



## GLYNS and GAUNTS

### a brief history.

Glyns descend from Cilmin Troed Du, (Cilmin with a black foot), of Glynnlivo, Caernarvonshire, North Wales, born around 820, chief of the fourth noble tribe of Wales, (and founder of the fourth of fifteen common tribes in North Wales in about 840?). Cilmin shared an illustrious pedigree with his uncle King Merfyn Frych, (who married Epyllt, daughter and heir-ess of Conan Tindaethwy, King of the Britons; who was slain in 843). Cilmin's grandfather Gwriad had been the last Celtic King of the Isle of Man, (whence, perhaps, the "leg" of the black-foot originates); himself directly descended from Merlin.

John of Gaunt died in 1399. An early Gaunts House may have been a private residence of his, (hunting lodge or possibly trysting house), which was left to Blanche of Lancaster by her sister Maud, who also died of the plague.

King Edward 3<sup>rd</sup>. his father, was an ancestor of the Glyn family on the distaff side; as was the philandering Charles 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**GAUNTS HOUSE** - It is said that a moat surrounded Gaunts House in medieval times. In 1535, local records mention "landes named the Great Gawntz"; and in 1677, "Gants farme", (possibly Woodcutts), was sold to Nicholas Hookes by John Leigh.

The present mansion was built of Portland stone around 1752, (which is carved into the chimneys), and largely altered and covered in red-brick in 1809 as an "alteration to a villa" by the second Lord Mayor and one William Evans of Wimborne. The Dutch roof-top extravagances, North Tower, courtyard, Avalon, and the present stable block extensions were designed by George Devey and added in 1899.

During the last war, the house was occupied by 10<sup>th</sup>. Hussars, the Middlesex Regiment, and tank regiment, and evacuees from southern counties, and after the war by a boy's preparatory school, (from Dumpton in Kent), until January 1988, when it was returned to the estate. The house was dedicated to its present purpose at Michaelmas 1989.

**GAUNTS ESTATE** - The estate presently farms in-hand around 1600 acres, being about 1100 acres of arable crops - milling and export wheat, barley for malting, peas for protein, linseed and rape for domestic and industrial oils - and 150 cow mixed breed dairy, plus dairy calves and heifers. We carry heavy horses, ponies, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, ducks and turkeys at an evolving old-time farm at Honeybrook.

Additionally the estate owns and manages around 52 dwellings, flatlets at Gaunts, one remaining tenanted dairy farm, St Kenelms church in Stanbridge, 3½ miles of River Allen, around 200 acres of woodland, small quarries and so on.

There is a historical excavation at High Lea showing buerial grounds and a religious site spanning 4,000 years.

The Dorset estates began to be acquired in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century by Sir Richard Glyn, Knight, Sheriff of the City of London and Lord Mayor 1758/9; afterwards MP for the cities of London and Coventry, created Baronet of Ewell in Surrey, co-founder in 1753 of Vere, Glyn & Hallifax, the banking firm of Lombard Street, which by 1851 had become Glyn, Mills & Co. He was succeeded by Sir Richard Carr Glyn, also Sheriff and Lord Mayor 1798/99, MP for St. Ives, senior partner in the bank, created Baronet of Gaunts, who "re-built" Gaunts House, vastly increased the Dorset estates and whose fourth son George was created Baron Wolverton, (friend of Gladstone; carried on the banking interests, founding another branch of the family). Richard Carr's fifth son Carr John became England's longest ever serving Parish Priest from the Rectory in Stanbridge. Thomas, his brother, was ancestor to Colonel (later Lieutenant General) Richard Glyn, who commanded the central column under Chelmsford in the Zulu War, and relieved Rorkes Drift, and to Elinor Glyn, the novelist.

The English estates grew through the years, other lands becoming attached in many southern counties, until the end of the Great War, when most were sold to pay death duties on the death of Sir Richard George Glyn, who rode in the charge of the Heavy Brigade in the Crimean War and was the third European to reach the Zimbabwe (Victoria) Falls. His son, Sir Richard Fitzgerald Glyn, distinguished himself in the Boer and Great Wars earning the MC and Legion d'Honneur in France. His son, Sir Richard Hamilton Glyn, was MP for North Dorset. Glyns lived at Gaunts House until the end of the 1939/45 war; and lend their name to the Charitable Foundation that provides for the work of profound learning.

**JOHN OF GAUNT** - Gaunts was named after the remarkable Prince John of Gaunt, (the English couldn't say Ghent, where he was born), third son of Edward 3<sup>rd</sup>, brother to the Black Prince; Duke of Lancaster, (by his first marriage for love to Blanche, daughter of the old Duke - she died tragically of the plague); King of Castile, (by his second marriage of convenience - he rescued Queen Isabella from the Basques - she died in England of a broken heart). John was father to King Henry 4<sup>th</sup>, by Blanche and great-great grandfather to King Henry 7<sup>th</sup>, by his out-of-wedlock liaison with Katherine Swynford; (he later married her by special papal dispensation = bags of gold - his third marriage and second for love). Thus he is known "father of the British Royal Family". Though constantly unfortunate and suspect, he was an honest and true man, friend of Chaucer and Wiclif, a fine political leader and the most dynamic and powerful figure in Europe of his day.

Merlin, (born 361, died 447), whose arms bore the double-headed eagle of Constantinople, centre of the eastern Holy Roman Empire, (and possibly the black foot?), was a Roman legate who came to Wales as procurator with the XXth legion, found at Constantinople, who marched across Europe, and were stationed at Chester. Later in life, after many adventures across the empire and powerful positions, Merlin became Lord Protector of the Christian Commonwealth of the Britons.

Cilmin had a hill-fort at Dinas Dinlle, Gwynned, (now partly washed away by the sea), from where he could survey his lands from Caernarvon down to Yr Eifel (the Rivals), where he and his men kept watch to prevent landings by Vikings. In this very area and at this time the Welsh bards collected the oldest portions of the "Mabinogion". Victorian Druids traced the Cilmin/Glyn line directly back to Adam, (notionally born in 4004 BC), as the ancient laws of Wales practically necessitated the keeping of official records of pedigrees.

Glyns remained based in North Wales until the late 19th. century. Some travelled the lands between the Rivers Wye and Severn and were related by marriage to Elystan Gloddrydd, Prince of Ferlix. Rev. Ystrwyth served as diplomatic agent to Llewellyn the Great.

Glyns were attracted to England as civil administrators after the terrible 15<sup>th</sup>. Century "Wars of the Roses". William Glyn, of Glyn Llyvon, sheriff of Caernarvon in 1562, is mentioned in a commission of 1567 to several gentlemen in North Wales for regulating the order of bards and musicians. His son Thomas was Sheriff of Anglesey in 1584 and his son, Sir William Glynne, was MP for Oxford University in 1598. His eldest son John, elected MP for the City of London in 1640, and later MP for Caernarvon, underwent a turbulent career, being consigned to the Tower, yet serving Cromwell and King Charles 2<sup>nd</sup>. who knighted him in 1660, purchased the Manor of Hawarden and became Lord Chief Justice. His eldest son William was created Baronet in 1662. Hawarden castle was built in 1752.

The Welsh branch died out with Sir Stephen Glynne, who sired two daughters, (*but no son*), of whom in 1839, Catherine, the eldest, married William Gladstone, the whig prime-minister to-be, (by whom she had 8 children), at a double marriage at Hawarden; and her sister Mary married Lord George Lytton, (by whom she had 11 children).