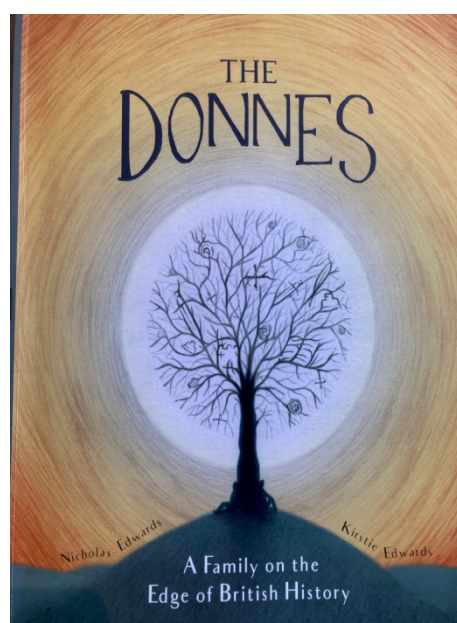
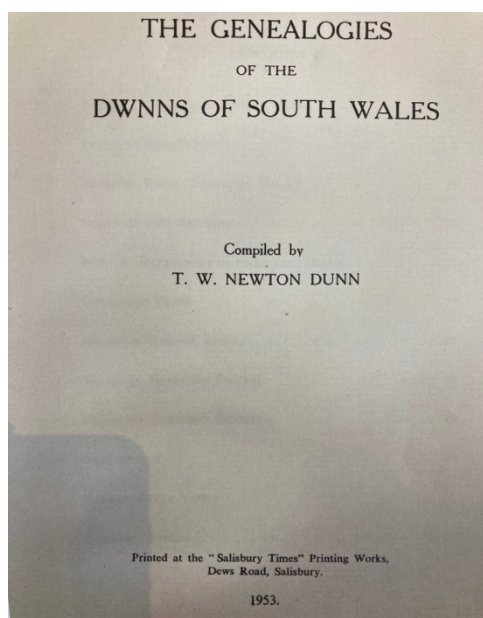


## Name-dropping with Welsh Nobility: a history of the Donne family between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries

Described as a family 'on the edge of British history', members were deeply involved with the major historical events and royal families of these times. Through these connections and associations, together with their business interests including the importation of wine, the families became very wealthy. This article details only the outline of some of the characters; fuller details can be found in these two books.



Name	Served under:	Comments
Cadwgan ap Gruffydd, 1270	Edward, Prince of Wales, (the 'Black Prince')	In the frame for stealing half of the treasure of Edward II when he fled with his lover Hugh Despenser to Cardiff and Caerphilly, sending his treasure on to Neath and Swansea castles. 'Cadwgan' is an honorific title meaning 'glory in battle'.
Gruffydd Gethin Dwnn, 1310	Henry, Duke of Lancaster	Led 350 men to France in 1345, 1 year before the battle of Crecy.

Henry Don, 1335	John of Gaunt, Richard II	Changed sides to support the rebellion of Owain Glendwr, (Owain wrote 'my good friend Henry Don), besieged Kidwelly castle in 1403, with grandson Gruffydd. Two sons killed at that siege, which failed. Later Pardoned by Henry IV.
Sir Gruffydd Don, 1385	Henry V	Pardoned in 1413, fought at Agincourt in 1415 and many French battles. Held many controlling posts in France. Finally retired to Kidwelly as Lord of Penallt. Had four sons, Robert, John, Henry and David, who briefly fled to uncle David in Powis after 'slaying the mayor of Kidwelly'.
Sir John Donne, 1420	Edward IV, House of York	Born in Picardy when his father was fighting there. Numerous battles and diplomatic missions, portrait in National Gallery, see below, and buried next to Edward IV in St George's Chapel Windsor. Several estates in England.
Owain Donne, 1392, son of Meredith, grandson of Henry.	Second in command to Richard, Duke of York, at the court of Henry IV	Fought in Ireland as captain of cavalry.
Sir Henry Donne, 1430, son of Owain	Earls of Pembroke and Devon, Wars of the Roses	Executed alongside Sir William Herbert and his brother Sir Richard Herbert after the battle of Edgecote Manor.
Sir Griffith Donne, 1455, (son of Sir John)	Henry VIII	Present at the 'Field of the Cloth of Gold' in France, and part of reception party for Anne of Cleves. He is also buried at Windsor castle.
Sir Edward Donne, 1465 (son of Sir John)	Henry VIII	Jousting companion of Henry VIII. Could he have inflicted the dreadful wound on Henry's leg?

Throughout this period, wealth accumulated through spoils of war, awards of lands and estates from various Kings of England, with their incomes, and trade. I have identified four ships that traded in

wine from France, the *Saint Maria*, in the fourteenth century, and the *James of Tenby*, (owned by Sir Gruffydd Donne and helmed by a John Hyot), the *George* and the *Margaret* in the fifteenth century. The latter three are of interest because a wine-trading ship of that period is currently being reconstructed in Newport.

The females of the family are not unimportant in their contributions with marriages into the families of Sir William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke and the heirs of Picton castle, and posts at the English court such as Ladies in Waiting.