

Letter from Brian Jones to J. Alden

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4.2.04

Dear Jeff,

Following up what we talked about yesterday, I found the following extract from Thomas Wilkins's MS 'Analecta Glamorganica' (Cardiff MS 3.464, p.42):

This King Richard ye 3d was he that built Lanblethian Tower before he was king but after marriage with Ann ye Lady of Glamorgan and Morganwg. He also built the south isle of Cowbridge Church about the year 1473. Tis also reported that he then built Cardiff Tower.

This was written about 1657 and is the earliest reference I know to Lady Anne Nevill and her husband as benefactors of local churches.

In the Llanblethian parish register the following slightly different version of the story is written:

Anno 1473/ Anne the second daughter and co-heir of Richard Nevill the late Earl of Salisbury and Warwick was first married to Edward Prince of Wales son to King Henry the sixth She was late Lady of the Manor of Glamorgan and Morganwg Built this Tower the south part of Cowbridge Church and St John's Tower in Cardiff was also married to Richard Earl of Gloucester afterward King of England by usurpation surnamed Richard Crookback he built the north gate of Cardiff Town where his arms is now to be seen supported by two bears.  
Thomas Wilkins 1721. Richard Lewis, John Williams, churchwardens

The experts are happy with a fifteenth-century date for Llanblethian tower and the Llanquian aisle, but prefer to date St John's tower a bit later than the 1470s - it compares with the Jasper Tower at Llandaff traditionally built by Jasper Tudor (d.1495).

Is there any truth in all of this?

Yours,

Brian