

75 No. 8

St. Bride's

Site of old mansion 3139

In the grounds of the modern house of St. Bride's Hill are the remains of old ST. BRIDE'S, the home of the Laugharnes for many generations. The founder of the family is said to have sailed from Cornwall, and being shipwrecked on this coast had the luck to be rescued by the heiress of St. Bride's, and of course married her. According to Fenton, this ministering angel was the daughter of John de Saint Bride, but the Dale Castle MSS states that Maud, daughter of Sir Mathew Wogan, married Philip of Crabholes, whose daughter and co-heiress, Jane, married Thomas of Laugharne. Dates in Welsh pedigrees are a difficulty; but Thomas Laugharne's grandson married Elizabeth Elliot, whose grandfather, Sir Thomas Perrot, fought at Mortimer's Cross and was dead in 1465. Rowland Laugharne, the great Parliamentary Captain, was the most celebrated of the family. Fenton, 171.

Further down the coast at St. Brides itself, the complex of ruined sandstone buildings, now both dangerous and extensively overgrown, that straddles the drive to the 19th Century St. Bride's Castle, used to be known as the 'Abbey' (25) but appear to be the remains of a domestic group, the northern most building bearing some resemblance to a fortified tower house though subjected to considerable later alterations. The apparent existence of a newel staircase at one corner strengthens this supposition.

A now ruined, post medieval
manor house called the Abbey,
with an earlier Penbroskeshire Tower
House at its core

JH based on NL 1995

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