

MYSTERIOUS AFAN CUDD

MEDIEVAL MARRIAGE: THREE STORIES FROM BRO AFAN

by Sally Roberts Jones

Story 1.

One of the Turbervilles marched up to Coity Castle, to attack it and was met by the Welsh lord of the castle who had a sword in one hand and his daughter in the other,

‘You have a choice,’ he said, ‘Marry my daughter or fight me.’

The knight chose to marry the daughter and inherit the castle.

There is a documented Turberville/Afan marriage between Gilbert Turberville and Matilda ferch Morgan Gam.

Story 2.

There is the story about a Norman knight who wanted the daughter of a local Welsh lord, not necessarily for marriage, and when he was refused, he attacked Pen y Castell, where she lived. He killed her father and his men.

Gwenllian, the daughter, drowned herself in the River Afan, where there is still a pool called Pwll Gwenllian. She is said to haunt the castle.

Story 3.

King John’s father betrothed him to Hawise, the daughter of the Lord of Glamorgan, William of Gloucester, when the two were only children. In due course they married.

The match lasted for ten years. But when John became King he had the marriage annulled. They had no children, and it is generally said that the marriage was of convenience only. Both of them remarried later.