

**OLD PEMBROKE FAMILIES
IN THE ANCIENT COUNTY
PALATINE OF PEMBROKE**

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Old Pembroke families in the ancient county palatine of Pembroke by Henry Owen

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HENRY OWEN

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I am indebted to the University College of Wales for the perusal of the MS. books of the late Mr. WILLIAM FLOYD, now in the College Library at Aberystwyth, which have been of the greatest assistance in the compilation of these notes.

Mr. FLOYD was a careful and laborious antiquary: his MS. collections, the result of his researches in the Public Record Office, contain a wealth of information as to the families of divers other counties.

H. O.

Pigeon.

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Barrî of Manorbier.

THE most illustrious member of this distinguished house says, in his *Itinerary of Wales*, that his family took their name from Barry Island in Glamorganshire, which they once owned.* The first of the race who appears in this County was Odo de Bæri, who, the records tell us, was dead in 1141.† He came with the conquerors of what was to be the County Palatine of Pembroke, and received the lands of Manorbier for his share of the spoil. His son William, who took an active part in making local history, and who died before 1166,‡ was twice married. By his first wife he had a son, Walter, who was killed in Wales, and by his second, Angharad, daughter of Gerald de Windsor by the famous Nesta, daughter of the Lord Rhys, three sons, Robert, Philip, and Gerald. This last alliance connected the De Barris not only with the powerful family of the Fitz Gerald's, but also with the princess of the Welsh blood. Gerald, the youngest son, was born at Manorbier about 1147. After his active and troublous life he returned in his old age to his birth-place, which he has proclaimed to be the fairest spot in all Wales.† It has of late been proposed to set up monuments to various Welsh

Barri of Manorbier.

marauders, but it has occurred to no one to perpetuate the fame of the man who did more for Wales than anyone in mediæval times.

Gerald's brothers were soldiers. There was in those days no alternative for the sons of noble houses, except the mail coat or the cow. Many Pembrokeshire families took part in the conquest of Ireland in the reign of Henry II, and left their traces in such names as Carrow, Pridesgast, Roche, Castlemartin, Stackpole, Stattons, Beneger, Bashe, Meyler, Canton, Poor, Harold and Wogan. The list could be prolonged.

Philip de Barri, the son and successor of William, for his services in an expedition in 1177, was granted by his uncle, Robert Fitz Stephen (a son of Nesta by Stephen, Constable of Cardigan), lands in Olkhan' (County Cork) and elsewhere, which long remained with his descendants, who became Lords Barry, Viscounts Butternut, and Earls of Barrymore. Philip was a witness to Robert Fitz Eborac's grant of Tredman (St. Eborac's) to St. David's; he married a daughter of Richard Fitz Tancred,² seneschal of Hereford,³ and left three sons: William, his heir; Robert, who also warred in Ireland; and Philip, who succeeded his famous uncle as Archdeacon of Brecon. This William may have been the William de Barri who, about 1219, granted certain lands in Gower to the monks of Neath,⁴ but he was certainly the William who in 1207⁵ obtained a confirmation from the King of the grant from Robert Fitz Stephen to his father, and who in 1213⁶ was one of his Commissioners appointed to assess the damage done to the clergy of the diocese of St. David's during the interdict which had lasted from 1208 until that year.

² See at the end of this article.