

NOTES ON THE KEMEYS FAMILY OF CEFN MABLY.

Andrew Stack. 1995.

THE EARLY KEMEYSES.

The origins of the Kemeys family are rather uncertain, however, the first of the family to be noted in South Wales was Stephen De Kemeys who was witness to William Marshall's charter to Tintern Abbey in 1234. It can be accepted that this Stephen was the founder of the various branches of the family that were to become prominent in Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire. His grandson, Sir Meyric De Kemeys Kt., inherited the Lordship of Began (or Begansley, or Beganslegh) from his mother's family. He was in residence at Began, near St Mellons, by 1306 and was still there in 1336. In 1322 Sir Meyric was tried by a Special Commission for ravaging the Despenser's lands. The Began estates descended by a direct line to John ap Jenkyn Kemeys who also held leases of land at Machen in 1436 and at Wentloog in 1447.

John ap Jenkyn Kemeys married Christian, who was the daughter of Llewellyn ap Morgan ap Ivor of Tredegar, and together they produced seven sons. The fourth of these sons, David, married Cecil, the daughter and heiress of Llewellyn ap Evan ap Llewellyn ap Cynfrig of Cefn Mably, this was the start of almost five hundred years of continuous family ownership. The translation of 'Cefn Mably' is 'Mabel's Ridge', and was first mentioned in the 1090's. Tradition holds that Mabel was the daughter of Sir Robert Fitzhamon, the Norman Lord. She inherited his estates following his death in 1107. He had been a constant supporter of Henry I in Normandy, but at the siege of Falaise in 1106 his head was pierced by a spear, but only died after months of agonising derangement in the following year. He was buried at Tewkesbury Abbey, which he had so liberally endowed. His daughter married Robert of Caen, Earl of Gloucester, the illegitimate son of King Henry. It is said that Mabel had built a mansion on this ridge and hence the place was named after her. It is known that David Kemeys was still alive in 1483, in which year he attested a conveyance of land in Machen. David and Cecil produced three children, Lewis, Jenkin and Anne. Lewis, the oldest, married Jenet, daughter of Philip ap Evan ap Thomas ap Gwilim Jenkin of Llansanfraidd, she was a first cousin of William Herbert, the Earl of Pembroke. It is worth noting that the Kemeys family were great supporters of the Herbert

interest in South Wales for many years.

Lewis Kemeys died by 1533 but he was survived by his son John and his widow who married for a second time, to Jenkin Thomas ap Jevan David of Pencoed. John Kemeys married Catherine who was the daughter of Lewis ap Richard Gwyn of the Van, near Caerphilly, and they produced two sons and three daughters. The second son, Nicholas, was educated at Oxford and received his BA on July 18th 1530, and went on to become a priest. He was one of fifteen Black Friars who signed a document dated September 15th 1539, by which they gave up their priory in Exeter to the Kings Visitor, the Suffragan Bishop of Dover ('Reliquary' Volume XXVI, Page 259). In Wales and the Marches attitudes to the Reformation were rather different than in England. Whilst men were quite prepared to benefit materially from the closure of the monasteries and the redistribution of their lands and other religious wealth, many did not see it as good reason to actually alter thier religion. The Kemeys family were certainly followers of this attitude, they acquired a number of parcels of ex-monastery land during the sixteenth century but many members were still being named and fined as recusants. They were not alone in this, the Lewis family of the Van, Morgans, Carnes, Stradlings and Turbervilles were all in similar positions.

JOhn Kemeys' oldest daughter, Anne, married four times - first to John Williams, second to Thomas Massey, third to Edward Turner and finally to Thomas Bowen of Fishwier whose daughter Catherine was his heiress who married Richard Bassett of Beaupre who built the famous porch there in 1608. JOhn Kemeys served as the under-sheriff of Glamorgan in 1562, and died in the following year. His oldest son, David, who succeeded him, had married Catherine, the daughter of Sir William Bawdrip of Penmark Place. This David Kemeys was a Justice of the Peace and the coroner of Glamorgan and in 1564 he was High Sheriff of the county, but he died before the end of the year. His two sons Edward and Rhys are written of later, but of his three daughters Mary, married first - Lewis ap Rees Morgan ap Rees Vychan of Lllanciach Isaf, near Gelligaer and when he died she married his illegitimate

half-brother Watkin ap Evan ap Rees Vychan. The second daughter Anne married one Llewellyn ap Howell ap Jevan and the third married Lewis Van of Marshfield. This daughter, Cecil, was drowned in her own house during the Great Flood on January 20th 1607. The Great Flood caused some two thousand deaths by drowning between Cardiff and Chepstow and was understandably regarded as one of the major natural disasters of the age.

EDWARD KEMEYS.

Edward Kemeys was born in the 1540's, the oldest son of David Kemeys and his wife Catherine, the daughter of Sir William Bawdrip Knt. of Penmark Place. Edward had received a legal education at the Inner Temple and was back in Wales by 1570 and married to Elizabeth, who was the daughter of Rowland Morgan of Machen. In the early 1570's he was witness to a number of deeds and was acting as a trustee; he served his first term as High sheriff of Glamorgan in 1575-6 and was made a Justice of the Peace in 1578. He had inherited a large estate with lands in Glamorganshire, Monmouthshire and Breconshire. Following the death of his first wife, he married for a second time - to Margaret, the daughter of David Kemeys of Llanrhymney, he had no children by either of his wives - however, this was probably the only negative aspect of his controversial life.

During Tudor times the office of High Sheriff was the linchpin of government administration in a county. It was an unpaid position but it carried prestige and influence, and was one to which the more wealthy gentry of a county aspired. The power and influence it brought meant that, particularly at a good distance from the seat of government in London, it was open to a fair amount of abuse, and it is in this regard that Edward Kemeys is best remembered. The 1570's was a period of much pirate activity and one of the most notorious was John Challice, born at Tintern, who after a time of legitimate seafaring turned to piracy. He was highly successful for a number of years, working the west coast of Britain and into the Atlantic Ocean. An essential ingredient in this success was the collusion of a number of the South Wales gentry including Sir William Herbert, Thomas Lewis of the Van and Edward Kemeys, and in the west of Wales with Sir John Perrot of Carew Castle (who was a half-brother to Queen Elizabeth I, an illegitimate son of Henry VIII). In 1575 Challice attacked and captured a Danish ship which was carrying a cargo for the King of Denmark, this was too much for the officials at the Admiralty in London and they decided that it was time to curb his activities. He was sighted off the coast of West Wales by naval ships, they gave chase and eventually captured him near

the Isle of Wight. He was sent to the Tower of London, and then, amazingly, within a few months he received a free pardon from the Queen - certainly a case of having friends in high places. In January 1576 Edward Kemeys was charged by the Admiralty with assisting Challice and other pirates, in fact he had illegally released two of them from Cardiff gaol in the previous year. He did not bother turning up at the Admiralty Court and seems to have heard nothing more of the matter. Only two years later he was made a Justice of the Peace.

In 1585 Kemeys was once again serving as High Sheriff and during this term he was accused of selling county offices - that of under-sheriff, the clerkship of the county, bailiffs positions and county gaoler. He was also accused of wrongfully imprisoning the deputy-gaoler, John Hughes. Unfortunately there is no record of the outcome of these accusations. In the Elizabethan period local feuding was commonplace and prominent families formed various alliances, gentlemen and their retainers carried arms, consequently trouble was never far from the surface. The Herbert family were loyally supported by the Kemeyses and the Lewises of the Van, promotion of the Herbert interest often brought conflict with other families, typically with the Stradlings of St Donats, the Mathew family of Radyr, Llandaff and Castell-y-Mynach and the Mansells of Margam.

Edward Kemeys' third term as High Sheriff in 1595 was certainly the most interesting - once again we find him selling county offices, which eventually landed him in the Court of the Exchequer. The next incident was concerned with some extremely protracted litigation over rights to the lower burrows at Merthyr Mawr. Bad feeling had existed between the Herbert family and the Stradlings for a long time, they were one of only a few families able to provide any sort of challenge to the powerful Herbert clan. There had already been a number of clashes and Sir Edward Stradling was rather heavy handed towards the Herberts when he was trying to curtail piracy in the Bristol Channel. In this case Sir William Herbert was backing one Griffith Williams, a small-time lawyer, in a spurious claim to the burrows, which rightfully belonged to the Stradlings. When it came to court Herbert's ally, Edward Kemeys,

had organized a most favourable jury, and the judge was Sir William himself. The case was never completed - Griffith Williams was in trouble elsewhere - he was excommunicated by Gervase Babington, the Bishop of Llandaff, for recusancy. Shortly afterwards three of Sir William Herbert's men caused trouble in Cardiff, they were arrested, charged with assault and contempt and were imprisoned by Nicholas Hawkins, one of the town bailiffs. Sir William's brother, Nicholas, heard of what had happened and collected some twenty armed men and took them into the town to release their colleagues. The bailiffs, Nicholas Hawkins and Charles Froude, had to ring the town bell to summon their fellow burgesses to give help. There then followed some vicious fighting and rioting, during which one of Herbert's men, Llewellyn David, was badly wounded and died from his injuries soon after. Edward Kemeys organized a packed jury which falsely indicted Nicholas Hawkins for the murder of Llewellyn David, and then with Sir William adjudicating they saw that the townsmen's charge of riot was thrown out of the Petty Sessions. Complaints were made to the Court of the Star Chamber where, eventually, Sir William Herbert, his brother Nicholas and Edward Kemeys had to answer charges. They were each fined £500, had to pay compensation to Nicholas Hawkins and spent a period in the Fleet prison.

The only account of Kemeys that we have is a highly biased one written by Sir Edward Stradling during the course of the court cases: - "And yt fell out so that against the next assizes the Lawyer (Williams) had a sheryfe fitt for his owne humor, one father Edward Kemys of Kevenmable, or of Llanwonnow or of the Collegiate Cathedral Church of St Austins in Bristoll, for in each of these places he keepeth his habitacion by Turnes, he cannot abide to dwell long in one house, fearing to be overmuch frequented with his frendes, would god I had tyme to write a cronycle of this mans doings....."

Remarkably Edward Kemeys served a fourth term as High Sheriff in 1605 - there is no scandal attached to this, his final year in office - he may have behaved himself or maybe 'practice makes perfect' and he was just not caught. William Bleddyn, who was

the Bishop of Llandaff from 1575 to 1590, while inquiring into recusancy and the activities of Catholic priests in his diocese, reported that the Kemeyses of Cefn Mably and the Lewises of the Van were suspected of having recusant sympathies and were believed to have harboured priests. Sir Edward Stradling's comments on his nomadic life-style may well have been correct, but he still largely rebuilt the old house at Cefn Mably and left his initials and date on the old panelling in the Great Hall (E.K. 1575). Despite his corrupt practices, it can at least be said that he was loyal to his friends and family. He certainly made a considerable amount of money and when he died in 1608 he left his brother, Rhys' family a very large inheritance.

RHYS KEMEYS AND THE CUL-DE-SAC.

Rhys Kemeys was the second son of David Kemeys and his wife Catherine, he was educated, like his older brother, at the Inner Temple being admitted as a student in November 1573. He married Wilgiford, the fourth daughter of William Aubrey DCL. of Llantrithyd Place, who was a most influential figure - Master of the Court of Requests to Elizabeth I and one of Her Majesty's Commissioners in the Marches of Wales, Chancellor to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Judge of his Court of Audience and Vicar General throughout all the Province. It is known that Rhys acquired lands in Monmouthshire in 1587, but in 1589 he was still described in a Chancery Suit as "Rhys Kemis of Heston, Co. Middlesex, gent." Rhys and his wife produced six sons and two daughters, the oldest son, Edward, had been admitted as a student at the Inner Temple in 1601, but he died in 1608 leaving no children. His brother David therefore became the heir to the substantial Cefn Mably estates of his uncle, the notorious Sheriff of Glamorgan. Rhys Kemys died in 1610.

The second and third sons of Rhys Kemeys will be written about later, but of the rest of his children - Charles, fourth son, became a student at the Inner Temple in 1612 and he firstly married Mary, the daughter of Thomas Morgan of Llanrhymny, and secondly to Margaret, the daughter of Morgan Meyric of Cottrell. Charles died in 1630 and had founded branches of the family in both County Kildare and New York, having left issue by both his wives. Edmund, the fifth son, matriculated at Jesus College, Oxford on May 3rd 1616, aged 18 years, he was of the Llanvair Estate under the terms of his father's will, of which he was the sole executor. He died in 1634 leaving no children. The sixth son, Harry (sometimes called Henry) matriculated from Jesus College in 1617. He married twice, first to Blanch, another daughter of Thomas Morgan of Llanrhymny and secondly to a lady named Catherine, he died in 1635 having left issue by both his wives. The elder daughter Anne married William Powell of Castell Madoc, and her sister, Cecilly (who died in 1611) had married William Vaughan of Magor and Caldicot.

Rhys' second son, David, inherited his uncle Edward's estates on his marriage, in 1610, to Rachel Hopton, the daughter of Sir Robert Hopton, and co-heiress to her brother Ralph, Lord Hopton. (Sir Robert Hopton was of Witham Friary in Somerset, he had married Jenet, the daughter and co-heiress of Rowland Kemeys of the Vaendre, near St Mellons). David and Rachel had three children - Richard, who died young, Edward and Margaret. David Kemeys was High Sheriff of Glamorgan in 1616 and died late in 1617, his widow out lived him and married for a second time, in 1621, to Thomas Morgan of Machen, a son of Sir William Morgan. The daughter Margaret was still living in 1631, but there is no record of her marrying or having children. David's son Edward Kemeys was still a minor when his father died and the estates were held in trust by his mother Rachel. He married on March 3rd 1632 at Hadham Parva, Hertfordshire to Theodosia the daughter of Sir Henry Capel of Hadham. (Theodosia's mother's family were extremely influential, her brother Edward became Lord Motague and her other brother, Henry, became the Earl of Manchester). Edward Kemeys and his wife produced three children, two who died as infants and a daughter, Elizabeth. Edward died at Cefn Mably on January 12th 1635 and his wife died two years later on January 22nd 1637. Their heiress, Elizabeth, only survived her mother by nine days, dying on January 31st. With this line of the family ending it left Elizabeth's great-uncle Nicholas Kemeys as the heir to the combined estates.

LAWRENCE KEMEYS.

Lawrence Kemeys cannot actually be slotted into the family tree but he was claimed to be a member by them and a portrait said to be of him used to hang in Cefn Mably. It is reasonable to assume that he was some sort of cousin and in the context of the period he is certainly worthy of mention.

Lawrence was a sea-captain in command of the 'Gallego' and joined Sir Walter Raleigh at Trinidad in 1595 and accompanied him on his voyage up the Orinoco River. The next year Raleigh was unwell and unable to travel on a follow up expedition so he sent Lawrence Kemeys, on board the 'Darling', as commander to continue the exploration. When Kemeys returned he gave glowing accounts of the wealth of the country he had visited and told of the damage that had been done to the Spanish settlements and of the existence of gold mines - 'Eldorado'. He also strongly advocated that the area should be colonized by England, but Raleigh was not in a position to act on his advice. The two men returned to England and worked together until 1603 when Sir Walter was accused of being involved in the so-called 'Main Plot', and both men were imprisoned in the Tower of London. In 1604 Kemeys was released and during Raleigh's long imprisonment acted as his agent and bailiff. Kemeys also spent considerable time pleading Raleigh's case and much of his writing still exists - it shows that he was an educated man with neat, clear handwriting and an able turn of phrase in Latin verse. There is no doubt that it was Kemeys who persuaded Raleigh to demand permission to sail on his last voyage to the Orinoco. At last, in 1616, permission was granted and Kemeys was to sail with him as pilot and captain.

The expedition put to sea in 1617 and crossed the Atlantic Ocean, their objective was 'El Dorado'. By the time they reached the mouth of the Orinoco Sir Walter was too ill to take part in the expedition up river to seek out the gold mines. He appointed Kemeys as the commander of the company - some three hundred men, and instructed him to avoid fighting with the Spanish, only to fight if attacked. Kemeys set off inland for a couple of hundred

miles and found that he was unable to avoid San Thomas, the Spanish settlement, and was forced to attack. They took the town and the governor was killed and the population and Spanish troops took to the woods, but Sir Walter's son, also named Walter, who had been in command of the company of pikemen was also killed in the assault. After a few days of skirmishing, Lawrence Kemeys discovered that he was unable to press on with his advance towards the mines and that Spanish reinforcements were due to arrive, so his only option was to retreat down river. After some three months of hard travelling, fighting and illness the expedition returned to the English ships worn out and unsuccessful. Kemeys reported to Sir Walter Raleigh (who had still not recovered from his sickness) telling him of the events. After some discussion Raleigh told Kemeys that he had 'undone him'. Lawrence Kemeys returned to his cabin and shot himself with his pistol, but this did not kill him so he finished the job by stabbing himself in the wound with a large dagger. Sir Walter returned to England and was eventually executed. Lawrence Kemeys had proved himself to be a faithful friend and colleague, but being worn out after the failure of the expedition and knowing what the eventual outcome would be, decided that he could not cope with having let down Sir Walter. His task, with contradictory instructions, was from the outset likely to be impossible. He demonstrated that he was determined, loyal and wholly committed to his cause - traits that were typical of many of the Kemeys family.

SIR NICHOLAS KEMEYS.

Sir Nicholas was born between 1585 and 1590, the third son of Rhys Kemeys (who died in 1610), and like many of the Welsh gentry he was educated at Jesus College, Oxford. He was a very big man and a wrestler of considerable repute, it was said that he was the strongest man in the kingdom. He married Jane, the daughter of Sir Rowland Williams of Llangibby Castle, near Usk, and by her produced six children. Nicholas inherited an estate at Llanfair Discoed from an uncle, and in 1628 represented the county of Monmouthshire as Member of Parliament, in 1632 he served as High Sheriff. He inherited Cefn Mably from his great-niece, Elizabeth, who died in January 1637. In the following year he was chosen as Member of Parliament for Glamorgan and was Deputy Lieutenant of the county in 1640.

In the years running up to the Civil War, Wales was clearly marked as Royalist territory and when the call came the Welsh, both gentry and men, fought in battles throughout Britain often suffering horrendous losses. Monmouthshire in the seventeenth century was by far the most Catholic of counties and was politically dominated by the Marquis of Worcester from his palatial fortress at Raglan. The Worcesters and the families associated with them - Kemeyses, Morgans, Turbervilles, Carnes, Stradlings and Vaughans provided an extreme Royalist nucleus that secured the district, bagged the local arsenals and raised troops. Nicholas Kemeys was Knighted by Charles I in 1641, he served in Parliament in early 1642, was High Sheriff of Glamorgan, and was created a Baronet in the November. He took as his arms a mailed fist clutching a sword and the motto "Os dal hwn, Gwae'r pen crwn" (in English - "If this holds, woe to the Roundhead").

Sir Nicholas and his son, Charles, both raised regiments for the King, and although not a young man, he fought in numerous actions including the siege of Gloucester, and the battles at Highnam and Naseby. At Naseby King Charles was unhorsed and Sir Nicholas held off Roundhead troops until he was remounted and had escaped. After the battle the King presented him with a ring - "in gratitude for his great bravery and support" (this ring had been made for James I, and is now in the possession of the Pennington Mellor Trust and is

displayed at Southside House, Wimbledon). At one time Cefn Mably itself came under attack and was fairly damaged, but Sir Nicholas eventually beat off the Parliamentary intruders. For a time he was Governor of Cardiff Castle. It is a mistake to think of the Civil Wars in terms of large set battles. Deaths as a result of the wars were about 200,000, with around 30,000 dying in the major confrontations and a further 90,000 or so in skirmishes with less than 200 casualties. About 100,000 died from deprivation and the spread of disease, particularly in towns under severe pressure and siege. At about sixty years old, Kemeys must have had a powerful constitution and grim determination to carry on the fight as the tide turned against the Royalist cause.

On November 4th 1644, Sir Nicholas, now a widower, married for a second time, to Jane Herbert the widow of William Herbert of Cogan Pill and a daughter of Sir Rawley Bussey, at Llantrithyd Church in the Vale of Glamorgan; by this marriage there were two sons. By the middle of 1646, even in Royalist South Wales, the King's cause was virtually played out. Sir Nicholas and his son, Sir Charles had both been arrested and taken to London. They were ordered to compound for their activities, but during 1647 Sir Nicholas had been taken ill and was permitted to travel to Bath to convalesce, where he stayed until the following April.

When the beginnings of the Second Civil War flared up in Pembrokeshire and John Poyer, the Mayor of Pembroke, and Col. Rice Powell declared for the King, Major General Rowland Laugharne joined them - it was time for Sir Nicholas to return to action. He left Bath and went back to Monmouthshire where, with the support of Sir Trevor Williams, Thomas Lewis of St Pierre, William Morgan of Pembridge and some 150 men took the castle and town of Chepstow on May 6th. Following the Royalist defeat at St Fagans on the 8th, Oliver Cromwell was heading into Wales at the head of an army of some 2,000 men. Hearing that Kemeys had taken Chepstow he diverted his forces and on the 11th he ordered Col. Pride's Regiment to attack the town. Sir Nicholas and his men were forced to retreat into the castle and were put under siege. Unable to take the castle without ordnance, Cromwell left Col. Isaac Ewer to wait for canon from Gloucester and to reduce the stronghold, while he carried on with the bulk of his forces to Pembrokeshire. By May 25th a breach had been blown in the walls

and conditions within the castle had become exceedingly grim, but Kemeys still refused to surrender. A number of his men deserted and the Roundhead troops rushed in and Sir Nicholas died fighting. His head was hacked off and displayed; with his death wars in Monmouthshire ended. Eventaully his head was interred in a lead box in the crypt under the Kemeys family chapel at the church in Michaelston-y-Fedw.

Sir Nicholas Kemeys is now largely forgotten, but at the time he was considered to be an important figure, one of the most famous (or infamous) of Royalists. The messenger that delivered the news of his death and the fall of Chepstow Castle to Parliament was rewarded with the then princely sum of £50. He had been a central figure among the Royalists of South Wales and was related to many of them. A larger than life character who demonstrated great determination and commitment to a cause in which he devoutly believed.

SIR CHARLES KEMEYS, 2nd Bart.

Sir Charles was born in about 1612, the oldest son of Sir Nicholas Kemeys, the first Baronet. He matriculated from Jesus College, Oxford and was admitted to Greys Inn on March 5th 1634. His first marriage was to Blanch, the daughter of Sir Lewis Mansell Bart. of Margam, she died before 1650 and had no children. He became a distinguished cavalry officer with the Royalist armies, and at the beginning of the Civil Wars was, with his father, on the Commission of Array. At one time he was a Member of Parliament for the county of Glamorgan and High Sheriff in 1643-44, on June 30th 1643 he was Knighted by King Charles I at Oxford.

Sir Charles was an active and committed Royalist, he raised troops and like many other Welshmen, fought throughout the country; Sir Charles Kemeys' Foot formed part of Sir Charles Gerard's forces. On March 24th 1643, with the rank of captain, he was fighting in the battle at Highnam, he was taken prisoner, but was exchanged soon after. During February 1646 he was fighting at Cardiff, trying to support Col. Edward Carne against Major General Rowland Laugharne. Many of the Glamorgan gentry were angered by the Presbyterianism of Parliament and the increasing financial demands. Carne had raised a force and marched on Cardiff having appealed to the Royalists at Raglan for their help. The Puritan Governor of Cardiff Castle, Col. Edward Pritchard of Llanciach Fawr, was effectively under siege, but had already summoned help. Rowland Laugharne and his army arrived from the west and Carne withdrew to the Heath to confront him. After a sharp action Laugharne showed considerable superiority and Carne retreated back into the town and opened negotiations. Terms were agreed and the Royalist forces began to disperse when Sir Charles Kemeys arrived with his troops from Raglan and a vicious fight took place to the east of Cardiff on Rumney Common. In these two actions some 400 men were killed and over 200 were taken prisoner, including Sir Charles and Col. Carne.

Sir Charles Kemeys, like his father Sir Nicholas, was back in action in May 1648 in the Second Civil War. This time he was fighting alongside his old adversary Rowland Laugharne, who had changed sides and joined forces with his old comrades John Poyer

and Col. Rice Powell from Pembrokeshire, who had declared for the King. Faced by Col. Thomas Horton and his experienced troops of the 'New Model Army', they fought at St Fagans on May 8th 1648 (this was probably the largest battle ever fought in Wales, with a total of some 12,000 men taking part) where, after some hours of hard conflict, the Royalists were put to flight. The action then degenerated into a series of running battles and skirmishes through the Vale of Glamorgan. The Royalist leaders, including Sir Charles, made a retreat across South Wales to Pembroke Castle, where Laugharne and Poyer held out through a harsh siege, laid by Oliver Cromwell, until July 11th. Kemeys was allowed to compound for his estates, on behalf of his now dead father and himself, having admitted taking arms against Parliament, for the sum of £4,600 (this was the largest amount imposed in Wales), eventually he petitioned for a reduction, but was still forced to pay £3,500 and spend two years in exile.

Sir Charles married for a second time, to Margaret, the daughter of Sir George Whitmore of Balmes House, Hackney who had been Lord Mayor of London in 1631-32. The couple produced four children, two sons and two daughters, but Cefn Mably was now virtually uninhabitable and they lived at Balmes House where all their children were born and where Sir Charles died in 1658. He was interred, like his father, in the crypt under the Kemeys Chapel at Michaelston-y-Fedw. His wife lived on until 1683 and was then interred with him.

SIR CHARLES KEMEYS, 3rd Bart.

Sir Charles was born at Balmes House in Hackney on May 18th 1651, he was the oldest child of the second Baronet and his second wife, Margaret Whitmore. His father had died on the day following his seventh birthday and he grew up at the Whitmore house in Hackney. He matriculated at Wadham College, Oxford in 1669; he presented a silver punch bowl, engraved with his crest and arms, to the College in 1670, where it is still preserved. He married Mary, the third daughter of Philip, the fourth Lord Wharton, and the widow of William Thomas of Wenvoe Castle and Ruperra Castle (Mary already had two sons by her first marriage). Cefn Mably was still in a poor state following the deprivations of the Civil Wars and the couple resided for much of their marriage at the very grand Ruperra Castle (when King Charles I stayed there it was described as one of the few houses in Wales that was fit for a King; it is situated about one mile north-east of Cefn Mably).

In 1684 the Duke of Beaufort, in his capacity as Lord President of the Council in Wales and Lord Warden of the Marches, made a grand tour of the country and it was recorded by Thomas Dineley. "Late in the evening the Duke arrived at Ruperra, while part of his train was quartered a mile off at Sir Charles Kemeys' paternal property, his house at Cefn Mably. Here Dineley saw a great shovelboard, forty-two feet in length cut from one piece of oak. He also noted trees of great girth and fine oaks in the park, the envy of Kemeys' neighbours". (This shovelboard still exists and is now on display at Tredegar Park, near Newport.) "Great preparations had been made at Ruperra and Cefn Mably, bringing to Dineley's mind Virgil's account of the preparations made in the palace of Queen Dido for the reception of the hero Aeneas (Aeneid I, 637, 638).

The inner rooms in regal pomp display'd

The splendid feasts in ample halls are made".

"This being the last day of this Progress for the Cambro-Britannick Feasting, Sir Charles and his wife were so much more frank and cheerful by how much the Progressers were neer their dismissal. Everyone being wont to close up his Courtesie with so much more passion as the last acts use to make the deeper impression. As a final graceful gesture it was Sir Charles Kemeys' wife who rose

to challenge the Duke and all the company to drink a health to His Majesty and to His Royal Highness the King's brother (and heir)".# This gesture of loyalty is only to be expected from a family that had been so true to the Stuart cause and were to remain so for many years to come. A relation of theirs, Father David Kemeys a Dominican priest, had been arrested in 1679 during the aftermath of the Titus Oates Plot, and died in gaol on 27th January 1680. Numerous Kemeyses appear in the Pipe and Recusant Rolls in the seventeenth century, and in Elizabethan times the family had been named by Bishop Bleddyn of Llandaff as dangerous Catholics.

Sir Charles Kemeys was elected as the Member of Parliament for Monmouthshire in 1685 and 1695 and for Monmouth Borough in 1689-90. Both Sir Charles and Lady Mary were involved and connected with many thinkers of the day, one friend was the agricultural improver Yarraton and another was Robert Merret who translated the works of Pascal. Sir Charles' great friend and political ally was the Marquis of Worcester, son of the Duke of Beaufort. They inherited a considerable Dutch estate through a female relative and set about improving the house at Cefn Mably, where Lady Mary was possibly the first to use wallpaper in Wales. Much of their correspondence still exists and in it Sir Charles, writing from London, often says how much he misses the good life of the country.

Lady Mary Kemeys died at Cefn Mably in July 1693 and was buried in the family crypt at Michaelston-y-Fedw church. On December 31st 1701, Sir Charles took a second wife, Dame Mary Aubrey, the widow of Sir John Aubrey Bart. of Llantrithyd Place, and the eldest daughter of William Lewis of the Van. Sir Charles died on 22nd December 1702 and was interred in the family crypt, he was succeeded by his eldest son, the fourth baronet, also named Charles.

This passage is taken from "Three Seventeenth Century Travellers", by Patricia More. Published in Volume VII of "The Glamorgan Historian", edited by Stewart Williams. D. Brown & Sons, Cowbridge. 1971.

SIR CHARLES KEMEYS, 4TH Bart.

Sir Charles Kemeys, the fourth and last baronet, was born at Ruperra Castle on November 23rd 1678, he was the eldest child of the third baronet and Lady Mary, the daughter of Philip, the fourth Lord Wharton. He was educated at Oxford and the Inns of Court, and was elected Member of Parliament for Monmouthshire in 1713 and for Glamorgan in 1715, 1722 and 1727 and served as High Sheriff of Glamorgan in 1713. As his ancestors had done, he stuck to the Stuart cause and was a founding member of the Society of the White Rose (the Welsh Jacobite society) in 1710.

In the early 1700's Sir Charles, who owned property in Holland, spent a considerable time on the Continent where he became a personal friend of George, the Elector of Hanover. When George became the King of England, in 1714, he wondered why his old friend had not been to the Court to pay his respects and sent a command to Sir Charles at Cefn Mably saying that he wished to smoke a pipe and drink a glass of wine with him again. His reply to this command ran something like - " I should be happy to smoke a pipe with him as the Elector of Hanover, but I cannot think of it as King of England." Although his Jacobite sympathies were well known, he continued to serve his county well for many years. He took his duties very seriously and was a patron and friend of Giles Jacob, who was a writer of legal manuals (in particular, instructions for magistrates). The Kemeys family had always considered themselves to be Welsh and were Welsh speakers and patrons of the bards and Sir Charles certainly continued in this tradition. He also carried on improving the house and estate at Cefn Mably.

Sir Charles had never married and he died at Cefn Mably in February 1735. On his death the baronetcy became extinct and the estates devolved, via his sister Jane, to the Tynte family of Halswell House in Somerset who took the name Kemeys-Tynte. Sir Charles' body was interred with his ancestors in the crypt beneath the Kemeys Chapel at Michaelston-y-Fedw Church.

In the Kemeys Chapel is a plaque dated August 2nd 1683, over fifty years before the death of the last baronet, but it seems

appropriate to the end of some three hundred years of the male
line living at Cefn Mably : -

"Here uncle, wife, brother and daughters lie
Exposed to pale faced death all must die
Yet dead to live for ever then
To inherit heaven with the best of men
Free from corruption and the sting of death
Compleatly happie lifted from beneath
To share with saints above joyes never ending
With heavenly allalulias happie souls
Whom heaven's sacred Penman thus enroles
All registers belowe needs must decay
Heaven's records will never weare away."

N. B.

Portraits of all four Kemeys Baronets can be seen at 'Hellens',
Much Marcle, Herefordshire. Further portraits are held at Southside
House, Wimbledon Common. Both properties are in the care of the
Pennington Mellor Trust.

John ap Jenkyn
Kemeys of Began
(held leases at
Machen in 1436 &
Wentloog in 1447)

"
Christian, d. of
Llewellyn ap Morgan
ap Ivor of Tredegar.

Morgan
(living in 1447)

William
(Mayor of Newport
in 1447)

"
Elizabeth, d. of
Sir William de La
Bere.

John,
of Bedminster.

"
Agnes, d. of
William Stradling.

David. I.
(still living
in 1483)

"
Cecil, d. of
Llewellyn ap Evan
ap Llewellyn ap
Cynfrig of Cefn
Mably.

Henry,
of Caldicot.

Howell,
of Llanrhymney.

"
A daughter of
Thomas ap Llewellyn
ap Llewellyn ap
Howell.

Thomas,
of Gloucester.

Lewis. II.
(d. before 1533)

"
Jenet, d. of
Philip ap Evan ap
Thomas ap Gwilim
Jenkin of
Llansanfraed.

Jenkin

"
Juliana, d. of
Jowerth ap Roger
ap Adam of the
Vaendre.

Anne

"
1st Thomas ap David
Jenkin.
2nd Lewis ap Philip
ap Gwilim Jenkin of
Llansanfraed.
(living in 1490)

John. III.
(died 1563)

"
Catherine, d. of
Lewis ap Richard
Gwyn of the Van.

David. IV.
(died 1564)

"
Catherine, d. of
Sir William Bawdrip
of Penmark Place.

Nicholas
(a secular priest)

Anne
"
1st John Williams
2nd Thomas Massey
3rd Edward Turner
4th Thomas Bowen
of Fishwier.

A daughter.
"
Thomas ap John
ap Jenkin.

A daughter.

Edward. V.
(died 1608)

"
1st Elizabeth, d. of
Rowland Morgan of
Machen.
2nd Margaret, d. of
David Kemeys of
Llanrhymney.

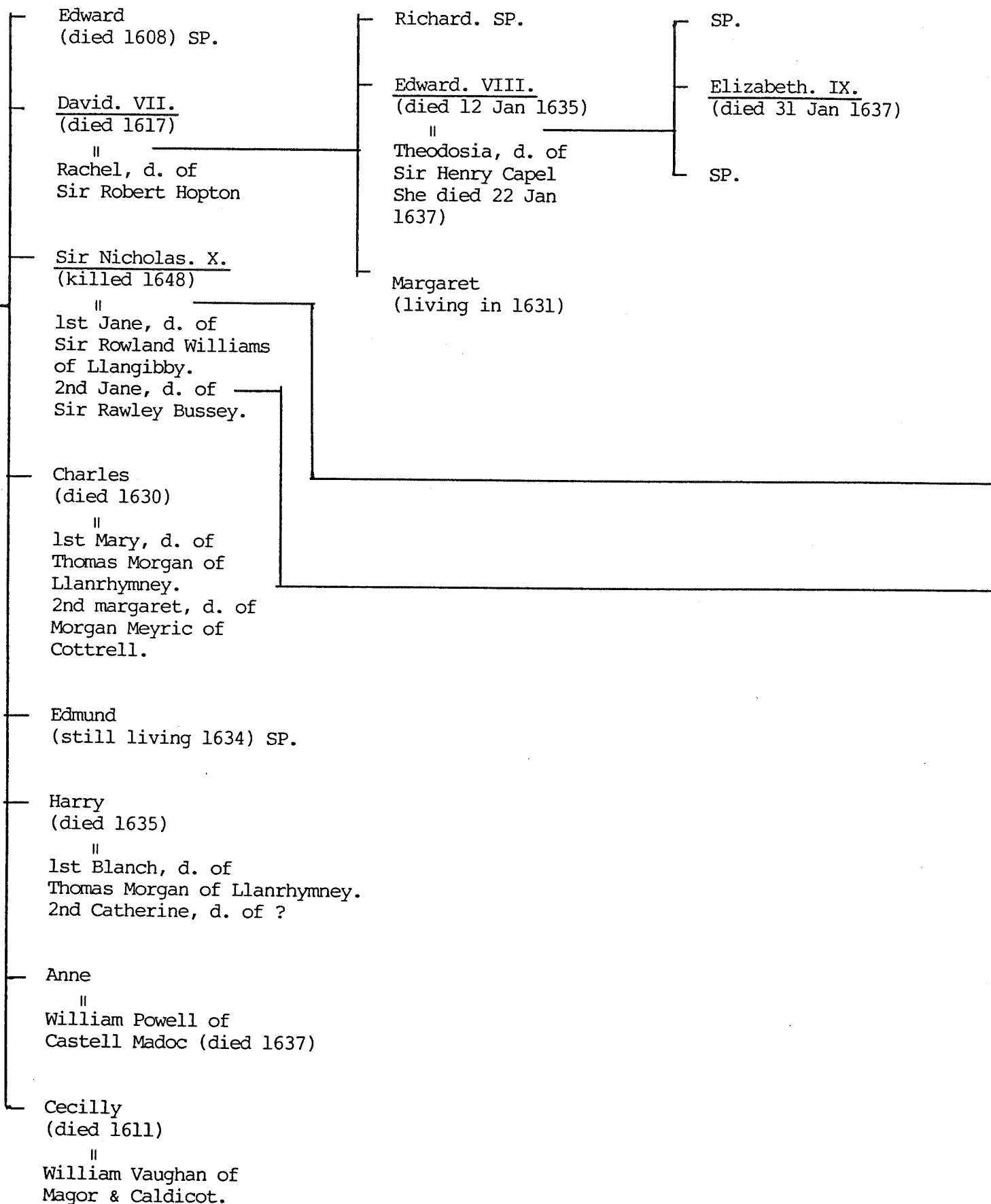
Rhys. VI.
(died 1610)

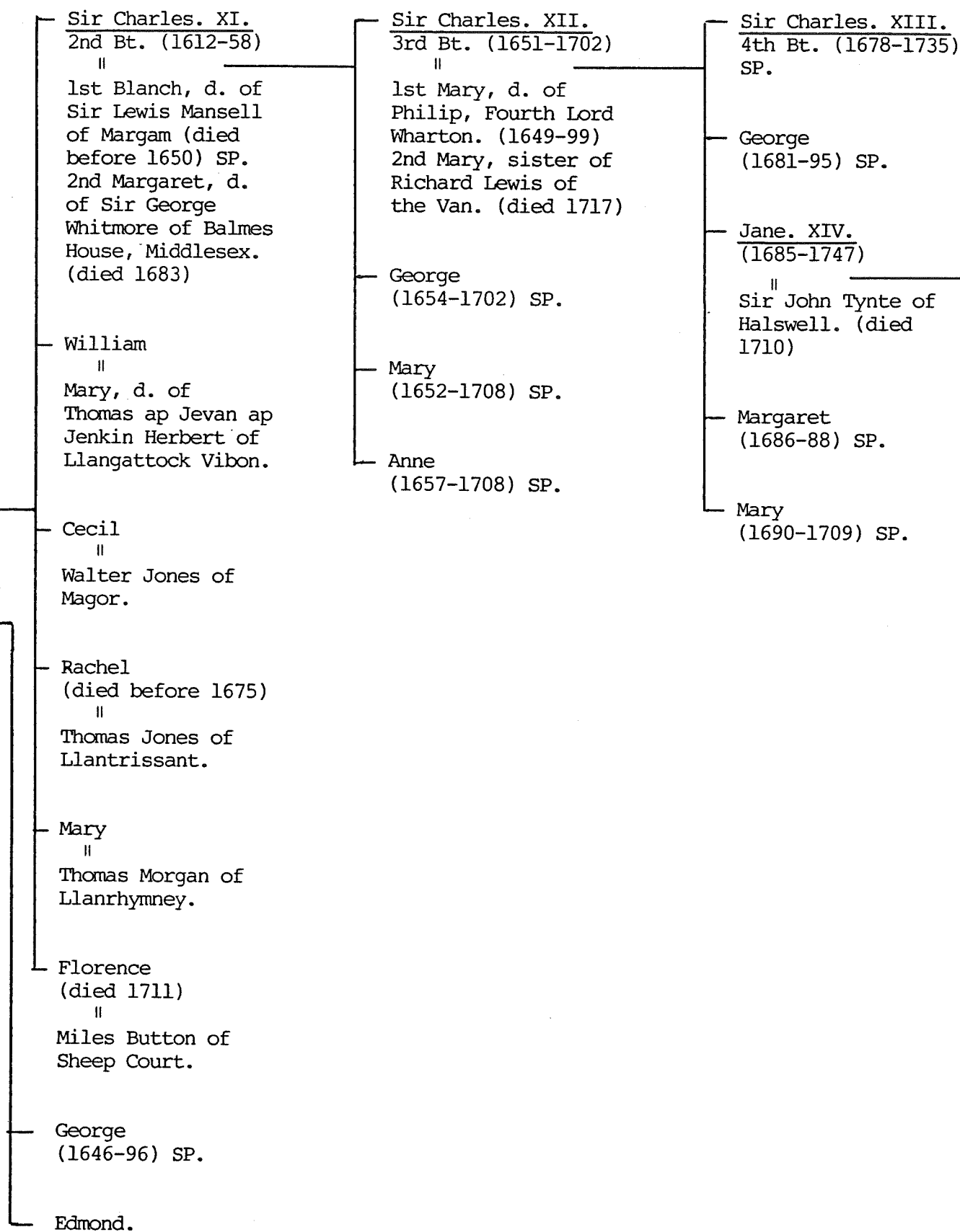
"
Willigford, d. of Dr
William Aubrey, Master
of Court of Bequests
to Queen Elizabeth I.

Mary
"
1st Lewis ap Rees
Morgan ap Rees-Vychan.
2nd Watkin ap Evan ap
Rees-Vychan. (Base son
& half-brother of 1st).

Anne
"
Llewellyn ap Howell
ap Jevan.

Cecil,
who drowned in the
Great Flood of 1607.
"
Lewis Van of
Marshfield.





Sir Halswell Tynte
(1705-30)

||
Mary, d. of
John Walters of
Brecon.

—
Rev. Sir John Tynte.
XV. (1707-40) SP.

—
Sir Charles Kemeys
Tynte. XVI. (1710-85)

||
Anne, d. of
Rev. Dr Busby of
Addington, Bucks.
(died 1798)

—
Jane Tynte. XVII.
(1708-41)

||
Major Rushie Hassell,
Royal Horse Guards.
(died 1749)

—
Jane
(died 1729) SP.

—
Mary
(1731-33) SP.

—
Jane Hassell. XVIII.
(1738-1825)

||
Col. John Johnson,
1st Reg. Foot Guards.
(1736-1806)
Married 13 Feb 1765
and changed name to
Kemeys-Tynte.

—
Anne
(1740-44) SP.

—
Charles Kemeys
Kemeys-Tynte. XIX.
(1778-1860)

||
Anne, d. of
Rev. t. Leyson &
relict of Thomas
Lewis of St Pierre.
(died 1836)

—
Jane Johnson K-T.
(1767-1841) SP.

—
Anne Georgiana
Johnson K-T.
(1774-1860) SP.

Charles John
Kemeys-Tynte. XX.
(1800-82)

||
1st Elizabeth, d. of
Thomas Swinnerton of
Butterton Hall, Co.
Staffs. (died 1838)
2nd Vincentia, d. of
Wallop Brabazon of
Rath House, Co. Louth.
(died 1864)

— Anne
(1801-80)

||
Sir William Henry
Cooper Bt. of Gogar.
(died 1836)

— Jane
(1802-34) SP.

— Louisa
(died August 1872)

||
Simon Fraser Campbell
Esq. of Belladrum,
Invernesshire.
(died March 1872)

— Henrietta Anne
(died 1880)

||
Thomas A. Kemmis Esq.
(died 1859)

Charles Kemeys
Kemeys-Tynte. XXI.
(1822-91)

||
1st Mary Sophia, d.
of Rev. George Frome
of Pucknoll, Dorset.
(1824-64)
2nd Hannah, relict
of Thomas Lewis,
Vicar of Bassaleg.
3rd Elizabeth, d. of
Richard Fothergill
Esq. MP. of Tenby &
Westmorland.

— Milborne
(1823-45) SP.

— John Brabazon
(1842-1906)

— Clifford Wharton
Charles (1843-66)

— Vincentia Margaret
Anne (born 1845)

— St David Morgan
(1846-1927)

— Mabel Louisa Frances
(born 1847)

— Arthur Marcus
Philips (born 1850)

— Maud Maria

— Blanch Elizabeth
Plantagenet

— Fortesque Tracy Freke
(1856-1919)

— Edward Plantagenet
(1858-1929)

Mary Elizabeth
Arundell
(1849-51) SP.

— Elizabeth Anne
Morton
(1851-52)

— Halswell Milborne
Kemeys-Tynte. XXII.
(1852-99)

||
Rosabelle Clare, d.
of Theobald Walsh
Esq. of Tyrrelston,
Co. Kildare.

— Rachel Elizabeth
Henrietta
(born 1856)

— Charles Harley
Morton
(1864-93) SP.

— Grace
(1875-195?) SP.

Charles Theodore
Halswell. XXIII.

8th Baron Wharton
(called out of
abeyance in 1916)
(1876-1934)

||
Dorothy, d. of
Maj. General Sir
Arthur A.E. Ellis
(died 1944)

Eustace
(born 1878)

||
Ann, d. of
John Emerson of
Fairwater Farm
(1883-1948)

Mary Arrabella
Swinerton
(born 1884)

||
Sir Guy Colin
Campbell, 4th Bt.
(1885-1916)

Charles John
Halswell. XXIV.

9th Baron Wharton
(1908-69)

||
Joanna, d. of
Walter Henry Law-
Smith of Adelaide,
Australia, & widow
of 6th Lord Tredegar

Elizabeth Dorothy,
Baroness Wharton
(10th in line)
(1906-74)

||
1st David George
Arbuthnot (died 1985)
M. dissolved 1946.
2nd St John Vincent.
M. dissolved 1958.

Myrtle Olive Felix,
Baroness Wharton.
(11th in line, called
out in 1990)
(born 1934)

||
Henry Macleod
Robertson.

Caroline Elizabeth
(born 1935)

||
Commander Jonathan
Cecil Appleyard-List.

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