Llywelyn (name)

Llywelyn is a Welsh personal name, which has also become a family name most commonly spelt **Llewellyn**^[1] (/luˈɛlɪn/). The name has many variations and derivations, mainly as a result of the difficulty for non-Welsh speakers of representing the sound of the initial double ll (a voiceless alveolar lateral fricative). [1]

The name <u>Lewis</u> became closely associated with Llywelyn as early as the 13th century, when Anglo-Norman scribes often used the former as an anglicised version of the latter; many Welsh families came to do the same over the following centuries as the adoption of formal English-style surnames became more widespread. [1]

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Etymology

The name evolved from the <u>Old British</u> name *Lugubelinos*, which was a compound of two names for <u>Celtic deities</u>. The first, <u>Lugus</u>, is also the source of the first element in the names <u>Llywarch</u> and <u>Lliwelydd</u>, and, as an independent name, evolved into Welsh <u>Lleu</u>. The second element, <u>Belenus</u>, evolved as an independent name into Welsh Belyn. [1]

History

The name Llywelyn became popular following the successes of Llywelyn the Great (r. 1195-1240), but was largely absent among Welsh princes prior to him. [3] Although *Llywelyn* was the most common form of the name in the medieval period, [1] variant spellings started emerging even in the early Middle Ages, in particular *Llewelyn* and *Llewellyn*, [4] spellings that gave rise to a folk belief that the name was connected with lions (the Welsh word for lion being *llew*). [1] This belief was further reinforced by Llywelyn the Great's adoption of his

Llywelyn



death in 1240, with his sons

Gruffydd and Dafydd mourning.

Llywelyn is spelt *Leolinus* above his head in the Latin manuscript.

Pronunciation Welsh: [4ə'wɛlɪn]

1 1011011010101011	Treiem [10 treizm]
Origin	
Word/name	Old British
Meaning	Evolved from Lugubelinos, a compound of two Old British names for Celtic gods: Lugus and
	Belenus.
Region of origin	Wales
Other names	
Related	numerous

names

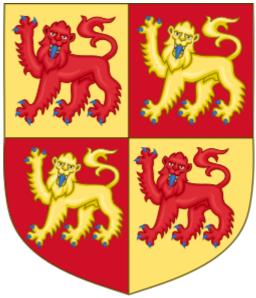
father <u>Iorwerth ab Owain's coat of arms</u>, incorporating four lions. The association also produced another early variant of the name, *Leoline* (based on Latin *leo*), commonly used in Norman French and French manuscripts.

In medieval Latin manuscripts, the form *Lewelinus* was used. [1]

A number of other variants have arisen, however, including Elilevelin, Ffuellen, Ffuellin, Fflellen, Flawelling, Fleuellen, Flewelling, Flewelling, Flewelling, Flewelling, Fluellin, Fluellin, Fluelling, Fluelling, Fluelling, Fluelling, Lawellins, Lawelling, Leoloni, Lewallen, Lewlin, Lewilin, Llallin, Lleulin, Lleulini, Llewen, Leuleijon, Llewelling, Llewellinge, Llewellen, Llewhellin, Llewhelyn, Llewillin, Lluellen, Luellen, Thewell, Thewelinus, Thellyn, Thelen, Thewelling, Thelwelin, Thlewelyn, and Swellin. Some of these spellings reflect attempts by English and Norman writers to represent the initial consonant:

The sound of *ll* (i.e. 'the unilateral hiss') was much more difficult [to represent in English or French spelling]: *chl*, *thl*, were sometimes used: *fl*, as in *Fluellen*, was also used; and these 'symbols' represent attempts to pronounce *ll*. In some texts no attempt is made to find a way of writing the *ll* sound and it is left as *l*.

— Morgan and Morgan $(1985)^{[1]}$



Llywelyn the Great's arms became associated with the name for later generations. The arms are described as: Blazoned Quarterly or and gules, four lions passant guardant two and two counterchanged langued and armed Azure.[2]

An alternative strategy was to substitute a similar-sounding name. Indeed, Anglo-Norman clerks followed a deliberate policy of substituting Anglo-Norman names for Welsh ones, and the name *Lewis* came to be used for Llywelyn as early as the 13th century, based on the apparent similarity of the first syllable to the first syllable of the name <u>Louis</u> (especially if the first syllable of Llywelyn was spelt *Llew*). The interchangeability of Llywelyn and Lewis could go both ways:

Long after the name Lewis, as a Christian name and as a surname, had been established in Wales, the awareness of an identity with Llywelyn remained, but only amongst the cultured and knowledgeable, like the Morrisses of Anglesey. Lewis Morris is often called Llewelyn Ddu or Llewellyn Ddu o Fôn; Williams tells his brother that his baby son's name is Lewis [... but later] he refers to the child as 'Llywelyn fach'. In ALMA 35 King Louis of France is called Llewelyn Ffreinig'

— Morgan and Morgan $(1985)^{\boxed{1}}$

Other examples include <u>Lewis Glyn Cothi</u> who was known as Llywelyn y Glyn, and Llywelyn ap Rhisiart whose bardic name was <u>Lewys Morgannwg</u>. [1]

Derived forms

Three feminine forms have been derived from Llywelyn – *Llywela*, *Llewellanne*, *Loella* and *Louella*— as well as two <u>hypocoristic</u> forms, *Llelo* and *Llela* (usually considered male and female, respectively). The hypocoristic forms are always pronounced (and sometimes spelt) with an initial [l], rather than with the alveolar fricative represented in Welsh by ll.

As a given name, Llywelyn is often shortened to *Llew* or *Lyn*.

Associated surnames

Apart from variants mentioned above, surnames originating from Llywelyn include *Apswellen*, *Bewellin*, *Bewlyn*, *Bewlen*, *Pawelin*, *Wellings*, *Wellings*, *Wellings*, *Wellyns*, *Wellens*, *Wellens*, *Wellence*, *Wellon*, and *Wellys*. [1] Surnames beginning *Ap-*, *B-*, or *P-* are based on the Welsh patronymic naming system, where *ap* or *ab* ("son of") was used with the father's first name. As Welsh people came to adopt Anglo-Norman-style surnames, *ap* was either incorporated into the name as in *Apswellen* or *Pawelin*, dropped entirely as in (*Lly*)*Welyn*, or replaced with an -s at the end of the name as in *Wellyns* (see Welsh surnames). In some regions of England the surname *Welling* may derive from an English place-name, but in Welsh Marcher counties its frequency suggests that it can be traced back to (Lly)welyn. [1] More common than any of these surnames is the surname *Lewis* (see above), with its related variants *Lewes*, *Lewys*, *Lowys*, *Lowis*, *Llewys*, *Llewis*, *Llwys*, *Llewes*. [1] A Latinised variant, *Leodovicus*, re-entered English as *Lodwick*, *Ludwick*, *Lotwick*, and *Lodowick*, names that are especially common in South Wales. [1]

As the name Lewis was in use before the abandonment of the patronomic system in Wales, Morgan and Morgan (1985) note that "it is difficult to understand why *ap Lewis* did not result in a surname *Blewis*." [1]

Notes

- 1. Morgan, T. J.; Morgan, Prys (1985). Welsh Surnames. Cardiff: University of Wales Press. pp. 147–151. ISBN 0-7083-0880-5.
- 2. The arms and flag have four squares alternating in red (representing iron, or Mars the god of War) and gold (representing the royalty of the Aberffraw house); with a walking lion ("passant") in each square of the opposite colour; with the lion's paw upraised and with the lion's face viewing the observer ("guardant": guarding against trespass); the tongue is stuck-out ("langued", tauntingly) and blue ("Azur"), and the outstretched claws ("armed") are blue ("Azur", representing saphires, or the god Jupiter; for primacy in Wales).
- 3. Llywelyn ab lorwerth may have been named after his mother's brother, <u>Llywelyn ap Madog</u> of the Mathrafal house of Powys Fadog. Prior to this, the name Llywelyn does not appear in any of the genealogies for the <u>Aberffraw</u> princes of Gwynedd or <u>Dinefwr</u> princes of Deheubarth
- 4. Morgan and Morgan (1985: p. 147) note that the double II in Llewellyn reflects English spelling conventions, but is misleading with respect to pronunciation, since the initial // is pronounced differently from the later //.

References

Morgan, T. J.; Morgan, Prys (1985). Welsh Surnames. Cardiff: University of Wales Press. pp. 147–151. ISBN 0-7083-0880-5.

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