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St. Degan's Chapel

Ruin and Legend 2612

Degan or Degeman, according to Cressy, "was born of noble parents in the south western parts of Wales, and forsaking the country the more freely to give himself to mortification and devotion, he passed the River Severn on a hurdle of rods." His story does not correspond with the local legend which states that St. Degan came across the seas to Pencaer riding on a sea-horse, and the hoof marks of his steed may be seen on the rocks to this day. It would seem from horse and hurdle that the Saint had appropriated the attributes of an earlier cult, perhaps that of the Celtic sea god, Nodens, worshipped in Roman times at Lydney in Gloucestershire. The Saint was said to have been dwarfish in stature, but great in prophecy. Unfortunately these predictions have not been recorded. Fenton says St. Degan foretold the French landing in 1797. A correspondent of Brown Willis, one Rev. H. Goff, stated that in his time some vestments were preserved in St. Degan's Chapel, from which he (H. Goff) had cut off a sample which he enclosed to his patron. The remains of the chapel are very insignificant.

OWNERSHIP AND TENANCY DETAILS