

Yscitheor

Family Name Information

Yscitheor Family

of Powys

Yscitheor, an old Welsh/Gaelic name which the Lords of Powys used in early history, 800/1100's, later became De La Pole ("of the Poole"). They lived at a castle in the Kingdom of Powys. Powys was located in central Wales and extended into several counties in Southwestern England. Today the castle in Montgomeryshire, Wales, is called Powis. When it was first built in the 800's it was called Welshpoole because it was located at the edge of a lake, thus the name "poole" (the Welsh castle by the poole).

This was a very powerful family that held many titles in the English kingdom. The King of Powys surrendered his kingdom to the Normans and the Norman King gave him the Lordship of their former kingdom to rule as a principality, thus the Kings of Powys became the Princes of Powys and "held" it in Lordship for the King of England. Brockwell Yscitheor was one such "Prince of Powys". His coat-of-arms is three silver wolf heads on a black shield. This coat-of-arms was made part of the Prater coat-of-arms which indicates that Brockwell's descendant was married to our grandfather. We do not know the name of his descendant, but we know that by the laws of heraldry in England that there is no doubt that she was our grandmother and lived in the early 10 or 1100's. Her sister was married to a De la mere who was a baron and powerful Lord from which Sir John De La Mere descended. Sir John De La Mere built Nunney Castle in 1373. Our grandfather, George Prater of Latton Manor, died there in 1564. His son Richard Prater owned and lived in Nunney Castle, Nunney, Somerset. Richard Prater's tomb and statue effigy are in the church there.

Brockwell Yscitheor was named after one of his ancestors who was also a Prince of Powys. He was called Brockfiel (Brockwell) Yscythrog and he died in 662 A.D. His name Yscythrog is old Welsh Gaelic and means "of the Tusk" because he wore a helmet with horns. Horns were called tusk in those days. He is best recorded in history for his acts against the church in Rome and in favor of the Christian Church of Wales, and his attempts to save St. David's Cathedral which is located on the tip of Southwest Wales. The old monastery stands today with tombs that date back to the 10th century. The Catholic Church of Rome sent a Cardinal with his large number of attendants, monks, and soldiers of the Pope to England to investigate the rumor of a great Christian church of Wales and to bring it under the control of the Roman Catholic Church of Rome. The church in Wales was also a variation of the Catholic Church, but refused to subjugate themselves to the laws and practices of the Roman church. The Roman Cardinal, angry, left and traveled with his group to North Wales where he asked for support from the King of North Wales. The King was more than willing to help him because he had been feuding with the Kings of the Southern Welsh territories and Brockfiel in particular. This King took his army to Southern Wales to subjugate the church of St. David. Brockfiel heard of their coming and met them with his army. Also joining him were 100 monks from St. David's who stayed in the rear to pray for success. Brockfiel was outnumbered 10 to one. The King of North Wales attacked

Brockfeil and killed all except Brockfeil and 100 of his men. The Kings army even killed the 100 monks as they nelt in prayer. The King then went to St. Davids and burned the monastery.

What is so tragic about this is the fact that hundreds of years of records about the nobility and history of Wales were in the library. Upon hearing what happened, the other Kings of South Wales came to the aid of Brockfeil and defeated the King of North Wales, but it was too late to save the old monastery of St. Davids.

As a result of Brockfeil's efforts he became known as the "Savior of Wales and Chosen of God". These events happened in 583 A.D. when Brockfeil was a very young man. He died in 662 A.D. Brockwell Yscitheor, Prince of Powys living in 1085, was descended from the brother of Brockfeil Yscythrog.

The spelling of Yscitheor was a more modern Welsh Gaelic variation of the spelling Yscythrog (Ho is ther rog).

St. Davids was rebuilt and stands today and is a beautiful old monastery with many old tombs. Some of it is still in ruins but the main church is still in use. It sits on the Southern costal tip of South Wales in the village of St. Davids.

The daughters of Brockwell were our grandmothers. One daughter married Guilliumus Prater and the other married Hugh Delamare. A descendant of Hugh Delamare (Delamere) was Sir John Delamare of Nunney Castle. His daughter married William Prater and thus both Yscitheor daughters are in the Prater line.

Richard Prater was an older brother to our grandfather Anthony Prater. Anthony was made a trustee of the estates and Castle at Nunney until Richard's son was old enough to claim his right to inherit the estates (6 years later). This son was George Prater whose tomb is also located in the church at Nunney, Somerset. It was this George's son that lost the castle to Cromwell's forces during the Civil War of 1645 in England.

Researched by Gary Benton Prather