

# WELSH GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY

## Jacob Chaloner's MS 1973

### fo. 17v 'Beamond of Bachelldre'

An earlier article in the NLW Journal <sup>1,12</sup> addressed Welsh-Border Surnames from 'ab Edmond', and made reference to the family arms 'Beamond of Clun'. This 'ab Edmond' family lived at Bachelldre in Churchstoke parish; their coat of arms was depicted by Jacob Chaloner <sup>2,3</sup>. The coat is shown in [Illustration 1](#). In the present day, Dr. Michael Siddons <sup>4</sup> has given a blazon of the coat of arms, and the family's pedigree has been delineated by Dr. Peter Bartrum in his *Welsh Genealogies* <sup>5</sup>.

In his 4-volume series *The Development of Welsh Heraldry* <sup>4</sup> Dr. Siddons raises a query against the 'penultimate' quartering of the coat. That quartering is shown in [Illustration 2](#) (for clarity extracted from Illustration 1) and, in a recent communication <sup>6</sup>, Dr. Siddons writes 'there is no doubt that the coat [in Illustration 2] is a mixture of a bird in her piety and a bird preying on another'. In the face of this confusion, how should the coat be identified?

We note that, apart from the last quartering, the quarterings in Illustration 1 reflect lines of descent. Turning to Dr. Bartrum's genealogy [Elystan Glodrydd 28](#) <sup>5</sup>, which relates to the Bachelldre 'ab Edmond' family, we learn that Cadwgon, great grandfather of Edmond of Bachelldre, was married to Gwenllian, daughter of Gruffudd Ffordun. And Gruffudd's ancestral line, a subject of Dr. Bartrum's [William of Elbeth 4](#) <sup>7</sup>, shows Gruffudd's descent from Sir Robert ap Madog of Brompton.

This line of provenance may be matched with a note in Chaloner's MS <sup>2</sup> saying that Gwenllian was daughter and sole heir to Gruffudd Ffordun, who in turn was descended from Sir Robt. ap Madock. Further, Chaloner refers out, from Gwenllian in fo. 17v, to fo. 92 <sup>8</sup>. There we find a line of descent from 'Owen of Machelltre in the parish of Churchstoke' – Gwenllian's family – reaching back to Robert ap Madock, Knight. And this progenitor corresponds with Sir Robert ap Madog of Dr. Bartrum's William of Elbeth 1 <sup>9</sup>.

Although Dr. Bartrum does not annotate his pedigrees with arms, Chaloner depicts – in fo. 76 – a coat of arms at the head of the Robert ap Madock line. These are shown in [Illustration 3](#). In his *The Development of Welsh Heraldry* <sup>4</sup>, Dr. Siddons blazons the arms of both Sir Robert ap Madog and those of his descendant Dafydd ap Cadwaladr, great grandfather of Gwenllian.

We can see at once the correspondence between Chaloner's sketch at [Illustration 3](#) and Dr. Siddons's description of Dafydd ap Cadwaladr's arms, namely 'Gules a hawk Or, wings raised, preying on a small bird Argent, in a bordure indented Or'. And, unlike [Illustration 2](#), we see no indication here of 'a pelican in her piety'. Dr. Siddons observes <sup>6</sup> that the coat in [Illustration 3](#) must be the original.

It is evident, therefore, that Chaloner has made an error in his Harl. MS 1973 fo. 17v, in his representation of the coat in question, when he portrays a bird 'in its piety'. (Chaloner is also selective in his construction of the coat at [Illustration 1](#). We note that, in MS 1973 fo.17v, Chaloner shows a coat of arms stemming from Philip Dorddu's wife Margaret, but chooses not to include it as a quartering in the "Beaumont of Clunn" arms.)

Further to Chaloner's error in the depiction of the bird of prey, Dr. Peter Bartrum has observed that there are errors in the Chaloner MS 1973 fo. 17v pedigree. For example, Dr. Bartrum shows Gwenllian as wife of Cadwgon, great grandfather of Edmond of Bachelldre, whereas Chaloner has Gwenllian married to Cadwgon's father, Gruffud Ddun. Again, Chaloner gives Edmond ap Cadwaladr of Bachelldre the surname Beamond, which clearly he did not have <sup>10</sup>. (By way of comparison, in Cardiff MS 2.36 <sup>11</sup>, Lewys Dwnn is entirely clear on the development of the non-patronymic family surname from the patronymic form.)

This brief paper illustrates that, with the benefit of a range of sources and through the application of modern scholarship, and using Chaloner's cross-reference between family pedigrees, an error has been identified and corrected in Chaloner's genealogical and heraldic work of the early 17th century.

*Lymington*

Roger Beamond

### *Acknowledgement*

The writer is pleased to acknowledge the ready comment offered by Dr. Siddons <sup>13</sup> on the findings recorded in this paper. At the same time, any inaccuracies of detail and presentation are solely the responsibility of the author.

1 R H Beamond, 'Welsh-Border Surnames from 'ab Edmond'' *The National Library of Wales Journal* 26, Number 4, (Winter 1990), pp. 345-352.

2 Jacob Chaloner, Beamond of Clun. *Pedigrees of Montgomeryshire Collected by R. Holme*. London,

- British Library, Harleian MS 1973 f.17v.
- 3 P C Bartrum, Further Notes on the Welsh Genealogical Manuscripts, *Transactions of the Honourable Society of the Cymmrodorion*, London, 1976, see pp 115-116.
  - 4 Dr. Michael Siddons, *The Development of Welsh Heraldry*, (Aberystwyth 1993), 2, 'A Welsh Armorial' p.23, BEAMOND.
  - 5 Dr. Peter Bartrum, *Welsh Genealogies AD 300-1400* , (Cardiff 1974), 2, p.381.
  - 6 e-mail from Dr. Siddons, 4th May 2011.
  - 7 *Welsh Genealogies*, p. 932.
  - 8 fo. 17v and fo. 92 are the revised folio numbers; Chaloner's numbering was 6v and 76 respectively.
  - 9 *Welsh Genealogies*, p. 929.
  - 10 Note from Dr. Bartrum, accompanying his unpublished transcription of Harl. MS 1973 fo.17v/18, 31st May 1986.
  - 11 Lewys Dwnn, Cardiff MS 2.36, p. 327.
  - 12 Typographical errors in the article at Reference 1 above are noted as follows:
    - (i) On p.347 of the published article, printed line 29, for 'Beamond' read 'Beamand'.
    - (ii) (ii) On p.348 'Ref. 5', for (1928) read (1923).
    - (iii) On p.350 in the first line of 'Ref. 18', for 'f.17v1-8' read 'f.17v-18'.
  - 13 Dr. Siddons, author of *The Development of Welsh Heraldry*, was Wales Herald Extraordinary from 1994 to 2010.



### Illustration 1

Arms of 'Beamond of Clun' from Harl. MS 1973 fo 17v

*attributed to Jacob Chaloner*

© British Library Board, Harley 1973 fo 17v.

Scale: Actual height of Shield Outline, excluding Crest, 58.5 mm.



## Illustration 2

**Quartering: Coat of Arms from Illustration 1**

© British Library Board, Harl. MS 1973 fo 17v.



## Illustration 3

**Arms from Harl. MS 1973 fo 92**

© British Library Board, Harley 1973 fo 92.

Scale: Actual height of Shield Outline 22 mm.