

## HERBERT, WILLIAM (died 1469), earl of Pembroke, soldier and statesman

**Name:** William Herbert  
**Date of death:** 1469  
**Spouse:** Anne Herbert (née Devereux)  
**Partner:** Frond verch Hoesgyn  
**Child:** Anne Grey (née Herbert)  
**Child:** Maud Herbert  
**Child:** Walter Herbert  
**Child:** William Herbert  
**Child:** Richard Herbert  
**Parent:** Gwladus verch Dafydd  
**Parent:** William ap Thomas  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** soldier and statesman  
**Area of activity:** Land Ownership; Military; Politics, Government and Political Movements; Royalty and Society  
**Author:** Howell Thomas Evans

Son of Sir William ap Thomas of Raglan and Gwladus, daughter of **Dafydd Gam**. He served with the English forces in Normandy with his countryman **Mathew Gough**, was taken prisoner at Formigny (April 1450), and knighted at Christmas, 1450. In the struggle between Lancaster and York his interests, if not also his sympathies, inclined him to favour the Yorkists, for their strength on the borders of South Wales was overwhelming. However, he made his peace with the king and queen Margaret in 1452, and again at Leicester in 1457. During the next few years he was loyal to the Crown, and this partly explains the Yorkist panic at Ludford (12 October 1459). As a reward he received extensive grants from the confiscated estates of York and Warwick (5 February 1460). In 1459 he married Anne Devereux, sister of Walter, lord Ferrers of Chartley. After the battle of Northampton (July 1460) Warwick gave him extensive authority in South Wales. In October he represented Hereford in Parliament. Henceforth he threw in his lot with the Yorkists, and this largely explains their victory at Mortimer's Cross (2 February 1461). His rise in royal favour was now rapid. He was made a privy chancellor, and was present at Baynard's castle when the earl of March was proclaimed king as Edward IV (March 1461). At the coronation he became lord Herbert of Raglan (4 November). He was chief justice and chamberlain of South Wales. During the next few years Edward IV showered favours upon him 'to the secret displeasure of the earl of Warwick.' Having received the submission of Pembroke castle, a Lancastrian stronghold, Herbert was given the custody of the young **Henry, earl of Richmond**, whom he betrothed in his will to his daughter Maud; he was made a K.G. (April 1462) and became a member of the king's Inner Council. The feud between Herbert and Warwick became embittered when Herbert's son and heir, **William**, was made **lord Dunster** (September 1466), and especially when Herbert accompanied the king to demand the Great Seal from the Chancellor, Warwick's brother, George, archbishop of York (June 1467). Next year (July 1468), Herbert was commissioned to reduce Harlech, still held by the Lancastrians; the castle surrendered in August. As his reward Herbert received the earldom of Pembroke (8 September). In a striking poem, **Guto'r Glyn** now appealed to Herbert to become a national leader and rid Wales of English officials. However, he was defeated by Warwick's forces at Edgecote (July 1469), taken prisoner, and executed. This defeat was regarded by contemporary Welsh poets as a national calamity.

### Author

**Howell Thomas Evans**, (1878 - 1950)

### Sources

Contemporary chronicles and letters

references in Welsh poems, etc.

*Calendar of Patent Rolls*

*The Rolls of Parliament*

Rymer, *Foedera conventiones, litterarū, et cujuscunque generis acta publica, inter reges Angliarū, et alios quosuis imperatores, reges, pontifices, principes, vel communitates, ab ingressu Gulielmi I. in Angliam, A.D. 1066, ad nostra usque tempora habita aut tractata ex autographis, infra secretiores archivorum regionum thesaurarias, asservatis, aliisque summā vetustatis instrumentis, ad historiam anglicanam spectantibus, fideliter exscripta* (1816-1830, 1869)

Howell T. Evans, *Wales and the Wars of the Roses* (Cambridge 1915)

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [William Herbert, 1st Earl of Pembroke \(died 1469\)](#)

### Images

A. Birrel, *Monumental effigies of Sr. Wm. Ap Thomas*

### Additional Links

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