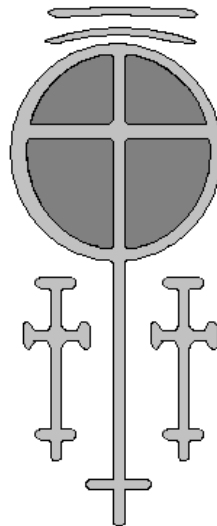


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## Meisgyn and Glynrhondda

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## The Marcher Lordship of Talygarn

by J. Barry Davies

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### Defining the Bounds

Talygarn and Caergwanaf are two areas south of the river Ely which have long been part of the ecclesiastical parish of Llantrisant but never part of the Lordship of Meisgyn. They form separate drainage patterns divided by the Gellihir or Nant Dyfrgi valley and the only communication was a former cart-track between Talygarn Fawr and Gellihir Farm, now gone under the M4. They are areas of rising ground on limestone with fertile soil and good natural drainage. Professor William Rees made Talygarn to be simply part of the adjacent Lordship of Talyfan but this is clearly wrong<sup>1</sup>. Talygarn was certainly a Lordship in its own right but what was Caergwanaf? John Stuart Corbett's map of the Glamorgan manors<sup>2</sup> makes Caergwanaf a detached part of the Lordship of Talyfan between two almost separate parts of Talygarn, the eastern sector being the Hensol area in Pendoylan parish.

To confirm this there are several Talbot of Hensol deeds relating to farms in Caergwanaf in which they are stated to be in Talyfan lordship. A deed dated 22 January 1558/9<sup>3</sup> is a grant of '*Pant y gwestay, gwain y Pwllgoer, Tyr Ithell, and Gwaun Yorch in Pendoylan and Talyvan*'. Similarly, in a deed of 1 March 1603/4<sup>4</sup> Jenkin Richard of Pendoylan yeoman enfeoffed William Jenkins of Pendoylan in 2 parcels of land in the parish of Llantrisant called Kae Keven bleithast and Ynys y Kledren in the lordship of Talavan to the use of the said Jenkin Richard for life. This deed is endorsed "Upper Glan y laye" and refers to the farm formerly known as Lanelay but now as Ceulan.

Both Pantyquesta and Ceulan, formerly Lanelay, are in the Caergwanaf area of Llantrisant and, according to these deeds, held under the lordship of Talyfan. The 'she-wolf's back' is a name for the ridge on which Caergwanaf Uchaf stands that does not appear to have survived but the name Ynys y Kledren for the alluvial plain at this point is highly suggestive. This was the site of extensive medieval (and earlier) iron smelting and it is quite possible that parts of it were 'railed off' in the 17th century. However, the important point is that these, and other similar deeds show that Caergwanaf was not a part of Talygarn lordship.

In the same way there are several deeds which prove, on the other hand, that the Hensol area of Pendoylan was a part of Talygarn. In particular, there were Fonmon deeds of 28 August 1523 and 23 July 1525 in which land in Pendoylan held under the lordship of Talygarn, was conveyed to David ap Jevan Sayce,

mercier, of Cowbridge. The second of these granted a '*tenement of land formerly David ap Gwilym Gronow held under the Lordship of Talygarn situated between the land of Sir William Mathew on the east part, the forest there on the west part and the highway called Portwey on the south part*'. This, as is discussed in detail below, was land in the Hensol area of Pendoylan which later deeds identify as lying between the farm *Cefn Llys* and the Talyfan forest of *Allt Griffith*, more commonly called Garth Griffith (Kaergyffyth in 1542) which seems to mark the border between Talygarn and Talyfan at this point.<sup>5</sup> See Appendix 1 for a note on Fforest Garth Griffith.

Hensol itself was also within Talygarn as is shown by a Deed of 1 June 1556 in which Richard Thomas of Pendoylan conveyed in Trust '*a tenement in Pendoylan called Hensol and Kayr Vallen game and Gweyne Howell and le Trenche all in Talygarn*'.<sup>6</sup> We can therefore confirm the definition of Talygarn as being, effectively, in two parts joined by a narrow neck of land. The portion that lay within the parish of Llantrisant was bounded by Llanhari parish (Nant Felin Fach) and the river Ely on the north, Nant Dyfrgi on the east, the Talyfan forest of Garth Griffith on the south-east, Ystradowen moor on the south and Nant Rhutalog on the south-west and west, beyond which lay Llanhari in Talyfan lordship.

The portion of Talygarn within the parish of Pendoylan lay between Caergwanaf, the detached part of Talyfan on the north, and the parish boundary marks the limit at this point, the Talyfan Fforest Garth Griffith on the west and the river Ely on the east. The south eastern boundary included Llanerch and followed a line skirting Hensol park. The southern boundary demarked Talygarn from the somewhat obscure manor of Llwynrhyddid which extended into both Pendoylan and Welsh St Donats parishes and is represented today by the farms of Llwynrhyddid and Dyffryn Lloff in Pendoylan and Catwg Glas in Welsh St Donats. A more detailed note on Llwynrhyddid is given in Appendix 2.

### The early history of Talygarn Lordship

Talygarn was not just a manor, it was a marcher lordship in its own right, listed as such in the Henrician Act of Union that created the County of Glamorgan in 1536, and its later medieval lords were the Lords of Afan, descendants of Caradog ap Iestyn. It thus had the remarkable distinction of surviving until then as, what we might, romantically, if somewhat fancifully, regard as being the last remnant of the Welsh Kingdom of Glywysing with a descendant of King Hywel, whose 9th century memorial stands in Llantwit Major Church, still technically its 'king', and

<sup>1</sup> William Rees, *South Wales and the Border in the XIV Century*.

<sup>2</sup> John Stuart Corbet (Ed. D.R. Paterson) *Glamorgan Papers & Notes on the Lordship & its Members*, Cardiff Naturalists Society, 1925

<sup>3</sup> NLW Talbot of Hensol 162

<sup>4</sup> NLW Talbot of Hensol 612

<sup>5</sup> G.T. Clark, *Cartae* 1827, 1833. Note that on page 1833 'forestam ibidem' is mistranscribed as 'forestam Aberdare'.

<sup>6</sup> NL W Talbot of Hensol 145

whose 'authority' was never taken over by a Norman conqueror.

Rice Merrick says of all member lordships in Glamorgan<sup>7</sup>: *The lords of the same members were called in the Welsh tongue, 'Arglwyddi pren a phwyll', viz. lords of tree and pit, thereby declaring their authority, of which ... were ... Talygarn, etc.*

There is little unequivocal evidence specifically relating to Talygarn that enables us to unravel its story in detail. How it had managed to remain intact through all the wars and changes that ravaged the area during the 12th century we can only guess and, for the years before that, the canvas of history is almost entirely blank. There is a school of historians would have it that without absolute proof of events we have to assume that nothing did happen during the so-called 'dark-ages' of Welsh history. We believe, however that a great deal must have happened and that we can deduce some of it. There is irrefutable evidence in the Llandaff and Llancarfan Charters, and in the marginalia of the Lichfield Chad Gospel, of sub-Roman or Romano-British 'villa estates' not only in the Vale of Glamorgan proper, but also in the Border Vale and even in the uplands. We can assume, surely, that such estates frequently, if not invariably, descended from Roman Villas of the Empire period. The existence of Roman Villas in the Vale of Glamorgan is well attested by the archaeological evidence. Fine examples have been found at Llantwit Major and Llandough juxta Penarth and others yet to be excavated are well known. Until recently little evidence has been found in the Border Vale, but Dr Tim Young while investigating a Medieval bloomery in the Hendy area of Clun Park has recently found rectilinear enclosures and associated hearths/furnaces on Caergwanaf Uchaf farm which he has tentatively dated as Romano British on the basis of surface pottery finds.<sup>8</sup>

Perhaps we need to remind ourselves of what a 'Roman Villa' might have been. The modern use of the word villa, like that of manor, predisposes us to think of a house. Mention a 'manor' to most audiences and they will picture a Tudor gentleman's house. Similarly, mention a Roman Villa and connections will be made with grand buildings in the Cotswolds, even of palaces like Fishbourne in Sussex, buildings with red pantile roofs, sophisticated plumbing, under-floor heating and beautiful mosaics. These shifts in meaning are by no means modern but in fact a villa, like its successor the manor, was, in the first instance, a unit of agricultural production and the grand house was simply where its owner lived, its degree of grandeur and sophistication dependent on the number of 'villa units' which made up its owner's estate.

We also need to revise the simplistic definition of 'Roman' to which most of us cling, and remember that the owners of these villas were not necessarily Roman colonists. Far more often they were natives, what we

have come to regard today as 'Romano-Britons'. Whatever they called themselves, from the fourth century A.D. all free Britons were granted Roman Citizenship, which means that every owner of a villa estate was a Roman, whatever his race, and we may therefore call that estate a Roman Villa.

From the Llandaff Charters we know that there were two late villas in the small parish of St Brides-super-Ely, *Lann Saint Breit in Mainaur Crucmarc*, c. 1040 A.D., and *Villa Penn Onn with ecclesia Lann Tihull*, c. 840 A.D. and there was another in the uplands on Garth Maelog, *Villa Miluc*, c. A.D. 1075.<sup>9</sup> These are villas that were granted for various reasons to the Church of Llandaff, which is how we know about them. It would be absurd to suppose that they existed in some sort of isolation when, in fact, they must have been a small proportion of all villa estates into which the agricultural production of the country was then divided. Many of them belonged to the king and many, probably more, belonged to his 'nobles'.

We can therefore imagine a landscape dotted with villas, trefi, townships, call them estates or what you like. In so doing we will be creating a model for what may have evolved, but certainly not a prescription for what did evolve. Our model must be flexible, it must allow for the manifest differences between the Vale, the Border Vale and the Blaenau. It must allow for the political and social distinctions between Roman colonist, wealthy Romano-Briton, poor but aspiring Silurian and conservative, even rebellious, Silurian. A flexibility that embraces a range of villa houses from grand, almost 'Cotswoldian' Roman Villas at Llantwit Major and Llandough which represent estates of numerous villas through to the estates of Silurian chiefs in the Blaenau whose owners may have lived in Celtic round houses.

To apply the above thinking to Talygarn we must first consider the findings of distinguished researchers of recent years<sup>10</sup>, whose work is based in large measure on interpretation of the Welsh laws. The vill or tref, in the Welsh laws is the basic unit and the theoretical scheme is one of three or four *trefi* to every *maenor*, 12 *maenora* plus two *trefi* in every *commote* and two *commotes* to a *cantref*. It is estimated that the average vill or tref in the agriculturally rich areas of Ewias and Gwent, where the majority of Llandaff Charter estates are found, is of three modii or sharelands of somewhere between 40 to 60 statute acres, making the vill not less than 120 acres in extent. The largest vill amongst the Llandaff Charters is Garth Maelog, over 500 acres, but this is an upland example. We can relate these sizes to the nearby small parish of St Brides-super-Ely which, as already noted, contained two villas mentioned in the Llandaff Charters. Examination of the tithe map suggests that these two

<sup>9</sup> J. Barry Davies, *Meisgyn & Glynrhondda Local History Research*, NS Vol I No. 1 St y Nill March 2000

<sup>10</sup> Granville R J Jones, 'Post Roman Wales' in *The Agrarian History of Eng/and and Wales*, ed. H R P Finsburg (1972); *idem*, 'Multiple estates and early settlement', in *Medieval Settlement*, ed. P. Sawyer (1976), *idem*, 'The Dark Ages' in *Settlement and Society in Wales*, ed. D Huw Owen (1989); Wendy Davies, *An Early Welsh Microcosm* (1978); *idem*, *Wales in the Early Middle Ages* (1982)

<sup>7</sup> Rice Merrick, *op. cit.*, 37

<sup>8</sup> Dr T.P. Young, Geophysical investigation of a bloomery, Lanlai, Miskin, April 2000

comprised two thirds of the parish, the balance of which would have been a third vill. One of these vills, and presumably the other two were also, is said to have been part of Maenor Crucmarc a maenor represented no doubt in place-name survival by the forest of Coed Marchan which has become the modern farm of Parc Coed Marchan. St Brides parish therefore comprises three of the vills of Maenor Crucmarc, each vill being about 120-160 statutes acres in extent. Talygarn, including Hensol is about 900 acres in extent, with Caergwanaf it is over 1200 acres.

The remains of a circular arrangement of fields, like the petals of a flower, appear on the tithe map of 1840 in moorland on the southernmost tip of Talygarn. These were detached fields belonging to each of the farms in the area, including one for Caergwanaf. Such petal layouts are held to represent hereditary lands 'not shared as homesteads but as gardens' as stated in the Lawbooks and G.R.Jones argued that they generally represent one of the three ornaments of a kindred, (*tri thlws cenedl*) being a mill, a weir and an orchard. These 'ornaments' were not to be divided but shared between those who inherited a right to them<sup>11</sup>. In this instance it may have been a former medieval fish-pond. See sketch-map later.

With the foregoing models in mind we can imagine the evolution of Roman villa to Romano-British multiple estate or maenor to Norman manor. In the sub-Roman period when the Christian leaders consolidated an already well-established Christian presence into an exclusive official faith, private chapels would have been built for the personal devotions of the estate owners and their dependants. In the Vale these estates with their private chapels were rich and populous enough for the invading Normans to take them over in many cases as ready-made manors, and when Bishop Urban began the task of modernizing his Diocese of Llandaff he often created them as parishes.

In the Border Vale the estates were less wealthy and less populous so the tendency was to aggregate them into larger lordships within which some of the components appear to have survived as sub-manors. Within the later Miskin lordship a number of border vale estates can be identified that were probably sub-manors or estates within the lordship of Clun: St y Nill, Trewern (Capel Llanilltern), Llanfair and Llanwensan spring to mind. In Broviskin we can probably add Alltygawrddu, Llanfarach to that list and Talygarn, with its unusual descent, is a particularly interesting example

Talygarn has survived into modern times as a territorial unit with a church of its own. Its church stands within a rounded enclosure that has every appearance of an early British origin. It is not difficult to see Talygarn as descending directly from a Roman Villa, owned by a Roman who would almost certainly have been Silurian in race. He may have been a non-resident lord, perhaps the king, owning a number of

like vills or he might have been the resident owning just one or maybe two or three vills, possibly including the one detected by Dr Tim Young at Caergwanaf Uchaf. In the latter case his house would have been something between the Celtic round house envisaged above and the sophisticated grandeur of Llantwit Major, but leaning towards the latter except that it would almost certainly have been built of timber. The fact of its survival as a unit and the fact that it was claimed by the Afan family may point to the conclusion that, in the sub-Roman period, it belonged to the king of Penychen.

Even if the owners of the villa(s) in Talygarn in the Roman period were not Christians, their Sub-Roman successors could have been, at least by the time of King Pawl, whose nephew, St Cadoc could have dispatched monks from Llancarfan, or alternatively, given that Llantrisant came under Illtud's influence, the former Penychen 'army commander' may have sent monks from Llantwit Major to establish the Llan and convert any of its people still un-baptized. However, Talygarn does not have a 'Llan' name, which we usually associate with the 6th century monks, and we have no evidence for its dedication prior to G.T.Clark's new church. Indeed the church seems to have been called a 'betws' given that the farm within whose boundaries it lies was known, at least as early as 1614, as Crofftybetws. We know so much about the age of Catwg and Illtud that we tend to think in terms of their having evangelized an hitherto pagan Glamorgan. But there must have been an earlier, pre-monastic Christian organization based upon the mother churches at Caerleon and the clas or minster churches in each cantref<sup>12</sup>. This may give grounds for believing that Talygarn was Christianized from the *clas* church at Llandough long before the foundation of Llancarfan and the other monasteries. This would have been the time when the word 'pagan' for a rural dweller became synonymous with a pre-Christian.

The Lordship chapel or 'betws', remained in private ownership until modern times because Talygarn was never made a parish in its own right. In the late 17th century the chapel, probably then a ruin, seems to have been acquired by Sir Leoline Jenkins, Charles II's Secretary of State and Principal of Jesus College Oxford, who is believed to have been born in Talygarn. Sir Leoline rebuilt it and gave it to Jesus College.

G.T.Clark, after his wife Ann's death, in 1885, built a new church in her memory and dedicated it to St Anne. The new church which is still in use and now belongs to the Parish of Pontyclun was built alongside Sir Leoline's 17th-century 'preaching box' which continued to be used for some years, during the Clark residence, as a Sunday School building. It is now in a sad state of disrepair and must either be demolished in due course for safety reasons or consolidated as an historic monument. It is worthy of the latter treatment at the very least as the only example of a late 17th-century Anglican church in Glamorgan.

<sup>11</sup> Granville R.J.Jones, 'The Dark Ages' in *Settlement and Society in Wales*, ed. D.Huw Owen, 1989, 179

<sup>12</sup> J.K.Knight, *The End of Antiquity, Tempus*, 1999, 143



## Sketchmap of Talygarn

Showing its relationship  
to neighbouring lordships  
and manors

The boundary of Talygarn Manor can be derived from an undated map of Talyfan manor in GRO D/DD F 118 (Manorial)

It is difficult to imagine how Talygarn managed to survive through the Norman invasions and Welsh counter attacks between 1090 and 1245. It lies at the junction of the marcher lordship of Talyfan, the Welsh lordship of Meisgyn and the rump of Ruthin. This is the area over which the lords of Talyfan and Meisgyn may have been warring when the young Richard de Clare moved in to dispossess them both.

However it happened, we find that, by the fourteenth century, Talygarn is claimed by the Afan family and their claim is so strong that by 1536 it is accepted as a marcher lordship despite having passed through an illegitimate descendant of the last male d'Avene to an obscure private gentleman of limited means, a minor member of the Mathew family. [Pedigree Appendix 3] The final d'Avene heiress was Elizabeth ferch Jenkin of Llantrithyd son of Morgan base son of Thomas d'Avene who, in 1340, was lord of Afan, Sully, Kilvay and Talygarn<sup>13</sup>. Morgan appears to have had Talygarn and lands in Llantrithyd as his share of the inheritance while the main lordships were exchanged with the Earl of Clare for lands in England. Elizabeth ferch Jenkin is said to have inherited Talygarn and a house and land in Llantrithyd. She married William Mathew, second son of William ap Robert Mathew of Castell y Mynach and, although they had several sons their daughter Elizabeth seems to have been her mother's heiress of Talygarn and the house in Llantrithyd. She married John Bassett of the Garn who is said to have had Talygarn. From this point we lose sight of the descent but Rice Lewis in his *Breviat of Glamorgan*, compiled between 1595 and 1600 says that Talygarn Lordship had been purchased by Harry Morgan Lewis. This corresponds to an entry in the Glamorgan Plea Rolls dated 21 April 1595 when Henry Morgan, gent. sold the manor of Talygarn with its appurtenances, in Llantrisant, to Henry Morgan of Rhiwbina. Soon after this, on February 14 1616, Henry Morgan of Newport, gent., in consideration of £210, granted the manor of Talygarn, together with other property, to David Thomas of Pentyrch and Jevan Jenkin of Pendoylan, gentlemen. On 1 October 1625, Jevan Jenkin, then of Llantrisant, gentleman, entered into a covenant with David Jenkins of Hensol, esq., that the latter 'shall stand seized of the manor of Talygarn'<sup>14</sup>. Clark's *Cartae* (1910 edition) has a note to a Talygarn Deed of 1525 which says that '*The Lordship was held by Jenkins of Hensol, and so passed to the Earls of Shrewsbury, Lords Talbot of Hensol, by whom it was sold to the present owner.*'<sup>15</sup> The 'present owner' in 1910 would have been Godfrey Lewis Clark.

The pedigree evidence suggests that the Lords of Afan leased the lordship demesne, probably comprising the farm of Talygarn Fawr, to their kinsman Cynwrig ap Hywel, lord of Radyr, one line of whose descendants lived at Talygarn Fawr until their last heiress married one of the sons of Rice Merrick of Cottrell in the later sixteenth century. [Pedigree Appendix 4] It is likely

that the manor court and all its rights fell into disuse early on and, by the sixteenth century, the tenants and leaseholders had long since become freeholders. And if Talygarn Fawr had, in the distant past, been the site of its Manor House, in 1625 that distinction passed to Hensol.

### The Pendoylan Portion

The founder of the Jenkins family of Hensol as 'great gentry' was the David Jenkins esquire, who acquired the lordship of Talygarn in 1625 and he was, of course, the famous Royalist Judge Jenkins (1582-1663), who founded the family fortune on his legal practice. Prior to that, Hensol seems to have been no more than a tenement of no apparent greater significance than its neighbouring farms of Bolgoed and Cefn Llys. Indeed, the latter has, in its name, a suggestion that some lost Llys existed somewhere alongside the arable rising ground. The first appearance of Hensol in the possession of the Jenkins family comes in a deed of 1 June 1536<sup>16</sup> in which Richard Thomas of Pendoylan, yeoman and Gwenllian his wife enfeoffed James Thomas and more than a dozen others of his neighbours '*in a tenement in Pendoylan called Hensol and Kayr Vallen game and Gweyne Howell and le Trenche, all in Tallegarn*' to hold to themselves with remainder to Jenkin ap Richard, their son.

This Richard and Gwenllian were the grandparents of Judge Jenkins and it is clear that the deed was some part of their marriage settlement and it also appears that Hensol was the family patrimony of either Richard or his wife Gwenllian. Unfortunately, due to an error in Clark's *Limbus Patrum* at this point, this deed has never been properly interpreted. In the Hensol pedigree given on page 203 Clark omitted the generation of Thomas ap David-tew making the Richard ap Thomas of the deed to appear as Richard ap David-tew, thus it was not clear that this is the first surviving Hensol deed to show the Jenkins family in possession to the confusion of earlier researchers.<sup>17</sup>

The earliest surviving deed to mention Hensol is one dated 1429 in which one Gruffudd Fychan ap Gruffudd ap Llywelyn of Hensol conveyed to his son Hywel ap Gruffudd all his '*lands in Talyfan; Talygarn and Lloyn Ridit*'<sup>18</sup>. This Gruffudd Fychan is not identifiable in any of the pedigree sources and he was clearly not an ancestor of David Jenkins in the male line, yet it is from him that the title to the land derives. The family's origins therefore remain obscure although the probability is that Gwenllian the wife of Richard Thomas was the daughter or granddaughter and heiress of Hywel ap Gruffudd of Hensol.

The Jenkins family pedigree is an interesting one showing descent from a Breconshire patriarch,

<sup>13</sup> G.T.Clark, *Cartae 1245-7*

<sup>14</sup> NLW Talbot Deeds 652, 781

<sup>15</sup> G.T.Clark, *Cartae 1833*

<sup>16</sup> NLW Talbot Deeds 145

<sup>17</sup> T.J.Hopkins 'The Village and Parish of Pendoylan' in *History on my Doorstep* ed. Stewart Williams, 1959. It was Clark's omission of this generation that misled T.J.Hopkins into thinking the judge was probably not born at Hensol.

<sup>18</sup> NLW Talbot of Hensol 601

Bleddyn ap Maenyrch, an unusual origin for a Glamorgan family. The pedigree evidence suggests that it was Richard ap Thomas's great great grandfather, Howell of Morgannwg, who first settled in the county, probably in the mid-14th century. His grandfather, Dafydd Tew ap Meurig was a significant landowner in the fertile Llantwit Fardre basin of Meisgyn. It is apparent that Richard ap Thomas's yeoman status in 1536 was the product of generations of partible inheritance. [Pedigree Appendix 5]

### The lesser farms of the Pendoylan Portion

The Pendoylan portion of Talygarn comprises, in addition to Hensol, the farm of Llanerch, where the Cariad Wines are estate bottled, Bolgoed and Cefn Llys and a brief history of the two latter follows. In defining the boundaries above two Deeds were quoted in which the 16th-century alderman of Cowbridge, David Sayce, acquired two farms from Talygarn yeomen. These deeds are here considered in detail.

28 August 1523

1. Hopkin ap Jenkin of Pendoylan, franklin
2. David ap Jevan Sayce, burgess of Cowbridge, mercer

*Grant of 8 acres of land, wood and pasture in Pendoylan, under the lordship of Talygarn, commonly called Gwayne vab Mole and Kayrpolth situated between the lands of the said Hopkin on the west part, the land of Sir William Mathew on the east part, and lands of Deio Thomas ap Jenkin on the south part and land of the said Hopkin on the north part.*

23 July 1525

Fonmon [GRO D/DD F 2801]

1. William David ap Gwilym and Llywelyn David ap Gwilym
2. David Seys, alderman of Cowbridge

*Grant of one tenement of land formerly David ap Gwilym Gronow held under the Lordship of Talygarn situated between the land of Sir William Mathew on the east part, the forest there on the west part and the highway called Portwey on the south part.*

[The 'forest there' is Garth Griffith, see Appendix 2, but Clark in *Cartae* Vol. 5 p. 1833 has mistranscribed 'forestam ibidem' as 'Forestam Aberdare' which could be misleading.]

The land described as being to the east of that conveyed to David Sayce is said to be owned by William Mathew, knight. This was Sir William Mathew of Radyr and his land can also be identified by reference to the Plea Rolls of the Glamorgan Great Sessions for 1 and 2 Philip and Mary, 1555, showing that William Carne of Sully then acquired five messuages and 100 acres of land in Talygarn and Pendoylan from George Mathew, Kt. and Barbara his wife and William Mathew Esq. Thirty years later, two of William Carne's grand daughters conveyed land in Talygarn to Trustees, as shown in the following deeds, that must have been the original Mathew land.

NLW Talbot 418

1584 July 31

1. William Morgan of Bedwellty, gent & Barbara his wife and William Price Meyrick of St Nicholas, gent. and Maude his wife
2. Leision Evan of Neath, gent and Rowland Morgan of Roath, gent

inter alia; Tir ynon and Tir Penygarn in Talegarn in the parish of Llantrisant in the tenure of Katherine Richard, widow; Y Bolgoed and Gwain David Mathew in Pendoilan and Talygarn, in the tenure of Howell Griffith; Keven Llyse and Tir Evan Miricke in Pendoylan in the tenure of Llywelyn Griffith ... Messuage and tenement called Tir Thomas Goch in Pendoilan, Talygarn in the tenure of Howell Richard ... Messuage and land called Tir Evan ap Mirike in Llantrisant, Talavan in tenure of John Jenkin ap Richard

31 August 1622

1. William Meyrick of St Mary Hill & Margaret his wife and Maude Carne, widow, relict of William Meyrick his father:
2. David Jenkins of Hensol Esq

*Messuage and lands called Bolgoed in Pendoylan; formerly devised by William Meyrick to David Howell of Pendoylan, yeoman, for three lives; and a messuage and lands called Keven Llys in the said parish devised to Llywelyn ap Llywelyn etc., and a tenement in the said parish including Kae David Mathew and Gwaine David Mathew formerly devised to Thomas Llywelyn etc.*

The William Carne Esq. who bought this land from Sir William Mathew in 1555 was a younger son of Howell Carne of Nash but how he became an esquire, a specific economic rank in that period, is not clear. He married first Denis daughter of John ap Jenkin and second, the widow of his brother, John Carne of Sully. She was apparently the daughter of John Gwyn Thomas ap Hywel. William had just one daughter by his first wife and two base sons and three base daughters. One of the base sons was David Carne of Sully esquire whose two daughters and co-heiresses, Barbara and Maude, married respectively William Morgan of Bedwellty and William Price Meyrick of St Nicholas gents, the latter being, as already noted, a brother of John Price Meyrick of Talygarn Fawr. [Pedigree at Appendix 6]

From this we can deduce first, that the modern farms of Bolgoed and Cefn Llys are within the lordship of Talygarn and were absorbed into the Hensol Estate in 1622; and second that the land acquired by David Seys in 1525 must have lain between these two farms and the forest.

There is a third conclusion to be drawn, which is that Sir William Mathew and his son Sir George may well have descended from the very early freeholders in Talygarn and this points to the family of Llywelyn ap Cynwrig as suggested in Appendix 7.

Note also that there is land known as Tir Evan ap Miricke in Pendoylan and Talygarn and also in Llantrisant and Talyfan. This must be land extending

into both Talygarn and Caergwanaf (Talyfan) and may well be the modern farm of Caergwanaf Isaf.

### The Llantrisant Portion: Talygarn Fawr

The 'great house' of Talygarn and its associated land was probably leased to Thomas Ddu (living 1317) ap Cynwrig ap Hywel, lord of Radyr and descended by the late sixteenth century to Ann daughter and sole heiress of David of Talygarn ap Griffith. Ann married John ap Rice Merrick, usually written as John Price Meyrick, son of Rice Merrick of Cottrell and brother of the William Price Meyrick of St Nicholas who, as noted above, acquired land in Talygarn with his wife. John Price Meyrick died in 1617 and two of his sons, David Price Meyrick and William Price Meyrick died in 1653 and 1660 respectively, the latter then aged 63. It would appear that Talygarn was then acquired by Edmund Thomas of Wenvoe whose 'purchased estate' was settled on his son William for life with remainder to William's wife, Mary Wharton and remainder to his right heirs. Mary Wharton married Sir Charles Kemeys of Cefn Mably and these lands were the subject of a long law suit ending in 1697 with a decree in Chancery found in favour of Sir Charles Kemeys and his wife. A dispute over a lease of Talygarn is noted by David Jones of Wallington from Exchequer records 2 February 1685.<sup>19</sup>

*Llywelyn Jenkin, late of Talygarn, now of Ystradowen; held a lease from Sir Charles Kemeys & his Wife, Dame Mary, guardian of her son Edmund Thomas by William Thomas of Rhuperra: two messuages, two barns, one stable, one cowhouse, one garden, one orchard and 60 acres of land commonly called Tallygarne between the land of the Earl of Pembroke, [Fforest Garth Griffith in Talyfan] the late Henry Morgan, the highway from Pontrhydygarn to Cowbridge and the brook. But Thomas Miles of Ystradowen has ousted him.*

At some stage Talygarn must have been sold by the Kemeys family and it descended to Mary the daughter of William Bassett of Hafod by Elizabeth daughter of William Thomas of Cornelyparc who married, in 1757, James Prichard, younger son of Evan Prichard of Collena. James Prichard and his wife took up residence at Talygarn Fawr and their son, Thomas was baptized on 24 September 1758. [Pedigree in Appendix: 8] It may have been partly in celebration of this event that James planted an avenue of Spanish Chestnut trees, then quite the latest fashion in landscape design. But sadly young Thomas Prichard died 24 years later and with him old James buried his dream of a Prichard of Talygarn dynasty. James himself died in 1803 and his son-in-law Thomas Popkin inherited the estate, but, like two more families who were to follow, he also failed to establish a lasting dynasty in the seat. Yet two of the Spanish Chestnuts that James planted in such high hopes

survive in their venerable old age today.<sup>20</sup>

Thomas Popkin sold the estate, in about 1817, to the Revd. Dr William Berkin Meacham Lisle. G.T.Clark thought that Talygarn had during this period 'fallen into the hands of farmers', but while it may have been tenanted when Dr Lisle bought it, it had probably remained a gentry house throughout most of the eighteenth century. Dr Lisle was a remarkable clergyman who began life as plain William Berkin but who added his further names in several ascending steps of social pretension. He became rector of St Fagans in 1792 and soon after vicar of Llanishen in Monmouthshire but this living he exchanged for the more lucrative Llantilio Pertholey, a parish he held for sixty years leaving no record that he ever baptized, married or buried anyone there<sup>21</sup>. In 1809 he leased the tithes and glebe of Pendoylan from the Bishop and Chapter of Llandaff.<sup>22</sup>

A man of large private means he found the roads about Talygarn 'unfit for a gentleman's carriage' and had them widened and signposts erected. Tradition asserts that he kept his rooms at a temperature of 90 degrees which, if true, must have been a very costly eccentricity in his day. He is also said to have been an expert in poisons and to have kept a snake-pit at Talygarn<sup>23</sup>. That he could afford these indulgences is confirmed by the evidence of his life-style of which the 1841 Census Return gives us an intriguing glimpse. At the age of 75 the Revd Dr Lisle was living at Talygarn with his wife, two sons and a daughter, a woman companion and no less than 13 indoor servants. He had also built himself a large Rectory House at St Fagans, to which he returned shortly before his death in 1856 at the age of 90. His wife died at Talygarn in 1861 leaving it empty and neglected until it was sold to G.T.Clark in 1865 who set about transforming it into what we see today.<sup>24</sup>

Born in London in 1809 into a family of clerical intellectuals, Clark first trained in medicine and, as a young man, tried to set up a practice in Bristol. But after a chance meeting with the great Brunel he was persuaded to try his hand at engineering and worked for some years on the Great Western Railway. He then worked briefly in India but was forced by the climate to return. Back in England he became an Inspector under the General Board of Health in which capacity he was responsible for many outstanding Reports on British cities and towns, including Merthyr Tydfil.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>20</sup> ex.inf. Derrick C. Kingham. Dr John Savage of Aberystwyth in a survey of the trees at Talygarn identified three 250-year old Spanish Chestnuts which appear to be the remains of an avenue of trees. Spanish Chestnuts were introduced to Britain at about this time and were often planted as avenues, sometimes interspersed with oaks.

<sup>21</sup> Derrick C. Kingham, "Clark of Talygarn" in *G.T.Clark*, ed. Brian L.I. James, University of Wales Press, 1998.

<sup>22</sup> NLW ECE/EL/L 71-82

<sup>23</sup> David J. Francis, *The Border Vale of Glamorgan*; Stewart Williams, 1976

<sup>24</sup> Derrick C. Kingham, *op. cit.*

<sup>25</sup> Brian L.I. James, "The Making of a Scholar Ironmaster. An Introduction to the Life of G.T.Clark" in *G. T. Clark*, ed. Brian L.I. James, University of Wales Press, 1998.

<sup>19</sup> Cardiff MS 2.1111 (16/11) David Jones of Wallington, Exchequer B & A 2 Feb 1685



In 1852 he became a Trustee of the will of Sir Josiah John Guest from which time, almost until his death, he effectively controlled the great Dowlais Iron Works. In 1850 he had married Ann, daughter of Henry Lewis of Greenmeadow, one of the family who had been among the original founders of the Dowlais Works. Through his wife he identified fully with Glamorgan and its gentry and devoted his leisure hours to the history of both. He was a man of an extraordinary breadth of interest which must have been remarkable even in his own time when polymaths were by no means unknown and his energy was boundless. His literary output alone would appear to have been enough to have filled his working hours and when a special committee was formed to mark the centenary of his death by the publication of a commemoration of his life, specialist writers had to be recruited to cover the wide range of his achievements as an ironmaster, as a sanitary reformer, as a politician, and as an historian in several fields. He was, in his day, acknowledged to be the leading authority on castles, he collected and published all the surviving charters relating to the history of Glamorgan that he could find and he devoted years of research to the pedigrees of the nobility, gentry and yeomanry of his adopted county and published them in a unique county genealogy that is still widely used to this day.

Not surprisingly this remarkable and energetic man transformed Talygarn Fawr and the house we know today is his creation. Although, for many years he continued to live at Dowlais House, using Talygarn only as a rural retreat, Clark began work on making the house habitable right away. However, it was not until 1877 that he began major reconstruction works which culminated in a virtually new house by about 1882. But even then further additions were made with the building of two libraries in 1892 and a new billiard room in 1894. Indeed the enlargement and embellishment was halted only by his death in 1898.

But for all the enthusiasm which he lavished upon it, Talygarn was sold by his grandson, Wyndham Damer Clark in 1923 to the South Wales Miners' Welfare Committee for £20,000 under whom it achieved further distinction as the miners convalescent home and later a rehabilitation centre for mineworkers.<sup>26</sup> It is understood that it has now been sold to a development company who has plans to convert it into several self-contained accommodation units.

The three-generation reign of the Clark family may be seen as brief in the long story of Talygarn, but it was important to the development of Pontyclun. Clark acquired an estate of about 300 acres from Dr Lisle, but, as well as developing the house and its grounds, he also began the process, continued by his son, of building up the estate through the acquisition of surrounding land by purchase and exchange to become one of the important landlords of Pontyclun. In Talygarn itself, while the village has since grown out of all recognition, the hand of G.T.Clark still remains highly visible in the house and the church he built

here, both distinctively his, designed by an engineer not an architect and perhaps, therefore, more 'interesting' than beautiful and, so far as the house goes, pretty well unique.

### **The other farms in Talygarn**

No manorial record survives for the lordship of Talygarn comparable with the series of surveys and rentals that enable us to recreate such a detailed history of Meisgyn. What did survive was the archive of deeds of the Jenkins/Talbot family at Hensol which contained evidence for the origins of that majority of the farms in the lordship which eventually became part of the Hensol Estate. But the Talygarn farms were sold off by the Talbots in the mid-19th century and many of these deeds are now scattered. It may be that some are now in the hands of the present farmers of the land and if this is the case it would be a great help if we could have sight of these as they may hold important clues to be found nowhere else.

In 1840 there were seven farms in addition to Talygarn Fawr. One of these, Castellymwnws, belonged to the Revd Dr Lisle and another, Llwyna, belonged to Sir Digby Mackworth of Gnoll in Neath. The remainder, Bragdy, Crofftybetws, Ty ffall, Tynewydd and Rhutalog belonged to Lord Talbot of Hensol the lord of Talygarn. This Talbot predominance was the fruit of a vigorous acquisition campaign begun by David Jenkins in the 17th century at around the time he acquired the lordship.

Llwyna is the only farm in the Llantrisant portion of Talygarn that was not acquired by the Hensol Estate or their successors the Guests and the Clarks. It belonged to Sir Digby Mackworth of Neath in 1840, at which time it was a farm of 96 acres in the tenure of Thomas Williams. When and in what circumstances the Mackworth family acquired this farm so far from their core estate has yet to be discovered. It belonged to them as early as 1727 when, on 12 February, Morgan Griffith of Llwyna, yeoman made his will bequeathing his lease of Llwyna held under Sir Humphrey Mackworth to his son Thomas Griffith. When Thomas Griffith of Llwyna, yeoman, made his will in 1748 no mention is made of this lease which probably terminated with his life. His widow made her will in 1771 describing herself then as 'of Rhydhalog'.

Castellymwnws in 1840 was part of the estate of the Revd Dr Lisle which then comprised Talygarn Fawr in his own hands, 153 acres, Talygarn Mill and 9 acres in the tenure of Meyrick Thomas and Castellymwnws, 75 acres in the tenure of John Phillips. Little is known of its history, there is no evidence of a castle anywhere near and its name 'dust' or 'ashes' is assumed to be a mocking name. In 1851 the tenant was 77 year-old Evan John. The tithe map shows a homestead and two out-buildings alongside the road to Llanhari and no other development.

In 1866 the Castellymwnws Estate comprising 8 cottages and gardens and 85 acres of land was put up for auction at the Royal Hotel Cardiff in 5 lots, one of which, a block of 11 acres adjacent to Talygarn land

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<sup>26</sup> Derrick C. Kingham, *op. cit.*

was bought by G.T.Clark. The remainder, including a new-built and slated cottage residence: The Elms, 7 bedrooms, 2 parlours, kitchen & back kitchen, pantry and dairy with stable, tool house, sheds and garden offices, and some 50 acres of land was bought by Sir Ivor Bertie Guest.

The First Edition of the Ordnance survey of c. 1875 shows a concentration of some half a dozen cottages in the former homestead enclosure and, a few yards to the west, Elm Cottage, which at some stage seems to have been occupied by the Estate Agent, presumably Dr Lisle's agent, built on the corner of what was then the access lane to Twyll y Cardottin or Ty Newydd Farm. The sale details show that these cottages had been built before 1866. The farmstead of Castellymwnws at some time after 1851 had been replaced by The Elms and after 1866, when most of Talygarn had become part of the Guest Estate, much of the land was combined with an enlarged Ty Newydd Farm.<sup>27</sup>

Bragdy was the farm in the north of the lordship, bordering the river Ely and to the east of the Cowbridge road. One early deed has been found amongst the Talbot papers which represents at least part of this farm.

NLW Talbot 462

1536 6 May

1. David ffleming of Llantwit
2. Thomas Deio of Llantrisant

*A tenement of land in Tallegarne between the land of Thomas Ragland on the east, the land of Thomas Llywelyn ap Gronow on the south, the highway on the west and the river called Lay on the north.*

The first reference we have under the name of Bragdu is at the time of the tithe map in 1840 but the land had been tenanted by a family called Hopkins way back into the 18th century who farmed it from Gellyhir in Caergwanaf and one member of this family, Thomas Hopkins, was described as a shopkeeper and maltster when admitted to the freedom of the borough in 1785. It is therefore very possible that Bragdu was in use as a malthouse as early as that and it may still have been the source of the local ale when William Morgan opened the Ivor Arms in 1855, one of the early moves in the development, on Bragdu farm, of the village of Brynsadler. During the 1850s Bragdu was sold by the Talbot Estate to the Guests and later in the century it was sold again by Lord Wimbourne to the Clark family of Talygarn. Its deeds have not been found.

Rhutalog, a farm of 97 acres in 1841, was mentioned in the will of John Price Meyrick of Talygarn dated 13 May 1617 in which he left the remaining years to run on his lease of a tenement called Ryd Halock to his son Hugh Meyrick who was to pay £9 yearly to 'my nephew William Meyrick'. On 9 March 1628/9<sup>28</sup> we

find William Meyrick of Pantruthyn, gent and Margaret his wife entering into a deed of mortgage for £150 with David Jenkins of Hensol esq. in respect of tenements called Ryd Halock and Penygarn in the lordship of Talygarn which is clearly the first step in the ownership of this farm passing from William Meyrick to Hensol.

William Meyrick of Pantruthyn was the son of William Price Meyrick of St Nicholas, gent. whose wife, Maude, had inherited this land and other farms in the Hensol portion of Talygarn from her father William Carne Esq of Sully. These lands are detailed in the Talbot Deed of 1584 set out in abstract above and it is clear that the Rhyd Halock and Penygarn of 1628 must correspond with the 'Tyr Ynon and Tir Penygarn in Tallegarne in Llantrisant in the tenure of Katherine Richard, widow' in the 1548 Deed.

By 1728 we find the lease of Rhydhalog mentioned in the will of Morgan Griffith of Llwyna, yeoman when it was left to his son Thomas Griffith. Thomas Griffith of Llwyna, yeoman, made his will on 25 May 1748 leaving his 'lease of Rhydhalog under Earl Talbot' to his wife Mary Griffith. Mary lived at Rhydhalog in her widowhood and made her will on 10 January 1771 in which her various children are named but with no mention of the lease which, no doubt, terminated with her life.

The early history of 'Tir Ynon' or Rhydhalog is as part of the Talygarn estate that Sir George Mathew of Radyr and Barbara his wife sold to William Carne of Sully Esq in 1555, see above.

Tynewydd, otherwise known as Twyllycardotyn, or 'Beggars Deceit' is the subject of a story collected by David Francis<sup>29</sup> which tells of an apparently feeble old beggar-woman who pleaded for a night's rest at the farm. She turned out to be a virile man in disguise who was intent on robbing the farmer. He was himself murdered for his pains. Twyllycardotyn, already then called Ty Newydd, was a small farm of 24 acres on the south east of the lordship in 1840, then tenanted by William Williams. It was later combined with Castellymwnws to form a larger holding.

For Crofftybetws a sufficient run of deeds has come to light to allow a brief outline of its story. A deed of 21 March 1614<sup>30</sup> shows Edmund John of Talygarn, yeoman, and Jane William his wife, together with Jane Lewis alias Nicholl, of Cardiff, widow, conveying *Y Croft etc. in Capel Taliygarne, Llantrisant* to Richard Seys Esq of Boverton, whose ancestor, David Seys, alderman of Cowbridge, had acquired two farms in Hensol, under Talygarn lordship, a century before which the family still held. In 1695, Richard Seys, Esq of Boverton, granted a lease for three lives to William Bevan, yeoman, of Llanhari, Joan his wife and Evan their son, of *one tenement of lands arable meadow and pasture situate lying and being near Cappel Tal y Garn in the parish of Lantrissant containing by*

<sup>27</sup> GRO DD/WP G.T.Clark unscheduled papers

<sup>28</sup> NLW Talbot 694

<sup>29</sup> David J.Francis, *op.cit.* 140

<sup>30</sup> NLW Wyndham D. Clark 13

*estimation six acres and a half of Ruthin measure ... in six several closes one whereof being a meadow called Cae Cluttin contains one acre and a half another furzey close adjoining contains half an acre both having the brook on the south side one close of pasture ground contains two acres joining to the foresaid meadow on the north side one close of arable land contains two acres adjoining to both the other the lands of Sir Rowland Gwyn the lands of David Jenkins esquire the brook and the highway leading from Cowbridge to Llantrisant on all parts and side thereof one other close of arable land contains three quarters of an acre having the lands of Sir John Thomas the lands of David Jenkins esquire and the foresaid highway on all parts and sides thereof and one quarter of an acre in a moor called Tal y Garn Moor in as large an ample a manner as the said William Bevan now holdeth and enjoyeth the same.*

The lands belonging to Sir John Thomas would have been part of Talygarn Fawr which, as noted above, at this time belonged to the Thomas family of Wenvoe. Not surprisingly, Sir Rowland Gwyn of Llanellwedd (where the Royal Welsh Show is based) was also a landowner in Talygarn being son in law to Dr William Bassett of Miskin.

In 1747<sup>31</sup> Evan Seys of Boverton, Clerk, sold this farm to Lord Talbot of Hensol, together with his farms in Hensol being a tenement near Cefn Llys and Gweinydd Seys and part of Rhiwsaeson Uchaf in Llantrisant. This time the description specifically describes one of the closes as 'Kae or Croft yr Bettus'. The full description was *land near Talygarn Chapel (6½ acres of Ruthin measure) in six enclosures, one meadow called kae clutin; one furzy close adjoining, another close adjoining said meadow, one quarter of an acre in Talygarn Moore, one messuage and land in Talygarn, Croft or Kae yr Bettus, one close called Kae Keven, one close called Kae Llewellyn David Lloyd, lands called Cae Gwyn and Cae Bannalog in four closes etc. all in Talygarn in Llantrisant ...*

By 1840 Crofftybetws was a farm of 52 acres tenanted by one William Williams. It had probably had a little land added to it in the meantime to make it more viable but its general shape may still have matched the 17th century description, including the half acre in Talygarn moor.

### **Modern Developments**

It is interesting that, when G.T.Clark came to purchase Talygarn House in 1865 he and his friend H.A.Bruce, both wished to buy the property, and both would have known, as Trustees of the Guest Estate, that it was surrounded by Guest land which had recently been acquired from the Hensol Estate. In fact Clark bought Talygarn but he did not buy the other Talygarn farm belonging to the late Dr Lisle, Castellymwnws. This came onto the market a year later and apart from a detached block of land acquired by Clark it was bought by Sir Ivor Bertie Guest, as noted above.

By 1914 all the former Guest Estate in Talygarn had been bought by Godfrey Lewis Clark who was now the predominant landowner, only Llwyna having eluded him. This was the high-water mark of the Clark Estate but it did not survive the social revolution wrought by the Great War and Lloyd George's taxation policies. In 1923 it was all sold off by Wyndham Damer Clark and the pattern of ownership and land exploitation turned full circle. The great estate aggregation begun in the 16th century had reached its conclusion to be replaced by a new pattern of dispersed ownership by yeoman farmers exploiting their own land.

To understand the dispersal of the Talbot lands in Talygarn a simplified outline of the family history might be useful. Cecil Mathew of Castellymynach in Penttyrch was the final heiress of the Jenkins estate of Hensol and Lady of the Manor of Talygarn. She married Charles Talbot who was 8th in descent from Sir Gilbert Talbot 2nd son of the 2nd earl of Shrewsbury. Charles Talbot was a lawyer who by 1723 became Lord High Chancellor of England and was created Baron Talbot of Hensol. He died in 1737 to be succeeded by his only son, William 2nd Baron Talbot of Hensol who was created Earl Talbot of Hensol in 1761 and Baron Dynevor of Dynevor in 1780. He had only one child, a daughter Cecil, who married George Rice Esq. of Dynefwr in Llandeilo and the Barony of Dynevor was created with reversion to her. When Earl William Talbot died his title of Earl Talbot died with him, his barony of Dynevor went to his daughter and the Barony of Talbot of Hensol went to a nephew John Chetwynd Talbot who became the 3rd Baron Talbot of Hensol and was, in 1784, created Viscount Ingestre and Earl Talbot of Hensol of the 2nd creation. What is more important is that the estate was also divided between the daughter, Cecil Lady Dynevor, and her cousin John Chetwynd Talbot. Lady Dynevor had all the former Castell y Mynach estate and the moiety of the Llancaiach Estate while John Chetwynd Talbot, Baron Talbot had the Hensol Estate.

John Lord Talbot died in 1793 and was succeeded by his son Charles Chetwynd-Talbot, 2nd Earl of the new creation, Viceroy of Ireland etc. He lived in Staffordshire where his main estates lay and died in 1849 to be succeeded by his eldest son, Henry John Chetwynd-Talbot, the 3rd Earl, who, in 1868, succeeded as the 18th Earl of Shrewsbury. He died in 1877 and during his lifetime complex family settlements led to the sale of much of the Llantrisant and Pendoylan estate of Hensol. It was out of this dispersal that either Sir John Josiah Guest or the Trustees of his estate (Clark and Bruce) purchased the Talygarn and Caergwanaf parts of the former Talbot lands.

### **Hensol modern descent:**

Hensol was sold in the late 18th century to John Richardson of Swansea In 1815 it was purchased by Benjamin Hall II from Thomas and Samuel Richardson. Hall had been elected MP for Glamorgan

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<sup>31</sup> NLW Talbot of Hensol 25 February 1,2 1746/7

so he purchased the house for £45,500 to satisfy the voters who had complained that he 'did not hold a foot of land in Glamorganshire'. The Halls never lived there. He died in 1817 and Hensol was offered for sale in 1824.<sup>32</sup> Eventually the castle and estate was sold by Benjamin Hall III to his cousin William Crawshay II of Cyfarthfa for £27,500.<sup>33</sup>

Crawshay sold Hensol to Rowland Fothergill another industrialist, in 1839. Fothergill, born 1795 and d. 1872 was Sheriff of Glam. in 1850. He left Hensol to his niece Isabella Fothergill who m, 3 Jan 1877, Sir Rose Lambert Price, Bart. The Price family remained at Hensol until 1926 when it was sold to Glamorgan County council for use as a mental hospital.

Judge Jenkins' great house has now entered upon yet another new phase in its long life as an Hotel and sports Complex being developed by the Leeke family.

### Appendix 1: Fforest Garth Griffith

The forest of Allt Griffith or Garth Griffith belonged to Henry VIII in 1525 as part of his lordship of Talyfan, late Jasper Duke of Bedford. But when Talyfan lordship was sold by the crown to John Thomas Bassett the forests, no doubt because they were an integral part of the Clun Park mining enterprise, were withheld. They did, however, form part of the later grant of land, including Clun and its iron industry, made to William Herbert, later Earl of Pembroke by Edward VI in 1547. An inquisition taken on the death of William Earl of Pembroke in 1567 lists the Talyfan forests as follows.<sup>34</sup>

New Forest extending within the parishes of Llansannor, Llanharry and Ystradowen: Old Forest extending to the parishes of Ystradowen and Llanharry: Garth Mailock extending within the parish of Llanharan and

#### Garth Griffic within the parishes of Pendilon and Welsh St. Dynnotts

This leaves no room for doubt that forest Garth Griffith is the area later represented by the farms of Fforest Fawr and Fforest Fach south of Talygarn but which now forms part of the grounds of Talygarn House, i.e. the lake, and, south of that, Keepers Farm, the modern name for Fforest Fawr. It appears again in the 17th century as the eastern boundary of Talygarn Fawr in Llantrisant in a note of Exchequer proceedings by David Jones of Wallington<sup>35</sup> in which Talygarn Fawr is described as 60 acres ... *between the land of the Earl of Pembroke, the late Henry Morgan, the highway from Pont rhyd y garn to Cowbridge and the brook*. This land of the Earl could have been nothing but Fforest Garth Griffith which confirms this forest as the boundary of Talygarn.

These Talyfan forests were regarded as part of the

lordship of Llanbleddian after the sale of Talyfan lordship and a lease of lands in Welsh St Donats, granted by the Earl of Pembroke in 1654 to Abraham Davies of Westminster, gent., must have been Fforest Garth Griffith. In 1655, Abraham Davies subleased the same land to Frisell Griffith of Pendoylan, yeoman. This must be the Frustal Griffith mentioned by William Thomas of Michaelston super Ely on 14 March 1765:

*Was buried in St.Faggans from / Dyffryn Goluch, Sarah the wife of / John Andrew of above 80 yrs. / of age from long lingring. She was / great grand daughter to / Frustal Griffith the keeper of / Hensol for Oliver in the Grand / Rebellion. She was daughter of / one Elizabeth Watkin of St. Faggns. / decd. had her life in the house / where Sage Wm. widow now liveth / and the last life, if it was not that / Thomas Gronow her son in law had / lately renewed the lease.*

In 1661 Frisill Griffith, by then of Moulton in Llancarfan, gent., conveyed to David Jenkins of Hensol, Esq., for £29, his interest in lands called Fforest Alt Griffith in the parishes of Pendoylan and Welsh St Donats as leased to him by Abraham Davies of Middlesex, gent. on 22 November 1655. On 24 May 1686 Abraham Davies himself assigned his original lease to David Jenkins for £230 and shortly after that Jenkins must have acquired the freehold from the Earl of Pembroke's Trustees.<sup>36</sup>

### Appendix 2: Llwynrhyddyd

The manor of Llwynrhyddid belonged in the 16th century to Sir Thomas Raglan, probably by descent from his great grandmother, Catherine d. & heiress of Lewis Mathew of Carnllwyd. Sir Thomas Raglan, who sold Carnllwyd and retired to England, mortgaged the manor of Llwynrhyddyd in 1563/4-1568<sup>37</sup> to Hugh Griffith Esq a Clerk in Chancery who lived at Rhws in Glamorgan. By the 17th century it appears to have been sold to Hugh Griffith's neighbours the Mathews of Rhws and Aberaman and, in 1662, Edward Mathew Esq. of Aberaman mortgaged the manor to Dr William Bassett of Miskin for £600. The leasehold occupier of the messuage of Llwynrhyddid tenement at the time was an Edward Mathew, gent., probably a great uncle of Edward Esq. When he died in 1677 Dr William Bassett of Miskin was in possession of the lordship of Lloyn rhythyd<sup>38</sup> and the capital messuage and several other tenements were then said to be held by Edward Mathew gent with remainders to Miles Mathew, gent and Edmund Mathew Esq but this was possibly no more than a recitation of the leases and the parties named may have been long dead by 1677. In 1709<sup>39</sup> it was acquired by the Talbots of Hensol. Its manor court

<sup>32</sup> GRO D/D Xge 8/1,2

<sup>33</sup> Maxwell Fraser, "Benjamin Hall's Youth" in *The National Library of Wales Journal*, Vol. XII No.3. p. 261n.

<sup>34</sup> Cardiff Records, III p. 288

<sup>35</sup> Cardiff Library D.Jones MS 2.1111 (16/11)

<sup>36</sup> NLW Talbot of Hensol, 629, 1 June 1654,77, 22 Nov 1655, 151, 10 June 1661, 62, 24 May 1686

<sup>37</sup> NLW Talbot of Hensol, 668/9 26 Feb. 1663/4; 674 30 July 1568; 782 1 August 1568

<sup>38</sup> GRO D/D xcu 5.1

<sup>39</sup> NLW Talbot of Hensol, 978/9 26 Sept. 1709; 803 1 Oct. 1709

was still functioning in the early 18th century as is shown by a copy of the court Roll dated 2 February 1713 in which an Evan Jenkins was admitted to a messuage and lands in the manor called Dyffryn Lloff for three lives.

This is not the place for a detailed study of Llwynrhyddyd so no attempt has been made at this stage to define its boundaries with any precision. Its main interest in relation to Talygarn, apart from the fact that it lies to the south of the Pendoylan portion of the lordship, is the fact that the earliest known owner was Sir Thomas Raglan of Carnllwyd. Sir Thomas was also owner, in 1536, of land in Talygarn (Llantrisant) or perhaps Caergwanaf, which lay east of

what is now Bragdu Farm<sup>40</sup>. Taken together with the fact that Cefn Llys and Bolgoed were owned by the Mathews of Radyr, it is tempting to suggest that Sir Thomas Raglan had inherited his land in this area from his great great grandfather Lewis Mathew of Carnllwyd which raises the possibility of a common owner as far back as Llywelyn ap Cynwrig of Radyr. See Appendix 7. While we have no evidence for the origin of Llwynrhyddyd as a manor, it is at least possible that the two parts of Talygarn, Caergwanaf and Llwynrhyddyd were once parts of a larger Member Lordship in Welsh hands which had become fragmented over generations of *cyfran* before emerging as obscure manors in the 16th century.

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<sup>40</sup> NLW Talbot of Henso1462 May 6 1536

### Appendix 3: The Descent of Talygarn Lordship in the Afan Family

5. MORGAN GAM OF AFAN, d. 1241, m.. (a) a dau. of Cunedda, (b) Joan f. Madog ab Y Bach ap Gwaithfoed of Skenfrith. [neither of the above marriages in Limbus Patrum] Issue

1. Morgan ychan
2. Lleision, l. 1246-9 [Sir Leyshon in Limbus Patrum]
3. Caradog [Not in Limbus Patrum]
4. Mallt, m. Gilbert Turberville of Coety [Limbus Patrum had Mawd m. Sir Payne T. In his introduction to Morgan-Gam Clark says: 'Morgan-Gam is often described as leaving a d. & h., Maud, m. to Sir Payne T.' This again is confusion with the claim that Morgan Arglwydd ap Meurig ap Gwrgan had a d. & h. Maud who m. Sir Payn.]  
[Limbus Patrum has five more sons, Thomas, Rhys, Hywel and Evan also Hopkin father of Walter whose d. & h. Nest etc. but this last belongs to Morgan-Fychan below.]

6. MORGAN FYCHAN AP MORGAN GAM, d. 8 August 1288, m. (a) Sibyl d. of Walter de Sully, (b) Elen f. Gronwy ab Einion ap Llywarch. [In Limbus Patrum he m. the h. of Cilvae and had only Rhys ancestor of the Lleisiaid, but in fact Rhys has to be a branch] Issue:

1. Sir Lleision de Avene [Not in Golden Grove, Glam. 1 nor in Limbus Patrum]
2. Gwladus, m. Hywel ap Seisyll ap Llywelyn ap Moriddig Warwyn [Not in Limbus Patrum]
3. Rhys ap Morgan of Baglan, whence a branch [Continued in Limbus Patrum as the main descent]
4. Hywel, whence a branch [Not in Limbus Patrum]
5. Hopkin, father of Gwallter, father of Nest who m. Dafydd ap Jenkin ap Tudur of Aberafan [Limbus Patrum makes him s. of Morgan Gam above].

7. SIR LLEISION DE AVENE AP MORGAN FYCHAN, l. 1304, d. *ante* 1328 (Cart Glam. 922, 979), m. Margaret d. of Edward Sully. Lady Margaret de Avene was living 'in her free and legal widowhood' in 1349-50, (Cartae 1271) Issue:

1. Thomas [Not in Limbus Patrum]
2. John de Avene
3. a dau., m. Gruffudd Gethin, l. 1328 [Limbus Patrum says of Ynys Dawe, grandson of Rhys ap Cynedd by a d. of Morgan de Avan.]

8. JOHN DE AVENE, Lord of Afan, Cilfai and Sully (Cart. Glam. 1140), m. Isabella d. of Thomas de Barry. Issue:

1. Thomas de Avene
2. a dau., m. Cynwrig Fychan of Cilfai ap Cynwrig of Radyr ap Hywel of Meisgyn ap Madog of Ruthin ab Iestyn
3. William

9. THOMAS DE A VENE, l. 1349- 50, m. Maud. Issue:

1. Thomas
2. Jane, m. William Blunt
3. Morgan, base.

10 MORGAN AP THOMAS DE AVENE, (base) m. ad. of Brayn of the Forest. Issue:

1. William Afan of Llantrithyd
2. Lleision, father of (a) John, s.p., (b) Ieuan, (c) Dafydd whose d. m. Thomas Yale of Bristol

11 WILLIAM AFAN of Llantrithyd, m. ad. of Llywelyn of Abergorci ap Ieuan Madi of Bwlch-gwyn and had issue:

12 JENKIN AP WILLIAM, m. Efa f. Hopkin ap William of Blaen Baglan and had issue:

13 ELIZABETH, d. & heiress, m. William ap William ap Robert Mathew of Castell y Mynach. She appears to have been the heiress of land in Llantrithyd and of the lordship of Talygarn and she m. John Bassett of Garn.

#### Appendix 4: The Descent of Talygarn Fawr

A BRANCH FROM CYNWRIG AP HYWEL [Limbus Patrum p. 128]

(8) THOMAS OF TALYGARN (but perhaps he was the son of Llywelyn ap Cynwrig, below. Golden Grove, Glam 21 makes him son of Cynfrig and Clark follows suit but P.C.Bartrum is of two minds whether Thomas was son of Cynfrig or of Llywelyn ap Cynfrig. Clark with his usual precision makes him 5th son by counting sons from the left of the Golden Grove pedigree but, of course, we have no evidence for the order of children), living 1317 (Golden Grove, Glam. 33), m. Tudful f. Rhirid ap Seisyll ap Hwefrig ab Einion, steward to Robert Earl of Gloucester, ab Owain from Bleddyn ap Cynfyn and had issue:

1. Dafydd, 2. Henry, father of Dafydd

9. DAFYDD AP THOMAS, father of:

10 IEUAN AP DAFYDD, living 5 RII, m. Gwenllian f. Llywelyn ab Ifor-Hir and issued:

1. Ieuan Fychan
2. Thomas
3. Jonet, m. Llywelyn of Bryngwynon ap Ieuan ap Dafydd ap Gronwy ab Owain Peldu from Einion ap Gollwyn

11 THOMAS AB IEUAN, m. a d. of Hywel ap Philip-Hir of Perthandro ap Ieuan ap Gruffudd ap Dafydd ap Cadwgan Fawr from Rhys Goch of Ystradyw and had issue:

1. Dafydd Goch
2. a dau., m. Hywel ap Ieuan Gwyn of Llandyfodwg from Rhydderch ap Iestyn 3 and had issue (a) Philip ap Hywel, father of Thomas ap Philip, father of (1) Hywel, (2) Watkin, (3) Hopkin, (4) Ieuan, (b) Ieuan ap Hywel, m. Isabel f. Richard Adams of Castleton [Golden Grove, Brecs. 76] & had William Evans, DL, r. of St Athan & Chancellor of Llandaff for 40 years.
3. Llywelyn, m. ad. of Thomas Fleming of Flemingston and had Thomas
4. a daughter, m. Thomas Ieuan Ddu [Golden Grove, Glam. 33]

12 DAFYDD GOCH AP THOMAS, m. Mallt f. Morgan of Radur ap Ieuan Dafydd and had issue:

13 HARRY AP DAFYDD GOCH, Gwenllian f. Gruffudd Goch of Ynysarwed. [Golden Grove, Glam. 70] Marlos, [Golden Grove, Glam 33] ap Gruffudd ap Thomas ap Jenkin ap Rhys ap Llywelyn of Glyn Nedd from Einion ap Gollwyn and had issue:

1. Dafydd, m. Ffelis f. Richard ap Gibbon of Scurlage Castle ap Llywelyn ab Ifor Hir of Alltygawrddu from Einion ap Gollwyn
2. Gruffudd
3. Richard. M. Tanglwystl f. Thomas ap Richard
4. John s.p.
5. Ann. m. John Jevan David
6. Elizabeth, m. John ap Lewis Hir ap Lewis of Olmarch ap Hywel ap Gronwy ab Ifor Hir of Alltygawrddu from Einion ap Gollwyn
7. Margaret (base), m. Rhys ap Llywelyn ap Hywel ap Rhys
8. Jonet (base), m. Thomas ap Deio of Talygarn
9. Mallt (base), m, James Saer

14 GRUFFUDD AP HARRI AP HYWEL GOCH, m. Mallt f. Hywel ap Richard ap Hywel ap Gronwy ap Ifor Hir of Alltygawrddu from Einion ap Gollwyn and issued:

1. Dafydd of Talygarn
2. Hywel, m. Margaret f. Richard ap Lewis ap Richard ap Hywel ap Gronwy ab Ifor Hir of Alltygawrddu from Einion ap Gollwyn

15 DAFYDD AP GRUFFUDD OF TALYGARN, m. Catherine f. Ieuan Goch ap Meurig ap Ieuan ap Hywel Fychan ap Hywel of Meisgyn ap Gruffudd ap Rhys ap Hywel Hen from Iestyn ap Gwrgan and issued:

16. ANN FERCH DAFYDD. h., m JOHN PRICE MEYRICK *son of* Rhys ap Meurig [Rice Merrick] of Cottrell from Rhys Goch of Ystradyw and issued:

1. Elizabeth, m, David ap David of St Brides Major
2. Sibyll/Cecil
3. Blanch, m. Rees ap Harry of Maesyfelin
4. Frances,
5. Mary,
6. Jane,
7. Rees,
8. William,
9. Hugh
- 10 David Price Meyrick who, with Margaret his wife held the tithes of Talygarn in 1641

17. WILLIAM PRICE MEYRICK of Talygarn aged 62 in 1659.

## Appendix 5: The Descent of the Jenkins Family of Hensel

7. EINION SAIS OF PENPONT AP RHYS, d. 1271, m. (a) Lleucu f. Hywel ap Meredudd 1. of Meisgyn, (b) Gwenllian f. Hywel from Rhys ap Tewdwr, (c) a d. of Baron Croft. Issue by his first wife:

1. Einion Fychan, P.C. Bartrum says by his second wife, but Einion Fychan's descendants held land in Meisgyn
2. Hywel
3. Rhys of Porthgogof

By his second wife:

4. Meredudd, 5. Gruffudd

8. EINION FYCHAN AP EINION SAIS m. a d. of Llywelyn from Trahaearn Fawr 11 and had issue:

1. Hywel
2. Trahaearn, 3. Philip, 4. Adam, 5. Meredudd, 6. Ieuan

9. HYWEL AP EINION FYCHAN m. a d. of Richard from Maenyrch and had issue:

1. Rhys
2. Meredudd, 3. Gwilym, 4. Gruffudd

10. RHYS AP HYWEL had issue:

1. Gruffudd
2. Hywel of Morgannwg

11. HYWEL OF MORGANNWG AP RHYS father of:

12. MEURIG AP HYWEL, m. Joan f. Llywelyn from Cydrych and had issue:

1. Gwenllian
2. Dafydd Tew
3. Margaret, 4. John, 5. Joan, 6. Thomas

DAFYDD TEW AP MEURIG had issue:

1. Catherine
2. Richard
3. Thomas
4. Crisli
5. Hywel ap Dafydd Tew was of Dyhewid, Llantwit Fardre in 1570, m a d. of Hywel Tew ap Ieuan ap Hywel Fychan from Iestyn ap Gwrgan and had issue (a) Catherine, m. (1) Richard ap Ieuan of Collenna from Einion ap Gollwyn (2) Henry Mathew a base s. of Sir George Mathew by whom she seems to have had two sons, Morgan and George Mathew, (b) Mawd, m. (1) Thomas ap Dafydd ap Robert of Pentyrch, (2) William ap Thomas, (c) Gwenllian, m. Morgan ap Morgan ap William of Hendresguthan from Einion ap Gollwyn and of base issue, (d) Margaret, m, Thomas ap Ieuan ap Gwilym, (e) Morgan

14. THOMAS AP DAFYDD TEW, [This Thomas is omitted from the Hensol pedigree on p. 203 of *LP* but appears, confused in a branch at the foot of p. 204] m, Joan f. Roger and had issue:

1. John m, a d. of John ap Robert of Cardiff
2. Catherine, m. Ieuan ap Ieuan ap Deio
3. Dafydd
4. Richard
5. Thomas m. Joan f. Gibbon ap Jenkin from Iestyn 18(B) and bad issue whence a branch which is confused with his father at the foot of p. 204 of *LP*

15. JENKIN AP THOMAS m. Jonet f. Ieuan from Iestyn 8(E) and had issue:

1. David
2. a daughter, m, Lleision ap William from Iestyn 23(C)

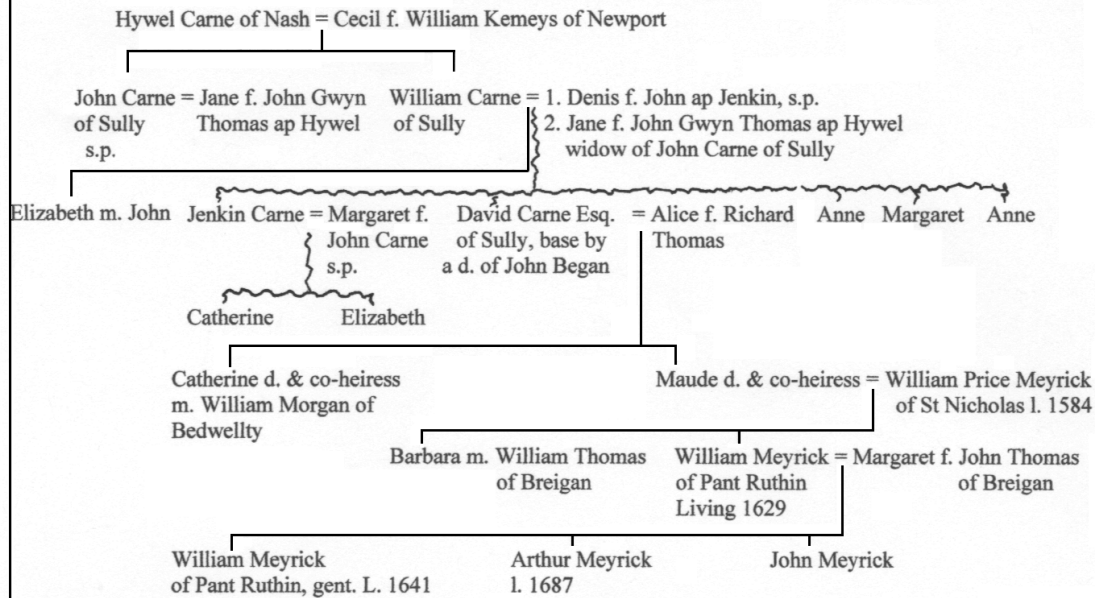
16. DAVID JENKINS OF HENSOL b. 1582 m. Mary d. & co-heiress of Edward Prichard of Llancaeath and had issue:

1. Richard
2. Cecil, heiress of her brother, m. Charles Mathew of Castellymynach and had issue:

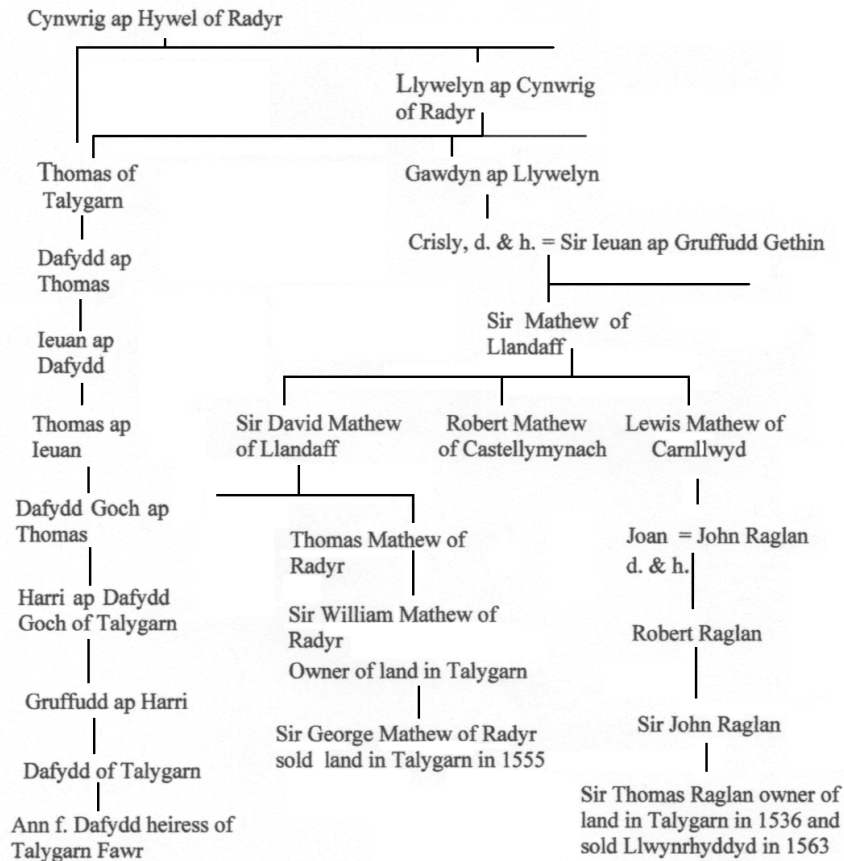
17. CECIL MATHEW m. Charles Talbot, later Earl Talbot of Hensol and had issue Talbot of Hensol



### Appendix 6: Carne of Sully



### Appendix 7: Possible Descent of share-land in Talygarn and Llwyrhyddyd



## APPENDIX 8: Prichard of Talygarn Fawr

20 EVAN PRICHARD Esq. of Collenna, J.P. in 1735. d. 25 Oct 1752 aet 68. He m. 1st., in 1709, Mary d. & co-h. of Isaac Williams of Gelli'r Feilog, Merthyr Tydfil. She d. 28 March 1740. He m. 2nd. Ffriswith Morgan of Graigwen, Llanwynno, s.p. Her will d. 10 May 1757 pr. 21 September 1759 by her niece Mary wife of Evan Hopkin of Llantwit Fardre. Evan Prichard had issue by his first wife:

1. Richard Prichard
2. Evan Prichard, surgeon of Cardiff. m. Hannah Howells (d. 1744) and had issue.
3. John Prichard, Attorney, of Caerleon, will pr. 1757, m. 1742, Elizabeth d. of Revd. Griffith Davies, vicar of Caerleon, by his wife Elizabeth d. of Samuel Dent, Attorney of Caerleon and had issue.
4. William Prichard, surgeon of Llantrisant. m. twice but s.p. His 2nd wife was Barbara Rowe, alias Cooper, wid. m. 1759. Their only son William died in infancy. William himself was buried 1 January 1761. will d. 27 December 1760, pr. 1761. His reversionary interest in Cefn y Fforest, Merthyr Tydfil, after his widow Barbara to his brothers James & Thomas. He probably lived in the Prichard 'town house' in Llantrisant, now the Butcher's Arms.
5. Thomas Prichard, surgeon of Cefn y Fforest, Merthyr Tydfil, whence a branch.
6. **James Prichard**
7. Mary Prichard
8. Jane Prichard m. David Jenkin of Rhiwinder, Llantrisant, and had issue
9. Ann Prichard m. Richard Jones of Trehill, St. Nicholas. d. s.p. in 1786, will d. 31 January 1786, pr. 23 June 1786.
10. Elizabeth Prichard m. in 1754 David William of Penmark, dissenting minister. She d.s.p.
11. Florence Prichard m. Evan Morgan of Penrhys.

21 JAMES PRICHARD OF TALYGARN, will d. 8 April 1803, pr. 4 October 1803. m. Elizabeth d. of William Bassett of Hafod, by his wife Elizabeth d. of William Thomas of Cornel y Parc (will d. 1 March 1769, pr. 14 February 1778) and had issue:

1. Thomas Prichard, o.s.p. 1782 aet 24
2. Mary

22 MARY PRICHARD OF TALYGARN, m. John Popkin and issued

1. James Popkin
2. Thomas Prichard Popkin
3. Elizabeth Bassett Popkin.

23 THOMAS PRICHARD POPKIN who sold Talygarn Fawr to the Revd Dr Lisle in about 1817.

