

INDEXED - G. S. U.
A History

OF

Monmouthshire

FROM THE COMING OF THE NORMANS INTO WALES
DOWN TO THE PRESENT TIME.

BY

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VOL. II.—PART II.

The Hundred of Trelech.

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Tintern Parva.

TINTERN PARVA or Little Tintern, so called to distinguish it from the adjoining parish of Chapel Hill or Abbey Tintern, is a small parish with a picturesque village on the bank of the river Wye.

The parish contains, according to the census of 1871, 827 acres; and, according to that of 1901, 795 acres with 16 acres of tidal water and 3 acres of foreshore.

The rateable value in 1801 was 584*l.*, and in 1913, 1404*l.*

The population has been as follows:—

Year.	1801	1811	1821	1831	1861	1871	1891	1901	1911
No. of Inhab.	248	258	285	313	335	326	306	288	325

The number of houses is shewn thus:—

Year.	Inhabited houses.	Uninhabited houses.	Building.
1861 . . .	79	6	0
1871 . . .	66	5	0
1881 . . .	72	3	0
1891 . . .	69	6	0
1901 . . .	67	12	1

The greater part of the parish is covered with coppice woods on the slope of the steep hill which rises precipitously from the river. The woods formerly gave a considerable amount of employment to the inhabitants, who were skilled wood-cutters, hoop-shavers, hurdle-makers, etc. This branch of industry has greatly declined, but the village has become a popular resort for tourists, who come to see the famous abbey which is situated in the next parish.

The earliest mention of the place is in the *Liber Landavensis*, when Cynfelin, son of Cynog, bought of Rhodri, son of Ithel, the land of Louhai which he sacrificed to the see of Llandaff, Cadwarded being then bishop. This was in the ninth century. The boundary is given as¹

The influx of Catfrut into the Wye, along it upwards directly opposite to the ridge of Tintern, to the cliff, upwards to the ridge of Tintern, from the ridge of Tintern downwards to the Wye, along the Wye with its weirs to the influx of Catfrut where it began.

Catfrut is the brook now called Catbrook, more properly Cad-ffrwd (*the battle stream*), which descends from the high ground in the parish of Trelech and enters the Wye at Coed Ithel.

The Manor.

This was a mesne manor held under the Clares, earls of Gloucester and Hertford. In the survey of Wentwood, 1271, it is said that the father of Philip Champeney was first seized of Little Tintern, and the jury are ignorant whether he ought to have housebot and haybot or not.

Gilbert de Clare, who was slain at Bannockburn in 1314, died without issue, his heirs being his sisters. In the *Inquisitio post mortem*¹ of this nobleman, dated 28 September, 8 Edw. II. [1315], among much other property was:—

Little Tintern, 17 acres of land, etc., with the fisheries at Lynwere and Broxwere, and a rent called “kilgh.”

The chief estate in Tintern Parva belonged in the seventeenth century to Richard Herbert (eldest son of the celebrated Edward, lord Herbert of Chirbury), afterwards the second lord Herbert of Chirbury. He inherited it from his mother’s father, sir William Herbert of St. Julians, and, by indentures dated 9 February, 1640, sold it for a sum not mentioned to his kinsman Thomas, afterwards sir Thomas Herbert of Tintern, baronet.

This ind’re made 9 Feb., 1640, 16 Car., between Richard Herbert of St. Julians, esquire, sonne and heir apparant of the right hon^{ble} Edward, lord Herbert, baron of Chirbury and Castle Island, of the one pt., And Thomas Herbert of the citie of Westm’, esquire, of the other pt. WITNESSETH that the s^d Richard Herbert in cons’ion of a competent sum of money grants, sells, enfeoffs, etc., to the s^d Thomas Herbert, All that capital messuage and one water corn mill with appurt’s in Tinterne Magna and Tinterne Parva, now in the tenure of Thomas Berrington, gent., and Tacy his wife, And also all that other mess’ in the same late in the occupation of John Williams, dec^d, and now or late in the occupation of the s^d Thomas Berrington and Tacy, And also all that other mess’ in the occupation of the s^d Thomas Berrington and Tacy, And also all that mess’ in the occup’ of Robert Smith, And also all that other mess’ or cottage in the same in the occup’ of Elizabeth Jayne, And also all that wood called Kebedicke in the same cont^s 200 acres in the occup’ of John Catchmay, gent., And also all those six acres of meadow and eight acres of pasture in the same in the tenure of Hester Geathen and Alice Geathen, And also all those several parcels of land in the same heretofore in the occup’ of George Harris, and now also in the occup’ of the said Thomas Berrington and Tacy, And also of one acre of meadow in the same, late in the occup’ of [blank] Lymes, and now of the said Thomas Berrington and Tacy, with all lands, woods, free warren, heriots, rents, etc., in

¹ *Liber Landavensis*, pp. 199 and 463, *Book of Llan Dŵn*, p. 209. ¹ *Cal. of Inq.*, vol. vii., no. 538.

the said parishes TO HAVE AND TO HOULD until a good and perfect estate in fee simple shall be made, etc., which said messuages are the right of the said Richard Herbert or the said Edward, lord Herbert, and dame Mary his wife, or sir Will'm Herbert, knt., dec^d, late grandfather of the said Richard Herbert, etc.

[Signed] RICHARD HERBERT.

Endorsed—Sealed and delivered in the presence of

Geo. Fletcher.

Richard Herbert.

Tho. Pierfon.

Will'm—W. B.—Blonck's mark.

Sir Thomas Herbert, who thus purchased the estate of Tintern Parva, was the son of Christopher Herbert of York, where his family had been settled as merchants, and was born there in 1606. Descended from Thomas, a base son of sir Richard Herbert of Coldbrook (the latter slain at Banbury in 1469), he in early life renewed his family connection with his kinsman William, third earl of Pembroke, who, recognising the relationship, obtained for him a post in the suite of the British ambassador in Persia. When the civil wars broke out he at first attached



VIEW OF OLD HOUSE (demolished).¹

himself to the parliament, but afterwards became a staunch adherent of the king, whose sole companion he was during the last few months of his life, and whom he accompanied to the scaffold. King Charles immediately before his execution gave him his watch, and this and the king's cloak, and the 1632 edition of *Shakespeare*, on the flyleaf of which the king had written *Dum spiro spero*, were carefully preserved by him, and are still existing. He wrote *A Description of the Persian Monarchy*, 1634, and other books. His MSS. he gave to the Bodleian library.² On 3 July,

1660, he was created a baronet by king Charles II., and died 1 March, 168 $\frac{1}{2}$. Though he had purchased the house and estate of Tintern Parva, it is doubtful if he ever lived here. He had a house in London and another in York.

Sir Thomas Herbert died in his house at Petergate, near York Minster, and was buried near his ancestors in the church of St. Crux.¹ This church has since been pulled down, and the brass which was placed to his memory is now preserved in a room used for parochial purposes.

¹ Whether the above sketch represents the mansion of sir Thomas Herbert is doubtful. It is taken from a water-colour drawing made by the late mrs. Bagnall-Oakeley about the year 1860, and is described as the abbot's house at Tintern Parva. ² *Dict. Nat. Biogr.*

¹ A very full and complete account of sir Thomas Herbert by the late Robert Davies, F.S.A., will be found in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, 1870, vol. i., p. 182 *et seq.*, where is a reduced rubbing of the brass. A rubbing of the brass is also among the collections of rubbings in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries.

THE HUNDRED OF TRELECH.

POSTERITATI SACRUM

*Heic sitæ sunt reliquæ THOMÆ HERBERT,
e nobili et antiquâ HERBERTORVM de COLEBROOKE
in agro MONUMETHENSI familiâ oriundi.
Cui ineunte ætate tam intensus peregrinandi fuit ardor;
ut itineris sui, in celebriores AFRICÆ, ASIÆQ. majoris partes
(præcipue PERSIÆ, Orientalis INDIE, insularumq. adjacentium)
(Anno D'ni MDCXXVI suscepti) observationes selectissimas
in lucem edidit, quas maturâ ætate consummate perpolivit.
Qui per totum vitæ dimensum, ob morum elegantiam, vitæq. probitatem conspicuus
Historiarum et penitioris Antiquitatis indagator sedulus.
Queis in accuratâ gentis HERBERTIANÆ historiâ
(Ex Archivis Regijs, Authenticis Chartis alijsq. indubitatae
Antiquitatis monumentis, manu propriâ exaratis;
et Armorum, Sigillorum et Tumulorum Ectypis,
Graphice delineatis) specimen eximium perhibuit.
Serenissimo Regi CAROLO, martyri, per binos ac ultimos vitæ
tristissimæ annos, ab intimis cubiculis Servus extitit fidelis,
rerumq. dicti Regis, infestâ solitudine, gestarum, commentariola contexuit.
exindi per illustrissimum nunc Regem CAROLVM II^{um}
in gradum BARONETTI merito evectus est.
LYCIAM filiam GVALTERI ALEXANDER Equitis Aurati
in Vxorem primam duxit;
quæ fatis cessit A^o D'ni MDCLXXI
ex hac
PHILIPPVM, HENRICVM (Paterni honoris hæredem superstitem)
MONTGOMERVVM, THOMAM, GVLIELMVVM ap THOMAM,
filiasq. quatuor suscepit;
TERESIAM, ALEXANDRO BRAFIELD de HANSLAP in Agro BVCK. nuptam;
ELIZABETHAM, ROBERTO PHAIRE de ROSTBLON in HIBERNIA;
LYCIAM, imprimis IOHANNI FROST de CLAPHAM in comitat. SVRR.
deinde GVLIELMO HERBERT de CALDICOT in agro MONVMETHENSI;
et ANNAM, profectioni ætate defunctam.
Postea cum ELIZABETHA filiâ GERVASII CYTLER de STAINBVRG
in Comitatu EBOR. EQVITIS AVRATI
modo superstitute secundas inivit nuptias;
e quâ
ELIZABETHAM trimestrem Feb. XXI A^o D'ni MDCLXXIII extinctam genuit.
tam celebris et charissimi MARITI maestissima VIDVA
ut amoris sui, et virtutum tam insignis Viri
Longævum præberet Testimonium,
Hocce Monumentum L.L.M.¹ posuit.
ex hac luce pientissime emigravit
I^o die MARTII A^o D'ni MDCLXXXI Ætatis suæ LXXVI.*

Above the inscription is a shield with HERBERT in the centre. On the dexter: *Per pale arg. and sa., a chevron between two mullets in chief, and in base a crescent, all counterchanged (ALEXANDER)*; on the sinister: *Az., three dragons' heads erased or (CUTLER)*.

CREST.—A sheaf of arrows, banded.

[Sacred to posterity.]

Here are placed the remains of Thomas Herbert, descended from the noble and ancient family of the Herberts of Colebrooke in the county of Monmouth. To whom in his youth there was such a strong love of travelling that he edited a most valuable account of the journey he undertook in the year 1626 in the well-known parts of Africa and of Greater Asia (principally of Persia, the East Indies and the adjoining islands), which in later life he elaborately completed. Who, through the whole course of his life, conspicuous on account of the excellence of his manners and the uprightness of his life, was a diligent investigator of history and of deep antiquity, of which he produced an excellent example in the exact history of the race of Herbert (extracted with his own hand from the royal archives, authentic deeds and other monuments of undoubted antiquity, and graphically drew sketches of arms, of seals and of tombs).

He was a faithful servant of the bedchamber to the most

serene king Charles the martyr during the last two years of his most sad life, and compiled commentaries of the things done by the said king in his dread solitude. At length he was deservedly raised to the degree of baronet by the present most illustrious king Charles II. He married as his first wife Lucy, daughter of Walter Alexander, *knt.*, who died in 1671. By her he had issue Philip, Henry (the surviving heir of his father's honour), Montgomery, Thomas, William ap Thomas; and four daughters, Teresa married to Alexander Brafield of Hanslap in the county of Bucks; Elizabeth married to Robert Phaire of Rostblon in Ireland; Lucy married first to John Frost of Clapham in the county of Surrey, and afterwards to William Herbert of Caldicot in the county of Monmouth; and Anna, who died in middle age.

Afterwards he married as his second wife Elizabeth, who still survives, daughter of Gervais Cutler of Stainburgh in the county of York, *knt.*, by whom he had issue Elizabeth, who died aged three months, 21 February, 1673.

The most sad widow of a husband so famous and most dear, that she might afford an everlasting testimony of her love for him and of the virtues of such an illustrious man, placed this monument to him who so well deserved it. He most piously departed this life 1 March, 1681, aged 76.]

It will be observed that in the above memorial reference is made to the *History of the race of Herbert* (accurata gentis Herbertianæ historia) which sir

¹ Libentissime merito.

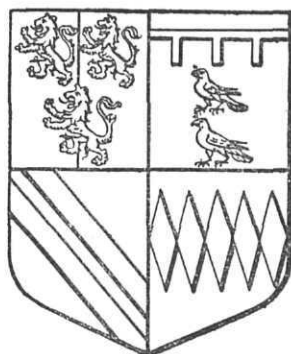
Thomas had compiled. This is preserved in the Free Library at Cardiff, and is a folio MS. book containing much valuable information, with beautifully executed water-colour drawings of tombs, and sketches of seals, etc.

Thomas Herbert, the ancestor of this family, with his son Richard first went to Yorkshire with the countess of Northumberland, Maud, daughter of William, first earl of Pembroke of the first creation, wife of Henry, earl of Northumberland, and there they continued until sir Thomas moved southwards and rose to fame.

The estate afterwards became the property of William Feilding, whose only child and heir Elizabeth married John Curre of Rogerston Grange in St. Arvans. This gentleman dying without issue in 1777 left Tintern Parva to the person who should be heir to his wife.¹ The estate in 1787 was owned by Nathaniel and John Osborne, the latter gentleman having married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of George White, brother of Richard White, who had the iron-works at Abbey Tintern.

¹ Vide p. 62.

Pedigree of the family of Herbert of Tintern.



ARMS granted by Richard St. George, Norroy King of Arms, 29 April 1614, to Richard Herbert of York.—*Per pale gu. and az., 3 lions ramp. erminois. CREST.—A demi-lion ramp. erminois, supporting a broken tilting-spear ppr.* Sir Thomas Herbert, baronet, bore, however, the usual Herbert coat.

For previous descents vide Vol. I., p. 189.

