

MEYRICK family, Bodorgan, Anglesey.

This family is descended from Cadafael, lord of Cedewain in Powys, but it was in the Tudor period that it first came into prominence. LLEWELYN AP HEILYN fought under **Henry Tudor** at the battle of Bosworth; his son MEURIG AP LLEWELYN served under Henry VIII, was promoted to be captain of the bodyguard, and was given the Crown Lease of the manor of Aberffraw. Meurig was succeeded at Bodorgan by five of the same name - Richard Meyrick; but it can hardly be said that any one of the five left much of a mark on the history of the county. There was trouble for years between RICHARD MEYRICK II (died 1596) and **Hugh Owen** of Bodeon concerning part of the Aberffraw manor lands; the Bodorgan estate was crushed by the cost of the litigation and by 1590 a substantial portion had been sold to discharge Meyrick's debts. RICHARD MEYRICK III (died 1644) was the first of the family to be appointed sheriff of Anglesey, and that not until 1614. Indeed, the Meyricks had very little lustre until the estate passed into the hands of OWEN MEYRICK I (1682 - 1760), second son of WILLIAM MEYRICK (1644 - 1717), and grandson of RICHARD MEYRICK IV (died 1669). He set the estate on a strong foundation, looked after it ceaselessly and carefully, and considerably enlarged its boundaries. In the Anglesey election in 1708, Owen opposed **lord Bulkeley** and, although unsuccessful on this occasion, effectively challenged the **Bulkeley** supremacy in the island. In 1715 he was actually elected to Parliament and held the seat until 1722. He was also sheriff, 1705-6, and Custos Rotulorum from 1715 until his death in 1759. It is worth noting here that it was he who engaged **Lewis Morris** to measure the Bodorgan estate.

Owen Meyrick was succeeded by his son, OWEN MEYRICK II (1705 - 1770), who married a wealthy heiress, the daughter of John Putland of London; and by his grand-son, OWEN PUTLAND MEYRICK (1752 - 1825), who was equally fortunate in his marriage - to Clara, daughter and heiress of Richard Garth of Morden, Surrey. The estate acquired additional wealth through the marriage of the latter's daughter and co-heiress, Clara, to AUGUSTUS ELIOTT FULLER of Ashdowne House, Sussex. Their son, OWEN AUGUSTUS FULLER (1804 - 1876) adopted the name of Meyrick when he inherited the Bodorgan estate on the death of his grand-father.

In the course of time three other branches of the Meyricks were established: at **Gwyddelwern**, **Meironnydd** (see **Meyrick, Edmund**), at Cefn Coch, Llanfechell, and at **Monckton**, Pembrokeshire. The strongest of these was the last (see next article) of which the founder was ROWLAND MEYRICK (1505 - 1566), second son of Meurig ap Llewelyn and brother of Richard Meyrick I. He was educated at S. Edward's Hall, Oxford, where he graduated B.C.L. in 1531 and D.C.L. in 1538. He was principal of New Inn Hall, 1534-6. In 1550 he became canon and chancellor of S. Davids and while there played a leading part in the fierce dispute between the chapter and the bishop, **Robert Ferrar**, concerning the income of the cathedral. When Mary Tudor came to the throne he was turned out of his canonry at S. Davids but, before long, the wheel of fortune turned once more and he was appointed bishop of Bangor in succession to **William Glynn**, 21 December 1559. He married, 1554, Catherine, daughter of Owen Barrett of Gelliswic and Hasguard, Pembrokeshire, and died 24 January 1565/6, leaving four sons. Two of these, **Sir Gelly Meyrick** and **Sir John Meyrick**, are dealt with in the next article.

Author

Emyr Gwynne Jones, (1911 - 1972)

Sources

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Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Meyrick family](#)

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