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## **Y Wenhwyseg: A Key To The Phonology Of The Gwentian Dialect John Griffiths, 1902.**

Fersiwn destun electronig i'w gweld yma / *there is an electronic text version here:*

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Isod: Bras ancarn o diriogaeth y Wenhwyseg tua'r flwyddyn 1800. Fe ymgorfforwyd Ewias ac Eryngy i Swydd Henffordd wrth gydio Cymru wrth Loegr o dan y Deddfau 'Cyfreithiau yng Nghymru' 1535 a 1542.

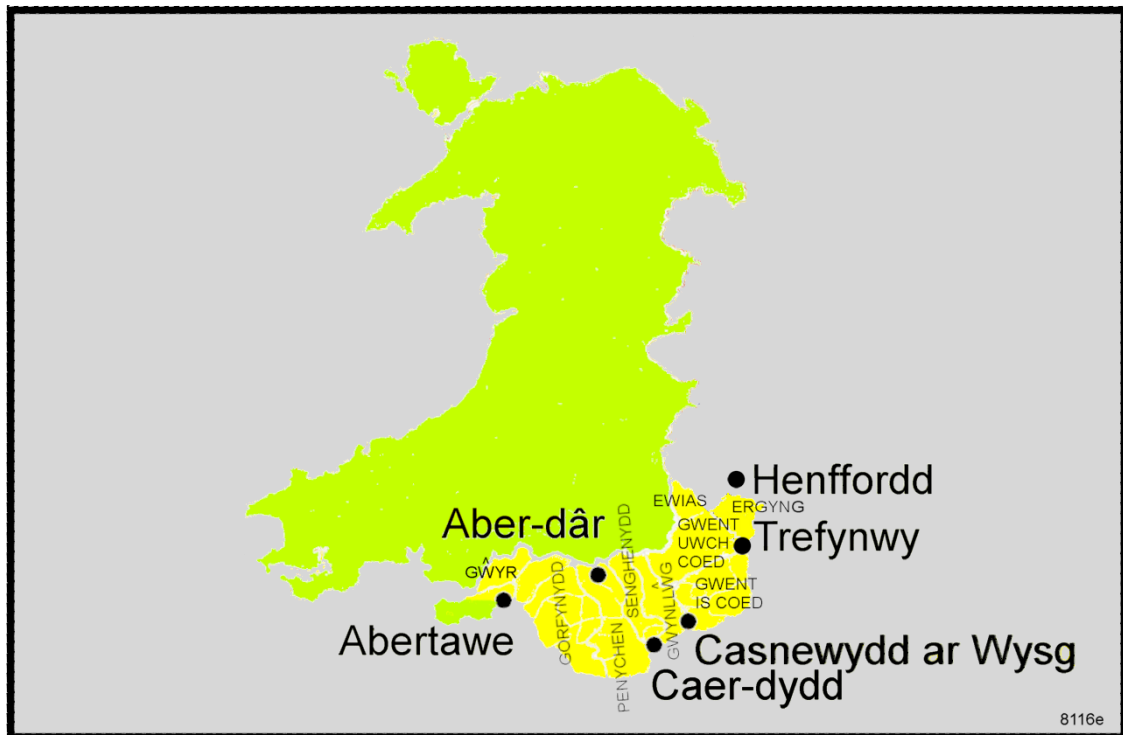
(Ar y map mae ardal y dafodiaith yn cydreded â hen gymydau'r de-ddwyrain, sef Gŵyr, Gorfynydd, Penychen, Senghenydd, Gwynllŵg, Gwent Is Coed, Gwent Uwch Coed, Eryngy ac Ewias, hynny yw, yn nhermau'r rhwydwaith sirol cyn 1874, Siroedd Morgannwg a Mynwy a rhan o Swydd Henffordd.)

Nid yw ffiniau'r dafodiaith mor bendant fel y mae'r map yn awgrymu, wrth gwrs - ar y terfyn â Sir Frycheiniog a Sir Gaerfyrddin mae cylchfa drawsnewidiol rhwng y Wenhwyseg a thafodieithoedd y siroedd hynny.)

*Below: Approximate extent of the Gwentian dialect around 1800. Ewias and Eryngy were incorporated into Herefordshire with the annexation of Wales by England under the Laws in Wales Acts 1535 and 1542.*

*(On the map, the area where the dialect is or was spoken is shown to coincide with the old commotes of the south-east, namely Gŵyr / Gower, Gorfynydd, Penychen, Senghenydd, Gwynllŵg / Wentloog, Gwent Is Coed / Gwent Under Wood, Gwent Uwch Coed / Gwent Over Wood, Eryngy / Archenfield and Ewias / Ewyas, that is to say, in terms of the network of counties before 1974, Sir Forgannwg / Glamorganshire and Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire, and a part of Swydd Henffordd / Herefordshire.*

*The limits of the dialect are not as clear-cut as the map suggests, of course – on the boundary with Sir Frycheiniog / Breconshire and Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire there is a transitional zone between the Gwentian dialect and the dialects of those counties.)*



(delwedd 8116e)

Tarian y Gweithiwr (29 Ionawr 1903)

:o:

**Y WENHWYSEG.**

—————

Y wythnos diweddaf, derbyniasom lyfryn bach destlus iawn o waith Mr John Griffiths, at wasanaeth athrawon Cymraeg yn ysgolion Morganwg a Mynwy. Ei bris ydyw chwe' cheiniog. Argraffwyd gan Mr J. E. Southall, cyhoeddwr, Casnewydd. Dymunwn i'r llyfryn gylchrediad helaeth, a dylai fod yn ystordai ac ysgolion pob Bwrdd Ysgol yn Neheudir Cymru.

B1150

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(delwedd B1150)

# Y WENHWYSEG.

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A KEY TO THE PHONOLOGY OF THE  
GWENTIAN DIALECT.

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FOR THE USE OF TEACHERS OF WELSH IN  
GLAMORGAN AND MONMOUTH SCHOOLS.

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BY JOHN GRIFFITH.

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NEWPORT. Mon. :  
J. E. SOUTHALL, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER.  
LONDON :  
W. H. ROBERTS, CECIL COURT, CHARING CROSS ROAD.

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1902.

## INTRODUCTION.

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I have put together a few notes on the phonology of the speech of some half a million of Welshmen, and a dialect which influences largely the speech of another half million. Scrappy and incomplete as I know the notes are, I have been moved to print them as a small measure of relief to some teachers of Welsh in our schools, who, when they undertake to teach what is passing as literary Welsh, are confronted in the schools of Gwent and Morgannwg with a dialect of over-whelming strength, which presents regular features like any civilised speech, but which, to the novice, appears to differ as much from common Welsh as, say, the Breton tongue. Knowledge of the local dialect is indispensable to the proper teaching of Welsh. The Gwentian dialect, moreover, deserves study on its own account. Of the three leading dialects of Wales, it has now the largest sphere of influence.

A large portion of ancient Welsh literature is written in *Y Wenhwyseg* or Gwentian. Its influence in forming the literary Welsh of the future will doubtless be very great. While, at present, all the dialects of Wales, and possibly of England too, contribute their share towards forming a new, or modifying an old speech in Gwent and Morgannwg, the product eventually will be overwhelmingly Gwentian. The children

of English or Irish settlers acquire a Gwentian accent, even when they have not learnt much of Gwentian. In the Monmouthshire valleys, the linguist finds no difficulty in recognising, in an English guise, the sounds which struck terror into the hearts of the Roman soldiers, when for years they sought a place in the land of the Silures to plant their eagles.

All the peculiarities of Gwentian I have noted may not be found in one locality, and all Gwentians may not be prepared to recognise them all. Many of them may be found outside Gwent and Morgannwg. Neither is it strictly proper to regard the speech of that large district as one dialect. There are comot and parochial peculiarities of speech forming, if not distinct dialects, useful linguistic boundaries. No small object will be attained by publishing these notes if a more general interest can be created in dialect studies, if teachers of Welsh will be induced to record any peculiarities of speech that may come under their notice, and if the materials and the demand for a more elaborate and scholarly work on the subject by abler hands will be forthcoming.

JOHN GRIFFITH.

# Y WENHWYSEG.

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(The examples from the Gwentian are printed in italics. In a few cases, examples from printed works only, chiefly those of Iolo Morganwg, are known to the writer.)

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## 1. â—eâ.

In words of one syllable, long *â* is pronounced as if an *e* preceded it, though the *e* is not pronounced as fully as in *deall*, 'understanding'.

Tâd—*teâd*, 'father'.

Bâch—*beâch*, 'little'.

## 2. a—o.

(a) Initial. Gwrando—*grondo*, 'to listen'.

(b) Final. Angladd—*anglodd*, 'funeral'.

Arnaf fi—*arno i*, 'on me'.

(c) Prep. A llaw—*o law*, (No. 61), 'with, or by hand'. (This *o* is the *efo* of North Cardiganshire and other parts).

(d) Adv. and conj. Na, nag—*no, nog*, (Iolo M.), 'nor, than'.

æ—â.

(a) Monosyllables. Aeth—*âth*, 'he went'.

(b) Words of two syllables contracted into one.

Daear—*dâr* (through an intermediate *daer*), 'earth'.

*Dâr* is used in the Rhondda Valley in the restricted sense of 'earth-hole', the hiding-place of the fox. The plural is *daerau*, and the custom of watching the haunts of foxes is called *gwylled daerau*, 'watching the earth-holes'. The same use of *dâr* is retained in an English part of Pembrokeshire, in the expression, when a fox eludes the hounds, 'he is gone to the *dâr*'. Compare the expression 'run to earth'. (See No. 9 [d]).

For further remarks on *Dâr*, see Appendix at the end of the book.

Baraen (old form)—*Brân*, name of brook.

Cair (old form), caer—*câr*, 'an encampment'.

4. æ—ǣ.

Haearn—*harn* (through an intermediate *haern*), 'iron'.

5. æ—ǣ final.

Athrawiaeth—*athrawiath*, 'doctrine'.

6. *ae—ai* initial.

Traethawd—*traithawd*, 'an essay'.

7. *ae—i*

Gwaeddu—*gwiddu*, (through the Dimetian *gweiddu*), 'to shout'.

Ffaelu—*ffili* (through the Dimetian *ffeilu*), 'to fail'.

8. *ai—ä* final.

Boneddigaidd—*boneddicadd*, 'gentlemanly'.

Ugain—*ucan*, 'twenty'.

9. *ai—i*.

(a) Initial. *ae, ai* (No. 6), *i*.

Traethodau—*trithota*, 'essays'.

(b) Final. *Cywain—c<sup>h</sup>win* (No. 97 [a]) and *cwin*, 'to gather crops'.

Tonyrefail—*Tonyrefil*.

Tamaid—*tamid*, and *tamad* (No. 31 [b]), 'a morsel'.

(c) The plural form—*aid*, from the singular—*ad*, is *id*.

Llygaid—*llycid*, and *llicid* (No. 92), 'eyes'.

Defaid—*defid*, 'sheep'.



(d) The spelling *daiar* for *daear*, through the Dimetian *deiar*, becomes *dīar*, 'earth'; and *haiarn* for *haearn*, through the Dimetian *heiarn* becomes *hīarn*, 'iron' (Nos. 3, 4, 32 [b]). The latter form *hīarn*, is hardly ever used, though *dīar* is common.

10. au - a plural.

Tadau (Dimetian tadeu = tade)—*tuda*, 'fathers'.

11. au - ach plural.

Pethau (Dimetian petheu = pethe)—*pethach*, 'things'.

12. au - ou in monosyllables.

Dau—*dou*, 'two'.

Cnau—*cnou*. 'nuts'.

13. aw - o.

Awdurdod—*odirdod*, 'authority'.

14. aw - ow.

Awdwr—*owdwr*, 'an author'.

Awdl—*owdol*, 'an ode'.

## 15. b—f.

Hyd byth—*Hyd fyth* (Iolo M.), 'for ever'.

## 16. b—p.

Accented *b* is always *p*. Y bobl—*y bopol*, 'the people'.

Abl—*apal*, 'able'.

## 17. b—th.

O bobtu—*o bothtu*, 'on every side, about'.

## 18. c—g.

Ac—*ag*, 'and'. 'Anghof ag anneall' (Iolo M.)

## 19. c—ci initial.

Cant—*ciant*, 'hundred'.

This peculiarity is not so marked as No. 1, and it occurs with short *ā*.

## 20. ch—hw or wh, w.

Chwiban—*hwipan*, and *wipan*, 'to whistle'.

Chwech—*hwesch*, and *wesch*, 'six'.

## 21. cr—cyr.

Crynhoi—*cyrnhoi*, 'to gather together'.

Crychell, a brook near Cwm Hir, Radnorshire, is written *Cyrchell* in the Gwentian code of Howel Dda's Laws.

## 22. d dropped.

Tadcu—*tacû* (or *î*), 'grandfather'.

## 23. d—dd final.

Gormod—*gormodd*, 'too much'.

Gorfod—*gorfodd*, 'to be compelled'.

24. d—dz or j, when followed by *i*.

Diofal—*dziofal*, *jïofal*, *jimofal*, and *dimofal*, 'careless, jocular'.

## 25. d—t.

Accented *d* is always *t*.

Cadw—*catw*, 'to keep'.

Cawodydd—*cawotydd*, 'showers'.

Adgof—*atgof*, 'remembrance'.

## 26. dchr—drch.

Dychrynlyd—*drychynllyd*, 'fearful'.

This epithet is often applied, as *da drychynllyd*, 'fearfully or horribly good', like *da afnaw*, 'awfully good'.

Dechreuodd—*drychiws*, 'he began'.

"Pwy ôdd y bachan iefangc 'na ddrychiws y cwrdd?"

## 27. dd.

(a) Final, retained in—

Rhoi fyny—*rhoi fynydd*, 'to give up'.

I fyny—*i fynydd*, 'up'.

(b) Inserted.

Ydyw, y mae hi—*oti, maedd (h)i*, 'yes, she is'.

## 28. dd hardened into th.

Ganddynt—*genthyn*, 'with or by them'.

## 29. dn—nnd.

Cadno—*canddo*, also *catno*, 'a fox'.

There seems to be the plural *cendi* also in use.

"Chwareu'r ieir a'r cendi" (A *triban* quoted by "Cadrawd").

## 30. ddn—ndd.

'Rotheni' (1202), 'Rodne' (RED BOOK OF HERGEST), representing Rhoddui, Rhoddnei, or Rhoddne, has become *Rhondda* (No. 31 [b]).

## 31. e—a.

(a) Initial. Erioed—*ariôd* (No. 67), 'ever, from the beginning'.

(b) Final. Teisen—*tishan* (No. 32 [b]), 'cake'.  
Chweugen—*whigan*, (No. 20), 'ten shillings'.

(c) Fel—*fal*, 'as, like'.

*Fal* and *mal* are common in Welsh literature, especially poetry.

## 32. (a) ei—ai.

Dei, Deio (Dafydd)—*Dai*, 'David'.

(b) ei—i

Gweithio—*gwitho*, 'to work'.

Ei—*i*, 'his'.

## 33. eu—a.

The plural form—*eu*, as well as *au*, is *a* in Gwentian.

Esgidieu—*scitsha* (No. 90), 'shoes'.

Eisieu—*isha* (No. 74), 'want, need'.

## 34. eu—i.

Gwneuthur—*gnithur*, 'to make'.

Creulon—*crllon*, 'cruel'.

## 35. ew—w and iw.

Mewn—*mwn*, 'in', and, as in Dimetian, *miwn*,  
'into, within'

## 36. f final dropped.

Cynhwrf—*cynnwr*, 'commotion'.

## 37. fe—ef.

Fe a—*ef a*. "Ef a ddigwyddwys coll ar lawer  
o wybodaeth" (Iolo M.).

## 38. fe—fa.

Onide fe?—*ontefa?* 'is it not'?

Do fe?—*dofa?* 'did it'? 'was it'?

"Enclitic *fe* becomes *fa* in the Eastern Gwentian  
dialects" (Dr. Max Nettlau).

## 39. f—m.

Mi a wna<sup>f</sup>—*fi'na*, 'I will do or make'.

*A fi af i a fe fyw i Bro Fiscin* (and he and I  
will go to live to Bro Fiscin = Miskin).

## 40. f—w.

Fel yna—*wel'na*, 'in that way'.

(*Wel* for *fel* is very common. No. 31 [c]).

## 41. fh—ff.

Cryfhâu—*crýffa* (No. 48 [b] 2), 'to become strong'.

## 42. fn—nf. (See No. 29).

Trefnu—*trenfu*, 'to arrange'.

Cefnu—*cenfu*, 'to turn one's back to'.

Llyfni—*Llynfi* and *Lhwyni*, a tributary of the Ogwr river.

## 43. fy—ym. Poss. pron., 'my' (No. 48 [a]).

Fy hunan—*ym (h) unan*, 'myself'.

Fy stori—*ym stori*, 'my stori'.

## 44. g dropped.

Arglwydd—*arlwydd*, 'lord'.

But the *g* is always pronounced in the Scriptural *Arglwydd*, 'LORD'.

Bachgen—*bachan*, 'boy'.

## 45. g--c.

Accented *g* is always *c*.

Magu—*macu*, 'to nurse'.

'Cas gwr na charo'r wlad a'i maco .

## 46. gl--cl.

Casglu—*clascu*, 'to collect'.

## 47. gyf--godd.

Gyferbyn—*godderbyn* and *godderab* (*goddereb* in N. Pemb.) from *gwydderbyn*, 'over against'.

## 48. h.

Use very uncertain and capricious.

Anhap —*anap*, 'an accident'.

Anrhaith—*anraith* (Iolo M.), 'pillage'.

Hysbyswydd—*ysbysrwydd* (Iolo M.), 'information'.

The liberty taken with the aspirate in Gwent and Morgannwg may be due to the long prevalence in the district of the English of Tennyson's '*Churchwarden*'.

'An' saw by the Graŵce o' the Lord, Mr. Harry,  
I ham wot I ham!.



The line quoted supplies the key to one pretty regular use of the aspirate in Gwentian. It is inserted as a welcome relief between two weak vocables. How otherwise could the 'churchwarden' express emphatically his intense satisfaction with himself, by the weak vocables, *I am?*

(a) *h* is inserted between the poss. pron. *ym*, 'my', and a noun beginning with a vowel.

Fy eglwys—*ym (h) eglwys*, 'my church'.

Fy arian—*ym (h) arian*, 'my money, or silver'.

Fy achos—*ym (h) achos*, 'my cause'.

(b) There are two ways of disposing of the aspirate in the—*hau* verbs.

1. Mwynhau—*mwynïu*, 'to enjoy'.

"Islwyn", the great Gwentian bard, adopted this way.

2 With some—*hau* verbs, that syllable is shortened, and the preceding syllable is strengthened or hardened, to which the accent also is transferred.

Cwblhau—*cw<sup>o</sup>pla*, 'to finish'.

Cryihau—*cry<sup>o</sup>ffa*, 'to become strong'.

(c) There is a hybrid verb in which the aspirate is retained.

*Ffreshau*, 'freshening', usually applied to the weather.

(d) *h*—*g*.

Ar eu hôl—*ar i gôl*, 'after them'.

## 49. i.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd pers. plur. pres. tense, indic. mood of the verb *bod*, 'to be'.

Yr ydym ni—*i ni*, 'we are'.

Ydych chi?—*i chi?* 'are you'?

Ydynt hwy?—*i nhw?* 'are they'?

## 50. i final dropped in—

Geiriau—*gira*, 'words'.

## 51. i—idd, prep 'to'.

I'w (i) (ei) dâd—*idd i dâd*, 'to his father'.

## 52. i—ie.

Ifan—*Iefan*, also *Ifan*, 'Evan'.

Ieuanc—*iefangc*, also *ifangc*, 'young'.

## 53. io—o.

## (a) Verbs.

Peidio—*pîdo* or *pîto*, 'to refuse, cease'.

## (b) Adjectives.

Boliog—*bolog*, 'protuberant'.

## (c) Nouns.

Bywoliaeth—*bywoliath*, 'livelihood'.

Exception :—*digio*—*dicio*, 'to give offence'.

## 54. ldd—ddl.

Gilydd—*giddyl*, 'together'.

Cywilydd—*cwiddyl*, 'shame'.

## 55. ll—cl.

Llethrddu—*Cledrddu*, now the name of a cemetery in the Rhondda Valley.

## 56. ll—l.

'Fe gafwyd lonyddwch' (llonyddwch) [Iolo M.].

## 57. llall—nâll.

*Llall*, 'the other', is hardly ever used, but *nâll* for *naill*, 'the one', is used for *llall*.

Instead of saying *y naill neu y llall*, 'the one or the other', the expression is *nace* (for *nid*) *hwn* (*huma* or *hwnw*), *y nâll*, 'not this (or that one), the one' (for 'the other').

'Mae i'n och, un am y naill' (llall) [Dafydd Benwyn].

## 58. ll—th, final.

Arall—*arath*, 'other, another'.

Eraill or ereill—*erith*, 'others'

Cyllell—*cillath*, 'knife'.

## 59. llt—tll.

Cawselli (au)—*cawstelli*, 'cheese-vats'.

## 59 a. n—m final.

Morwyn—*morwm*, 'maid-servant'.

Morgan, Margan (old forms)—*Margam*.

? Glau Torfaen—*Llantarnam*.

## 60. ng—ngt.

Rhwng y ddau—*r(h) wngt* and *r(h) ingt y ddou*,  
'between the two'.

## 61. o.

'Is used in the dialect of Glamorgan to denote the instrument' (Prof. T. Powel). It is the *o* of *efo*, 'with'.

'Codi glo o'r rhaw (â'r rhaw)', 'throwing up coal with a shovel'.

## 62. o, prep. 'of', dropped.

'*Cymaint son*' ("Cndrawd") for *cymaint o son*.  
so much talk about'.

63. o initial dropped.

Offeiriad—*ffirad*, 'a priest'.

Offeiriaid—*ffiraton* (from another plural form *offeiriadon*), 'priests'.

64. o—a.

(a) Initial. Ofnadwy—*afnatw*, 'fearful'.

(b) Final. Briwio—*Briwa*, 'to crumble, to wound'.

65. o—w final.

Cadog or Catog—*Catwg*.

66. oe—i.

Boed (bydded)—*bid*, 'let it be'.

67. oe—ô.

Oes—*ôs*, 'age, there is'.

68. oe—oi.

Coesau—*coisa*, 'legs'.

When a Gwentian native reads Welsh in public, he is very apt to say *ois* for *oes*.

69. *oe—w* final.

Eisoës—*isws*, 'already'.

"*Isws a chynt*", 'already and before', is a common expression.

70. *o'i—oddi*, prep. 'from his'.

*O'i gartref—odd i gartra*, 'from his home

71. *ow—ŵ*.

Dowlais—*Dŵlish*.

Howel—*Hŵal*.

72. *par—pyr* initial.

*Parotol—pyrtol*, 'to prepare'.

73. *pr, br—pyr* initial.

*Prynu—pyrnu*, 'to buy'.

*Pregethu—pyrgethu*, 'to preach'.

74. *s—sh*.

*S* before *i* becomes *sh*, the *i* becoming more or less indistinct.

- (a) Initial. Siaradwr—*sharator*, 'a speaker'.  
 Prisio—*prisho*, 'to value, to prize,  
 also to heed'.  
 Eisieu—*isha*, 'to want'.
- (b) Medial. Isaf—*isha*, 'lowest'.
- (c) Final. Mis—*mish*, 'month'.

## 75. sg—shc.

- (a) Medial. Gwisgo—*gwishco*, 'to dress'.  
 Disgwyl—*dishcwl*, 'to look at,' but  
 not in the sense of 'to expect',  
 which is *erfyn* in Gwentian, a word  
 which, in common Welsh, means  
 'to pray or beg'.
- (b) Final. Y Pasg—*Y Pashc*, 'Easter'.  
 Y Wasg—*Y Washc*, 'the Press'.

## 76. t, followed by u becomes tsh, initial.

Tia thref—*tsha thre*, 'homewards'.

## 77. t, final, dropped in verb endings.

Ydynt—*otyn*, 'they are'.

## 78. tb—pd.

Ateb—*apad*, 'to answer'. (N. Pemb. *aped*).

## 79. thg—cd.

Benthyg, menthyg—*bengcyd*, *mengcyd*, also *mentyc*, 'a loan'.

## 80. tl—cl.

Tlawd—*clawd*, 'poor'.

81. u—i, long as in *Eng. deep*, and short as in *thin*.

The Venedotian *u* can only be acquired by a Gwentian with hard practice.

## 82. w initial dropped.

(a) Between *g* and *n*.

Gwneuthur—*gnithur*, 'to do or make'.

(b) Between *g* and *l*.

Gwlad—*glâd*, 'country'.

Gwlan—*glân*, 'wool'.

(c) Between *g* and *r*.

Gwrandu—*grondo*, 'to listen'.

Gwraig—*graig*, 'wife'. *Merch ne'raig*.

## 83. w—o final.

Yn enw dyn —*nenodyn*! 'in the name of man'.



## 84. wy.

This vocable is fully pronounced only in words of one syllable like *Gwy*, 'Wye', *mwy*, 'more'. It is true we have such spellings as *Ebwy* and *Ogwy*, but the one is always pronounced *Ebbw*, and the other *Ogwr*. The word *wy*, 'an egg', is *wî*, like the English *wee*, and the French *oui*. *Gwyr*, 'men', is pronounced like *gwir*, 'true, truth'.

## 85. (a) wy—â.

*Awyr—âr*, 'air'.

(b) wy—ă, final.

*Mynwy—Mynwa*, 'Monmouth'.

## 86. wy—o final.

*Magor*, Mon., is supposed to be the Welsh *magwyr*, 'an enclosure, or wall'.

In ancient charters of the district, the final *w* in *—wg*, as in *Morgannwg*, is *ok*, *Morgannok*. But no instance of this peculiarity, in present Gwentian speech, is known to the writer.

## 87. wy—w.

(a) Initial. Gwybod—*gwopod*, 'to know'.

Wydddest ti?—*gwdddot ti?* 'knowest thou?'

Hwynthwy—*Hwntw(?)*, 'they themselves'.

(b) Final. Eglwys—*eclws*, 'church'.

Wyr—*wrs*, a plural form as in *gweithwyr*—*gwithwrs*, 'workmen'.

The verb ending—*wys*, of old Gwentian literature, is now—*ws*, viz: *ennillwys*=*enuillws*, 'he, she, it earned or gained'.

## 88. wy—wi.

Wy—*wî*, 'an egg'.

## 89. y.

This letter is used throughout Wales for both *i* and a sound akin to *u* in Eng. *puff*. The latter sound is, like *h*, uncertain in Gwentian. Like the aspirate, it is heard where least expected, as when a syllable that rhymes with Eng. *her* is formed by separating initial *cr*, *gr*, *pr*, *br*, as illustrated already (Nos. 21, 72, 73).

90. *y* initial dropped.

Y fi—*fi*, 'I'.

Dyna i chwi!—*ndchi*! 'there you'.

Wedi hyny—*wetyn, wetni*, 'after that'.

It should be noted that while Welshmen generally use *y* before initial double consonants beginning with *s*, as in *ysgol*, 'school', as the French use *e* in the same connection, e.g. *école*, 'school'; Gwentians, by pushing the accent on from the initial syllable, and shortening words, dispense with that aid, as in,—

Ysgwyd—*scwto*, 'to shake'.

Ysgolhaig—*sclraig*, 'scholar'.

Ysgolheigion—*scligon*, 'scholars'.

In the following instances, a compromise has been effected, and the first of two initial *y*'s is allowed.

Y dyn yna—*y dyn'na*, 'that man'.

Y lle yna—*y lle'na*, 'that place'.

91. *y*—*a* initial.

Ymrafaelion—*amrafaelion* (Iolo M.).

92. *y*—*i* initial.

Llythyr—*llithyr*, 'letter'.

Gyda—*gita*, 'with'.

## 93. y—o.

(a) Initial. Mynwes—*monwes*, 'bosom'.

'Mae monwes gynnes genym' (Islwyn)

Mynwent—*monwent* (Glanffrwd),  
'graveyard'.

These, however, are literary instances. Commonly, one hears *mynwant* and *mynwas*, though *monachlog* for *mynachlog*, 'monastery', is both literary and colloquial.

Ydwyf—*otw*, 'I am'.

(b) Medial. Manylaf—*manola*, 'most exact'.

'Manola un, mwyn ail oedd' (Dafydd Benwyn).

## 94. y—w initial.

Ymladd—*wmladd*, 'to fight'.

Cymraeg—*Cwmrâg*, 'Welsh'.

Dygid (dwyn)—*dwcid*, 'to take away, to steal'.

## 95. yr—ydd.

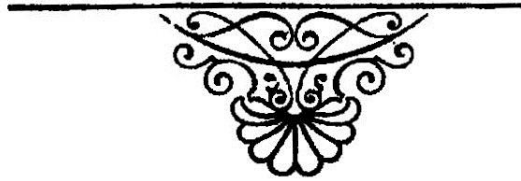
'Ydd ennillwys genedl y Cymry eu braint a'u coron' (Iolo M.).

## 96. yw—i final,

Ydyw—*oti*, 'he, she, or it is'.

**97. yw—w.**

- (a) Initial. Cywilydd—*cwiddyl*, 'shame'.
- (b) Medial. Tragwydd—*tragwydd*, 'everlasting'.
- (c) Final. Benyw, menyw—*menw*, 'woman'.



## APPENDIX.

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### DÂR (No. 3).

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The intermediate form *daer* for *daear* is given in a quotation from an ancient MS., in *Ysten Sioned*, p. 80, where it is said of the lion—"A phan fo yn marw, cnoi y ddaer a wna, a gollwng dagrau o'i lygaid." The MS., quoted shows several Gwentian peculiarities. "Glanffrwd" explains the place-name *Darwyno*, near the church of Llanwonno, as *Daear Wyno*, "Gwynno's Land" (*Plwyf Llanwyno*, p. 6). The place-names *Aberdâr* and *Cwm Dâr* are frequently written *Aberdaer* and *Cwm-daer* in documents of the 17th century, and the name of the place called *Rhiwddar*, near Taff's Well, appeared the other day, in a list of the appointments of the Ystrad Hounds, as *Rhiwddlaer*. The place called *Blaen Dar*, near Pontypool, is written on a map *Blaen-daer*.

Compare:—

"Gnawd nyth Eryr yn mlaen dâr". *Blaen*, in Gwent and Morgannwg, is used for "upland". *Bro a Blaena*, "the Vale and the Uplands"; *Blaenau Gwent*, "the Uplands of Gwent". Dafydd Benwyn, a Glamorgan bard, uses the expression—*sy' mlaen gwlad*, "which is at the head or in the upland of a district".

therefore, be translated—"It is usual for the Eagle to build her nest at the very head of the land, the highest crag in the highest part of a district."

In *Celtic Folklore*, p. 259, there is a Llanfabon folk tale contributed by Mr. Craigfryn Hughes, in which occurs the expression—*mesen cyn derwen, a derwen, mewn dâr*. Mr. Hughes also says that *dâr* survives in the district for *claeor*, "lukewarm". See further, a note by Prof. Rhys on these Gwentian survivals, *Celtic Folk*, p. 691.

But "several literary natives of Glamorgan" have assured Prof. Rhys that they do not know *dâr* for *claeor*, but, Prof. Rhys says, "such negative evidence, though proving the literary form *claeor* to prevail now, is not to be opposed to the positive statement, sent by Mr. Hughes (p. 173) to me, as to the persistence in his neighbourhood of *dâr*," etc. As to *dâr* for *derwen*, "oak," my references are confusing. In a poem (*Myv. Arch.*, p. 98), the three expressions *blaen derw*, "top of the oaks", *blaen dâr*, and *dail deri*, "leaves of oaks", are used. Again, *Brân a gant chwedyl o vrig dâr Man ai clywai yr holl adar*. (*Ibid*, p. 810). (The crow sang a tale on the top of the oak-tree, where all the birds could hear it). Again, *gorwlychyd kafod kan dar* (*Rep. on Welsh MSS.*, II. 106), which, I suppose, may be translated—"a shower wets a hundred oaks".

To conclude, *dâr* for *claeor* is a Gwentian survival. I have no evidence that *dâr* for *derwen* is used anywhere now.

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