Locative Surnames in Wales:
A Preliminary List

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IT has long been assumed that all Welsh surnames are based on
patronymics, and it is true that the great majority are. But that
gives a misleading impression, for several hundreds of place-names in
Wales have, over the centuries, given rise to surnames, as will be
made clear by the list printed here. First compiled to illustrate a
paper presented at the Annual Study Conference held by the Council
for Name Studies at Ripon in 1990, it is meant to show that locative (viz. toponymical) surnames—with a very small number of
topographical forms as well—have been unjustly neglected, although
they do admittedly form a far smaller proportion of the total number
of Welsh surnames than do similar formations in England. Secondly,
it is hoped that the lists will help students of names and genealogists
to trace both names and families, especially since many Welsh
locative surnames such as Broughton, Horton or Walterston appear
misleadingly English, though they demonstrably arise in Wales.
The situation is, however, complex, because—as the present list
shows—even with a small store of locative surnames several forms,
such as Kyffin, Coymore, Maysmore and Blayney, each prove to
originate from several places which have identical names. What will,
moreover, not be clear from the list, but must always be kept in
mind when looking for the origin of a family, is that a considerable number of Welsh locative surnames are very similar to English ones: for example, Britton, Flint, Holt, Martell, Moss, Nash, Newport,
Pool(e) and Delapoke, Stanton, and Sully may all have origins elsewhere as well as inside Wales, and several of them may not even be locative or topographical at all.

The list has been laid out according to the pre-1974 historical shires of Wales. First, the commonest form of the surname is given
as headword, then its present-day geographical equivalent, as nearly
as possible, and, third, either an early example of the surname or
else an easily accessible printed source for the family or genealogy
centered. Where it has been possible to check that the name survives in the modern electoral registers or telephone directories,
this is noted. The strange and irregular distribution pattern of
Welsh locative surnames will be discussed elsewhere.

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6 Nomina XIV

(Oxford, 1968), 224. For OFr nicknames such as Malefille, Malfillatre, see A.
Dauzat, Les Noms de famille de France (Paris, 1945), 178-9, also 222, 316, and
(Sussex); L.F. Salzman, ed., Abstract of the Feet of Fines relating to the County
of Sussex, 2 vols, Sussex Record Society II (Lewes, 1903) and VII (London, 1908),
I, 58, 68; II, 96. Cf. DBS, s.n. For this type of -er compound, see further G.
Frasnay, Middle English Surnames of Occupation, with an Excursus on
Toponymical Surnames, Lund Studies in English III (Lund, 1935), 192-202, and
10 Terricus de Arboribus, Terra atte Taven mid 13th cent., in Devon R.C.,
ECR 1/32, fo. 8, 18; cf. DBS, s.n. Train (iii). For the place-name, see FN
Devon, 261.
11 A. Rumble, ed., Domesday Book: Essex (Chichester, 1983), 72 (Roger's
holding in chief), 151 (lands of La Trinité de Caen), cf. OEIL, 389; H.C.
Maxwell Lyte, Charter Rolls, I, 422.
12 W.O. Hassall, ed., Cartulary of St Mary, Clerkenwell, Camden Third Series
LXXI (London, 1949), 7, 160 (late 12th cent.), 18, 199 (mid 12th cent.); cf. E.
Ekwall, Early London Personal Names, Acta Regiae Societatis Humaniorum
Litterarum Lundensis XLIII (Lund, 1947), 171. Redwood and Wilson, Custumals,
13 (c.1265), and W.D. Peckham, ed. and trans., Thirteen Custumals of the Sussex
Manors of the Bishop of Chichester, Sussex Record Society XXXI (Cambridge,
1925), 55 (c.1285).
13 B. Dodwell, ed., The Charters of Norwich Cathedral Priory, PRS, n.s. XLVI
(London, 1855), II, 180, 265 (1270x1300).
14 Cf. DBS, s.n. Arkwright, Carpenter, Wright.
15 Cf. DBS, s.n. Little, Petty, Short, Smale.
16 DB, fo. 117; OEIL, 372; Latham, s.v. acus.
17 McKinley, Sussex, 45-6, and 79, n.151.
18 For the Buccinate families of London, see, e.g., Hassall, Clerkenwell, 107-17,
141, 161, 209-10; and, for the Latinization, see B.E. Harris, ed., PR 4 Henry III,
PRS n.s. XLVII (London, 1987), 148 (Cambs. and Hunts.).
19 J. Jones, Studies on Middle English Nicknames, 1 (Lond., 1979), 80, 148.
20 For the French place-name Quatremaire, see F. de Beaurepaire, Les Noms des
21 See, e.g., [H.C. Maxwell-Lyte et allii, eds.] Liber Feodorum: The Book of
Fees commonly called Testa de Nevill, 2 vols in 3 (London, PRO, 1920-1931), I,
782. Cf. DBS, s.n. Lester (i). For Lester (dep. Manche), see, e.g., F. de
Beaurepaire, Les Noms des communes et anciennes paroisses de la Manche (Paris,
1986), 146.
22 See, e.g., Book of Fees, II, 769. Cf. MED, s.v. estre, sense 3 (c).
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E.G. Jones, A Calendar of Eschequer Proceedings concerning Wales (Cardiff, 1939).

J.H. Matthews, ed., Records of the County Borough of Cardiff, 6 vols (Cardiff 1898–1911).


Parliamentary electoral registers.


PRO, E179/375/6 and E179/221/297, c.1670–2.


E. Mclysaght, Irish Families, their Names, Arms and Origins (Dublin, 1953).


National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.


T. Pennant, A History of the Parishes of Whiteford and Holywell (London, 1796).

PR.


R.A. Griffiths, The Principality of Wales in the Later Middle Ages, I: South Wales (Cardiff, 1972).


NLW Church in Wales MSS, MS Index of Wills, Diocese of St. David's.

British Telecom telephone directories. Transactions of the Radnorshire Society (Llandrindod, 1950–).

A LIST OF LOCATIVE SURNAMES IN WALES

ANGLESEY


Anglesea, Anglesey: Anglesey. TD Chester and North Wales.


Holyhead: Holyhead. TD Gloucester, etc.

Llwyon, Llwyone: ? Llifon (commote). PR Conway: *Elyzabeth Llwyon, Grace Llwyone* 1605. This surname may also come from Glynllifon in Llanddow, Caerns.

BRECONSHIRE


Brecon, Brecknockshire, etc.: Brecon, town or county names.

*EChanc. Proc.*, 151: *William Brekenock* 1551; Shropshire PR

Shipton: *Jacobi Brecknock* 1577; TD Shropshire, Gloucester, Newport, etc.

Clanlow: unidentified, maybe Llanfocha (St Maughan's, Gwent) or Glynfach (formerly Glynfach or Clanhogh) near Hay, Brecon. P.C.

Bartrum, Welsh Genealogies AD 300-1415 (Cardiff, 1977), s.a.;

Bradney, Mon., IV, 243; *DNB*, s.n.


Garth: Garth. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.

Honthe: Hondu (river). T. Jones, History of Brecknockshire (Brecon, 1898), 330 n.: *Thomas Honthie, Joanna Honthie* 1634.


CAERNARFONSHIRE

Bangor: Bangor. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n. *Bangor of Maenol Bangor; BCCS XV*, 50: *Jor Bangor* 1406; Caerns. QSR, 21: *Willm

ap Rys Bangor, mid-16th cent.

Bodurda: Bodwrrdwa. Griffith, Pedigrees, 169; *DWB*, s.n.

Bodyan: Boduran. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.

Brumor, Brymore: Brynmor (on older maps, near Penmaen-Mawr).

PR Conway: *Grace Brumor* 1577; *Jane Brumore* 1599.


Conwy: Conwy. Griffith, Pedigrees, 290; but see *ibid.*, 260, for Conwy of Botryddan descent from Conias, Coniers.

Coitmore: Coitmor. Griffith, Pedigrees, 227; *EChanc Proc.*, 16:

Rees Coitmore 1531.


Glyn, Glynne: Glynllifon. *DWB*, s.n.; Griffith, Pedigrees, 239, 266, for Glyn of Glynllifon and of Rhosfawr.


Madryn: Madrun. Griffith, Pedigrees, 242; PR Conway: *Eline Mad eryn* 1543.


Quellyn: Cwellyn. Griffith, Pedigrees, 208, 229.


CARDIGANSHIRE


CARMAITHENSHIRE

Conwil: Clydym families and other parishes: various Conwil families, 18th to early 20th cents.


Llandubia: Llandubia. Williams, 'Surnames', 64: John Llandubia of Fairwater 1582.

Laugharne: Laugharne. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; NLW, Llwyngwair Deeds: Laugharne of Laugharne, 18th cent.; TD Cardiff, Swansea, etc.

Pembyr: Pembyr, Pen-bre. CR Haverfordwest, 86: Samuel Pembyr 1649; ER and TD Gwent, s.n. Pembyr.


Whitland: Whitland. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.

DENBIGHSHIRE


Allington: Allington (Trefalun). Pennant, Whiteford, 309; Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; TD Chester.


Bromfield: Bromfield (lordship). Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; TD Chester.


Morgan

Denbeigh, Denby: Denbigh. TD Chester, Swansea, etc.

Dutton: Dutton Diffaith, etc. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; TD Chester.


Eton: Eton. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; TD Chester.

Holt: Holt. TD Chester.


Moss: Moss (valley). TD Chester and NE Wales.

Rixham: ? Wrexham. TD Chester and NE Wales.


Trefalun: Trefalun (Allington). Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.


Trefor: Trefor. Hist. Asaph, i, 327: Matthew de Trefor 1343; Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; TD Chester.


Yale: Yale (lordship) or Plas-yne-Yale. Griffith, Pedigrees, 220.

FLINTSHIRE

Bangor: Bangor Iscoed. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.

Broughton: Broughton (Worthernby). Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; TD Chester.

Buckley: Buckley. TD Chester and NE Wales.

Calcutt: Calcutt (Holywell). TD Chester and NE Wales.


Flint: Flint. Shropshire PR Alberbury: John Flint 1679; TD
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Cheadle, Hereford, etc.

Hammer: Hamner. Griffith, Pedigrees, 286; Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; TD Chester.

Hawarden, Harden: Hawarden. Williams, 'Surnames' 64: Rice Hawarden 1559; TD Chester, s.n. Hawarden, Harden.

Holywell: Holywell. PR Conway: Thomas Holywell 1758, Thomas Holywell 1762.

Hope: Hope. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; TD Chester.

Maelor, Mellor: Maelor (district). EChanc. Proc., 79: Griffith Maylou 1533; TD Chester; ER West Flint, Rhyll, Northop, etc.

Mold, Mould: Mold. Shropshire PR Chnunby: Richard Mold 1778; TD Chester and NE Wales, s.n. Mold, Mould.

Mostyn: Mostyn. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; DWB, s.n.; TD Chester.


Oerton: Oerton. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; TD Chester.


Pennant: topographical, 'head of the brook', probably valley near Bagill. Pennant, Whiteford, 34-5; Griffith, Pedigrees, 273; Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.


Soughton: Soughton. TD Chester.


GLAMORGAN


Barry: Barry. Williams, 'Surnames', 46: Thomas Barry 1255; Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; McLysaght, Families, s.n.; TD Cardiff.

Blaneau: topographical, 'headwaters, hill-country'. Clark, Limbus Patrun, 168-71, s.n., apparently 16th-cent. entries.


Cardiff: Cardiff. McKinley, HBS, 42, on Kerif, Cardiff as surname in medieval England; Letters and Papers of Henry VIII, 1

Morgan

(20), 16: Matth. Kerdeff; Williams, 'Surnames', 63: Thos Cardiffe of Betwen 1654.


Fairwood: Fairwood (Swansea). Williams, 'Surnames', 64: John Fairwode of Swansea, temp. Richard II.


Horton: Horton. Clark, Limbus Patrum, s.n.; Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.


Knape: Cold Knap (Barry). Williams, 'Surnames', 63: Rice Knape of Llancough 1538; TD Cardiff.


Landymore: Landimore. Williams, 'Surnames', 52: David de Landymore 1315; TD Shrewsbury, s.n. Landymore.


Lanririth: Llanrithyd. Williams, 'Surnames', 46: John de Lanririth
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1295.
Lougher: Loughor. Clark, Limbus Patrum, s.n.; TD Cardiff, Swansea.
Marychurch: St Marychurch. Bartram, Surnames, s.n.; Williams, 'Surnames', 67: John Marychurch 1542.
Neath, Neth: Neath. Williams, 'Surnames', 64: Philip de Neth 1430; ER Nantwich, Bromsgrove, Glos., Newport.
Nottage: Nottage. TD Cardiff.
Penhard: Penrard. Williams, 'Surnames', 64: Richard de Penhard 1275.
Penrice: Penrice. Clark, Limbus Patrum, s.n.; Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; TD West Midlands.
Pentllyn: Penllyn (Penlline). Williams, 'Surnames', 65: John Pentllyn 1531; Nicholas Penllyne 1548.
Raath, Roth, Roath: Roath. McLysaght, Families, Appendix E; Williams, 'Surnames', 63: Johannes de Raath 1290; John de Roath 1321; ibid., 46: Hugh de Roath of Cardiff 1295; TD Cardiff.
Ruding?: Rhydding (Neath). Williams, 'Surnames', 64: Jack Rudying 1456.
Rudry, Ridry: Ridry. Williams, 'Surnames', 65: Ieuan Rudry or Ridry 1492.
Selly, Sully: Sully. Williams, 'Surnames', 62: Johannes Selly 1537; TD Cardiff, Swansea, s.n. Sully.

MERIONETH

Corewenne: Corwen. BBCS XIII, 266: Philip Corewenne 1292; Shropshire PR St Mary's Shrewsbury, Corwen entries from 1584; ibid. Whittington: Henken Corwen 1666.
Dolgelley: Dolgellau. NLW MS 21606D (Gwsyans MS 20): Lewis Dolgelley, 16th-cent. mercer of Ruthin.
Dovey: Dyfi (river). Shropshire PR Chelmarch: James Dovey 1579, Thomas Dovey 1610; ibid. Cleobury Mortimer — Dovey 1673.
Mawddwy: Mawddwy (lordship). Bartram, Surnames, s.n.
Merioneth: Merioneth. Williams, 'Surnames' 64: Ieuan Merioneth 1401.
Maysmore: Maesmor (near Tywn). Griffith, Pedigrees, 244.
Nannay: Nannau. Griffith, Pedigrees, 200; Bartram, Surnames, s.n.; DHB, s.n.

MONMOUTHSHIRE

Bassac: Bassaleg. Williams, 'Surnames' 65: David Bassak 1429.
Brangwyn?: Bryngwyn. BBCS XIII, 216: John Brangweyn (Abergavenny) 1292; TD Swansea, Cardiff, etc.
Carleon: Caerleon. ER South Worcs. and W.Glos. and Newport.
Carne: Pencarn. Clark, Limbus Patrum, s.n.; Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.
Gwent: Gwent (region). Williams, 'Surnames' 64: Adam Gwent 1246, Grono Gwent 1327.
Kemeyes, Kemmis: Kemleys Inferior. Bartram, Surnames, s.n.; Clark, Limbus Patrum, s.n.; Bradney, Mon., I, 13; II, 159; IV, 60.
Majors: Majors. BBCS, XXIV, 186: Richard Majors, monk 1395-1400; TD Newport, Cardiff, etc.
Monmouth: Monmouth. BBCS XXIV, 186: John and Thomas Monmouth, monks 1460-5.
Oldcastle: Oldcastle. Bartram, Surnames, s.n.
Parquin: ? Parc gwyn (unidentified, near Abergavenny?). PR Llantilio Crossenny: Johannes James P'quine 1610; PR Llanddewi
Rhydderch: Morgan Parquin 1697.
Raglan: Raglan. Clark, Limbus Patrum, s.n.
Tintern: Tintern. BBCS XXIV, 186: Thomas Tintern, monk 1532-9.
Whitson: Whitson. TD Cardif, Gwent.
Winston, Winstone: Tre-wyn. Bradney, Mon., II, 242; TD Cardif, Gwent, etc.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Blayne: topographical, 'head waters, hill country'. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; D WB, s.n.; S.P. Thomas, 'Blayne family', Montgomeryshire Collections LXIV (1976), 7-38.
Cain, Caine: Cain (river). Slack, Lordship of Oswestry, 51: Rice Kayn 1602; TD Chester, Wirral, etc., s.n.n. Cain, Caine.
Carreckova: Carreg hova. Shropshire PR Oswestry: John Carreckova 1580.
Cveelock: Cveelion (district). W. Beaumont, ed., Lecyester and Mainwaring's Tracts ... on daughter of Hugh Cvelock 1673-9 (Manchester, 1869), passim.
Forden: Forden. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n., late 14th cent.
Glyn: Glyn Clywedog. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.
Kema: Cemais or Cemmaes. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.

Kffin: Cyfin (near Llangadfan). Griffith, Pedigrees, 196; Bartrum, Surnames, s.n. Kffin of Bodfach.
Myvod: Meifod. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.
Penryn: Pentrhin. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.
Pool, Delapole: Welshpool. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.
Tannant: Tanat (river). Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; TD Shrewsbury.
Troscoit: Trawsgoed. BBCS XI, 70: John Troscoit of Broniarth 1429.

PEMBROKESHIRE

Ambleston: Ambleston. PR (Bishop's Transcripts) Llanstadwell: Mary and Sarah Ambleston 1801.
Castlemartyn: Castlemartin. Owen, Pemb., II, 334; — Castlemartyn 1362; ibid, 485: Randolph Castlemartyn, temp. Henry VI.
Crabhole: Crabhole. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; R. Fenton, Hist. Tour through Pemb. (Brecon, 1907), 96.
Harford, Harfett, etc.: Haverfordwest. Pemb. Hearth Tax: George Harford of Castlemartin, 1670; St David's Probate: George Harfett of Castlemartin, 1695; TD Swansea, s.n. Harvatt and Harford.
Helott: Haylett (Harlston St Issell's). St David's Probate: David Helott of Llanstadwell 1608; TD Swansea, s.n. Haylett.
Johnston: ? Johnston. NLW, Francis Green MS Pedigrees, sub Johnston of St Martin's, Haverfordwest, 18th cent.
Lamyan: Llanhian. BBSwd, 32: David Lamryan, early 14th cent.
Lanyon: ? Lanioun. ER Newport, Monmouth, Macclesfield, etc.
Marlos: Marloes. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.
Martel, Martell: Martel (Little Newcastle). Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.
Musselwick: Musselwick (various bays). Owen, Pemb., II, 476-7: John Musselwike, temp. Richard II.

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Newport: Newport. St David's Probate: John Newport of Bigelly 1624.
Pencær: Pencær (peninsula). Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.
Pembroke: Pembroke. Williams, 'Surnames', 64: Robinet Penbrigge 1370; ER Ludlow, s.n. Pembro; ibid. S. Hereford, s.n. Pembroke; ibid. Hereford, s.n. Bembridge; TD Cardiff, Swansea, s.n. Pembroke.
Prendergast, Prengest: Prendergast. McLysaght, Families, Appendix E; McLysaght, Guide, 168; St David's Probate: Thomas Prengest of St Islip's 1613; TD North Wales, Gwent, etc.
Roch, Roche: Roch. Owen, Pemb., II, 303: Thomas Roche of Roche Castle, early 15th cent.; St David's Probate: Henry Roch of Reynoaton 1621; TD Swansea, etc.
Stackpole: Stackpole. St David's Probate: George Stackpole of Pembroke 1628.
Templeton: Templeton. TD Cardiff, Swansea, etc.
Tenby, Temby: Tenby. ER Monmouth, s.n. Tearbey, Temby,
Tenby.
Wydelok: (Great) Wedlock. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n. Wedlock; Owen, Pemb's., II, 334: John Wydelok of Great Wedlock, Gunffeston; TD Swansea, s.n. Wedlock, of Tenby.

RADNORSHIRE

Radnor: Radnor. Williams, 'Surnames', 64: Willelmus de Radenore 1336; Shropshire PR Diddlesbury: — Radnor 1669; TD Shrewsbury, Hereford, etc.

REGIONAL NAMES

Gwinneth, Gwynnt: Gwnedd. Williams, 'Surnames', 64: Ieuan Gwynet 1327, Thos Gwyneth 1542, William Gwyndot 1449; Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.

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Powis: Powys. Bartrum, Surnames, s.n.; TD Cardiff, Swansea, etc.

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NOTES

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1. Cf. DBS, s.n. Broughston, Horton, in each case with the simple comment, 'From one or other of the many places of this name'; Wo[l]perston[e] seems not to be listed.
2. Cf. DBS, s.n. Ash, Breton, Flint, Holt, Martel, Pool, and Stanton.
Newport is a widespread English place-name form, and Sully might derive from the French place of that name.
3. The paper in question is due to be published as 'The place-name surname in Wales', in D. Pontes, ed., Names, Time and Place (Oxford—at press).

Short Supplementary Bibliography (not included in Abbreviations)

D. Moore, 'The indexing of Welsh personal names', Indexer XVII, i (1990), 12-30.
T.E. Morris, 'Welsh surnames in the border counties of Wales', Y Cymmrodor XLIII (1932), 93-173.
M. Richards, Welsh Administrative and Territorial Units (Cardiff, 1969).