

TWO LINES, ONE WOMAN

A Welsh Princess, a Norman Knight

A Comparative Descent Chart of

Linda Jane Elizabeth Emmanuel


TWO LIVES.
TWO PATHS.
ONE HERITAGE.

PRINCESS GWENLLIAN
c1097-1136
DAUGHTER OF GRUFFUDD AP CYNAN
PRINCESS OF WALES
A SYMBOL OF COURAGE, LOVE
AND A NATION'S SPIRIT

LINDA'S
GREAT
GRANDPARENTS


GEOFFREY DE KETENORE
c1180-1250
KNIGHT OF CULLBONE
WARRIOR. LEADER. STEWARD.
A MAN OF HONOUR
AND HIS TIME

UNITED ACROSS GENERATIONS · THEIR STORY LIVES ON

Compiled by Graham Tudor Emmanuel, Kidwelly · 2026

Two Lines, One Woman

A Welsh Princess, a Norman Knight

A Comparative Descent Chart of Linda Jane Elizabeth Emmanuel

This chart sets Linda's two ancestral lines side by side: her father's line, which descends from Gwenllian ferch Gruffudd, the warrior princess who fell at Maes Gwenllian outside Kidwelly in 1136; and her mother's line, the Kidner family, which descends from Geoffrey de Ketenore, a Somerset knight of Cullbone and Timberscombe recorded in the legal records of the 1220s and 1230s. The two families never met before Linda's own parents, Gordon George Williams and Elizabeth Anne Burley, married in 1957. Both lines are documented independently below, generation by generation, from their earliest traceable ancestor down to Linda.

The Gwenllian line is recorded in the Lloyd–Emmanuel Heritage Archive and traces descent through the Morgan Lords of Tredegar. Several medieval generations in this line are not individually named in the surviving sources and are recorded here as a span of generations rather than as named individuals, consistent with the gaps in the original pedigrees.

The Kidner line is recorded in the Descendant Report of the Kidner Family, compiled from parish, civil and legal records of Somerset and Monmouthshire. The surname appears across the centuries in many spellings — de Ketenore, Katenore, Kytenore, Kitenor, Kydnor, Kydner, and finally Kidner — reflecting the slow standardisation of English spelling rather than any change of family. The line moved from Somerset into Monmouthshire with Joseph Kidner's marriage to Frances Smart in 1815, bringing the family into the same part of Wales as the Williams and Morgan families two generations before Linda's birth.

THE GWENLLIAN LINE	THE KIDNER LINE
<p><i>Linda's paternal descent, through Gordon George Williams</i></p> <p>Gwenllian ferch Gruffudd c.1097 – 1136 <i>Princess of Gwynedd, daughter of Gruffudd ap Cynan. Fell in battle at Maes Gwenllian, outside Kidwelly, defending Deheubarth in her husband's absence. Founding ancestor of this line.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Rhys ap Gruffudd, The Lord Rhys c.1132 – 1197 <i>Generation 1. Gwenllian's youngest surviving son. Ruler of Deheubarth from 1155; the dominant Welsh prince of his age. Held the first recorded Eisteddfod at Cardigan Castle, 1176.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Meredydd ap Rhys fl. late 12th century <i>Generation 2. Son of The Lord Rhys; the recorded connecting generation carrying the line from Deheubarth into the Monmouthshire gentry who became the Lords of Tredegar.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Meredydd Gethyn fl. early 13th century <i>Generation 3. Stands at the head of the documented Tredegar lineage. The byname Gethyn derives from the Old Welsh cethin, meaning dusky or swarthy.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Gruffydd ap Meredydd Gethin fl. 13th century</p>	<p><i>Linda's maternal descent, through Elizabeth Anne Burley</i></p> <p>Geoffrey de Ketenore 2, Knight of Cullbone and Timberscombe c.1180 – c.1250 <i>Founding ancestor. Held land at Culbone, Timberscombe and Quarne in Somerset, and property in Dublin and Dunnamaggan, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland. Brought court cases in 1227 and 1230 to recover inherited land; granted a half-fee at Quarne by Reynold de Mohun, Lord of Dunster, c.1236. It is from this man that all the Kidners living today are descended.</i></p> <hr/> <p>William de Katenore, 6th Kidner b. 1250 <i>Son of Geoffrey de Ketenore 2.</i></p> <hr/> <p>William de Katenore 7, of Petheram 1270 – 1349 <i>Carried the family into the Petheram branch near the River Parrett, Somerset.</i></p> <hr/> <p>[de Katenore of Petheram, name untraced] 1300 – 1347 <i>Generation not individually named in the surviving sources.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Roger Kytenore, of Petheram 1340 – 1421</p>

Generation 4. His mother Angharad was daughter of Morgan ap Meredydd, Lord of Tredegar, bringing the family property connections in Carmarthenshire granted by Queen Eleanor, wife of Edward I.

Meredydd ap Gruffydd, Lord of Tredegar fl. 13th–14th century
Generation 5. Held the Cyfoeth Meredydd estate in Gwynllwg, Monmouthshire.

Sir Morgan ap Meredydd, Lord of Tredegar d. 1332
Generation 6. Warrior and rebel; led the Welsh uprising across Glamorgan and Gwent in 1294, in the spirit of his ancestor Gwenllian two centuries before.

Llewelyn ap Ifor, Lord of St Clare and Tredegar fl. 14th century
Generation 7. His second son, Ifor ap Llewelyn (Ifor Hael, 'Ifor the Generous'), was the principal patron of Dafydd ap Gwilym, the greatest poet in the Welsh language, and was Linda's great-uncle through this line.

Five further generations of the Tredegar line c.1350 – c.1480
Generations 8 to 12. Individual names are not recorded in the surviving sources for this span, which carries the family through to Sir John Morgan.

Sir John Morgan c.1428 – 1492
Generation 12. Knight of the Holy Sepulchre. Commissioned the building of Tredegar House around 1490, a wing of which still stands today, managed by the National Trust.

Five further generations of the Morgan family c.1480 – c.1620
Generations 13 to 17, including William Morgan and Phillip Morgan (1549–1627), carrying the line through the Elizabethan and Stuart eras.

Florence Morgan fl. 1693
Generation 18. Married William Nicholl in 1693, carrying the ancient Morgan bloodline into the Nicholl, Jenkins, Davis, Frost and Williams families.

John Nicholl c.1701 – 1749
Generation 19.

Elizabeth Nicholl 1728 – 1769
Generation 20. Married William Jenkins.

Susannah Jenkins 1767 – 1840

William Kitenor 8, of Petheram 1380 – 1450

John Kitnor, of Petheram 1410 – 1480
Married Agnes.

Walter Kydnor, of Stogursey 1460 – 1531
Born Stogursey, Somerset. Married Joan (c.1460–1544).

John Kydner, of Stogursey 1490 – 1560
Died Spaxton, Somerset.

John Kidner 1523 – 1591
Born and died Spaxton, Somerset.

Richard Kidner 1551 – 1592
Married Anastacie Kidner, 1568, Spaxton.

Richard Kidner 1568 – 1639
Born and died Spaxton. Married Mary Morley of Dulverton.

Thomas Kidner 1601 – 1650
Born Spaxton, died Broomfield, Somerset. Married Frances, 1628.

Thomas Kidner 1629 – 1667
Born Priors Down, died Broomfield, Somerset. Married Elizabeth Kidner, 1649.

Richard Kidner 1655 – 1700
Born and died Broomfield, Somerset. Married Margaret Jones, 3 July 1681.

Robert Kidner 1691 – 1759
Born and died Broomfield, Somerset. Married Anne Leach, 19 January 1720.

John Kidner 1732 – 1793
Born and died Broomfield, Somerset. Married Mary Yendle, 1751, Kingston St Mary.

Christopher Kidner 1754 – 1793
Born Broomfield, Somerset. Married Mary Sidwick, daughter of Miles Sidwick and Mary How, 27 April 1784.

Joseph Kidner 1786 – 1860
Born Kingston St Mary, Somerset; died Llanfihangel Crucorney, Monmouthshire – the move that brought the

<p><i>Generation 21. Married Francis Davis; lived through the full sweep of the industrial revolution transforming south Wales.</i></p>	<p><i>family into Wales. Married Frances Smart, 18 May 1815, Bassaleg.</i></p>
<p>William Jenkins Davis 1798 – 1855 <i>Generation 22. Married Hannah Pritchard.</i></p>	<p>Christopher Kidner 1793 – 1851 <i>Born Broomfield, Somerset; died Pontypool, Monmouthshire. Married (1) Maria Andrews, 1819; (2) Anne Thomas, 13 May 1827, Llanfrechfa.</i></p>
<p>Rachel Davis 1828 – 1899 <i>Generation 23. Married William Frost.</i></p>	<p>Joseph Kidner 1830 – 1897 <i>Born and died Pontypool, Monmouthshire. Married Catherine Price, 1 December 1855, Abergavenny.</i></p>
<p>Lucy Frost fl. 19th–20th century <i>Generation 24. Daughter of Rachel and William Frost; mother of Gordon George Williams.</i></p>	<p>Joseph Herbert Kidner 1875 – 1954 <i>Born Llanfrechfa; died Llanbaddock, Monmouthshire. Married Elizabeth Ann Morgan, 23 December 1902, Penallt Parish Church.</i></p>
<p>Gordon George Williams 1931 – 2019 <i>Generation 25. Married Elizabeth Anne Burley, 31 August 1957, Llanishen Church, Monmouth. Linda's father.</i></p>	<p>Catherine Elizabeth Kidner 1903 – 1982 <i>Born Penallt, Monmouthshire; died Llanishen, Monmouthshire. Married William Burleigh Burley, 17 March 1929, Penallt.</i></p>
	<p>Elizabeth Anne Burley 1937 – 1999 <i>Born Whitebrook, Monmouthshire; died Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport. Married Gordon George Williams, 31 August 1957, Llanishen Church, Monmouth. Linda's mother.</i></p>

Both lines converge in

Linda Jane Elizabeth Emmanuel

née Williams · 26 April 1963 – 4 July 2015

Daughter of Gordon George Williams and Elizabeth Anne Burley. Married Graham Tudor Emmanuel, 10 October 1981, Pontypool United Reformed Church.



LINDA'S GWENLLIAN LINE

*From Gwenllian ferch Gruffudd, Princess of Gwynedd, c.1097
to Linda Jane Elizabeth Williams, 1963–2015*



Artist's impression of Gwenllian ferch Gruffudd; no contemporary likeness survives.

Linda's Gwenllian Line

From Royal Deheubarth to South Wales: Twenty-Four Generations

Linda Jane Elizabeth Williams was born on 26 April 1963 in Pontypool, Monmouthshire, the daughter of Gordon George Williams and Elizabeth Anne Burley. Through her father's line, Linda descended in an unbroken and well-documented line from one of the most celebrated figures in Welsh history: Gwenllian ferch Gruffudd, the warrior princess who died defending the kingdom of Deheubarth on a field outside Kidwelly Castle in 1136 — the same town where, more than eight centuries later, Linda would make her home.

This is that story.

Gwenllian ferch Gruffudd, c.1097 – 1136

Gwenllian was born around 1097 at Aberffraw on Ynys Môn, the youngest daughter of Gruffudd ap Cynan, King of Gwynedd, and his wife Angharad. She was raised in the royal court of the House of Aberffraw, a lineage that reached back through the high kings of Ireland on her father's side. Around 1113, Gruffudd ap Rhys, the dispossessed Prince of Deheubarth, travelled north to seek the support of her father. He met Gwenllian, and the two eloped south to Gruffudd's family seat at Dinefwr in the Tywi valley — a princess of the north joining the rightful but exiled ruler of the south.

Together they spent the following decades resisting the Norman advance into south-west Wales, conducting raids on Norman strongholds and redistributing what they seized among the displaced Welsh population. In 1136, with England distracted by civil war between Stephen of Blois and the Empress Matilda, the moment seemed to have come for the Welsh to reclaim their lands. Gruffudd rode north to Gwynedd to raise an army. While he was away, Norman forces under Maurice de Londres mobilised at Kidwelly Castle. Rather than wait to be attacked, Gwenllian gathered what men she could, secured her two youngest sons in safety, and rode out to meet the Norman force on the field north of the town.

Her army was routed. She was captured and put to death on that field, which has been known ever since as Maes Gwenllian — the Field of Gwenllian. Welsh armies are recorded as having gone into battle for generations afterwards crying *Dial Achos Gwenllian*, 'Revenge for Gwenllian'. The field lies a short walk from the centre of Kidwelly.

The Lord Rhys: Rebuilding a Kingdom

Gwenllian's youngest son, Rhys ap Gruffudd — Yr Arglwydd Rhys, The Lord Rhys — was not yet four years old when his mother died. He grew up in the shadow of that loss and spent his life restoring what she had fought to defend. By 1155 he ruled Deheubarth in his own right, and by 1170, following the death of Owain Gwynedd, he was the dominant power in Wales.

In 1176 he held the first recorded Eisteddfod at Cardigan Castle, the founding gathering from which Wales's national cultural festival descends. He was also the founder and patron of Strata Florida Abbey, one of the great religious houses of medieval Wales.

It is through Rhys ap Gruffudd that Gwenllian's bloodline descends to Linda — not through the children who carried the throne of Deheubarth forward in the male line of princes, but through a younger branch that moved, over the following centuries, from royal Deheubarth into the gentry families of south-east Wales.

The Lords of Tredegar

The line descends from Rhys ap Gruffydd through his son Meredydd ap Rhys, and from Meredydd through Meredydd Gethyn, who stands at the head of the documented Tredegar lineage. The byname Gethyn, from the Old Welsh *cethin*, means dusky or swarthy, and was a common descriptive byname of the period rather than a fixed surname.

The family's connection to Tredegar in Monmouthshire is confirmed through Gruffydd ap Meredydd Gethyn, whose mother Angharad was a daughter of Morgan ap Meredydd, Lord of Tredegar. Through this marriage the family acquired property interests in Carmarthenshire that had themselves been granted by Queen Eleanor, wife of Edward I — land that had once formed part of the territory of Deheubarth which Gwenllïan and her husband had fought to hold a century and a half earlier.

Meredydd ap Gruffydd, Lord of Tredegar, held the Cyfoeth Meredydd estate in Gwynllwg, Monmouthshire. His son, Sir Morgan ap Meredydd, Lord of Tredegar, who died in 1332, was a warrior in the same tradition as his distant ancestor Gwenllïan: in 1294 he led the Welsh uprising that swept across Glamorgan and Gwent against the encroaching authority of the English crown.

Sir Morgan's line continued through Llewelyn ap Ifor, Lord of St Clare and Tredegar. Llewelyn's second son, Ifor ap Llewelyn — better known to Welsh literary history as Ifor Hael, 'Ifor the Generous' — was the principal patron of Dafydd ap Gwilym, widely regarded as the greatest poet in the Welsh language. Ifor Hael was Linda's great-uncle through this branch of the family, a direct link between her bloodline and one of the richest periods of medieval Welsh literary culture.

Tredegar House and the Morgan Dynasty

Five further generations, spanning roughly 1350 to 1480, are not individually named in the surviving Tredegar pedigrees — a common gap in family records of this period, when documentation was sparse and frequently lost. The line resumes with Sir John Morgan, who lived from around 1428 to 1492. Sir John was made a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and, around 1490, commissioned the building of Tredegar House, a wing of which still stands today and is managed by the National Trust as one of the most significant Tudor and Restoration houses in Wales.

A further five generations, including William Morgan and Phillip Morgan (1549–1627), carried the Morgan family through the Elizabethan and Stuart eras as one of the principal gentry families of south-east Wales. In 1693, Florence Morgan married William Nicholl, carrying the ancient Morgan bloodline — and with it the descent from Gwenllïan and The Lord Rhys — into the Nicholl, Jenkins, Davis, Frost and ultimately Williams families that would, after a further two centuries, produce Linda.

Into the Modern World

John Nicholl, born around 1701 and dying in 1749, carried the line forward from Florence Morgan's marriage. His daughter Elizabeth Nicholl, born 1728 and died 1769, married William Jenkins. Their daughter Susannah Jenkins, born 1767 and dying in 1840, married Francis Davis and lived through the full sweep of the industrial revolution that transformed south Wales from an agricultural society into the industrial heartland of the British Empire.

Susannah's son, William Jenkins Davis, born 1798 and died 1855, married Hannah Pritchard. Their daughter Rachel Davis, born 1828 and died 1899, married William Frost. Rachel and William's daughter Lucy Frost carried the line into the twentieth century as the mother of Gordon George Williams, who was born in 1931 and died in 2019.

The Final Generation

Gordon George Williams married Elizabeth Anne Burley on 31 August 1957 at Llanishen Church, Monmouth. On 26 April 1963, their daughter Linda Jane Elizabeth was born at Pontypool. Linda did not know, as she grew up in Monmouthshire and later made her home in Kidwelly, that her father's bloodline reached back through twenty-five documented generations to a warrior princess who had died defending the very town that would become Linda's own.

She worked as a carer for children with additional needs and was recognised by Carmarthenshire County Council as One in a Million for her care and compassion. She died on 4 July 2015. The field where Gwenllian fell, Maes Gwenllian, lies a short walk from the house where Linda lived — a connection neither of them ever knew, joining two women who, eight and a half centuries apart, gave everything they had for the people in their care.

The Gwenllian Line in Summary

Gwenllian ferch Gruffudd, Princess of Gwynedd, c.1097 – 1136 — died at Maes Gwenllian, Kidwelly, defending Deheubarth.

Rhys ap Gruffudd, The Lord Rhys, c.1132 – 1197 — Ruler of Deheubarth; founder of the first Eisteddfod, 1176.

Meredydd ap Rhys, fl. late 12th century — carried the line from Deheubarth toward the Lords of Tredegar.

Meredydd Gethyn, fl. early 13th century — head of the documented Tredegar lineage.

Gruffydd ap Meredydd Gethin, fl. 13th century — linked the family to Tredegar through his mother Angharad.

Meredydd ap Gruffydd, Lord of Tredegar, fl. 13th–14th century — held the Cyfoeth Meredydd estate, Gwynllwg.

Sir Morgan ap Meredydd, Lord of Tredegar, d. 1332 — led the Welsh uprising of 1294 across Glamorgan and Gwent.

Llewelyn ap Ifor, Lord of St Clare and Tredegar, fl. 14th century — father of Ifor Hael, patron of Dafydd ap Gwilym.

[Five generations, names not individually recorded] c.1350 – c.1480 — carried the line to Sir John Morgan.

Sir John Morgan, c.1428 – 1492 — Knight of the Holy Sepulchre; built Tredegar House, c.1490.

[Five generations, including William Morgan and Phillip Morgan, 1549–1627] c.1480 – c.1620 — the Elizabethan and Stuart Morgans.

Florence Morgan, fl. 1693 — married William Nicholl; carried the line into the Nicholl, Jenkins, Davis, Frost and Williams families.

John Nicholl, c.1701 – 1749.

Elizabeth Nicholl, 1728 – 1769 — married William Jenkins.

Susannah Jenkins, 1767 – 1840 — married Francis Davis.

William Jenkins Davis, 1798 – 1855 — married Hannah Pritchard.

Rachel Davis, 1828 – 1899 — married William Frost.

Lucy Frost, fl. 19th–20th century — mother of Gordon George Williams.

Gordon George Williams, 1931 – 2019 — married Elizabeth Anne Burley, 1957. Linda's father.

Linda Jane Elizabeth Williams (née Williams), born 26 April 1963, Pontypool — died 4 July 2015, Kidwelly.

Sources

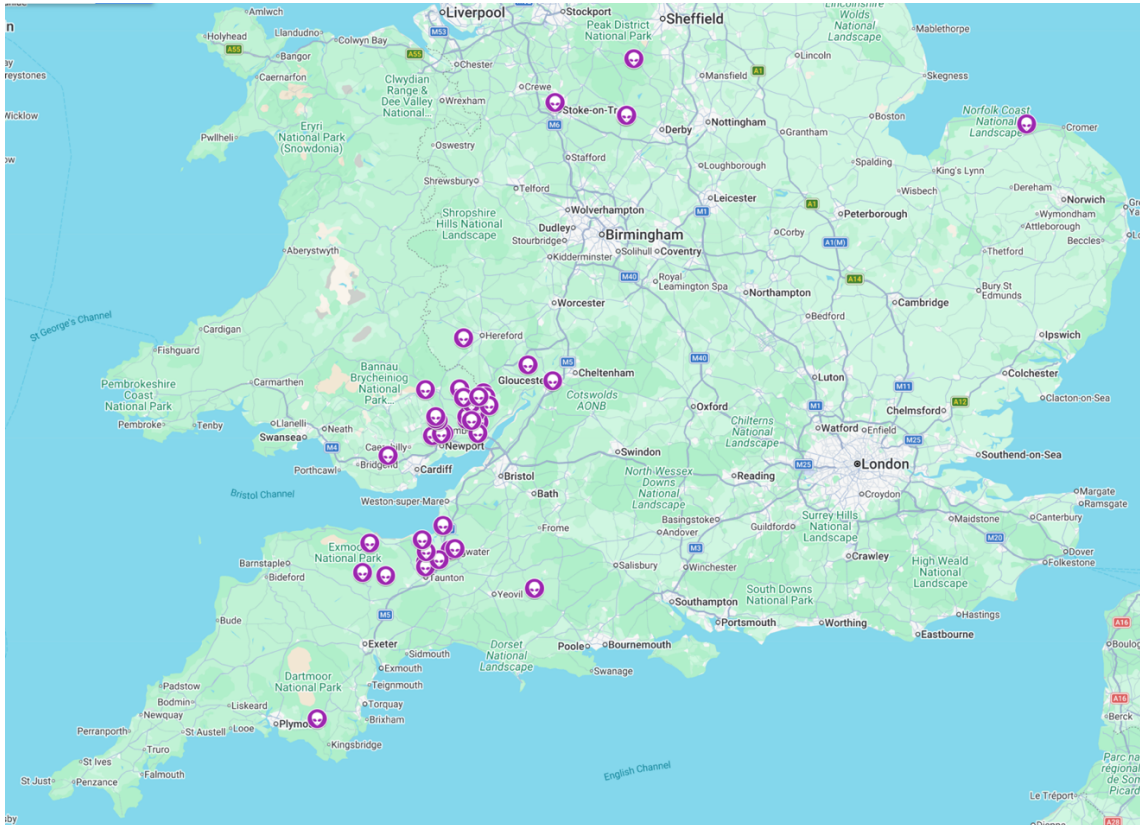
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Tredegar House and National Trust archive records. Parish and civil registration records, Monmouthshire. People's Collection Wales, Graham T Emmanuel contributor archive.

*Vivit Post Funera Virtus — Virtue Lives On After Death | Graham Tudor Emmanuel,
Kidwelly | 2026*

LINDA'S KIDNER LINE

*From William de Ketenore, Norman Knight, c.1125
to Linda Jane Elizabeth Williams (née Burley), 1963–2015*



Map Link

<https://tinyurl.com/Kidner-Heritage-Map>

Virtual cemetery Link

<https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/1594136?page=1#sr-188047638>

Linda's Kidner Line

From Norman Somerset to South Wales: Twenty-Two Generations

Linda Jane Elizabeth Williams was born on 26 April 1963 in Pontypool, Monmouthshire, the daughter of Gordon George Williams and Elizabeth Anne Burley.

Most people who knew Linda knew her as "a woman of deep Welsh instinct — her care for others", her connection to community, her quiet rootedness in the landscape of south Wales.

She would not have thought of herself as carrying Norman blood. But through her mother's line, through the surname Kidner, Linda was a direct descendant of a Norman knight of Somerset whose family had held land near Exmoor since before 1155.

This is that story.

The Place the Name Came From

The name Kidner derives from a place, not a person. That place is Culbone, a tiny hamlet on the northern edge of Exmoor in Somerset, about two miles west of Porlock Weir. Culbone is one of the most isolated settlements in England, a wooded combe running steeply down to the Severn estuary, with a church so small it is thought to be the smallest complete parish church in the country. The hamlet was known in Saxon times as Ketenore, a name most likely derived from the Old English words for kite and steep slope: a hillside frequented by kites.

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records the place as Chetenore — the Norman-French alphabet had no letter K, so the scribes wrote Ch instead. At that time the manor was held by a man called Drogo, tenant of Geoffrey de Moubray, Bishop of Coutances, who was among the great Norman lords who had accompanied William the Conqueror to England in 1066. The Domesday entry describes a tiny rural community of perhaps twenty-five souls farming around three hundred acres, with woodland for fuel and pasture above the combe, the sea to the north and Exmoor to the south.

Over the following century the name evolved — Ketenore to Kitenor to Kitnor, and eventually to Culbone. As a surname it followed its own path, settling in most of Somerset as Kidner by the sixteenth century, though in some western parishes the forms Kitner and Ketnor persisted into the twentieth.

William de Ketenore: The First Ancestor

The first member of the family to be identified by name in surviving records is William de Ketenore, born around 1125. He appears as a witness to two charters of the Honour of Dunster — one dated to around 1155, one to around 1160 — confirming that he was a man of knightly status in the Hundred Court of Carhampton in west Somerset.

Both charters are witnessed by a group of local landholders of comparable rank, and William is named alongside families including the de Mohuns of Dunster and the Elworthys of Elworthy.

The formal documentary record of his landholding comes in 1166, when Henry II ordered all his tenants-in-chief to submit returns of their knights' fees — a great national survey of military obligation known to later historians as the Black Book of the Exchequer. In that return, William de Ketenore is named as a knight holding land of Ranulf le Poer under the Honour of Barnstaple.

The return notes that his enfeoffment was of the 'old enfeoffment' — meaning it had been established before the death of Henry I in 1135 — confirming that William, or his father before him, had been granted the manor of Ketenore in the reign of Henry I, probably in the years when Henry was rewarding loyal supporters with confiscated Norman estates.

William was a working knight of the feudal system. He would have owed military service to his lord for forty days a year without pay, provided castle guards, witnessed legal documents, served on juries, and presided over the manorial court.

He was literate, of intermediate social status, managing several hundred acres of farmland and woodland in a remote corner of Somerset. He married a woman named Cicely de Timberscombe around 1150, an entirely fitting match between two families of similar standing living some ten miles apart in the same part of west Somerset. Through Cicely, the family acquired an additional quarter-fee of land at Timberscombe in the valley of the River Avill near Dunster, which the de Ketenores would hold for over two hundred years.

William had four sons. The eldest, William 2, inherited Culbone and Timberscombe. Two younger sons, Jocelin and Adam, held land in Cannington Hundred. The third son, Geoffrey, went to Ireland as part of the Anglo-Norman campaigns from around 1175, and appears in the

Dublin Roll of Names of the 1190s. The family's reach in this period stretched from Exmoor to Ireland, from Somerset to Yorkshire, and it is the Somerset line through William 2 and his descendants that leads forward to Linda.

Carhampton Hundred: The Medieval Centuries

Through the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the family were steady Somerset landholders — knights becoming yeomen, yeomen becoming farmers, the feudal obligations of castle guard and military service gradually converting into money rents and civic duty. Each generation held the same acres at Culbone, Timberscombe and Quarme, managed the estate, served on juries, witnessed charters, and paid the king's taxes.

Geoffrey de Ketenore 2, born around 1180, brought a case in the royal courts in 1227 to establish his right to land at Timberscombe inherited through his grandmother Cicely, and won. He subsequently acquired a half-fee at Quarme, five miles south-west of Timberscombe on the edge of Exmoor, as compensation following a dispute over Woolston.

By 1236 he held a quarter of the Timberscombe fee jointly with three other families, all descendants of the four daughters who had divided the estate in 1186 when Adam de Timberscombe died without a male heir. Geoffrey's portion was Cicely's share, held intact across three generations.

Geoffrey de Ketenore 3, born around 1220, found himself caught in the political storm of 1265, when the rebel barons under Simon de Montfort were defeated at Evesham and Parliament ordered the confiscation of estates belonging to those who had supported the rebellion. An inquisition in Carhampton Hundred named Geoffrey among those appointed to account for the rents, and though he was not listed as a rebel, an order was issued confiscating his land and awarding it to Thomas de Berkeley.

The king later rescinded the confiscation under the terms of the Dictum de Kenilworth, which allowed former owners to redeem their property for a sum equivalent to five years' rent. Geoffrey recovered Culbone, Timberscombe and Quarme in full.

By the reign of Edward I the family's landholding is well documented in Kirby's Quest of 1284–85, which records William de Ketenore 4 holding one fee in Kitenore of Thomas de Raleigh, half a fee in Quarme Begger of John de Mohun, and a portion of the Timberscombe fee alongside other local families.

William 4 also appears in the Forest of Exmoor records: the great perambulations of 1298 and 1300, which redefined the forest boundary after centuries of unlawful extension, specifically list the vill of Kytenore and the township of Begger Quarme as lands which William de Kytenore holds, and which were to be disafforested under the terms of the Charter of the Forest of 1217.

His son William de Ketenore 5, born around 1280, paid tax in Timberscombe in the Subsidy Roll of 1327, while the manor of Culbone was by then being farmed with Yearnor nearby. His son Maurice de Ketenore concluded the defining transaction of the family's medieval history on 14 October 1331, exchanging the Manor of Ketenore itself — the place from which the name had come — for just under two hundred acres of land in Doverhay, Torre, Avill and Timberscombe, plus a cash payment of one hundred marks. From that point, Timberscombe became the family's principal estate. Culbone passed to the de Bratton family, and the de Ketenores became Timberscombe people.

Maurice died, almost certainly of plague, around 1348. His son Walter was a Regarder of the Forest of Exmoor from 1365, one of the twelve independent men appointed to inspect the forest every three years and report offences. Walter died in 1386 or early 1387, leaving only one child, a daughter Isabel.

On Isabel's inheritance the estates passed through her marriage to John Bochell of Bridgwater, and the freehold of the Timberscombe and Quarme lands left de Ketenore hands for good. The direct male line in Carhampton Hundred had ended.

Cannington Hundred: The Branch That Survived

While the Carhampton line died out in the female line in the late fourteenth century, a separate branch of the family had been established in Cannington Hundred from the late twelfth century onwards. Adam de Ketenore, youngest son of William 1, had held land near Petheram and Stogursey from around 1197, and although the direct male line in Cannington is harder to trace across the gap between Adam's death around 1220 and the early fourteenth century, the family reappeared there firmly by 1327. The Subsidy Roll of that year records a Willelmo Kytenor paying tax in Rodway, which included Petheram, and the Steyning Charters of 1339 and 1346 document William de Kitenore holding lands at Pederdham — Petheram — which came to him by inheritance.

The name shortened to Kitnor in a charter of 1449, and within a generation had become Kydnor and then Kidner. Walter Kydnor of Stogursey made his will on 3 December 1531, leaving two oxen to his son William and asking to be buried in the churchyard of St Andrew at the east end. His wife Joan made her will in 1544. Their son William was churchwarden of Stogursey in 1546–47 and is thought to have moved to North Petherton sometime after 1547. A William Kidner was buried at North Petherton on 9 January 1579.

By the end of the sixteenth century the family was spread across west Somerset — in Broomfield, North Petherton, Creech St Michael, Enmore, Durston and the surrounding parishes — farming, keeping sheep, working as butchers and craftsmen, and beginning to move with the wider economic currents of the age. The name had settled permanently into its modern form.

Broomfield and the Crossing into Wales



Linda at a Kidner family ancestor

[Christopher Kidner](#) was born in Broomfield, Somerset, on 25 March 1793, and baptised at Broomfield church on 3 July 1794. He was the son of Christopher Kidner and Mary Sidwick, who had married at Broomfield in April 1784.

The family were part of a substantial Kidner presence in the parish; several related Kidner households appear in the Broomfield records through the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, part of the same cluster of Somerset farming and craft families documented across the period 1841 to 1911.

Christopher was baptised at Broomfield but grew up in the years of the Napoleonic Wars and its aftermath years of agricultural depression, enclosure, and rising poverty in rural Somerset.

At some point around 1810 he left Somerset for Monmouthshire, following a path that his brother Joseph also took. Joseph settled at Llanfrechfa and married Frances Smart in 1815; Christopher settled at Croesyceiliog, about two miles south of Pontypool, and established himself as a butcher.

Christopher married Maria Andrews on 6 June 1819. His first wife died, and on 13 May 1827 he married Anne Thomas.

The 1841 census finds him at Croesyceiliog with Anne and four children, described as a butcher not born in Monmouth. The 1851 census confirms him as head of the household at Croesyceiliog, born in Broomfield, Somerset, with five children ranging from Christopher aged seventeen to John aged six.

He did not reach the 1861 census. Christopher Kidner senior died in Pontypool Registration District in the second quarter of 1851.

The Newport Rising, 1839



One episode in Christopher Kidner's life in Monmouthshire stands apart from the ordinary rhythm of trade and family. On the night of 3 to 4 November 1839 a force of several thousand Chartist demonstrators marched on Newport in an action that became the last armed insurrection on British soil.

The Chartists were demanding political reform, particularly the six points of the People's Charter, including universal male suffrage and the secret ballot. The march converged on Newport from three directions and ended in bloodshed outside the Westgate Hotel when soldiers opened fire, killing at least twenty-two people and wounding many more. The three leaders — John Frost, Zephaniah Williams and William Jones — were convicted of high treason and sentenced to transportation.

Christopher Kidner, a butcher of Croesyceiliog, was among those caught up in that night. According to the records of the magistrates' examinations held in the aftermath, now held in the Gwent Archives, Christopher was compelled to march — a man pressed into the column rather than a committed revolutionary.

He was cleared of any charge. He appeared in evidence reported in *The Times* of 9 November 1839, one of several witnesses examined to establish the facts of what had happened and who had been involved. His presence in those proceedings, and his subsequent clearance, suggest a man who was in the wrong place on a violent night rather than a leader or organiser.

He named Zephaniah Williams among those who had marched him. The irony was not small: Zephaniah Williams, convicted Chartist leader, was one of the three men whose name Linda carried in her own descent through the Gordon Williams line on her father's side. Two threads of Linda's ancestry touched the same fire on the same night in Newport.

From Joseph Kidner to Catherine Elizabeth

Christopher's son Joseph Kidner was baptised at Llanfrechfa on 6 July 1827, the son of Christopher and his second wife Anne Thomas. He is found in 1841 in the household of a publican at Cross Ceilog as a twelve-year-old male servant.

By 1851 he had moved to Aberystroth in the western valleys and was working as a tin plate worker. He married Catherine Price in the fourth quarter of 1855 at the Abergavenny Registration District.

Joseph and Catherine settled in the Llanfrechfa and Abertillery area and raised a large family in the tin plate trade. The 1861 census finds them at Chapel Rung, Aberystroth, with Joseph working as a tin plate shearer and Catherine aged twenty-two with three young sons and a new baby. By 1871 they were at 5 The Terrace, Upper Llanfrechfa, with five children. By 1881 the family had grown to eight, living at 21 Pontryhydyrun Terrace, Upper Llanfrechfa, with Joseph aged fifty-one still a shearer of tin plate and their youngest son Joseph Herbert aged five recorded as a scholar.

Joseph senior died in the third quarter of 1897. Catherine died in the first quarter of 1899.

Their youngest son Joseph Herbert Kidner, born around 1876 in Llanfrechfa, followed his father and elder brothers into the tin works as a young man. The 1891 census finds him at Evaness Farm, Llanfrechfa, aged fifteen and already working as a tin worker. He married Elizabeth Ann Morgan in the fourth quarter of 1902 at the Monmouth Registration District.

The 1911 census records the family clearly: 67 Alexander Street, Blaina, Monmouthshire. Joseph Herbert Kidner, head, aged thirty-five, occupation hostler. His wife Elizabeth Ann, aged twenty-nine, born at Penalt in Monmouthshire. Their children listed include Catherine Elizabeth Kidner, daughter, aged seven, born at Penalt; Joseph Henry, son, aged five, born at

Abertillery; William Frederick, son, aged three, born at Blaina; and Edith Emily, daughter, aged one, also born at Blaina.

Catherine Elizabeth Kidner — aged seven in that 1911 census — was Linda's grandmother.

The Final Generations

Catherine Elizabeth Kidner grew up in Blaina and the surrounding Monmouthshire valleys during the years of the First World War and after. She married, and her daughter Elizabeth Anne — Linda's mother — was born in due course. Elizabeth Anne Burley, as she became, married Gordon George Williams, and on 26 April 1963 their daughter Linda Jane Elizabeth was born at Pontypool.

Linda did not know the name Ketenore. She would not have known that her mother's maiden name Kidner derived from a wooded combe on the edge of Exmoor, or that a Norman knight called William had held the manor there before 1155. She was a person of instinctive loyalty and warmth, a rest bite carer, a mother. But the thread was there from Norman Somerset to the Welsh valleys, through plague and rising and the long slow changes of the centuries, through tin plate workers and butchers and farmers and a man compelled to march on a November night in Newport — and it ended in her.

She carried it without knowing it, which is perhaps the most honest way to carry anything.

The Kidner Line in Summary

William de Ketenore 1, Norman knight, born c.1125 — Culbone, Somerset.

William de Ketenore 2, knight, born c.1150 — Culbone and Timberscombe.

Geoffrey de Ketenore 2, knight, born c.1180 — Culbone, Timberscombe and Quarme.

Geoffrey de Ketenore 3, knight, born c.1220 — Culbone, Timberscombe and Quarme.

William de Ketenore 4, knight, born c.1258 — Culbone, Timberscombe and Quarme.

William de Ketenore 5, born c.1280 — Timberscombe; negotiated exchange of Culbone, 1331.

Maurice de Ketenore, born c.1300 — Timberscombe; died c.1348, probable plague victim.

[Connecting generations through Cannington Hundred — William 7 of Petheram, Roger Kytenor, William Kitenor 8, Walter Kydnor of Stogursey] 14th to early 16th centuries.

Christopher Kidner, born Broomfield, Somerset, 25 March 1793 — crossed into Monmouthshire c.1810; butcher at Croesyceiliog; present at Newport Rising, November 1839; cleared; died Pontypool RD, Q2 1851.

Joseph Kidner, baptised Llanfrechfa, 6 July 1827 — tin plate shearer; married Catherine Price, 1855; died Q3 1897.

Joseph Herbert Kidner, born c.1876, Llanfrechfa — hostler; married Elizabeth Ann Morgan, Q4 1902.

Catherine Elizabeth Kidner, born c.1904, Penalt, Monmouthshire — Linda's grandmother.

Elizabeth Anne Burley (née Kidner) — Linda's mother.

Linda Jane Elizabeth Williams (née Burley), born 26 April 1963, Pontypool — died 4 July 2015, Kidwelly.

Sources

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Summary: Two Lines, One Woman

A Welsh Princess, a Norman Knight

A note on the comparative descent chart of Linda Jane Elizabeth Emmanuel

This archive sets out, side by side, the two ancestral lines of Linda Jane Elizabeth Emmanuel (née Williams), born 26 April 1963 in Pontypool, died 4 July 2015 in Cardiff. Her father's line and her mother's line had never crossed before her own parents married in 1957, yet each carries an unbroken, independently documented descent reaching back more than eight hundred years into very different corners of British history.

Through her father, Gordon George Williams, Linda descended from Gwenllian ferch Gruffudd, a Princess of Gwynedd who died defending the kingdom of Deheubarth on a field outside Kidwelly Castle in 1136 — the same town where Linda herself would later live. The line runs through Gwenllian's son, Rhys ap Gruffudd (The Lord Rhys), and onward through the Lords of Tredegar, including Sir John Morgan, builder of Tredegar House, and Ifor Hael, patron of the poet Dafydd ap Gwilym, before passing through the Nicholl, Jenkins, Davis, and Frost families to Gordon George Williams, twenty-five documented generations after Gwenllian.

Through her mother, Elizabeth Anne Burley, Linda descended from Geoffrey de Ketenore, a Norman knight who held the manor of Culbone on the edge of Exmoor in Somerset, recorded in legal proceedings of the 1220s and 1230s. The Kidner surname — itself a worn-down form of Ketenore — carried the family through Carhampton and Cannington Hundreds, through plague, feudal service, and the slow shift from knighthood to yeoman farming, until Christopher Kidner crossed into Monmouthshire around 1810 and was caught up, entirely by chance, in the Newport Rising of 1839. The line reaches Linda's mother twenty-four generations after Geoffrey.

The two families have no recorded connection prior to 1957. One descends from Welsh royalty; the other from Anglo-Norman gentry settled in Somerset. They represent, in effect, two distinct strands of the wider story of these islands — Welsh resistance and rule on one side, Norman settlement and slow assimilation on the other — meeting only in the lifetime of two people who themselves knew nothing of either inheritance.

Both lines are presented here generation by generation, with names, dates and sources given wherever the surviving records allow, and gaps acknowledged honestly where they exist. The intention is straightforward: to leave an accurate, readable record for anyone researching either family in the future, and to mark, in documented form, the meeting point of two very different journeys through Welsh and English history in the life of one woman.