

"BASSETTS"

The origin of the Family of Bassett is Norman. Among the retinue of William the Conqueror, were two brothers Allan and Thirstane or Thurstine. This last name is spelt in many other ways. Allan de Basset, for this is the oldest form of writing the Patronymic, was a General in the Conqueror's service and the said Thirstane was his "Grand Falconer". Allan Basset and his brother Thirstane were the progenitors of the various branches of the Family of Basset, and both names occur in some of the "Battle Abby Roll". Drayton Basset, now called "Drayton Manor", once the seat of the Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, Bart., was originally the residence of the above mentioned Thirstane Basset. The author now adheres to the mode of spelling the name adopted by the present senior representative of the family.

Ralph Basset, the oldest son of Thirstane, continued at Drayton and from him, from his brothers and from his Uncle Allan descended several noble and illustrious branches of the family, who signalized themselves, both on the "battlefield" and on the judicial bench.

Two of the name of Ralph or Rudolph appear to have held the Justiciaryship of England for many years, viz., in the reigns of Henry the First and King John. The signatures of two of the family are attached to "Magna Charta", viz., "Allan" and "Thomas". Two others, namely Gilbert and William held the office of Chief Justice of the King's Bench, in the reigns of Henry the 3rd (1216 - 1272 - 56) and Edward the 3rd (1327 - 1377 - 50). Several of the family perished in the Wars of King Stephen (1135 - 1154 - 19 yrs) and the Empress Maud of France (1043). The Lords Ralph of Drayton and John Basset (according to Hume) appear to have been very actively engaged in the cause of the Barons under Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester and afterwards were of great service to Henry III; many of the Bassets perished in these eventful wars. The family appears to have spread very extensively for they may be read of in the histories of the Counties of York, Stafford, Cheshire, Bucks, Northampton, Derby, Wilts etc. The most celebrated branches are those mentioned by Camden viz., Bassets of Drayton, Hendendon, Wycombe, Brailsford, Elore, Hints, Sapcote, Wootton, Compton etc., etc. After the death of the celebrated Ralph Basset, 45th Knight of the Garter, about the close of the 14th century, the celebrity and fame of the family appears to dwindle. One of the Bassets, who signalized himself much as the brave attendant of that illustrious Monarch Henry IVth (of Monmouth) (1413 - 1422 - 9 years) was Peter Basset. He wrote a Biographical History of Henry Vth.

Another of some eminence was Sir Arthur Basset in the reign of Elizabeth and who died abroad in the service of that distinguished Queen (see "Stradling Correspondence" by the Rev. J.M. Traherne).

The last of the English Bassets we have to speak of, is that noble branch of which the late Lord de Dunstanville and Basset was the head. At his death he was succeeded by his daughter and heiress Baroness Basset. The Barony of de Dunstanville has ceased. The chief male representative of this branch was the late John Basset Esq., M.P. for Helston, who died some years ago: but who succeeded him the author knows not.

"BASSETS OF BEAUPRE"

Motto: Gwell angau na chywilydd.
(Better death than shame).

John, one of Thirstane's younger sons, came over with Robert Fitzhamon (a kinsman of William the Conqueror) to the conquest of Glamorgan. Fitzhamon appointed this John Basset his Vice Comes or Cancellarius, gave him authority to hold his courts at 'Cardiff Castle' and 'Boverton Grange' and presented him with the Lordship of St. Hilary, together with several Knight's Fees. This John was born about the year of Our Lord 1066. He married Matilda, a daughter of William, second son of Anthony de Cretonie, Bretevil or Breteville, a noble Norman Family. From this marriage issued Sir Richard Basset, who married Cynnidda, a daughter of Howell ap Evan, Lord of Senghennydd. This Sir Richard was born about the year 1100.

BASSETS OF LLANBLETHIAN.

Richard Bassett of Llanblethian, Gent, born about 1545 and died A.D. 1627, in which year his Will was proved at Llandaff and according to that document he expressly appoints his only daughter and heiress, Friewith Bassett, sole Executrix, appointing too, Lewis Bassett, Friewith's uncle, and Thomas Kemis, Friewith's husband, Trustees to his will. This Friewith Bassett had previously married a Mr Lewis and her son John Lewis is expressly provided for by his grandfather, Richard Bassett. George Kemis is mentioned in the Will and it would appear he was the only son of the said Thomas Kemis. The said Richard Bassett, then mentioned John Bassett, his nephew, the son of his brother and gives him a Cottage, garden etc., in Llanblethian. Lewis Bassett, brother of the foregoing Richard, married in all probability Friewith Powell; for in Cowbridge Church may be seen the following inscription on a grave stone:

"Here lyeth the body of William Powell, deceased 18th January A.D. 1592, Aged 65 years. Here lyeth the body of Lewis Bassett, Ald, and Friewith his Wife. Katherine Jones, her daughter".

Now Catherine Jones must either have married a Jones or her mother Friewith must have been married to a Mr Jones previously to her becoming the wife of Lewis Bassett. Lewis Bassett, as stated on the gravestone, was Alderman of Cowbridge and frequently Bailiff of that town. Margaret Bassett was sole daughter and heiress of her father (the said Lewis Bassett) and nine years previous to her death, presented to the Parish of Cowbridge a Silver Communion Flagon to be used in the administration of the Lord's Supper and to be in the custody of the Churchwardens of the Parish of Cowbridge for the time being. The said Margaret Bassett married Mathew Seys, B.D., one of the Seys of Boverton and Vicar of Llanblethian and Cowbridge.

He died 1653 aged 50 years and lies buried in Cowbridge Church, side by side with his father-in-law Lewis Bassett. Margaret, his wife, died 1687 aged 75 years. On the said Communion Flagon is an emblazoning of the Arms of Seys and Bassett, viz "Three spear's heads, their points imbrued in blood, proper and a chevron, sable between them, 2 above and 1 below". Richard was probably born somewhere near the year 1600 (the building of the Beaupre Portico). He married and had issue the following children viz., William, Elias and Richard; and three daughters, Friewith, Alice and Anne. He

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mentions, also in his Will proved in Llandaff, 1674, two grandsons, viz., Richard Bassett and Robert Sweeting. Richard Bassett was buried at Llanblethian. It is probable that William, one of the sons of the last mentioned Richard Bassett, was Churchwarden of Llanblethian in the year 1676, two years after his father's death, that he was afterwards Alderman of Cowbridge and died without issue 1704. As to Richard, brother of the last named William, the author can glean nothing. The same may be said with regard to two of the sisters of the last mentioned William and Richard, viz., Friswith and Alice. Ann the only remaining daughter, married David Sweeting as her daughter's Will states. She left issue, according to Llanblethian's old register; Robert Sweeting, baptized 20th August 1661, and William Sweeting baptized in 1662.

BASSETTS OF LLANDOUGH.

Elias, born about 1627, married in 1653 (see Llandough register) Margaret Richards. From which marriage issued Elizabeth, born in 1655; Richard, born in 1656; and Charles, born in 1660. Richard Bassett, eldest son of the last mentioned Elias, inherited a property at Llanblethian after his grandfather's death (the Richard Bassett, who died 1674). Richard, the grandson, married two wives. Ann Croke was one of them but whether first or second is uncertain and it is also unknown who the other wife was. He died in the year 1739, without issue, entailing his property at Llanblethian upon his grand-nephew and his heirs for ever. His Will was proved at Llandaff, 1739. He lies buried in Llanblethian Church and a mural tablet was raised to the memory of him and his wife, Ann, by his nephew. He was 82 years of age at his decease. His only brother was Charles Bassett, born at Llandough, 1660, and married Margaret Williams, from which marriage descended 8 children, viz., Margaret, John, Elias, Richard, William, John Elias and Friswith, and anon, all of whom with the exception of Richard, died young and unmarried. Their births and deaths occurred between the years 1686 and 1726, may all be seen in the parish register of Llandough and on a gravestone in Llandough Church, beneath which rest the remains of Elias Bassett, may be read the following Latin inscription:-

"in brachiis salvatoris mei vivere volo, et mori cupio"

Charles Bassett was buried in Llandough, March 4th 1732; his widow, November 12th 1744 (see Llandough register).

Notes on Richard Bassett and other local ministers

Brief memoir and letters of Revd R Bassett, vicar of Colwinston and E Bassett Esq Glamorgan. By Revd E Morgan AM, vicar of Syston, Leics.

Richard Bassett, b 7/11/1777 Sigginstone. His father lived on his own patrimony and occupied a large farm in addition. Richard was the second son. He attended C Grammar School, under the late Revd W Williams, with W Howels, the popular minister of Longacre,. Then Jesus College, Oxford. Matriculated, but on the death of his father returned home to superintend the farm.

Ordained deacon 26/6/1801; priest 27/6/1802. Curacy at St Athan.

Introduced by Revd W Howels to Revd D Jones of Llangan. Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Connexion had been founded by ministers of the Church of England; Mr Jones and many other clergymen attended the private and public meetings of that body. Bassett also.

By 1818 Richard Bassett lived at Sigginstone where he held a little land. From there he was serving Llandow.

1824 Mr W Williams, formerly of Llysworney. Born and bred at....-coed, Carms. Preacher with Welsh Cal. Con. Married a Miss Prichard of Gorllewin, a notable family. Died 4/5/1792; buried at Salem by Dr Jones of Llangan.

1826 Lord Clarendon at Penllyn invited Richard Bassett to breakfast to meet the new Bishop, Dr Sumner.

1832 J M Traherne of Coedriglan presents Richard Bassett to benefice of Eglwys Brewis (compatible with keeping Llandow).

By 1843 presented to vicarage of Colwinston by Mr Thomas the patron.

BASSETT, CHRISTOPHER (1753-84), Methodist cleric; b. at Aberthaw, Penmark, (Glam.), son of Christopher and Alice Bassett, both of whom were disciples of Howel Harris. He was educated at Cowbridge grammar school and Jesus College, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1772 (M.A. 1775). He was ordained by the bishop of London and was a curate under the famous William Romaine at S. Anne's, Blackfriars; he was also appointed 'lecturer' at S. Ethelburga's. When his health broke down he returned to Wales where, in 1778, he became curate at S. Fagans, after which he was curate at Porthkerry; in both of these places he established Methodist societies. He travelled throughout South Wales, preaching to the Methodists. In 1783 his health again deteriorated, and he went to his sister's house in Bristol to recuperate; he d. there of tuberculosis, 8 Feb. 1784, and his body was brought to S. Athan for burial.

Elegies to his memory were written by John Williams, S. Athan, 1728-1806 (q.v.), and William Williams, Pantycelyn (q.v.). At the same time David Jones, Llan-gan (q.v.), published a booklet giving an account of his life: *Llythyr oddiwrth Dafydd ab Ioan y Pererin at Ioan ab Gwiliam y Prydydd* . . . (Trevecka, 1784).

D. Jones, *Llythyr* . . .; *Meth. Cymru*, iii, 94; *Tadau Meth.* ii, 129-33; *Cymru* (O.M.E.), xv, 24.

G.M.R.

BASSETT
(1753-84)
Christopher

Educated at Cowbridge Grammar School

BASSETT, RICHARD (1777-1852), Methodist cleric; b. at Tresigin, Llantwit Major, Glamorgan, 7 Nov. 1777. He was educated at Cowbridge grammar school, and, for a time, at Jesus College, Oxford. He was ordained deacon in 1801 and priest in 1802. After being curate of S. Athan and Llandow he became rector of Eglwys Brewis in 1832 and vicar of Colwinston in 1843, where he d. 31 Aug. 1852. His greatest friend was William Howels (q.v.), who brought him to the notice of David Jones of Llan-gan (q.v.). He now began to consort with the Methodists, but, although he attended their societies and associations and was one of the trustees of their chapels in Glamorgan, he succeeded in retaining his Church of England appointment until his death. He was probably the last clergyman in Wales to be associated with the Methodists. His brother ELIAS BASSETT, a lawyer, was for many years the leading layman in the Methodist connexion in Glamorgan.

E. Morgan, *Home Light* . . .; *Brief Memoir of R. Bassett*, 1860; *Drys.*, 1856, 210.

G.M.R.

Richard
(1777-1852)

MARRIAGE OF MR. RALPH THURSTON
BASSETT AND MISS AUGUSTA MARIA
TYLER.

August 1878.

The marriage of Mr. Ralph Thurston Bassett, only surviving son of Mr. Richard Bassett, of Bonvilstone, Cardiff, with Miss Augusta Maria (Minna) Tyler, daughter of the late Captain Charles Frederick Tyler, and granddaughter of the late Admiral Sir George Tyler, M.P., of Cottrell, took place at Marylebone Church, on Wednesday, the 12th instant. The bride wore a costume of white satin. She was accompanied by six bridesmaids in grey and ruby velvet; among these were Miss Ella Richards, the Misses Baddeley, Miss Tyler, and Miss Brown. The ceremony was impressively performed by the Rev. A. Macdonald, brother-in-law of the bridegroom. There were present at the church Mr. Bassett, of Bonvilstone; Mr. and Mrs. Homfray, of Penllyne Castle; Mr. George Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, of Misikin; Mr. and Mrs. Williams, of Roath; Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. Hardwick, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. George Tyler, and a large number of relatives and friends. Upon leaving the church the party proceeded to the Langham Hotel for the breakfast. "The health of the bride and bridegroom" was proposed by Mr. Homfray, of Penllyne Castle, Glamorgan. In the evening, Mrs. Hardwick, sister of the bridegroom, entertained the bridal party at Kenmure House, South Kensington. Among those present were Lady Palliser and Miss Perham, Major and Mrs. Fox, Captain and Mrs. Robertson Fox, Captain and Mrs. Boyd, Mrs. Baddeley and the Misses Baddeley, Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald, Mr. Martin Kennard and Miss Kennard, Mrs. Brown, Miss Tyler, Miss Richards, Miss Edith Phipps, Messrs. Robertson, Tyler, &c.