

## OWEN, LEWIS ('Baron Owen'; died 1555), judge

**Name:** Lewis Owen  
**Date of death:** 1555  
**Child:** John Lewis Owen  
**Child:** Hugh Lewis Owen  
**Child:** Griffith Owen  
**Child:** Edward Owen  
**Child:** Robert Owen  
**Parent:** Owen ap Hywel ap Llywelyn  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** judge  
**Area of activity:** Law; Public and Social Service, Civil Administration  
**Author:** Robert Thomas Jenkins

Son of Owen ap Hywel ap Llywelyn, of Llwyn, Dolgelley. Under Henry VIII he was appointed deputy-chamberlain of North Wales and baron (i.e. judge) of the exchequer at Caernarvon; he was sheriff of Merioneth in 1545-6 and 1554-5, and Member of Parliament for the shire in 1547, 1553, and 1554; he lived at Cwrt Plas-yn-dre, Dolgelley. As sheriff, he undertook to extirpate the 'Red Bandits of Mawddwy,' and in revenge was killed, 12 October 1555, on the spot still known as 'Llidiart-y-barwn,' near Mallwyd, Meirionnydd.

Owen was twice married, and from his first marriage issued an unusually large number of the later gentle families of Merionethshire who appear in the present work; see [J. E. Griffith](#), *Pedigrees*, 363. From the eldest son, JOHN OWEN of Llwyn, came the Bronclydwr family (see [Hugh Owen](#), 1639 - 1700). The second son, HUGH LEWIS OWEN of Cae'rberllan, Dolgelley, a lawyer, would appear to have been the ancestor of the Tan-y-gadair family (see [Henry Owen](#), 1716 - 1795), but the pedigrees are inconclusive on this point. The third son, EDWARD OWEN of Hengwrt ([Griffith](#), op. cit. 201), was the grandfather of the antiquary [Robert Vaughan](#) and the ancestor of the later [Hengwrt](#) and [Nannau families](#). The fourth son, GRIFFITH OWEN, of Tal-y-bont, Llanegryn, married the heiress of [Peniarth](#) ([Griffith](#), op. cit., 323); some hold that his eldest son, Lewis, was identical with the [Lewis Owen](#) who is the subject of the next article - if so (but the evidence is shaky), the 'spy' would be the grand-father of the famous Dissenter [Hugh Owen](#) of Bronclydwr, for Susan, daughter of Lewis Owen of Tal-y-bont, was [Hugh Owen's](#) mother; it will be noticed that the Bronclydwr and Tal-y-bont families, each descended from 'baron' Owen, had intermarried. Another of [Griffith Owen's](#) sons was Henry, father of the Independent divine [John Owen](#) (1616 - 1683). The fifth of 'baron' Owen's sons was ROBERT OWEN of Dolserau (Dolgelley) - see [Griffith](#), op. cit., 363 - grandfather of the Quaker [Robert Owen](#) (died 1685), and great-grandfather of the Quaker [Griffith Owen](#).

### Author

**Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins**, (1881 - 1969)

### Sources

*History of the Princes, the Lords Marcher, and the Ancient Nobility of Powys Fadog*, vi, 409-10, 464

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families* (1914)

### Further Reading

Mair Bradwen, *The history of Baron Owen: with a genealogy of his ancestors and descendants*(Pontypridd 1896)

Wikipedia Article: [Lewis Owen](#)

### Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q6537243](#)

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