

history of Wales confirm the traditions that the authentic history of this family in that country commences with Uryan or Urian Rheged, a son of Cynvarch Oer ap Mierchion Gul (ap in Welsh signifying son of *), a prince of North Britain in the sixth century after Christ, who was expelled from his principality by the Saxons and took refuge with his family in Wales. The name of Prince Mierchion Gul, it is said, appears on an ancient pillar or monument near Llangollen. Urian, the grandson, probably born in Wales, soon became a leader among these people, and, surrounded by a large body of retainers, for many years carried on a fierce war with the Saxon king of Northumberland. Slain while conducting a siege in the year 575, his sons and their descendants became powerful leaders in the struggle that was prolonged, with occasional interruptions, for many centuries.

For many generations after Urian, but little more than the bare names of the descendants is given in Welsh history. The line of descendants runs as follows:—

1st. MIERCHION GUL. 2d. CYNVARCH OER. 3d. URIEN (d. 515). 4th. PASGEN. 5th. MOR. 6th. LLURCH. 7th. RHYNE. 8th. EYSSYLT. 9th. GURWARD. 10th. KYMBATHWYE. 11th. LLOARCH. 12th. EINION. 13th. GORONWY. 14th. RHYS, cotemporary with William the Conqueror, and m. Margaret, granddaughter of Lord Gwynvey. 15th. ELIDER. 16th. SIR ELIDER DDU, Knight

* The employment of fixed family names or *surnames* originated in France during the latter part of the tenth century. The custom was introduced into England by the Normans at the time of the Conquest, in 1066. Slowly adopted by the English, surnames did not come into use in Scotland until the twelfth century; while in Wales they were much later in their adoption, and in some of the wilder districts of that country surnames can hardly be said to be generally employed, even at the present time.