

THE POWELLS OF LYSWORNEY.

This is a branch of the Maesteg family, who acquired possession of lands in Lysworney by marriage with the heiress of the Raglan family—a family which had been seated at the Great House for several generations. The Powells of Maesteg and Llwydarth claimed to be descended from Eynon ap Colwyn; but happily for them the claim does not admit of very close examination.

I.—John Powell of Lysworney, was the second son of John Powell of Maesteg, and married a daughter of Ed. Raglan of Lysworney, they had 1 Edward, 2 John, 3 Gwenllian, who married Griffith Gibbon of Prisk.

II.—Edward Powell of Lysworney, married Mary, daughter and co-heir of Griffith Grant of Wilton. They had 1 Edward, 2 Robt. Powell of Wilton, who married Blanch Jenkins of Pantynawel, widow of the father of Nathaniel Taynton of Cowbridge, and his mother Mary, i.e., mother of the said Robert Powell and Jennet his aunt, co-heirs of Griffith Grant; settled Wilton on Robert and his wife for their lives, with remainder to the heirs of the body of the said Jennet. This Jennet settled her reversion on James Morgan of Cowbridge mercer, who willed it to his brother Henry Morgan of Bristol, 3 Christopher, 4 Wenllian, married William Gibbon of Pen-craigatha.

III. Ed. Powell of Lysworney, married Joan, sister of the Rev. John Miles, rector of Portkerry. They had issue, 1 Robert, 2 Edward Powell of Brynhir, who married Mary, daughter of Rev. Phillip Hawkins, rector of Wenvoe, and had issue, Rev. Ed. Powell, married in England, Mary, married John Spickett, 3, William a saddler at Cardiff, 4, John, married Ann, sister of Nathaniel Taynton of Cowbridge, 5 Griffith, 6 John.

IV. Robert Powell, clerk, master of the Cowbridge Free School, married Susan, daughter of Robert Williams of Llantwit Major. They had,

V. Susan Powell, heiress of Lysworney married Rev. Daniel Durrel, M.A., master of Cowbridge and rector of Coychurch. They had,

VI. Susan Durrel, heiress of Lysworney, married John Franklyn of Llanvihangel, barrister at law and had issue,

VII. Richard Franklyn of Clemenstone, married daughter of Thomas Mansell Talbot of Margam, and had issue (now living),

A Robert Powell of Lysworney first and afterwards of Wilton, appears in the list of under sheriffs of Glamorgan on three occasions.

1689—Thomas Lewis of Penmark, high sheriff; R. Powell under sheriff.

1699 John Whitlock, high sheriff; R. Powell, under sheriff.

1710 Sir Edward Stradling, St. Donats, high sheriff; R. Powell, under sheriff.

From a notice of the Gibbon family contained in "A Little History of Llantrisant," the following is taken:—William Gibbon of Treacastle, Llanbarry, was the son of Grant Gibbon of Treacastle and Newton, one of the coroners of the county; died June 1764, buried 24th July, in Llanbarry. This Grant Gibbon was the son of Thomas Gibbon of Treacastle by Jennet, daughter of Griffith Grant of Wilton. Grant Gibbon married Alice, daughter of Rees Powell of Llanbarrran. It is a pity that these pedigrees are incomplete, but enough is given to show that the Grants, the Gibbons and the Powells were much given to intermarrying. In the churchyard at Llanvihangel, almost beneath the chancel window, is a rather remarkable stone on which a partially recumbent effigy is sculptured; beneath which is a cross. Upon several lines round the cross is the following inscription: "Deus recipit animos sorum in misericordiam."

Here lieth the body of Griffitha Grant, son of Richard Grant and Margret Veeres Asktine, deceased the 24 daye of Mai Anno Do. 1593 He lived 67 years. In the end he soe departed this life, and so departed hence. (Ll . . . diwedd). Much of the lettering round the edge of the stone obliterated. Would this Richard Grant be the who married Blanch Carne?"

Rees Powell of Llanbarrran.

Rees Powell, the seventh in descent from John Gwyn Powell of Maesteg, was the last who lived at Llanbarrran. He is mentioned "As one of the most worthy gentlemen that was ever bred in Glamorganshire, for learning, piety, and pity for the poor." He died unmarried 16th November, 1738 aged 25, and as we have already stated the estate was sold to the Jenkinsons of Pantynawel, and from this date the glory of Pantynawel as a family residence departed.

The following Llanuynwyd law case is full of interest to the genealogist. Nicholas v. Powell. Bill filed 17th November, 1737. The plaintiff in this case is David Nicholas of Llanuynwyd, but better known as the family bard of the house of Aberpergwm. The defendants are Rees Powell of Llanbarrran House and Elizabeth, his wife, and relates to the portion of an estate (real and personal) of £42,000, in (or from) the Island of Jamaica left by Morgan Powell, who died intestate.

Some 50 years or more before the date of the action there lived at Llanuynwyd a person named ——— who had nine children, who bore the surname of Nicholas Powell. These children were John William, Jenkin, Morgan, Edward, Robert, Catherine, Gwladus, and Margaret. All remained and settled in life at or near Llanuynwyd, except Morgan who went to Jamaica, where he became rich. His relations at Llanuynwyd were poor and illiterate, and the only communication kept up by him with his native country was by means of Rees Powell of Llanbarrran, a solicitor. To him he occasionally wrote, addressing him and his wife as cousins, although the relationship existing between the party was a very remote one. Rees Powell never informed the relatives in Glamorgan of the letters thus received. Morgan Powell of Jamaica died, and no will being found after him, his effects were realised, and were entrusted to a certain Captain Thomas of Bristol, who traded to Jamaica, for distribution amongst the next of kin in Glamorganshire. Captain Thomas had no knowledge of the relations of the deceased, and as the only means in his power of getting to know them he caused the fact of Morgan Powell's death and the estate remaining for distribution to be "cried" in several markets and fairs in Glamorgan about the year 1723. Cowbridge and Bridgend are particularly named as places of publication. None of the relatives appeared to have heard of the publication, but Rees Powell did, and he determined to get possession of the property. He claimed to be next-of-kin, produced certain letters (so it is affirmed), from the deceased, in which he and his wife are

called "cousins," and on the strength of this letters of administration were granted to him. A bond was taken for the proper disposal of the money, and Samuel Edwyn (doubtless of Llanmihangel) was one of the sureties. The sum of £21,000 comes to his hands, and he takes good care that little as possible ever went out of them again. Years passed by, and the secret of the money being in Rees Powell's hands begins to leak out, and the relatives hearing of it begin to make inquiries. They are poor, illiterate people and they apply to the great man of the parish Sir Humphrey Mackworth, for help and counsel in the matter. He is going to London, and promises to inquire for them. He does so, and while in London writes to his agent or steward in Llangynwyd that he has discovered where the money is and that he hopes to get it for them. This piece of news reaches Llanbarran as well as Llangynwyd, and the Powells determine to counteract the intentions. Accordingly, they have a person to watch on the road for the arrival of Sir Humphrey in the county, and no sooner is he in Cardiff than Mrs Rees Powell is there to wait on him and press him to come to Llanbarran. He goes there, and Rees Powell purchases his silence for the sum of £1 500 then and there paid him. On reaching Llangynwyd he quite disowns the letter sent to his steward, and which he had directed should be read to the relatives, knows nothing at all about the money left by Morgan Powell of Jamaica, and washes his hands of the whole affair. The relatives now try to find out something for themselves, but wherever they go Rees Powell has been before them. The persons who had been employed to make or give orders for the publication by the common criers of the various towns refuse to state who had instructed them.

(To be continued next week).