

48 Dolfawr Fair, Gwnnws, Ceredigion SN 711/670 (approx).

'Tanning principles in peat bogs. In the year 1811 - when a man was cutting peat on Dolfawrfair he discovered at 2 ft depth below the sward - a human body consisting only of bones and skin - the muscles &c entirely perished - the bones entirely blacked within and without. The bones in the skin appeared like sticks in a bog - bones soft so as to [be] easily scraped or cut with a knife. The skin fresh, and completely tanned. No head or skull was found - which made it apparent that the person had died a violent death. He was buried in Ystrad Meyrig Chyd.'

This extract is from the travel diaries of Walter Davies (Gwallter Mechain) of 1813 (Nat. Library of Wales MS 1755B, 15, fols 14 bis -15).

There is still a peatbog at Dolfawr (Gors Dolfawr) which has not been cut for many years. Mr Aeronian Herbert whose family have lived at the farm there for several generations, has never heard of the discovery.