

GRUFFYDD ap GWENWYNWYN (died 1286 or 1287), lord of Upper Powys

Name: Gruffydd ap Gwenwynwyn
Date of death: 1286
Spouse: Hawys Lestrangle
Child: Margaret de la Pole
Child: Owen de la Pole
Parent: Margaret Corbet
Parent: Gwenwynwyn
Gender: Male
Occupation: lord of Upper Powys
Area of activity: Land Ownership; Military; Politics, Government and Political Movements; Royalty and Society
Author: Thomas Jones Pierce

the elder son of [Gwenwynwyn](#) by Margaret Corbet of Caus. An infant when his father died, an exile in 1216, he was excluded from his inheritance until after the death of [Llywelyn I](#), meanwhile spending his youth and early manhood in England dependent on royal bounty and his mother's dower. When [Dafydd II](#) submitted to Henry III in 1241, the king invested Gruffydd (on strictly feudal terms) with the lordship of the family lands in Arwystli, Cyfeiliog, Mawddwy, Caereinion, Y Tair Swydd, and Upper Mochnant. Sometime before this decisive moment in his career, he had married Hawise, daughter of [John Lestrangle](#) of Knockin.

Steadfast in his loyalty to the Crown during the first decade of [Llywelyn II](#)'s rise to power, he suffered a renewed loss of patrimony and a second exile in 1257. With evident reluctance, and though deprived of the lands of Cyfeiliog lying north of the Dovey, he agreed, in 1263, to transfer his allegiance to [Llywelyn](#) and co-operate in the latter's plan for the creation of a native feudal principality. This arrangement, confirmed in the Treaty of Montgomery (1267), lasted until 1274, the year of the notorious plot against [Llywelyn](#)'s life, in which Hawise and her eldest son, Owen, were deeply implicated.

From the shelter of his third exile at Shrewsbury, Gruffydd (not without some suspicion of royal encouragement) continued to embarrass [Llywelyn](#), providing in this way one of the occasions for the war of 1277. Reinstated in his barony of Powys after [Llywelyn](#)'s humiliation, he was still without the lands north of the Dovey; these now became the subject of legal controversy between him and the Prince of Wales, the ensuing complications being part of the web of circumstances which led to the final outbreak of hostilities in 1282, when Gruffydd figured among the most prominent of Edward's supporters.

He lived for five years after the conquest, dying sometime between 21 February 1286 and the end of 1287. He was survived by his wife (died 1310), six sons, and one daughter. The main inheritance passed to the eldest son, OWEN DE LA POLE, and eventually, in 1309, to [John Charlton](#), the husband of Gruffydd's grand-daughter, [Hawise](#).

Author

Professor Thomas Jones Pierce, (1905 - 1964)

Sources

J. E. Lloyd, *A History of Wales from the Earliest Times to the Edwardian Conquest* (London 1911), Vol. I

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Littere Wallie (1940)

Calendar of Ancient Correspondence concerning Wales (1935)

The Welsh Assize Roll, 1277-1284 (1940)

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Gruffydd ap Gwenwynwyn](#)

Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q3072975](#)

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