

TUDUR PENLLYN (c. 1420 - c. 1485-90), bard

Name: Tudur Penllyn
Date of birth: c. 1420
Date of death: c. 1485-90
Spouse: Gwerful ferch Ieuan Fychan ab Ieuan
Child: Ieuan ap Tudur Penllyn
Gender: Male
Occupation: bard
Area of activity: Poetry
Author: John Ellis Caerwyn Williams

For his pedigree, see Pen. MSS. 125, 139, 176, Wrexham MS. 1, and Stowe MS. 669. He was Tudur Penllyn ap Ieuan ap Iorwerth Foel, but in one manuscript he is called Tudur Penllyn ap Dafydd ap Ieuan ap Iorwerth Foel. He traced his descent from Meirion Goch, an Edeirnion nobleman who was the founder of a house in Rhiw (Llŷn) and the ancestor of some of the gentle families in that hundred. We do not know where Tudur Penllyn was born nor where he was brought up, but it is not unlikely that he spent his childhood, as he spent his old age, in Penllyn, the hundred from which he took his name. After reaching manhood he lived at Caer-gai, in the parish of Llanuwchllyn, apparently by right of his wife, Gwerful, daughter of Ieuan Fychan ap Ieuan ap Hywel y Gadair ap Gruffydd ap Madog ap Rhirid Flaidd (see *Powys Fadog*, ii, 119; vi, 119, 129). It appears that, in addition to being a poet, Tudur Penllyn was a sheep grazer and a drover, who traded in the wool of his sheep; this, however, did not prevent him from following the custom of the strolling bards and visiting the halls of the nobility in North and South Wales. His principal patrons were [Gruffydd Fychan](#) of Gors-y-gedol (he wrote a *cywydd* of praise to this warrior some time between 1461 and 1468 when, with [Dafydd ap Ieuan ab Einion](#), he was defending Harlech castle against Edward IV's adherents), Rheinallt ap Gruffydd of Mold (he wrote an *awdl* on the vengeance taken by this nobleman on the men of Chester when Robert Byrne, their mayor, was slain; Rheinallt died either in 1465 or 1466), and Dafydd Siencyn, one of the faithful supporters of [Jasper Tudor](#) and [Henry](#) of Richmond, a man who was famous for his raids on England. As might have been expected, Tudur Penllyn was favourably inclined to those noblemen who stood up for their rights at a time of fierce enmity between the Welsh and English. He excelled in writing panegyrics, whether of men or women, but there was also an edge to his satires, and his descriptive writing was admirable. His son, [IEUAN AP TUDUR PENLLYN](#), was also a poet.

Author

Professor John Ellis Caerwyn Williams, (1912 - 1999)

Sources

Thomas Roberts, '[Tudur Penllyn](#),' rhan I, *Y Llenor: cylchgrawn chwarterol dan nawdd cymdeithasau Cymraeg y colegau cenedlaethol*, xxi, 141-51

Thomas Roberts, '[Tudur Penllyn](#),' rhan II, *Y Llenor: cylchgrawn chwarterol dan nawdd cymdeithasau Cymraeg y colegau cenedlaethol*, xxii, 27-35

Jones and Lewis, *Mynegai i Farddoniaeth y Llawysgrifau* (1928), 382-8

Abraham Jenkins, 'The Works of Tudur Penllyn and Ieuan Brydydd Hir yr Hynaf' (thesis for the degree of M.A., University of Wales, 1921)

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Tudur Penllyn](#)

Additional Links

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