

Taken from :- **History and Genealogy of a Branch of the Weaver Family; by Lucius Weaver 1928**

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41 THOMAS WEAVER (son of No 40) Married Margaret Cowper

Children: Thomas Weaver  
Richard Weaver  
Samuel Weaver

40 WILLIAM WEAVER (son of No 39) Married Ann Roberts

Children: Thomas Weaver  
Anna Weaver  
Alicia Weaver

39. GRIFFITH WEAVER (son of No. 38). He married Ellen, daughter of John Sadler, who was of an ancient Shropshire family and who then lived in Presteign.

Children: John William

38. JENKIN WEAVER (son of No. 37). He married Marguerite, daughter of Robert Nanton.

Children: John Weaver  
Griffith Weaver  
Hugh Weaver  
Ellen Weaver

His first son, John, had a grandson, John Weaver, who was High Sheriff of Radnorshire in 1588. The third son, Hugh, had a grandson, Robert Weaver, who was a Member of Parliament 1620 to 1640. The History of Radnorshire states that they were "kinsmen" which is true, as they were second cousins. Dwnn's Visitation of Wales makes John, the grandfather of the Sheriff, the son of No.33 and also sheriff in 1588. This would be impossible. The compiler has carelessly omitted five generations — 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38. If these were inserted, the record in the Visitation of Wales would be correct and the dates would harmonize. The Sheriff and the Member of Parliament would not be termed "kinsmen" in the History of Radnorshire if they were separated by five generations and about one hundred and fifty years.

37. JOHN WEAVER (son of No. 36). He married Jane, daughter of James Apleby. Jenkin,

Children: Griff Weaver  
Walter Weaver  
Henry Weaver

36. THOMAS WEAVER (son of No. 35). He married Anne, daughter of Delabere.

35. WALTER WEAVER (son of No. 34). He married Maud, daughter of John Burghill

34. THOMAS WEAVER (son of No. 33). He married Margaret, daughter of Sir William Wysham, Knt.

33. WALTER WEAVER (son of No. 32). He married Joane Bohun, daughter and heyer of Gilbert Bohun and Marguerite (Wastneys) Bohun of Sallup (Shropshire).

Children: Walter Weaver  
Thomas Weaver

32. WALTER WEAVER (son of No. 31). The pedigree of the branch of the Herefordshire Weavers from which we are descended begins with his name without any particulars. The reason for the omission of other items is discussed in Chapter Three. His descendants changed the name to Weaver, thus emphasizing their separation from the main Welsh line which continued to use the original form—Wever. Some have thought that he married a Welsh woman and his descendants did not care to advertise the fact.

31. HUMPHREY VEVER (son of No. 30). He was the first in our line to have a surname and to bear the Wever name. He married Joyce verch Jenkin ap Llewelyn ap Einion. His first name may have come from the Bohuns, a celebrated family of Norman lords, who flourished at that time and who had at least five generations in succession named Humphrey.

30. IEUAN (son of No. 29). In 1277, when he was about twenty five, the Welsh were at war with the English and it was not until 1283 that Wales was finally subdued. It is probable that Ieuan took an active part in these wars. For thirty generations his ancestors had only a single Welsh name. The Welsh people had no surnames until much later; and yet he named his son Humphrey Wever. There is no such word or name as Wever in the Welsh language, and in English it is used only as the family name of the Wevers of Cheshire, many of whom settled in Shropshire where Ieuan lived. Humphrey's son Walter, and perhaps Humphrey himself, used the coat-of-arms and also the motto of the Wevers of Cheshire, as stated in Chapter Three. These considerations make it quite certain that Ieuan married a daughter of one of the Cheshire Wevers who lived in Shropshire and that their son was named for her family.

29. MADOC (son of No. 28). Llewelyn, grandson of Llewelyn the Great became the acknowledged leader of the Welsh, and Madoc was, doubtless, engaged in the wars of his times. Being a direct descendant of the Welsh princes, it is probable that he held a position of authority and responsibility in the Welsh army.

28. HYWEL VYCHAN (son of No. 27). The reign of Llewelyn the Great continued until 1240 which gave Hywel Vychan ample opportunity for the display of his fighting ability. It is probable that he espoused the cause of the Welsh.

27. LLEWELYN (son of No. 26). He lived during the troublous times of Llewelyn the Great, and probably he was active on the side of the Welsh. Neither his name nor the names of his descendants appear in the histories which mention the names of only those Welsh chieftains who claimed the right to rule and who tried to enforce that right. There is no record that Llewelyn or his descendants made such claim though they were direct descendants of Cadwgan.

26. MREDYDD VYCHAN or Mredydd the Little (son of No.25).

Nothing is known of him and his descendants for several generations further than the pedigrees which were religiously kept by the Welsh people. Probably they lived comparatively quiet and uneventful lives, with much less of tragedy in them than had filled the lives of their ancestors for many generations. They continued to give Welsh names to their children, which suggests that, though partly Norman, they were still Welsh in spirit.

25. MREDYDD GOCH (son of No. 24). The English equivalent of Goch is Red.

"The ruin of the house of Bleddyn so far as any claim to sovereignty was now complete." {Rhys.}

This refers to the period about 1130. The Kingdom of Powys was in the possession of the Lords Marchers.

The descendants of the Welsh chieftains held comparatively small estates. The following extract from The Welsh People furnishes the only glimpse we have of the life of Mredydd Goch and his descendants for many generations. "Though reduced in power, they kept up, according to their means, the household state found in Howel's laws, haughtily cherished the memories of a departed greatness, and alternately, suddenly acquiesced in the new state of things and eagerly seized an opportunity for revenge against Norman, Saxon and Cymric neighbour alike." Let us hope that our ancestor Mredydd Goch took a more cheerful view of the situation.

24. GRUFFYDD (son of No. 23). Henry and Gruffydd were half Norman and half Welsh and it is probable that their parents named Henry for the Norman King Henry and Gruffydd for Gruffydd ap Cynan who was one of the allies of Cadwgan in his wars with the invaders. If such was the case, and it seems probable, they were born between the years 1100 and 1109; Henry perhaps 1102 and Gruffydd about 1104-6. With the death of Cadwgan (1111) "the kingdom or principality of Powys was practically at an end and the surviving members of the Welsh princely families of that reign had become vassals of the English king. The land was divided

between Norman and Welsh lords who came to be called Lords Marchers.” (Rhys). There is no record of the deeds of Gruffydd. He may have received lands in the division of Powys or he may have remained on the family estate in Shropshire.

23 CADWGAN (son of No. 22). He married a daughter of Robert of Sai, a Norman Baron (Lord of Clun) and his wife, Adeloia. Robert was variously called Robert de Sai, which was his correct name, Ficot de Saium and Picot de Say. His estate was situated in the valley of the Clun River in south-western Shropshire and it was very extensive, including nearly all of Rinlau Hundred and a large part of Rinteurde Hundred. Cadwgan had seven sons, but only the fifth, Henry, and the sixth, Gruffyd, were by his wife, the daughter of Lord Robert de Sai. Each of the others was by a different mother and probably illegitimate according to modern standards. After the death of Bleddyn his sons, Madog, Cadwgan and Rhiryd ruled over Powys. In 1098 they attacked Rhys ap Tewdwr, ruler of Deheubarth, and drove him into exile. He collected a fleet, returned and gave battle to them in which Madog and Rhiryd were slain. Cadwgan then became sole ruler of Powys. In 1094 he rallied the Welsh chieftains and attempted to throw off the Norman yoke. The Brut Tywysogion states that they “placed their hope in God, the creator of all things, by fasting and praying and giving alms and undergoing severe bodily penances.” He was very successful and by 1098 had recovered nearly all the territory that had belonged to the Cymri before the Conquest. In that year the tide turned. Cadwgan and his allies were defeated and he fled to Ireland. He returned in 1099, made peace with the Normans and received Ceredigion and a part of Powys. He is said to have been amiable, but he lacked the stronger elements of character which the situation required. On account of the misdeeds of his eldest son Owain he was called before King Henry, dispossessed of his lands and placed on a daily pension of twenty-four pence on condition that he should not set foot on his native soil. He soon came to terms with the king “and was allowed to settle in the border vill which he had received as the dowry of his Norman wife.” {Lloyd.} This was doubtless in the valley of the Clun in Shropshire where the lands of Lord Robert de Sai were located and near the Welsh border. King Henry restored to him the Kingdom of Powys in 1111, but his reign was brief, for in that year he was slain at Welshpool by his nephew, Madog ap Rhizyd. The “border vill’ or village, mentioned above, where Cadwgan settled, must have been located quite near if not entirely within the English limits of Offa’s Dike. This would be a very uncomfortable location for a Welsh family at that time. Perhaps his Norman wife saved the family from trouble.

He is called “Cadwgan of Nannau” in Dwnn’s Visitation of Wales. That place has not been located, but, probably it was the “border vill” or village in Shropshire which he received as dowry from his father-in-law. Lord Robert de Sai.

22. BLEDDYN (son of No. 21). During the later years of the reign of his half-brother, Gruffyd, the English had brought Wales into at least nominal subjection. Gruffyd was killed by the English August 5, 1063. Bleddyn and his brother Rhiwallon, having submitted to King Edward, were made rulers of Gwynedd and Powys. The Normans who came with William the Conqueror soon encroached upon the Welsh who resisted them and Rhiwallon was slain in battle in 1070. Bleddyn was then the sole ruler.

Angharad’s first husband having died in 1023 let us assume that she married Cynfyn in 1025 and that Bleddyn was born in 1027. These dates may not be correct, but they are not far astray. He made many beneficial changes in the laws of his kingdom. Prof. Lloyd, quoting from the Chronicles of the Princes, says of Bleddyn, “He was the mildest and most clement of kings and did injury to none, save when insulted, nor loved to avenge the insult when it came. To his kinsmen he was gentle; widows and orphans and the weak he defended; he was the support of the wise, the glory and corner-stone of the church, the delight of all lands, open handed to all, terrible in war, but in peace beloved.” The sons of his half-brother tried to regain the kingdom and he had many conflicts with the Mercians, but he lost no territory. He died in 1075 and “left five sons, Madog and Phiryd who were slain in 1088, Cadwgan and lowerth who both survived until 1111 and Maredudd, who died in 1132 and transmitted the rights of his family to many future generations.” {Stone}

21. CYNFYN and ANGHAIID (daughter of No. 20). Little is known of Cynfyn.

His fame, like that of many of us his descendants, was only the reflection of the fame of his distinguished wife. There is no evidence that he ever attempted to rule in the right of his wife as did her first husband. The sons of Cynfyn and Angharad were Bleddyn and Rhiwallon. The pedigree of Cynfyn which appears in Vol. 1, p. 63 of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, London, 1898, extends back through twenty-two generations to Beli Mawr and Anna (see No. 1 Cunedda) through their son Llud. Prof. Lloyd thinks that it is mythical. It is

certainly incomplete. It would require many more than twenty-two generations to cover the period of more than one thousand years. In the History of Radnorshire it is stated that Cynfyn was the son of Gwerstan and the grandson of Gwaethfoed Fawr.

20. MAREDUDD (son of No. 19). He became King of Deheubarth in 986 and directly proceeded to conquer Gwynedd. In 990 he raided and plundered Maes Hyfaidd (Radnorshire) which was then in the possession of the Mercians. In the same year the Saxons devastated his territory and in 993 it was wasted by the plague. Both the Danes and the Saxons caused him much trouble during his entire reign. His nephews also tried to regain Gwynedd, but he was successful over all his enemies. It is said that he obtained Powys through his mother which made him King of all Wales. In the Bruts he is acclaimed as the "most famous King of the Britons." {Lloyd}. He died in 998 or 999 leaving an only daughter and sole heiress, Angharad. She married Llewelyn ap Seisyll, who assumed the reins of government. They had one son, Gruffydd. Llewelyn died in 1023 and the kingdom was held by others until 1039 when the son, Gruffydd, succeeded to the throne. Angharad took unto herself a second husband, Cynfyn, and their record is given in No. 21.

19. OWAIN (son of No. 18). On the death of his father Gwynedd and Powys rebelled and were lost to the house of Hywel Dha in the battle of Nant Carno. His brothers having died Owain was now sole ruler of Deheubarth. As a military leader he does not appear to have made a brilliant record. The Danes made him much trouble. In 959 he demolished two colleges because they received Saxon students. He was proud of his ancestry and he compiled a record on his father's side extending back to Cunedda and on his mother's side to Vorteporix, King of Dyfed, who flourished between A.D. 500 and 600. These pedigrees may be found in Harleian MS. 3859. In the Annales Cambriae his pedigree is the first one given and it extends back to the beginning of the Christian era. The early generations may be legendary, but a very conservative authority. Sir John Rhys, writes of it as follows: "It is a genuinely old compilation, and however much we may doubt or rather be in a state of indifference as to the more remote stages, yet if we bear in mind the legal structure and general complexion of the community in which it was produced it would be an excessive display of the sceptical spirit to deny its accuracy for many generations." In 986, being old and feeble, he abdicated in favour of his son Maredudd. He died in 987 or 988.

18. HYWEL DHA (son of No. 17). He and his brother Clydog became rulers of Ceredigion and Ystrad Turgi which were united to form Seisyllwg. Clydog died in 920 and Hywel became sole ruler. He was called Hywel Dha (Howell the Good) on account of the mild and beneficent character of his reign. He married Elen, daughter of Llywarch ap Hyfaidd, King of Dyfed, and he took possession of Dyfed after the death of her father. He annexed Kydweli and Gwyr without the use of force. He expelled Iago and Ieuf from Gwynedd and seized the kingdom.

He acquired Powys later, which made him king of all Wales. During his entire reign of forty years or more he lived at peace with the Anglo-Saxons and he had very little trouble with the neighbouring petty kingdoms. His success in uniting the Welsh people under one government would entitle him to distinction, but his fame rests largely on the fact that he was the first great law-giver of the Welsh people. He called a few of the wise and learned men as counsellors and a code of just laws was formed which became the law of the land and the basis of all later Welsh jurisprudence. He made a pilgrimage to Rome, accompanied by a number of Welsh princes and church dignitaries. It is said that he went to Rome to submit his laws to the Pope for his approval. He died in 950 loved and revered by his subjects.

17. CADELL (son of No. 16). In the division of the dominion of his father he was given Deheubarth and a large part of South Wales. His brother Merfyn received Powys. He and his brothers made so much trouble for the neighbouring kingdoms that they were compelled to seek help from Alfred the Great. In 893 he was attacked by his brother Anarawd, King of Gwynedd, who invaded and plundered Seisyllwg. After the death of his brother Merfyn, Cadell drove out his nephews and appropriated Powys to himself. He died about 909 and his kingdom was divided between his sons, Hywel and Clydog.

In the Mostyn Manuscript No. 117 the pedigree of his distinguished descendant, Llewelyn ap Grulfyd, is traced back through Cadell to "Adam, Son of God." If the compiler did not draw on his imagination for parts of this pedigree he must have had access to records not now in existence.

16. RHODRI MAWR (son of No. 15). He succeeded his father as King of Gwynedd. He was called Rhodri Mawr (Rhodri the Great) on account of his skill in extending the boundaries of his kingdom and in uniting the Welsh people under one government. He became ruler of all Wales except a small part in the extreme south. He married Angharad, daughter of Meurig ap Dyfnwallon. His mother's brother, Cyngen, King of Powys, died in 855. He immediately took possession of Powys and no one seems to have disputed his right to rule. He acquired Seisyllwg on the death of its King Gwgon, brother of Rhodri's wife, who died in 872. He was somewhat successful in resisting the invasions of the Saxons and the Danes, but in 876 he sustained a crushing defeat and fled to Ireland. He returned in 877 and attempted to regain the kingdom, but he was killed by the Saxons in 878. After his death the kingdom does not seem to have been held by the Saxons as it was divided between three of Rhodri's sons, Anawrad, Cadell and Merfyn

15. MERFYN FRYCH (son of No. 14). Some authorities make Merfyn Frych the husband of No. 14, Ethelytt, instead of her son, but he appears as the son of Gwriad and No. 14, Ethelyth, in the earliest records. He married Nest, sister and heiress of Congen ap Cadell, King of Powys. Through his mother he became King of Gwynedd on the death of her uncle, Hywel in 825. Merfyn Frych was a descendant of "Llywarch Hen (Llywarch the Aged), poet and warrior, who is said to have lived in the sixth century and to have held his court on the mound, near Llanfor church, which bears his name." {Lloyd}. He is said to have come from the land of Manaw. The evidence indicates that he came from the Isle of Man and not from Manaw in Scotland. He was a man of unusual force and energy. "For nineteen years he maintained his power against all rivals and against the Danish irruptions, and on his death in 844 he was able to hand it on to his son Rhodri." {Lloyd}.

He was at war with the Saxons in 823 and in 830 and probably at other times. Burchard, King of Mercia, made war against Gwynedd and its king, Merfyn Frych, was slain in battle in 844.

In Jesus College MS. 20 { Y Cymmrodor Fill. 87) his pedigree on his father's side is traced back to Coel Hen, the father-in-law of No. 1 Cunedda, and through his father's grandmother, Celenion, it is traced to Maxen Wledic (Prince Maximus), who was a Roman official of Spanish birth in Britain, and who took advantage of the popular discontent with the reign of the Roman Emperor Gratian, caused himself to be proclaimed Emperor, raised an army, crossed over to the continent and, in A.D. 383, fought with the army of Gratian who was killed in the battle. Maximus then became Emperor of Western Europe, including Britain, France, Spain, Holland, Switzerland and a part of Germany, "and for several years he ruled them not unjustly." {Lloyd}. He was defeated and overthrown in 388 in an ambitious effort to conquer Italy. He was a Christian and "took pains to put himself forward as a special champion of orthodoxy." {Lloyd}. Thus we have one more ancestor of distinction.

14. ETHYLLT (daughter and heiress of No. 13). She married Gwriad whose ancestry is shown under the name of her son, Merfyn Frych (Merfyn the Freckled), who is No. 15. There is no evidence that either she or her husband attempted to rule.

13. CYNAN (son of No. 12). As far as is known his rule did not extend beyond the commote of Tindaethwy. Soon after A.D. 800 he attacked his brother Hywel to gain possession of Anglesey, but was defeated. He died in 816

12. RHODRI MOLWYNOG (son of No. 11). He succeeded his father and Prof. Lloyd thinks that he also was of little account and that he ruled only over Anglesey. He died in 754. His son Hywel seems to have ruled over Anglesey and another son, Cynan, held Tindaethwy.

11. IDWAL (son of No. 10). He succeeded his father. Prof. Lloyd thinks he was not a ruler of much ability and that his territory did not extend beyond Anglesey.

10. CADWALADR (son of No. 9). He became King of Gwynedd after the death of his father. "None of his deeds have been recorded, yet he must have been a figure of some distinction. He died in the great plague of 664, and it is likely, notwithstanding his martial reputation, that he spent the close of his life as a monk, for the church of Llangadwaladr in Anglesey claims him as its patron saint and founder and churches were dedicated

to him in other parts of Wales." {Lloyd.) It will be noted that Prof. Lloyd has the date of his death 664. In The Annales Cambriae it is 682.

9. CADWALLON (son of No. 8). He succeeded to the throne of Gwynedd and his career was a stormy one. His first encounter with the English forces was disastrous and he fled to Ireland. He returned to Wales, formed an alliance with a Mercian king and, in A.D. 633, conquered and killed the English king. In the summer of 634 he again defeated the English, but before the end of that year the English defeated and killed him. The Welsh people hail him as one of their greatest defenders against the encroachments of the English.

8. CADFAN (son of No. 7). The year when he became king is not known. As King of Gwynedd he seems to have claimed the over-lordship of the other Welsh kings. It is probable that comparatively peaceful times continued during his reign. There is no record of wars except his unfortunate conflicts with the Northumbrians. A tombstone in the church of Llangadwaladr in Anglesey two miles from Aberffraw is said to mark his grave. He died about A.D. 617.

7. IAGO (son of No. 6). Early in his reign he abdicated in favour of his son Cadfan and became a monk. He seems to have chosen the quiet life of the monastery rather than the cares and responsibilities of the kingdom. He is supposed to have died about A.D. 616.

6. BELI (son of No. 5). His father and his son were Kings of Gwynedd and it may be assumed that he also occupied the throne, but the histories give no account of his reign which may have been uneventful. The Harleian MS. 3859 furnishes the only record we have of him.

5. RHUN (son of No. 4). He succeeded his father as King of Gwynedd about A.D. 550. He is described as "a great, tall man with red-brown curly hair." {Lloyd)

In retaliation for an attack from his northern Brythonic brethren he made war against them and made the territory as far north as the Firth of Forth subject to Gwynedd.

4. MAELGWN HIR (Maelgwn the Tall, son of No. 3). He ruled in Gwynedd with an iron hand. The story of his crimes and deeds of violence is a long and sad one. Yet he was called a Christian.

"Heavy as is the catalogue of misdeeds laid to his charge, he is not without a certain tincture of nobleness. He is a liberal giver and no common tyrant would, in the heyday of his greatness, have laid aside his royal dignity and have withdrawn, as Maelgwn did, to the austere seclusion of a monastic cell. All Christians must, it is true, deplore his sad relapse into a life no less worldly and sin-ridden than before, but the very making of the experiment proves him a prince of no ordinary mould." {Lloyd)

He died of the yellow plague in 547. (Stone)

Lloyd makes Maelgwn Gwynedd and Maelgwn Hir identical, while Stone makes Maelgwn Hir the son of Maelgwn Gwynedd. If Stone were followed it would make one more generation between Cunedda and Rhun

3. CADWALLON LAWHIR (son of No. 2). "Lawhir" means long handed.

The Goidels were still in power in the north, but he succeeded in subduing them and they and the aborigines became henceforth a subject race of their Brythonic conquerors.

2. EINION YRTH (son of No. 1). The appellation "Yrth" is believed to indicate that he was of a hasty and impetuous temperament. In the division of the kingdom the portion of Einion was in Gwynedd. No record of his deeds or misdeeds has been preserved.

1. CUNEDDA was the first ruler of the Welsh people of whom there is any authentic record. As already stated he had been a Roman officer on the north wall and came from the north to assist his Brythonic brethren and became their king. This was about A.D. 400. His success in conquering the enemies of the Brythons gave him the title Wledig or Great King. He founded a dynasty which, through his descendants, ruled the Welsh people during several centuries. He seems to have been a Christian and probably he was partly of Roman ancestry.

Lloyd states that "Cunedda came from the land of Manaw Gododin near the Firth of Forth. His home was on the northern border of the Votadini, where Slamannan in Stirlingshire still keeps the name alive.

In *Annales Cambriae* MS. Pedigree No. 1 Cunedda is the nineteenth generation from Beli Mawr who was the son of Anna. Rhys quotes from Jesus College MS. 20, as follows: "This Anna was daughter to the Emperor of Rome. That Anna used to be said by the men of Egypt to be cousin to the Virgin Mary."

If we may follow Nennius' *Historia Britorum*, Beli Mawr, (Bellinus) son of Mynogan, to whom all of the genealogies trace, was the leader of the Brythons against Julius Caesar at the time of the Roman invasion, 55 B.C.

Cunedda married a daughter of Coel Hen. This Coel Hen was the 15th generation from the beginning of pedigree No. 10 in the *Annales Cambriae* which extends back to the same Beli Mawr and Anna through another son.

Regarding these ancient pedigrees Rhys writes as follows: "It fortunately happens that there are several pedigrees appended to the earliest manuscripts of the *Annales Cambriae* and as they are undoubtedly old and came into being at a time when every one's genealogy was most religiously preserved and remembered as a kind of title-deed to his status in the then existing legal and social system, we may with a high degree of confidence look upon them as in substance accurate."