TATHAN (Tathai, Lat. Tatheus), saint (fl. 5th century).

Name: Tathan
Parent: Tathalius
Gender: Male
Occupation: saint
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Harold Idris Bell

His life is found in B.M. MS. Cotton Vespasian A. xiv; in that of S. Cadoc, where he also appears, he is called Meuthi (the names are identical, the variant forms being due to the honorific prefixes 'mo' and 'to' and the endearing suffix 'an'). He was, it is said, born in Ireland, the son of king Tathalius (Tuathal). Tuathal Maelgarb (532-544) is too late to be his father, and it is possible that Tathalius ruled, not in Ireland, but among the Goidels of North Wales. The 'Life' is mostly legendary, but it is clear that Tathan settled in Gwent, and that Caradog, king of all Gwent, made him a grant of land at Caerwent, where he established a school and monastery. S. Cadog, son of king Gwynllyw, was his disciple. His festival is on 26 December (in the *English Martyrology*, 23 November). He is patron of Caerwent and, in his name Meuthi, of the extinct Llanfeithin, in Llancarfan parish.

Author

Sir Harold Idris Bell, (1879 - 1967)

Sources

Bangor Welsh MSS. Soc., ii, 1909, *Vita Sancti Tathie and Buched Seint y Katrin* (Bangor 1909)

Wade-Evans, *Welsh Christian Origins* (Oxford 1934), 1934, 118-9

Baring-Gould and J. Fisher, *The Lives of the British Saints*, 1907-13, iv, 211-4

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: Tathan

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Published date: 1959

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