubling of the population in ten years (Rowlands 1989: 16).

These new inhabitants had to be accommodated and the remaining rural characteristics of the town which had survived the earlier part of the century were rapidly lost. By the time of the production of the Tithe Map of the town (figure 10) the main street outline as surviving today is largely established with continued infilling within the street layout into the early twentieth century (Rowlands 1989: 16).

The Tithe Map shows the Alltran/Blackbridge area in detail and the plot which is to become Plas Alltran is shown as being occupied by a terrace of houses. The individual plots are not defined nor are the individual occupants listed. The only information given is that this row and that opposite are “houses” occupied by Richard Williams and others. The land owner is Robert Price who owns a number of properties in this area.

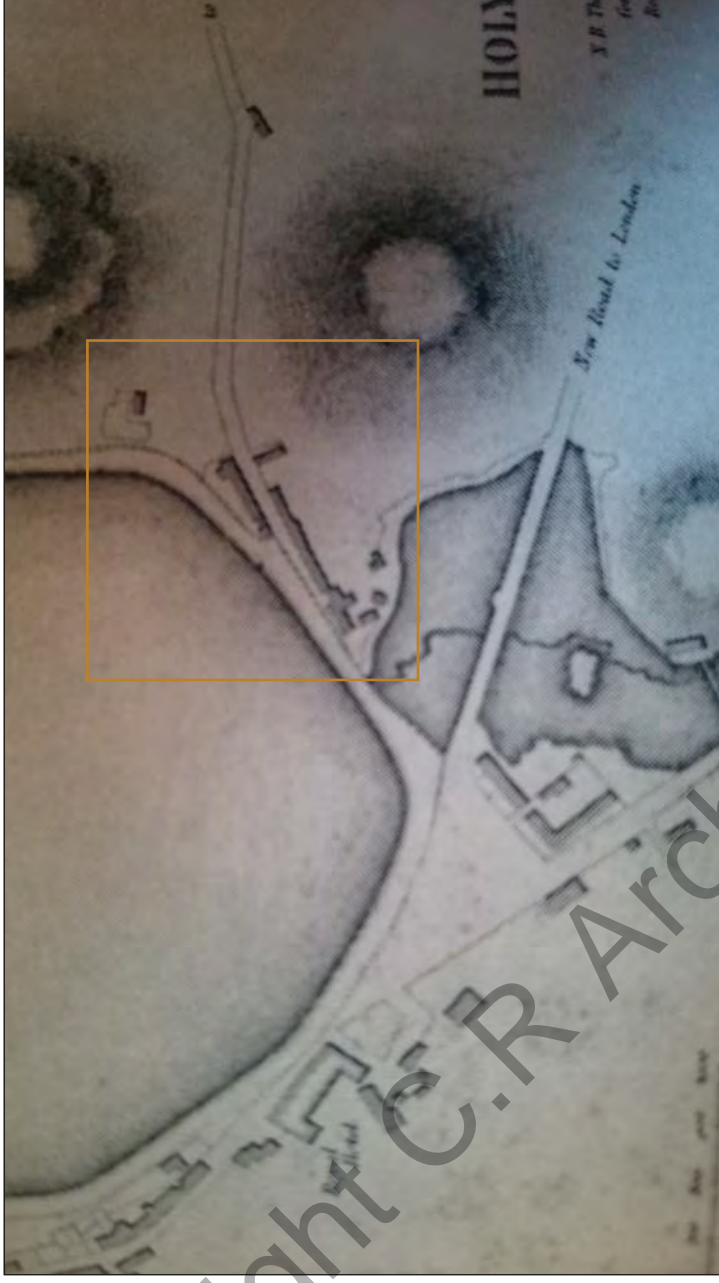


Figure 8 (Left). 1820 Estate Map Showing Property Belonging to Sir John Stanley
(Source: Anglesey Archives WMaps/52/1)

Figure 9 (Above). The Plan of Holyhead Harbour from Telford's Atlas 1838
(Source: Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 111)



Figure 10. Early 1840's Tithe Map of Holyhead (Source: Anglesey Archives)



Figure 11. 1846 Holyhead Harbour Plan (Source: Angley Archives)

The 1841 census offers more information on the Blackbridge area of this town. The sheer number of properties recorded as Blackbridge would imply that the density of the dwellings is very high and individual houses must have been very small in size. It is clearly an impoverished area and there are entries for 25 individual and family occupations of properties described as the “*new poor houses*”. The majority of occupations listed for these houses are paupers, and older women who appear to be widows are particularly over represented. There are also some residents employed in low paid occupations - these almost exclusively listed as agricultural labourers.

Properties in this area not listed as “poor houses” record the occupation of their inhabitants in trades or as paupers rather than professionals. Agricultural labourers, joiners, mariners and smiths make up the majority of the entries.

Tanalltran is shown in detail and was a property of considerable size consisting of a u-shaped arrangement of buildings set within their own grounds. It is listed as a “house and gardens” and was occupied by Thomas Williams. There was no direct entry for the property owner although it was within the list of properties for Lord Stanley. It is however by no means clear that Stanley owns the property. Williams is recorded in the 1841 census as being 35 years of age and living at Tanalltran with his wife Ellen (45) and his sons William and John (both 15) who are butchers. His occupation is listed as a joiner, but to occupy such a property he must presumably be highly skilled and relatively well paid.

A plan of the harbour at Holyhead was produced in 1846 (figure 11) which shows a similar layout to the Blackbridge area. There has been some further development of the area and the terrace which backs onto Tyddyn Jasper shows clear evidence of having been enlarged. It also appears that there may have been a small property adding to the end of Blackbridge Street. Tanalltran is now shown as a single rectangular property and the surrounding land has been subdivided into two plots.

Thomas Williams had died by the time of the 1851 census and his wife Ellen (59) pauper, and their children are still resident at Tanalltran. William (29) and John (26) both continued to work as butchers. Also recorded are Richard (26) a mariner, Elin (20) a dressmaker and Edward (17) a scholar. These three are absent from the previous census entry for the property. Although there are clearly discrepancies in the ages of the children it is interesting to note that Edward is listed as a scholar at 17 which is unusual for an individual at this time, especially given that his mother is listed as a pauper. His education would have needed to have been funded either by the working family members, an inheritance or a scholarship.

The family remain resident at Tanalltran in the 1861 census and Ellen (68) lives with William (39) butcher, and Ellen (29) dress maker. The occupation of Ellen (senior) is now listed as a farmer and owner (unclear on document but may alternatively say access) of land. This is the final entry for the family at Tanalltran as by the 1871 census William has a wife and son and has moved to 20 Stanley Street and Ellen is presumed to be deceased.

Later documents show that the Williams family owned rather than rented Tanalltran, which may explain how the family were able to afford to remain at the property following the death of Thomas. When the family relocated to Stanley Street the property was rented out to a succession of tenants. The property is empty at the time of the 1871 census but in the 1881 census it is occupied by C. Hicks (age 31) and his wife Mary Jane (unclear as document difficult to read). His occupation is given as master mariner and they employ one live in servant – Margret Thomas (17).

A newspaper article dated September 14th 1888 details the later residents of the property and how it was to come into the possession of Miss Jane Adeane who would later built Plas Tanalltran. The article documents the court case between a Hugh Williams of 20 Stanley street and a James Edmunds and is included in full below. (It should be noted that the plaintiff is recorded as Hugh Williams but this is either an error or the middle name of William Williams as he is recorded as a butcher living at 20 Stanley Street between 1881 and 1891).

“Hugh Williams, butcher, 20 Stanley Street, Holyhead, brought an action against James Edmunds, engineer on board the steamer “Neptune,” to recover the possession of a house called Tanalltran, Holyhead, a claim also being made for rent. Mr. J. Lloyd Griffith appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. G. Roberts defended.

In October last Tanalltran was in the occupation of John Thomas, who, owing to the ill-health of his wife, was compelled to leave. Edmunds was informed that the house would become empty, and wishing to be a tenant, he saw Thomas and his father-in-law (Capt. Clay) with the result that he interviewed the plaintiff, who subsequently agreed to take him as a yearly tenant in lieu of Thomas. Edmunds entered the premises, several repairs being carried out therein for him and paid for by the plaintiff.

In March last, Miss Adeane, of Plas Llanfawr, entered into negotiations with the plaintiff to buy the house or to take it on other terms; and, this being more advantageous to him than Edmunds’ tenancy it was alleged that the plaintiff endeavoured to make it out that he never accepted Edmunds as a permanent tenant, but rather that he was to leave at the expiration of Thomas’s tenancy. The question in dispute therefore was whether the defendant was a tenant of Williams or a sub-tenant of Thomas. In his evidence the plaintiff deposed that J. Thomas was the tenant of Tanalltran, owned by the witness. In November last witness received notice from Thomas stating he would quit the house on or before the 1st May, and soon after this Capt. Clay came to him and asked whether he would allow J. Thomas to let the house until his time was out, which consent was given. Thomas then left and another man entered. Witness denied that there was an understanding that the defendant should be a tenant for at least two years.

Cross-examined by Mr. Roberts, witness said he never told Edmunds that he would let the house to him on the same terms as it was let to Thomas. Similar evidence was given by William Samuel Williams, the plaintiff’s son. Mr. Roberts for the defence submitted that the version given by the plaintiff was an entirely wrong one. The fact was that Edmunds, as soon as he heard that Thomas was leaving, asked the plaintiff whether he would take him as a tenant, when the latter replied that he would be very glad to take him on the same terms as Thomas. After entering the house the defendant’s wife found that a number of repairs were needed, and these were carried out at once by the plaintiff at his own expense. It was true that the first quarter’s of rent was paid to Thomas and not to the plaintiff. The defendant, he contended, was not in any way bound to leave until the full length of his tenancy had expired.

Evidence having been given on behalf of the defendant his Honour pointed out that the question was whether the arrangement with the plaintiff amounted to a new letting of the premises absolutely to the defendant, or whether it was a warrant on the part of the plaintiff to allow the defendant to occupy the house for the rest of Thomas’s tenancy. After analysing the evidence on both sides he found that the defendant was a yearly tenant in lieu of Thomas. Judgment for the defendant was given accordingly” (Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald: 14th September 1888).

The purchase of Tanalltran was part of a much larger project for Jane Adeane and in 1890 she was to purchase more land in the Blackbridge area of Holyhead. This topic is addressed in Section 4.5 Jane Henrietta Adeane (O.B.E).

The prosperity of Holyhead continued throughout the late nineteenth century and the focus of the towns wealth was still largely reliant on the crossing to Ireland and the associated rail and harbour industries, both of which continued to develop apace during this period (Haslam, Orbach & Voelecker 2009: 132-134). The general census entries for the Blackbridge/Turkey Shore area of the town reflect this and there is a significant increase in the number of people living in the area, and in the number of properties listed. Occupations are now predominantly related to the harbour and the railway and, rather than the agricultural labourers of the previous decade, men are employed in trades such as stone masonry and ship building and as blacksmiths and mariners. This trend continues through the 1861 census. There is a decrease in the proportion of paupers living in this area of Holyhead but it remains very much a working class area. The census record of 1871 appears incomplete and the majority of the Blackbridge areas was absent.

A description of the town of Holyhead written in 1878 conveys the spirit of the time and reflects on general and population trends during this period. *“Holyhead, on the islet of Holyhead, which is separated from Anglesey by fordable sandy strait, is the most important town in the county. From the large amount of trade carried on with the sister island, Ireland it has become a port of great importance. It places London and Dublin in direct and ready communication; the principle railway, the road, and the telegraph having each their terminus here. Great improvements have been effected during the last twenty years, and a fine harbour made, which affords a safe retreat for distressed ships sailing from Liverpool, Dublin, Whitehaven, and other ports, to all parts of the world. There is a fine breakwater, constructed at the expense of the Government, the pier extending outwards 900 feet, and having a depth of 14 feet at the pier head during low water. Upon its extremity is a monster lighthouse, exhibiting a powerful light 200 feet above the level of the sea; a marble arch commemorating the visit of George IV in 1821, on his visit to Ireland, stands upon the pier. The mail steamers plying between Holyhead and Dublin are some of the finest built boats in the world, and run in all weathers. Passengers may be now conveyed from London to Dublin, a distance of 260 miles, in 11 and a quarter hours. The inhabitants are principally employed in the coasting trade, ship building and repairing, improving of the harbour, fishing, and assisting in the transport of cattle and goods from Ireland (The Wales Register & Guide 1878: 9-10).*

The register describes further features of Holyhead in a later passage where it details the building of a new harbour in 1873 at a cost of almost two million sterling, and a town hall in 1875. The population figures given for Holyhead show a slight trend towards a decline in numbers to 8,773 in 1861 and 8,131 in 1871 (*ibid*: 106).

The 1880 edition of Slater's Directory reinforces the optimism and praise for the towns railway and harbour of the previous account and further details the recreational opportunities open to visitors to Holyhead. *“The town also has visitors during the bathing season, during which period many families make it their residence. Bathing machines are established, which contribute materially to the comfort of visitors. There are several objects of interest; among these are, the venerable remains of a hermitage, two chapels, and the remains of a Roman wall, or as some antiquaries assert, built by the British prince Cassibelaunus; these with the lighthouse, and the suspension bridge, at the South Stack, and the storm guns at the North Stack, attract the attention of the stranger. There are several good inns in the town, the principle of which are the Marine, The Royal (London and North-Western Railway Company's) and the King's Head” (Slater's Directory 1880: 87).*

This optimism was to continue into the 1890's although by this time there was increasing concern about the state of the poorer areas of Holyhead and the recognition of a need to improve housing conditions and raise the standards of living for workers.

4.5 Miss Jane Henrietta Adeane (O.B.E) 1842 – 1926

Plas Tanalltran was commissioned by Jane Henrietta Adeane (figures 12 & 13) and was built 1890-1. As mentioned above it was part of a much larger project of regeneration for the Blackbridge area of Holyhead. To understand the motivation for this scheme and the involvement of Miss Adeane in the history of Holyhead it is necessary to first examine her life and her time spent in Holyhead.

This document will attempt to describe the works of Jane Adeane accurately and without sycophancy. It will not edit out the more questionable decisions made by Adeane, nor her attitude towards others in the town. It must however be noted that the descriptions of the more difficult aspects of her personality are somewhat similar to and often rather milder than those of many of the Stanley men and there is undoubtedly an element of sexual discrimination in the collective “forgetting” of Adeane and her works.

There are descriptions of Jane written by family members and although great affection for her it is clearly evident she was not necessarily the easiest of people to deal with. In their 1997 paper on the history of the Stanley Hospital John Kenneth Roberts and Irene Lancefield make mention of this as following her death in 1926, despite her tireless work for the hospital, there is no mention of her passing, nor is there a vote of thanks or tribute to her works made in the Governors’ minute book (Roberts and Lancefield 1997: 85).

Her cousin Hugh described her as “*a cross between an armadillo and a flea*”. Her niece Violet Isabel Martineau attributes the flea description to her extreme volatility which “*made it impossible to know where one could pounce on her*”, and the armadillo resemblance to “*her imperturbable persistence, added to the fact that she was slightly deaf and never heard more than was convenient to her*”. This is however tempered by her niece who adds “*these failings were, however, but shadows on one of the kindest natures that ever existed. She was interested in everyone she met and anxious to give help whenever it was in her power, and she would take any amount of personal trouble for anyone she could assist. She was also at times excessively generous, and was one of those rare people who gave not only what she did not miss, but what really taxed her means*” (Martineau 1934: 28 - 29).

Another relative, Adeline Lubbock, writing in 1972 gives a further indication of the rigidity of Miss Adeane and her opinions. She was described as “*furiously opposed*” to the decision made by Lord Lyulph Stanley in 1903 when he granted permission for the women housed in the Kingsland Almshouses to wear their own clothes if they so wished. Prior to this Lord William Owen Stanley had stipulated that the women must wear traditional Welsh national dress, a practise deemed by Lyulph to be an indignity. Lubbock interprets Adeane’s objection to this “*permissiveness*” as due to her extreme devotion to William and Ellin, and recalled that she bitterly resented any deviation from their customs and rule, considering them an act of vandalism and a desecration of their memory (Lubbock 1972: 14).

It is perhaps best to view Jane Adeane within the context of her age and I include here extract from the introductory section of the manuscript produced by her niece Violet Martineau as an expression of a character of great significance who, despite her flaws, did a great deal of good for the people and town of Holyhead over the course of her long life.

“*I have tried to produce this portrait of Aunt Jane, who was so great a feature in the lives of all our cousinhood, partly because I feel that so remarkable a personality should not be allowed to fade away into vagueness, and that Holyhead should at least have some chronicle of the immense amount of work she did for it; and partly because her War experiences were so vivid and terrible that they will become a page of history*”. She continues “*Aunt Jane was an embodiment of family history, she lived nearly much in the past as in the present*” concluding “*she was almost the last of her whole generation, and with her an era seemed to disappear*” (Martineau 1934).



Figures 12 & 13. Jane Henrietta Adeane as a Young Woman - Undated Photographs Taken in a London Studio
(Source: Cheshire Archives DSA 180)

4.5.1 The Early Life of Miss Jane Adeane - Life Before Holyhead 1842 - 1870

Jane Adeane was born on October 6th 1842 at Babraham, Cambridgeshire and was the tenth child of Henry John Adeane and Matilda Abigail – sister of William Owen Stanley, heir of the Penrhos Estate. Her childhood, although described by Jane as happy, was marked with loss beginning at the age of four with the death of her father. Her mother was widowed with twelve children under eighteen and died in 1850, having never recovered from the loss of her husband. In the following three years Jane would also lose two of her brothers, Robert and Freddy and her sister Maud (Martineau 1934: 2-3).

Her older sister Alethea stepped into the role of mother for her surviving siblings and the family retained an active role in the community and in society. Alethea was assisted by Miss Meredith, the family governess who was described as ruling the schoolroom strictly but kindly and who was deeply respected. This continued until 1858 when Alethea's health gave cause for concern and, as was often the custom for wealthy families during this period, Jane and her four unmarried sisters were sent abroad for 18 months under the care of Miss Meredith. The sisters spent time in Brussels before travelling up the Rhine to Switzerland, then over the Simplon to the Italian Lakes and spent the winter in Rome (ibid 5-6).

The heir to Babraham, Jane's brother Harry, married Lady Elizabeth Yorke and took Babraham as his family home in 1860. Jane and her unmarried sisters had to leave their beloved home in Cambridgeshire once more, and this time the move was to be permanent. The five sisters moved to Penrhôs where they were to live with their uncle William Stanley and his wife Ellin¹ for a time before moving to London. Jane was initially resident on Park Street with her sisters and later at Cadogan Place with her brother Edward. William and Ellin Stanley were responsible for considerable philanthropic works in Holyhead including the restoration of the church of St. Cybi and the building of the church of St. Seiriol, the Market Hall, and the Sailors' Hospital and Home. They also worked encouraging the construction of the Harbour and Breakwater and contributed £2000 for the provision of a water supply to the town. This was to make a great impression on Jane Adeane and she would later carry on the works of her aunt and uncle (ibid: 8).

While her sisters Alethea, Lucy, Mabel and Constance all married and set up home, Jane spent 12 years in society and visiting friends. She used Penrhôs and the London properties as her bases before moving permanently to Penrhôs. She was to remain at Penrhôs until the death of William Owen Stanley in 1894 when she inherited nearby Plas Llanfawr estate. She remained at Llanfawr until her death in 1926 (Martineau 1934: 28 - 29).

Martineau divides Jane's life into four portions; the first being the first 18 years of her life spent at Babraham, 12 spent in society and visiting friends, 8 years devoted to her Uncle William Stanley at Penrhôs and the final 42 years which she spent as mistress of the Llanfawr Estate². As it is the later part of her life which was spent at Holyhead, and which is of direct relevance to this document following report sections will document the two later periods covering the years of her life which were spent in the Holyhead area.

¹ The spelling of the name of Lady Ellin Stanley varies greatly in documents with the Welsh spelling of Elin used along with the anglicised versions of Ellin and Ellen are all used. As much of this text is taken from the writings of Violet Martineau the spelling which she utilises is used throughout this text for consistency.

² There is an error in this timeline as Jane was with William Stanley for 14 years from 1870 to 1884 and at Llanfawr for 42 years from 1882 until her death in 1926 however the broad categories are still valid it simply appears that less time was spent in society

4.5.2 Miss Jane Adeane at Penrhôs 1870 - 1884

William and Ellin had no children and extracts from Jane's letters just prior to the death of her beloved Aunt Ellin detail how she came to become William Staley's companion for the remainder of his life. Her sense of duty and the loss of her chance at a family and social life cannot fail to make the reader feel great sympathy for her situation. On 30th October 1870 she writes "*I am afraid that she suffers so much now that she cannot bring herself to wish for a very much longer illness. Since she has been so much worse her voice has been strong and clear and she has looked forward and thought of every possible trouble that might come in Uncle William's way and suggested how it could be best avoided*". She continues "*Uncle William sits downstairs in the library waiting to be told he may come up to her, in tears generally and looking quite broken. She has wished to be buried in the old church, but permission has to be got about the vault. I have felt the last few weeks that I should have to be with Uncle William in the future. I dreaded Penrhôs without Aunt Ellin, but felt if she made a point of it I could not refuse. Friday night when she thought she could not live through the night she said she could not get her mind at ease till I promised to stay with him. He had begged her to ask me, so then it was clear I ought, and he quite broke down when he spoke about it afterwards and said if I would be like a daughter he thought he could live, but he said "I shall be such a forlorn old man if not". I do not know if this will involve giving up Cadogan Place, but I cannot bear to think of it yet. Aunt Ellin said from that time she had no more cares, and I was thankful to ease her mind by promising all should be as she wished*" (Martineau 1934: 94 – 95).

The decision by Jane to agree to remain with her uncle at Penrhôs must have been made more difficult as Jane had no shortage of offers of marriage and the opportunity of choosing a very different life for herself. Martineau records at least 9 suitors who made advances including the future Bishop of Bangor, Dr Watkin Williams, who asked for her hand whilst tending to Ellin on her deathbed (ibid: 30).

On the 16th November 1870 she writes "*you would know how miserable I should be to give up everything that I shall have to give up. To other people it will not sound like much, but having been away so many months I had begun to long to be back, and now whether I shall be amongst you at all next spring one cannot say*". On the 24th she writes "*at last all our dear Aunt Ellin's sufferings are over. At 8 this evening the change came, a solemn mysterious look. When we thought the dear eyes were closed for ever, they opened once more and looked lingeringly at Uncle William, then a few more sighs and she passed away and his desolate life begun. Her beautiful way of facing death has almost taken away the terror of it for her, from him, and he is quite calm. It was very touching seeing him cling to her to the last and kiss her dear forehead repeatedly afterwards. For a time and indeed it seems to me for always the world will be very empty*" (ibid 96).

Martineau details her Aunt's relationship with Stanley as difficult, not least in part due to the actions of his late wife Ellin who had always done everything within her power to make "*everything give way to his comfort and even to his slightest whim*". This included "*slightly devious methods, such as passing cards under the table to prevent his losing at whist; or, because he objected to the household being given lifts to church in the family omnibus, telling them to wait at the lodge to be picked up on Sundays when Uncle William happened not to be going to church himself*". Jane herself continued these practices and her dealings with him on other matters are described as "*not always quite direct*". This is stated as contributing to the fact that in her later life "*she became notorious for seldom giving a straight answer when appealed to, and for not hearing remarks unless it was convenient to do so*". Despite her attempts to appease him William Stanley is attributed with having "*rather more than his share of the Stanley temper, and could turn suddenly and ferociously upon anyone who annoyed him*" but Martineau adds "*but in essentials Aunt Jane was exceedingly good and loyal to him, managed his house well, and carried out his wishes not only during his life, but for the remainder of her own, every custom and anniversary being duteously observed during the many subsequent years when she reigned at Llanfawr*" (ibid 99 – 100). Figure 14 is a family portrait taken at Penrhôs showing both William Stanley and Jane Adeane.

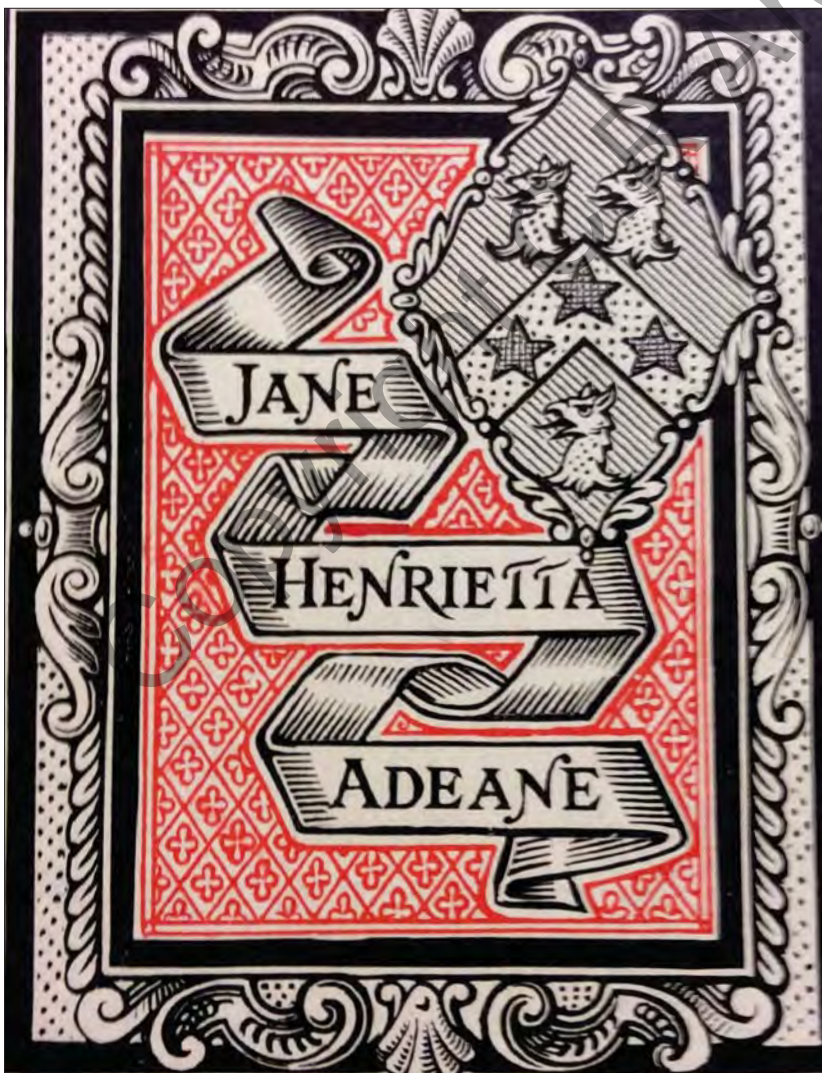


Figure 14. Photograph Showing W.O Stanley (Seated on Far Left) and Jane Adeane (Seated on Left by Urn). Included with a Sketch Book Dated 1864 but Photograph is Lively to Be Later - Possibly 1880's

(Source: Anglesey Archives WM1553)

Figure 15. Bookplate Of Jane Adeane Showing Adeane Family Escutcheon

(Source: Cheshire Archives DSA 89/1)



William Stanley continued his works in Holyhead throughout the later part of his life and of particular relevance to Plas Tanalltran is the work undertaken at St. Cybi's Church. The building was restored between 1877 and 1879 by Sir George Gilbert Scott and his assistant Arthur Baker (Haslam, Orbach and Voelcker 2009: 128). Given Jane's closeness to her uncle, her love of art and architecture and her embracing of the Arts and Crafts Movement it is almost certain that Jane would have been involved in the project and would have met both men. Jane must have been most satisfied with their work as Arthur Baker would later design her complex of buildings at Tanalltran, which included Plas Tanalltran. Arthur Baker and his partner Harold Hughes were also commissioned by Jane Adeane to design the South Chancel Aisle at St. Cybi's which was built in memory of her late uncle and was dedicated in November 1897.

Jane Adeane was involved in a great deal of philanthropic work whilst at Penrhôs and this is attested to by her involvement on numerous of boards and committees in Holyhead including that of the Workhouse. An extract from a newspaper dated 29th January 1881 records that the donations of items to the poor was a longstanding practise of Jane's and reports "*SEASONABLE CHARITY AT BOBEDERN – Miss Adeane, of Penrhos, according to her annual custom, has sent bundles of blankets, wearing apparel, &c., to be distributed amongst the deserving poor and old people of this parish – a boon which is much appreciated by all the recipients during this inclement weather*" (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality: 29th January 1881).

There was however one charitable organisation established by Lord William Stanley which was to dominate Jane's later life – The Stanley Sailor's Hospital which was built 1870 - 1871. Fund raising for the hospital began in November 1869 when a grant of £500 was agreed towards the cost of this hospital, and in December of the same year a builder submitted an estimate of £599 19s 10d for the construction. Following this a joint public appeal was launched for both a hospital and a home for seamen at Holyhead. This appeal was billed as "*a national necessity as during the winter season all manner of vessels sheltered at the harbour, and there was nowhere where seamen could be lodged or given asylum in the case of sickness*". By January 1870 this appeal had raised £1,250 and a site on Salt Island was leased for 99 years at the peppercorn rate of one shilling per annum. The site was built at a final cost of £1170 and was opened on 13th November 1871 (Roberts and Lancefield 1997: 73 – 74).

Roberts and Lancefield also point out one factor that is generally overlooked when the Stanley Sailor's Hospital is discussed – the importance of two women in the funding and running of the hospital. The role of Jane Adeane will be returned to below but also in need of mention is the contribution of the Right Honourable Margaret, Dowager Lady Willoughby de Broke who financed and built the associated second building – the Fever Hospital. The Sailors and the Fever Hospital were run and maintained as a single entity and Stanley, Adeane and Willoughby all served as hospital Governors (ibid: 73).

Stanley remained committed to the hospital and when an endowment fund for maintenance was established as one of the first acts of the Governors, he contributed considerable sums of money. Roberts and Lancefield note that of the £3,330 balance accrued by 1878 Lord Stanley had contributed over £2,000. In 1880 a request was made that smallpox victims and other cases of infectious disease be admitted from the town into the Fever Hospital. As there was insufficient accommodation it was proposed that a kitchen and sleeping room for a nurse be added and the Local Board was asked to contribute to the cost. Miss Adeane became Lady Patroness of the Hospital in 1881 (ibid: 74 – 75).

In the Governor's Minute Book of 1884 the passing of Lord Stanley is recorded thus "*It was moved by Chancellor Briscoe, seconded by Captain Cay and unanimously resolved that this Meeting wishes to record its sense of the great loss sustained by the Hospital through the death of the late President The Honourable William Owen Stanley, the munificent founder and benefactor of the Institution*".

Following his death and for the remainder of her life Jane Adeane would play a leading role in the running of the hospital (ibid: 76).

4.5.3 The Philanthropic Work of Miss Jane Adeane 1884 – 1926

Following the death of her uncle and her inheritance of the Llanfawr Estate Jane retained an active role in the administration of the hospital. During the First World War and the Easter Rising she became completely devoted to the institution, both as an administrator and as a benefactor. In her personal diaries and in letters to friends and families Jane describes her works with a cheerful determination, putting a positive spin on events. This section of her biography is available to read in full in Bangor University Archives and contains a wealth of information for those studying the period. It is also dealt with comprehensively in the Roberts and Lancefield paper from which the following section has been summarised.

Due to the unprecedented number of wounded men arriving in Holyhead improvements were needed to the Stanley Hospital. Jane Adeane financed an additional building on the site which provided sleeping quarters and a recreation room with billiard table. An emergency fund opened in 1916 allowed more baths, heating apparatus and increased ward accommodation to be procured. Between 1916 and 1919 over 1,400 men passed through the Stanley Hospital and dealing with an influx on this scale must have been no mean feat. (Roberts and Lancefield 1997: 80).

Adeane took a personal interest in both the staff and the patients at the hospital organising events for the men and on occasion inviting them to her house for tea whilst some of the extra volunteer nurses were billeted at Plas Llanfawr. The patients were treated to pineapple chunks on a Sunday and a non-alcoholic drink called “*Orange Champagne*” (ibid: 81).

This is not however the full picture as the biography of Jane’s niece Violet stresses very strongly. She first describes how the former Sailors Rest had been turned into a hospital which was financed by Miss Jane Adeane and she details how “*she took no note of bodily fatigue and night after night she would go down to the Rest Room at the Station, and help to feed the exhausted travellers, sometimes till the small hours of the morning. It was a marvellous achievement for an old lady of 75 or more*” but this is qualified by a less than glowing account of the efficacy of her efforts:

“The Hospital was not very successful, for Aunt Jane was terribly unpractical. As one of her most intimate friends described her “She was full of noble intentions, wrongly carried out. So kind-hearted, so troubling for other people, she really has a noble soul, but not enough intellect to understand human beings, and that curious wilfulness is such a pity”. She seems to have run the Hospital with a Committee consisting of her solicitor and herself. The whole Staff consisted of 7, including the Matron, and was totally inadequate to cope with the numbers of patients admitted, which besides British soldiers included Chinese, Lascars and Negroes.

Matron after Matron collapsed, and left, utterly overworked. “I can’t tell you what the work was, you couldn’t stop for 3 minutes” were the words of one of the V.A.D’s who slept at Llanfawr, where they were so insufficiently fed that a special shelf was kept at the Hospital to feed the V.A.D’s from Llanfawr. The milk was supplied from the Llanfawr dairy, but if the supply, which of course varied, ran short, none was allowed to be obtained from any other source, and those patients who were on a milk diet had to go without. The Welsh nurses were hopeless, dirty, untruthful, and careless. There was a marvellous “Sister” amongst the helpers who saved the situation, and stepped into the Matron’s place when matters grew desperate” (Martineau 1934: 446 – 447).

The standards of Miss Adeane's hospital management (nor indeed the slur on the Welsh nurses) must not be judged solely on the basis of the above account, and whilst one cannot doubt that there were failings, to have taken over the running and financing of the hospital in the way that she did was a quite remarkable achievement. The mortality rate also seems to have been no worse, and arguably it was much lower, than other comparable institutions. Jane Adeane's quote from December 1915 demonstrates this as she writes "*the Hospital here has as many sailors as soldiers in it now, the minesweepers have to face such hardships this arctic weather that they are constantly being brought in for treatment. One sailor was beyond recovery and we lost him yesterday, which the staff, who have not lost a single case through the past year, feel very much*". An entry dated 20th October 1917 mentions "*constant inspections are the order of the day but we do not mind as all is up to the mark*" (Roberts and Lancefield 1997: 81). One cannot help but wonder if there were such terrible failings in the care provided that it would have been flagged up by officials at the time.

Jane Adeane was recognised for her wartime work and was awarded an O.B.E in 1920. Martineau remarks that "*to her great gratification she received the Order from the hand of King George himself*" (Martineau 1934: 454).

In spite of this commitment to the hospital and the significant time and money which is contributed, Miss Adeane was also a tireless committee member and charity patron. There is scarcely a board in Holyhead on which Jane did not sit and these were as varied as the Valley Workhouse, Almshouses, educational institutions and the Holyhead Waterworks. Jane both donated and raised tremendous sums of money and would regularly open up her estate to the poor children of the neighbourhood, collecting groups of workhouse children and bring them for picnics at Llanfawr. She also hosted the Anglesey Agricultural Show and provided prize money for certain events.

Violet Martineau (1934: 142) recalls how Jane set out to continue all the charitable works started by her aunt on the island "*her sole aim and object was to approach as nearly as possible to what Aunt Ellin, who had practically taken a mother's place to her, had been during her 44 years at Penrhôs, and to continue all her work for the good of the Island. The money she inherited from Uncle William was almost entirely devoted to that aim. Many charities and public works which had been started by the owners of Penrhôs we still in being, and these she struggled to keep up throughout her life, and to these institutions she gave unstintingly both money and personal care. As Penrhôs was no longer a permanent home for the owners of the estate, she stepped into the place of a Lady Bountiful, and visited the Almshouses, schools and workhouse, and was always ready to help with any philanthropic work, if it was put forward by persons whom she regarded as sound*".

The following extracts taken from contemporary newspapers provide further insights into her charitable works. They are by no means exhaustive and have been selected to demonstrate the range of different works in which she was involved.

"*MISS ADEANE'S TREAT – On Saturday last Miss Adeane, Llanfawr Hall, entertained all the scholars from the various day schools in town who had attended school four hundred times and upwards to tea at her mansion. The kind lady also presented each scholar with a handsome certificate, and attached on the breast of each a nice rosette. The members of the St. Cybi Sunday School were also invited to further enjoy their treat*" (Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald: 31st August 1888).

"*KINDNESS OF MISS ADEANE. The master (Mr Jones) informed the board that Miss Adeane had sent her carriage to convey the children to Llanfawr, where an excellent treat was provided them on New Years' Day. Mr Gardner Kirkland, Valley, also put his carriage at the disposal of the children in connection with the same event – The chairman proposed that Miss Adeane and Mr Gardner be cordially thanked for their kindness to the children. This was seconded by Mr Owen Hughes and carried unanimously*" (Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald 12th January 1894).

“INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION – We are pleased to learn that Miss J. H Adeane, Llanfawr, has increased her subscription from £25 to £50 towards the building fund of the Intermediate School to be erected at Holyhead. If this example was emulated by all who have promised subscriptions the difficulty would be over” (Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald 19th October 1894).

“A GARDEN FETE was held on Tuesday, at Plas Llanfawr, in aid of the funds of the Stanley Hospital. The chief attractions were the cake baking, washing, and hat trimming competitions, and the gala pole dancing by the children. The fete was well patronised, and Miss Adeane and those who readily supported her are to be congratulated on the success of the affair” (The North Wales Express: 14th August 1896).

“Contributions of articles and funds have been very generously made by a number of the leading inhabitants of the neighbourhood towards a Dorcas Society³. The most actively engaged have been Miss Adeane, Plas Llanfawr; Mrs Binney, Brynmor, and Mrs Lewis London Road. The gifts have been distributed, after having been on view at Mrs Binney’s, by the district nurse, and consisted of clothing, blankets etc., which will no doubt be very acceptable at this time of the year” (Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald: 31st December 1897).

It is also rather tempting to see Jane Adeane as a strong advocate for the education of women as in addition to her institute, which promoted practical skills, she undertook considerable work with girl’s schools. She was also involved with the university level education of women which does slightly challenge the charges of extreme conservatism which have been level against her. The North Wales Express ran the following article on 30th July 1886; *“UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NORTH WALES, BANGOR – A meeting of the committee of the “Hall of Residence for Women” at the above college was held on Tuesday. The members present were Mr Darbishire (chairman), Mrs Darbishire, Miss Ridgway, Miss Davies, Liverpool; Miss Anderson, Principal Reichel, Mr R. A Jones, Mr W. Cadwaladr Davies and Professor Henry Jones. Miss Adeane, of Holyhead, was, by unanimous vote, elected a member of the committee. It was resolved the Castle Bank, Bangor, be secured for the Hall of Residence; and owing to the number of applications, means of increasing the accommodation for the students were considered. The committee then proceeded to elect a lady principle”. It concludes “The committee expects, with confidence, that Miss Hughes will not only be able to make the Hall of Residence a home for the female students of the North Wales College, but also exert a powerful influence in deepening and spreading the desire for the education of girls in North Wales”. Her niece expands a little upon her relationship with the University and records “she took an immense interest in Bangor University, and became great friends with Principle Reichel”*

Miss Jane Adeane remained active within the community but despite her extensive charity works her niece reports that she would have nothing to do with municipal work and had a deep distrust of public bodies and never worked with them (ibid).

In addition to her considerable charitable works and her commitment to her large extended family Miss Jane Adeane was also a published author, writing three volumes based on the letters of her family. She is described as having a *“genuine obsession for old manuscripts and letter, and for any information she could obtain as to her forbears, their portraits, tombs and pedigrees”*. *“Owing to her intense love of old records she became the depository of the family archives to a great extent. No one cared in the same degree for them, and when Aunt Louisa Stanley died, she made Aunt Jane her literary executor, and thus put her in possession of all Maria Josepha’s letters. Several of Arthur Stanley’s near relations also handed over to her letters relating to his early days, and when Augustus Hare died, she bought many family papers at his sale. Later on Lord Sheffield died, and left all his papers and possessions to his adopted daughter Miss Attenborough, who gave many of them to Aunt*

³ Dorcas Societies are religious societies formed by women with a mission of providing clothes for the poor

Jane and others she bought from her”. Using the information held within her amassed archive Jane Adeane produced a volume entitled *“The Girlhood of Maria Josepha Holroyd”* in 1896 which was well received in literary circles and by the general public. This was followed by a second volume *“The Early Married Life of Maria Josepha”* and in 1907, a volume on the life of her Great Uncle Bishop Stanley of Norwich entitled *“Before and After Waterloo”* (Martineau 1934: 204 – 205).

This formidable character died on the 30th October 1926 following a short illness. The service and her life are summed up below once more by her niece Violet (ibid: 473):

“Though she might not be laid among her ancestors, it was right and fitting that immediately after the burial a service was held in the Old Church, where she had unfailingly worshipped for many long years above the dust of the Bolds and Wynnes and Owens whose histories had been so real to her. The service opened with the music of the Babraham Hymn of her childhood, and all Holyhead gathered to do honour to her. It was hard to believe that she was gone and that the place she had loved and worked for during nearly the whole of her long life would know her no more. All her energies, her thoughts, her talents, had been devoted to Holyhead. Imperfections and mistakes there may have been, interwoven with the tangled web of her life, but all must feel that here had been one who had seen to it that the young were taught and trained, that the sick were tended, the shipwrecked sailors welcomed, the weary soldiers fed and rested, and her generation served to the utmost of her power”.

4.5.4 Jane Henrietta Adeane - The Development of the Blackbridge Area

The death of William Stanley left Jane a wealthy woman as she inherited the Llanfawr Estate along with some *“reversionary property in the County of Anglesey”*. The Estate was hers for life before falling to his niece Dame Lucy Elizabeth Sotherby (and then her son Arthur). She also inherited the furniture and effects at Llanfawr along with the *“residue of the personality”* which was to be held, upon trust, for her lifetime before again falling to his niece and then her four sons (Flintshire Observer Mining Journal and General Advertiser: 29th May 1884).

With a private source of income, and able to live in comfort for the remainder of her life and, in addition to her role in the hospital, Jane continued and expanded her charitable activities in Holyhead. She took a particular interest in the lives of the children with considerable resources channelled into the education of girls and the preparation of the town’s youth for employment. Adeane was a keen proponent of the Arts and Craft movement – an advocacy reflected both in her keenness for running classes teaching traditional woodwork, metalwork and needlecraft and in her choice of architects/architecture for her various building projects.

4.5.4.1 The Institute Tanalltran

Martineau writes that *“perhaps the greatest interest in Aunt Ellin’s life had been her Industrial School, from which many girls had started into domestic life, and had done well. This school was closed either before or immediately after Aunt Ellin’s death, and one of Aunt Jane’s first schemes was to revive it”* (Martineau 1934: 142). With this in mind Miss Adeane began with the purchase of a piece of land from the Stanley Estate. This plot was later developed to house the large Training Institute described although it is believed that a smaller Institute was initially established at the Tanalltran site which was purchased in 1888 or early 1889 and is detailed in the newspaper article above (Section 4.4).

A new Training School was built on the Stanley land which had been purchased following the death of William Stanley. It was opened on September 26th 1890 and the event was reported in the local newspaper. *“TRAINING SCHOOL. – The new institute built at Blackbridge was opened on Friday evening, September 26th, and all the artisans, to the number of about 50, who had been employed in its erection, were invited by Miss Adeane addressed a few words to her assembled guests, expressing her pleasure at seeing them all together in the building they had themselves erected, and into which they had put such excellent work. She explained that the object for which the institute was intended*

was to give training to girls such as would fit them for good situation, and also help them to make their own homes happy and comfortable. Also, at some future time, to use the room they were in for evening classes of a recreative kind. One of the guests then expressed warm thanks to their hostess, and hoped the institute might prove a great advantage to the young people of the neighbourhood. Hearty cheers were then given for Miss Adeane. A vocal and instrumental concert followed, to which each of those who had been at supper had invited a friend, by permission. Some of the most attractive features of the programme were the violin playing of Miss Majorie Smith and the singing of Miss Dorethea Ramsay's Welsh songs. We must not omit the singing of Messrs. Evan Williams, Owen Hughes, and William Pritchard who were enthusiastically received. This part of the evening's entertainment conclude with Miss Ramsay's singing the Welsh national song "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau" in the chorus of which the entire audience joined. The second part consisted of a very interesting lecture from Mr. Macan, on a tour he had made in Palestine illustrated by pictures, costume, and curiosities" (Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald: 3rd October 1890).

Jane Adeane provides a description of the evening in her own words: "*The opening of the Institute involved different people coming to help, but the evening passed off very well. Fifty workmen who had helped to build it had supper at half past six, and an hour later they were joined by fifty friends. Dora Ramsay's singing and Marjory's violin playing delighted them all, and afterwards Mr. Macan gave a lecture on his Tour in Palestine. In the course of which Marjory appeared in an Eastern dress, veiled from head to foot. It made a great impression*" (Martineau 1934: 179).

Violet describes the Institute as first being a house, built "*to train a score or more, of girls at a time, in domestic work*". She then states "*in 1890 she added five or six rooms to the buildings, which was known as Tan Altran, and these she furnished and let to friends or other lodgers, who were attended to by the girls in training thereby affording real experience in domestic work. The washing for the hospital was also done by the girls, under the superintendence of the Laundry Matron. When first started, the home was up to date and planned with great care*" (ibid: 143).

Martineau also follows the life of the Institute stating "*when first started, the home was up to date and planned with great care and wisdom. It did good work for many years, and numerous orphans and Poor Law Girls owe to its training their start in life and the beginning of a prosperous career. The cost at the end of Aunt Jane's life came to nearly £300 a year, and to the Home she gave loving and untiring interest. To find a capable Head for it was one of her chief cares, and she was generally most fortunate in her Superintendents. By the time she died she had decided to close it. The difficulties and expenses had become too great for her to cope with, at 84, and the conditions were far from ideal in 1926, perfect though they seemed in the 'eighties. Tan Altran had done a good work and fulfilled a real need*" (ibid).

The Institute and associated records will be discussed further in section 4.5.4.4 in relation to the Blackbridge improvements below. The census and cartographic evidence will be addressed but a small digression has been inserted here to give an impression of the lives of the huge number of girls who passed through the Institute and to pause to examine of the very limited number of alternatives that were available to them.

Girls and young women were particularly vulnerable members of society and only a relatively short time before the Institute was established there was a scandal in Holyhead which illustrates this point perfectly. In 1867 the Caernarvon and Denbigh Herald reported on the behaviour of the Holyhead Board of Guardians who were described as “*incapable of discharging the most elementary of their functions*”. The Guardians had been supplying young girls to Caddy Owens at 51 Baker Street, a house known to be a brothel, and on inspection several workhouse girls of between twelve and fifteen years of age were found to be working there. “Mr Jones, a Guardian, later admitted: “*it was true that Mrs Owen’s house was known to be a brothel, and that sick people and orphan girls had been sent there by the Guardians....it was a matter of common notoriety*” (Davies 2005: 301-2).

Miss Adeane took a genuine interest in the welfare of the pupils in her Institute and regularly mentions them in her diary and takes friends and family members along to interact with the girls. The following is a typical diary entry: 10th April 1906 “*Yesterday we went up to the garden at Penrhos, just to give little Elsie an idea of the sunshine and the spring flowers there, and she was charmed, and then we drove around by the Penrhyn Field to Holyhead, to the Institute where the 17 little girls were just going into dinner, and looking very nice in their white caps, singing their grace*” (Martineau 1934: 304).

She was also very heavily involved on a personal level and the following extract details the examination of Christmas presents for suitability. It demonstrates a detailed knowledge of individual girls. “*Miss Lyster (Supt. Of the Institute) has her work cut out for her in examining all the correspondence and presents that have come for the 24 girls at Tan Altran. The very poorest seem to have gifts from their families, varying in suitability; for instance one little girl who has 14 brothers and sisters was sent a set of manicure instruments by a brother. Miss Oakshott every Christmas sends some charming present as a prize for the girl “kindest and most loved by the other girls” and then they vote. This year it was a beautiful travelling clock, much too good really. There was unanimous voting as to the one who deserved it. Miss Lyster has had one black sheep lately who was suspected of abstracting any dainties she coveted, so it was decided to detect her by putting cayenne pepper into a mince pie, and the guilty one fell into the trap and was soon convicted. The entertainment here turned out very pretty with the revolving Christmas Tree and Ruth Verry recited extremely well*” (Martineau 1934: 370 – 371).

She also had a special affection for some of the pupils and is glad of their success. She writes the following of the wedding of one of her girls in 1908 for which she arranged a festival “*this has been a beautiful day for the wedding of Mary Hughes, whose marriage feast took place in the barn here (Llanfawr). I do not know if you realise her, she was the first child taken to be trained at the Institute, the nest egg of the whole thing. Then she became Laundry Maid at Goldings and to Eustace till she returned here to be Laundry Matron for the last five years. The faithful Plumber at Lincoln who has been engaged to her for the last eight years has at length insisted on her marrying him, and at 9.30 this morning the wedding took place in the Old Church, and the wedding breakfast with 35 of the Hughes clan sitting down to it took place at 10.30 and with the different Bards reciting Englynio in Welsh in honour of the occasion, and the cutting of the cake and all the ceremonies, the proud Bridegroom only just carried off his little wife in time to catch the Irish Mail at 12 o’clock*” (ibid: 323).

As is so often the case there is another side to the history of the Institute and it is important not to overlook just how hard the work would have been. The girls were doing all of the laundry for the Institute, the Hospital and the boarders and lodgers in Plas Tanalltran. An account of life in Tanalltran is given by a girl working there in a case recorded in 1904.

“RAN AWAY FROM GIRLS’ INSTITUTE – It was reported that a girl named Mary Hughes (not the girl mentioned above) said to be under 16 years of age, who had been at the Alltran Girls’ Institute, Holyhead, for some time, had run away but had been brought to the workhouse.

Mr Owen Owens, relieving officer, stated that on Monday the girl left the institute without leave, going to her sister’s house at Waterside. He visited the house, when the girl promised to go to the workhouse the following day. On Saturday night, he was informed that she had not gone, and he went and took her to the workhouse. She refused to go back to the institute.

The girl, on being questioned by the guardians, stated that she was not kindly treated. Further questions elicited the information that she was grumbled at continually in the laundry by everyone. Questioned by Mr Lansbury, she said the working hours were from 8.30 am to 7 pm when they had to scrub the laundry out, going to bed at 8. If the work was done in the laundry they were allowed out on Friday afternoons but not on other days. She had been in the institute three years, and was previously in the workhouse. She would sooner stay in the house than go back to the institute.

A married sister of the girl expressed her willingness to take the girl and give her a home. She had previously asked for her to be allowed to leave, but the matron at the institute had written her a most insulting letter. Mrs Elias remarked that the girl was very well trained, and when Mr Bircham saw her, he remarked that it would be a pity to take her away.

Mr Lansbury proposed and Mr E D Jones seconded that the girl be allowed to go and live with her sister. Mrs Elias proposed and Dr Kendall seconded that she be detained in the house.

On being put to the meeting it was found that nine voted for each resolution. The Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of allowing the girl to leave the house. Mr C E Moreton Pritchard proposed that the clerk write a letter to this institute, stating that the guardians were satisfied with the way in which the girl was treated, and also with her appearance” (Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald: 30th September 1904).

4.5.4.2 Plas Tanalltran and the Surrounding Cottages

As previously mentioned The Institute at Tanalltran was one element in a larger development, and the second phase of works was undertaken following the purchase of further land in Blackbridge and it was onto this land that Plas Tanalltran was built. This purchase was carried out whilst the building of Tan Altran Institute was underway. The sale was advertised in The North Wales Express on 7th February 1890 and the sale took place on the 20th of February 1890.

“IMPORTANT SALE OF FREEHOLD PROPERTY.

TO BE SOLD PURSUANT TO AN ORDER OF THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE MADE IN AN ACTION, ROBERTS v. ROBERTS, 1888, R. 1416, WITH THE APPROBATION OF THE JUDGE, Mr JUSTICE STIRLING, BY

MR WILLIAM RIVE, the person appointed by the said Judge to Sell the same, at the Town Hall, Holyhead, on Thursday, the 20th day of February, 1890, at 2 o’clock in the afternoon, in 19 Lots, the following FREEHOLD MESSUAGES AND TENEMENTS, situate at Blackbridge, Holyhead, in the County of Anglesey: - The “Edinburgh Castle Inn”, a Shed adjoining thereto, Nos. 62, 63, 64, and 65 Foundry Street, Nos. 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 28, 30, 32, 33, 36, 37 and 38 Blackbridge and the Slaughter-House facing Turkey Shore Road and No. 1 Turkey Shore Road” (North Wales Express: 7th February 1890).

The outcome of the sale was also reported which gives invaluable information about the Blackbridge area at the start of the 1890’s. It also provides information as to how this land was available for sale.

“HOLYHEAD. EXTENSIVE PROPERTY SALE

An important sale of freehold property at Blackbridge, Holyhead, took place on Thursday afternoon at the Town Hall. Mr. William Riva being the auctioneer. The property was sold with the approbation and pursuant to an order of Mr. Justice Stirling, arising out of a case Roberts v. Roberts, in the Chancery Division in the High Court of Justice – Mr. E. G. Roberts, solicitor, represented Messrs. Radford and Frankland, Chancery Lane, London and Mr. T. R. Evans solicitor for Messrs. Dunkerton and Sons, Bedford Row and Mr. Richard Jennings, Coleman Street, London.

The first lot put up were four tenements, with the yards and outbuildings, being numbers 62, 63, 64 and 65 Foundry Street. The lot was at first withdrawn, but was afterwards sold to Mr. Joseph Evans, West View, for the sum of £145. At the expiration of existing lease, the houses become freehold property of present purchaser.

The second lot, a shed, was bought by Mr. Hugh Jones, the present occupier for the sum of £25; lot 3, No. 12 Blackbridge, in the occupation of Mr. Lewis Roberts, was purchased by Mr. Hugh Jones, Edinburgh Castle, for the sum of £130; on lot 4, the Edinburgh Castle, being put up to the bidding became lively, and was finally knocked down to Mr. Hugh Jones, the tenant, for the sum of £540; lot 5 was at first withdrawn (14 Blackbridge) but was subsequently sold to Mr. Hugh Jones for £66; lot 6, being dwelling houses Nos. 15 and 16, Blackbridge, and lot 7, also tenements Nos. 17, 18 and 19, Blackbirdge, together with lot 8 No. 20 were sold to Mr. Hugh Jones for the sums of £75, £75 and £110 respectively; lot 9, being a tenement, No. 21, Blackbridge, was purchased by Mr. John Jones, Birmingham House, for the sum of £35; lot 10, dwelling house No. 10 Blackbridge, was disposed of to Mr. Lewis Roberts, engine driver, Shop, Blackbridge, for £90; Mr. John Jones, Birmingham House, proved to be the buyer, for £50, of the next lot, number 11, being a dwelling house. Lots 12 and 13 were also sold to Mr. John Jones for £120, being No. 25, 27 and 29, Blackbridge.

On lot 14 being put up, the bidding became brisk and continued to the end of the sale, all the remaining lots being purchased by Mr. William Williams, contractor, acting on behalf of Miss Adeane, Llanfawr. Lot 14, dwelling houses, Nos 37 and 38 Blackbridge, together with the slaughter house facing Turkey Shore, realised £280; lot 15, a tenement, 33 Blackbridge, sold for £80. Lot 16, No. 36 Blackbridge, £125, also a tenement, lot 17, a dwelling-house in the occupation of Mrs Catherine Owen, No. 32 Blackbridge, £175. The last lot consisted Nos 24, 26, and 28, Blackbridge, and No. 1 Turkey Shore Road. These were sold for £165. The sale was well attended, great interest being manifested in the proceedings” (Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald: 21st February 1890).

Jane Adeane comments on her purchase of the land in her correspondence. On the 20th February she writes “today the long talked of sale of some of the Black Bridge Slums has taken place, by order of Chancery. The publican owning the “Edinburgh Castle” has got most, but Mr. Morris came and has bought in for me the little tongue of ground covered with hovels just below Tan Altran, and that will be an immense acquisition as regards civilising the place. The Institute grows and will be quite a pretty feature for a sketch in time, with the mountain behind, and Skinner’s rocks to the right” (Martineau 1934: 178 – 179).

Miss Adeane’s purchase of the additional land in Blackbridge totalled £825 – no small sum of money at the time, and it is clear from her writing that the acquisition has been planned for some time. Nothing short of a complete remodelling of the area is planned by Jane and it appears that, if she could have arranged it, even the name of the area would have been changed. One can almost see her repeated use of the name Tanalltran in her properties as an attempt towards this aim.

A contemporary newspaper details the works at the site and the attempts of Jane Adeane to improve the area. Although changes were no doubt needed there is no mention of what is to happen to the inhabitants of the “hovels” that are demolished to make way for the new development, and one cannot help but see an element of attempted gentrification in the plans. As can often be seen in Jane’s charity, and as is very much a feature of the Victorian age, there is a distinction between the hardworking poor - those who can be improved and the idle and lawless. It may not be entirely coincidental that the area chosen for improvement lies along the route from the Llanfawr Estate into Holyhead but this must not be presumed to be the primary motivation for the scheme.

The newspaper article records “*IMPROVEMENTS AT BLACKBRIDGE – Some time ago a petition was received from a number of the inhabitants of Blackbridge by the local board praying for authority to change the name of the locality. In a communication received from Miss Adeane by the board, it appears that the lady thought the change should be more radical than merely a change of name; and as an instance of the interest manifested by Miss Adeane in the welfare of her poorer neighbours, she is to have several dwelling houses erected at Blackbridge as one important factor in raising the tone of the neighbourhood, which has in the past gained an unenviable notoriety. Such a course might be followed with equally good results in the neighbourhoods of Porthysach, North West Street, &c. at Waterside, of which Dr Evans the medical officer of health, complained in his sanitary report published in your last issue. In thus digressing I wished to give the owners a hint a hint after the sweeping statements made by Dr Evans.*

The plans of the residences at Blackbridge have been prepared by Mr Arthur Baker, London, and the work has been entrusted to Mr O. Morris, of Caernarvon, the well-known contractor, who has already commenced operations. Miss Adeane had previously established a training school in cookery, domestic economy &c. which is maintained at her own cost.

What was needed was better homes and moral surrounding, and less temptation to drink, immorality and crime” (Caernarvon and Denbigh Herald: July 17th 1891).

Miss Adeane’s interest in history, and in the history of her family, is reflected in the design of Plas Tanallt. Arthur Baker (1842 – 1897) was chosen as the architect for the property, along with the other buildings in the complex, and it is very clear as to the source of inspiration for the design – Plas Mawr in Conwy. Baker had previously undertaken the renovations at Plas Mawr where he and his nephew Herbert Baker produced measured drawings and a volume recording the works. Baker had also worked at St. Cybi’s Church for Lord William Stanley whilst he was in the employ of Sir George Gilbert Scott, and presumably Jane became familiar with his work during this time.

Jane was clearly very impressed by Plas Mawr in Conwy and she makes a small mention of her first visit there in a letter dated September 14th, 1865. “*We had such a long day of it after I wrote to you last week. We went to Conway first, walked around the walls and the old house of Queen Elizabeth’s time, then picnicked in the Castle*” (Martineau 1934: 34). This small note may seem rather throwaway but Plas Mawr had a lasting effect on her architectural tastes and was a recurrent theme in the works she commissioned, no doubt aided by the familiarity of architect Arthur Baker with the property.

Prior to the erection of Plas Tanalltran, Plas Mawr was the inspiration for other building commissioned by Jane. Her niece mentions this when describing the property which Jane kept in London for her visits there. *“Uncle William left her an ample income for her life, and she got rid of the house in Cadogan Place and in 1887 built herself a charming one in Lennox Gardens, the interior of which was decorated with plaster medallions copied from an Elizabethan house in Conwy. She also adorned the hall with some ancient hatchments bearing the Adeane escutcheons which had been banished from Babraham Church”* (Martineau 1934: 149). Jane used these family escutcheons as her personalised bookplate (see figure 15) and their design is incorporated into the grand fireplaces in Plas Tanalltran.

Jane Adeane purchased Stanley House in Market Square for incorporation into another scheme inspired by Plas Mawr. *“Aunt Jane had a great love for beautifying her surroundings, and she specially wished to improve the view of Holyhead from the sea. She restored the old walls of St. Cybi’s Church and purchased a building known as Stanley House, which was incorporated a part of the ancient Roman wall. Her passionate loyalty to the Queen made her very desirous that Victoria should see this view from the sea”* (Martineau 1934: 150). Although further research into this property has not been undertaken the architectural similarities between Stanley House and Plas Tanalltran are such that it would seem almost certain that Baker is the architect responsible for the works to the rear of Stanley House. It is particularly evident in the stepped gables with finials. The similarities between Plas Tanalltran and Plas Mawr will be discussed further when the building itself is described in detail.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to source the original plans for Plas Tanalltran, or indeed for any of the Adeane developments at Blackbridge but there are newspaper articles, census documents and other historic sources which provide further information on the Tanalltran complex. The only picture of the property was collected by the Old Holyhead Facebook site and it appears to have been taken around the turn of the twentieth century. It is included as figure 16.

In addition to the Training Institute, Plas Tanalltran, and the accompanying stables, Jane built a small number of cottages and a coffee house. The coffee house was an attempt to counteract the temptation to consume alcohol by providing alternative meeting places for socialising. The success of this development is noted in a newspaper dated 1902 – although Blackbridge has clearly not lost all of its less salubrious elements. *“Blackbridge, a locality which in parts of it has had a reputation that does not belie its name, has of late come from under the cloud that enveloped it into a purer atmosphere. Some of the old shanties that once reeked in loathsomeness have been razed to the ground, and more modern premises suitable for the working class have been reared in their stead. One dwelling of almost palative architecture stands conspicuous in its midst, and the Institute built by Miss Adeane helps to give the locality a respectable and up-to-date appearance. There remain, however, still some unsightly houses in the vicinity which ought, in the interest of decency and sanitation, to be levelled to the ground. Miss Adeane has done much to improve this part of the town, and so far as in her power no doubt will still further improve it. There must, however, be some other parties interested about Blackbridge, and it is heartily hoped that they will do their part in making their property more picturesque, so as to keep in line with improvements that are being carried out in other parts of the town”* (The North Wales Express: 31st October 1902).

4.5.4.3 Plas Tanalltran and the Fox Russell Family

Given the poverty in this area of Holyhead Plas Tanalltran is important in that it was initially used as the home and surgery for the physician Dr. William Fox Russell. Roberts and Lancefield state that Dr. Fox Russell was the first fully qualified medical practitioner in Holyhead (in that he received his qualifications through a conventional medical school) and that he was brought to the town by Lord Stanley in 1890. It is included in the Listed Building Description for Plas Tanalltran, and has been reproduced elsewhere, that the building was purpose built for Fox Russell this could be neither confirmed nor disproven through archival research. What is clear that the Plas Tanalltran building

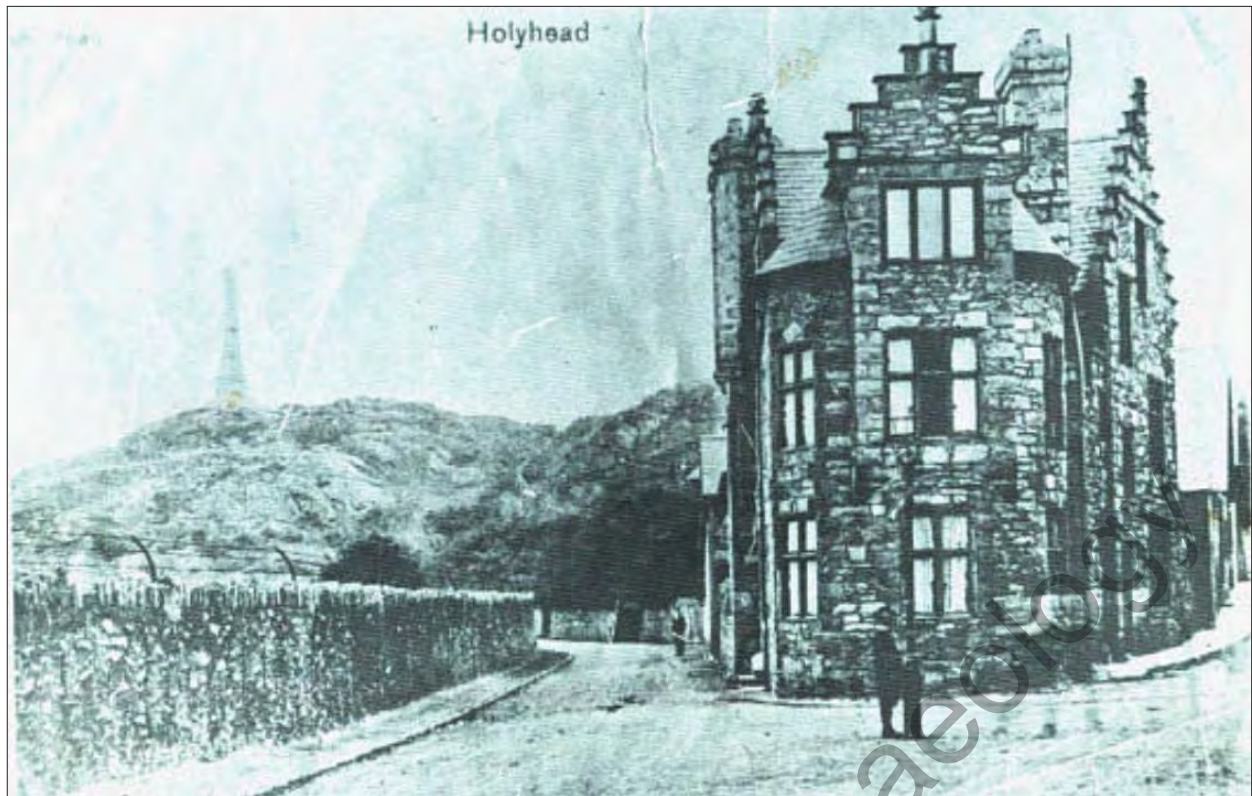


Figure 16. Plas Tanalltran c.1900. Skinner's Monument is Visible in Background
 Reproduced with Kind Permission from the Old Holyhead Facebook Group
 (Source: www.facebook.com/OldHolyhead/photos)



Figures 17 & 18. Dr. William Fox Russell c.1890 & Dated 1908 but Likely Earlier
 (Source: Anglesey Archives WM2251)

was clearly built for public use. This is evidenced the locations of the lavatories and the large waiting or public rooms with wooden window seats at ground and first floor level. Archival research has also confirmed that the Fox Russell family (figure 17 – 22) were the first inhabitants of the building and lived there from around 1892 until around 1900.

Documents show that William Fox Russell was not living in Holyhead at the time of the 1891 census and he is recorded as a boarder in Trowbridge, Wiltshire. His address is given as 34 St Georges' Street in the home of a tailor. His occupation is recorded as medical practitioner.

Fox Russell moved to Holyhead soon after this date and his marriage to Miss Ethel Maria Thornbury is recorded in a local newspaper as having taken place on the 19th April 1892 at St. Jude's, Gray's Inn Road, London. Dr. William Fox Russell is described in the Holyhead section of the paper as having "*recently become a resident of this town*" (Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald: 29th April 1892) and, circumstantially at least, it would seem perfectly feasible that he was recruited by Jane Adeane specifically for this post. The marriage happening so soon after he relocates to Holyhead would suggest that the couple had been waiting until Russell had his own practice and accommodation before tying the knot.

This information allows the date of the family moving into Plas Tanalltran to be refined to between 5th April 1891 (when the 1891 census was taken), and 19th April 1892 when William and Ethel married. There are a number of documents which record the family's presence at the property and four of the eight Fox Russell children (John, Ethel, William and Henry) are believed to have been born there. The first document is the Baptismal record of John Fox Russell who was baptised on the 28th January 1893. The abode for the family is given as Plas Tanalltran (source: Anglesey Archives MW/606/2).

The Slater's Directory of 1895 records Dr. William Fox Russell as both living and working at Plas Tanalltran. He is recorded as being a surgeon. By the time of the 1901 census Dr. Fox Russell and his family have relocated the home and business to 5 Victoria Terrace where it was to remain for until he retired in 1927 (Roberts and Lancefield 1997: 79).

The bringing of Dr. Fox Russell to Holyhead was a great service to the town and in the years before the National Health Service Russell was a familiar face, working at the port and hospital when needed and in private practice. Many oral histories held at Anglesey Archives talk fondly of the man and his work and recall how families paid three pence a week into a fund as a form of medical insurance should one of them fall sick. He served on many committees and commissions and took an active role in Holyhead life.

During the First World War Dr. Fox Russell worked with Miss Adeane at the hospital and convened the British Legion of Volunteers which was the equivalent of the Home Guard during the Second World War. Four of the Fox Russell sons served during the First World War – Captain John Fox Russell (figures 18 – 21 & 28), Captain Henry Fox Russell (figures 18, 19, 22 & 28), Lieutenant William Fox Russell (figures 18,19 & 28) and Lieutenant Thomas Fox Russell (figures 18,19 & 28). Two of the boys were killed whilst in uniform – John whilst on active duty and Henry in a training accident just after the war. Both men had shown conspicuous bravery whilst on active service and given that they were both born at Plas Tanalltran their service records will be included below as Holyhead has every reason to feel proud of these men and their conduct.

The following section is taken from the Anglesey Mon Information Website (www.anglesey.info/holyhead-fox-russell-heroes.htm):



Figure 19 (Top Left).
The Fox Russell Family
Taken c.1913. This is
Believed to be the Last
Photograph Which Shows
The Whole Family.

Pictured are sons Dacre,
Kenneth, Charles, Thomas,
Henry, William, John,
Dr. Fox Russell, Ethel
Maria Fox Russell and
Daughter Ethel

Figure 20 (Top Right).
Captain John Fox Russell
M.C, V.C 1893 - 1917



Figure 21 (Below Left).
Captain John Fox Russell
Rescuing Wounded in
November 1917 Painting
At RAMC Museum

(Source: Anglesey
Archives WM2251)

Figure 22 (Below Right).
Captain Henry Thornbury
Fox-Russell M.C.

(Source: [www.anglesey.
info/holyhead-fox-russell
-heroes.htm](http://www.anglesey.info/holyhead-fox-russell-heroes.htm))



“At the age of 16, John began medical training at London University Medical School, his practical training taking place at the Middlesex Hospital, where he joined the University of London Officers Training Corps. By the year 1913 John had been accepted for a commission with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and the following year war was declared on Germany. He was however seconded by the army to complete his medical training.

Following the successful acquisition of his medical degree, John joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (R.A.M.C.) in 1916, seconded to the Royal Field Artillery (R.F.A.).

John served in France with the R.F.A., subsequently becoming attached at his own request to his previous regiment and battalion – R.W.F. - 1st/6th Battalion.

John had by then progressed to the rank of Captain, and he joined his old regiment in Palestine. During the first Battle of Gaza, which took place on the 27th and 28th of March 1917, he was awarded the Military Cross for bravery.

The Citation for his Military Cross reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He showed the greatest courage and skill in collecting wounded of all regiments, and in dressing them under continuous shell and rifle fire.

A little over six months later he was awarded the Victoria Cross (posthumously) for his bravery at Tel el Khuweilfeh, where he lost his life on the 6th of November 1917 whilst helping his wounded comrades.

The Citation for his Victoria Cross reads:

For most conspicuous bravery displayed in action until he was killed. Capt Russell repeatedly went out to attend the wounded under murderous fire from snipers and machine guns, and in many cases where no other means were at hand carried them in himself, although almost exhausted he showed the highest possible degree of valour”.

“Henry Thornberry Fox-Russell was born in Holyhead on the 24th March 1897, the third son (fourth child) of Doctor William and Ethel Maria Fox-Russell.

Henry later attended Churcher’s College in Petersfield, Hampshire, during which time he became a member of the Officers Training Corps. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on the 20th August 1914, assigned to the 6th Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Henry steadily rose up the ranks, and following service in Gallipoli and Egypt with the 1st/6th Battalion, which he joined in January of 1916, he served in Palestine, being promoted to Captain in June 1916.

In March of 1917 he was seconded to the 64th or 41st Squadron Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C.), during his service with the R.F.C. he was awarded the Military Cross (M.C.) for bravery in the air, and also for rescuing a downed pilot, who was seriously wounded - Lieutenant James Alexander Vazeille Boddy - who had been shot down by the Red Baron, Manfred von Richtofen.

The Citation for his Military Cross reads: For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He formed one of a patrol which silenced an enemy battery. He dropped bombs on two of the guns, silenced others with his machine gun and then engaged transport on the road. This operation was carried out under heavy fire and very difficult weather conditions. On another occasion he dropped bombs and fired 300 rounds on enemy trenches from a height of 100 feet. His machine was then hit by a shell and crashed in front of our advanced position. He reached the front line, and while there saw another of our machines brought down. He went to the assistance of the pilot, who was badly wounded, extricated him under heavy fire and brought him to safety. He showed splendid courage and initiative.

In February 1918 Henry was promoted to Captain and Flight Commander, and he was stationed at Hooton Park in Cheshire, as a flight instructor with 4 Squadron, and he actually survived the war.

Just days after the Armistice (11th November), on the 18th of November 1918, Henry climbed aboard a Sopwith Camel aircraft and took off for a solo flight. Henry and his aircraft had climbed to approximately 900 feet when something catastrophic must have happened as the aircraft went into a spin and crashed to the ground. Henry was dead aged just 21.

Henry was brought home to Holyhead, where he was interred at St Seiriol's Churchyard. His parents were later buried in a grave just a few of feet from their sons".

4.5.4.4 Census and Cartographic Evidence for the Adeane Properties at Blackbridge

As previously mentioned Dr. Fox Russell and his family had moved from Plas Tanalltran by the time of the 1901 census and there is no record for the building in the 1891 document. There is however a record for "*The Institute*" in 1891 which shows that initially the training school was a small affair with a governess, Miss Harriet E Gosse, a servant named Annie Hughes and three pupils aged between 13 and 15. Two of the girls, Annie Abbit and Mary Hughes were born in Holyhead but one girl, Leila Brown, was from Sheffield.

The Institute can be seen to have grown considerably in size between the census of 1891 and that taken in 1901. In 1901 the Superintendent is Gertrude Wake (age 52) who appears to have been assisted by her niece Torfuda Dorothy Lewie (age 20). The Matron is recorded as Mary Jane Knight (aged 42). There are now 18 girls listed as boarders at the Institute with an age range of between 8 and 17 years. All the staff and the majority of the girls are monoglot English speakers, with only three recorded as bilingual and one as a Welsh speaker. One girl was born in Holyhead, with just four others born in Wales (south, mid and north). The remainder of the pupils were English born, the majority from the North West such as Chester and Liverpool, but with two girls from London.

This is perhaps a little odd as there is an emphasis on providing for the poor girls of the Parish in the reports of the time but this seems not to have necessarily been the case. It may have been that some of the girls had been orphaned whilst in Holyhead, but this is unlikely as there was a reticence to care for children born in other parishes. Guardians at the workhouses would generally remove all destitute children back to their parish of origin. It would therefore seem that the girls had been placed at the Institute by their parishes or by charitable institutions. This is supported by an advertisement placed in The Cheshire Observer February 28th 1903. "*HASTING'S SCHOOL FOUNDATION. JUNIOR HASTINGS' EXHIBITIONS FOR GIRLS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Governors of the above Foundation, established by the late Miss Mary Poole Hastings, are prepared to receive APPLICATIONS on behalf of Girls who are desirous of becoming Candidates for Two Exhibitions at the Tan Altran Training Home, Holyhead. The Girls nominated by the Governors will be entitled to receive a complete outfit, and board, lodging, and the necessary education and training to fit them for domestic service, free of all expense. The Exhibitions will be awarded to Girls of the age of 12, who are and have not less than three years been scholars in public Elementary Schools*". This advertisement demonstrates that the Institute was presented as an opportunity for poor families to provide their girls with the opportunity for a good job in the future.

The 1911 census for Tanalltran shows the continued expansion of the number of girls at the Institute and there are now 23 girls resident. The Superintendent has changed once more and is listed as Adeline Mary Lyster (age 47) with Ellen Bradley (age 40) as her assistant. Louisa Allen (age 26) is the Matron, and there are two visitors, Katherine and Charity Kitson, a widowed mother and her 17 year old daughter. The girls in this document are all listed as servants rather than pupils or boarders. The girls are once more predominantly English born and English speaking with only 4 of them born in Wales and none born in Holyhead.

Plas Tanalltran, referred to as Plas Alltran, first appears in the census of 1901. Given the size of the building there are only two individuals, a husband and wife Edward (age 38) and Lillie Annie (aged 31) Shutte. Edward is recorded as a naval pensioner and his wife as a caretaker. It is apparent from the work of Martineau and others that there is a degree of interchangeability between the use of Tanalltran (and the various versions of these names) as referring to the Institute and as referring to Plas Tanalltran. It is therefore thought possible that the large rooms were used as teaching spaces for Jane Adeane's evening classes or arts and crafts and rooms on the upper floors were rented out with the Shutte's taking responsibility for the care of the building.

Her niece writes *"when first Aunt Jane settled at Llanfawr, she realised the need for evening occupation for the lads and men of the place. Evening classes under Government did not exist. The Home Art movement was then starting, and appealed to her by the artistic way in which it was promoted. She imported a master carver at her own expense, and for a whole winter he taught the boys, in Llanfawr, and they soon became one of the best Home Arts schools in the kingdom. Their boxes and exquisitely worked metal caskets were for many years a feature of the annual Home Arts Exhibition at the Albert Hall"* (Martineau 1934: 146).

The classes were not only held at Llanfawr and newspapers record that they took place at Tanalltran and as mentioned above this may refer to both the Institute and Plas Tanalltran. The following report was published in the Caernarvon and Denbigh Herald on the 28th December 1894: *"BLACKBRIDGE INSTITUTE – On Thursday, at the Market Hall, an exhibition took place of home arts and industries. The exhibits were well executed and included some wood carving, which had been tastefully executed, leather embossing, and baskets that had been made with remarkable taste and ability, and art embroidery, the work having been done by local talent exclusively, which reflects very great credit upon the staff of the institute. In addition to the exhibits above mentioned, Christmas cakes and other eatables were shown, which were admired by the spectators for their excellent finish. Tea was provided at a nominal charge, and the exhibition proved highly satisfactory, as a large number of exhibitors attended. Miss Adeane, Llanfawr, is to be warmly congratulated upon the establishment of this institute and the great good that it is accomplishing in teaching arts and industries of a useful and helpful nature to the inhabitants of Holyhead and its vicinity"*. The classes continued to be a success and an article in the Caernarvon and Denbigh Herald on the 18th January 1895 reports a second course of classes for the Holyhead centre had been opened and an appeal was made to the County Council for aid *"to enable them to carry the work over a wider area than has hitherto been possible"*.

There are two Editions of the Ordnance Survey Map of Holyhead which demonstrate the extent of the changes in the Blackbridge area. The First Edition dated 1888 (figure 23), shows the area prior to the improvement and the Second Edition surveyed 1899 and published 1901 (figure 24) details the changes to the area. Plas Tanalltran first appears on the 1901 Ordnance Survey map and is shown as two separate properties, although the two elements of the building were never entirely split from each other. The Training Institute is a considerable size and the buildings around Plas Tanalltran all cluster into a little enclosed unit. Later sources (figures 25 & 26) show the demolition of what appears to be an outbuilding associated with Plas Tanalltran although it has not been demolished in its entirety and is still evident at the site. The enclosing walls between Plas Tanalltran and the Tanalltran Cottages are not shown on the 1953 Ordnance Edition but are still evident at the site.

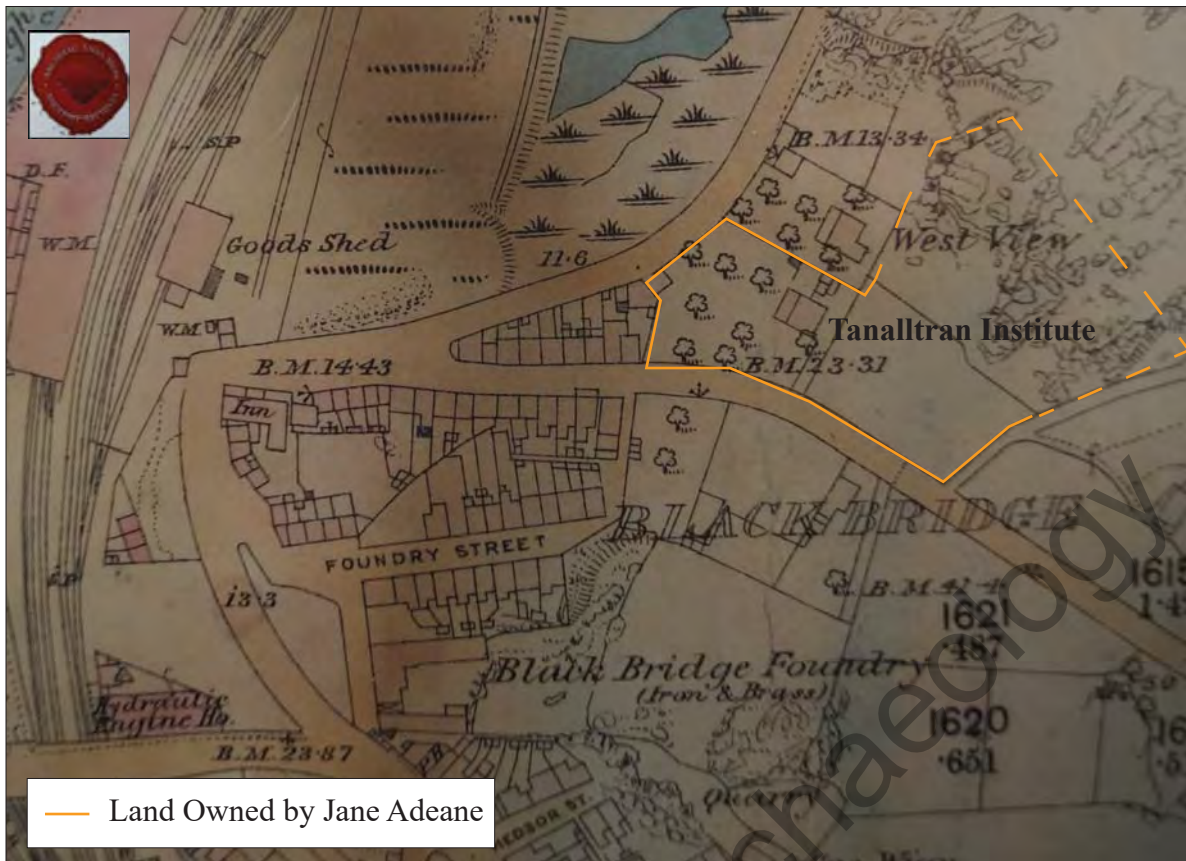


Figure 23. 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Holyhead



Figure 24. 1901 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Holyhead (Surveyed 1899)



Figure 25. 1924 Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Holyhead



Figure 26. 1953 Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Holyhead

4.5.4.5 Plas Tanalltran During the Early Twentieth Century

There is a small mention in Gwalia newspaper dated 29th October 1903 of Captain Tanner (figure 27) being resident at “Plas Alltran” where it is recorded that he gives a gift at a wedding. There is nothing else recorded of the family here and it is not known how long the family was resident at the property. From the 1901 census, where Tanner is recorded as living elsewhere in the town, it is possible to determine that in 1903 Captain Edward Butler Tanner was 37 years of age and would have lived at the property with his wife, Annie Esther and his sons William (aged 5) and John (aged 4). His youngest son Edward was born in 1903 and it is therefore likely that he was born at Plas Tanalltran. Tanner and his family were linked to the Fox Russell family and the sons of both men were members of the 1st Wolf Patrol Holyhead Scout Group (see figure 28). As with the Fox Russell boys, the oldest two of Captain Tanner’s sons served during World War One (the youngest being too young to serve). William was a Captain in the RNR and John was an RAF Squadron-Leader (Source: Anglesey Archives WM2251).

Captain Edward Butler Tanner volunteered for active service on 15th August and survived the sinking of the H.M.S Tara following an attack by a German U-boat. Captain Tanner was awarded an OBE for his war service and after the war he worked on the cross-channel services before retiring in 1927 (Burnell 2014: 267 – 8).

Jane Adeane makes mention of the return of Captain Edward Butler Tanner and the survivors of the Tara to Holyhead. She writes *“it has been a great joy to Holyhead getting the “Tara” survivors back⁴. I saw Captain Tanner and he described the sufferings they went through; one of his men died after another; and he buried and repeated the service over them as well as he could remember it. At last they were all so weak they could not crawl to get the snails which were some sort of oyster that at least sustained life. Captain Rupert Williams who was full of spirit, the Naval Commander, escaped to try and get the party rescued, as they could hear the British guns in the distance, but he was brought back and cruelly tortured. Suddenly there was dust in the horizon, and the Duke of Westminster with 40 cars drove upon them with hospital supplies, food and clothing, and dashed off with them, sweeping the Arabs before them. They were taken to Alexandria. Some died in hospital but those who have landed here now are all right”* (Ibid: 434).

Following the move of the Tanner family, Plas Tanalltran does not appear to have been utilised as a family house until after the Second World War. The 1911 survey does however show the property continued to be used in a medical capacity as the residence of the District Nurse. Three women are recorded as living at Plas Tanalltran, Isabella Hague (age 64) is the housekeeper and head of the household, Isabel Mainley (age 31) is a District Nurse and boarder and Jane Owen Myfanwy (age 50) is visiting the property.

The cause of the district nurse was another institution run by Jane Adeane for the poor of Holyhead. Martineau writes on the subject *“Aunt Jane started a Jubilee District Nurse soon after that movement began, and under the able management of Mrs. Binnie, wife of the Superintendent of N.W ships, it flourished exceedingly, and was the greatest boon to Holyhead. As the local authority grew, however, the town became jealous of the movement, because it was not run democratically; they practically banned it and refused to give any grant as they said they must have their own nurse. Possibly a modern person might have managed to amalgamate, but Aunt Jane could only work individually, and so she gave it over. The municipal nurse was not a success for some time, but possibly may now be working all right. For a least 30 years there would have been little or no skilled nursing in Holyhead,*

⁴ For those wishing for more information on this subject an excellent book on this subject has been written by Richard Burnell in 2014 entitled “H.M.S. Tara: The Sinking of the HMS Tara and the True Story of the Courage and Endurance of the Survivors Held Captive in the Libyan Desert”



Figure 27. Captain Edward Butler Tanner (Centre Front Row) With Fellow Survivors of the H.M.S Tara (Source: Anglesey Archives WM 1017/42)



Figure 28. 1st Wolf Patrol Holyhead Scout Troop 1908/09 Showing the Fox Russell and Tanner Boys. Back Row: William Fox Russell, Henry Fox Russell, John Fox Russell, Robert Jones. Front Row: Alun Williams, William Butler Tanner, Thomas Fox Russell, John Hollingworth Tanner (Source: Anglesey Archives WM2251)

but for Aunt Jane's support and influence" (Martineau 1934: 146). Possibly in addition to visiting the homes of the sick the District nurse would have looked after patients in Plas Tanalltran and been visited there by those in need of help.

We know relatively little of the role of Plas Tanalltran during the First World War but given its proximity to the Institute, and its use as a residence for the District Nurse, one may postulate that it was used in some way, quiet possibly as accommodation for wounded soldiers, seamen and refugees when needed on their way home through the port. The Tanalltran Institute was used to receive those who were returning or fleeing the worsening situation in Ireland. On the 30th July 1914 she writes "*I find people's thoughts full of Irish affairs. The steamers are bringing over numbers of children at Tan Altran Institute whom people want to send to a place of safety, as things are so threatening, and Mrs. Rudyard Kipling writes to ask me to help with clothing for their centre. They say the Women's Committee make themselves responsible for definite things, such as one for matches, another for candles, and in Ulster they have enough food to last a year*" (Ibid: 394).

Dr. J.K Robert's, who has conducted considerable research into the history of Holyhead and the Stanley Hospital, has been able to provide invaluable information and adds that During World War One Plas Tanalltran was a first aid post and a soup kitchen.

Holyhead with its port and railway terminal was a prime location for invasion or infiltration and on the 3rd September 1914 Jane Adeane writes of events around the Blackbridge area. "*We have had events that would have thrilled you if you had been here. Last night at 2am a German spy or spies were found prowling about in the oil tanks by the goods shed near Black Bridge. The sentry shot at them, and pursued, joined by soldiers from the Railway Bridge. Tan Altran and the Institute were invaded thinking the spies might be discovered, and shooting went on for half an hour. No one caught, but the inhabitants turned out and the noise and scare was a sensation for the rest of their lives*". (Ibid: 398).

Over 2000 Holyhead men and women served in the armed forces in WW1, and 284 men and 4 women were killed (Lloyd Hughes & Williams 1967: 154). The end of the First World War was a cause for great celebration but the sense of optimism that the hardship and sacrifice of the people of Holyhead would be repaid by better life and a "town fit for heroes" was unfortunately sadly misplaced and the town was to head into a savage economic slump. This is described by Lloyd Hughes & Williams in their 1967 account of the town. "*The gloom ahead was not evident when Armistice came, and the inhabitants of Holyhead, like people throughout Britain, thought that the tragedies were behind them and that they could resume the life of pre-1914; some persons had suffered injuries or losses which would mean that their individual lives would never be the same, but they hardly imagined that the town itself would never be the same*" (Lloyd Hughes & Williams 1967: 155).

The twentieth century was less kind to Holyhead than the nineteenth, and following the First World War it must be seen as a time of great decline and hardship for Holyhead and its inhabitants. This decline was to begin in earnest in the 1920's when a number of episodes which were to prove disastrous for the town occurred. The first came in 1920 when the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company withdrew from the port ending 70 years of unbroken service and resulting in the loss of 350 jobs. This loss was compounded by the loss of the Royal Mail service contract to the London and North- Western Railway Company which led to the towns reliance on a single company. The dangers of this became evident when the LNWR merged with other rail companies to form the much larger London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company and introduced scathing economies resulting in further job loss.

At this time relations with Ireland were changing and in 1922 Southern Ireland achieved home rule. Following this separation the diplomatic links between Britain and Ireland became strained and in 1932 a six year tariff war began which was to further feed into the precarious position of the town. In his work on the period John Rowlands records that *“The Trade War with Ireland was disastrous for Holyhead, because had it not happened the town's dependence on the LMS and the railway company's monopoly of the trade with Ireland, would have made them both relatively immune to the economic recession of the 1930's. Without those six long years of the Tariff War, Holyhead's limitations as a one company town could have been it's greatest strength. In fact as events turned out the fact that Holyhead was a one company town was it's greatest weakness in the 1930's”* (1989: 29-30).

4.5.4.6 Plas Tanalltran Following the Death of Miss Jane Adeane 1926 - 2017

Following the death of Jane Adeane the Llanfawr Estate was inherited by a member of the Stanley family, as had been stipulated in the will of W.O Stanley. It passed to Arthur F. Sotherby, along with the majority of the papers and family records collected by Jane Adeane. It is believed that around half her papers were destroyed during the Blitz⁵ with the remainder being deposited at various times in Cheshire and Anglesey Archives and at the National Library, Aberystwyth. The catalogues did not record any entries relating to the Blackbridge development. The Blackbridge properties including Plas Tanalltran were inherited by her nephew Mr. Michael Adeane and were rented out.

The recession of the 1930's was on a global scale and unemployment was high throughout the country but for reasons detailed above Holyhead was particularly harshly hit leading Megan Lloyd George (MP for Anglesey) to claim in 1937 that Holyhead was suffering higher unemployment than all but the very worst areas of South Wales and Durham. Statistics record that unemployment in Holyhead was only to fall below 30% once during the 1930's and in December 1936 it hit the record level of 47.7%. Many families left the town in search of work elsewhere and during the 1930's the population fell by over one thousand. Contemporary observer accounts paint a bleak picture and stated that *“the town is in crisis – the most serious in its history”* (1931), *“there are hundreds of men, women and children practically destitute”* (1933), *“anyone walking through the town would at once notice that Holyhead was a dead town; there was nothing there at all”* (1938) and *“we are worse off in Holyhead today than we have been in the whole history of the town. The town is poverty stricken”* (1939). It was only with the advent of the Second World War in 1939 that there was any improvement in the towns fortune – a fact that was bitterly noted at the time by the town clerk who remarked that *“apparently you cannot get anything for Holyhead unless you get a war”*. The war did however bring employment and government contracts to the area although Holyhead was never to return to its late nineteenth century heyday (Rowlands 1989: 25 – 34).

There is little archival information on Plas Tanalltran following the death of Miss Jane Adeane and an appeal for information was launched. We are extremely grateful to the Old Holyhead Facebook site which has yielded a wealth of information and has allowed the story of the later history of the building to be told.

A number of sources have come forward to say that Plas Tanalltran was used as a boarding house. Mr Dave Griffiths recalled that his late aunt had stayed there for a few months in the 1930's or 40's and Jennifer Cashmore-Thorley wrote that her grandparents and their 2 daughters had rented rooms in the property in the 1930's.

A recurrent theme was the use of Plas Tanalltran as a convalescence home for Tuberculosis sufferers in the 1930's and 40's. Helen Edwards recorded that her grandmother was sent there to convalesce following a local outbreak (possibly in the late 1940's) and Jade Maloney wrote that her Great Grandmother and Great Aunt died from Tuberculosis at Plas Tanalltran in the 1930's, around 1933.

⁵ This information was gained from a conversation with local historian Peter Robert Jones who had been conducting other archival research which required access to the Sotherby papers and we are very grateful for the information

Archival research did not yield any information on the use of Plas Tanalltran as a Tuberculosis hospital, with all sources generally pointing towards nursing at home, the use of isolation shelters in the gardens of patients and the isolation hospitals - The Cefni at Llangefni and Penhesgyn Open Air Home in Llansadwrn. It is however probable that the lack of information is largely due to the locking medical records for a hundred years rather than an error in reporting that has resulted in the lack of accessible archive material. Tuberculosis was rife on Anglesey and during the 1930's and it was one of the main causes of premature death on the island. Poor housing standards were commonplace and Anglesey had higher mortality levels from the disease than those in the industrial areas of Lancashire and Yorkshire (Moore 2011: 154).

Rowlands writes on the subject in his 1989 book *"closely related to poor housing conditions and long-term unemployment was the concern shown in the 1930's for the health of people in the town. Tuberculosis was a curse. The death rate for Tuberculosis in Anglesey was one of the highest in Wales and the death rate in Holyhead from the disease was the highest in Anglesey. The Holyhead Chronicle (August 9th 1935) reported that "in the last two years the number of cases and the number of deaths in Holyhead is practically one half of the total of the county, while the population is rather less than a quarter of the total". Between 1930 and 1938, 139 people in Holyhead died from Tuberculosis. There were other serious infectious diseases such as Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria and occasional epidemics of influenza which had disastrous effects on the population which suffered from undernourishment and poor housing conditions"* (Rowlands 1989: 31).

A further resident, dockworker Mr W J Owen was recorded in the "Protected Places" permits of the Second World War was recorded as living at Plas Alltran (Anglesey Archives WDAAG/68). The continued use as a boarding house during this period would have been ideal for the influx of workers to the town during the wartime period. There are also several sources who recall the building as having been put to alternative uses during this period. Several local residents have mentioned the use of the larger rooms for ballroom dancing and as a dance school in the 1940's or 50's. Linda Fahim commented that two sister named Comby worked as dressmakers and lived there in the 1950's.

C.R Archaeology were also contacted by members of the last two families to have lived at Plas Tanalltran covering the period from the late 1950's through to the early 1970's. It has been unoccupied since the 1970's. We are extremely grateful to Christine Bradley and Glyn Roberts for information about their lives at the building and the information given is summarised below. We are also extremely grateful to Denise Patricia Duggan for the photograph of Plas Tanalltran (figure 29) during this period and to Christine Bradley for the family photographs which she has shared with us (figures 30 & 31).

Glyn Roberts recalled that his family lived at the building during the late 1950's and early 1960's. The family consisted of Glyn, his mother Becky, his father Richard (also known as Dic Two-Three) and his brothers Wynne and Alan. The building was divided into two flats and there were other lodgers living in the building. These included Jim Bain, an RAF man during the war, and his wife and child who lived in a self-contained flat on the ground floor.

Dic worked as a baker for Joe Evans on London Road and Glyn shared memories of the bake house in Cecil Street being used to cook all the Christmas meat for the neighbours. He also had a great wealth of knowledge about Holyhead Town football club and recalls how you could see the pitch from the windows at Plas Tanalltran. Glyn pointed out an interesting link between Plas Tanalltran and a local Holyhead band. Mo and the Mystics practiced in the house as Glyn's brother Wynne was a band member. The family were forced to move due to the noise of the port disturbing Dic, who needed to get up early for his job as a baker, at night.



29.

Figure 29. Denise Duggan as a Child Outside Plas Tanalltran
(Many thanks to Denise for the use of this Image)



30.

Figure 30. Thomas Roberts in Plas Tanalltran

(Many thanks to Christine Bradley for the use of this Image)
Figure 31. Thomas Roberts Outside the Rear of Plas Tanalltran
(Many thanks to Christine Bradley for the use of this Image)



31.

Glyn confirmed the description given by Chris Bradley that the surviving fireplace at first floor level in the building was replicated at ground floor level. He also confirmed that the date on the two fireplaces did not match with 1892 being given on the ground floor and 1891 on the first floor.

Chris Bradley and her family moved into the house in the early 1960's and lived there for the next ten years. There is a slight overlap in the dates given but the two families did not live at the property at the same time. The family name was Roberts with Christine's parent being Thomas and Margaret. In addition to Christine there were two older siblings Alan (who lived in the self-contained ground floor flat with his wife) and Margaret. The family rented the whole house between them and Christine recalls that it was in a poor state of repair. At one point things had got so bad that they and some of the tenants in associated cottages had to threaten to withhold rent.

With the house being so large many of the rooms were left unfurnished as the family did not have enough furniture to put into them. Heating such a large house was also a problem and the family tended to congregate in the downstairs room with the range. Figures 30 and 31 show Thomas Roberts at the property. Christine also provided a description of what the rooms were used as while the family were living at the property and this is discussed in section 5.

C.R Archaeology were contacted by Barbara Joyce Jones who informed them that her father, Mr. R.P Owen purchased a collection of properties including Plas Tanalltran from Sir Michael Adeane, Jane Adeane's nephew, in 1967. He had planned to convert the building into 3 flats.

Plas Tanalltran was taken over by Anglesey County Council in the 1990's, following a compulsory purchase order, with the intention of demolishing the building as part of a road widening scheme. This was never carried out, possibly due to the Listed Building status of the property.

Plas Tanalltran has been empty since the early 1970's and generations of school children have known it as an abandoned building. As is often the case local legends have grown up around the building and Jeanette Walters recalled telling ghost stories about Plas Tanalltran as a child. The examples she recalled were of a black dog which howled before you died and a ghostly nurse – which leads to the questioning of how much folk memory is unconsciously incorporated into these tales.

It has been reported that a descendant of the original occupants, a Mr John Fox-Russell had purchased and had hoped to restore Plas Tanalltran around 2008 but sadly he died before realising this ambition. The property was then purchased by Mr Simon Thomas, originally from Holyhead but now living in London, and his partner Hee Sun-Kim in 2013 with the hope of restoring the building to its former glory. Several options were being explored including affordable housing for rental or purchase and the establishment of accommodation for East Asian tourists visiting North Wales (www.dailypost.co.uk/news/local-news/holyhead-eyesore-finally-restored-3818647).

As is to be expected over this long period of abandonment Plas Tanalltran has been subject to neglect, vandalism and squatter occupation. There are however surviving features of architectural interest in the building interior and the original layout is retained almost in its entirety. The building exterior appears largely unchanged from the original design but has been subject to neglect and almost all window glass is missing and the roof is in very poor repair.

5.0 Results of Archaeological Works

A site visit to Plas Tanalltran was conducted on 21st December 2016. During this a comprehensive record of the site was made prior to the commencement of works. The exterior and any accessible interior areas were photographed.

5.1 Drawn Record

Architects plans of the site were produced by Donald Insall Associates. Copies of these drawings were taken to site when C.R Archaeology visited to compile a photographic record and were annotated to show the location/direction of photographic plates. These plans are included as figure 32 and the annotated plans are included as appendix a. The room and floor numbers added by Donald Insall Associates have been utilised in the following text.

5.2 Results of Photographic Survey (Plates 1 – 96)

A comprehensive photographic survey was conducted and the full photographic archive has been included in TIFF format on an accompanying disc at the back of this report. These photographs are subdivided by interior and exterior. Relevant photographs are incorporated into the main text as numbered plates and the positions of these are marked in appendix a.

5.2.1 Building Exterior (Plates 1 – 22)

The Cadw Listed Building description for Plas Tanalltran reads;

“On acutely angled corner site between Turkey Shore Road and Llanfawr Road.

Late C19 doctor’s house and surgery built to order of Jane Henrietta Adeane (1842-1926) for her medical practitioner, Dr Russell.

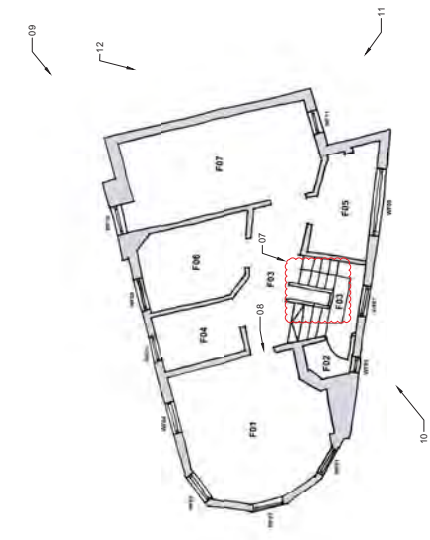
Two storeys plus attics. Walls of squared local rubble with darker stone quoins and dressings, pale ashlar corbels, darker ashlar copings to crow-stepped gables. Slate gabled roofs with blue clay ridge tiles. Unusual, irregular plan and elevations, each facade with differently placed gable. All door and window openings covered over at time of inspection.

Towards Turkey Road Shore, large pinnaced crow-stepped gable with broad attic window. To L of this, bay set slightly forward with small stepped gable, (attic window) flanked by large polygonal chimneys corbelled out over lower floors. Four windows to first floor, three windows and doorway to ground floor. Facing road junction, polygonal corner elevation has pinnaced crow-stepped gable, broad attic window, square first floor window, and taller ground floor window; first and attic storeys corbelled out from splayed sides which have windows to first and ground floor; hipped roofs above splays. Towards Llanfawr Road, tall chimney stack and large pinnaced crow-stepped gable two windows wide with irregularly placed windows, doorway to L. Outshut to R (roof covering lost at time of inspection); above this, shouldered chimney stack corbelled out with mullioned window set below.

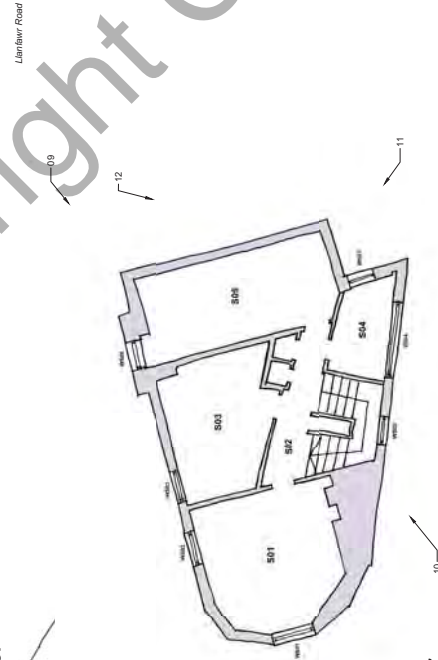
The house is linked by stone rubble walls to 1 & 2 Turkey Shore Road.

Group value”.

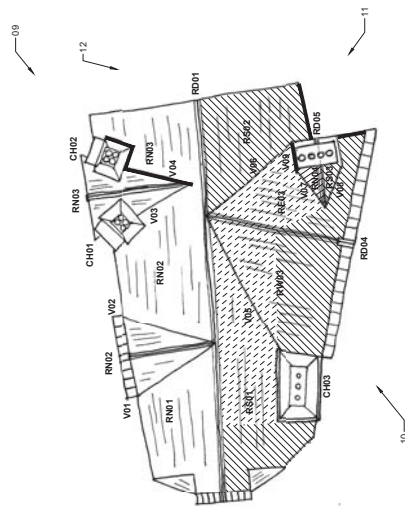
To this description can be added the attribution of the design to the Scottish architect Arthur Baker and a discussion on the strong similarity between Plas Tanalltran and Plas Mawr, Conwy. Particular details which have been directly modelled on the Elizabethan house include the crow-stepped roof gables and the faceted finials. The use of yellow sandstone to pick out architectural details, such as the base of the chimney stacks and below projecting bays in the eastern and western elevations, is also utilised at Plas Mawr. It may prove on cleaning that there is more of this material (particularly



First Floor



Roof Plan



Roof Plan

[illegible]



Plate 1. South-West Facing View Along Turkey Shore Road Towards Plas Alltran



Plate 2. Plas Alltran North-East Facing Gable



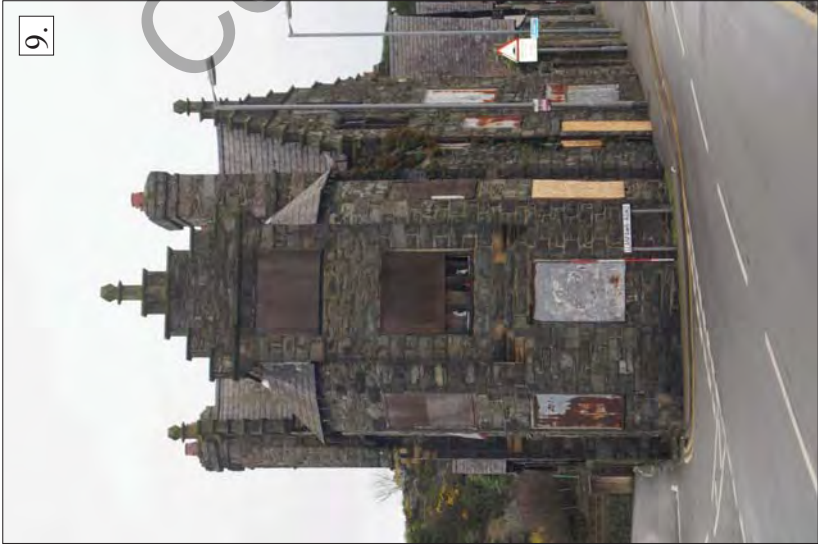
Plate 2. Plas Alltran North-West Facing Elevation



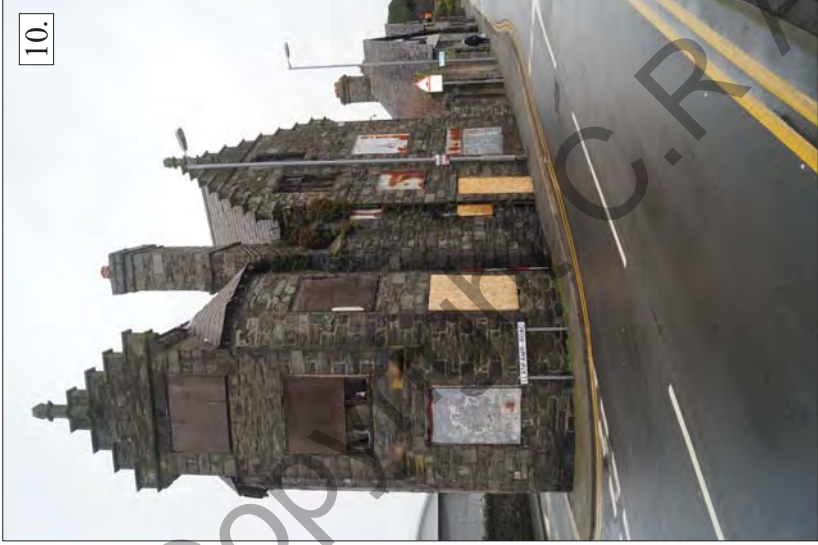
Plate 4. North-East Facing View Along Turkey Shore Road from Plas Alltran



Plates 5 - 8. Plas Alltfran North-West Facing Elevation - Setting and Architectural Details



9.



10.



11.

Plate 9. South-West Facing Elevation

Plate 10. North-East Facing View from Plas Alltrefan Along Llanfawr Road

Plate 11. Architectural Details on South-East Facing Elevation

Plate 12. Architectural Details on South-West Facing Elevation

Plate 13. South-East Facing Elevation



12.



13.

around the tops of the stepped gables and finials) than is currently visible from ground level. The ovolo mouldings and dormer windows are also design elements found at Plas Mawr. These features would have been ground breaking in the context of Welsh architecture during the 16th century. The features so closely follow those at Plas Mawr that it is highly probable that they were taken and scaled directly from the magnificent drawings of Plas Mawr that Arthur and Herbert Baker produced in an architectural monograph during their time restoring the property.

It is the belief of the author that the “*unusual, irregular plan and elevations*” recorded in the Listed Building description, although clearly due in part to the restricted triangular building plot shape, is a homage to the variations in shape, height and level at Plas Mawr. These variations are particularly striking when viewing the building from the inner courtyard.

The south-western gable (see plates 9 – 12) has been very cleverly designed so that the narrower end of the plot is reminiscent of the shape of the rear belvedere and the court yard stair tower at Plas Mawr. The wide angle of the tower allows the building to almost curve around the edge of the building plot maximising the use of the space.

It is the strikingly effective asymmetry of the property which transforms Plas Tanalltran from a “Mock Tudor” imagining into what is arguably one of the finest surviving examples of Arts and Craft architecture on Anglesey. The north-western and south-eastern elevations are both very different and the decision not to locate the stairway centrally within the building, but rather to house it against the south-eastern elevation, gives a pleasing stepping to the window arrangement at first and second floor levels (see plates 13 – 15). The area for the two toilets has been rather ingeniously nestled against the large projecting chimney stack for the main fireplaces.

The north-western or front elevation (plates 2 – 8) has a curious off centre projecting bay, which rather than housing the doorway as one might expect contains a large central window on each floor. There is a door on north-eastern side of the bay which leads into the private kitchen area. The bay also serves to visually define the public and private areas of the house, in effect screening the north-eastern door so that it is not immediately visible when approaching the property from Holyhead town centre.

A second doorway is flanked by symmetrically arranged windows at ground floor level, and there are three windows at the first-floor level which are all evenly spaced. They are topped by a stepped dormer window. The symmetry of the roofline is offset in this instance by the two angled chimney stacks of the projecting bay with its much more squared appearance. It was not possible to determine from the ground whether the missing finial between the chimneys was a deliberate design feature or the result of damage to the building but the later would seem the most likely explanation. The use of the projecting bay is once more referencing Plas Mawr with its impressive entrance but it has subtly removed the emphasis from the doorways.

The north-eastern elevation gives Plas Tanalltran an almost whimsical feel with the curious positioning of the second-floor window on the corner where the building differs in length (see plate 16). This gives the impression of the house being much longer lived than it is by appearing to represent a much later modification on a multi-phase property. This is echoed in the almost modular appearance of the other elevations and is a very subtle way of giving the impression that the structure is much older and more complex than it is.



14.



15.



16.



17.



18.

Plate 14. Architectural
Details on South-
East Facing Elevation

Plate 15. Architectural
Details on South-
East Facing Elevation

Plate 16. North-East
Facing Elevation

Plate 17. South-West
Facing View Down
Llanfawr Road

Plate 18. Adjoining
Wall on South-East
Facing Elevation



Plate 19. North-East Facing Gable Leading to Kitchen Lean-To



Plate 20. North-East Facing Kitchen Lean-To Elevation



Plate 21. South-East Facing Boundary Wall Elevation



Plate 22. North-East Facing Elevation in Out Building

The north-eastern elevation housed a single storey ground-floor kitchen area which had been badly damaged and had lost its roof. The doorway and windows have been blocked. This is shown in figure 31 as a functioning space. From an examination of the stonework on the Llanfawr Street elevation it is evident that this extension was of a slightly later date than the rest of the building. The Ordnance Survey Map evidence dates this extension to after the surveying of the 1924 Edition. There is later infilling to create a boundary wall to enclose the garden/yard of Plas Tanalltran but it is not clear as to the date when this took place. An enclosing wall is clearly shown on the 1901 and 1924 map editions but is absent from the 1953 edition. This may be a mapping omission or the wall is simply a relatively recent addition. The evidence would seem to show that it is a mapping omission because the wall of the derelict building within the area to the north-east of the property is shown on the 1924 OS Map and was still surviving on site when the photographic record was made (see plate 22) despite being absent from the 1953 map edition.

5.2.2 Building Interior (Plates 23 – 96)

Plas Tanalltran is divided into three floors and each floor will be discussed separately below.

5.2.2.1 Ground Floor

The ground floor is divided into 11 spaces by Donald Insall architects and these 11 divisions have been utilised in the building description. This space would have been utilised as a kitchen, toilet, and sitting/examination rooms. The layout of this floor is almost entirely original, with some later blocking of doorways at rear of building. Where visible the window frames appear to be original although they were not examined in detail.

5.2.2.1.1 G01 (Plates 23 – 28)

Room G01 is a large room occupying the south-western portion of the building. It has been suggested that this room functioned as a waiting room when the building was in use as a doctor's surgery, with the window seating used by those awaiting their turn. This interpretation is however by no means certain as this layout is mirrored in the room directly above (F01). It would seem most unlikely that a single doctor would be visited by enough patients to warrant two waiting rooms of this size. This room may well have functioned as Dr Russell's study and examination/operating room before later quite possibly being used for evening classes, as a sitting room possibly later as a dance studio. The large space would also have made this room perfect for entertaining and the later occupants recall it being used for family parties including the evening reception for the wedding of Margaret Roberts (Eccleston).

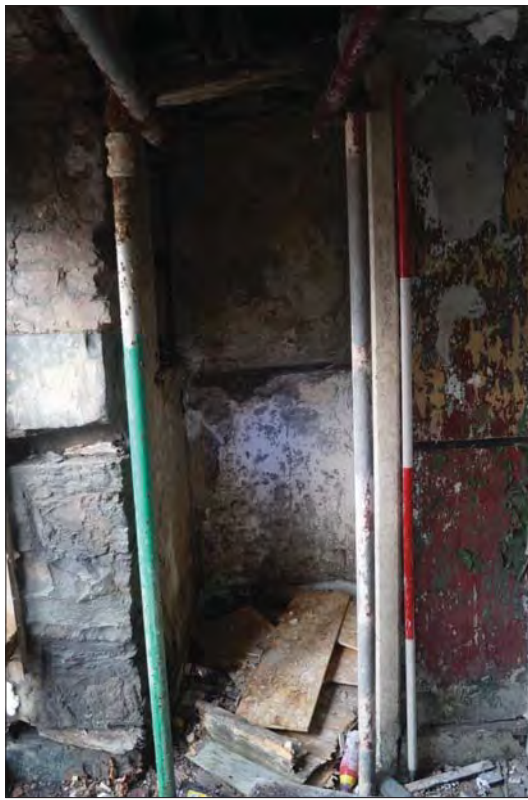
Despite being in very poor condition there are numerous original features surviving in this room including the door frame and architrave, the skirting boards and cornice, and the built in wooden window seats. The window frames, although in very poor condition are also almost certain to be original. The door although very damaged was in the room and was a frame and panel construction in a four-panel design, with two larger panels at the top and two smaller panels at the bottom. This design of interior door was found throughout the property and all doors examined were believed to have been original although not all are believed to be in a condition where they may be reused.

The ceiling and interior facing divisions in this room were lathe and plaster. The large fireplace had been blocked and all surrounds had been removed. The last occupants of Plas Tanalltran recalled that there had ordinarily been a surround of the same design as that partially surviving in room F01 in this room. It had borne the date 1892 rather than 1891.

The floor was not visible beneath the rubble but it is almost certain that the parquet flooring used in room G08 would have also been used in this room.

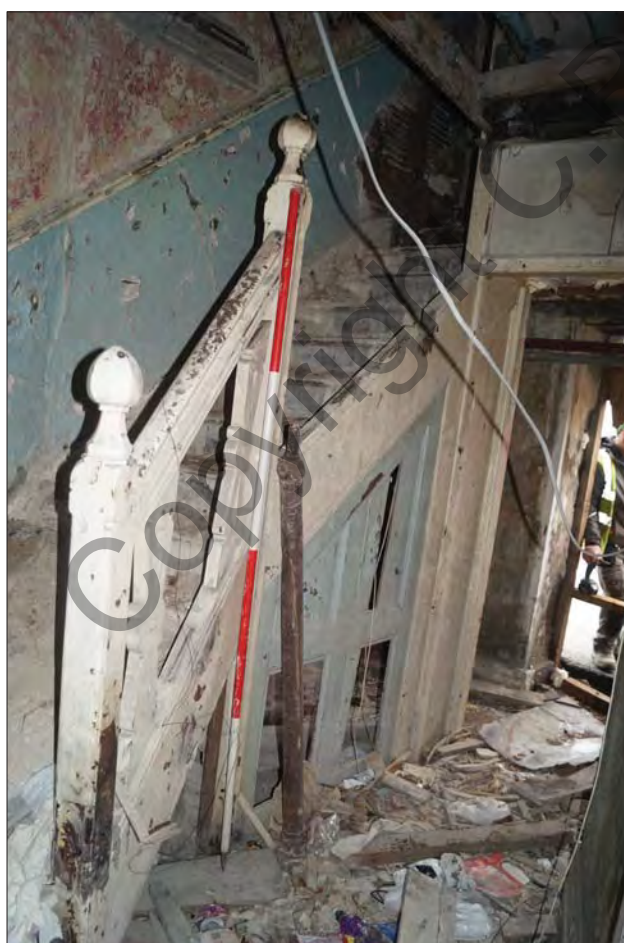


Plates 23 - 28. Plas Alltran Ground Floor Room G01



Plates 29 -33. Plas
Alltran Ground
Floor Room G02





Plates 34 - 35 (Above). Ground Floor Hallway Area G03
Plates 36 - 37 (Below). Ground Floor Hallway Area G04



Plates 38 - 40 (Above & Below Left). Ground Floor Hallway Area G04
Plate 41 (Below Right). Ground Floor Vestibule Area G05



Plates 42 - 44. Plas Alltran Ground Floor Room G06

5.2.2.1.2 G02 (Plates 29 – 33)

Room G02 was a small W.C containing a sink and toilet which were both likely to have been original features.

5.2.2.1.3 G03 (Plates 34 – 35)

G03 was the downstairs hallway area between the rear (Llanfawr Road) door and the main hallway.

5.2.2.1.4 G04 (Plates 36 – 40)

G04 was the larger downstairs hallways in the centre of the property. It contains the staircase to the first-floor level. Very poor condition and rubble covering floor. Stairs badly damaged but some elements survive. Architrave, skirting boards, cornice and dado rail surviving.

The interior divisions are lathe and plaster and are original openings.

5.2.2.1.5 G05 (Plate 41)

G05 is a small vestibule leading in from the main entrance on Turkey Shore Road. There is a wooden panelled division between G04 and G05. Surviving original front door.

5.2.2.1.6 G06 (Plates 42 – 44)

Room G06 was a small sitting room or kitchen preparation room. It formed part of a self-contained flat in the later history of the building. It is unclear as to how this room would have originally functioned and it may have been used for surgery. There is evidence of a sink and worktop in this room but these are later additions.

There are some original features including skirting boards, 4-panelled door between G06 and G08 and associated frame and architrave.

5.2.2.1.7 G07 (Plates 45 – 48)

Room G07 housed a cast iron range and was originally the kitchen of Plas Tanalltran. The design of the range is in-keeping with the build date of 1891-2. This room was full of rubble and the floor was not visible.

5.2.2.1.8 G08 (Plates 49 – 54)

Room G08 was a small room at the front of the building and had once been part of a self-contained flat. It is believed to have been a kitchen/preparation room originally.

5.2.2.1.9 G09 (Plate 55)

Room G09 was a small further kitchen area and Christine Bradley mentions that there was a Belfast sink in this room. This room had a blocked doorway leading out into the yard.

5.2.2.1.10 G10 (Plate 59)

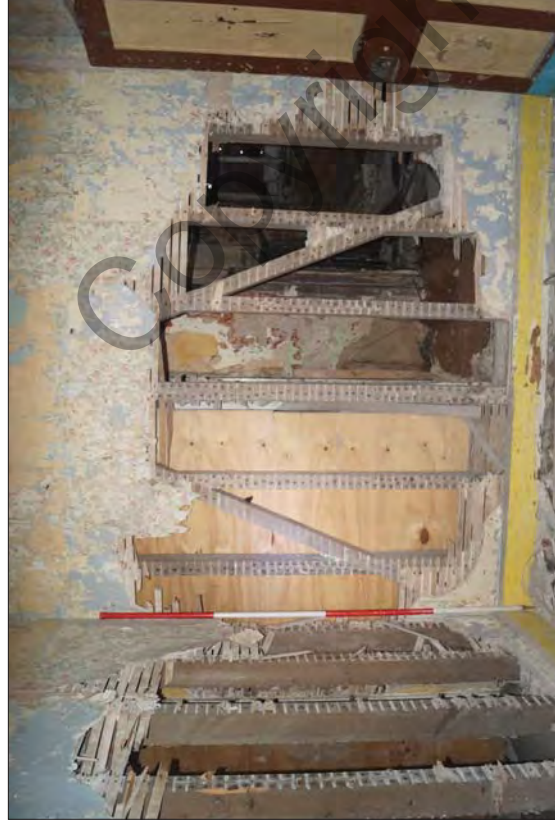
G10 was a small pantry which links spaces G11 and G09.

5.2.2.1.11 G11 (Plate 60)

G11 was a small vestibule into the private area of the house.



Plates 45 - 48. Plas Alltran Ground Floor Room G07



Plates 49 - 54. Plas Alltran Ground Floor Room G08



Plate 55 (Top Left). Plas Alltran Ground Floor Room G09
Plates 56 - 58. Ground Floor - Remains of Lean-To Kitchen



Plate 59. Ground Floor Room 10



Plate 60. Ground Floor Room 11



Plates 61 & 62. Plas Alltran First Floor Room F01

5.2.2.2 First Floor

The first-floor is divided into 7 spaces by Donald Insall architects and these 7 divisions have been utilised in the building description. The first floor would likely have originally been utilised as the living quarters for Dr Fox Russell and his family. The largest room would presumably have been utilised as a sitting room and for entertaining, with the other rooms used as bedrooms/nursery areas. There is the possibility that F01 and F02 could have been public rooms and this may well have been the case in the later years of the building's use.

The layout of rooms on this floor is original and the divisions are lathe and plaster. This floor had been badly damaged by fire and water and it was unsafe to access the majority of the rooms. Where visible the window frames appear to be original although they were not examined in detail.

5.2.2.2.1 F01 (Plates 61 – 66)

Room F01 was laid out in the same manner as room G01. The level of survival of features in this room is similar to that in G01 with the addition of some elements of the original carved wooden fireplace surround which remained insitu. There had been fires set on the floor boards in this room. The fireplace had been decorated with the Adeane escutcheons and a date panel. They were hand carved wooden pieces and may have been carved by pupils of Jane Adeane's evening classes. Adeane took great deal of interest in the Arts and Crafts movement and employed a Master Carver at her own expense to teach pupils in evening classes at Plas Llanfawr.

5.2.2.2.2 F02 (Plate 67)

F02 was a small toilet which would have been laid out in the same way as G02. The stencilling on the door is an early detail, although not likely to have been original and may have been added when Plas Tanalltran was in use as a boarding house. It was unsafe to enter this room as the floor was missing due to water damage.

5.2.2.2.3 F03 (Plates 68 – 70)

Space F03 was the first-floor landing. There are 5 doors leading off this landing. It was not safe to walk on this landing area.

5.2.2.2.4 F04 (Unsafe to Enter)

Christine Bradley remembers this room being used as a bedroom.

5.2.2.2.5 F05 (Unsafe to Enter)

Christine Bradley remembers this room being used as a bedroom.

5.2.2.2.6 F06 (Unsafe to Enter)

Christine Bradley remembers this room being used as a bedroom and there having been a doorway between rooms F06 and F07.

5.2.2.2.7 F07 (Unsafe to Enter)

Christine Bradley remembers this room being used as a bedroom and there having been a doorway between rooms F06 and F07.

Plate 63. Plas Alltran First Floor
Room F01 - Detailing on
Door frame

Plate 64. Plas Alltran First Floor
Room F01 - Seating Area

Plate 65. Plas Alltran First Floor
Room F01 - Remains of Fireplace
Including Carved Wooden Surround

Plate 66. Plas Alltran First Floor
Room F01 - Adeane Family
Crest on Fireplace

Plate 66 - Inset. 1891 Date
Plaque Which had Fallen into
Room Below



Plate 67 (Above Left).
First Floor Room F02

Plates 68 - 70.
First Floor Area F03



5.2.2.3 Second Floor

The second floor is divided into 5 spaces by Donald Insall architects and these 5 divisions have been utilised in the building description. The second floor would have originally been utilised as family quarters for Dr Fox Russell and his family. It is likely that these rooms functioned as bedrooms/nursery areas. We do not know whether the family employed servants or a junior doctor whilst resident at Plas Tanalltran, but should that have been the case they too would have occupied this and possibly the first floor. It is likely that when the property was built this would have been the area set aside for the family. The layout of this floor is original. Where visible the window frames appear to be original although they were not examined in detail.

The staircase between the first and second floors was missing due to vandalism and this floor had to be accessed via a ladder.

5.2.2.3.1 S01 (Plates 71 – 74)

Room S01 was the largest of the bedrooms at the attic level. There is a small built-in cupboard adjacent to the fireplace. The skirting boards and door frame are original features. The arrangement of the dormer window has resulted in it being placed in a slightly odd position within the room, a feature also evident in room S03.

5.2.2.3.2 S02 (Plates 75 – 83)

Room S02 was the second-floor hallway. There were 6 openings leading off the hallway, 4 into bedrooms and two leading to a pair of closets.

5.2.2.3.3 S03 (Plates 84 – 87)

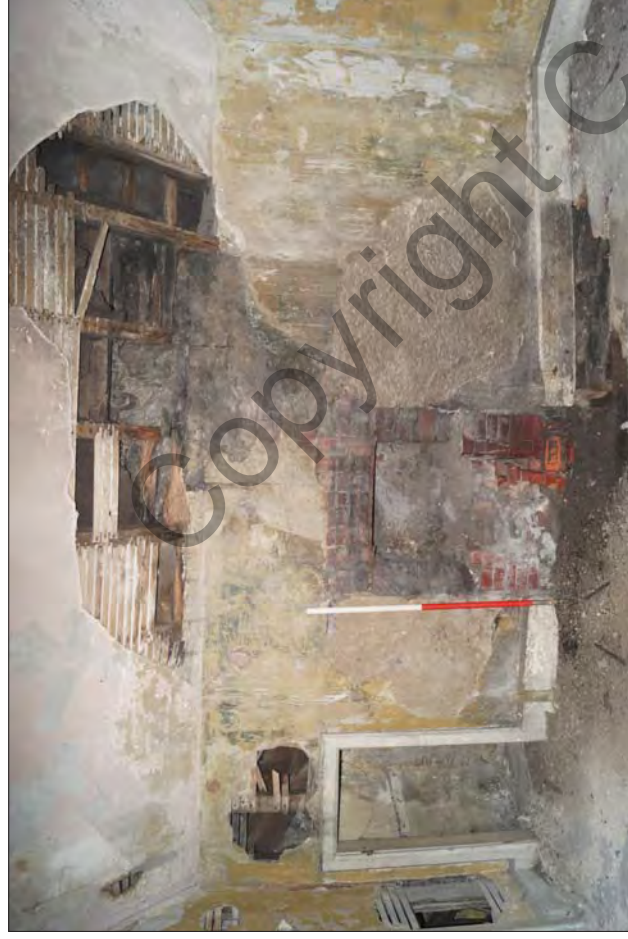
S03 was an attic bedroom. The skirting boards and door frame are original features. The arrangement of the dormer window resulted in it being placed in a slightly odd position within the room, a feature also evident in room S01. The chimney design in the bay has resulted in a projection in the ceiling.

5.2.2.3.4 S04 (Plates 88 – 91)

It was not safe to enter room S04 but it was possible to make a photographic record from the doorway. Scales could not be used other than where they could be placed in through a hole in the wall of the adjacent bedroom. This room has a slightly odd layout, again due to the external design features. The fireplace is partially below the window the walls thicken to support the large chimney stack above. The window has a slate sill. The square window is a design seen at Plas Mawr.

5.2.2.3.5 S05 (Plates 92 – 96)

Room S05 was a large bedroom. The room had an interesting architectural feature in that the stone wall which has been covered with lathe and plaster had a curved finish (plate 95). This detail is also seen in the ground-floor hallway. The chimney in this room has resulted in a very odd ceiling shape as is evident in plate 94.



Plates 71 - 74. Plas Alltran Second Floor Room S01



Plates 75 - 76 (Above). Plas Alltran Second Floor Area S02
Plates 77 - 78 (Below). Plas Alltran Second Floor Area S02 Cupboard Spaces

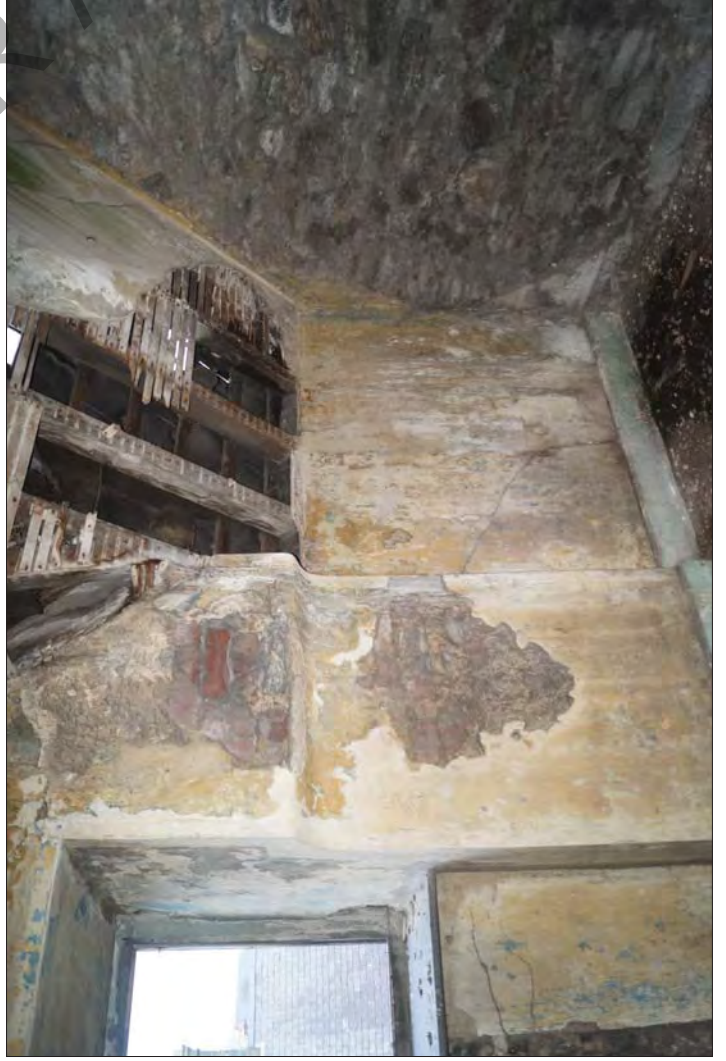
**Plates 79 - 83. Plas
Alltran Second Floor
Area S02**





Plates 84 - 87. Plas Alltran Second Floor Room S03

Plates 88 - 91. Plas
Alltran Second Floor
Room S04





Plates 92 - 96.
Plas Alltran Second
Floor Room S05

6.0 Conclusion

Plas Tanalltran is a Grade II Listed Building (Cadw ID: 5727). It was commissioned by Jane Henrietta Adeane (O.B.E), a niece of Hon. W.O Stanley of Penrhos, in 1890-1891 as part of her redevelopment of the Blackbridge area of Holyhead. The architect was Mr Arthur Baker F.R.I.B.A and the builder was Mr. Owen Morris of Caernarfon. It was part of a wider redevelopment of the Blackbridge area of Holyhead.

Plas Tanalltran was originally built as a doctor's surgery and house for Dr William Fox Russell, who lived and worked at Plas Tanalltran. Fox Russell and his wife Ethel were resident at Plas Tanalltran when their oldest son, Captain John Fox Russell (Victoria Cross, Military Cross) was born. It is also believed that his son Lieutenant Henry Thornbury Fox Russell (Military Cross) was born at Plas Tanalltran prior to the family moving to Victoria Terrace.

The house was later rented by a succession of families and individuals including Captain Edward Butler Tanner (O.B.E) of the H.M.S Tara. It has been reported that during the First World War the building was a First Aid post and soup kitchen and in the 1930's served as a convalescence home for Tuberculosis sufferers. Plas Tanalltran also served as a boarding house and was later rented out as a unit with a self-contained flat created on the ground floor. Plas Tanalltran was occupied until around 1970 and was empty when bought by the Isle of Anglesey County Council in the 1990's for demolition in preparation for a road widening scheme. It was purchased in 2013 by Simon Thomas and Hee Sun-Kim who had hoped to restore the property and convert it for use as affordable housing or as hostel but this plan has yet to be undertaken.

Externally the building has been barely modified since it built and, aside from the addition of a lean-to kitchen around 1930, Plas Tanalltran is a single-phase build. It retains its character and besides requiring cleaning and the removal of plants from the gutters and roof areas very little cosmetic work is needed to restore the original character of the house. It is however clear that serious structural work is necessary to reverse the decades of neglect suffered by the building and to return it to a habitable state.

Despite the extensive damage to the interior of the property there are significant elements of the original design scheme evident at the property. These include the staircase (which although badly damaged, survives in a sufficient form to be repaired/reconstructed where necessary), the internal doors and frames, the wooden seating in the window bays in rooms G01 and F01, architraves, cornices, dado rails and skirting boards. There are also elements of the original wooden fireplace surround for the first-floor room F01. The original range survives in G07 although it appears to be damaged beyond repair.

The layout of the rooms is clearly original and, although damaged in places, the lathe and plaster work survives. It may be possible with careful analysis to determine the original colour/decorating schemes of the various rooms. The cost of this undertaking is however likely to be disproportionate to the significance of the value of the results of the work.

Plas Tanalltran is one element of a larger, ambitious plan to redevelop the Blackbridge area of Holyhead. It is part of a contemporary group of buildings commissioned by Jane Adeane and designed by Arthur Baker. The group includes the Tanalltran Institute, a stable block and two pairs of cottages. The stable (Cadw ID: 5728) and both cottages on the Llanfawr Road side (Numbers 1 and 2 Tanalltran Cottages Cadw ID: 5726 & 14734) are Grade II Listed Buildings. Much of significance of Plas Tanalltran lies in its group value with these buildings and there is a common design theme unifying the scheme.

Arthur Baker has taken Plas Mawr, Conwy as the inspiration for the design of Plas Tanalltran, a theme which is carried through the other buildings in the group, albeit in a much less flamboyant manner. Plan Tanalltran is a particularly fine example of Arts and Craft architecture and has strong similarities to the rear of Stanley House.

Blackbridge has lost many of its historic buildings and this group is one of the few remaining blocks of Victorian architecture in this area of Holyhead. The property has strong associations with prominent people of local significance including Miss Jane Adeane and First World War Hero's Captain John Fox Russell, his brother Lieutenant Henry Thornberry Fox-Russell and Captain Edward Butler Tanner.

The demolition of Plas Tanalltran would contribute to the piecemeal degradation of the historic buildings of Holyhead, and would significantly reduce the group value of the surviving Tanalltran complex. It is recommended that every effort possible be made to preserve this important building. To date much of the regeneration of the Holyhead Townscape has rightly centred on main shopping area, and the restoration of the key commercial streets within the town's Conservation Area. Plas Tanalltran is a prime opportunity to expand the regeneration into the satellite districts which are traditionally the less salubrious areas of the town.

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