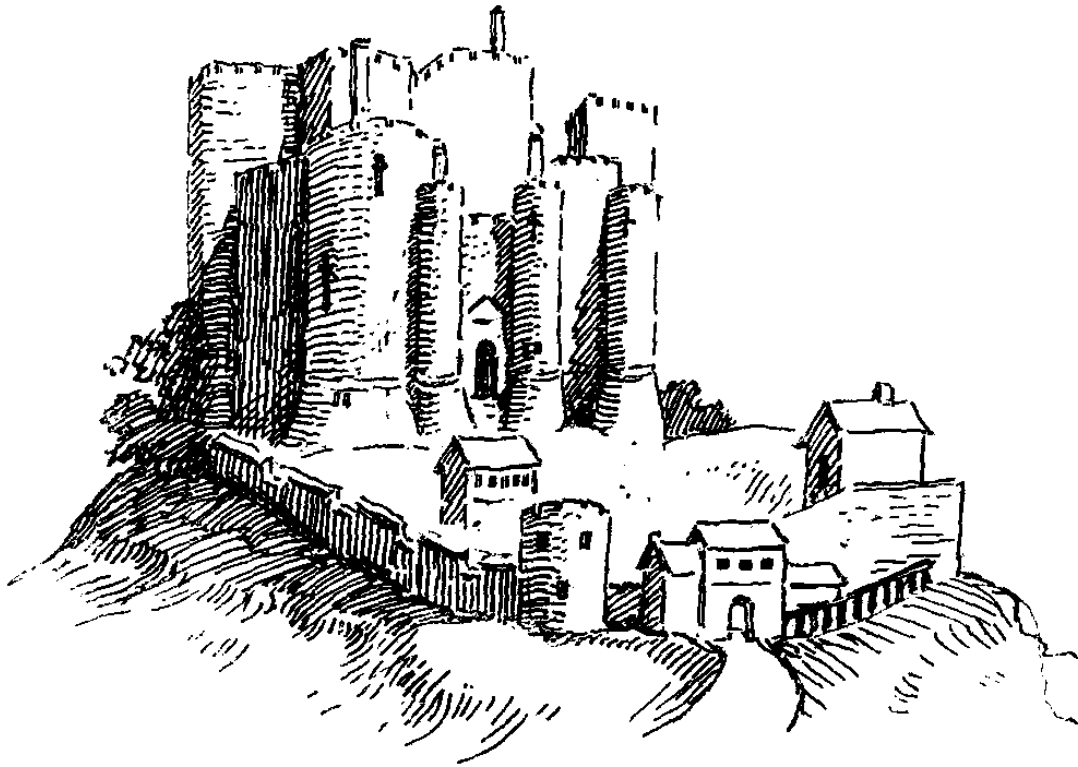# A SHORT

JOURNEY

FROM ENGLAND

TO WALES

A STUDY OF BORDERLAND PLACE-NAMES

IN THE

MIDDLE MARCH

Author: Roger Beamond

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Bishops Castle, from an old drawing in the British Museum

Illustration by Katharine M. Roberts, circa 1910

The writer of this article, having searched the archives of the British Museum and the British Library, has concluded that the 'old drawing' referred to above is that to be found in a bound volume of King George III's Collection, now held in the British Library. The illustration is a free interpretation of the original, in other words, an artist's impression. Yet it bears a good resemblance to "The Castle" - reproduced from a drawing - in Ernest Griffiths' "History of Bishop's Castle" (third edition).

The illustration itself was published in the "Oxford County Histories for Schools", 1912, SHROPSHIRE written by Thomas Auden, and printed by the Oxford Clarendon Press, p.93.

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A Short Journey
from England to Wales

CONTENTS

Introduction

In his **History of Bishop's Castle**, Ernest Griffiths describes the Old London Road linking England and Wales. It passes through the town, known to Welsh speakers as *Trefesgob* "Town of the Bishop". We shall follow the road for a few miles on a notional journey, exploring place-names to north and south as we travel to the west. We shall seek to discover the origins and meanings of names we encounter, and shall look closely at the occurrence of English and Welsh names in relation to the old national boundary, namely *Offa's Dyke*, which we shall cross as we travel.

Very briefly, by way of historical background, we note that when the Romans invaded Britain, the language of British tribes who settled in the country, including South-West Shropshire, was *p-Celtic*, in other words, *old Welsh.*

The Saxon invaders, who settled in England from the Roman era onwards, brought their own English tongue, which displaced the native *old Welsh.* And Offa (King of Mercia in the latter part of the 8th century) made his western boundary permanent by the construction of his earthen dyke.
In general terms, the language to the east of the dyke was Old English (Anglo-Saxon), as evident in place-names recorded in the Norman Domesday Book, and to the west, *Welsh*. But we shall look more closely for clues as to what may have happened in the Welsh-English borderland concerning language, remembering that today's place-names may have originated many centuries ago - some long before the Norman Conquest - and although their roots may be ancient, the place-names themselves may reflect changes down the ages. In this short paper, we shall endeavour to find both the roots and subsequent changes, examining in particular place-names whose origins may be *Welsh.*

In his map of Shropshire dated 1751, Emmanuel Bowen shows Bishop's Castle and, to its west, Bishopsmote then, further west, a place which we identify, using modern orthography, as *Pwll-mab-hwyad*. *Pwll-mab-hwyad* lies near *Offa's Dyke*, the old boundary between England and Wales. This is an instance of a *Welsh* name which does not appear on present day maps, and is not known to local residents today. Using, where we can, older place-name sources, mainly maps from the early 19th century which carry Welsh place-names then in current use - maps such as those draughted by Thomas Budgen - we endeavour to discover, in this border area, if there had been an abrupt transition, between the use of *Welsh* and English as we cross the dyke.

The scope of our study is seen at a glance by reference to *MAP 1*, which shows our route, *Offa's Dyke*, and the place-names considered. The latter are identified by numbers; their names and locations are identified in the *List of Place-Names*. Those names which are deemed to be of Welsh origin are identified on the map by underlined numbers; those containing both Welsh and English elements are identified by partial underlining. The purpose of the map is twofold, first, as we have noted, to illustrate the scope of the study, including portrayal of the distribution of the place-names being considered and, second, to show parish boundaries, which are not universally shown on a range of readily available maps. For a closer inspection, the reader may wish to use an Ordnance Survey Map or Maps, and locate each place-name from its Grid Reference given in the List of Place-Names, but it should be noted that not all the names will be found on present-day maps. *Treboeth wen*, for instance, is now no more than a few stones on the field.

As a comparison with *MAP 1*, in which our route crosses *Offa's Dyke*, we consider an area further west, which is reached by continuing along the *Kerry Ridgeway*, a centuries old route, in more recent years plied by drovers. This area is shown in *MAP 2*, the eastern side of which is some 8km (5 miles) away from *Offa's Dyke* and the western side distant from the dyke by 18km (11¼ miles). The place-names in *MAP 2* are overwhelmingly *Welsh* in origin, so underlining is not employed on the map to differentiate them from the few English names, but again, the origin of each place-name is identified in the Place-Name List.

The place-names considered include physical features such as hills, streams and woods and farm houses and individual dwellings. For many, indeed perhaps most of the names, we do not have a written record of the name down the centuries, so we cannot be certain of the original form of the names being considered; we use our best judgement to arrive at their likely meanings. We do not share the certitude carried by some writers of place-name literature. Instead, we endeavour to explain and justify our findings to the best of our ability. From time to time, a reader may well take a different view of the names and their derivation – progress is made through challenge and accumulation of information. In some instances a 'definitive' explanation may lie beyond our reach. An eminent scholar, Elijah Bowcock , who has taken exceptional care to present early name-forms wherever possible, writes, in his Preface to his *Shropshire Place Names*: "*I am afraid the words "perhaps", "possibly" and "probably" occur very frequently. I make no apology for this. In Place-Name research there is little room for dogmatism.*" But his excellent work covers but few of the place-names addressed in this article; and we shall often be faced with a lack of early written forms of the names under consideration. A measure of conjecture will, inevitably, be employed in some instances to arrive at possible - and occasionally likely - meanings of the names presented below.

The relative disposition of *MAPs 1 & 2* is shown in *MAP 3*, which shows at a glance those parts of Shropshire, Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire which fall within the scope of this place-name study.

The '*List of Place Names*', identifying places, locations and meanings is accompanied by an associated list of '*Notes and References*'. Those with an enquiring mind will wish to consult the latter for rationale relating to the place-name in question. Together, the *List* and *Notes & References* form the body of the text in this document.

We do not attempt to present a 'travelogue', illuminating as that would be. Suffice it to say that we begin our notional journey at a point on the old coach road some two miles to the east of Bishop's Castle, at a milestone inscribed "*Bishop's Castle 2 miles, London 157 miles*", and shall travel west. This road pre-dated some of the more recent valley roads, and often favours higher ground. The old milestone - our starting point - is at Grid Reference *SO 344873*, at 283 metres above sea level, on **Oakeley Mynd**, but in local dialect **Hucklemynd**.

The road descends to the valley floor, which it crosses, then climbs steadily from **Bishop's Castle** to higher ground at **Bishop's Moat**, which marks the start of the **Kerry Ridgeway**. George Mountford describes the ridgeway thus: "in early times this road, often reaching a width of forty to fifty feet (*12 to 15 metres*), was the chief means of communication with the outside world. At an average altitude of 1,400 feet (*425 metres*) the people were at any rate clear of the swamps and marshes in the valley a thousand feet (*300 metres*) below". The road crosses *Offa's Dyke*; our short journey amounting to 13 km (8 miles) finishes at Grid Reference *SO 224895*, from which point the road descends towards **Bachaethlon** and on to **Sarn**. The area covered whilst travelling the short journey - outlined on *MAP 1* - extends to some 109 square kilometres, in which the direct route shown extends to a distance of 13 km (8 miles), the whole encompassing over 107 place-names (a few more than 107 if we count names carrying alphabetical suffixes).

MAP 2, introduced above, covers an area which includes the south-western extremity of the Kerry Ridgeway at the head of **Cwm Gwyn** and - unlike *MAP 1* - lies at least 8 km (5 miles) west of *Offa's Dyke*. This area is bisected by the ridgeway track and a road it joins at the **Cider House** (GR *SO 108846)*, the road running from **Dolfor** (two miles to the east [not shown]) through the valley to **Felindre**. The ridgeway track enters the area of *MAP 2* at GR *SO 166869* and the road running to the east leaves the area at GR *SO 180804*. In *MAP 2*, the area covered amounts to 84 square kilometres, and yields a further 163 place-names, most of which - as we shall discover - are *Welsh* in origin, although in some cases badly mangled by English monoglots.

An *Index of Place-names* is included for readers whose interest is in a specific place, or places. Place-name spellings often vary according to the source consulted. We have not attempted to 'correct' spellings (often those of *Welsh* origin) to bring them into a standard form. For instance we write

Bugeildy (Parish) on *MAP3* and *Beguildy* (Parish) on *MAP 2*, since both forms are found, although the former reflects the Welsh word *bugail* (shepherd) and, in the opinion of this writer is, therefore, to be preferred. And current usages - some of them appearing on Ordnance Survey maps - cannot be ignored. We strive throughout to analyse names in order to reveal their original meanings, but we are unlikely to change an entrenched spelling, such as *Tansomalia,* or for that matter, *Crinkling Wood*. The latter particularly has its own appeal, enhanced through knowledge of its *probable* original meaning. We stress again that the word-derivations laid out in this brief paper should not be regarded as definitive; oftentimes a derivation may seem obvious, but proof may elude us. In general we do not qualify proposed word-meanings with any measure of accuracy but, here and there, earlier source material may come to light from study of archives and journals, which would bear on the confidence we may have in our proposed interpretations.

The reader may wish to glance first of all at *MAP 3*, which sets the scene for our study of place-names in this area of the '*Middle March*'.

Last and certainly not least in this *Introduction*, the author is much indebted to Mr. Richard Morgan for responding freely to a wide range of questions before and during the preparation of this paper, and offering copious comments on portions of the draft script. Other contributors, whose work is also much appreciated, are identified within the body of the document. That said, any shortcomings which remain are solely the responsibility of the author.

List of Place-Names with suggested *meanings*

The numbers on the left-hand side of the page relate to the numbered locations on **MAP 1** (numbers 1 - 107) and **MAP 2** (numbers 108 - 270).

Fuller information may be found in the '**Notes and References'**, identified by superscript numbers at the end of each place-name *meaning.*

N^{o.} and Name   Location (Grid Reference)

and Meaning

1   **Oakeley Mynd** ('Huckle Mynd')   (SO) 345873

The name Huckle Mynd may predate Oakeley Mynd, if the latter reflects more recent ownership of the hill.

Huckle is a Middle English (ME) term from which we may take the meaning 'rounded' or 'hump-backed', which together with mynd meaning 'hill', is a good physical description of 'Hucklemynd'. But Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) introduces the possibility that Huckle may be a local pronunciation of Oakeley – for rationale, see the note. Colloquially, Hucklemint was not uncommon a couple of generations ago. [1]

2   **Stank Lane**   345873

The lane may take its name from Stank Meadow, by which the lane ran. In local dialect 'stank' means 'stake', and to 'stank out' is to delineate, for example, the boundary of a plot of land.[2] Alternatively, the name may stem directly from the pools (now known as Blundell's or Blunden's pools) in the fields beside the road.

3   **The Conery**   334870

This is pronounced "Cunnery". This would have been the place of a rabbit (coney) warren.[3]

4   **Crow Gate**   331877

Crow Gate cottage was the home of the toll-gate keeper. Crows were not always welcome in the countryside; sometimes dead crows were attached to gates or fences, supposedly as a deterrent to other crows.[4]

5   **Oakeley House**   336879

As for Oakeley Mynd, the name is taken after the land-owning family. Its former names Snakescroft, Snailscroft and Ysnel Croft are much more interesting. Ysnelcroft betrays a Welsh influence, whilst later on the appellation 'snake' may have been more appealing than the lowly 'snail'.[5]

6   **The Cottage Farm**   328875

The name is unremarkable, but this is where the author was born and bred. From an early age he spent time on this farm - which included The Conery (above) - alongside farm workers, and imbibed a good measure of local dialect.[6]

7   **Lagden Lane**   326869

If we take Lagden to be a contraction of Langden (OE lang + den), the meaning is the 'long rising (hill)' lane.[7]

8   **Brockton**   327857

Brockton (OE broc + tun), meaning a settlement near the brook.[8]

9   **Welshman's Leasow**   336884

Welshman's pasture or meadow (OE laes/laeswe).[9]

10   **Colebatch**   (Coldbatch)   319871

If Cole is not a personal name, and is not a contraction of 'cold' (OE cald), then it may mean 'coal' (OE col) as in charcoal; and 'batch' (OE baece) - valley of the stream - (ME bache). 'Batch' and 'beach' are not uncommon in SW Shropshire.[10]

11   **Old Hall** (Blundell's Hall)   325884

The Blundell name was given to this property, and to other places in the area, such as Blundell's Pool, although Blunden appears on records of the latter in earlier centuries. Notes on Blundell and Blunden are given at [11].

12   **Bishop's Castle** (Trefesgob)   323887

The Welsh 'Trefesgob' means Bishop's Town.[12]

13   **The Novers**   317879

This name (The Novers Barn) is pronounced with the 'o' as in 'not'. 'Novers' stems from a combination of ME atten and OE ofer from which is formed 'the place of the flat-topped ridge' [13].

14   **Cwm Mawr Dingle**   312881

Welsh: 'Cwm Mawr' is Welsh for 'big valley', but for the monoglot English speaker, the additional epithet 'Dingle' or 'dell' (OE dell, c.f.'dale') is expedient, although superfluous.[14]

15   **Woodbatch, a.Upper,** b. **Lower, and Middle &c.**   300886

'Woodbatch' (OE wudu* + baece): 'wooded valley with a stream at the bottom'.
In a document of 1650† we find Wydbach **y Coyd**, (Woodbatch Wood), Wydbach **Nyath** (Woodbatch Hall). Wydbach **Ganol** (Middle Woodbatch) and Wydbach **Bryn** (Woodbatch Hill). This suggests an influx of Welsh speakers for a period after Woodbatch/Wydbach had been so-named by the Saxons. Indeed, Eyton gives the names of tenants in 1256 as Hoel and Gurgenew.
*According to the Oxford "*Names Companion*", in an earlier time, i.e. before 'wudu', the OE word was 'widu'; the word meaning "wood, forest, timber". †Shropshire Archives, Doc. Ref. 11/301.

16   **The Row**   302876

The 'o' is pronounced as in 'cow', that is' row' as for a noise or dispute. 'The Row' may possibly stem from the Welsh 'Y Rhiw' meaning 'The Hill' or 'Aclivity', [16] but it may very well stem OE *ræw* (row of ...), see note.

17   **Penan Heath**   303873

Welsh in part: As with Cwm Mawr Dingle, this place-name may be a compound of Welsh and English words.[17]

18   **Hell Hole**   304864

Hell Hole, from the OE eln + hol, meaning '[right-angled, say] elbow + hollow place'.[18]

19   **Blakeridge**   304861

Blakeridge (OE blaec + hrycg) describes the land-mass as 'Black Ridge', its appearance viewed from the east.[19]

20   **Caeglas**   314890

Welsh: Green enclosure, Greenfield. [20]

21   **The Wintles**   316896

The spoken Welsh 'Wyntyll' is very close to 'Wintles'. Moreover, the English and Welsh words for wind are similar, namely OE 'wind' and '(g)wynt'. Furthermore, in present day Welsh 'Wyntyll' means 'ventilating fan', which we may compare at once with 'windmill sails' of former days, and for an instance of earlier Welsh usage we may look, in Radnorshire, to 'Bryn y Wyntyll' GR 020755 (i.e. Hill of Windmill, or Winnowing, for the English verb 'winnow' is translated 'gwyntyllio'). Much more detail is given in '*Notes and References*'. [21]

22   **The Heblands** (a. Upper Heblands b. Lower Heblands)   335902, 321909

OE heope or heopa + OE land, meaning lands where rose-hips or brambles grow.[22]

23   **Broughton** (a. Lower Broughton b. Upper Broughton)   314906, 303907

If not as 8 above (broc + tun), OE burh + tun, meaning 'fortified farmstead' or 'farmstead near the fortification', is a possibility. [23]

24   **Plas Madoc**   302910

Welsh: Plas meaning 'hall' + the personal name 'Madog' anglicised to 'Madoc': hence 'Madoc's Hall'. [24]

25   **Whitcot Style**   307896

OE hwit = white; OE cot = 'cottage, hut, shelter'; OE stigel =' stile'.

26   **Aston**   (a. Aston Hill b. Upper Aston c. Aston Hall d. Lower Aston)
                                    299901, 289914, 296917, 301918

Either OE east + tun ('eastern farmstead' or estate) or OE aesc + tun ('ash-tree farmstead') as for Aston-on-Clun.

27   **Criggion**   299901

Welsh: crug = 'hillock, tumulus'; in the diminutive crugyn = 'a small hillock, tump or tumulus'.

28	**Shepherdswhim**	291903

OE sceaphirde = shepherd + whim. [28]

29	**Henley Wood**	2987879

English: OE heah 'high or chief' (cf *Welsh* hen =old, senior) + leah = wood or clearing.

30	**Colebatch Hill**	292874

As for 10 above (Colebatch) + OE hyll = hill.

31	**Bryn** a. farm & b. hill	293854, 295863

Welsh: bryn = hill

32	**Cefn Einion**	286861

Welsh: cefn = ridge or back of hill + personal name 'Einion' (= *anvil*)

33	**Trelerney**	287856

Welsh: quite possibly *Talyrnau* = open field or ground. [33]

34	**Reilth** a. farm b. hill	280869, 285881

OE hyll altered by Welsh speakers to Yr Hyll, giving rhyll, so rhylth. [34] (Some writers* have proposed the *Welsh 'Yr Allt'* - reduced to *'rallt'* - meaning 'the side of a hill', which describes its aspect, but for a scholar's view, see the referenced note.) In summary the word is a *Welsh* formation from an *English* base.
*For an instance, see ES Mostyn Price, *Collections Historical & Archaeological relating to Montgomeryshire*, Vol. 37, 1915, p.51.

The hill's summit is called Reilth Top. And there are other Reilth Top*s* nearby, as well as Reilth House.

35	**Bryn Dadlu**	285893

Welsh: probably from *bryn* = hill + y (of the) + *dadlau* = argument, reconciliation, debate or pleading. [35]

36	**Plain** (a. Upper Plain b. Lower Plain)	285899, 285902

Welsh: blaen = head (of the hollow / valley /source of the stream). [36]

37	**Pentre Cwm**	282911

Welsh: pentre = settlement + *cwm* = shallow valley; hence 'settlement (by the) hollow'.[37]

38	**Cwm Cae**	279913

Welsh: cwm = valley + *cae* = an enclosure, a hedge and metaphorically a field, hence 'enclosure in the valley'; cf *cae* used at 20 above, and see note [38].

39 **Pentre** (a. Pentre Coch-Gwenith b. Pentre Hall)   278921, 276916

Welsh: pentre = settlement + *coch-gwenith* = red wheat; hence a.' red-wheat farm', whilst b. may have been *Pentre Neuadd* in former days.[39]

40 **Colomendy**   274920

Welsh: colomen = pigeon + *tŷ** = house, together 'the pigeon house'. *Mr. Richard Morgan, personal communication, writes "As qualifier *colomen* causes lenition (soft mutation) *dy*".

41 **Llwyn-y-carreg**   272914

Welsh: Llwyn = grove or bush, *carreg* = stone; the stone grove.

42 **Pentre Willey**   274910

Welsh: pentre =settlement + *(g)williaid* = vagrants, vagabonds, lurkers; the whole place-name meaning 'robbers' settlement'. But see [42], and note that OE *wilig* = willow; and *wilig-leah* = willow wood.

43 **The Bank**   269906

ME banke = bank.[43]

44 **Warbury**   271906

OE weard (watch, guard) + *OE burh* (fortified place) or OE *waroo* (slope, bank) + *ME bury* (manor, manor house).[44]

45 **The Rolva** (a. The Rolva b. The Upper Rolva)   278905, 282902

Welsh: Yr Wylfa, yr = the*, wylfa* = the watching or spying place; prefixed with the *English* 'The'.[45]

46 **Boarded House**   268905

Self-explanatory, a house clad with boards, as barns often were so clad.

47 **Caer Din**   273897

Welsh: caer = wall, castle + *din* = fort, hence 'fort within an enclosure/wall' (cf 83 below).

48 **Crinkling Wood**   281891

Welsh: Crin = dry, withered*; Celyn* = holly. But see [48].

49 **Edenhope** (Lower Edenhope)   275889

OE personal name *eada* with, genitive *-n*, + OE *hop* (small enclosed valley or plot of land) = *Edenhope.*[49]

50 **King Gwillim**   271880

English, but with a Welsh overlay in the spelling of William. But see [50].

51	**Vron Farm** a.	289879
	Fron b. hill + farm	283877

Welsh: Bron = slope or breast of a hill, hence*:* (farm/fields) on the bank.[51]

52	**Mainstone**	275876

English: Richard Morgan *"Welsh Place Names in Shropshire"* writes: "from OE *meagan-stan* (possibly 'strength stone', a stone requiring great strength to lift it)", see [52].

53	**Shadwell Hall**	274856

English: from Saint Chad's Well, Chad being patron saint of Litchfield. But see [53].

54	**The Wren's Nest**	270894

English: Self-evident.

55	**Pwll-mab-hwyad** (Dog and Duck)	269896

Welsh: pwll = pool, *mab* = young of, *hwyad* = duck*;* hence "the duckling's pool*"*.[55]

56	**Pwll-y-piad** (Upper Castlewright Cottage)	266895

Welsh: Pwll-y-Piad. Small duck pond.[56]

57	**Upper Castlewright**	265897

Welsh: Castell gwrych - Castle defended by a ditch, hedge or pallisade.[57]

58	**The Crow's Nest**	258898

English: Self-evident.[58]

59	**Drewin**	261905

Welsh: The white, fair or blessed settlement. [59]

60	**Cwm**	259909

Welsh: as 14.

61	**Tan House**	265911

English: A house associated with tanning. [61]

62	**Black Pullets**	265913

OE *pull + hlith* = pool + hill-slope hence 'black pool by or on the hill-slope'. [62]

63	**Lower Cwm**	260914

Welsh: Cwm = valley. [63]

| 64 | **Cann Farm** | 264916 |

OE *canne*, a drinking vessel. [64]

| 65 | **Mellington Hall** | 259920 |

OE personal name *Mula* + *OE tun* = Mula's farmstead or village.[65]

| 66 | (Red) **Court House** | 265923 |

English: Place for local administration [Manorial Court]. [66]

| 67 | a. **Little Argoed** b. **Great Argoed** | 252912, 254909 |

Welsh: Ar = before, in front of, *goed = wood;* together meaning place or area "over against a wood, woodland, wooded area".[67]

| 68 | **Cwm Linton** | 255905 |

Welsh: Cwm = valley, *Llwyn* = bush or grove, *Tyn* = homestead, small farm; meaning homestead by the bush in the valley. [68]

| 69 | **Eithin y gaer** | 254903 |

Welsh: Eithin = gorse, *y* = the, *gaer* = fortification. Mr. Richard Morgan, personal communication, writes "y Gaer qualifies Eithin", hence "(area or place) notable for gorse near Y Gaer (the fort)".[69]

| 70 | **Llueasty** | 248902 |

Welsh: Lluesty (-tai) = tent or booth, the verb *Lluestu* = (to) encamp.[70]

| 71 | **Cwm y Lladron** | 244902 |

Welsh: Cwm = valley, *lladron* = thief, robber; hence robber's valley.

| 72 | **Pantglas** | 247895 |

Welsh: *Pant* = Valley or hollow, *glas* = green / blue.[72]

| 73 | **Upper Edenhope** | 258888 |

English: Self-evident.[73]

| 74 | **Lower Dolfor** | 252886 |

Welsh: Dol = meadow, *fawr* = big, meaning 'big meadow', or (from Mr. Richard Morgan, personal communication) "meadow of [man called] Môr".[74]

| 75 | **Llaneuan** (Churchtown) | 264873 |

Welsh: *Llan* = church, *(I)euan* = Evan = *Ifan* (John) hence, in *English*, "John (the Baptist)", hence 'church dedicated to John the Baptist'. [75]

| 76 | **Cwm Frydd** | 252870 |

Welsh: *Cwm* = valley, *Fridd* = mountain pasture.

| 77 | **Middle Knuck** | 261864 |

Welsh with *English* prefix: *cnwc* = hillock. [77]

| 78 | **Cwm lygwa Wood** | 254862 |

Welsh: Cwm = valley, *lygwa* possibly *llug* = a breaking out, beginning to open + -*wy denoting* water, flow of water, hence *"source of a stream valley"* + *English* 'wood'.[78] But see the qualifying note re the suffix –*wy*.

| 79 | **Tack Wood */ Golly coppice** | 262857/265858 |

Tack: <u>either</u> *Welsh "tac"* from *'tachwedd',* a remnant, <u>or</u> *English* dialect as in *'bytack'.* [79]

Golly Coppice*: Welsh: gelli / celli* = grove or coppice.[79]

| 80 | **Hergan** | 263854 |

Welsh: Hirgain, Hir = long, *cain* = back or ridge*;* hence long ridge (which is an apt description).[80]

| 81 | **Ffynnon y Sant** | 261853 |

Welsh: Ffynnon y Sa(i)nt = The saint's spring.[81]

| 82 | **Broneth** | 276849 |

Welsh: *Bron* = hillside or shoulder of a hill, -*ell* signifying the diminutive of *bron,* hence 'small shoulder of hill' or 'shoulder of small hill'. [82] Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) notes: "probably *bronydd* 'breasts, hill-slopes'".

| 83 | **Caer-din ring** | 240850 |

Welsh: Caer = wall, castle, city; *din* = fort, hence 'fort within an enclosure/wall', plus the *English* 'ring'. [83]

| 84 | **Pant y Llydan** | 252852 |

Welsh: Pant = shallow valley or hollow, *y, Llydan* = wide; hence 'wide hollow', and see note [84].

| 85 | **Foxhole** | 240854 |

English: Self- evident.

| 86 | **Cefncelynnog** | 228855 |

Welsh: Cefn = mountain ridge, back of hill, *celynnog* = holly; meaning 'ridge having holly', in other words 'holly ridge'. [86]

| 87 | **Skelton's Bank** | 253859 |

English: Skelton is a Northern English habitation name taken as a personal name. 'Bank' may well be taken from ME '*banke*'. [87]

| 88 | **Pant y gasseg** | 230862 |

Welsh: Pant = valley or hollow, *caseg* = mare, meaning "The mare's hollow".

| 89 | **Three Birches** | 234859 |

English: Self-evident.[89]

| 90 | **Cwm moch** | 216870 |

Welsh: Cwm = valley, *moch* = pigs; hence 'valley of the pigs'.

| 91 | **Stybank** | 215858 |

English: near *Cwm moch.*

| 92 | **Cefn brith / Railground** | 214862 |

a. *Welsh: Cefn* = Ridge, *brith* = speckled; hence 'speckled ridge'.

b. Railground: see the note [92] for a discussion on 'Rail' ground.

| 93 | **Barretts** | 227864 |

English: Seemingly, named after the personal name Barrett.[93]

| 94 | **Long Pike Hollow / Cwm yr Onnen** | 210869 |

a. *English*: OE pic, so 'A long pointed or sharp hollow' (a good description of the place).

b. *Welsh*: Cwm = valley, yr = of the, Onnen = ash tree; hence "Valley of the Ash Tree" or "Ash tree valley". [94]

| 95 | **Two Crosses** | 239867 |

English: A place which is near the intersection of two roads.

| 96 | **Mason's Bank** | 225873 |

English: Derives from a personal name.[96]

| 97 | **Treboeth wen** (spelling from 'Old Series' 1" map 1832-1836) | 235875 |

Welsh: Tre= farm, settlement, *boeth* =hot, burning (burnt [land], burnt for clearing, dry, parched), *(g)wen* = white or blessed, thus "white burnt farm".[97]

| 98 | **Black Bank** | 232878 |

English: Self- evident.

99   Maes Gwyn   235883

Welsh: Maes = field or open country, *gwyn* = white or light; hence 'white or light open country'.

100   Cwm Dychau   238904

Welsh: Ostensibly "the valley of sighs" from *tychu/tuchaf* "to groan or sigh". [100]   But see the note.

101   a. Hopton Uchaf b. White Hopton c. Hopton Isaf   223904, 227910
                                                                    234911

English, and Welsh suffixes: OE *hop* (small enclosed valley) + *tun* (enclosure, farmstead, village, manor, estate). Various prefixes and suffixes have been applied, such as red, white, *uchaf* (upper) and *isaf* (lower). [101]

102   Pentrenant   240911

Welsh: Pentre = village, *nant* = brook, hence 'Brook village' (cf 8 above).

103   Llanyhared   231920

Welsh: Llanercheuriad; Llanerch = glade, *euriad* = golden; the Golden Glade.[103] But see the note.

104   Gwern-y-go(f)   222918

Welsh: Gwern = marsh or alder trees, *y* = the, *gof* = blacksmith [104].

105   Crow Wood / Fferm Bran   249923

English and Welsh, see [105].

106   Bachelldre   241925

Welsh: Bachell = Nook or Corner, *Dref* = Settlement, hence homestead(s) in the nook.[106]

107   Melin-y-wern   234927

Welsh: Melin = mill, *(g)wern* = marsh or alders - mill in the marsh.

108   Gilfach   093863

Welsh: nook (small corner).

109   Cae L(l)ydan   097864

Welsh: "Wide Field".

110   Crugyn   105861

Welsh: small hillock, knob (*-yn* gives the diminutive).

111   Cwm Mule (Miwl)   117865

Welsh: The river Mule Valley (the meaning of *Mule* is obscure).

| 112 | **Ceulanau** | 122862 |

Welsh: hollow stream banks (-au denotes the plural); note too *ceulannu* - to form a river bank, make a ravine or channel.

| 113 | **Cae-betin Wood** | 128865 |

Welsh: Cae-betin(g) = Field of pared/burnt turf + *English* Wood.

| 114 | **Sychnant** | 129861 |

Welsh: Dry stream-valley.

| 115 | **Coed Cefn-craig** | 148867 |

Welsh: Rock-ridge Wood.

| 116 | **Block Wood** | 154867 |

Welsh/English: Block = bloc; note too that *blocyn* = block of wood. We observe that *bryncyn = hillock* and *bryn* = hill. *Bloc* may imply extent, shape; like *cyn cardden,* meaning a wedge-shaped copse or wood.

| 117 | **Kerry Pole** | 164866 |

English: Pole: a marker on the ridgeway.
Welsh: Ceri; and the ridgeway itself *'cefnffordd ceri'*.

| 118 | **Rhyddwr** | 172862 |

Welsh: Ostensibly *Rhyd* = ford + *dŵr* = water hence "waterford", but see note [118]. (Thomas Budgen writes "*Rhyd ddwr*" on his Bishop's Castle map, and *Rhyddwr Oak* placed at location 164847 (and we have Oak Farm at 162844)).

| 119 | **Ceri Forest** | 178868 |

Welsh and *English*: self-evident.

| 120 | **Coed Cefncolog** | 177866 |

Welsh: Hazel-ridge wood (*collen* = hazel, *-og* = hazelly [place]; abbreviated to *colog*)

| 121 | **Rhos Gôch** | 181863 |

Welsh: (Spelling as given on OS map). *Rhos* = upland, moor, heath; *Gôch* = red.

| 122 | **Glog Farm** | 087854 |

Welsh: The farm is by very steep ground, so the meaning of *glog* as 'like a crag, cliff or precipice' seems fitting (although this is not the sole meaning of *glog.* 'Mantle' - a covering, in whatever form, as over '*Glog banc*' is another).
English: farm; *Welsh*: fferm

| 123 | **Black Gate** | 107853 |

English: Not identified on Budgen's "*Newtown*" map of 1817. Budgen shows "*New Pound*" about 1 km to the south of Black Gate, but not the *Cider House* which is at the same location.

| 124 | **Y Drain** | 142854 |

Welsh: The Thorns.

| 125 | **Radnorshire Gate** | 146857 |

English: At the boundary between Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire.

| 126 | **Bryn-sych** | 153857 |

Welsh: Dry hill.

| 127 | **Nant Rhyd y Fedw** | 155855 |

Welsh: "Birch-tree stream-ford".

| 128 | **Nant-y-rhynau** | 161859 |

Welsh: 'An agitating, shivering or trembling stream' is deemed very doubtful. See[128] .

| 129 | **Anchor** | 175851 |

English: Not identified on Budgen's "*Bishop's Castle*" map of 1816.[129]

| 130 | **Rose Grove** | 178856 |

English: Compare with 121 above. Quite possibly derived from Rhos Goch.[130]

| 131 | **Gwynant** | 086840 |

Welsh: *Gwyn* = white or blessed + *nant* = dale (*Gwynnant* is not beside a stream).
Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) advises that *Gwynnant* would be the regular form.

| 132 | **Old Neuadd Bank** | 094842 |

Hybrid: Welsh '*Neuadd Banc'* = 'Hall Bank' + English prefix 'Old'.
Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "Strictly speaking not a hybrid but 'bank near Old Neuadd' (Old Neuadd qualifies *bank*). The latter would then be interpreted as 'old (house called) Neuadd' and 'Neuadd' as Welsh *neuadd* (noun fem.) 'hall, residence'".

| 133 | **Banc Cefnperfedd** | 097846 |

Welsh: *Banc Cefnperfedd* = Bank at or on the middle of the ridge.

| 134 | **Blaenieithon** | 105847 |

Welsh: *Blaen* = top + *Ieithon* = river name Ithon (talking or babbling river), in other words, source of the river.

| 135 | **Crygynau** | 108841 |

Welsh: *Crugynnau*: Hillocks or mounds.

| 136 | **Cider House** | 108846 |

English: Cider was a preferred drink of the drovers. The Cider House was strategically placed to serve prime droving routes. [136]

| 137 | **Lyrchyn** | 118846 |

Welsh: *Lle'r Ychen > Lle'rychen* (place of the oxen).

| 138 | **Bryn Coch** | 127848 |

Welsh: Red Hill.

| 139 | **Cilfaesty Hill** | 128841 |

Welsh: *Cilfaesty = Cil* (nook) + *maes* (unenclosed area) + *tŷ* (house) = house in a nook in an open field (cf *Maes* [*Gwyn*] at 99 above).
English: Hill.
For a fuller insight and analysis, see Richard Morgan's *A Study of Radnorshire Place-Names*.

| Note: | **Faes dref tump** (on Cilfaesty Hill) | 130840 |

Welsh: *Faes dref twmp = "*Settlement on the open-land mound".

| 140 | **Slate House** | 142846 |

English: The use of slate may have been a distinguishing feature (cf *tŷ to gwellt* = thatched house). This house stands no longer.

| 141 | **Persondy** | 143850 |

Welsh: *Persondy* = Parsonage, yet it seems a very remote location for a clergyman's house.
The house is no longer lived in.

| 142 | **Bryn** | 153849 |

Welsh: Hill.

| 143 | **Targy / Turgey** | 159841 |

Welsh: Possibly *Ty'r cae* = the field house. [143]
Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) notes that if Ty'r-cae is correct, there would be no lenition (cae >gae) implied by the modern forms.

| 144 | **Cwm Foel** | 160849 |

Welsh: *Cwm y Foel* "Valley at the bare-hill".

| 145 | **New Cwm** | 162848 |

English/*Welsh*: New Valley.

146   Rhuddwr Oak   162844

Welsh: This is an extension of 118 above, by the addition of the *English* 'Oak', meaning 'oak at the water-ford'. Yet on his 'Newtown' sheet Thomas Budgen writes *Rhydd ddwr* = Red water + *English* Oak; compare with 118 where, as noted, *rhyd ddwr* = waterford.[146]

147   Castle Cefn Fron   165840

English: Castle.
Welsh: *Cefn Fron* = "Ridge shaped like a breast". [147]

148   Castell Bryn Amlwg   167846

Welsh: Castle on the prominent hill. [148]

149   (Y)sgwilfa   172845

Welsh: recte *Disgwylfa* = Watch tower; compare with note [6] on local *English* dialect.

150   Gwrid   182849

Welsh: In this instance, the place-name has a significance that over-arches meanings which may be deduced from the best dictionaries offering translations of the word. The name as employed here may be symbolic of revered water-sources, including sacred springs and wells, from a pre-Christian era. Alternatively, *Gwrid* may signify a crossing point of ways across a depression in the hills.[150]

151   Camnant   085833

Welsh: Winding stream.

152   Tŷ-cam   094830

Welsh: Crooked house.

153   Lower Foel   096833

English: Lower.
Welsh: *Foel* = treeless hill.

154   Neuadd-goch Bank   102839

Welsh: *Neuadd-goch* = red hall, the whole meaning "*Bank* near *Neuadd Goch*".

155   Y Foel   104833

Welsh: The bare hill.

156   Gorddwr Banc   114835

Welsh: A bank or hill, which is land above a river [156] (in this case, above the upper reaches of the Iethon and Tefeidad [Teme]). Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) gives the meanings, "as the order is English, 'bank at Gorddwr'; the Welsh order would be Banc (y) Gorddwr."

157 **Ddôl** 123831

Welsh: Meadow, pasture (originally called Cwm Gwyn Cottage).
Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) advises: "'(the) water-meadow'. The lost definite article explains lenition dôl>ddôl."

158 **Lluest** 129833

Welsh: hut, cabin, temporary abode (in 2005, only a shed and a row of fir trees were to be seen).

159 **Plaisty** 131831

Welsh: *Plasty* = Country house, mansion, hall, court, manor house. [159]

160 **Hafod Fadog** 132830

Welsh: Madog's summer dwelling place.

161 **High Park** 133836

English: But might the name be derived from Welsh, such as:
Welsh: (*Y) Parc* (The Park), with *Y* being understood by an English ear as *High.* [161]

162 **Panty Hill** 134833

Welsh: *Pant ty* = house in the hollow, depression, valley + (*English*) Hill.
But Mr. Richard Morgan advises (personal communication) "*Panty* could be *Pantau* 'hollows', colloquially *Pante*, anglicised *Panty*. Trefnannau near Welshpool is *Trefnanney* to local people."

163 **Bryn Garw** 137832

Welsh: Craggy, rough, hill.

164 **Llethrau** 142836

Welsh: slopes, sharp descents.

165 **Prysg** 144830

Welsh: Copse or grove.

166 **Ty'n-llwyn** 145831

Welsh: *Tyddyn-llwyn* = Grove or bush smallholding.

167 **Pant-y-beudy** 147831

Welsh: Cow-house hollow (or valley, which well-describes its location).

168 **Medwaledd** 149839

Welsh: Belonging to *Medwal* (a personal name). [168]
Medwaledd gave its name to one of Bugeildy's* townships.
* Shepherd's House

169 **Ty'n-y-cwm**   155833

Welsh: Holding in the valley; (*Ty'n-y-cwm* has been described as a large farmhouse).

170 **Rhyddwr Brook**   163833

Welsh: *Rhyd-dwr* = Water-ford + *English* Brook. [170]

171 **Cefn Fron**   168835

Welsh: Ridge at the hill's breast (the hill and its ridge stand behind the farm).

172 **Bryn Shop**   173835

Welsh: *Bryn Siop* = Shop, store or workshop on the hill or *banc*. [172]

173 **Nant-y-pyllau / Mount Flirt**   182834

Welsh: Valley of (small) streams. Nant-y-pyllau is more or less at the head of the valley.
Formerly *Nant y Pyllau* was named "**Mount Flirt**" - see the entry in *Notes and References*; the latter name is still known today. [173]

174 **Esgair draen llwyn**   083821

Welsh: Thorn-bush ridge.

175 **Blaen Cwm Foel**   102829

Welsh: Head of bare-hill valley.

176 **Garn Bryn-llwyd**   105825

Welsh: Mound (on the) grey/brown hill.

177 **Blaen Foel**   107828

Welsh: Top of the bare mountain. Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) advises: "probably for an earlier *Blaen y Foel* with lost definite article explain the lenition *moel>foel*".

178 **Pant Glas**   108828

Welsh: Green/blue shallow valley or hollow.

179 **Ffynnon ymenli /Ffynnon y menyn**   110824

Welsh: *Ffynnon ymenyn*, *Ffynnon Menyn* = Butter spring.
English: Now named **Butterwell** (Farm) - a little dwelling on the edge of Crown land. [179]

180 **Rhiw Porthnant**   113822

Welsh: Gateway to the hillside stream or valley.

181 **Windy Hall**   116825

English, unless *'Windy'* derives from *(G)wyn t*ŷ = White house, in which case "hall" is superfluous.[181]

182 Charlies   116826

English, unless derived from *Welsh* such as "Siar-llys". Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) doubts the latter, adding that historical forms are needed.

183 Culvert   118828

English: Ostensibly, it takes its name from the nearby culvert under the road.[183]

184 Waen pen llydan   122822

Welsh: *Waun pen llydan* = moor + head + wide (head of the wide moor). [184]

185 Bwlch y llyn   122826

Welsh: Lake pass or defile. [185]

186 Dolfronog   122828

Welsh: Hilly, undulating, field. Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "Probably *dôl* + *brwynog*, ie. Dolfrwynog, Dolfrwnog, 'water-meadow abounding in rushes'. The Welsh *w* was often a wider sound than English 'oo', more like 'oe' in 'toe'".

187 Gravel Farm   128829

Welsh: *Craf-ell* = Garlick + (diminutive) small.[187] But it could be English gravel.

188 Llethr   127826

Welsh: Slope.

189 Waun y magdu   133826

Welsh: *(G)waun (y) (f)agddu* - The dark or gloomy moor.

190 Cwm Gwyn Hall   136826

Welsh: White/Blessed Valley
English: Hall

191 Cwm Blethan   138822

Welsh: *Cwm Bleddyn* = Valley of the wolf cub, or gnat.

192 a. Cork Cottage; b. Cork Hall   141823, 142823

Welsh: *Cors* = bog, swamp.
English: a. Cottage; b. Hall. [192]

193 Fron Wood   142827

Welsh: Hillside.
English: Wood.

194   Slopes   144821

English: Possibly a translation of *Llethrau.*[194]

195   Ty'n y llidiart   145822

Welsh: The Gate Smallholding. [195]

196   Cilfachau   147827

Welsh: *Cil* + *mach* + *au* (plural) = nooks, lurking places, places to retire to.

197   Hendy   149823

Welsh: Old, ancient, original, house.

198   Hendre   156821

Welsh: *Hendref* = Winter house.

199   Cefn Bedw   162823

Welsh: Birch Ridge.

200   Gorther   163822

Welsh: *Gorddwr* (and see 156 above). [200]

201   White Hall   164824

English: The name is not uncommon, see 209940 for another instance. It may be a translation from the Welsh.

202   Walk Mill   165826

English: so named because of the 'walk' used in early times in the fulling process. Compare with *Walk Mill* at 379928.

203   Fron Felin   167823

Welsh: Mill on the hillside (also *Fron Felin* Wood) [203].

204   Vron   172821

Welsh: *Fron* = hillside, slope, or breast of hill (also ‒*Wood* and ‒*Velin Wood* nearby).

205   Gors Bank (Banc)   175828

Welsh: Swampy or boggy bank.

206   Pound Gate Farm / Rhôs Rhuddein   177823

English: self-explanatory. Thomas Budgen writes **Rhôs Rhuddein** at this location; evidently this older name has fallen out of use.

Welsh: *Rhôs Rhuddain* = Reddish moor. But Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) observes "the OS drawings are sometimes confused, and names are often misspelt. For 'Rhuddain' I would look at Rhuthin (*rhudd* + *hin**) as in Ruthin/Rhuthun, Denbighshire. **rhudd* = red, *hin* = border, edge. I have not come across *rhuddain* in place-names and field-names."

207   Corkins Bank   182826

Welsh: Corkins Bank is cheek by jowl with *Gors Banc* at 205 above, see also 192; *Cors* = swamp. If we look to the diminutive (by analogy, for instance, with *bryn* and *bryncyn*, see 116 above) *Corscyn* is a small swampy *Banc*. This matches the topography. The names, therefore, appear to have been "Anglicised" to *Cork* and *Corkins* respectively.

This is a tentative suggestion. Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) is doubtful, having never seen *corscyn* as a diminutive of *cors*.

208   Simon's Land   095812

English: See note. [208]

209   Nanty   101812

Welsh: Stream-house. [209]

Note: The stream itself is *Nant-ddu* (black stream), see 211 below, and the valley through which it runs is *Cwm-Nant-Ddu*. Again, this is a lost house.

210   The Garn   103817

Welsh: Mound, preceded by the English 'The' (cf *carn/cairn*). Mr.Richard Morgan (personal communication) points out "the lenition, however, is explained by a Welsh definite article Y Garn anglicised as The Garn."

211   Blaen-nant-du   108819

Welsh: Head or source of black or dark stream.

212   Geufron   109817

Welsh: *Ceu* = hollow, *fron* = breast of hill, hence 'hollow in the breast of the hill'. [212]

213   a. Fiddler's Green b. Lower Fiddler's Green   117817, 118814

English (Welsh = ffidil or *ffidl),* with a suggestion of a *Welsh* legend. [213]

214   a. Bryn Mawr, b. Bryn Mawr Cottage*   128819, 127816

Welsh: Big Hill + (English) Cottage (On the flank of Bryn Mawr).

* Alternatively, known as "**Brick House**"

| 215 | **Bog** | 131812 |

English.[215]

| 216 | **a. Hope's Castle Farm** [216] | 133817 |

English: but seemingly at the same location, on older maps we have -

b. Waun y maglu / Waun y maglau

Welsh: "*Moor of the obstacle, trap or snare*"; which we take to be the original name.

| 217 | **Rhuvid Bank** | 140813 |

Welsh: *Rhiw* = hill, slope, ascent + *feydd* (plural of *fa* = spot or place) + [*banc/bank*]; hence "*slopey places* [*bank*]".[217] But see the note.

| 218 | **Crochan Dingle** | 145815 |

Welsh: *Crochan* = pot or cauldron + *English* dingle or valley.

| 219 | **Little Farm House** | 147819 |

English (cf Welsh: Tyddyn).

| 220 | **a. Rhiw wyddfid / b.Rhiw wyddfid fawr** | 148813, 150814 |

Welsh: *Rhiw* = hill-slope, *wyddfid* = wood, forest, bush (or honeysuckle), *fawr* = big "*big wooded hill-slope*".

| 221 | **Rhos-goch** | 153813 |

Welsh: Red Moorland.

| 222 | **Llety Angharad Wood** | 160818 |

Welsh: *Llety* = smallholding, *Angharad* = person's name, hence "Angharad's smallholding or lodging" + *English* "Wood".

| 223 | **Gatehouse** | 162813 |

English.

| 224 | **Crug y byddar** | 163821 |

Welsh: Silent - possibly deserted - mound. See [224].

| 225 | **Springfield** | 165818 |

English: Springfield house was built in 1968, very near to the site of
Welsh: **Pen Ffynnon =** "Head of the spring".

| 226 | **Crugyn Farm** | 168813 |

Welsh: see 110 above, small hillock + *English* Farm.

| 227 | **Felindre** | 170811 |

Welsh: Mill settlement.

| 228 | **Fron** | 172821 |

Welsh: as 51 above, breast of hill.

| 229 | **Rhyd y Cwm** | 173816 |

Welsh: *Rhyd* = a ford, a passage + *y* (the) + *Cwm* = valley; hence the valley ford.

| 230 | **Llanmadoc** | 179812 |

Welsh: *Madoc's enclosure*. Thomas Budgen writes **LlwynMadoc** = *Madoc's grove*.

| 231 | **Cold Forest** | 180817 |

English.

| 232 | **The Rhos Farm** | 181814 |

Welsh: *Moor*; *English*: The Farm.

| 233 | **a. Chrochan, b. Lower Crochan Farm** | 082807, 085806, |

Welsh: *Crochan* = pot or cauldron (as 216 above); *English* = Lower Farm.

| 234 | **Rhiw Gam** | 088805 |

Welsh: "Uneven Slope".

| 235 | **Cwm nanty** | 098807 |

Welsh: "House in the stream-valley" / "Stream-valley house".[235]

| 236 | **Coed Cwm Mawr** | 107802 |

Welsh: "Big Valley Wood".

| 237 | **Gwenlas** | 114804 |

Welsh: *Gwen* = fair + (g)*lais* = stream or rivulet - together "*Gwenlais*". [237]

| 238 | **Felin Wynt** | 120803 |

Welsh: *Felin* = mill, *(g)wynt* = wind; giving 'windmill'.[238]

| 239 | **Cwm Rhos Goch** | 120806 |

Welsh: "Valley of the red moor, heath or upland".

240   Bryn Gydfa   129807

Welsh: *Bryn* = hill + *gydfa* = assembly, gathering place. But see [240].
Compare with 35 above, *Bryn dadlu*.

241   Shell Heath   135799

Possibly *Welsh: Sial* = Shale (the OS Pathfinder of 1984 writes **Sheal Heath**); if it is not *English:*
'Shell'. [241]

242   Killowent   150805

Welsh: The provenance of this name begins to emerge when we see its location beside **Cil Owen
Brook** meaning *Owen's nook* Brook, suggesting that the 't' has been added to the original *Cil Owen.*
(This ending would follow the pattern of the name *Llinwent,* which lay a little way to the south-west,
just off our map.)
The name is **Cil-owen** on the OS 1" map of 1833-1837.[242]

243   Nest   157805

English: Compare with *Wren's Nest* at place-name 54 and *Crow's Nest* at place-name 58.[243]

244   Cefn deru   158805

Welsh: *Cefn* = ridge + *derw* = oak tree; hence "oak tree ridge".

245   Coety (banc)   158809

Welsh: "Dwelling in a wood, or place where firewood is kept" + ("bank"). [245]

246   Tansomalia   161803

Welsh: *Tyn* = homestead + *simleiau** = chimneys; meaning a homestead with chimneys, is suggested.

*In this area of the borderland, where in dialect *chimney* may be *chimley* or *chimbley;* the Welsh
"simnai/simneiau" has evidently become *"simlai/simleiau".*

Note: "*An Atlas of English Dialects*" shows variants of "chimney", but it is too broad-brush for our
purpose here. The Shropshire Word-book is a little nearer the mark. The present writer was
conversant, from an early age, with chimney, and variants chimley and chimbley.
For the formation of the Welsh word, see note [246].

247   Tyn-y-ddol (Wood)   164804

Welsh: 'Homestead at the meadow' wood, in other words "the wood belonging to the 'homestead at
the meadow'".   (*Ty'n* is a contraction of *Tyddyn.*)

248   Llanerch   165803

Welsh: *Llannerch* = clearing, glade.

249   Brandy (House)   172807

Welsh: Either "house of the crow" see 105 above, or "fodder-house" from '*ebran*' = fodder [food].[249]

250   Gwern eirin   (Gwyn eirin on older maps)   181803

Welsh: *Gwyn* = white + *eiren* = plums (of many kinds).
Note: *Gwern* = alder + *eiren* = plums etc. seems to be a fairly recent step away from the original
meaning.

251   Esgair uchaf   093794

Welsh: "Upper ridge".

252   Cwm garthen   102794

Welsh: "Valley of the encampment or enclosure", alternatively "wild-place or thicket valley".
Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) notes *Cwm + y + cardden* 'thicket' is found in field-
names: *Cwmgardden*.

253   Pen y bank (banc)   104797

Welsh: Head, top, of the bank.

254   Dolfryn   112799

Welsh: Loosely, "Field on the bank".
Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "*dôl* qualifies *bryn*, Dolfryn: 'hill at a water-
meadow, hill possessing a water-meadow'".

255   Fron Top   113790

Welsh: "(Top of the) hillside, or slope".
English: Top.

256   Ddol Fadog   113797

Welsh: "Madog's Meadow".

257   Llety-meiriol   114799

Welsh: "Meirion's lodging or smallholding" (probably 'Meirion' rather than 'Meiriol').

258   Dildra Barn   124790

Welsh: *Daldra* (tal + dra) = tall structure, but see comment below.
English: Barn.
Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "I know of Deildre (Llanyre), Deildre
(Llanbister) and Cae'r Deildre (Loughor); cf. *deildy* noun, masculine (*dail* 'leaves, foliage' + *tŷ*)
'arbour, bower'. That favours *dail + tref* 'leafy settlement'."

259   Castell y Blaidd   125798

Welsh: "Wolf Castle"; also known as "Castle Tump".
English: Castle Tump.

| 260 | **Coventry** | 127795 |

Welsh: *Cefn-tre* "settlement on the ridge" (which is an apt description of its location).

| 261 | **Garreg Lwyd Hill** | 135795 |

Welsh: "grey" (*llwyd*) "stone" (*garreg*).

| 262 | **Trefoel** | 135798 |

Welsh: Bare, exposed settlement, with *moel* as qualifier. [262]

| 263 | **Ty'n - y - ddol (Hill)** | 142790 |

Welsh: "Meadow smallholding" + *English*: (Hill).

| 264 | **Cwm - yr - Hob** | 151797 |

Welsh: "Valley of the swine" (contrast with 49 above).
[*Hob* = 'swine, hog, pig, sow'; and compare with place-names 90 and 91.]

| 265 | **Lower House Farm** | 154790 |

English.

| 266 | **Ty'n y coed (Wood)** | 157793 |

Welsh: "Woodland Steading" + *English* "Wood".

| 267 | **Bwlch** | 166790 |

Welsh: "Pass" (a perfect description of its location).

| 268 | **Blaen - yr - ysgwydd** | 169798 |

Welsh: "Top of the shoulder" - in fact, at the stream-head - with '*ysgwydd*' used for a bulging hill-slope.

| 269 | **Cefn Pawl** | 170796 |

Welsh: "Stake on the ridge", or "Ridge stake". [269]

| 270 | **Cwm Bugail** | 177793 |

Welsh: "Shepherd's valley".

Notes and References to accompany Listed Place-Names

1   **Oakeley Mynd**

Huckle can mean hip, haunch, a projecting hump or part. But alternatively, in this instance it may be thought that 'Huckle' may stem from an Old English (OE) personal name 'Hucel', and Mynd from the Welsh 'Mynydd', mountain or hill. With regard to 'Huckle' being derived from 'Oakeley', Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) compares with Oakle Street (<Oak(e)ley) in Ekwall's *Dictionary of English Place Names*, and notes the loss of a final syllable in whole or part is found in north Shropshire.

Early maps, such as Emanuel Bowen's map of Shropshire dated 1751, dedicated to the Earl of Powys, give the name '*Hucklement'*. (Another example of the prevalence of local dialect is Bowen's use of 'Clungonas' for Clungunford: In the 1950s the present writer knew the place to be referred to simply as 'Gunnas'. In his "*Shropshire Place Names*", Anthony Poulton-Smith posits that 'gun*ford*' is a corruption of the personal name 'Gunward'. [For authentication of this, see Robert William Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire* xi p.297; also note, from a will of 1624, "*Clungunford* als *Clongonas*".]) In her *Shropshire Word-Book (1879)*, Georgina Jackson includes the couplet " Axes and Brummocks | Say the bells of Clungunas".

2   **Stank Lane**

There are a number of meanings for **Stank** in local dialect, ranging from stake (to stake out), to stank a stream (create a dam with stanks, that is with 'stakes' or 'piles'), or a channel or bank relating to a water-mill leat. So 'stank' may mean a ditch, pool or dam; or a stake or pole (OE staeng). There is also the Welsh *ystang* which may mean that which straightens or bounds or a stang (as 'perch') used as a measure. Additionally, *ystanc* may mean a pile in the ground to keep up a causeway as in "*ystanc i (g)wastatau sarn"* where *gwastatau* = to make level, even, flatten, secure, strengthen.

From a surrender document of 1606 relating to "le Stank Meadow", which clearly delineates its position beside the lane, we may understand that the meadow had been "stanked out", from which stems a possibility that the lane may have taken its name from the meadow. (The reference in the Shropshire Archives 11/299 reads "a little section of meadow in le Stank meadow ... stretching in length from the highway leading from Bishop's Castle to Ludlow to land of Andrew Blunden".) And not far from that highway, we have pools known as Blunden's pools or Blundell's pools. We shall comment on the names Blunden and Blundell at 11 below.

In his recent book "*The Drovers' Roads of the Middle Marches*" pages 19 & 48 Wayne Smith suggests that Stank Lane takes its name from the smell of the cattle dung deposited on the drove road. We are aware of English-Welsh trade in the 1600s, for in a letter of 1609 from the Bailiff and Burgesses of Bishop's Castle to the Lord Lieutenant of the Marches, we read "Bishop's Castle is situated near the great waste of Wales, where cattle are bred, and convenient for the delivery of corn into Wales from Shropshire, Corvedale, and Herefordshire". We observe that drovers may have used the nearby "Welshman's Leasow" (see place-name 9) for overnight stays. In the north of England and Scotland, such a site would have been termed a "stance". KJ Bonser in "*The Drover*" applies the name "pound" and "stance" to Welsh droving. In Georgina Jackson's magnificent "*Shropshire Word Book*" one of the meanings she gives for "stank", is "tether" - tie to a stank or post, for example. All that said, if the name of the lane has been taken from the adjoining meadow, 'stanked out' as a matter of land enclosure, it did not evolve from the stench of cattle dung accumulated on the roadway.

More specifically, Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) draws attention to 'stank' having the meaning 'pool', as seen in leading English and Scots dictionaries. Moreover in *Montgomeryshire Collections*, Vol.35, 1910, p.256, we read, in a deed of 1281, of the right to make and attach a *stank* in (land in the Churchstoke Valley). There is an editorial note of 1910 giving *stank* = pond.

3   The Conery

In tenancy agreements, we find various spellings e.g. Cunary (1922) and Cunnary (1896). Insight into the keeping of rabbits in warrens is given in the *Victoria County History of Shropshire* which addresses in some detail **The Cunnery** near Church Stretton, grid reference (SO) 450938). And, for instance, in Vol.10 p.95 we read "the open fields ... disappear in the early 17 [th] Century when, for example, Church Stretton's Overfield or Upper Field was absorbed into Bonham Norton's new rabbit warren".

4   Crow Gate

The old coach road between Bishop's Castle and Lydbury North ran past Crow Gate, but a new road to Lydbury North running along the bottom ground past Brockton was established. It joined the old coach road (Stank Lane) at Crow Gate cottage, making this a prime position for a toll gate, say from the mid-18th century. Also see 7 below.

5   Oakeley House

Although "Oakeley" is a family name of long-standing, the application of this name to this location is recent. The Oakeley presence in the area ceased when John Oakeley, the last of the line, died in 1897. The Sykes family from Cheshire purchased **Oakeley House**, which was some 2 km distant from the location now under consideration, at 330899, *together with* the associated estate, comprising a number of farms including Oakeley Farm (337883) and **Snakescroft Farm** at 336879. This latter is the place-name we are now considering. The original Oakeley House was renamed **Lydham Manor** by the Sykes family, who lived there in grand style for some decades, until they demolished the main part of the house in 1968, and converted the stables into the present house. As a consequence of the re-naming of the original Oakeley House, the name became available for use elsewhere. The earlier "Snakescroft" became Oakeley House, a name by adoption, in recent years.

In *Domesday Book Shropshire*, the place-name is given as *Snellescroft,* see Note 2.1 of that book. The name may stem from OE personal name *Snell + croft* (the word *snel* may have the meaning "sharp, piercing".) An instance of *Snells Croft* is found as late as 1769 in a marriage settlement. The place-name changed from *Snellscroft* to *Snailscroft* and was not uncommon in the latter form in the mid-18th C, but by the mid-19th C the name was "*Snakescroft*", when its farmer was named Richard Oakeley (the same name as in the earlier marriage settlement of 1769, but a different generation).

On our short journey this is where we first encounter a *Welsh* influence. The Oakeley family appears in Dr. Peter Bartrum's "*Welsh Genealogies*" - and *Wynnstay* 136 p. 171 - in which we read that *Madog de la Home* (SO330900, see Oakeley House/Lydham Manor) was "*Lord of Home, Broughton and Snailscroft*" in the time of Edward I.

In various documents we find the place-name written, in *Welsh* orthography, '*Ysnel Croft'*. We may be inclined to suppose that *Madog* was of *Welsh* descent, but family pedigrees of Norman-French lines in the borderland show that *Welsh* names, as Madog, were adopted after a few generations. There is, as it were, a duality of nomenclature, both *English* and *Welsh* names being found. For a concise account, with references, see Richard Morgan's "*Welsh Place-names in Shropshire*" (revised 2009). We add Dr. Peter Bartrum's observation in "*Welsh Genealogies*", (see his *Broughton* and *Broughton(A)* pedigrees), that the Ockley family of Oakley, Bishop's Castle in the "*Visitation of Shropshire*", is apparently unrelated to the Oakeley line shown in "*Welsh Genealogies*". (And in the genealogies, not only do we find *Ysnel* Croft, but also *Trefoclef* = Oclef's homestead, in place of Oakeley.)

References 23, 24 below relate to this entry.

6   The Cottage Farm

The writer of this article spent his formative years here, often in the company of farm workers, and imbibed the local dialect. The oral tradition has been strong; some words in this borderland have survived for centuries, some of them are unique. For example, the two-pronged hay- or pitch-fork is known as a **pikel**, a word not commonly used beyond the 'borders'. In his *Salopia Antiqua*, Hartstone writes "it is a word in universal use amongst all classes in Shropshire". At root, it may be OE: pic = pick or spike; and in present day German, 'pickel' means pick(axe) or ice-axe, whilst 'pickel-haube' is a spiked helmet. As if to confirm this, from another context another writer points to the OE **picel**, meaning a pointed hill.

The hay-loft is known as a **talla(n)t.** Although it is a borderland word, it was also said to be in use in the West Country (Wiltshire, Somersetshire and Devonshire).

At this point, it is worth mentioning that there is an affinity between "Old English" words found in the West Country and those found in South-West Shropshire and its borderland. This is attributed to the settlement by the Saxons following river routes, such as the Severn, from the south, whereas North Shropshire was settled by the Angles from the east, so there is a notional transitional line of change in dialect, a little north of the area under consideration in this article. Thus, to the north of our area we may find less commonality with the West Country in respect of word origins. In local dialect, the gadfly is known as the **bree** (but **breese** in North Shropshire, which chimes with Shakespeare's 'breese' in, for example, Antony and Cleopatra III. x, 14).

In the Shropshire and Radnorshire English/Welsh borderland, the mole-hill is an **oonty-tump** or **hwnt-y-twmp.** In her splendid *Shropshire Word Book*, Georgina Jackson gives **Oont** an Anglo-Saxon origin (*want or wont),* whilst Charles Hartstone (*Salopia Antiqua*) notes that <u>oont</u> is commonly pronounced with an aspirate. This is illustrated beautifully by Clarice Thomas in "*A history of Cwm Gwyn 1900 -2000, a chapel and its people*" when she writes in Welsh orthography **hwnt** for **oont**, but - correctly - she does not claim **hwnt** to be Welsh in origin. (In Welsh *hwnt* means 'the other side' - for example the place-name *Ty hwnt-ir-parc* [Grid Reference (3)035(3)116] meaning 'house at the other side of the park, or field', or "*y tu hwnt i Glawdd Offa*" (the other side of Offa's Dyke)).

In a remarkable study Professor R.U. Sayce has analysed the distribution of 'hwnt' in the borderland. Evidently the word is embedded in both English and Welsh dialect, extending from the English/Welsh border well into Montgomeryshire. In that county, beyond the periphery of the area in which the mole was known as an "oont", the Welsh word "*twrch daear*" (= 'ground or earth pig') was evident, see *Montgomeryshire Collections* Vol 46 1940 p. 193.

Even over small distances, changes in dialect are evident. For example, Bishop's Castle has been a noted centre for 'wimberries'. Further afield, we hear of 'whinberries', said to be an older form of the word, from the OE winberige = grape (cf wineberry); but the OE does not include the 'h'. And the 'm' in 'wim-berry' distinguishes the plant, which is formed of 'wimberry-wires', from 'whin' = gorse or furze. (Moreover, in *Bishop's Castle Well-Remembered*, Mrs. Prehous devotes a page (p. 73) to "The Wimberry-Picking", which reflects authentic orthography, whilst Jon Henley's article in *The Guardian* of 9th June 2008 on this berry is of interest. Further, W.H. Howse in his "*Radnorshire*", who was wholly familiar with dialect, calls them wimberries (p.289 para CI fii).) In *Bettws y Crwyn†: History, Geography, Farming & People* (2007) p.21, a good account is given of the wimberry trade in the 1900s.

By and large, the local English dialect owes little to the Welsh tongue. Here and there, where Welsh words have been absorbed, their meaning has been lost. For instance the Welsh 'disgwylfa' = lookout or watchtower [GR 325935] has become 'Squilver', which is devoid of meaning. We note the addition of the closing 'r'. In local dialect 'r' is sounded strongly, especially at word ends, as in 'butter' and 'weather'. Few Welsh pronunciations have been adopted, for example we do not encounter the trilled Welsh 'r'. We shall see other instances of distortions of Welsh words as we examine place names.

In local dialect, the writer has encountered 'lather' for 'ladder' as if the 'dd' were from the Welsh alphabet, but might this be a parallel to 'burthen' (OE byrthen) and 'burden' - whilst 'ladder' itself may derive from OE 'hlaeder'. His acquaintance with dialect extended beyond the notable *Shropshire Word-book.* For instance, the *alder* tree was known as a *waller* or *woller.* The word and variants are found in *CS Hartshorne's 'Salopia Antiqua' p 608*: this is picked up in *Joseph Wright's 'The English Dialect Dictionary' Vol.6.* A local manuscript of 1833 (Shropshire Archives reference SRO 1037/1/190) spells the word "*wollar*". Notwithstanding the general lack of Welsh usage, the word "*cwtch*" was used in the writer's generation, in the sense of nurse, cuddle or snuggle down, sleep - again a word not included in the notable *Shropshire Word-book.* Compare with the *Welsh 'cwtsh'.*

Some expressions stemmed from the First World War. For example, the blacksmith at Colebatch employed '*Well I be jankered*' as his favourite exclamation of astonishment or surprise; and others used '*San fairy ann*' (from the French *ça ne fait rien*) = it doesn't matter, make any difference; these have not been sustained. The word '*Spondulicks'* (money), in the writer's experience not commonly encountered, may have disappeared too, although it is found currently in Australia and North America.

† *Betws y Crwyn*: "Prayer-house of the hide or pelt"; or "Chapel of the fleece".

7   Lagden Lane

The meaning 'long rising (hill)' + lane corresponds with the topography from Colebatch to Lagden Gate, the site of a Toll Gate in yesteryear.

8   Brockton

In local dialect the 'brook' itself may be pronounced 'bruck' (cf OE *broc* = a spring, brook or rivulet).

9   Welshman's Leasow

In his *History of Bishop's* Castle, third edition, Ernest Griffiths writes "The field now called the Welshman's Leasow was a piece of common land used for pasturage and rest for their horses and cattle, hence its name".

10   Colebatch   (Coldbatch)

We find instances of the spellings Colebatch, Coldbatch and Cowbatch, the latter for example on John Speed's map of 1611; also see Christopher Saxton's Atlas of 1579 and map of 1607.

Various origins have been proposed and, if Cole is not a personal name here, we have three possibilities to consider in respect of the place-name Cole-batch. First, 'cole-' may mean 'coal' (OE col) as in charcoal; second, 'cold-' of which 'cole-' may be a contraction, from OE cald (compare with "Cold Hill" Farm at GR 364962 and "Cold Yeld" mine to the East of Frog's Gutter GR 362 965; yeld from OE 'gelde'* meaning barren, unproductive, cf geld, emasculate); third, 'cow-', for in local dialect, cold is pronounced cowd, so in the vernacular, Cowbatch may be a contraction of Cowdbatch, and Cowbatch is comfortable to the ear in local dialect, and has been heard as such - and possibly voiced too - by this writer and, as noted above, written in this way by John Speed. Again, there has been a hesitant suggestion that col may stem from the Roman 'colonia' (a husbandman - to till), but from the view of local dialect 'Coldbatch' as an origin carries some weight. But earlier forms of the word must take precedence.

Anthony Poulton-Smith in his *Shropshire Place-Names* notes the vast majority of 'coal' names are simply a corruption of 'cold', yet for Colebatch he offers the meaning 'charcoal' or a personal name as 'Cula'. In *Domesday Book* (1085), the name is *Colebech (and Woodbatch is written Widebech)*; and in a number of wills between 1544 and 1607 the word used is Colebach(e), not Coldbatch.

The word ending, namely '-batch', in all likelihood stems from OE baece - valley of the stream - (ME batche). 'Batch' and 'beach' are not uncommon in SW Shropshire.

In his *Shropshire Place Names* (from which we gave a quotation in our Introduction) Elijah Bowcock cites, in the stated years: 1176 *de Colebech,* 1209 *Colebech*, 1227 *de Colebech,* 1255 *de Kolebech,* 1256 *Colebech* and 1281 *de Collebeche*. So, after Bowcock, we take the name to be **Colebatch**. As to its origin, Bowcock refers to Anglo-Saxon/Old English 'col' = charcoal (there was a middle English form 'cole') + 'baec' = a river valley, giving "the valley where charcoal was made". He adds "The forms however would answer to the personal name '*cola*', giving "Cola's river valley."

* We note the use of the OE *helde*, as a basis of field names, such as " *The Yelds*", but do not use it here, for OE *helde* speaks of a gentle† slope. But we recognise that local dialect gives "Yed" for "head" (OE heafod) and "Yowl" for "howl" (from Old French); also "Yoew" for "ewe" (OE eowe/eoweu) - in dialect an old ewe is an 'owd yeow'.
'Yeld'/gelde is entered in Chambers' *Dictionary* (9th edition) as: "**yeld**/*yeld/..... ..*adj. barren, not giving milk; unproductive [late OE *gelde; cf* geld]". A fuller account of 'Yeld' is given in the *Concise Scots Dictionary* 2005.
† The slopes around Frog's Gutter/Cold Hill are significant.

11   **Old Hall** (Blundell's Hall)

This half-timbered building was formerly known as Blundell's Hall, but sometimes referred to as Blunden's Hall. The former name is correct, in that one of the last occupiers, before the cognomen Old Hall was adopted, had the surname Blundell (e.g. in the 19th Century Nicholas Blundell married Agnes Smith). A family by the name of Blundell lived in the area in earlier centuries; their genealogy is presented in Dr. Peter Bartrum's *Welsh Genealogies.* In his pedigree (see the line Elystan Glodrydd 31) Margaret, daughter of Roger Oakeley of Oakeley Hall married William Blundell. Deeds of 1254 relate to grants of land & mill in Bishop's Castle, land & mill in Lydebury and a mill in Wytcote, to Robert Blundell and his wife Maud. Yet Robert Blunden, an associate of Thomas Corbet of Caus held lands in Bishop's Castle in 1256. And significantly, we know from the 16th century, a family with the surname Blunden was active in the area - for example Andrew Blunden held land around Bishop's Castle and it is his name that appears on the deed referred to at 2 above.

Confusion between the names Blundell and Blunden is, therefore, unsurprising.

12   **Bishop's Castle** (Trefesgob)

The town was important for cattle and wool (traded along Welsh Street). To quote Olgiby, writing in 1689 of Bishop's Castle, "which town although not large, enjoys several Privileges and sends Burgesses to Parliament. It's governed by a Bailiff and has a good market on Fridays well frequented by the Welsh". Ernest Griffiths cited at 9 above, writing in the earlier part of the 20th century, says "Within recent years the July wool fair was a noted one, and the wool brought by Welshmen would fill the Welsh Street from end to end".

Lewis Dwnn in the early 17th century writes "*Trefesgob*" (Town of the Bishop), Cardiff MS 2.36 p. 327.

13   **The Novers**

This name (*The Novers Barn*) is pronounced with the 'o' as in 'not'. '*Novers*' stems from a combination of ME atten and OE ofer from which is formed 'the place of the flat-topped ridge'. (cf *Overs* at 392961 near 'Ratchup' (Ratlinghope); *Novers Hill* at GR (SO)455951 near Church Stretton and the Roveries (possibly from *Yr Overs*) at GR (SO)325925.)

As to the Novers by Church Stretton, the *Victoria County History* records that 57 Welsh raiders were killed by Richard of Mitton in 1233; he was able to claim a bounty on their heads.

14   Cwm Mawr Dingle

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) advises "Welsh *cwm* was typically a small, short valley like English *combe*, a meaning evidently borne by their common ancestor British *combo-*. In Welsh, at least, the distinctions between *cwm*, *glyn* (a narrow valley), *dyffryn* (a broader valley, or a lowland between sea and hills), *ystrad* (a wide valley or wide part of a valley), and *nant* (once 'valley' but now exclusively 'stream') have been eroded."

15   Woodbatch, a.Upper, b. Lower, and Middle &c.

As an alternative, we add that OE *wid* means wide, spacious; so giving "*Wide batch*", which is a fitting description of the broad, spacious valley. We have noted the Domesday '*Widebech'* at 10 above; Eyton in his "*Antiquities of Shropshire*" copies from a document of 1341 '*Wytebeche*'; and Christopher Saxton (1690) writes '*Widbatch*'.

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "There certainly seems to have been an effect on local English dialect but it unsettled the Welsh too. Woodbatch Wood might be translated as 'Coed Wydbatsh' or 'Coed y Wydbatsh' (putting it in somewhat crude Welsh orthography because there is no palatal *ch* in standard Welsh), Woodbatch Hall would be 'Neuadd y Wydbatsh', and Middle Woodbatch would be 'Wydbatsh Ganol'. The word-order of *Wydbach Nyath* and *Wydbach y Coyd* is English unless they are understood as meaning 'that part of Woodbatch associated with the Hall' and 'that part of Woodbatch possessing the wood'".

16   The Row

The Welsh '*Y Rhiw*' meaning 'The Hill' or 'Aclivity' well-describes its position. But alternatively, we note that the OE *ruh* = rough; rough ground. Additionally, OE *ræw* = row (of trees etc.).

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "I am not sure about Welsh *Y Rhiw > The Row*. Anglicised *rhiw* is usually [rū] as in Ruabon < Rhiwabon. The Row could actually be OE *ræw*, 'row (of houses, trees, etc.)'. I think that 'row' rhyming with 'cow' is a regular local development from *ræw* even if modern English dialects recommend a pronunciation rhyming with 'low'."

17   Penan Heath

Sources are not consistent in the form of the name, for instance Thomas Budgen (draughtsman), on his map of 1816, writes 'Penon *hir*', rather than '*heath*'. And we see there are a variety of spellings of 'Penan' too. We also note that the final 't' of Pen-nant is not always voiced by Welsh speakers.

Thus there are a number of possibilities as to the meaning of Penan, one of which is the conjunction of '*Pen*' and '*nant*', where the final '*t*' has been dropped. In Welsh, '*Pen*' means 'head, summit, upper part, end', whilst '*nant*' can mean 'a hollow formed by water, a ravine'.

The Welsh '*Hir*' (=long) would qualify '*pen-nant*' to yield 'Head of the long valley', which would be the valley, the declivity, running to the NE of *Penan Hir*. But the appellation 'Heath' (OE *heath*) might also be apposite. (cf Lydham Heath 347904 and Heath Mynd (also known locally as the Bent Hill*) 336941.))

* As well as a grass, Hartstone gives a meaning for *Bent* as 'brow of a hill' from OE *bendan* (cf The Brow at 367928)).

18   Hell Hole

The mist which, from time to time, hangs above "Hell Hole", adds to the atmosphere of the place.

19   Blakeridge

In the view of the writer, the Teutonic 'black', meaning 'a gentle swell or undulation' would be inappropriate here.

20   Caeglas

The writer's grandfather changed the name from Welsh to English when he bought the farm in the 1920s. He thought English to be more progressive, but it's ironical because his mother-in-law, who lived there in her old age, did not speak English. My grandmother, who was bilingual, would translate for great-grandma.

21   The Wintles

As to references, we note here a memorandum of 1592 in respect of an 'acre of land lying in the top of the *Wyntell* fild', Bishop's Castle (Shropshire Archives doc. ref. 1037/8/19). And at Loppington [(SJ)471292], near Wem, a document of 1605/6 includes a close called *Wyntell* and another named Wheat Lesowe. Moreover in the Talbot papers of 1606 the Earl of Shrewsbury recommended his former servant *Wyntell* to the Earl of Salisbury. Much more recently in Janet Preshous's *Bishop's Castle Well-Remembered* (1990) page 10, there is a photograph of Mrs. *Wintle* ("Cookie") feeding chickens, seemingly a personal name reflecting the place-name*.

We find parallels between English and Welsh names, for example in English we have the word 'windle' - a basket used in winnowing - whilst in SW Wales 'gwyntell' denotes 'basket'. The *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru* (*A Dictionary of the Welsh Language*) classifies *gwyntell*, *gwintell*, *wintell* as OE loan words. And, as already noted, we find '*Bryn y Wyntyll'* at GR 020755 in Radnorshire.

The writer is indebted to Mr. Richard Morgan and Professor Hywel Wyn Owen for their illuminating comments concerning the origin of this place-name, detailed in a personal communication of November 2012. Very briefly, Mr. Morgan suggests that the Welsh *gwyntell* *'*winnowing-fan' probably derives from Middle English *wyndyll, '*windle*'* and *Wintle* may well be simply variants. Professor Owen observes that *Bryn y Wyntyll* in Powys appears to be a Welsh place-name in its entirety with *Wyntyll* standing for *gwyntyll melin* 'windmill sail'. "Here we could argue that *Bryn y Wyntyll* refers to the sails seen at a distance, with *wyntyll* being taken as a plural. This accords with the *bryn* location.......". Further, Professor Owen is sceptical of George Foxall's *Shropshire Field Names* p.23 suggestion on Broomy Wintles and Wintles (Caynham) as 'names for fields in exposed conditions'. Foxall appears to have *wind* and *hill* in mind but Professor Owen is doubtful because he has no evidence for '*hill*' and the plural is a problem.

So, noting the name '**Wyntell** fild', Bishop's Castle, of 1592, the spelling of which, in essence, aligns with that in ***gwyntyll*** *melin* above, as advanced by Professor Owen, it seems reasonable to suggest that the place-name **The Wintles** corresponds with *Y Wyntyll*, indicating the presence of a windmill or windmills on the high ground, for milling, if not a site for the winnowing of grain. A property named *The Windmill* is to be found at the top of the town.

* If I may be permitted a digression, in proceeding up Welsh Street towards The Cabin, I recall passing a house named "*I dunno*", dialect for "*I don't know*". This curiosity is surpassed by a relatively new property "*Di Enw*" at GR 341991, where the person who named it thus was no doubt having a joke on the English locals, for "*Di Enw*" means "*No Name*".

My great-great grandfather and mother lived at *Benree* (GR 344987) about 0.5 km away from "*Di Enw*". At this upland farm, *Benree*, it is said that the parents were not able to afford a penny to send my great-grandfather to school; nevertheless he was an intelligent man, prospered, and later acquired *Norbury Hall* and *Farm*. Its name, "*Benree*", may perhaps stem from *pen* = top and *rhudd* = red, where the ending "-*dd*" has been lost; or *penrhyn* = hill-top.

22   The Heblands (a. Upper Heblands b. Lower Heblands)

The source of the OE names quoted is the Oxford "*Names Companion*" 2002.

23   Broughton (a. Lower Broughton b. Upper Broughton)

In his *Welsh Genealogies*, which includes the Broughton family, Dr. Bartrum gives the Welsh form of the name as "Brochdun" / "Brochdyn", also see Dr. Michael Siddons' *'The Development of Welsh Heraldry'* for Welsh usage. (The Broughtons were an accomplished family in literary and other spheres, for example we read, after special permission was granted, "Richard Broughton Esq. has copied the "Red Roll" of Wigmore, and has signed the copy as warranty".)

24   Plas Madoc

Might this place have been connected with Madog de la Home (1272 -1307), Lord of Home, Broughton and Snailscroft, or Madog great grandson of the Norman William of Elbeth, or some other*? Robert ap Madog (gt. gt. grandson of William of Elbeth) features in the author's "A Note on Chaloner's Arms" in *The National Library of Wales Journal*, Vol.35, No.3, Feb 2012, which identifies and corrects an error in Chaloner's heraldic depiction of the Arms of 'Beamond of Clun'. *See Dr. Bartrum's *Welsh Genealogies* "Elbeth" and "Broughton", including Note 2 of the latter.

28   Shepherdswhim

OE *sceaphirde* = shepherd, + *whim*. There are several meanings for the word '*whim*'. If we look to local dialect, '*whim*' may mean a hook from which a pot may be suspended, but this would not be peculiar to this specific location; nor might it be likely to be, for instance, a timber-cart. If we look to topography, '*whim*' may be the '*brow of a hill*' - the word has been used as such in the West Country, and would not be out of place at '*the Whim*'. (There seems to be some commonality of OE place-names between the English borderland and those in Devon and Dorset - take the '*Whimble*' in Radnorshire as an example which deserves further study†.) The Oxford "*Names Companion*" postulates OE *winn* = meadow, as in the place-name Wimborne*, (which is *Win-* in earlier forms of the name) which would yield the name "*shepherd's meadow*" *or* "*shepherd's pasture*". Again, as for '*shepherd'*, the origin of the word '*whim*' is English rather than Welsh.

† Hartstone mentions *Wimble* in his *Salopia Antiqua,* in the context, amongst other things, of *Wimble Bent (*grass*)* or *windle-straw*.
* OE *winn* + *burna* = meadow stream.

Also note "*The Whym*" at GR 337658 (again OE *winn or *wynne → pasture).

33   Trelerney   Note: The preferred explanation of the name is given at the paragraph marked ‡ below.

The name is not unique. Some 20 km to the N. we find "a quillet in a field called Telerney alias Trelerney". A quillet is a strip of land, redolent of strip-farming of land (W. *tir*) in Wales, in byegone days, which brings to mind W. *lleiniau*, strips of land, often scattered throughout townships; (and William Owen Pughe gives the verb *lleiniaw* = to make into long strips). (This might suggest "*tir lleiniau*" with an intrusive 'r' of local dialect. And in local dialect, this writer knows a long strip of land, in English, as '*slang'* [cf German *schlank*].)

Turning to consideration of our *Trelerney*, looking for an earlier form of this place-name we find that Thomas Budgen in his map of 1816 writes *TyrLurny* (he does not write *Ty'r*). Seemingly, two elements of the word are apparent, *Tre-* or *Tyr-* (respectively *farmstead* and *land*) and '*lerney*'. There is a possibility that the latter, that is *lerney*, is formed of two components, if we exclude '*lleiniau*', and also '*lleren*' = darnel, which are words complete in their own right.

These are, <u>first</u> '*le*' = place of; and <u>second</u> '*erney*'* for which we have candidate words as:

(i) '*(g)wernydd*' = alder grove, swamp, or meadow, of which the diminutive is '*(g)wernach*', where the '*g*' and '*dd*' of the former have been lost in the formation of '*erney*'; and similarly for '*Eurwernen*' = a lime tree.

(ii) In the Welsh language we find *eironyn*, as in '*dau eironyn tir*', meaning cross ridges in a field, or having a border.

(iii) '*eirinen*' = plum (or '*eirinach*' = little plum trees, in the diminutive). '*Eirinen*' (singular), and '*Eirin*' (pl.) are ubiquitous words with a wide range of meanings including plums, damsons, sloes, bullace, and even cullions, whilst '*eirinwydd*' may mean plum trees, sloe trees, black thorns. Qualifying words, such as '*eirin ddu*' *and* '*eirin ddu fach*', make the meaning more specific.

The last option, that is '*Tre*' + '*(l)le*' + '*eirin*' (in one of its forms, such as *eirinach*), appeals to this writer on two counts. First, his recollections of plum and damson trees and bushes in the hedgerows, yielding fruit in abundance (cf '*eirinog*'); when huge quantities were gathered and sold to the greengrocer in Bishop's Castle; moreover the '*Shropshire Plum*' or "*Prune Damson*" is widely known countrywide. Second, the parallel with the Irish '*Cill <u>Airne</u>*' (Killarney) = churchyard or church of sloes; and Scots-Gaelic '*baile <u>airneach</u>*' = sloe tree steading.

(Lists of passengers to New York show the largest proportion of Lerneys were from Ireland, a much smaller proportion from Scotland, and a few from England - particularly from Lancashire. The Oxford *Dictionary of American Family Names* includes the personal name McLerney [meaning servant of (Saint) Earna] but we do not have ground for applying it to the place Trelerney.)

Not far distant at 207844 we have the place-name *Curney* Farm (*Curnau*) which, translated, means "ricks" or "stacks", familiar to the writer in his earlier years. (The Welsh word *bonsang* (the lowest row of sheaves in a rick) reminds us of the skills employed in rick-making, for which see D. Parry - Jones' *Welsh Country Upbringing* p. 72). There is no association between Curney and Lerney, although the words happen to rhyme. Nevertheless *Curnau* illustrates the change from the 'brighter' Welsh *-au* to a 'heavier' English *-ey*. (Interestingly, 640 metres [700 yds.] ENE of Curney Farm we find "Haycocks".)

*The Welsh word "*ern/ernau*" = *earnest money*, given to settle a bargain, is also of interest. And in the area, it has been the custom to give "luck money" where a small sum is returned for luck to the customer, by a seller, when a deal is struck.

‡ Notwithstanding all the foregoing, which preserves the prefix '*Tre-*', we return to our opening sentence above which includes the phrase "a quillet in a field called Telerney alias Trelerney", and note there is uncertainty over the prefix '*tre*' or '*te*'. And naturally, we might expect, say, a prefix '*tir*' - compare with Thomas Budgen's '*tyr*' - but we doubt the relevance of '*tre*' to a strip of 'free-standing' land.

We turn at once to "*talwrn*", meaning open ground, clearing, grassland or threshing floor, the plural of which is "*talyrnau*". Out of a range of possibilities explored above, this is our preferred explanation for the meaning of the place-name "*Trelerney*".

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "*talyrnau*, *talyrni* and its singular *talwrn* is especially common in north-east Wales and north Shropshire usually with the sense 'open field or ground; threshing floor; bed (in garden); cockpit' etc..."

34 **Reilth** a. farm b. hill

According to William Oxenham in his *Welsh Origins of Scottish Place-Names*, in southern Wales '*allt*' has the meaning 'a wooded slope' whilst in northern Wales it means 'hillside' (and see 92 below).

But for the word Reilth we should defer to a scholarly view. Richard Morgan in his "*Welsh Place-Names in Shropshire*" gives its derivation as the OE *hyll* altered by Welsh speakers to *Yr Hyll*, giving *rhyll*, so *rhylth or reilth*. This dates its origin to after the coming of the Saxons, possibly later than say the naming of Colebatch, Wooodbatch and Novers on account of the hybrid Welsh/English form *Yr Hyll*. As we have seen from the Welsh influence on names in Woodbatch, such as Woodbatch *Canol*, there was a migration of Welsh speakers into that area, east of Offa's Dyke. And we still have *Cwm Mawr* (Dingle) in Colebatch's backyard, as it were.

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "Reilth is *Ulle* 1272 Cal Ipm I, no.812, p.281, *Hulle* 1284 Cal Liberate Rolls 1279-88, pp.260-2. OE *hyll* cymricised as *Yr Hyll*, *Rhyll* (with the Welsh fricative *ll*) anglicised as *Reilth* substituting aspirate *lth* for *ll*."

35 **Bryn Dadlu**

Welsh: bryn y dadlau = hill of argument, debate or pleading.

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "Probably from Bryn y Dadlau with *dadlau* the plural rather than *dadlu* verb. D*adlau* is often pronounced 'dadle' in many parts of Wales. Llwynydadlau (Aberdare), for example, is *Lloyn Ydadele* 1541, *llwyn y dadley* early 17th cent."

Further to this place, we find another *Bryn Dadl(a)u* in mid-Wales at Grid Reference SO 047836. To learn more about the meaning behind the name, we look to the Welsh social framework, its custom and practice, in discussions and the resolution of disputes.

In his very readable "*A History of Wales*" Sir John Edward Lloyd identifies four levels of institutional organisation: 1. *cenedl* = kindred 2. *tref* = hamlet 3. *cantref* = tribe 4. *brennin* = chief. Of these, the *cenedl* is of ancient origin and is local, as is the *tref*. And briefly, in regard to the *cantref*, its court had no fixed meeting place. It was customary in cases of dispute as to land, to meet on the land which was the subject of dispute. So, in the determination of disputes as to who was the lawful owner of land, the matter was settled on the land itself, in full court after elaborate pleadings and counter pleadings. (And in respect of the *brennin* it was a royal habit to hold session on elevations [cf *'gorsedd'*] such as a mound or tumulus.)

The foregoing may help our appreciation of the place name *Bryn Dadl(a)u*, and account for its duplication. The writer has noticed an instance of the spelling "*Dadling*", which chimes with "*Pentre Heylin*" at GR 243930 now being spelled "*Pentreheyling*". If we were unaware of the personal name '*Heylin*', and had no knowledge of the development of the place-name, the latter might suggest - but mistakenly - *Pentre helyg (Willow settlement).*

36 **Plain** (a. Upper Plain b. Lower Plain)

The *Welsh*: *blaen* = head (of the hollow / valley /source of the stream) fits the topography.

37   Pentre Cwm

Pentre Cwm is on a spur, above the valley bottoms. Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "It would be interesting to see older evidence. To a Welshman, Pentre-cwm (Pentre'r-cwm) is 'village located in a valley, village of the valley' but if the place-name was coined at a date when the area was anglicised, then *Pentre* may be qualifying *Cwm/Combe*."

38   Cwm Cae

Another construction may be made, in the form of noun and adjective, namely *cwm + cau* = enclosed, hollow; hence enclosed valley - see Professor Hywel Wyn Owen's and Richard Morgan's *Dictionary of the Place-Names of Wales* 2008 page xxxii.

39   Pentre (a. Pentre Coch-Gwenith b. Pentre Hall)

a. Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "Interesting because 'red wheat' is *gwenith coch* with *coch* as an adjective meaning 'red' following the noun. As a noun it appears in the names of birds such as *coch asgell* 'redwing' and *coch y berllan* 'bullfinch, redstart'".

b. Edwards the Pentre were a notable family see *History of the Parish of Mainstone* by ES Mostyn Pryce, in *Collections historical and archaeological relating to Montgomeryshire* Vol. 37, 1915, pp. 49-74.

42   Pentre Willey

Welsh: *pentre* =settlement + *(g)williaid* = vagrants, vagabonds, lurkers; or, put more strongly, the whole place-name meaning 'robbers' settlement'. (Who would wish to live at a place so-named? Yet if we choose to read '*gwiliad*' rather than '*gwilliad*' the meaning is not that of robber or bandit, but one who takes care, or avoids.)

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) questions the construction *–willey*. He writes "I would not expect lenition *williaid < gwilliaid* after *Pentre* because this is a masculine noun."
As another possibility, is *Willey* from the English *Willow*?

43   The Bank

The Powell family lived at the Bank, after they had left Ednop; descendants emigrated to Canada.

44   Warbury

It's on a considerable slope above the Churchstoke valley.

45   The Rolva (a. The Rolva b. The Upper Rolva)

The name is written *Yr Oerfa* by Thomas Bateman in his "*A survey of Yr Oerfa, lying in the Parish of Mainstone*", 1754 (NLW Ms. Maps Vol.15 Map 5). However, Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "Not *Yr Oerfa*, more likely *Yr Wylfa* 'the watching-place, spying-place' etc. The *W-* is a semi-vowel, 'err **oo**-il-va', which is really quite close to Yr Oerfa 'err **ohr**-va'."

The Rolva is situated high on the southern face of the Churchstoke valley.

48   Crinkling Wood

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) offers 'Welsh: *Crin* = withered, sapless, scorched; *Cyll* = hazel trees' as the best explanation. He writes "There are several place-names in south Wales

with a rough-and-ready similarity: (1) Cryngallt (*Kringell* 1600, *Cringell* 1614, *Cryngell Moore* 1680, *Kryngell vychan* early 17th cent, *Cringallt* 1784, *Cae-rhingyll (Cryngallt)* 1885) (2) Coed y Crinallt (*le Crengyl* 1307, *Krenghill, Krenghyll* 1565, *Crangle* 1622, *Chringill* 17th cent, *Cringill* 1787, *Coed y Crinallt* 1879) (3) Cringallt (*Skrinckhill* 1587, *Skrynchyll* 1639, *Scrinkhill, Schrinkhill* 1786)."

The present writer's approach has been to follow the pattern of *Crinfynydd* and *Cringoed* (dry, [or '*cryn*' round] mountain or wood) [as in Dewi Davies's "*Welsh Place Names*" p.21], envisaging a construction of '*crin*' and '*celyn*' (holly), for *Crinkling* Wood. Instances of "*Holly*"/"*Celyn*"/"*Celynog*" are not uncommon, but dry or withered holly is not so common - holly is an evergreen. And by way of a further comparison in word construction, we have *Cwmcringlyn* at SO 078727, made up of *Cwm* + *crin* + *clun/clyn*, which Mr. Dai Hawkins translates in the *Abbeycwmhir Community Book,* entitled *Abbey Cwmhir* "*History, Homes and People*", pp. 310-313, as the 'valley of dry brushwood'.

At 35 above, we noted instances of an added 'g' at word ends, one example being Pentreheyling GR 243930.

This place-name is another. As a matter of interest, a Montgomeryshire merchant with the name Rowland *Heylin* became sheriff of London and he, along with Sir Thomas Middleton, bore the cost of publishing the Welsh Bible "*Y Beibl Fach*" in 1630, see David Williams' *Modern Wales*; a smaller, more affordable bible - an initiative that was wonderfully successful.

49   **Edenhope** (Lower Edenhope)

Further to OE personal name *eada* with, genitive *-n* + OE *hop* (small enclosed valley surrounded by hills) = *Edenhope*, we note the Hebrew meaning of the word: *Eden* = paradise, delight, pleasure; notable in Shakespeare's King Richard II Act 2 Scene 1: "This other Eden, demi paradise", which the visitor may find apposite to *Edenhope* today. There is a Welsh word *Eden* = flying creature or bird*, but doubtless it is irrelevant to this place-name. Locally, the name is pronounced Ednup. Being at a higher elevation, the season is later, and of the harvest it was said, or rather sung, "all is safely gathered in, except some at Ednup and some at the Bryn". Edenhope, in its delightful sheltered valley, seems quiet and isolated. For generations, the Powell family of Edenhope held lands in "Churchstoke and Castlewright from Offa's Dyke to Cwm Mawr" (Joseph Morris *Shropshire Archives* Vol 6 p3233 MSS 4082). This was a cultured family, conversant with a number of languages, including Welsh, English, and Latin; and they were to the fore in public office, at least one of them was a courtier in London, for which French may have been necessary, depending on the era.

Richard Powell of Ednop was Sheriff in 1354-5, and he, or his son Richard, is supposed to be the author of the Pentarchia. This an heraldic historical account of the fifteen Royal tribes of North Wales, and is written in Welsh, and Latin in hexameters. (The text is printed in *Archaeology Cambrensis,* Vol. 10 (1879) pp 267-272.) The author opens his work :

> *"I am not so very expert, nor am I skilled in the art of heraldry as countless others are,*
> *for I have not had sufficient opportunity: I have done what I could; for the future,*
> *another more learned than me, must add what is left out and support my well-intentioned*
> *attempt."*

The Pentarchia is a tale of origins. This writer in indebted to Professor Clare Griffiths, of Cardiff University, for her translation of the Latin text.

In the sixteenth century, Francesca Powell of Edenhope married *Hugh ap Edmond** alias *Beamond* of Bachelldre. Francesca was daughter to Richard Powell, Sheriff in 1554. Hugh Beamond describes his brother-in-law Richard Powell as my "*well-beloved brother*". Hugh and Francesca had nine children, five boys and four girls. Their son and heir Richard married Lucy Harris of Stockton (see *Visitation of Shropshire,* Harris of Stockton; and *Welsh Genealogies,* Elystan Glodrydd 28: *Beamond of Clun*; and Elystan Glodrydd 31(A)*: Powell of Ednop.*)

50   **King Gwillim**

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "It would be interesting to see historic forms of this. Welsh *cefn* 'back, ridge' is sometimes reduced to *ken* as in Cefncoed > Cencoed, Cyncoed (in Cardiff) which includes spellings such as *Kenkoed* 1650, *Kingcoed* 1773. Cyncoed (Carmarthenshire) is *Kingcoed* 1739 and Cyncoed (Llandenni, Monmouthshire) actually appears on OS maps as *Kingcoed*. That raises the possibility of *Cefn Gwilym > Cen Gwilym > King Gwilym, Kingwilym* 'Gwilym's ridge'".

51   Also see *Broneth* at 276849, E of Three Gates, at 82 below.

52   **Mainstone**

Richard Morgan (*Welsh Place Names in Shropshire*) dissociates the word-meaning from the composite Welsh *maen*= stone and the English *stan* = stone. A heavy stone, almost too heavy to lift (but I have seen it lifted) is kept in the church, which is not in Mainstone village, but at Churchtown, within yards of Offa's Dyke. Mr. Morgan notes that other associations have been attempted.

[It has been asked, was it a measure of weight, a boundary stone, or a marker? Although we cannot give an answer, we note the latter was important in former days: OE *maere* = boundary, hence *maere stan* (cf Welsh *maen ffin*, boundary stone).

And beating the bounds, that is, walking the parish boundaries, was common practice up to recent centuries; written accounts of the 'perambulations' are valuable to local historians today. (See *Discovering Parish Boundaries,* including pp. 80-82.)] The church - at Churchtown - is a daughter church to Bishop's Castle, and is dedicated to St. John the Baptist.]

53   **Shadwell Hall**

The usual account of the place-name is "from Saint Chad's Well (OE *wella* for 'spring' or 'stream'), *Chad* being patron saint of Litchfield". The place-name could date from the 8th century (cf the Anglo-Saxons adopting Christianity and their building Offa's Dyke.) Shadwell is a mile east of the Dyke, hence in Mercia. Chad's Celtic name was *Ceadda*, but for those who imagine a Welsh origin for the place-name, writing '*Ffynnon Siad'*, generates - in translation - '*well of the pate, crown of the head, skull*'.

Anthony Paulton-Smith gives another interpretation in *Shropshire Place Names* for a place-name "Shadwell"*,* namely '*the shady place*'.

But of this location Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "'Boundary spring' or 'boundary wall' depending on historical evidence: OE *scēad + wæll* or *wall*. Chad's well could be onomastic."

See 81 below: *Ffynnon y Sant*.

55   **Pwll-mab-hwyad** (Dog and Duck)

The writer is much indebted to Richard Morgan for his analysis of the place-name (personal communication of November 2012; Professor Hywel Wyn Owen essentially agrees with the interpretation: *the duckling's pool* or *a pool for ducklings*).

In a document of 1562 (Shropshire Archives Reference 1037/7/8) we read of 'a tenement in Edenoppe* called *Pullth Mab Whoyatt*' , which we recognise at once as "*Pwll Mab Hwyad*".
* Other documents of the same era write Edenop, a form which still prevails locally.

'Dog and Duck' is a relatively recent name, reflecting inn-names elsewhere, such as the 'Dog and Duck' in Balls Pond Road, London, where the enterprising innkeeper charged for the sport of duck-shooting on an adjacent pond, behind the inn. Doubtless the Welsh drovers would have known the inn as Pwll-mab-hwyad. The 'Dog and Duck' is situated beside the old coach-road from Bishop's Castle to Newtown and Llanidloes.

56   **Pwll-y-piad** (Upper Castlewright Cottage)

Again, I am indebted to Richard Morgan for his comments. He (cautiously) suspects that Pwll-y-Piad is a contraction of Pwll Mab Hwyad in rapid speech, perhaps by way of Pwll Mapwyad, Pwll-a-pwyad (provection* of –b before h-) > Pwllapyad, Pwllapiad (reduction of –wy- to –y-) > Pwll-y-piad probably under the influence of piod [*magpies*, plural of pioden]. Although very quiet today, in the late 18th century there was a toll-gate and toll-house here.
* Provection has two meanings: 1. the devoicing of a consonant; 2. the transposition of a word's last letter to the beginning of a following word.

57   **Upper Castlewright**

Castlewright from *Castell gwrych*, where *Castell-gwrych*, means 'castle defended by a ditch or hedge, possibly a pallisade' (*gwrych* = a hedgerow, a quickset hedge).

58   **The Crow's Nest**

Compare with Crow Wood GR 249923 See Dr. Bartrum's 'Kilmington' pedigree at the entry Meurig, generation number 13 : *Llwyn-y-brain*.

59   **Drewin**

From *(Y)+ dre(f)+(g)wen = Y Drewen*

61   **Tan House**

Notwithstanding the Welsh *Tan* = fire, we find also Welsh *Tyddyn*, often abbreviated to *Tyn* = small farm. And compare with the Tan House in Bishop's Castle, where the nearby "Tan Yard" says it all. And see also will ref. 445/91 (Shropshire Archives) 1617, referring to an adjacent house "The Lymes" and tanning activity. In years gone by, alder leaves were used to tan leather; in this area there would have been no shortage of them. (Also see 6 above for alder = *wollar*.) The trees used to be coppiced* - the wood was good for fuel, charcoal [gunpowder] and clogs as well as leaves. (The writer's great-grandfather was a clogger - ostensibly in a clerical role - obtaining alder wood from the Onny riversides seasonally [the trees were cut when the sap was down and then taken away to dry], and supplying clogs to workers in the Manchester area. He was trained, among other things, in double-entry book-keeping at Mr.Wrigley's Academy (1848): the hand-written script in his work-book is exquisite. As a youngster, this writer wore clog-boots when around the farm (clogs with leather uppers extending around the ankles - useful in mud), and found them very acceptable.) Whistles too were made from alder wood; and the alder's red sap was once used as a dye for those referred to in *Trioedd Ynys Prydein* as "sacred kings and warriors of the alder cult".

* See *Bettws y Crwyn, history, geography, farming and people*, 2007 p. 32

62   Black Pullets

OE *pull* + *hlith* = pool + hill-slope, preceded by OE *blaec,* hence 'black, dark or shiny pool by or on the hill-slope', see Owen's and Morgan's *Dictionary of the Place-Names of Wales* page 384. The name fits the place and its topography admirably. There is no shortage of springs and pools along this sloping side of the Churchstoke valley. The steep old coaching road down the long slope from Bishop's Moat to the Cann is called Pullets Lane, the steepest part of which is *Pullets Bank*.

About 4 miles distant (6½ km.) GR 325945 we find the Pultheley* (OE *pull* + *leah* = pool in a glade, woodland clearing, meadow or pasture.) The current orthography is redolent of the Welsh *pwll* = pool.

Here we offer an interesting digression. Although not bearing on this place-name, it was not unusual for pullets to be included in the annual rent. Here are a few instances (there are doubtless more):

1636 three pairs of pullets on New Year's Day or 2s. in lieu
1748 four fat pullets at Lent
1752 two fat pullets at Christmas or 1s. 6d.

*To the north of Pultheley at GR 332968 lies Mucklewick (OE *mycel* + *wic*) = big farm). (Eyton *Antiquities of Shropshire* [Vol.6 pp 296-7] tells us that the family de Overs had estates at Mucklewick and Overs, near Ratinghope see 13 above. Madoc de Overs was succeeded by his son Robert before 1221.) This is a long-standing documented place-name but, curiously, in local dialect this writer knew Mucklewick as Muckley, as if it were an echo of OE *mycel* + *leah* = big wood, clearing or meadow. And the use of Muckley is seen in a manuscript of 1833, 'beating the bounds' of Shelve Parish (Shropshire Archives reference SRO 1037/1/190).

63   Lower Cwm

Lower = *Isaf,* and *uchaf* = upper; sometimes the *'f'* is dropped. The use of "Lower" points to an English take-over of a Welsh area (compare with Cwm Mawr Dingle, see place-name 14).

64   Cann Farm

OE *canne*, a drinking vessel. The *Cann* is a hostelry on the old coach road from Hucklemynd through Bishop's Castle to Montgomery and Welshpool, (cf The Dog and Duck Inn on the Kerry Ridgeway, on the road from Bishop's Castle to Newtown.)

We may read across from *Cann Office* GR SJ012105 by Llangadfan, see Richard Morgan's "*A study of Montgomeryshire Place-Names*" and Enid Pierce Roberts' article in *National Library of Wales Journal* Vol.18 No.4 Winter 1974 pp 418 - 424 entitled "*Cann Office"*. A wholly convincing case is presented for *Cann* taking its name from a drinking *can*. (Wm. Owen Pughe deplores the unnecessary doubling of consonants (*Welsh Grammar* 2nd Edition.))

The *Cann* is situated by *Cae'n Ffos* (an enclosure surrounded by a ditch), which led Robert Owen "*In the Heart of Powysland* " (1930) to propose that *Cann* stemmed from *Cae'n Ffos.* Whilst - following Enid Roberts - this may not be so, this reader does not suppose that Robert Owen was proposing that a 'new' word '*caen*' (which may = *ridge*) was formed from '*cae'n*'*.

(In contrast, '*Hir-las*' is an example of words taking a 'new' meaning, namely an epithet for 'drinking horn'.) Rather, if we look to the actual structure itself, we see that it is encompassed, enclosed (by a dyke), for which the Welsh word is "*Can*" = "to shut up, to fence, or encompass, to cover, to enclose with a hedge". This, we consider, reflects Robert Owen's *Can* but, as stated above, we take the meaning of *Cann* to be a drinking vessel.

Cann as employed here is unlikely to be ubiquitous. For example, there is a Cann Wood in Radnorshire just by Presteigne, GR305631, where *cain,* ridge or back*,* would not be out of place; see Brian Davies' *Welsh Place-Names Unzipped'* for *cain and cein* (plus four more names of 'ridge*')*; and see *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru* ("*A Dictionary of the Welsh Language*") for the entries *cain*, *ceing*, and '*cefn*' = back, ridge.
* For background see *Collections, historical & archaeological, relating to Montgomeryshire* "*Cann Office: Its History and Archaeology"* by BH StJ O'Neil Vol. 42, 1932, pp 126-131.

We note that, to an English ear, *Cae'n Ffos* has a passing resemblance to *Cann Office*. Robert Owen writes "the name is derived from the adjacent *hen-domen* [= old mound] and *ffos* [= ditch or dyke] (pre-historic earthworks) out of which has grown the inn and its extensive ground*s*". He adds that at an earlier date *Cae'n y Ffos* was known as *Tyn y Domen Blowty* [= Old Mound Flour-house Farmstead (taking *Blowty* to be *Blawd-ty* – which itself is a township in *Llangadfan*)]. (See Robert Owen's "*In the heart of Powysland"* chapter 8, Upper Caereinon, section "Cann Office").

65   Mellington Hall

Mellington Hall is right on the dyke*. Mellington* lies to the west of *Aston* (east settlement)*.* Note the introduction of 'g' in '*Mellington*', cf note on *Pentreheyling* at 35 above*.* For early forms of the name and their interpretation, see Richard Morgan's *A Study of Montgomeryshire Place-Names,* p.134. *Mellington* gives its name not only to a number of places including Hall, Farm, Wood and Lower Mellington, but also to the overall township, see 66 below. In Catherine Wigmore alias Cadd'r's will of 1580 (widow of Edmond ap Cadwallader of *Bachelldre*) *(Hereford Archive Service Ref. AA20/45/1/35),* we learn of her ownership of a small parcel of land in neighbouring *Mellington,* where the family also owned a mill.

At GR 255931, 1.2 km (¾ m) to the NNW of *Mellington Hall*, lies the site of **Plasau** (Halls or Mansions); where only two or three dressed stones are all that remain of the building.

66   (Red) Court House

Place for local administration cf "Manorial Court". (Wholly English; in comparison, the Welsh would be *llys - ty*). Note that Bishop's Teirtref (meaning Bishop's Three Towns) is formed of the townships *Castlewright*, *Mellington* and *Aston*. The Court House lies within Mellington township. Bishop's Teirtref manorial records, which this writer has been pleased to examine, are held in the *National Library of Wales,* reference MA 2432-2473.

67   a. Little Argoed b. Great Argoed

To this day, there are patches of woodland near the Argoeds. The descriptors Little and Great show how Welsh has given way to English influence.

68   Cwm Linton

Welsh: Cwm = valley, Llwyn = bush or grove, Tyn =homestead, small farm; meaning homestead by the bush in the valley. Its elevated position on the higher valley-side might suggest a wholly Welsh name, so *Cwm y Llwyn din** = 'fort by the grove in the dingle' is also a possibility. (It is near a well, and although *Llynwen / Llynwyn* may mean a standing pool, puddle or moat, we are not convinced that we should employ *Llyn* rather than *Llwyn*.)

If we were to look for an early English origin or influence, *Linton* OE *lin + tun = farmstead where flax is grown* is possible, from which we have the hybrid word, *Cwm + Lintun*. [Again, OE *hlynn* 'torrent' is noted; *Cwm Linton* farm stands on a slope about 200 metres above the *Cwm y Lladron* brook (place-name 71).]

* From "*The perambulation of the of the boundaries of Churchstoke Parish*" in May 1702, *Collections historical and archaeological relating to Montgomeryshire* Vol.34 1907 pp 197-211 + unnumbered map; on p.202, we take the example of a "Come a Llintin house" which, in an editorial note, is described as "*cwm y llyn din*" - the fort by the lake in the dingle - and adds that the house has been renamed since the perambulation. (It is not the *Cwm Linton* we are considering here.)

69   **Eithin y Gaer**

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) adds "It would be interesting to see historic spellings. Different species of gorse are distinguished by qualifiers such as *eithin y gath* 'needle-furze' (literally 'the cat's furze'), *eithin y cwrw* 'juniper' ('the beer furze'), *eithin yr ieir* 'petty whin, needle greenwodd' ('the hens' furze')."

70   **Llueasty**

Additionally, at GR 307853, we find the "**Llysty**". If this spelling is authentic historically, in this instance it would yield "court-house" as its original meaning.

72   **Pantglas**

The name 'green hollow' describes its location very well. This was the home of some of the Blayney family until 1837. (And Blayneys were at Gregynog for over two centuries). See *The Radnorshire Society Transactions* Vol. 54 (1984) pp. 58 - 66 *"Twelve Miles a day"* by SP Thomas for an excellent description of the locality, coupled with an account of the activities of drovers in this area, supported by a map of their routes. Also of interest is H. Noel Jerman's "*From Moss to Macadam*" *Collections Historical and Archaeological relating to Montgomeryshire,* Vol. 43, 1934, pp. 11 - 32 (for the Kerry Ridgeway see pp 13,15 & Fig. 1).

73   **Upper Edenhope**

Further to 49 above, there are English names in this area e.g. Nut Wood, Garden Wood, Buston Wood, possibly imported in recent centuries, the last a mirror of Buston by Lechlade, Oxon; and of Buston in Northumberland.

74   **Lower Dolfor**

Not an uncommon name e.g. compare with *English* Big Meadow at the Cottage farm.

75   **Llaneuan** (Churchtown)

This is a daughter church to the parish church at Bishop's Castle, which is also dedicated to John the Baptist.

77   **Middle Knuck**

Pronounced locally without the initial '*k*' as in knob, rhyming with '*luck*'.

Welsh: *Cnwc* = hillock, bump, lump, butte or swelling, a knob or knot in a tree (and compare too with Welsh *Cyncyn* = a knob, a hillock and *cyncynawg* = abounding with tumps or hillocks. The suffix -*cyn* in *cyncyn* denotes the diminutive, as in *Bryncyn* (GR 281953) = small hill.) Note: the Old Irish *cnocc* (from Proto-Celtic), indicating that Knuck has a very early origin. Also see Richard Morgan "*Welsh Place-Names in Shropshire*" in respect of Knockin and Knuck, and his "*A study of Radnorshire Place-Names*" for *Knucklas* (*Cnwclas*).

Middle is from OE *middel.* Interestingly, OE *cnocc* = 'round-topped hill' and OE *cnoll* = 'hillock'. Middle Knuck lies on the path of Offa's Dyke. Knuck *Bank* lies to the west of Middle Knuck, *Lower* Knuck lies to the north-east.

78   Cwm lygwa Wood

Since penning the meaning given at 78 in the place-name list, the writer has been advised (personal communication from Mr. Richard Morgan) that –*wy* for 'water' is an antiquarian name which was discredited many years ago. We record, therefore, that the word element –*wy* as used, is not proven. Nevertheless, -*wy* does appear at the end of a range of river and stream names. To give an instance of its use, in their *Dictionary of the Place-Names of Wales*, Owen and Morgan write, in respect of *Afon Gwy* (River Wye), "…a derivation from a root which has given Welsh *gŵr* 'bent'. Cf. (Penrhyn) Gŵr and the river name suffix –*wy*."

Our translation "valley of the stream-source + wood", reflects the situation although, with the passage of time, the wood has disappeared. In the *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru* there is an entry "W. Camden 1695" which reads "*Llugwy*, clear water, from *llug* which signifies light" (compare with *llugyn*, a beam of light or brightness). Note also the name River Llugwy in this area of the borderland. Its source is near Llangynllo, and there is another Llugwy in Snowdonia. Locally, the stream source is about half a kilometre west of Cwm Llgwa Wood at GR248862, near Knuck Bank.

79   Tack Wood */* Golly coppice

There are two possibilities for the origin of the name Tack Wood, one Welsh, and one English.

Welsh: *Tachwedd.* "Tachwedd" is probably best known as November, the latter end of the season (which equates to the colloquial "back-end"), but it also may mean 'a little quantity', a 'remnant'. (It stems from the conjunction of 'tach' and 'gwedd'). So it may have been used to describe a remnant from a once larger wood. To the English ear lacking knowledge of Welsh, *Tachwedd* may have been discerned as 'Tack Wood'. Other instances of '*Tach*', also woodland, are to be found in this area of the borderland, for example, Penarth Tack (*Pen* = top, head + *garth* = wooded slope, or thicket) at GR 137915.

English: Tack is still in use in local dialect, often as bytack, meaning a farm taken by the tenant of a larger farm to which it is, as it were, *tacked* on, the land only being wanted; the house and 'building' are let separately (*Georgina Jackson*). '*Tack*, a lease; possession for a time.' (*Jamieson*). And '*Tack***:** Pasture taken by hire' *(Hartshorne)*. (Also the OS "*Guide to Scots origins of place-names*" gives '*Tack,* farm, leasehold'.)

That said, we have been inclined to prefer the Welsh origin just proposed, not least because the English "tack" seems generally to apply to pasture rather than woodland. *But* if we look to earlier times - the 13th century - Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) adds "*tack* was also a customary due as in *wormtack,* a payment for the compulsory feeding of swine". Pigs were fattened in the woods, for which a pannage payment was due to the owner of the woodland, see *Victoria County History for Shropshire*, Volume 4, Agriculture. And *wormtack* suggests an English word origin. (Note place-names 90, 91 and 264 related to the rearing of pigs.) Furthermore, 'tacksmen', who sublet land leased from clan chiefs to peasant farmers, were much in evidence at the time of the Highland Clearances, see "*The Historical Atlas of the Celtic World*" by John Haywood 2001, p.124 *"The Highland Clearances AD 1763 -1886"*.

We turn next to the adjacent Golly Coppice. We feel this is addressed by the construction which follows, and do not feel a need to offer an alternative.

Welsh: *Gelli / celli* = grove, itself not far removed from 'coppice' (cf *cwm* and dingle at place-name 14 in 'Cwm Mawr Dingle', where English monoglot speakers have not known the meanings of the Welsh words).

There is another *Golli* to the northern side of the Churchstoke valley, (*Golli gates bank*) in "*The perambulation of the boundaries of Churchstoke Parish*" (p.206, full reference at 68 above) in May 1702. The interpretation given is "*Gelli, ie* a grove". And 9½ km to the north-west of "Golli coppice" we have *Pen-y-Gelli* at GR 180910 (= top of the grove).

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) remarks "I have seen many odd spellings for *celli, gelli* but not *Golly*. Goleu-goed (Monmouthshire) is *Golly Good* 1772, Goleu-goed (Tirymynech, Montgomeryshire) is *Golleygoid* 1577."

80   Hergan

Welsh*: Hirgain; Hir* = long*, cain or cein* = back or ridge*;* hence long ridge (which is an apt description). In the latter*, cein,* the *-ei-* in c*ei*n is pronounced as *-y-* in English *by*. Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) cautions that Welsh *cain, ceing* (noun, masc.) 'back, ridge' is uncommon, and might give *cain, cein* lenited *gain, gein* in spellings.

This place-name is written Hirgan in wills of the 19th century (wills in the *Shropshire Archives**). Across Wales as a whole there are 6 instances of Hirgan and 7 of Hergan in the *National Library of Wales* catalogue, but we do not suppose that the origins of the word are necessarily the same in all instances. But nearby *Hurgin* at 232795, not included in the foregoing list, is of particular interest. It is a hill with a long, oval, top; we see that *Hergan* and nearby *Hurgin* share similar features. *Hurgin* is about 4 miles (7 km) SSW of *Hergan*. *Document references 1360/194 & 195.

The name advanced above, namely *Hirgan* = (hill with) *a long ridge* matches the topography.

Hirgan is open to other constructions, for example *cyn* can mean a wedge (and compare with *cynad* a rising hill or ascent, as in *Ty ar y cynad*, a house on the ascent), which might suggest *Hir cyn,* a long projection or ascent.

Again, *Hergan,* from *hir* (=long), *gen* = jaw, chin is also an apt description, although not so well-suited to *Hurgin*.

Yet again *ir ysgyn* in which *ir* = green, fresh*,* and *ysgyn* = an ascent, rise, or mount, if it is postulated that the leading '*ys'* has been lost.

In summary, *Hircain* = Hergan = 'long top or back' seems fitting for this place-name.

81   Ffynnon y Sant

Ffynnon y Sant = The saint's spring. A number of wells, springs and pools are to be found in Mainstone Parish. *Ffynnon y Sant* is about 1.6 km. west of Shadwell, just by Offa's Dyke, see entry 53 for Shadwell. Putting aside *siad* of 53, there is synergy between *sant* and *'chad'*.

82   Broneth

cf Cefn *Bronydd* at 254835: The ending *-ydd* usually denotes the possessive, i.e. belonging to (a person) - but *Bronwydd* = 'a wooded hillside', along with *cefn*, 'a ridge, or back'. (Note: Also*, ysgwydd* = shoulder [of hill or mountain].)

83   **Caer-din ring**

Caer = a castle or fortified town*; din* = that which surrounds, an extremity, border or limit. The meanings of *Caer* and *Din* overlap, as "fortified town " and "fortified hill"; the English 'ring' describes the earthwork seen today. Compare with *Caer Din* at 273898 (place-name 47). In "*The Place-Names of Pembrokeshire*" B.G. Charles writes "'*din*' fell out of use, giving place to '*caer*', then '*caer*' gave way to '*castell*'".

84   **Pant y Llydan**

Pant y Llydan is the spelling employed on the 1832-1836 OS map (the old 1" series).
Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "The definite article would be intrusive since *llydan* is an adjective. A middle vowel would be an easy intrusion after *t* (made on the hard palate)".

86   **Cefncelynnog**

The 1832-1836 OS "1 inch" map spells *"Cefn-celynog",* and relates the name to the entire ridge rather than the farm-house and buildings on the ridge. In NLW records*, Cefncelynnog is classified as a township. Curiously, early maps, such as that by Emmanuel Bowen, show *Cefn Celynnog*, perhaps to give a place-name in a relatively unoccupied area. Further up the ridge, to the north lies **Barretts,** addressed at 93 below. * NLW Reference RM 1 – 148.

87   **Skelton's Bank**

Although the meaning behind the personal name may not carry over to this location, Skelton indicates 'farmstead on a shelf or ledge'.

89   **Three Birches**

Also Birches, Birches Brook and Birches Wood lie just east of the long ridge named Cefn-celynnog. (In Welsh, birch tree = *bedw*.)

92   **Cefn brith / Railground**

b. Railground

That Welsh *Yr Allt* might yield 'Rail' seems doubtful (compare with 34), but one supposes associations between areas of this upland hill ground and holders of bottom-ground farms. We see for example, Railhouse Farm and Railhouse Cottage in Hurdley (by Churchstoke, on the northern side of Churchstoke valley), but this is not a proven link. Rail may be a local form of Royal, reflecting Crown Property, but again evidence is required. We merely note King Gwilliam farm on the edge - the fringe - of the top ground, at 880271, near Mainstone. And in terms of place-name links, we see that Shadwell Hill at 207871 is 7km (over 4 miles) from Shadwell Hall.

We may take 'Rail' at face value; for example "Edward Powell has fixed his post for a rail fence" in 1817 but this was many miles away from this location, in an entirely different setting, *Shropshire Archives* Ref. 2030/2/216-7. But we wonder how much of the 'top ground' was fenced, after the initial enclosure act, before the days of wire fences. In this area of the borderland there were 12,000 acres of common land at the beginning of the 19th century. Enclosure Acts were enacted in 1837 and 1860. The Commissioners administrating the enclosure of Clun Forest allotted one twelfth of the common land to the Earl of Powis.

The name Turbury Plantation (227885) near Maes Gwyn tells of turf (peat) cutting in days gone by, presumably open ground.

We return to the topography. The Railground is on steeply sloping ground, and a 1985 map (OS SO28/38) shows little sign of fences in the vicinity. But Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "Yr Allt is very unlikely to produce Rail; English *rail* makes sense". 'Railgate' (Wood) at GR 254634 is much more obvious.

93   Barretts

Coincidentally, the Welsh *bar* = top*,* cf the white-topped Berwyns (*Bar wyn*).

94   Long Pike Hollow / Cwm yr Onnen

a. OE pic, so 'A long pointed or sharp hollow' (a good description of the place).
Compare with OE pice = (pikey field) 330872. We see Welsh names disappearing from this top ground, and being replaced with English names.

96   Mason's Bank

We note Mr. Mason (Minister of Churchstoke) was a beneficiary in the will of Hugh ap Edmond (alias Beamond) of 1598-9. For a time, the family name 'Mason' was prominent in the area.

97   Treboeth wen

The writer is indebted to Mr. Richard Morgan for a detailed, thorough and extensive exposition of this place-name (personal communication, January 2012). There is hardly any sign of dwelling now, see Illustration 8.3, yet in the Mainstone Parish Register we find entries for baptisms in the Davies family of Treboeth Wen, in the mid-19th century. Treboeth wen was in the catchment area of Bishop's Castle's water supply, which may explain its demise. The trenches or gutters for *Treboeth wen*'s own water supply can still be traced.

100   Cwm Dychau

This place-name appears on the 1901-1903 old 1" OS map. A tentative suggestion as to its meaning was offered by local historian and schoolmaster George Mountford in his article *"Churchstoke and its Townships"* in *Montgomeryshire Collections,* vol.40, pp 208 & 209. *'Tychu > tuchaf* ' is given in the *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru* where the meaning is "groan or sigh", describing a phenomenon in the valley, graphically portrayed in the reference. Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) very much doubts "*Cwm Dychau*", writing "Welsh *tuch* noun, masc. 'grumble, moans' does not have a recorded plural. If *tuchau* existed it would not lenite after *cwm* which is a noun, masculine. Historical forms are needed." The name today is *Pentrenant Dingle*.

101   a. Hopton Uchaf b. White Hopton c. Hopton Isaf

Hopton *Uchaf = highest* and Hopton *Isaf = lowest* form the township of Hopton, the *Welsh* terms *uchaf* and *isaf* being added after the formation of the word Hopton.

The dwelling-place in Hopton Uchaf is named *Pant* (hollow or valley), whilst the dwelling in Hopton Isaf is named *Red Hopton*. Within Hopton township at SO 232906 there is a well or spring named "Seven Wells", compare with 150 below.

103   Llanyhared

In his article "*Churchstoke and its Townships" (Montgomeryshire Collections, vol 40, pp 205-220)*, George Mountford writes of *Llan-y-hared* "a century ago the overseer wrote "Llannercheuriad", the Golden Glade".

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "This is very unlikely even allowing for the odd effects of English speech patterns on Welsh. I would like to see historic forms."

104   Gwern-y-go

See Richard Morgan's *A Study of Montgomeryshire Place-Names* for earlier forms of the name.

105   Crow Wood/Fferm Bran

Both place-names are on the OS 1978 Pathfinder Map, the Welsh *'Fferm Bran'* meaning 'Crow Farm'. And from the Kilmington family pedigree we find the place-name from an earlier time given as 'Llwyn-y-brain', meaning The Crow Grove. Refer to Dr. Peter Bartrum's "Kilmington" pedigree in his "*Welsh Genealogies*": the *English* place-name was *Welsh* originally.

106   Bachelldre

The Welsh genealogist Lewis Dwnn records, in his contemporaneous document of the early 1600s, the formation of the Bachelldre *'Bemwnt'* (Beamond) family name from 'ap *Iemwnt'* (ap Edmond), see *National Library of Wales Journal* vol. 26, No. 4 p.345 1990 and Vol. 35, No. 3, 2012. The writer records his gratitude to Professor Prys Morgan not only for accounting for the place-name but, among many other matters, translating an ode by Owain ab Llywelyn ab y Moel in praise of Cadwaladr ap Gruffudd of *Bachelldref*.

118   Rhuddwr

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "This is *Rithor* 1576 *Montgomeryshire Collections* 25, p.27. 'Red water', *rhudd + dŵr*; *rhyd* is an unlikely qualifier for *dŵr* and such a combination would in any case probably appear as *rhyd-dwr, rhydwr, rhytwr*. Rhuddwr clearly contains the Welsh digraph *dd* (as *th* in *this*] which is a lenition after the adjective *rhudd*. Cf. Rhuddlan (*rhudd + glan*) and Rhuddnant (*rhudd + nant*), Breconshire, recorded as *rhythnant* 1507, and in *Aber-rhuddnant* 1832."

128   Nant-y-rhynau

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "Welsh *rhyn* is usually an adjective, sometimes a noun masc., with various meanings including 'rigid, stiff; cold' but more relevantly 'cape; mountain' (found compounded in *penrhyn*). No plural is given in *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru*. I am very doubtful about your suggested interpretation [given at 128 in the list of place-names and below*] and hard evidence is needed."

*The stream here runs down a fairly steep slope. *Rhyn* has a number of meanings depending on the context, such as hill in *penrhyn* cf *bryn*; also turbulent, rough, fierce, terrible, cold e.g. *dwr rhyn* = rough water; and *rhynnu* perishing cold, whilst *rhynu* (spellings vary) = shivering. (As a matter of interest, in English dialect *I'm starving*, or *I'm starved through* may very well mean *I'm perishing from cold* rather than *I'm hungry*. The Collins Spurrell *Welsh Dictionary* puts it rather well in the phrase "*starve with cold*".)

129   Anchor

The Anchor Inn is in Shropshire, and enjoyed extra trade when Sunday closing of public houses was in force in Montgomeryshire.

130   Rose Grove

The Methodist chapel here, which the writer knows well, has been closed. Making a living on these uplands was not easy. One family, who did not possess a car, travelled to and from the chapel by tractor, the children in the transport box.

136   Cider House

As noted at 123 in list of place-names, the place does not feature on Thomas Budgen's map of 1817.

143   Targy / Turgey (spelling varies, according to source)

"House in the field" describes its position. The farm-house is now a ruin. For comparison, there is a place named *Ty'r Cae* by Brechfa, Carmarthen.

146   Rhuddwr Oak

On his 'Newtown' sheet Thomas Budgen writes *Rhydd ddwr* = Red water + *English* Oak; compare with place-name 118 (*rhyd ddwr* = waterford) and note that Budgen writes *Rhyddwr Oak* on his 'Bishop's Castle' sheet). The spelling is important: *Rhuddwr* on later maps means 'shedder of blood'.

147   Castle Cefn Fron

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) observes "since the word order is Welsh, then *Castle* may be a substitution for *Castell*."

The legend "Castle Cefn Fron" appears on the OS 1833-1837 1" map about ½ km south of *Castell Bryn Amlwyg*, which itself is identified as "Castell Bryn Amlwyg" _or_ "Castell Cefn Fron". This is correct, in so far as locally, "Castell Bryn Amlwyg" is called "Castell Cefn Fron". Maps which are more recent, label the wooded ridge as "Cefn Fron", omitting the word "Castle".

148   Castell Bryn Amlwg

E. Rowley-Morris, referring to the names on the Ordnance [map] "Castle Bryn Amlwg or Castell Cefn Vron" writes "Locally [in 1891] it is called *Castle Cil Rhon*." (*Rhôn* = Spear, lance or pike; *cil* = back, retreat, corner; or back of an edged tool.) See "*History of the Parish of Kerry*" Montgomeryshire Collections Vol. 25, 1891, p.28.

150   Gwrid

We do not have to look far for another instance of '*Gwrid*'. Less than 12 km to the west, at 065852 we find *'Gwrhyd'* a stream-source, and close by at 070848 we find '*Seven Wells*', also near a source of water, *Gwrhyd* being on a ridge and *Seven Wells* on lower ground below the ridge. And *Gwrid* itself at 182149 is located by the source of the river Clun; the present farm of that name is sited in the river's catchment area. In a seminal paper Keith Briggs' "*Seven Wells*" (*Journal of the English Place-Name Society vol. 39 pp.7-44*, [2007]) shows that the name "Seven Wells" belongs to a continuous tradition of sacred springs from pre- to post-Christian times. He cites *Seven Wells* at 070847, in conjunction with nearby *Gwrhyd*, in his introduction to his Gazetteer, on p. 24. In his "*The Place-Names of Pembrokeshire pp. 292-3*" Bertie George Charles discusses the application of the word *gwrhyd* in place-name "*Gwrhyd Mawr, Bach*", relates it to other places, including a stream *Afon Gwrhyd* in Breconshire and concludes "It may well be that *(y) gwrhyd* was used of topographical features of particular length or breadth* and if so *the problem calls for further research and consideration*." - a prescient comment. (We should add that natural flows of water are to the fore at this location in Pembrokeshire, see Heather James' "*The Cult of St David in the Middle Ages*" in *Journal of the Pembrokeshire Historical Society* Vol. 7, 1996-7, especially pp.12 & 13. Keith Briggs

thesis may be very apposite to this *Gwrhyd* in Pembrokeshire also; an early chapel reflecting revered water-sources.)

* One meaning of the word *gwrhyd* is 'fathom' (a measure of length).

In *Bettws y Crwyn: History, Geography, Farming & People* (2007) we read of a *spring* on *Gwrid Bank* (for supply to Anchor Farm), whilst The Revd. Prebendary Richard Shaw, Vicar of *Bettws y Crwyn, Clun and Newcastle* writes: "The term parochia then referred to the missionary territory of a 'minster' church, possibly in our case, Abbey Cwm Hir. But behind this definition of 'parish' there probably lies a much older pagan pattern of grouped agriculturalists† around their holy hill or sacred well." (And the Ladywell spring, just a little way NE, down from Bettws y Crwyn church may very well fall into this category; furthermore, only a little more than 1 km. east of the church there is a place named *Temple* which stands close to a well, on the flank of the hill.)

In his *Welsh Legends*, p 117, (Legends of the wells, Chapter 9)) *D. Parry-Jones* opens with an interesting extract from Sir John Rhys' Hibbert Lecture of 1866, on *The Growth of Religion as illustrated by Celtic Heathendom,* addressing the assimilation of the Celtic worship of wells in the Christian era.

In summary, we may be inclined to follow Dr. Keith Briggs in taking our place-name *Gwrid* at 182849, in Bettws y Crwyn parish, to signify a revered water-source, but we need to be assured that the word *Gwrid* may be identified with the word *Gwrhyd* as used nearby in Montgomeryshire at 065852 (which we believe is likely); and Dr. Briggs advises too (personal communication) that it is important to determine the age of a Seven Wells name (in this instance, that in his Gazetteer, p.24 *Seven Wells / Gwrhyd* at 065852) before concluding anything about it.

† Writing in 1891, E. Rowley-Morris records in a footnote that "On the summit of *Gwridd*, formerly could be seen very perfect traces of ancient hill cultivation. The "Butts" followed the contour of the hill-side and were of various sizes, but the furrows showed that the ploughing was deep. Since the enclosure of the Bettws Hills, modern cultivation has obliterated these memorials of the prehistoric agriculturalist".
Ref.: (*Montgomeryshire Collections* "*History of the Parish of Kerry*" Vol. 25, 1891 p.28 [footnote].)

There is another possibility in respect of *Gwrid*. Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) has drawn my attention to his paper, published in "*Brycheiniog*": The Journal of the Brecknock Society (2016), entitled *Paths and Perambulations: Dore Abbey, 'Meurig's Way' and Place-Names in Gwenddwr and Crucadarn*. He writes:

> "Last year I drafted a short article on 'Meurig's Way' - a discussion of place-names mentioned in a 13th century description of a road running between two granges of Dore abbey in the Llaneglwys-Crucadarn area. One of the names mentioned in the description is Gwryd Cai. Welsh *gwryd* literally means 'a man's length (from the tips of the fingers of one hand to the other' (*gwr + hyd*) and was employed in the sense of 'a fathom'. Topographically, *gwryd* appears to mean a narrow pass or ravine and a dip in a ridgeway (perhaps where other roads cross it). One of the place-names in the article is Gwryd Cai, a name also found in Montgomeryshire and Caernarfonshire. Cai is the legendary follower of King Arthur. The local topography at Gwrid should prove which description is appropriate. Gwryd Cai on 'Meurig's way' is located where the path (a hill road/ridgeway) dips, then rises. At the dip there is a second road which crosses over the 'Meurig's way' from one side of the hill to the other side."

My comment on the local topography reads:

> "The *Gwrid* is near the "Anchor" and could be described as a way through a 'ridge', indeed, a road goes through in the present day, coming from Clun and Newcastle to the

east, and going on towards Kerry in the west, crossing the Kerry ridgeway a few kilometres beyond the *Gwrid* when travelling to the west, but the way through at the *Gwrid* is not particularly narrow, in fact it is a fairly wide dip in the terrain. There is also an old route, roughly north-south going past the *Gwrid*. It too, having crossed the Kerry Ridgeway, passes the *Gwrid* and heads down towards Bugeildy. Pound Gate farm - redolent of drovers - lies on that route. So, the two routes cross at the *Anchor / Gwrid*, and there is another route, which passes through Kerry Pole on the Kerry Ridgeway.

Gwrid is a watershed between streams flowing to east and west - the Clun river and Rhydfedw stream respectively. The *Gwrid* also fits the notion of sacred / holy water sources."

Having reviewed the topography, this writer finds it difficult to choose between the competing explanations.

156   **Gorddwr Banc**

On the OS 1833-1837 1" map, instead of 'Gorddwr' the name is written 'Cwrd-dwr'. See also Note 200 below.

159   **Plaisty**

Possibly, house belonging to a hall. Also, compare with note 65 above: Plasau (halls).

161   **High Park**

Now a 'lost' house.

168   **Medwaledd**

The renowned Lewis Dwnn, bard, genealogist and deputy herald, visited Medwaledd in 1578 (see Ffransis Payne's *Exploring Radnorshire*, translated by Dafydd y Garth [Dai Hawkins]).

170   **Rhyddwr Brook**

Here the present boundary between Wales and England follows the brook, which flows into the river Teme (*Tefeidad*).

172   **Bryn Shop**

Given its relatively remote location, the epithet 'shop' is unclear, compare with '*shop farm*' by Llanbister, where a shop was run along with a farm of that name.

173   **Nant-y-pyllau / Mount Flirt**

Firstly, it is interesting to compare *Pyllau* (small streams or pools) with *Pultheley (Notes and References 62)* although the names differ in their origins.

Secondly, we review the provenance of the name "**Mount Flirt**".

The writer has found three instances of Mount Flirt west of the Welsh/English border, namely at Upper Cefnperfa (Cefn Perfedd) [*Middle Ridge*] (123892), Nant y Pyllau (the location under consideration) and The Mount (290702), where we find Mount Flirt Barn. In SW Shropshire we find a sprinkling of places named Mount Flirt. In the instances of Cefn Perfa and Nant y Pyllau, it appears that the cognomen "Mount Flirt" was carried for a spell, then dropped in favour of the original Welsh

names. We see "Mount" used as a badge of distinction as in, for example, "*Mount* Nebo", just north of Sarn (204913) and "*Mount* Pleasant" at 240774, by Llanfair Waterdine, as well as at 364931 near Norbury. In view of a number of different places bearing the name "Mount Flirt" in SW Shropshire, we might expect that the meaning of the place-name to be addressed in the course of local historical or linguistic studies, but this appears to be not the case, see for example the *Victoria County History of Shropshire*, Volume 10 for "Mynd Mount Flirt" by Brown Clee Hill, where the name is used without an explanation. Likewise, Margaret Gelling in collaboration with HDG Foxall, in their *The Place-Names of Shropshire Part 3 (English Place-Name Society 76)* p.151 write "'Mount Flirt', 1842 Tithe Award: unexplained, one of three instances in Shropshire, v. HDG Foxall, *Shropshire Field-Names* 66. On the 1901 6" map the house is called Upper Heywood." In fact, there are more than three instances in Shropshire, but we need not list them here.

We advance here a possible explanation for the name. We turn to times when herbal remedies medicines were the order of the day. In Joseph Wright's *The English Dialect Dictionary*, Vol. 2, we find the entry: *Flirt* - wort - common feverfew, and in the *Pharmacogn Review* 2011 Jan -Jun 5(9) pp. 103-110, feverfew is also given the name *flirtroot*. (Its *Welsh* name is *meddygen menyw*.) In David Hoffman's *Welsh Herbal Medicine* p.50 we read "The plant [*Tanacetum parthenium*] is often found around old houses or the sites of old houses as it was planted to purify the air and ward off disease". The benefits of the plant included pain relief. It was taken for a range of ailments, including migraine. As well as being eaten, (although very bitter), it could be drunk as a tea and, rubbed on the skin as an oil, it wards off insects. Its 'active ingredients' have been analysed in some detail, in the interests of modern pharmacology - not only to understand the benefits it offers, but also to identify undesirable side-effects.

The use of feverfew / flirt could have been a fashion, on the other hand there could have been a local arrangement of "Mount Flirts" for the supply of the herb to a herbal-remedy market*.

Readers may be able to add to this proposition. One of the owners of a one-time, that is formerly named, Mount Flirt, was unaware of that name, but spoke of a rumour of witchcraft at Cefn Perfa, in by-gone days! Was the application of herbal remedies perceived in this way?

Naturally, in the not very distant past, remedies and treatments were available in the countryside: for example a farming family at Pedwardine (SO 365708) for some generations excelled at resetting dislocated joints and so on: after going to them for treatment himself, a doctor local to Bishop's Castle adopted what he had learned of their skills.

(*Our ancestors were keen to promote their wares, not least herbal remedies - what better than coin a name for 'brand recognition', such as "[from or grown on] *Mount Flirt*"?).

179   **Ffynnon ymenli / Butterwell Farm**

A little dwelling on the edge of Crown land. As a general comment, in parts of the area addressed by MAP 2 'Ty unnos' dwellings (erected in the space of one night) were not uncommon. Although illegal under an act of 1588, the practice persisted for two or three centuries. Tacit recognition was obtained when small sums were collected for the landowner, by way of rent. Moreover, once a right of access to common land was gained, it would allow a smallholder to run livestock on the sheepwalk. And the distinction between common land and 'waen' (moorland with heather, bracken and the like) is to be noted. For more information see *Collections, historical & archaeological, relating to Montgomeryshire* 1942 Vol. 47 pp 109 - 120 "*Popular enclosures and the One-Night House*" by RU Sayce (which includes considerations of Radnorshire.)

181   **Windy Hall**

A grand name, but little of the place exists today. The settlers had a penchant for grand names.

183   **Culvert**

We note *Gilfach*, number 108 in the 'List of Place-names'; equally one might expect to encounter *Gilfawr*. It would not be surprising, if evidence were to emerge, to find that '*Culvert*' derives from *Gilfawr* / *Gilfach.* The house stands no longer. We note too, about 0.6 km down the road (that is, travelling east) **Friesland** 124828, possibly '*a dwelling with access to mountain pasture*' (fridd-land).

184   **Waen pen llydan**

This was the home of Clarice Thomas, author of *A History of Cwm Gwyn 1900-2000.*

It appears that the suffix "pen llydan" has fallen out of use; Clarice does not mention it. Clarice's coverage of Cwm Gwyn, particularly of the 'lost' houses, is remarkable. The brief entries in this paper on the status of houses in Cwm Gwyn stem from her work, for all of which we are grateful.

185   **Bwlch y llyn**

There is a sizeable pond/small lake just to the south of *Bwlch y llyn Farmhouse*, which stands by a defile, through which one of the headwaters of the *Tefeidad* runs.

187   **Gravel Farm**

Now, of the dwelling house, just a few stones remain.

192   **a. Cork Cottage; b. Cork Hall**

Cork as an English word stemming, say, from the presence of a cork tree, seems unlikely. Interestingly, the place-name *Cork* in Eire derives from the Irish *Corcaigh* = swamp, cf Welsh *cors*. There is no trace of Cork Hall today. *Cors* here, and at 207 in the list of place-names, are suggested meanings.

194   **Slopes**

There is no trace of this property today.

195   **Ty'n y llidiart**

Nearly all trace of this place has disappeared.

200   **Gorther**

Located just NW of the confluence of the Rhuddwr Brook and the River Teme, so just in Wales, literally "over the water" (*Gor* = over, *ddwr* = water).

Note: On his 'Newtown' map of 1817, Thomas Budgen writes Cwrdd Ddwr (*Cwrdd* = meeting (of people) + *Ddwr* = water; together meaning "chapel-goers") rather than Gor-ddwr. The essence of *Cwrdd Ddwr* is followed by the OS 1833-1837 1" map, which reduces Cwrdd Ddwr to Gwrd-dwr. Both Gwrd-dwr Mill at 160822 (below present day Mill Wood, although the mill no longer exists) and Gwrd-dwr Farm at 163822 are shown on the OS 1" map.

In his "Exploring Radnorshire", Ffransis Payne writes "There is a lane ... that leads across the Teme to *Gorther*, a farmhouse which is a successor to *Gorddwr*, the mansion of Gruffudd ap Maredudd Fychan, one of the Torddu clan, 'where you could find wandering poets from all Britain'. .... 'Beyond the river' is the meaning of *Gorddwr* and here is a place where you can cross the Teme without

leaving Radnorshire because the boundary leaves the river here and turns up Nant Rhuddwr". (Translation by *Dafydd y Garth* [Dai Hawkins].)

Ffransis Payne rails against The Ordnance Survey for mishandling some of the Welsh place-names in Radnorshire, in particular Llinwent written Llymwynt. (Llinwent at 117785 is a little south of the area covered by MAP 2.) Gorther and Medwaledd were among the farms held by the family of Philip Dorddu, including Bachelldre (place-name 106), from whom the ap Edmonds/Beamonds descend. As the crow flies it is 13 km (c. 8 miles) from Gorddwr to Bachelldre.

203   Fron Felin

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) notes "if there was a mill here, we would expect *Fronyfelin*, *Fron y Felin*. Welsh *melin* is also sometimes confused with *melyn* adjective masc. and especially *melen* adj. fem. Welsh *bron* 'breast, hill' is a noun fem. so that 'yellow hill' would be *Bron Felen* (for the hill), *Bronfelen* (for a house or place). Note Bronfelin (Llandinam)."

208   Simon's Land

Described by Clarice Thomas as "a little house in the dingle". She comments "this was a poor area in terms of money" and tells of the resident who "once came to *'The* [neighbouring] *Garn'* to beg for a swede to cook with their Christmas dinner". One remembers much of what Clarice describes, including rag rugs, the use of coarse sacks for work-clothes (finer sacking was for better wear), handed-down clothing, oil lamps and potato sandwiches, pig-rearing and killing, and eating brawn, bacon and faggots, the last days of the magnificent cart horses; and prisoners of war from the camp at Newtown who worked on farms in the area. On his *'Newtown'* map of 1817, Thomas Budgen shows Simon's Land adjacent to Nanty (see place-name 209). Today, this is a 'lost' house.

209   Nanty

The stream itself is *Nant-ddu* (black stream), see 211 below, and the valley through which it runs is *Cwm-Nant-Ddu*. Clarice Thomas writes of 'Cwm Nanty' as well as 'Nanty', saying all trace of these houses has disappeared, including Blaen-Nanty (place-name 211) and The Guifron (place-name 212). Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) adds "Nant-ddu could well be anglicised as *Nanty*. Cf. Capel Nant-ddu (Breconshire) recorded as *Capell Nantye* 1578."

212   Geufron

Geufron is identified on Thomas Budgen's *Newtown* map of 1817.
Again, as noted at 209 above, it is a 'lost' house.

213   a. Fiddler's Green b. Lower Fiddler's Green

From Clarice Thomas's book *A History of Cwm Gwyn*, p.72, we learn that the name - Fiddler's Green - was said to be from the legend of the "little people", *Tylwyth Teg*. If we look to *Bettws y Crwyn* parish we find *Rhos Fiddle* hill (205833), an area of heathland about 1 km. north of *Curney* (see Note 33 above), and *Rhos Fiddle* pool. So here we have the *instrument* rather than the *player*. In his *Welsh Legends and Fairy Lore,* p.35, D. Parry-Jones tells of a belief in magical fairy circles on the *Rhôs*: "If fairies loved to roam unmolested over the open heath, heather- and bracken-grown, they could not find a better paradise than this."

But might '*Rhos Fiddle*' be derived from the Welsh '*Rhos Fedw*' - heathland with birch trees?

215   Bog

The house is mostly in ruins now. We note at 135810, between **Bog** and **Shell**, **Frog Street**.

Compare with **Frog's Gutter** at Grid Reference SO362968, note 10 above.

216   **a. Hope's Castle Farm**

Hope's Castle was a little clod house with a rather grand name.

      b. Waun y maglu / Waun y maglau: as stated, we take this to be the original name. But compare with place-name list number 189 where the place-name is *Waun y magdu*.

217   **Rhuvid Bank**

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes:

"*The Rivid* in 1752. I am not sure that the second element is *rhyd*. Forms with –*vid* tend to favour *bid*, lenition *fid* 'hedge' etc. There must surely be a connection here here with *Rhiw wyddfid* at 220 in the place-name list. Welsh *gwyddfid* 'wood, forest, bush, thorn-hedged enclosure' is uncommon but was probably a noun (feminine). That would be *Yr Wyddfid* after the definite article. *Tyddyn* (SN990872) was apparently earlier known as *Tyddyn Gwyddfid* (Montgomeryshire Collections 59, p.135)"

Just to the north of **Rhuvid farm** (which is at 148813), the 1833-1837 OS 1" map shows **Gwyddrid** at 148815. *Gwydd rhyd*, which may be translated as "ford [at the] trees", describes its situation at the "Crochan Dingle" stream, together with adjacent woodland.

224   **Crug y byddar**

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes:

"The definite article in the middle of the name seems to appear first in the 19th cent. Earlier forms either completely omitted or prefix it as *Y Cruc Bydhar* c.1700 and *y Krig Byddhar* c.1700. This certainly favours *byddar* 'deaf; bereft of sense, deadened', perhaps in the sense of 'silent mound, a mound which is unable to hear or communicate' or 'senseless, pointless mound'. An initial definite article rules out *buddair, byddair* 'bird of prey', probably found in Llanybydder."

235   **Cwm nanty**

The valley in which *Cwmnanty* is placed is named **Cwmnant-ddu** (and the head of the valley is at 211 in the Place-Name List).

Cwm nanty, as mentioned at 209 above, is another 'lost' house.

237   **Gwenlas**

The streams from *Cwm Gwenlas* and *Cwm Llaethdy* run into *Glyn Ieithon*. As well as *Gwenlas* being the name given to the farm, it is the name of the brook and the name of the valley.

Note: to the north of Gwenlas, at 1152812, the 1833-37 1" map shows *English* Sunny Bank, (compare with Sunny Bank at SO298911 in the area covered by MAP 1).

238   **Felin Wynt**

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes: "Felin Wynt, '(the) wind mill'. The lost definite article explains lenition *melin > felin*."

240   Bryn Gydfa

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "[the suggested meaning is] doubtful. Welsh *bryn* does not require lenition *gydfa < cydfa*. Has someone applied English pronunciation of *y* [ei] here? Guidfa (Radnor) is *Geidvah* 1788, *Guidvah* 1790, *Gidvach* 1799, *Guidfa House* 1868 but I cannot explain the name though the second element may be *bach*[1] 'small, little' or *bach*[2] 'hook; corner, bend' as in Bleddfa ('wolf's bend').

241   Shell Heath / Sheal Heath

"Shell" also has connotations of lime (a lump of quicklime for example). Further, "Sheal" means "to shell or husk; (or) a hill where grain is winnowed in the wind". With regard to "shell", in the National Library of Wales catalogue we find, in an Estate Record Lease of 99 years of 1784* "...agreement to grind and shell all grain raised ....". (Also in the NLW catalogue, there are instances of yshell, cantrishell, sheyshill & sheyshshell, and ishell between 1634 and 1724, but no entries specific to this location.) * Nuedd-fawr estate records, NLW Reference Code 203 (re: lands called Noyadd fawr &c.)

Also note OE *scelf* meaning 'sloping ground, shelving terrain, ledge, a shelf of level or gently sloping ground' and compare with the place-name Shelve at 337990. From knowledge of the topography, we see there is no shortage of possibilities as to the meaning of this place-name, whether it be a place for winnowing or sloping ground or a property of the composition of the land itself. Mr.Richard Morgan (personal communication) adds "English *shell* certainly occurs in place-names".

The little clod house *Shell Heath* has gone, except for a few stones.
Note: Frog Street lies just to the north of Shell Heath, see Note 215.

242   Killowent

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes:

> "This is *Cil-Owen* 1833, 1891 which surely favours 'Owen's nook'. There is a Cilewent (SN 882629) near Rhaeadr which is *Cil Owen* 1833, *Cil-oerwynt* 1890; Cilowen, St Asaph, which is *Kilowen* 1653; and a Cilowen, at Cilymaenllwyd, Caernarfonshire, recorded as *Cilawen* c.1830 which RJ Thomas mentions (*Enwau Afonydd a Nentydd Cymru*, p.104) in connection with a personal name *Awen*. Clearly more evidence is needed. Are you suggesting that Killowent has simply acquired an inorganic –*t* under the influence of Llinwent? If so, I agree with you."

243   Nest

In his *Welsh Dictionary,* William Owen Pughe, gives "That is compact or close" as the meaning of Welsh '*nest*'. Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) dismisses this as an invention, saying that WO Pughe must have had *nes* 'nearer' in mind. The personal name *Nest* is noted.

245   Coety (banc)

Also Coety + *English* 'Wood Cottage' is at 158807.

246   Tansomalia

Welsh: *Tyn* = homestead + *shimleiau* = chimneys; meaning a homestead with chimneys.
The farmhouse has an exterior chimney stack each end.

We see the name written *Tanshimalia* in Thomas Budgen's 'pen and ink' map of 1817 (the *Llandrindod Wells* sheet). We take the view that his word *Tanshimalia* reflects the spoken word, and

listening to a local speaker voicing the word*, the present English spelling *Tansomalia* does not direct the general listener to <u>either</u> a local pronunciation <u>or</u> Budgen's *Tanshimalia*. This word comprises two elements, *'tan'* and *'shimalia'*. *'Tan'* in English dialect may represent *'Tyn'* or *'T'y'n'*, the abbreviation of *'Tyddyn'* (compare with *'Tynshimley'* at Grid Reference SN 975708). *'Shimalia'* in its ending *-ia* may reflect a plural ending *'-eiau'* . Together, the individual elements then yield, in Welsh orthography, *'Tynshimaleiau'*, taking *'Tanshimalia'* to be a metathesised form of *'Tanshimleia'*.
* by kindness of Mrs. Heather Hood.

The late Ffransis Payne would doubtless be pleased that a meaning has been proposed for Tansomalia (Exploring Radnorshire, Part 2, p. 78, translated by Dafydd y Garth / Mr. Dai Hawkins). (As to the derivation of the name, the present writer had considered *Symylen* [an old Welsh word for primrose] as a candidate word, but dismissed it on account of its lack of an '–*au*' ending, in its plural form.)

Not to be outdone, we had '*The Three Chimneys*' near Norbury (SO 357915), surpassing *two*, but the house has been renamed '*Greenfields*'. As to local dialect, see WH Howse "*Radnorshire*" (1949) Ch. 32 "The Speech of Radnorshire" (p. 289 – 290(e)) "*Some Radnorshire Pronunciations*".

Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) writes "I would like to see more historic forms – I do not see how tyn > Tan-. [The proposition about] metathesis may well be right however."

249   Brandy House

In respect of *ebran*, which he identifies as a candidate word, Mr. Richard Morgan (personal communication) notes the first vowel could be easily confused with the definite article *y*. As an instance of *ebran* in a place-name, we find *Ebrandy* House and Hall at GR 263725.

262   Trefoel

Welsh: This clod cottage on the spur of a hill was built to house a shepherd, who would look after all the sheep on the open hill. The cottage has all but disappeared. Likewise the dwelling at Coventry (place-name 260), which stood in an enclosure of about four acres in a very exposed, isolated position, no longer stands.
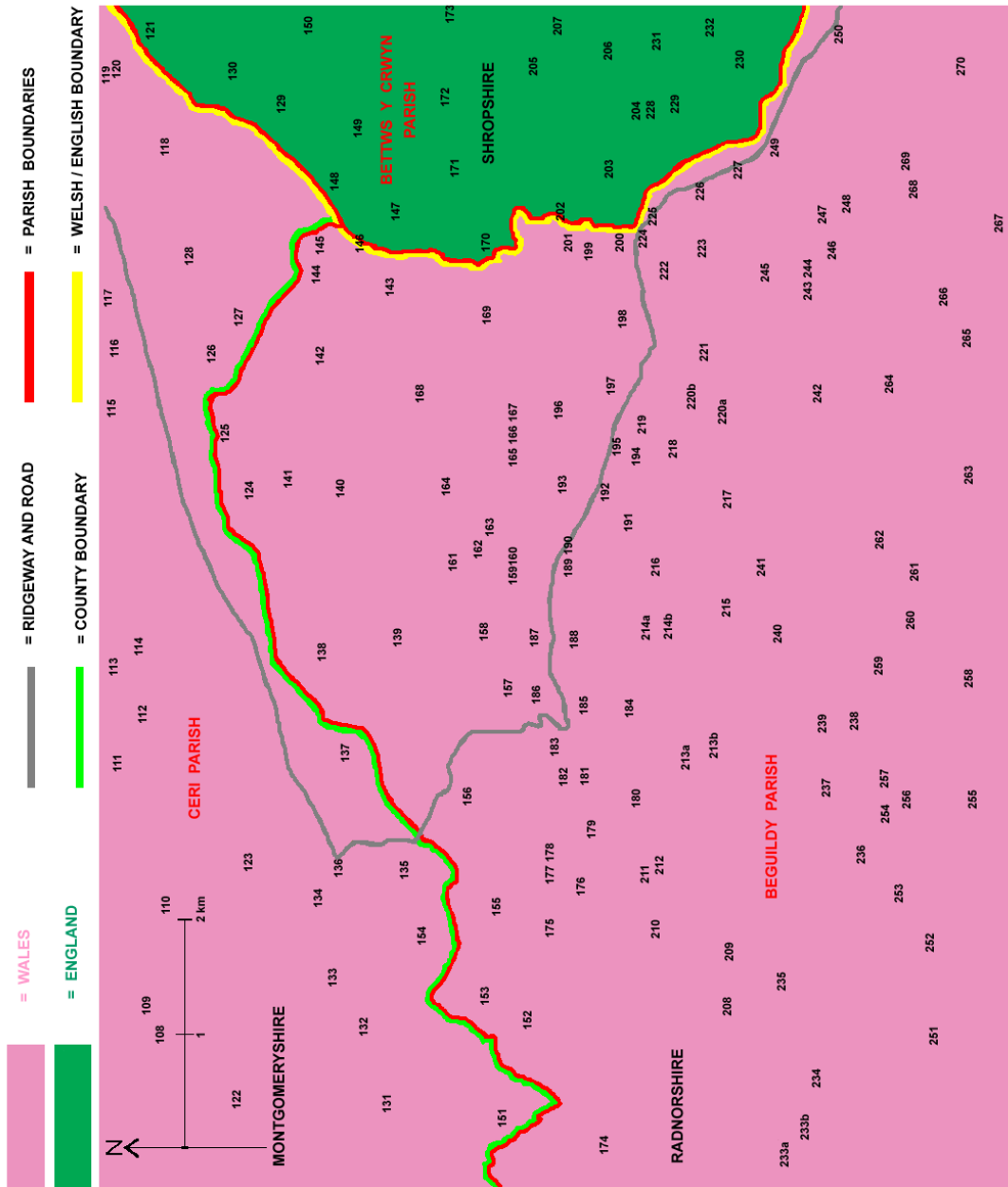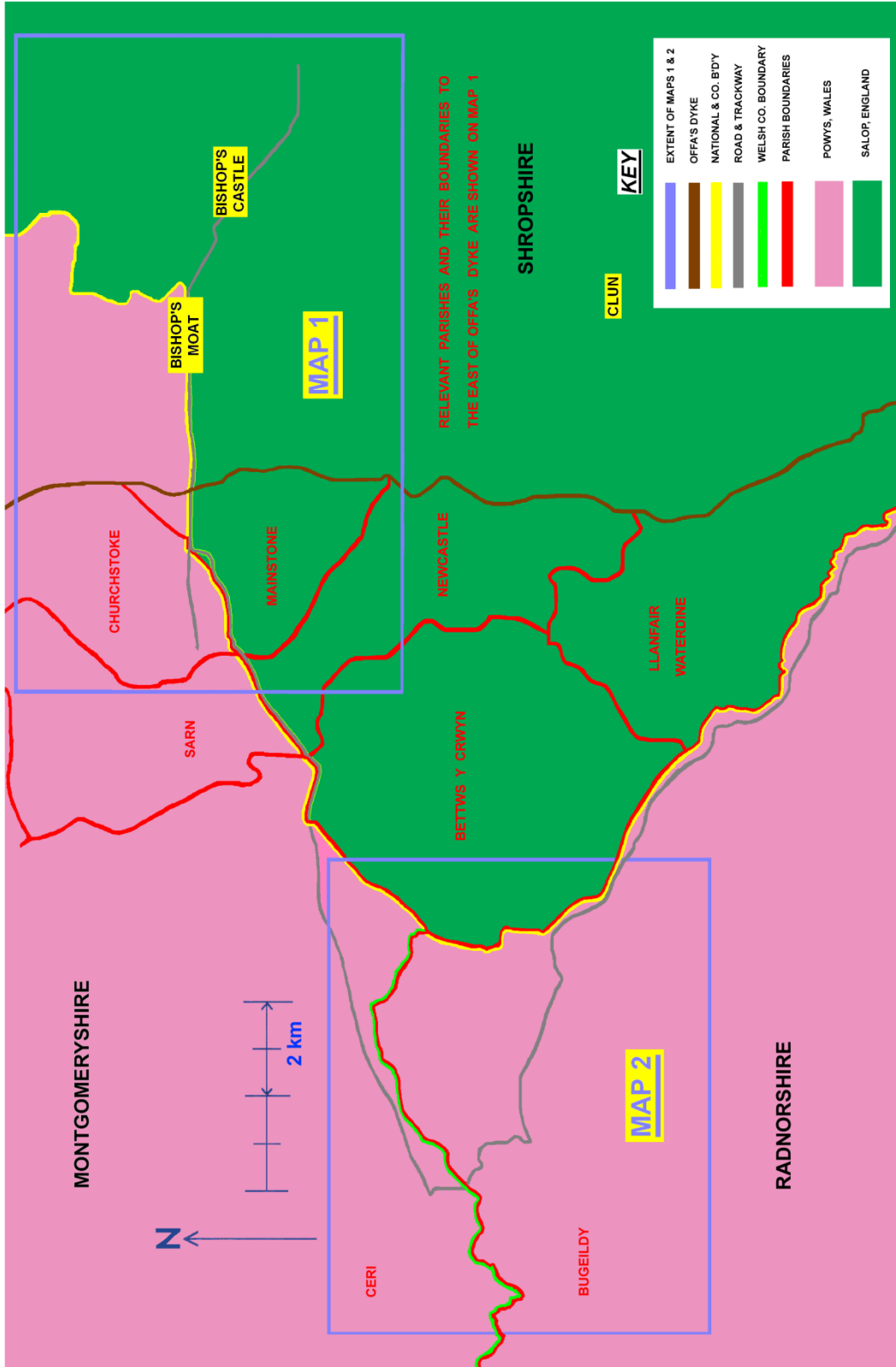
269   Cefn Pawl

This was the birthplace of Dr. John Dee (Ieuan Ddu), Elizabeth I's tutor, eminent mathematician and astrologer.
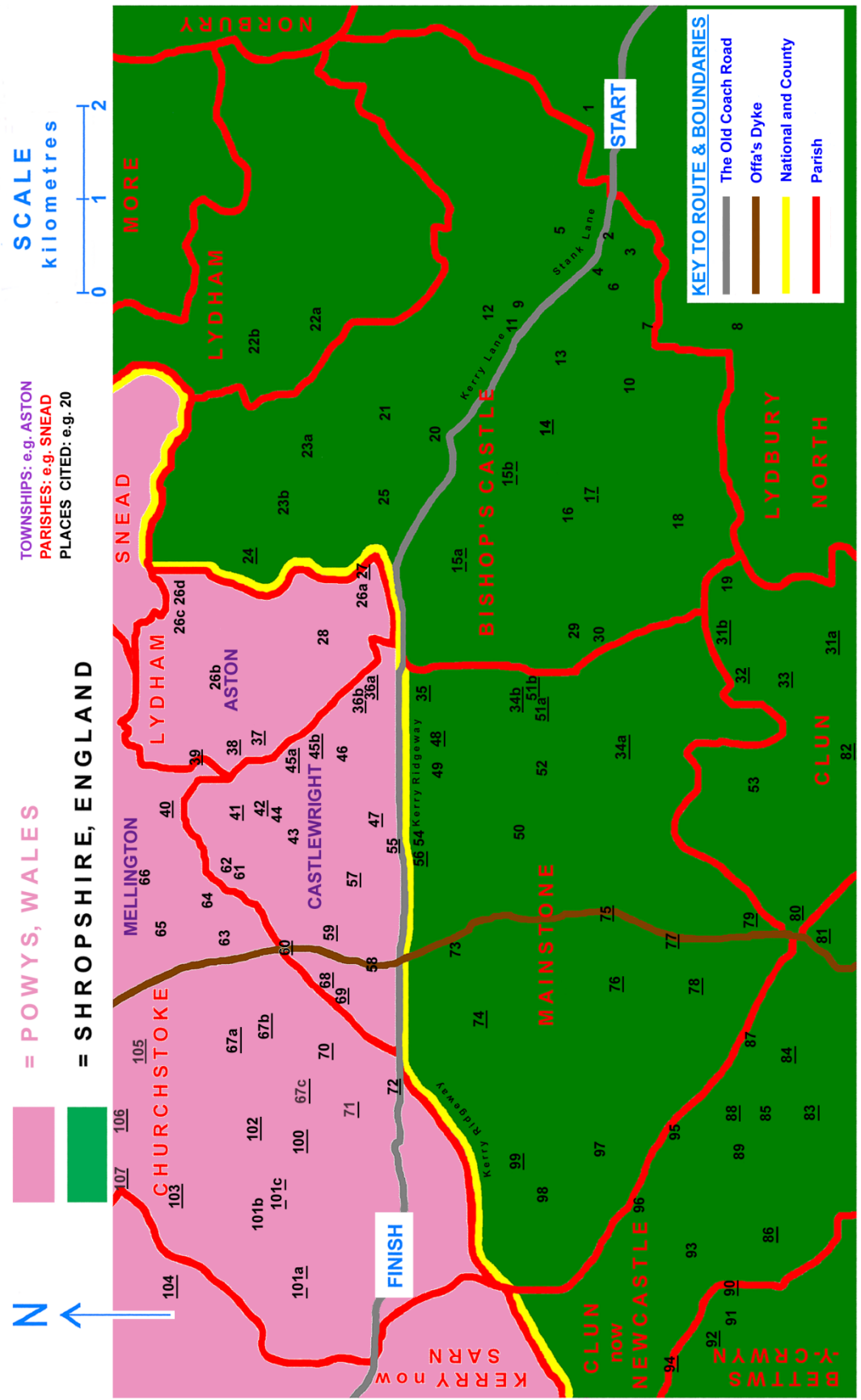
MAP 1

A SHORT JOURNEY - START TO FINISH

SCALE
kilometres
0 1 2

N

= POWYS, WALES

= SHROPSHIRE, ENGLAND

TOWNSHIPS: e.g. ASTON
PARISHES: e.g. SNEAD
PLACES CITED: e.g. 20

KEY TO ROUTE & BOUNDARIES
The Old Coach Road
Offa's Dyke
National and County
Parish

START

FINISH

NORBURY

MORE

LYDHAM

SNEAD

Stank Lane

Kerry Lane

BISHOP'S CASTLE

LYDBURY
NORTH

CLUN

MAINSTONE

Kerry Ridgeway

Kerry Ridgeway

CHURCHSTOKE

MELLINGTON

LYDHAM
ASTON

CASTLEWRIGHT

KERRY now
SARN

CLUN
now
NEWCASTLE

BETTWS
-Y-CRWYN

MAP 2

CWM GWYN - West of Offa's Dyke

492

MAP 1

BISHOP'S
MOAT

BISHOP'S
CASTLE

CHURCHSTOKE

MAINSTONE

NEWCASTLE

SARN

BETTWS Y CRWYN

LLANFAIR
WATERDINE

SHROPSHIRE

CLUN

RELEVANT PARISHES AND THEIR BOUNDARIES TO
THE EAST OF OFFA'S DYKE ARE SHOWN ON MAP 1

KEY

EXTENT OF MAPS 1 & 2
OFFA'S DYKE
NATIONAL & CO. B'DY
ROAD & TRACKWAY
WELSH CO. BOUNDARY
PARISH BOUNDARIES
POWYS, WALES
SALOP, ENGLAND

MONTGOMERYSHIRE

2 km

N

CERI

BUGEILDY

MAP 2

RADNORSHIRE

MAP 3

SHOWING THE RELATIVE DISPOSITION of MAPS 1 & 2

493

Concluding Observations

This brief study, limited though it is, gives insight into the usage of *English* and *Welsh* in this part of the borderland. There is little sign of *Welsh* place-names east of Bishop's Castle, itself less than 7 km (4¼ miles) from Offa's Dyke, the old *Welsh / English* boundary. A transitional area is found to the west of the town, in the *Woodbatch* valley, where *Welsh* suffixes have been appended to the English *Woodbatch*, reflecting *Welsh* settlement *after* the formation of the *English* name(s).

Before we reach the Dyke, we encounter Welsh names from earlier days (e.g. *Pwll Mab Hwyad*, now "The Dog and Duck"), whilst beyond Offa's Dyke, we soon come across a larger proportion of Welsh names, particularly from *Pantglas* onwards. As the southern extremity of *Bachelldre* township is reached - which marks the end of our journey - the way ahead drops away from the plateau on which we travelled from Bishop's Moat. Ahead lies an area with entrenched *Welsh* names. So, in the space of fewer than 13 km (8 miles), we travelled from a locality with predominantly *English* place-names to one where *Welsh* names were the order of the day.

From *Pantglas*, the Kerry Ridgeway continues towards the *Cider House*, the Ridgeway taking us into the area covered by *MAP 2*. We note that to the north-west of the Ridgeway, as the ground drops away, there is a succession of *Welsh* place-names. And in the *Cwm Gwyn* area, the area covered by *MAP 2*, the place-names are predominantly *Welsh* in origin. This is an area lying between 8 km (5 miles) and 18 km (11¼ miles) west of Offa's Dyke. It is seen, from the gross distortions of the area's place-names - some of them bizarre - that for a few centuries the *Welsh* language has not been the language of the local populace.

As to movements of population, Professor R.U. Sayce, writes (*Montgomeryshire Collections* Vol. 54 1955-6 pp. 79 - 91 "*The study of farm names*"):

> "... The process of colonisation and resettlement has not gone on uniformly. Some centuries, like the 13th and 16th, saw active expansion. At other times, as for instance in the 14th and parts of the 19th and 20th centuries, many farms, especially the marginal holdings, were abandoned. There have been times when the climate has been unfavourable, owing to excessive humidity, as it was in the 14th century. Such conditions would lower the upper limit of cultivation, acidify many soils, and cause many farms to be given up ...."

He identifies other factors too, including the Black Death, Glyndwr's wars, blight (Ireland) and economic conditions.

In the Cwm Gwyn area an influx of settlers has been seen (witness the *ty unnos* properties, and their subsequent abandonment). Likewise the place-names we have considered reveal the settlement of top ground above Mainstone - by English incomers - although generally not through the establishment of *ty unnos* dwellings.

In his *Shropshire Field Names*, p.69, H.D.G. Foxall writes of the Welsh connection:

> "...On the Welsh Border...the Welsh influence in place-names is conspicuous. Some of these may be pre-Saxon Celtic survivals, but many of them probably arise from late Welsh immigrations. The ethnological history of the Marches in Herefordshire and Shropshire is one of alternate migration from one side of the border to the other, and the effect of these migrations is manifest in the names to be found on either side of Offa's Dyke. In some English Parishes English names have been supplanted by Welsh names, and vice versa. ......even in Clun and Bettws-y-Crwyn, the names are mixed Welsh and English."

In this respect, Eyton's account of "the Welsh" settlement at Bishop's Castle (place-name 15) is especially relevant.

For a wider view of English and Welsh place-names, Richard Morgan's "*A Study of Montgomeryshire Place-Names*" and "*A Study of Radnorshire Place-Names*" are valuable. Not only are his "Introductions" particularly helpful, but also he includes a series of informative maps on the distributions of English and Welsh place-names in the region. The core of Mr. Morgan's books - his account of place-names - is equally impressive. His earlier "*Welsh Place-Names in Shropshire*" is similarly helpful.

The present paper addresses a much greater number of place-names than could be contained in a compact county-wide publication, and may perhaps prove to be a stimulus to others in their engagement with the fascinating study of borderland place-names, names which form part of our rich heritage and carry us forward into a multiplicity of fields of interest.

Roger Beamond   **February 2017**

**HUCKLEMYND: START OF THE JOURNEY
ON THE OLD COACH ROAD**

Credit: Dr. Brenda Beamond

**LOOKING NORTH EAST FROM TREBOETH WEN:
THE NEAR GROUND WAS FORMERLY THE CATCHMENT AREA
FOR THE BISHOP'S CASTLE WATER SUPPLY**

Credit: Dr. Brenda Beamond

REMAINS OF TREBOETH WEN:
INHABITED UP TO THE LATE 1800's

Credit: Dr. Brenda Beamond

UPPER EDENHOPE: OFFA'S DYKE PATH

Credit: Dr. Eleanor Beamond-Pepler

VIEW FROM KERRY RIDGEWAY:
LOOKING OVER CWM COLOG

Credit: The Author

CWM GWYN CHAPEL 2005

CASTELL BRYN AMLWG

Credit: The Author

OLD ROAD NORTH OF MEDWALEDD

Credit: The Author

Bibliography

Listed below are publications consulted during the study of borderland surnames. Some have been indispensable, whilst the utility of others has been limited to specific areas of interest, but have nevertheless proved themselves valuable, even when the information they contain may be controversial. For instance, until *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru* became available on-line, it was convenient to consult William Owen Pughe's electronically searchable *A Dictionary of the Welsh Language*, which was at one's fingertips. National and regional scholarly journals, which contain an immense amount of valuable information, are not listed here, but are referred to as appropriate in the main text.

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Abbreviations used in Place-Name List

and Notes and References

OS = Ordnance Survey
GR = Grid Reference
SO = Identity of Ordnance Survey area [500 km square]*
* (**SJ** is the area North of **SO** & **SN** is the area West of **SO**)
OE = Old English
ME = Middle English
MS = Manuscript
NLW = National Library of Wales

Place-Name Index

showing Names in alphabetical order and associated Numbers

Numbers preceded by 'N' relate to entries in "Notes and References"

(The Index on the following pages comprises 328 entries: on each page

columns start at the top left-hand side, and continue at the top right-hand side)

Highlighted place-names are in <mark>Shropshire</mark>*, those without highlights are in Powys.*

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