

Llanfihangel-tor-y-mynydd.

THIS means the church of St. Michael on the breast of the mountain, descriptive of the situation about 500 feet above sea level.

The parish contains 1186 acres. The rateable value in 1815 was 1182*l.*, and in 1913, 978*l.*

The population has been as follows:—

Year	1801	1811	1821	1831	1841	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901
No. of Inhab.	178	179	213	204	197	197	175	163	136	127

The houses shew a decrease in numbers:—

Year.	Inhabited houses.	Uninhabited houses.	Building.
1861 . . .	45	2	0
1871 . . .	42	4	0
1881 . . .	40	7	0
1891 . . .	38	6	0
1901 . . .	35	6	0

This parish, with which the hamlet of Llangynock (Llangynog) is now joined, was in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries mostly the property of descendants of Brychan Brycheiniog, as was Llansoy. The dukes of Beaufort more recently were the chief landowners, in whose manor of Usk this parish was.

Llanpill.¹

Llanpill¹ would be more fully Glanpill, and takes its name from its situation on the Pill¹ brook. It is an ancient house, and was once the seat of a family of considerable distinction descended paternally from Brychan Brycheiniog. To Dafydd Philip o Went is a *marwnad* or funeral elegy by Dafydd Benwyn the poet, who wrote about the year 1590.

rrylew phyllip rri oloedd
 [Rhylew Phyllip! rhi oloedd]
 rhywl wych ag wyl hywel oedd
 [Rhiwl wych, ag wyr Hywel oedd]

 ymddifaid ynn am ddavydd
 [Ymddifaid ym am Ddavydd]
 llif noe yn llansoe y sydd
 [Llif Noe yn Llansoe y sydd]
 kat derwen aeth kaid draw n wych
 [Câd derwen aeth caed draw'n wych]
 karw mynwy benn kawr myn wych
 [Carw Mynwy ben cawr mynwy]

 llan soe a phob y sydd
 [Llansoe a phob [llan] y sydd]
 llin went heb fawr llywenydd
 [Llin Went heb fawr llawenydd.]

¹ Pill is pronounced in the Welsh way, the *ll* having an approximate sound to *lth*.

*Exceedingly valiant Philip! chief of after-times [?]:
 He was a fine ruler, and the grandson of Howel.*

*We are destitute for David;
 The flood of Noah is in Llansoy;
 The war-oak is gone! yonder was found doughty
 The stag of Monmouth, the head giant gentle and noble.*

*Llansoy and every other llan,
 [And] the line of Gwent, are without joy.*

His wife *Maestres Mawd* is mentioned, and he is said to be *Penn teir Gwent* and *purcaswr pob parc* (head of the three Gwents and purchaser of every park). He was buried at Llangynog.

The son of Dafydd Philip was sir William Powell, who was knighted by king James I. 7 January, 1604. To him is also a poem by Dafydd Benwyn.

Pwy sy o went pass ai wyr
 [Pwy sy o Went passa'i wyr?]
 pwy wrth o val pai arthyr
 [Pwy wrtho falpai Arthyr?]
 y maestr powel a welir
 [Y Maestr Powel a welir]
 o lann soe haela ny sir
 [O Llansoe haela'n y sir]
 maestr wiliam yn meistrol
 [Maestr Wiliam yn meistrol]
 mwyn wr brau mewn aur a bri
 [Mwyn wr brau mewn aur a bri]
 hydd o ddavydd oedd ddifalch
 [Hydd o Ddavydd oedd ddifalch]
 ny ffaela byth ffylib walch
 [Ni ffaela byth Phylib walch]
 bryttwnn dad y dad ydoedd
 [Bryttwnn dad i dad ydoedd]
 yn iaith bryttwnn yd oedd
 [Yn iaith Bryttwnn yd oedd.]

*Who in Gwent surpasses his men?
 Who, compared with him, is as if he were Arthur?
 Mr. Powel of Llansoy
 Is seen the most liberal in the county—
 Mr. William commanding
 (Fragile gentleman!) in gold and dignity.
 A hart from David he was without pride,
 Philip the hawk will never fail [or become extinct].
 A Briton from father to father he was
 In the language of the Britons to us.*

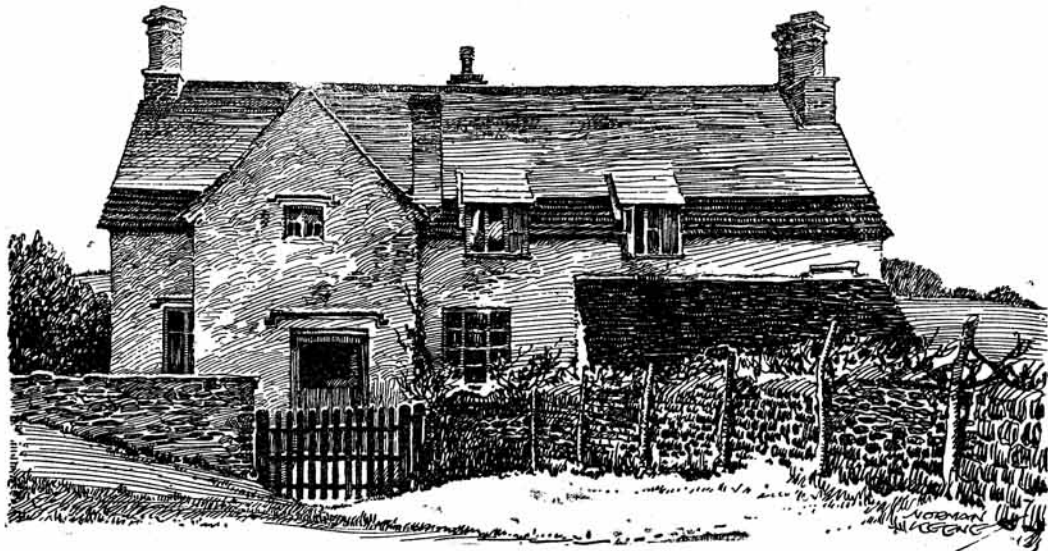
Lady Powell was the daughter of sir Thomas Morgan of Pen-coed, and sister of sir William Morgan of the same. Sir Thomas, who married Cecil, daughter of sir George Herbert of Swansea, was the son of sir William Morgan and grandson of sir Thomas Morgan, so that the lady is accurately

described below as the grandchild of two knights, the great-grandchild of another knight, and sister of yet another knight.

gwawr lan o vorgan fawrgost
[Gwawr lan o Forgan fawrgost.]
ai bryd ar rhoi brwd a rhost
[A'i bryd ar roi brwd a rhost.]
o wraig weddaidd wraigaidd wych
[O! wraig weddaidd, wreigeiddwych!]
vn sad maestres fflywrens wych
[Un sad, Maistres Fflywrens wych.]

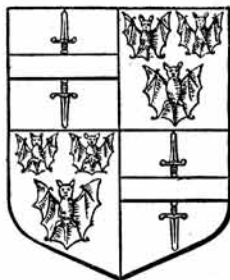
ag wyr dau varchog yw gall
[Ag wyr dau farchog yw, gall;]
ag orwyr marchog arall
[Ag orwyr marchog arall;]
a chwaer marchog rhywiog rhwydd
[A chwaer marchog rhywiog, rhwydd]
avr glod mwy nog vn arglwydd
[Eurglod mwy nog un arglwydd.]

*A fair dawn from wealthy Morgan,
Intent upon giving boiled and roast [meat].
Oh! becoming, elegant and wifely wife!
A discreet one, Mistress Florence fine.*



LANFILL.

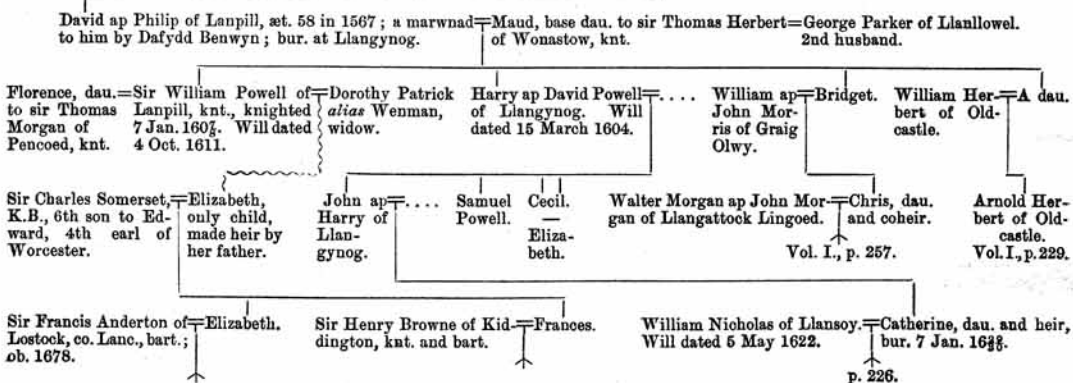
Pedigree of the Family of Powell (Brychan) of Lanpfill.



ARMS.—Quarterly: 1 and 4, Sa., a fesse or between two swords arg., hilts and pomels of the second, that in chief pointing upwards, the other downwards (BRYCHAN BRYCHEINIOW); 2 and 3, Or, 3 vespertilio az. (EINION AP SELIF, LORD OF CWMWD).

The intervening descents from Brychan Brycheiniog will be found in *The History of Breconshire*, by Theophilus Jones, vol. i., app., p. 8.

PHILIP ap Thomas ap Howel.



*And the grandchild of two knights she is, wise ;
And the great-grandchild of another knight,
And the sister of a knight genial, free,
Of a golden fame, more than any lord.¹*

Sir William Powell's will, dated 4 October, 1611, is at Llandaff, but with no probate:—

My body to be buried in the church in Xtian burial—Dorothie Patrick *al's* Wayman, widow, all my plate, jewells, goods and chattels, moveables, howsthould stuff and implements of howsthould, etc., for her life, and afterwards *al's* the same to sir Charles Som's't, knight, and Dame Elizabeth his wife, my reputed and well beloved daughter—my lands, tenements, manors in co. Mon. to the said Dorothie Patrick and her assigns for her life, and after to sir Charles Som's't, knight, and Dame Elizabeth his wife, in default of issue to the right heirs of me the said

¹ For the above lines, taken from the MS. of Dafydd Benwyn's poems written in his own hand, which are deposited in the Central Library of Cardiff, I am indebted to Mr. Ifano Jones, the learned Welsh librarian, who has been kind enough to give not only the actual words as written, but also, in square brackets, the same as they would be in modern Welsh. He has also given the exact translation.

William Powell—sir Charles Som's't and Elizabeth his wife ex'ors.

Witnesses: Daniel Arundell.	James Hughes.
Tho. Hughes.	Thomas Will'ms.
Henry Rumsye.	William Herbert.
John Rumsye.	

Sir William Powell had no issue by his wife, and, as seen by his will, he left his personalty to his illegitimate daughter Elizabeth, the wife of sir Charles Somerset, K.B., sixth son of Edward, fourth earl of Worcester, K.G. The issue of this marriage was two daughters, Elizabeth, wife of sir Francis Anderton of Lostock in Lancashire, baronet, and Frances, wife of sir Henry Brown of Kiddington in Oxfordshire, baronet, from whom many families are descended.

Lanpill, which was doubtless entailed, seems to have gone to his nephew John ap Harry Howel or Powell, whose daughter and heir Catherine took it to her husband William ap Nicholas William. Their son Philip Nicholas, called of Lanpill in the parish register, was buried in 1653.

After this I have no information of Lanpill, except that it belonged to the dukes of Beaufort, and was sold by the ninth duke in 1901.



LLANFIHANGEL TOR-Y-MYNYDD CHURCH.

The Church.

The church is a small one, with nave and chancel. The west doorway has a handsome arch, as has also the porch on the south side, which has bold mouldings. The steps of the cross remain, but no base or shaft.

The parish register commences with the year 1602. It contains the usual entries, few of which are worthy of noting here.

1602, Sept. 12, bap., Jevanus morice, filius Mawricij William Edmund.

Richardus Thomas et	} gard. ib'm.
Will'mus Thomas edmund	

Maurice William Edmund, whose son Evan is baptized above, made his will as *Maurice Will'm* of *Lanvihangle Tourmoneth* 26 November, 1625, proved at Llandaff 24 October, 1633:—

Cathedral ch. of Landaffe twelve pence—parson of Lanvihangle aforesaid for tithes twelve pence—to the

preacher of my funeral sermon at my burial six shillings, eightpence—whereas by my ind're between me of the one part and Edmund Maurice of Lanvihangle aforesaid my second son of the other part, I gave to Walter John James of Lanvihangle aforesaid, yeom., all that close called Gworlod yssa containing 6 acres in Lanvihangle between the lands of sir Edward Lewis, knt., the lands of Will'm Thomas Edmond, other lands of me the said Maurice, and a lane called Hewl errough on all parts—to Joane my dau. 20*s*.—my sons Evan and . . . ex'ors—my son George—my son Edmond.

In pr. of Edw. Aleston

Abr' Drewe, viccar of Chepstow.

[Signed] Maurice Wm.

1603, May 30, chr., Margaret p'fonnes the daughter of one m^r p'fonnes of the p'fhe of Wilchcome in the com' of Wilttheere, gent., was borne in the house of

David James the xxixth day of maye and christened the xxx day of maye An'o D'ni 1603, An'oq. Regni Regis Jacobi Primo, p' me Georg'm Griffithe, rectorem ibidem.

1604, Mar. 10, chr., George morice son of Morice Will'm Edmund.

1607, Oct. 4, chr., Juan, dau. of Morice Wm. edmund.

1603, Jul. 27, sep., Margaret P'sonnes, p' me Georgium Griffith, clericum, rectorem ibidem.

1604, July 5, bur., Elizabeth Harbert, wife of Morice William Edmund.

1664, Feb. 18, bur., Florence Thomas, wife of William Thomas, daughter to Thomas David, vicar of Colwinston & Penline in Glamorgan shire & mother-in-law to Robert Jones, rector of Lanvihangle Tor y mynydd.

1699, Aug. 31, nupti, Williel' Drake de Penalt et Alicia Griffith de Lanvihangell Tor y mynyth.

PATRON.	DATE OF INSTITUTION.	RECTORS.
.	.	Philip, rector in 1307. ¹
.	.	John Vaughan, in 1535. ²
.	.	John Jenkin, in 1560. ³
.	.	Morgan Thomas, in 1594 and to 1599; also rector of Llansoy.
.	.	George Griffith, rector in 1603 and until his death 13 March, 1647. He made his will 19 May, 1646, as George Griffin:—
.	.	To be buried in the chancel of llanvihangell tor mynith's church—cathedral church of Llandaffe twelve pence—church of llanvihangell iij <i>s</i> . iiij <i>d</i> .—to Joane Jone (<i>sic</i>) my beloved wife, two young bullocks, etc., lease of mortgage of lands in Gwernesney made by John Phillip Harry of Gwernesney, late dec ^d , and Elizabeth his wife with a band of 240 <i>l</i> ., also a band on William Edwards of Michael troy dated 13 Oct., 1643—to Walter Jones my wife's grandchild, and to his sisters 40 <i>s</i> . a piece, to his wife 40 <i>s</i> ., to his mother 40 <i>s</i> .—my wife ex'trix. In pr. of John Jones, John Howells, John Jenkin, Hugh Jenkins, Cadwalader Jenkins.
.	.	The inventory amounts to 17 <i>l</i> . 15 <i>s</i> ., the <i>prizors</i> (appraisers) being Jenkin Taunte, Will'm Phellipp thelder and Juhen Jones [his wife]. The will is at Llandaff, but has no probate. His widow's will, as Johan John, is dated 14 April, 23 Car. [1647], proved at Llandaff 8 Oct., 1647. In this she leaves to her grandchild Walter Jones, the cottage, stable, drying kiln and lands in Gwernesney called Kae ywch lawr twy, Kae wrth y twy, Kae pella, ⁴ containing 26 acres.
.	.	(Henry Thomas, curate in 1640.)
Archdeacon of Llandaff	1 May 1661.	Robert Jones, resigned 1665.
Do.	29 Nov. 1665.	John Thomas; also 27 Nov., 1665, vicar of Llangwm.
Do.	20 May 1674.	Philip Thomas; died 1695.
Do.	8 Aug. 1695.	Walter Watkins, B.A. Jesus College, Oxford, son of Walter Watkins of Usk; died 1719.
.	.	(Thomas James, curate in 1695.)
Do.	13 Jan. 1748.	Thomas Jones; resigned 1722.
Do.	13 June 1722.	Samuel Price, B.A.; died 1735.
.	.	(Charles William, curate in 1725.)
.	.	Elias Thomas.
.	.	(Rees Davies of Llanishen, licensed to the curacy 5 July, 1747.)
.	.	Lewis Thomas.
.	.	William Prosser, died 1809.
John Probyn, archdeacon of Llandaff.	28 Sept. 1809.	Henry Prowse Jones, B.A.
.	.	.
.	.	Arthur Henry Price, M.A. Wadham College, Oxford, son of Thomas Price of Kingsbury, co. Warwick, clk.; resigned 1847, afterwards vicar of Lugwardine, co. Hereford.
.	.	John Price; also perpetual curate of Cilgwrwg.
.	.	Thomas Phillips Rogers, B.A. Lampeter; resigned 1898.
.	.	Charles Carne Williams, also rector of Wolvesnewton; died 22 Nov., 1912.
Archdeacon of Llandaff	Dec. 1912.	William Jones, also from 1891 rector of Llansoy.

¹ Charter Rolls, Vol. III., 1800—26, p. 103.

² *Valor Eccl.*

³ Browne Willis.

⁴ Cae uwch law'r ty (*the field above the house*); Cae wrth y ty (*the field by the house*); Cae pella (*the furthestmost field*).