

HOLBACHE (HOLBECHE, etc.), DAVID (fl. 1377-1423), lawyer, founder of Oswestry Grammar School

Name: David Holbache
Spouse: Gwenhwyfar Holbache
Parent: Ieuan Goch ap Dafydd Goch ap Iorwerth ap Cynwrig ap Heilyn ap Trahaearn ab Iddon
Gender: Male
Occupation: lawyer, founder of Oswestry Grammar School
Area of activity: Education; Law
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Despite his (as yet unexplained) English surname, he was a Welshman; according to the pedigrees in Harl. MS. 4181 (*Powys Fadog*, iv, 93) and Pen. MS. 129 (by his fellow-countryman [Gutun Owain](#)), he was son of Ieuan Goch ap Dafydd Goch ap Iorwerth ap Cynwrig ap Heilyn (of Pentre-heilyn, in Ellesmere) ap Trahaearn ab Iddon; he had lands at Dudleston in Chirkland; he was steward of the town and lordship of Oswestry, and (in 1409) deputy-steward of the lordship of Bromfield and Yale. He was a member, either for Shrewsbury or for Shropshire, of Parliaments between February 1406 and November 1417.

He suffered great losses in the Glyndŵr wars; according to a petition of his in 1406-7 (*Rotuli Parliamentorum*, iii, 600-1) he had lost 2,000 marks of rents of his lands in Wales, over and above about 2,000 marks through destruction of his property. Not unnaturally, he complained that he was ground between upper and nether millstones, for [Owain Glyndŵr](#)'s men had harried him, while Parliamentary legislation deprived him of the rights of Englishry. Accordingly, he induced Parliament (*Rotuli Parliamentorum*, iii, 590; *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 1405-8, 245, 298) to petition the king not only to compensate him in part by granting him some lands forfeited by a Welsh 'rebel,' but also to grant him Englishry despite the fact that he was Welsh ('*entier Galois*') in respect of both his parents.

Remembering these facts, it is difficult to accept Stow's statement (in 1615) that Holbache afterwards interceded with Henry on [Owain](#)'s behalf. Yet we know that Holbache did intercede on behalf of another Welshman, [Adam Usk](#), for [Adam](#)'s pardon (20 March 1411 - *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1408-13, 283) states that it was granted on the petition of 'David Holbache, esquire.'

At some time between 1418 and 1421 (the original documents are lost), Holbache endowed a free grammar school at Oswestry, the first of its kind in (what was then) Wales; the endowment was increased by his widow Gwenhwyfar. Holbache's will was proved in 1423; he left a widow and a daughter.

Leland (*Itinerary in Wales*, ed. Toulmin Smith, 75) was mistaken when he suggested that David Holbache was the 'David' who founded the Inn of Court in Holborn called 'Thavies Inn.'

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Bye-Gones, relating to Wales and the Border Counties, 1881 (consult index)

J. E. Lloyd, *Owen Glendower / Owen Glyn Dwr* (1931), 139n

L. S. Knight, *Welsh independent grammar schools to 1600 their charters of foundation, deeds, statutes, customs, etc.* (Newtown 1926)

Bulkeley-Owen, *The founder and first trustees of Oswestry Grammar School* (Oswestry c.1903) (important documents) and the other references given above

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [David Holbache](#)

Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q16844174](#)

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