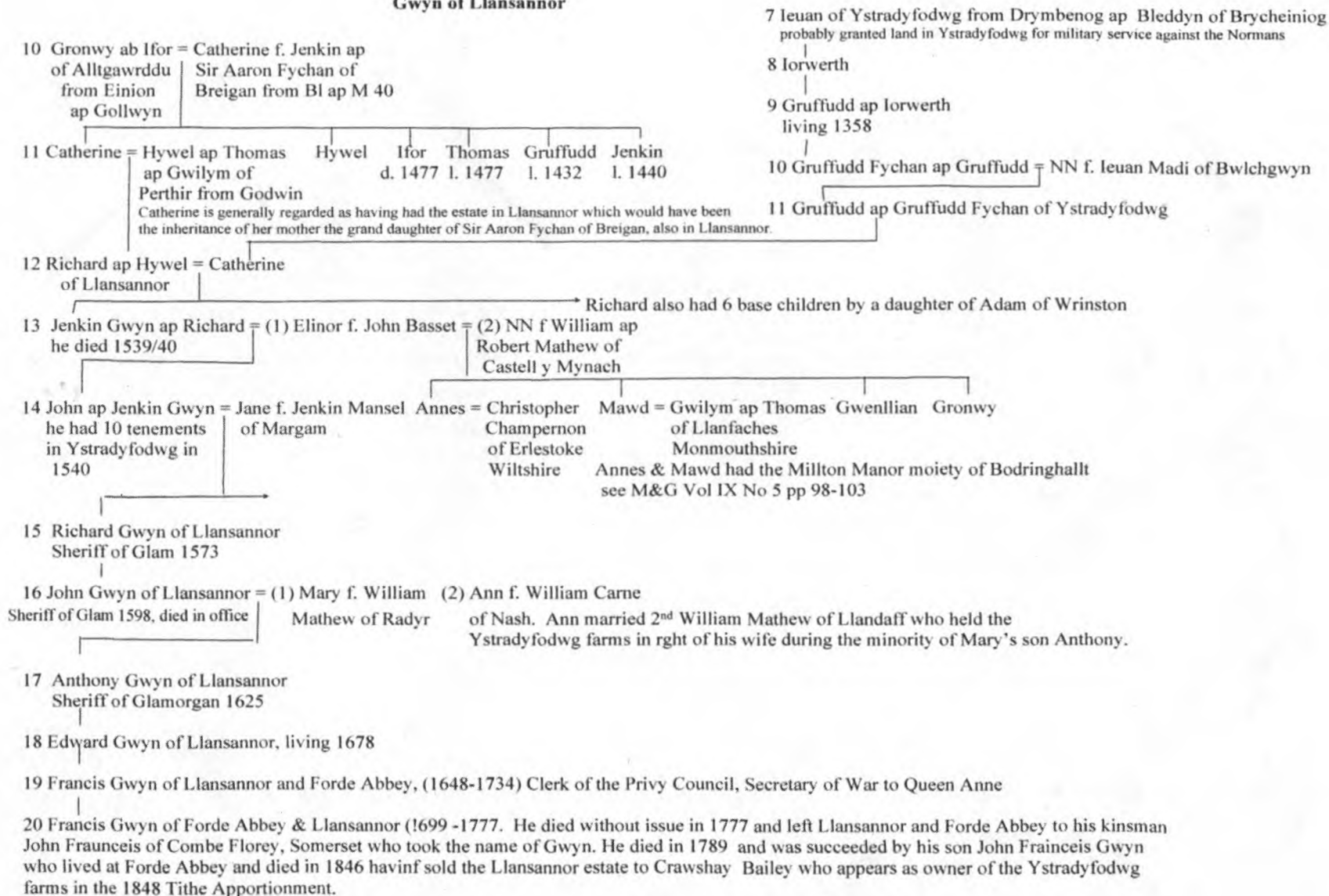


Gwyn of Llansannor



Descent of Gwyn
of Llansannor
from Lords of
Abrigam heiress

The table below is a comparison of the 1540 and 1570 rentals.

The origin of this accumulation of farms is clearly not in the Gwyn male line inheritance which is from Godwin, progenitor of the Herbert family whose lands were in north Gwent. The Llansannor inheritance of the Gwyn family is credibly claimed to be from the wife of Gronwy ab Ifor of Alltgawrddu in Llantrisant who is said to have left her estate to her daughter Catherine who married Richard ap Howell of Llansannor. She was a daughter of Jenkin ap Sir Aaron Fychan of Breigan in Llansannor. Ystradyfodwg land would almost certainly not have been part of this Llansannor inheritance. The Alltgawrddu male line descent was from Einion ap Gollwyn and we cannot rule out the possibility that part of the Ystradyfodwg inheritance was from this source. However, there is no strong evidence of the Einion ap Gollwyn kindred in the parish.

There is no pedigree evidence that they married an Ystradyfodwg heiress but they did marry daughters of the Ieuan Madi and the Gruffudd Fychan families and it is more than likely that the origin of their Ystradyfodwg holdings was a few small dowry farms.

It is clear that there was an active land market in the lordship well before 1540 and, no doubt, they were buying up small farms here and there as the process of equal inheritance among male heirs steadily eroded the viability of holdings. Between 1540 and 1570 they acquired an eleventh farm from Ieuan Ysgholaid, a descendant of Rhys Goch of Ystradyw. This was somewhere in the Middle Hamlet area and probably now forms part of the nineteenth-century Maindy Farm.

Unusually for a family of rising importance intent on estate building, the Gwyns sold several farms between 1595 and 1630 including Nant Wython. It can also be seen that Glyn y Moch yssa had been sold by 1630 when it belonged to Barbara Morgan of Abergorci in whose family it remained. Aso Tir Ycha at the rental of 6d. which I have, as yet, failed to trace in 1630 and subsequently was also probably sold.

he Gwyn of Llansannor estate in Ystradyfodwg

Prominent among the earliest absentee families owning land in Ystradyfodwg is the Gwyn family of Llansannor. They already had an estate in the parish in 1540 which was increased by 1570 by the acquisition of Braygg y kystylle, free rent 3d., from Ieuan Ysgholaid. The most detailed list is in the 1570 Survey.

Richard Gwyn was Sheriff in 1573 and his son John in 1598 when he died in office. His widow married William Mathew of Llandaff who held the estate in his wife's right during the minority of Anthony Gwyn. Any number of circumstances could have arise during this time leading to a need to raise cash. Alternatively a

- 1540
- Ten tenements rendering 4/3 1/2 d.
 - Lln' in Mogh Yssa (3d.)
 - Mayndyn (9d.)
 - Tyre in Yghan (6d.)
 - Tyre in Tu Pylla (1 1/2 d)
 - Naunte Gwethan (6d)
 - Ur (vr) Ynys Gaye (3d)
 - Naunte Gelly in Istradde (6d.),
 - Tyre in Bryne (6d.)
 - Blayne Yane (6d)
 - Pen in Kessall, and Tyre verz Veyne Duy (5d.)

- 1570
- Glyn y moch yssa, 3d.
 - Two acres called tir Maydy, 9d.
 - Three acres called Tyr ycha, 6d.
 - Four acres called Tyr y pinat, 1 1/2 d.
 - Five acres called nant wythen, 6d.
 - Six acres called Br y Gweyn & penn y goo., 3d.
 - Seven acres called Nant y geller in ystrade, 6d.
 - Eight acres called Tyr yn y Bryn, 6d.
 - Nine acres called blayn Jane, 6d.
 - 10 acres called Tye abernant y wayne, 5d.
 - Braygg y kystylle, 3d.

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