LOST TO THE SEA

There has been much talk locally and discussions in council chambers over the last few years of coastal erosion on the beach in Pensarn and after many years of surveys and measurements, remedial work is now to be carried out on the west side of the beach.

John Parsons Earwaker (MA, FSA) was a Manchester man who moved with his family to live

in Pensarn and he wrote many notes on the history of Abergele at the request of H R Hughes

of Kinmel. There is reference in these notes to the encroachment made by the sea along the coast

near Abergele.

***‘There are people now living in Abergele, who were bred and born in a cottage on the shore to the north of***

***Glandwr, Belgrano. There were green fields around the cottage at that time, but now the sea rolls over the***

***whole unchecked leaving not a vestige of either cottage nor green fields.’***

The main Chester to Holyhead railway line is immediately to the north of Glandwr, and a sea defence wall built by the railway company during the middle years of the last century and no trace of the cottage nor of the green fields now remain under the waves beyond the sea wall.

John Parsons Earwaker goes on to say that he recalled being told by the publican of The Harp at Abergele, who was then near 80 years of age, that he remembers, while a lad, carrying turf from that place near Glandwr. This appears to be corroborated by the appearance at low water of ***‘portions of loam and turfy soil’.***

Thomas Pennant also mentions in his book ‘Tours of Wales’ that he saw ***‘bodies of trees tolerably entire but so soft as to be cut with a knife as easily as wax’.***

Near the Golden Sands Holiday Camp three “London & North Western Railway Company” boundary posts are sited at least a hundred yards down on the beach and, when they were placed there, the site was a grass field. It is also noted how corn was reaped by hand a little more than a century ago where the sea now covers the land, and of stooks of barley washed away by the high tide. The late Jack Winkup, a local businessman and camp owner in the area also found, in a field, drain pipes laid in a herring bone pattern, only visible during infrequent low tides, and there are many similar tales recorded by local people.

There is a stone in St Michael’s Parish Churchyard which bears the following words:

***Here lieth***

***In St Michael’s Churchyard***

***A man who had his dwelling***

***Three miles to the north***

The stone has only been in this position for more than a century, but adjoining it there is to be seen a piece of very old stone, most of the lettering now indecipherable. No mention of this stone was made by Edward Llwyd in 1696. It was recorded later by Dr F J North in his book ‘Sunken Cities’ that ***‘the original stone had no date, but its characters indicate that it was executed in the early part of the 17th century’. According to local tradition it is a copy of a still older memorial, but it is of no value as evidence because it is not in its original position.***

From the foregoing it will be seen that the sea has certainly encroached upon the land over a period of many centuries and still continues to do so. The really startling fact is the substantial encroachment made between 1799 when Anne Edwards was born in that lonely cottage, Glandwr, (water’s edge) set amid the fields, and 1855, when John Earwaker penned his ***‘Notes on the History of Abergele’.***

WEDI EI GOLLI I'R MÔR

Bu llawer o siarad yn ddiweddar a thrafod yn siambr y Cyngor dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf am erodiad arfordirol ar y traeth ym Mhensarn, ac ar ôl nifer o flynyddoedd o arolygu a mesuriadau mae gwaith adfer i gael ei wneud ar ochr orllewinol y traeth.

Dyn o Fanceinion oedd John Parsons Earwaker (MA, FSA) a symudodd gyda’i deulu i fyw ym Mhensarn, ac fe ysgrifennodd lawer o nodiadau ar hanes Abergele ar gais H.R. Hughes o Ginmael. Mae cyfeiriad yn y rhain at y môr yn ennill tir ar hyd yr arfordir ger Abergele.

***‘There are people now living in Abergele, who were bred and born in a cottage on the shore to the north of Glandwr, Belgrano. There were green fields around the cottage at that time, but now the sea rolls over the whole unchecked leaving not a vestige of either cottage nor green fields.’***

Mae prif reilffordd Caer i Gaergybi’n union i’r gogledd o Landwr a morglawdd a adeiladwyd gan y cwmni rheilffordd yn ystod blynyddoedd canol y ganrif ddiwethaf, a does dim ôl o’r bwthyn na’r caeau gwyrdd sydd bellach o dan y tonnau y tu draw i’r morglawdd.

Mae John Parsons Earwaker yn mynd ymlaen i ddweud ei fod yn cofio tafarnwr yr Harp yn Abergele, a oedd bryd hynny’n 80 mlwydd oed, yn dweud wrtho ei fod yn cofio, pan yn grwt ifanc, gario tywyrch o’r lle hwnnw ger Glandwr. Mae’n ymddangos bod hyn yn cael ei ategu gydag ymddangosiad ‘darnau o bridd clai a phridd tywyrch’ ar lanw isel. Mae Thomas Pennant hefyd yn crybwyll yn ei lyfr ‘Tours of Wales’ ei fod wedi gweld ‘cyrff coed oedd i bob pwrpas yn gyfan ond mor feddal fel y gellid eu torri gyn hawsed â chwyr gyda chyllell’.

Yn ymyl gwersyll gwyliau Golden Sands mae o leiaf dri phostyn ffiniau “London & North Western Railway Company” wedi eu lleoli o leiaf ganllath i lawr ar y traeth, a phan osodwyd nhw yno cae o wair oedd y lle.

Fe nodir hefyd fel y cynaeafwyd gwenith â llaw ychydig dros ganrif yn ôl ble mae’r môr yn awr yn

gorchuddio’r tir, ac fel y dycpwyd cocynnau barlys ymaith gan y llanw uchel. Hefyd fe ganfu’r diweddar Jack Winkup, gwr busnes lleol a pherchennog gwersyll, bibellau draen mewn cae wedi eu gosod ar batrwm herambonio (herringbone), dim ond yn weladwy yn ystod llanw isel anaml, ac mae yna lawer o storïau cyffelyb wedi eu cofnodi gan bobl leol.

Mae yna garreg ym mynwent Eglwys Sant Mihangel sy’n dwyn y geiriau canlynol:

***Yma mae’n gorwedd***

***Ym mynwent Mihangel***

***Wr oedd a’i anedd***

***Dair milltir i’r gogledd***

Nid yw’r garreg wedi bod yn y safle yma am fwy na chanrif, ond gyfochr â hi fe welir darn o garreg hen iawn, a’r rhan fwyaf o’r llythrennau’n annarllenadwy. Ni waned unrhw sylw am y garreg hon gan Edward Llwyd yn 1696. Fe gofnodwyd yn ddiweddarach gan Dr. F.J.North yn ei lyfr

‘Sunken Cities’ ***‘the original stone had no***

***date, but its characters indicate that it was***

***executed in the early part of the 17th***

***century’. According to local tradition it is a copy of a still older memorial, but it is of no value as evidence***

***because it is not in its original position.***

O’r hyn a welwyd uchod fe welir bod y môr yn sicr wedi gorchuddio’r tir dros gyfnod o lawer o ganrifoedd, ac mae’n dal i wneud hynny. Y ffaith wirioneddol syfrdanol yw’r gorchuddio sylweddol a wnaed rhwng 1799, pan anwyd Anne Edwards yn y bwthyn unig hwnnw, Glandwr, yng nghanol y caeau, a 1855 pan ysgrifennodd John Earwaker ei ***‘Notes on the History of Abergele’.***