

Llansoy.

LLANSOY takes its name from Tissoi, the saint to whom the church is dedicated, of whom nothing seems to be known, except that he was a pupil of St. Dyfrig, the first bishop of Llandaff in the fifth century.

The boundaries given in the *Liber Landavensis* appear to be similar to the present boundaries, the parish lying between the brooks Olwy and Pill.¹

The parish contains 1415 acres of land and 4 acres of water. The rateable value in 1815 was 1583*l.*, and in 1912, 978*l.*

The population has been as follows:—

Year .	1801	1811	1821	1831	1841	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901
No. of inhab.	148	143	139	148	158	168	175	147	130	111

The number of houses is shewn thus:—

Year.	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Building.
1861 . . .	30	2	1
1871 . . .	30	3	0
1881 . . .	28	4	0
1891 . . .	28	3	0
1901 . . .	26	0	4

The most ancient feature in this parish is the large camp or earthwork situated one mile north-west of the church, 300 feet above sea level, commanding the broad meadows through which the river Olwy runs, and which are but 100 feet above sea level.

In this parish and Llanfihangel Tor-y-mynydd, the chief landowners in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were descendants of Brychan Brycheiniog, though when they first came here is not clear. Perhaps the house known as Cwrt-Brychan was their first settlement. In Llansoy the family descended from Brychan, who in the seventeenth century adopted the surname of Nicholas, was the principal one. I am uncertain which house, until they inherited Lanpill by marriage, was their residence. In wills and deeds they appear only as *of Llansoy*, and therefore it is probable that Ty-mawr (*the great house*) was their abode.

The first to assume a surname was William Nicholas, the son of Nicholas ap William Gruffydd, who made his will 5 May, 1622, proved at Llandaff 16 June, 1624:—

To be buried in the church of Lansoy—the parson of lansoy for forgotten tithes iijs. iiij*d.*—cathedral church of Landaff ijs.—to Catherine my wife, one moiety of all my linen, pewter and brass for her life, with household stuff and one silver boule and one

silver sault and viij silver sponnes, and after her decease the said moiety to Andrewe Nicholas my son—whereas I hold by several leases and grants one grist mill called Radyr's mill¹ and the moiety of one other grist mill called Magor's mill of the r^t hon. Edward, earl of Worcester, and one tenement of land of the r^t hon. Henry, lord Herbart, being part of the old park in the co. of Mon., these I give to the s^d Andrew Nicholas my son—to Phe' Nicholas my son the lease of the tithes of Newchurch—to Ann Nicholas, dau. of my son Phe', xxs.—my son Phe' Nicholas out of the profits of the s^d tithes to make yearly payment unto Gilles Nicholas, son of the s^d Andrew Nicholas, 5*l.*—to my men servants and maid servants 5*s.* a piece—to Elizabeth, dau. of my dau. Bridgett, vi*l.* xiijs. iiij*d.*, and if the s^d Elizabeth die before she is 16 the s^d sum to the children of my son Andrew and my dau. Dorothy equally—to W^m Nicholas, my grandchild, one black colt—the rest to Catherine my wife.

Nicholas Nicholas (son of Andrew, son of the above William Nicholas) appears in a deed as follows:—

Ind'res made 18 July, 13 Car. II., 1661, between Nicholas Nicholas of Llansoy, gent., and Bridget his wife and Richard Vidler, late of Cwmcervan, yeom., and Blanch his wife of the one part; and William Jones of Lanarth, esq., of the other part. In cons^{on} of 200*l.* the said Nicholas Nicholas and Richard Vidler grant to William Jones all that messuage wherein Thomas John Edmund did lately inhabit, and wherein Thomas William doth now inhabit cont^s three score acres called Cay keven, Cae yr lloyd, Ton dee, Cay pant, Cae isha, Cae Rees, Cay pwll, lying in Gwailod y wlade in the parish of Cwmcervan between the lands of Alse Blower, widow, the lands of David Edmonds, the brook called Pencam, the lands of Thomas Pheellipp, the lands of the earl of Pembroke, now or late in the occupation of Adam Jones, and the way leading from the stony bridge towards the church of Cwmcervan, and also all that water mill now in the occupation of the s^d Nicholas Nicholas.

Giles Nicholas,² the brother of the above Nicholas Nicholas, became a clergyman, and was rector of Llangynidr in Breconshire, a living that continued in the hands of his descendants, as will be seen by the pedigree, for many years.

Philip Nicholas, the eldest brother, continued the family at Llansoy, and was father of Andrew, a barrister, who was drowned in 1671, leaving an only child Frances, who died unmarried.

Philip Nicholas, the second son of William Nicholas, whose will is given above, was also of

¹ In the parish of Llanbadog.

² So uncertain was the use of surnames at this date, that Giles is baptized as the son of Andrew Williams, i.e., as the son of Andrew the son of William—1606, September 21, *Ghiles, son of Andrewe Williams, bapt. on sunddaie beinge St. Mathewe daie* (par. reg.).

