

The island, which as Giraldus tells us (Rolls, ed. VI, p. 92) was in early times called PIR, appears to have been connected in the 6th century with St. Iltyd's celebrated school at Llantwit Major in the Vale of Glamorgan. The author of a Life of St. Pol de Leon, written in AD 884 (Revue Celtique, V, p. 413) states, though probably erroneously, that St. Pol was educated on a certain island, PYRUS NOMINE, DEMETARUM PATRIAE IN FINIBUS SITA under the care of St. Iltyd; it is referred to also in the Liber Landavensis in connection with St. Samson the Archbishop, who was St. Iltyd's pupil at Llantwit (Liber Landavensis, Welsh MSS Society, pp. 14, 17, 20) and as a witness to the early Christian occupation of the island, there is still remaining the Caldý Ogham, the Latin inscription on which dates from the 7th or 8th centuries. But there is nothing further known of it until the early part of the 11th century, when it was given by Henry I to Robert son of Martin of Tours. By Robert it was given to his mother; and she in turn, with her son's assent, conveyed it to the celebrated monastery of St. Dogmael's, a Benedictine House which followed the reformed rule then lately introduced by St. Bernard d'Abbeville at Tiron in the diocese of Chartres. The charter records the gift as follows "DEDIT IISDEM MONACHIS MATER MEA INSULAM PYR, QUAE ALIO NOMINE CALDEA NUNCUPATER, QUAM A DOMINO MEO REGE MINI DATAM MATRI MEAE DEDERAM" (Mon. Angl., vol. i, p. 445b)

The Priory remained a cell of St. Dogmael's until the Dissolution of the Monasteries, when the island, called in the grant "the Manor of Calde in the County of Pembroke" was, with St. Dogmael's and other church lands, sold to one John Bradshawe of Presteign, with all its rights, members and appurtenances, including inter alia, fishings, wracks of the sea, profits of courts, reliefs, heriots, and great and small tithes "for him to have and to hold, and to enjoy, and to convert to his own private use as fully and entirely, and in as ample manner and form as the last Abbot of St. Dogmael's, or any one or more of his predecessors at any previous time had held or enjoyed the same." Patent Roll, 35, Henry VIII, part 4. As a consequence of the wide terms of this grant, the island is extra-parochial, and is exempt from all local rates and taxes.

The Bradshawes held it until AD 1612, when it was sold by the great-grandson of John Bradshawe Esq. of Presteign, to Walter Philpin Esq. Mayor of Tenby and his son Griffith.

In AD 1653 Katherine Johnes, the daughter of Walter Philpin Esq. with Devereux and Bridget Johnes, her son and daughter-in-law of Bonvilles Court, St. Issell's, sold the island to Reeve Williams Esq. of Llanrhidian and Robert Williams Esq. of Laughor.

In AD 1786 John Williams Esq. the great-grandson of Reeve Williams Esq. sold to George, Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick, who sold in AD 1798 to Thomas Kynaston Esq. of Pembroke.

In AD 1867 Cabot Kynaston Esq. the son of Thomas, dying, his daughters sold to James William Hawksley Esq., who in AD 1874 was succeeded by his son, James Taylor Hawksley Esq. The latter dying in AD 1891, his executors in AD 1894 sold the island to T.D. Smith Cuninghame Esq., from whom it passed in AD 1897 to the present owner.

109 No. 12

Caldy

Name "Caldy"

1440

The name of the island was originally INYS Y PYR (Pyr's Island) as that of Manorbier was MAEN Y PYR (Pyr's Stone). The Liber Landavensis (p. 14) calls it insula quaedam in qua monasterium erat constructum a viro nomine Piro; and in the Life of St. Samson, afterwards Archbishop of Dol (Acta Sanct. July 28, p. 582) we find that this Piro was accidentally drowned on the island, and that St. Samson succeeded him as Abbot. There can be very little doubt that is Caldý Island which is thus referred to (see Revue Celtique, as above). There are however two other "Barry" islands on the coast of Wales. There was also a mythical hero called Pir (Little England, p. 80). In later times the name was changed, presumably by Norse influence, to CALDEY or COLD ISLAND (Kald-ey). In the latter part of the 18th century the celebrated John Paul Jones is said to have made free use of the island on some of his filibustering expeditions, and one of the bays still bears his name.