

CYNAN ap HYWEL (died 1242?), prince

Name: Cynan ap Hywel
Date of death: 1242?
Parent: Hywel ap Rhys
Gender: Male
Occupation: prince
Area of activity: Military; Politics, Government and Political Movements; Royalty and Society
Author: John Edward Lloyd

was the son of Hywel Sais (died 1204), who was established by his father, the **Lord Rhys** (1132 - 1197), at St Clears, and who usually acted with **Maelgwn ap Rhys** in the family quarrels. Cynan is first heard of in **Maelgwn**'s train, when, in 1210, his cousins, Rhys and **Owain**, captured him in their attack upon their uncle's camp at Cilcennin. His next appearance is in 1223, when, still in opposition to **Llywelyn** of North Wales, he is the ally of **William Marshall** in the earl's great invasion of the South, and in that capacity harries Is Aeron, which is placed in his keeping. His permanent reward was the bestowal upon him of Emlyn and Ystliwyf (between the Cynin and the Cowin) in return for his support. On 18 November it was announced by the king that Cynan had done homage for his rightful patrimony and was not to be molested. He was holding lands in South Wales in June 1225, when **Llywelyn** and the **earl Marshall** were commissioned to make a fair division between **Maelgwn**, **Owain**, and Cynan, and in March, 1238, when he was named as one of the vassals of English magnates who were forbidden to do homage to **David** as **Llywelyn**'s heir. According to inquests of 1288 and 1299, **Walter Marshall** found him, on **Llywelyn**'s death in 1240, hostile to the Crown, and accordingly deprived him of Emlyn and Ystliwyf. His later history is unknown, but it is clear from the elegy of **Dafydd Benfras** upon **Gruffydd ap Llywelyn** that in 1244 he was dead. **Prydydd Bychan** has an elegy upon him couched in the traditional vein; he is 'England's foe,' has made England bend, and on a hundred nights has made war upon Rhos.

Author

Sir John Edward Lloyd, (1861 - 1947)

Sources

J. E. Lloyd, *A History of Wales from the Earliest Times to the Edwardian Conquest*(London 1911), 633-4, 662, 666, 710

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