

TRAHAEARN ap CARADOG (died 1081), king of Gwynedd

Name: Trahaearn ap Caradog
Date of death: 1081
Child: Owain ap Trahaearn
Child: Griffri ap Trahaearn
Child: Meurig ap Trahaearn
Child: Llywarch ap Trahaearn
Parent: Caradog ap Gwyn ap Collwyn
Gender: Male
Occupation: king of Gwynedd
Area of activity: Politics, Government and Political Movements; Royalty and Society
Author: Thomas Jones Pierce

He is said to have been the son of one Caradog ap Gwyn ap Collwyn and a cousin of [Bleddyn ap Cynfyn](#). By natural right ruler of Arwystli, his career between 1075 and 1081 is one of the foremost illustrations in Welsh history of how a bold and ambitious personality among the minor lords of Wales could usurp regal powers over an extensive area at moments when the fortunes of the major dynasties were at a low ebb. On [Bleddyn](#)'s death in 1075, he seized authority in Gwynedd. Challenged by [Gruffudd ap Cynan](#), the representative of the old Venedotian house, he was defeated at Dyffryn Glyngin in Meirionydd, but later in the year he retrieved himself at Bron yr Erw and drove [Gruffudd](#) into second exile in Ireland. In 1078 he invaded South Wales and killed its king ([Rhys ab Owain](#)) at Goodwick. The general threat to old established interests eventually brought [Gruffudd](#) and [Rhys ap Tewdwr](#) into alliance, and together they imposed a crushing defeat on their opponent at the well-known battle of Mynydd Carn, fought in 1081, and in which Trahaearn met his end. He left four sons - Meurig, Griffri, Llywarch, and Owain. His descendants ruled in Arwystli until it was absorbed into Powys by [Gwenwynwyn](#). A grand-daughter, Gwladus, married [Owain Gwynedd](#); her son was [Iorwerth Drwyndwn](#), father of [Llywelyn the Great](#).

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

J. E. Lloyd, *[A History of Wales from the Earliest Times to the Edwardian Conquest \(London 1911\)](#)*, Vol. II

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

History of Gruffydd ap Cynan (1054–1137) (1910)

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Trahaearn ap Caradog](#)

Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q591291](#)

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