

Llansoy.

LANSOY takes its name from Tissoi, the saint to whom the church is dedicated, of whom nothing seems to be known, except that he was a pupil of St. Dyfrig, the first bishop of Llandaff in the fifth century.

The boundaries given in the *Liber Landavensis* appear to be similar to the present boundaries, the parish lying between the brooks Olwy and Pill.¹

The parish contains 1415 acres of land and 4 acres of water. The rateable value in 1815 was 1583*l.*, and in 1912, 978*l.*

The population has been as follows:—

Year .	1801	1811	1821	1831	1841	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901
No. of inhab.	143	143	139	148	158	168	175	147	130	111

The number of houses is shewn thus:—

Year.	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Building.
1861 . . .	30	2	1
1871 . . .	30	3	0
1881 . . .	28	4	0
1891 . . .	28	3	0
1901 . . .	26	0	4

The most ancient feature in this parish is the large camp or earthwork situated one mile north-west of the church, 300 feet above sea level, commanding the broad meadows through which the river Olwy runs, and which are but 100 feet above sea level.

In this parish and Llanfihangel Tor-y-mynydd, the chief landowners in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were descendants of Brychan Brycheiniog, though when they first came here is not clear. Perhaps the house known as Cwrt-Brychan was their first settlement. In Llansoy the family descended from Brychan, who in the seventeenth century adopted the surname of Nicholas, was the principal one. I am uncertain which house, until they inherited Lanpill by marriage, was their residence. In wills and deeds they appear only as *of Llansoy*, and therefore it is probable that Ty-mawr (the great house) was their abode.

The first to assume a surname was William Nicholas, the son of Nicholas ap William Gruffydd, who made his will 5 May, 1622, proved at Llandaff 16 June, 1624:—

To be buried in the church of Lansoy—the parson of Lansoy for forgotten tithes ijs. iiij*d.*—cathedral church of Landaff ijs.—to Catherine my wife, one moiety of all my linen, pewter and brass for her life, with household stuff and one silver boule and one

silver sault and viij silver sponnes, and after her decease the said moiety to Andrew Nicholas my son—whereas I hold by several leases and grants one grist mill called Radr's mill¹ and the moiety of one other grist mill called Magor's mill of the *r^t* hon. Edward, earl of Worcester, and one tenement of land of the *r^t* hon. Henry, lord Herbart, being part of the old park in the co. of Mon., these I give to the *s^d* Andrew Nicholas my son—to Phe' Nicholas my son the lease of the tithes of Newchurch—to Ann Nicholas, dau. of my son Phe', xxs.—my son Phe' Nicholas out of the profits of the *s^d* tithes to make yearly payment unto Gilles Nicholas, son of the *s^d* Andrew Nicholas, 5*l.*—to my men servants and maid servants 5*s.* a piece—to Elizabeth, dau. of my dau. Bridgett, vi*l.* xij*s.* iiij*d.*, and if the *s^d* Elizabeth die before she is 16 the *s^d* sum to the children of my son Andrew and my dau. Dorothy equally—to W^m Nicholas, my grandchild, one black colt—the rest to Catherine my wife.

Nicholas Nicholas (son of Andrew, son of the above William Nicholas) appears in a deed as follows:—

Ind'res made 18 July, 13 Car. II., 1661, between Nicholas Nicholas of Llansoy, gent., and Bridget his wife and Richard Vidler, late of Cwmcavran, yeom., and Blanch his wife of the one part; and William Jones of Lanarth, esq., of the other part. In consⁿ of 200*l.* the said Nicholas Nicholas and Richard Vidler grant to William Jones all that messuage wherein Thomas John Edmund did lately inhabit, and wherein Thomas William doth now inhabit cont^s three score acres called Cay keven, Cae yr lloyd, Ton dee, Cay pant, Cae isha, Cae Rees, Cay pwll, lying in Gwailod y wlade in the parish of Cwmcavran between the lands of Alse Blower, widow, the lands of David Edmonds, the brook called Pencam, the lands of Thomas Pheellipp, the lands of the earl of Pembroke, now or late in the occupation of Adam Jones, and the way leading from the stony bridge towards the church of Cwmcavran, and also all that water mill now in the occupation of the *s^d* Nicholas Nicholas.

Giles Nicholas,² the brother of the above Nicholas Nicholas, became a clergyman, and was rector of Llangynidr in Breconshire, a living that continued in the hands of his descendants, as will be seen by the pedigree, for many years.

Philip Nicholas, the eldest brother, continued the family at Llansoy, and was father of Andrew, a barrister, who was drowned in 1671, leaving an only child Frances, who died unmarried.

Philip Nicholas, the second son of William Nicholas, whose will is given above, was also of

¹ In the parish of Llanbadog.

² So uncertain was the use of surnames at this date, that Giles is baptized as the son of Andrew Williams, i.e., as the son of Andrew the son of William—1606, September 21, *Giles, son of Andrew Williams, bapt. on sundae beinge St. Mathewe daie* (par. reg.).

Llansoy, and was father of Edward, who served the office of sheriff in 1682, and entered his pedigree in the *Heralds' visitation* of that year. His second wife Judith was widow of Thomas Evans, who, with Robert Jones, and Thomas Jones of Trevethin, was appointed in 1650 one of the commissioners for sequestration of estates under the commonwealth. In March, 1654, he was appointed sole sub-commissioner to manage estates and receive rents, receiving an allowance of 12*d.* in the pound on all he paid in. In November, 1654, he died, and his widow was required to pay up the sum of 180*l.* 2*s.* of arrears.¹ Judith soon after married Edward Nicholas, and in 1658 sold land in Llantilio Crossenny to Charles Powell of Bristol, son of Thomas Powell, the son of Walter Powell of Llantilio.

This ind're made 15 April, 1658, between Edward Nicholas of Trelleck Grange, gent., and Judith his wife of the one part, and Charles Powell of Bristol, apothecary, of the other part. Whereas Robert Knight of Tallycoed, gent., by ind're of feofment duly executed with livery of seizin dated 21 Nov., 1656, in cons'on of 100*l.* paid him by Judith Evans of Trelleck, widow, sold to the s^d Judith all those two parcels of meadow called Lantrothy ycha and Gworlod y gwaire cont^g 16 acres in Llantilio Crossenny, between the lands of Charles Powell, gent., other lands of the s^d Robert Knight, the late lands of Walter Powell, gent., dec^d, the highway leading from Monmouth to Bergevenny, and the river Trothy, on all or some parts. And whereas the said Judith intermarried before the s^d day of payment (20 Nov. last past) with the said Edward Nicholas, and in cons'on of 106*l.* the s^d Edward & Judith grant to the s^d Charles Powell, etc.

Andrew Nicholas owned Llangunnock, and is buried in the chapel there.

Andrew Nicholas (the son of Philip, son of Andrew, son of William ap Nicholas) was a barrister, who being drowned in 1671, left an only child Frances, who died unmarried. Philip Nicholas, brother of the above Andrew, then succeeded, and left a son Philip, who seems to have been the last of the race to have any connection with the parish. He made his will 8 December, 1711, proved at Llandaff 10 January, 171½, described as of the town of Usk, gent.

Whereas I am entitled to the reversion, after the death of Ann Curr of Monmouth, widow, of a messuage, etc., in Gwernesney, heretofore purchased by Philip Nicholas, gent. [testator's grandfather], of John Charles, now or late in the possession of Joan Thomas, widow, tenements and woods in Llangwm Isha, three tenements in the town of Usk in the street called Twyn y daley du, I leave the said premises to my wife Hannah Nicholas for her life, and after her decease to John Ambrose, second son of William Ambrose my brother-in-law, provided the s^d John Ambrose shall change his name to Nicholas, and also that he pay 100*l.* to Philippa, an infant now living with me, whom I make my adopted daughter, and in case the s^d John Ambrose do not perform these conditions, I leave the same to William Ambrose, gent., son of my said brother-in-law William Ambrose, on the same conditions.

The Church.

The church was founded in the time of bishop Berthgwyn in the latter part of the sixth century by one Cynhageu¹ or Conhae,² when he gave the mansion of St. Tysoi, the pupil of Dyfrig (Dubritius) which formerly belonged to Dyfrig, to God and the holy apostle St. Peter. The boundaries are described as

Between the wood and the field, and between the rivulet Ilgui [Olwy] and Pill; and in the other part from Ilgui to Pill towards the east, from the influx of Ceninuc into Ilgui, along Ceninuc upwards to the influx of the Ffinnant, along the Ffinnant to its source, from the source along to the hollow downwards to Pill, along Pill to the brook Murn, along Murn to its source to Carn Enuin, from the side of Caer Tollecoit to the head of the Cinahi, following downwards by the stone of Cinahi to the Ilgui, along Ilgui to the influx of Ceninuc, where it began.

The church consists of chancel and nave with a tower at the west end and porch on the north side. The stairs to the rood-loft on the south side of the chancel remain. A notable object in the church box is the silver chalice with initials and date, W. P. 1577, on the lid.

The advowson has until recently been in the hands of the lords of Usk and Trelech. In 1322 Llansoy with other churches was conveyed by Hugh le Despencer (whose wife Eleanor was daughter and coheir of Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford) to Elizabeth (another daughter of Gilbert), widow of John de Burgh. Since then the advowson has descended as the lordship of Usk and Trelech. By an order in council dated 13 January, 1902, the patronage was transferred by Henry, ninth duke of Beaufort, to the bishop of Llandaff.³

The old parish register book begins in 1599, and is complete to 1812. Among the entries is one relating to the belfry and the casting of a bell.

Churchwardens— . . . Christopher Williams 1688 & for y^e years 1689, who first built the bellfree with stones, And cast the Greate bell which cost besides the raising and carrying of the stones 60*l.*

The building of the tower had been initiated by the rector Geoffrey Prise, who died in August, 1620, and is noticed thus :—

Whereas Geoffrey Price, late rect^r of the p'sonadge of llansoy by his last will and testam^t did geve and bequeth towards the erectinge and newe buyldinge of a steeple w^{thin} llansoy the some of five pounds, and in the meane tyme of the buyldinge thereof that the interest should remayne towards the releef of the poore of the same p'ishe w^{ch} said v^{li}. was paid in the hands of George Harrie xx^o January 1620, and the interest thereof paid to the use aforesaid, and the said

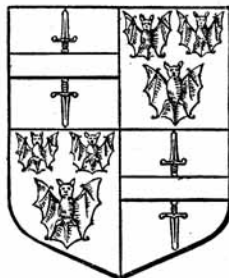
¹ *Liber Landavensis*, p. 437.

² *Book of Llan Dâv*, p. 187.

³ *Vide* p. 131.

¹ *Old Wales*, II., 77 et seq.

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



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.

David ap Philip of Lanpŷll, æt. 58 in 1567; a marwnad to him by Dafydd Benwyn; bur. at Llangynog. — Maud, base dau. to sir Thomas Herbert=George Parker of Llanllowel. 2nd husband. of Wonastow, knt.

Florence, dau.=Sir William Powell of Dorothy Patrick to sir Thomas Lanpŷll, knt., knighted *alias* Wenman, Morgan of 7 Jan. 1607. Will dated widow. Penceoed, knt. 4 Oct. 1611.

Harry ap David Powell of Llangynog. Will dated 15 March 1604.

William ap Bridget. John Morris of Graig Olwy.

William Herbert of Oldcastle. — A dau.

Sir Charles Somerset, K.B., 6th son to Edward, 4th earl of Worcester. — Elizabeth, only child, made heir by her father.

John ap Harry of Llangynog. — ...

Samuel Powell. Cecil. — Elizabeth.

Walter Morgan ap John Morgan of Llangattock Lingoed. — Chris, dau. and coheir. Vol. I., p. 257.

Arnold Herbert of Oldcastle. Vol. I., p. 229.

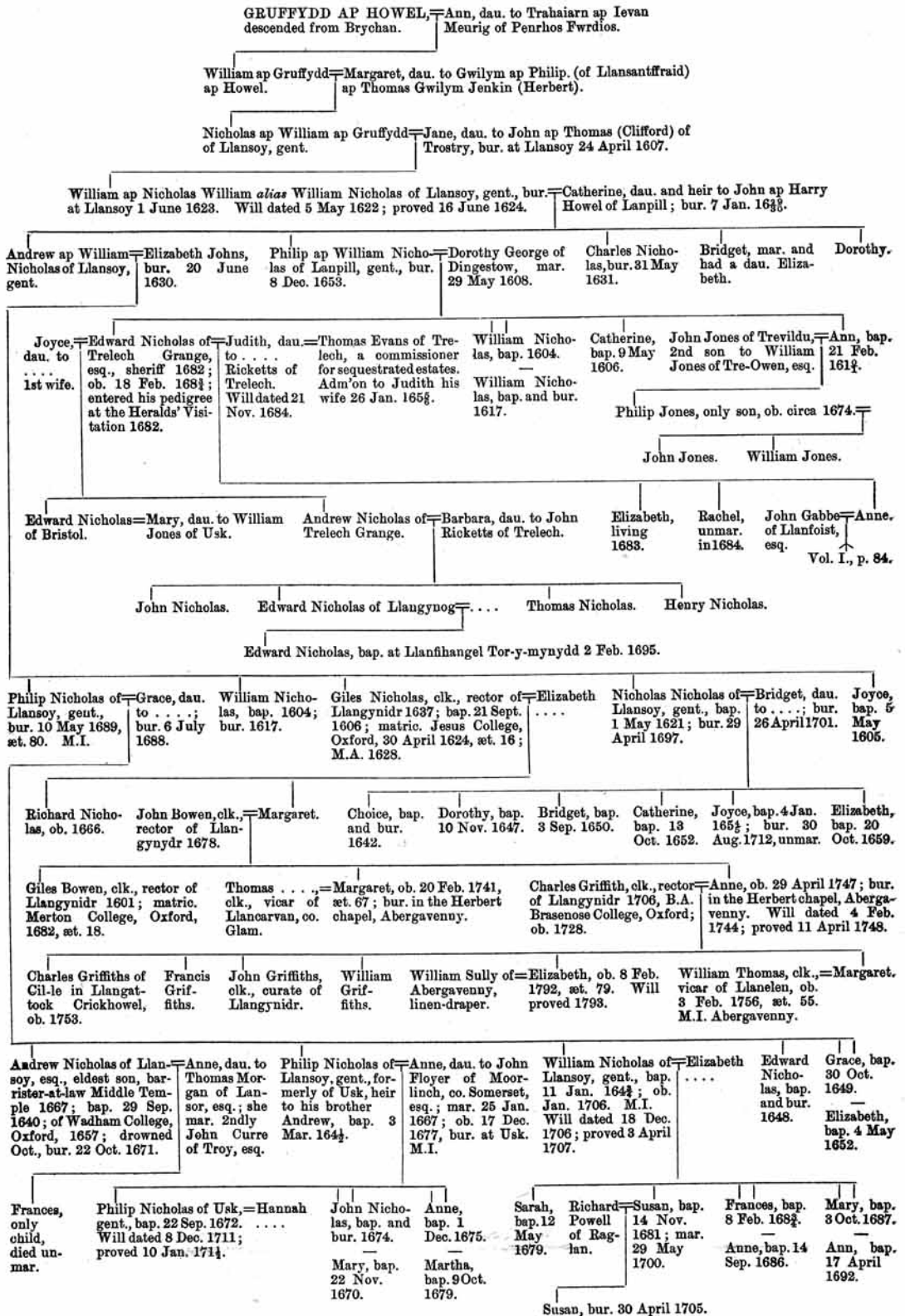
Sir Francis Anderton of Llostock, co. Lanc., bart.; ob. 1678. — Elizabeth.

Sir Henry Browne of Kidlington, knt. and bart. — Frances.

William Nicholas of Llansoy. — Catherine, dau. and heir, Will dated 5 May 1622. bur. 7 Jan. 1623.

Pedigree of the family of Nicholas (Brychan) of Llansoy.

The arms entered at the Visitation of 1683 were: *A chevron between 3 choughs, on a canton a chaplet* (no colours). CREST.—*On a chaplet a chough.* To this the herald has added, *no proof.* The paternal arms which this family ought to have borne were BRYCHAN and EINTON AP SELIF quarterly, as shewn above



vli. xx° January 1621 was deli'u'd into the hands of Harrie d'd and the interest thereof paid to the use af'rsaid and the said some of vli. xx° January 1622 was deli'u'd unto Walter Cipry & was paid alsoe xx° January 1623 into the hands of Andrew Nicholas and the interest thereof to the poore as aforesaid, w'che said some of vli. is to remain from one p'ishn' to another, the interest thereof to be paid yearly towards the poor until suche tyme that the steepill of llansoy be newelie erected accordinge to the true meaning of the testator Jeffreys Price.

by me ANDREW NICHOLAS.

Another note dated 21 November, 1650, says that Roger William [who was buried in 1630] left 5*l*. for the same purpose, the interest of which was, until the steeple should be built, to be given to the poor; and Walter Cipery [who was buried 20 July, 1640] left a similar sum.

The will of Roger William referred to above,

described as of Lansoy, yeoman, dated 16 November, 6 Car. [1630], proved at Llandaff 2 December, 1630, is as follows:—

Church of Landaff 2*s*.—my parish church of Lansoye 6*s*.—towards the bilding of Lansoye stipell five pownd, the use of this five pownd untill the stipell be bilded to be destrebuted among the poor—to Evan Thomas, son to my brother Thomas William, eight pound, to William Thomas his brother two pound—to Walter William, son to William Lewis, five pound—to Rice John my nevo [nephew] ten pound to put to use for his two sons—to John Evan my brother-in law three pound—to Jaine John, dau. of John Evan, fower pound—to Elizabeth John, the other dau. of John Evan, ten pound—to Jaene, wife of Edward Will'm, and his three dau's ten pound equally—to the seven children of David John Howell ten shillings a piece—Elinor, wife of William Lewis, five pound [other legacies].

[Signed] ROGER WILL'.



LLANSOY CHURCH.

A note dated 2 June, 1659, referring to the money in hand, proceeds—

Nowe findinge that the belfree is readie to fall downe & the tymber altogether rotten & not to be rep'ed, therefore the p'ishon's of Lansoy unanimously consent and agree to build up a new belfree (with the Lord's assistance) as soone as possible may be, and doe agree that the s'd ffive pounds in the hands of the s'd John Watkin shall be paid into the hands of the churchwardens of Lansoy to be employed to bring materrials and to paie workmen for the digging up of stonns towards the said worke.

By this it may be concluded that the tower as it

is seen now was built about 1688, and took the place of one which was of timber.

In 1613 the plague appeared in the parish, noted thus in the parish register:—

1613, August—In the Beginninge of this monthe two housses were Infected, the Tavarne house and m' W^m nicholas. In the tavarne there died a maid, Batman & his wife, Robart and Joan fortune—In m' W^m nicholas house there died Briget and the maid-servant. 1613, Aug. 31, Margaret Bowen died of the plague & was Buried the last daie of August.

JENKIN MORGAN &
THOMAS EDWARD p'curatores.¹

¹ Procuratores, overseers.

PATRON.	DATE OF INSTITUTION.	RECTORS.
.	.	Nicholas de Bagethorp, licentiate of civil law and bachelor of canon law, resigned Llansoy, value nine marks, on being appointed to a living in the gift of the bishop, prior, and chapter of Ely, August 1847. ¹
.	1 July 1888.	John Usk. ²
.	.	David ap Howel, resigned 1388. ³
The king, by reason of the custody of the lands and heir of Edmund Mortimer, earl of March.	18 Nov. 1388.	Howel ap David, ³ chaplain.
.	24 March 1389.	John Usk. ⁴
.	.	David Howell, resigned 1390 on appointment to Shulton in the diocese of Lincoln, in exchange with John Glasyer. ⁵
The king, by reason of his custody of the lands and heir of Edmund Mortimer, earl of March.	10 Oct. 1390.	John Glasyer, vicar of Shulton, in exchange with David Howell; ⁵ resigned 1398 on appointment to Trelech, in exchange with Gregory ap David.
The king, by reason of the wardship of the land and heir of Roger, earl of March.	15 Feb. 1398.	Gregory ap David, previously vicar of Trelech, on exchange with John ap William Glasyer; ⁶ ratification of his estate 20 Feb. 1399. ⁷
.	.	Roger William in 1535. ⁸
.	.	John Howel in 1560.
.	.	Morgan Thomas in 1592, in which year he commenced the register book. (Hugh Powell, curate in 1594 and to 1601.)
. 1603.	Geoffrey Prise, M.A., in 1604 and to 1620; previously vicar of Caerwent; buried 12 Aug. 1620.
William, 3rd earl of Pembroke, K.G.	22 Aug. 1620.	William Arney, M.A. St. Edmund Hall, Oxford; also vicar of Nash, where he probably resided. (John Waters, curate in 1623.)
William, 3rd earl of Pembroke, K.G.	23 March 1638.	John Clegge, M.A. St. Alban Hall, Oxford, archdeacon of Llandaff in 1646 for five months only; also rector of Llangibby, where he resided; deprived by the puritans for being unable to preach in Welsh, etc.; resigned Llansoy 1666; ob. circ. 1668: (William Thomas, curate in 1631 and to 1634.) (Francis Price, curate in 1636 and to 1639; his wife Cecil buried 20 Dec. 1637.) (Hugh Walter, curate in 1643.) (Morgan Jones, curate in 1647.) (Thomas Davies, curate in 1664.)
Philip, 5th earl of Pembroke.	4 May 1666.	John Powell, M.A., resigned 1668.
Philip, 5th earl of Pembroke.	7 May 1668.	Thomas Watkins, also vicar of Llanarth, where he resided; left a charity to both parishes; died 1723. (Thomas Davies, curate in 1707.) (Elias Thomas, curate in 1730.) (Evan Thomas, licensed to the curacies of Raglan, Llandenny and Llansoy, 30 March 1745.)
.	.	William Robinson, M.A. St. John's Coll., Camb., also rector of Mitchel Troy; died 1740; buried there. (John Harris, B.A., appointed curate in 1732.)
Herbert, 2nd viscount Windsor.	31 Dec. 1745.	James Davies, B.A.
.	4 May 1781.	Thomas Leach; also in 1781 vicar of Raglan.
Henry, 5th duke of Beaufort.	10 March 1796.	John Powell, M.A. Wadham Coll., Oxford, also head master of the Monmouth Grammar School; son of John Powell, vicar of Llangattock Vibon Avel; died 1836. ⁹ (Henry Williams, curate in 1795 and to 1804. His wife was Rachel, and six of their children are baptized here.)
Henry, 7th duke of Beaufort, K.G. 1849.	Richard Macdonnell Evanson, B.A. Oriel Coll., Oxford, son of William Alleyne Evanson of Cork, Ireland, clk.; died 1891.
Henry Charles, 8th duke of Beaufort, K.G. 1891.	William Jones; also from Dec. 1912 rector of Llanfihangel Tor-y-mynydd.

¹ *Cal. of Papal Registers*, vol. iii., p. 261.² *Cal. Rot. Pat.*, Ric. II., 1385—89, p. 478.³ *Ibid.*, p. 512.⁴ *Ibid.*, Ric. II., 1388—92, p. 22.⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 306.⁶ *Ibid.*, Ric. II., 1396—99, p. 412.⁷ *Ibid.*, Hen. IV., 1399—1401, p. 157.⁸ *Valor Ecclesiasticus*.⁹ For his pedigree *vide* Vol. I., p. 206.

Monumental Inscriptions.

There are no mural monuments left, only flat stones.

Within the communion rails :

HERE LIETH THE
BODY OF IOYESI
HARYS WHO
DEPARTED THIS
LIFE THE 6TH
DAY OF OCTOBER
AND WAS IN
TERED THE 8TH.

[the rest is cut away.]

HERE LYETH THE
BODY OF WILLIAM NI
CHOLAS DEPARTED THIS
LIFE THE . . DAY OF
JANVARY 1706.²

HERE LYETH THE BO
DY OF SVSAN THOMAS
WIFE OF THOMAS IO
NES OF LANTRISHEN
WHO DEPARTED THIS
LIFE THE 29 DAY OF
JANVARY IN THE YE
ARE OF OVR LORD
1698.³

LET YOVTH AND AGE
IN TIME THINKE ON
THE GLAS THAT RV
NS FOR MAN WHI
CH TIME HE CAN
NOT PAS.

There is also cut on the same stone :

In Memory
of Jane Highings Daugh.
of Robert and Elizabeth
Kemp who died the 4th
.... 1770 aged 54.⁴

..... 1671

HERE LYETH Y^E BODY OF
PHILLIP NICHOLAS GENT
BVRIED Y^E X DAY OF MAY
1689 AGED 80 YEARS.⁵

Corpus Georgij Thomas in hoc tum.
.... ad mortem succubuit
Vicesimo quinto Die Mensis Martij

Anno Dom. 1713

Also Here Lye Y^e Body
of Elizabeth the Wife of
Robert Kemp Gent. of
The Parish of Woolves
newton who Died the
28th day of December 1736.

Outside the communion rails :

..... y^e 26th of March
Anno Dom. 1733

HERE

Also lyeth the Body of
George Howell who
Departed this life
March the 1st, 1742 Aged
52 years.

Likewise the Body of

Mary wife of

George Howell who

Departed this life

November y^e 12th, 1753

Aged 66 years.¹

In love they liened in faith.

In the nave :

HERE

Lieth the Body
of Frances Jones

Daughter of Susannah Cado-
gan of this Parish who
departed this life the 15th Day
of June in the year of our Lord
1761 aged 2 months and 3 days.

Here lyeth y^e Body of
William Drack of y^e Parish
Who Died y^e 28th Day of
November 1741 Aged 73 years.

In memory of John Harris Who Departed this Life
April 28th, 1769, aged 2 years, son of John and Rachel
Harris of the Parish of Lanvihangell. Also of Temperance
their Daughter, Died December 1791, aged 26 years.

In Memory of John Harris of the Parish of
Lanvihangell who died October the . . . 1805, aged
98 years. Also in memory of Ann Lewis, who departed
this life April 9th, 1834, aged 78 years.

IN THE CHURCHYARD.

An altar-tomb. On the south side :

In memory of James and Cornelius, sons of the Rev.
Henry & Rachel Williams—James died 6 June, 1798, aged
14 years and 10 months. Cornelius died 14 Sept., 1803,
aged 10 months.

Also in memory of Ann, daughter of Thomas and Mary
Williams, who died 25 August, 1817, aged 19 days.

On the north side :

Here rests in humble hope of a joyful resurrection the
body of the Rev. Henry Williams, late of the parish of
Llanishen, who departed this life 15 Sept., 1816, aged
74 years.

Also of Rachel, wife of the above named, who departed
this life 9 Dec., 1809, aged 48 years.

Also of Ann, daughter of the above nam'd, who died
20 May, 1810, aged 6 years.

On the west end :

Also lie the remains of the Rev. John Williams, son of
the aforesaid Rev. Henry Williams and Rachel his wife,
who died March 7th, 1821, aged 29 years.

¹ 1753, Nov. 13, bur. Mary Howel. (Par. reg.)

¹ Joyce.

² 1704, Jan. 24, sep., Gulielmus Nicholas p'ochia de Lanfoy. (Par. reg.)

³ 1698, Jan. 31, sep., Susanna Jones de Lantriffen. (Par. reg.)

⁴ 1770, Jan. 17, bur., Jane Hitchins of Llandenny. (Par. reg.)

⁵ 1689, May 10, bur., Phillip Nicholas, gent. (Par. reg.)

