

# *Last of the Gifted*



## Read-Along Guide *Spirit Sight and Water Sight*

By Marie Powell

Map  
Character List  
Historical Note  
Glossary  
Further Reading

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Fig. 1 ~ Map of Gwynedd



## Character Guide

### Hyw and Cat's family

Hywel (HUH-wel) or Hyw (huh-oo) ~ Welsh warrior  
Catrin (KAHT-rin) or Cat ~ Hyw's younger sister  
Bran (brrahn) ~ Hyw and Cat's father, Llywelyn's steward  
Adara (uhd-EHRR-uh) ~ Hyw and Cat's mother  
Gawain (GAH-wayn) ~ Hyw and Cat's uncle  
Rhys ap Cadwgan (hrrees ap kad-OO-gan) ~ Lord of Meirionnydd, Cat's betrothed

### The House of Aberffraw

Llywelyn (thluh-WEH-lihn) ap Gruffydd ~ Prince of Wales  
Elinor de Montfort ~ Llywelyn's wife (deceased)  
Gwenllian (gwen-THLEE-an) ~ Llywelyn's infant daughter  
Dafydd (DAHV-ith) ap Gruffydd ~ Prince of Wales  
Elizabeth ~ Dafydd's wife  
Gwladys (GLAH-duhs) ~ Dafydd & Elizabeth's daughter  
Llyw (THLUH-oo) ~ Dafydd & Elizabeth's eldest son  
Owain (OH-wayn) ~ Dafydd & Elizabeth's youngest son  
Margred (MEHRR-grred) ~ one of Dafydd's illegitimate daughters  
Rhiannon (hrree-AN-on) ~ one of Dafydd's illegitimate daughters

### Other Welsh characters

Aeneus (eh-NEE-aas) ~ former head of Llywelyn's *teulu* (personal guard)  
Bronwen (BRRAHN-win) ~ Cat and Hyw's friend  
Cynfrig ap Madog (KUN-vrig) ~ Rhys' former steward  
Dai ap Rhys (die ap hrrees) ~ warrior  
Drem (drrehm) ~ butcher's son from Criccieth  
Enid (EH-nid) ~ wet nurse  
Emrys (EM-rris) ~ warrior, Hyw's childhood friend  
Gwilym ap Einion (GWIHL-ihm ap eye-NEE-on) ~ master bard  
Hywel ap Rhys Gryg (HUH-wel ap hrrees-grreeg) ~ Welsh lord  
Ifan (ee-van) ~ warrior in Llywelyn's *teulu*  
Odgar (AWD-gahrr) ~ Welsh warrior  
Maelgwyn (MYLE-gwin) ~ Welsh priest

### The English

Edward I (Longshanks) ~ King of England  
Edmund Mortimer ~ heir to Baron Roger Mortimer (deceased)  
Gilbert le Clare ~ Marcher Lord (from the Welsh-English border)  
James ~ Shrewsbury's son, Hyw's friend, half-Welsh  
Lord Shrewsbury ~ Marcher lord, Hyw's foster father  
Robert ~ son of Shrewsbury's cousin  
Roger Lestrangle ~ commander in King Edward's army  
Sir Bellamy ~ English knight  
Stephen de Francton ~ English knight  
William de Valence ~ Marcher lord  
Alan Acton, Gerald ~ soldiers who befriend Hyw

## Historical Note

The year 1282 must have begun with great hope. Llywelyn ap Gruffydd (c. 1223–11 December, 1282), acknowledged Prince of Wales, and his wife Elinor expected their first child. A boy would become the heir to the kingdom Llywelyn had spent his life building—and then trying to keep intact.

By 1282, Llywelyn ap Gruffydd or Llywelyn Ein Llyw Olaf (our last leader), as he came to be known, had gained and lost a kingdom. He reached adulthood in a time of great political upheaval in Wales that included the deaths of his famous grandfather, and shortly afterward, the uncle who had become ruler in Wales. Under Welsh law, a boy came of age at fourteen. Recent scholarship suggests Llywelyn went on the 1240-41 Crusade as a teenager. He was a minor figure in Welsh political life at that time. By 1258, he had defeated his older brother Owain to take control in Gwynedd. Llywelyn began to pull the disparate leaders of Wales into some form of unity. The title Prince of Wales was officially granted to him by Henry III (Edward's father) in 1267, under the Treaty of Montgomery.

Llywelyn was the last prince of an independent Wales under the treaty, lasting some ten years from 1267 until about 1277. We don't know much about that time, because most of the records and artifacts of the last Welsh prince have been destroyed. In his book, *Llywelyn Ap Gruffudd: Prince of Wales*, J. Beverley Smith suggests that it was a combination of political and military determination. But in my imagination, Wales under Llywelyn's rule was a kind of Camelot.

After a lifetime of fighting, Llywelyn would surely have incorporated peace into his version of a unified Wales. He was known to trace his own lineage back to Troy, so it's possible that, in Llywelyn's Wales, arts and culture flourished and people had a taste of freedoms that were not generally known in medieval times. Llywelyn's letters to defend his dream of a unified Wales have been considered among the most eloquent statesmanship of the time. But it also seems likely that many living in such a Camelot would not have realized their fortune until it was snatched away from them.

Elinor (I have used Welsh spelling for Eleanor to avoid confusion with the numerous other Eleanors of this time period) was the daughter of Simon de Montfort, a nobleman who became a friend and ally of Llywelyn. In 1263, she was betrothed to Llywelyn, although she would have been about five years old. After her father's defeat, the family was exiled to France. Llywelyn apparently kept faith with de Montfort and his daughter: unlike other Welsh leaders, not even rumours suggest other romantic relationships or children in his life. In about 1275-1276, Elinor and Llywelyn were married by proxy. But, as Elinor sailed from France to join her Welsh prince, she was captured by Edward I, King of England, who held her in captivity for three years.

Trying to get her back, Llywelyn lost a major battle to the English king in 1277. The country split into North and South Wales, with parts of the south held by lords who served King Edward. Under the Treaty of Aberconwy, Llywelyn kept his title but had to pay a stiff tribute in money and sign away most of his land. He retained only Gwynedd in North Wales.

Finally, in 1278, Edward allowed the wedding and led Elinor down the aisle to meet Llywelyn, her future husband. Between 1278 and 1282, Llywelyn and Elinor appear to have been

happy together. Then in the spring of 1282, Llywelyn's younger brother Dafydd attacked the English, who were, in his opinion, terrorizing his people and castles. Llywelyn tried to avoid committing the country to war by not joining with his brother.

On June 19, 1282, Elinor died giving birth to a baby girl, Gwenllian. Llywelyn went into mourning. The Marcher lords on the border between England and Wales increased their attacks against the Welsh. Llywelyn tried to prevent war by appealing to the pope on behalf of his people, and Edward sent the English Archbishop of Canterbury to visit the Welsh court in the autumn. The Archbishop stayed there in the first week of November, during a truce on all sides. During his visit, the Archbishop offered Llywelyn lands and personal gain if he would relinquish his title and surrender to King Edward. Llywelyn and his nobles refused. On November 6, the English forces broke the truce and attacked by water across the Menai Strait. Llywelyn's forces defeated the English, and many died. The Archbishop later proclaimed the Welsh heathen and in need of subjugation by English forces.

Llywelyn was killed suddenly and unexpectedly on December 11, 1282. There are many stories about how and why he died, and whether or not he was preparing to go to war with Edward. Some stories suggest he was surprised while meeting allies near Builth, and killed by a Shropshire soldier named Stephen de Francton, who did not recognize him as the Prince of Wales. De Francton profited little from his actions, since others took Llywelyn's head to the king.

Edward hung Llywelyn's head on a pike at the Tower of London, where it remained for close to a decade. The prince's seal and letters that may have contained evidence of treachery against Llywelyn were stolen from his body and taken to the Archbishop. Later Edward melted Llywelyn's seal, along with Elinor's and Dafydd's seals, and made them into a silver chalice, which was sent to an abbey in Lincolnshire for safekeeping.

Llywelyn was the last true prince of an independent Wales before its conquest by Edward I of England. This is where this story begins.

# # #

By May of 1283, independent Wales was in a desperate state. After the murder of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, the English began hunting down his brother Dafydd, who some say was trying to hold the country together by assuming the title of Prince of Wales.

During the first six months of 1283, the English forces chased Dafydd from castle to castle throughout north Wales, but did not capture him when the castles fell. At various points, Dafydd was accompanied by Llywelyn's daughter Gwenllian, as well as his own wife Elizabeth, at least one son and daughter, and several illegitimate daughters. Although he eluded them at first, Dafydd's forces dwindled until finally he was betrayed and captured in June of 1283. He was tried and executed at Shrewsbury in October 1283, becoming the first nobleman to be hung, drawn, and quartered.

# # #

My personal introduction to Welsh history began during a family trip to Wales in 2006. It encompassed a rather rambling self-guided tour, including a sheep farm in the Snowdon mountains of Gwynedd and a restored 13<sup>th</sup> Century wattle-and-daub cottage in Ceredigion. As we toured castles and historical sites, we read and heard more about the country's history. We were especially impressed by the restoration of the Welsh language. The highway and street signs were in Welsh first, English second, and school children are taught in Welsh. How could a language outlawed 800 years ago come back to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

According to family lore, the Powell family was apparently the “keeper of the Holy Grail.” After our first trip, I read in J. Beverley Smith’s book that the Welsh royal seals were melted into a silver chalice. A “grail” and a “chalice” are both essentially cups. My imagination was sparked, and the story began to unfold.

Over the years, I’ve relied on many research sources, a selection of which are listed under Further Reading. I found inspiration in the historical traditions of *The Brothers of Gwynedd* series by Edith Pargeter and the *Welsh Princes* series by Sharon Kay Penman. As well, I was influenced by modern fantasies such as *The Dark is Rising* by Susan Cooper, *Tomorrow’s Magic* by Pamela F. Service, and *The Farseer* by Robin Hobb.

Like all fiction writers, though, I chose to deviate from the historical research as the story required. For example, through the Shropshire archives, I confirmed there was no lord of Shrewsbury castle in this time period, so I invented one. Although little is known about Llywelyn’s early life, most Welsh children in this time would have fostered with other families, including the English, so I’ve used that in the story. A Welsh boy came of age at fourteen; since Llywelyn’s bodyguard or *teulu* were known to wear red tunics, I invented a red sash as a visual way to show this transition to manhood and his status as a warrior.

I have also used artistic license in other areas, such as having Bran and other Welsh warriors wearing torques, which may have been rare by the 13th Century, as symbolic of their Welsh heritage. Likely there was no pit of rotting bodies, since medieval people usually burned bodies, but in Wales the constant rain caused me to speculate about other possibilities, considering the sheer numbers killed in this invasion. Although Rhys ap Cadwgan and Gwilym ap Einion are fictional, Cynfrig ap Madog is a historical figure credited with managing the negotiations at Castell-y-Bere, which I have called “Bere” in the story, and a well-known bard was also thought to be present. Hywel ap Rhys Gryg was a historical figure, and I include him as a representative of those who stood with Dafydd, defiant to the end. I also speculated about the characters of Stephen de Francton and Dafydd’s illegitimate daughters, Margred and her sisters, and how events may have unfolded.

People in the English marches and Wales would have spoken several languages, including Norman French, but I’ve limited references to English and Welsh. Since free use of the Welsh language ended with the Welsh defeat in 1283, I have included a few Welsh words and used Welsh spelling whenever possible. Also, I have altered names when it seemed necessary. For example, Llywelyn married Eleanor de Montfort, whose mother was also Eleanor de Montfort; King Edward’s wife was another Eleanor (de Castile) and his mother was Eleanor (de Provence). To lessen confusion, I’ve used the spelling Elinor, which I found in some sources, for the princess. As well, I’ve referred to the English as “soldiers” or “knights” and the Welsh as “warriors” for easier reading. Although the English term “cavalry” was used for mounted knights on horseback in this period, I avoided it when describing the English invaders because it can carry the connotation of rescue.

The poem mentioned on pages 86-87 of *Spirit Sight* is “Y Gododdin,” which is considered the earliest surviving Welsh poem. I have written words for Llywelyn’s poem to avoid conflicts with copyright, but the original can be found in translation by Siân Echard in the Broadview anthology, and by Joseph Clancy, among others (listed below under Further Resources). Similarly, one inspiration for the scene in Chapter Eighteen was the YouTube video *Mari Lwyd* by Trac: Music Traditions Wales; the link and other resources for the greetings, insults, riddles, and other aspects of that chapter can be found in Further Resources.

Scholars disagree about what castle fell on what date during the 1282-83 invasion, and on the location of the royal *llys* at Garth Celyn (or Garthcelyn as it appears in some sources.) My main

written source was the Smith biography, as well as the Cilmeri, CADW, and Castles of Wales websites.

The list of sources under Further Reading provides more information about these topics. In changing or leaving out some details, as always, I hope I have left room for readers to find their own stories.

## Glossary

**Annwn** (AN-oon) ~ Welsh for OtherWorld (see OtherWorld); Arawn was its king (*Cŵn Annwn* are the Hounds of Hell)

**anon** ~ soon, in a little while

**bard** ~ singer and/or storyteller: Welsh bards or *beirdd* also had other duties, such as oral historian, legal advisor, and skilled political negotiator; there were three orders: *Pencerdd* or master poet, *bardd tellu* or family poet, and *cerddor* or minstrel

**Bere** or **Castell-y-Bere** (KAS-tethl-uh-BEH-rreh) ~ castle in north Wales built by Llywelyn the Great; it was besieged by English forces and fell in April 1283, but the English failed to capture Dafydd there

**Builth** (BEE-ehst) ~ castle in mid-Wales

**Cadair Idris** (KAH-diyr EE-drrees) ~ mountain in North Wales, known as the “giant’s chair” for the legendary giant Idris; also thought to be the legendary hunting ground of the Tylwyth Teg (or Welsh fae)

**Caergwrle** (kiyr-GOO-lee) ~ castle in northeast Wales built by Dafydd, near a town called Hope, built on a mountain known as Hope Mountain

**Carndochan** (karrn-DOH-khan) ~ castle in Gwynedd, North Wales, built by Llywelyn the Great

**Carreg Cennen** ~ castle in south-west Wales

**Cistercians** ~ religious order in Western Europe started in the late eleventh century, known as White Monks; they lived in solitude and isolation, had no personal property, kept a rigorous way of life, worked the land by hand

**coat of arms** ~ distinctive heraldic design representing a particular individual or his retainers, often on a cloak, shield or banner

**compline** ~ end of day (about 7:00 p.m.) in a monastery, a fixed time for evening prayers

**Cornish** ~ people from Cornwall, a district in northern England

**crest** ~ a heraldic emblem usually on a helmet

**Criccieth** (KRIK-ehth) ~ castle situated on the northwest coast that fell early in 1283

**crwth** (krooth) ~ a musical instrument similar to a lyre

**Cymraeg** (KUM-riyg) ~ Welsh language, related to Gaelic

**Cymer** (KUH-merr) ~ an abbey near Castell-Y-Bere; also a nearby native Welsh castle overthrown in the early 1100s, still visible as ruins today

**Cymru** (KUM-ree) ~ the country of Wales

**Cymry** (KUM-ree) ~ the Welsh people (the Welsh called themselves *Cymry*, “compatriots,” and thought of themselves as people of Britain by virtue of their ancestors, the Brythoniaid or Brythons.)

**Dderwyddon** (ther-oo-ITH-oyñ) ~ Druids (people of the *derw* or oak), an ancient people said to possess magic

**Desenni valley** (aka *Dysynni*) ~ valley in Northwest Wales

**Dolbadarn Castle** (doll-BAH-darn) ~ castle in North Wales

**Dolwyddelan Castle** (doll-with-ELen) ~ castle in North Wales that fell after five days' siege, on January 18, 1283, and was a strategic loss for the Welsh

**Eryri** (eh-RRU-rree) ~ medieval Welsh for the Snowdonia mountains or land of the Eagles

**fealty** ~ special kind of service (especially military), loyalty, and allegiance, usually pledged by a knight to a noble

**Feast of the Holy Innocents** ~ an early Christmas feast day, dating from the 5th century, celebrated on December 28 to commemorate the children King Herod killed in his search for the infant Jesus

**Feast of Saint Stephen** ~ On December 26, people gave leftovers to the poor to honour a deacon known for his good works who was stoned to death in 36 AD; root of the carol, "Good King Wenceslas"

**foster** ~ in medieval times, boys were sent to live with another noble family to train to be knights; they began as pages, then advanced to squires, then to knights

**garderobe** ~ toilet in a castle, often a wooden bench with a hole in it

**Garth Celyn** ~ dwelling of the royal family of Wales at Aber and Llywelyn's headquarters; may have been a castle or fortress made of a combination of wood and stone, with a traditional longhouse and other buildings, but the area was levelled by Edward I in 1283 and replaced with English castles; the English manor house at Pen-y-Bryn, built in the 1600s, is thought to contain one tower of the original Garth Celyn

**gŵr gwellt** (goorr GOO-ehstht) ~ Welsh folk custom where jilted suitors fashioned a straw likeness of their enemy, cursed it, and hung it in sight on May Day

**Gwyn ap Nudd** (gwin ahp neeth) ~ King of the Tylwyth Teg (faeries)

**Gwynedd** (GWIN-eth) ~ district in North Wales, held longest by the Welsh royal families

**Hawarden Castle** ~ former Welsh castle near the Welsh-English border; Dafydd's attack here in Easter 1282 is blamed for the start of the final war with the English

**keep** ~ fortified tower within a walled castle, often with a large hall inside

**King Arthur** ~ legendary king who united the warring chieftains of Wales in early Medieval times

**lauds** ~ early morning prayers in a monastery, focused on praising God (in contrast to evening prayers which were focused on thanksgiving)

**laverbread** ~ tasty mix of seaweed in rolled oats, usually eaten at breakfast

**Llyn valley** ~ district in North Wales, in the Snowdon mountains

**llys** (thlees) ~ Welsh term for the royal court

**Llywelyn the Great or Llywelyn ap Iorwerth** (c. 1172-1240) ~ Llywelyn ap Gryffydd's grandfather, ruler of Gwynedd and most of Wales

**Marcher lords** ~ fierce knights who were given land in return for policing the English-Welsh border

**Marches** ~ the lands along the English-Welsh border

**Mari Lwyd** (MAH-rree loyd) ~ New Year's tradition, still celebrated today, in which a skeletal horse's head (grey mare) is invited into homes to help bring good luck for the year

**marriage by proxy** ~ a marriage where the bride or groom is not present but is represented by another person

**Meirionnydd** (may-rree-ON-ith) ~ region in North Wales, once a sub-kingdom of Gwynedd

**Menai Strait** ~ treacherous body of water between North Wales and the island of Anglesey (Ynys Môn)

**morrigan** ~ a gift of prophecy, based on an Irish mythological figure or goddess who could predict the outcome of major battles, to offer favour to warriors, and to predict a warrior's death in battle; represented by three sisters who appeared as crows or ravens and had the ability to shapeshift.

**Nant Peris River** ~ river in North Wales

**nones** ~ ninth hour (3:00 p.m.) in a monastery, a fixed time for mid-afternoon prayers

**Nos Galan Gaeaf** (nohs KAL-an GAY-ehv) ~ Welsh term for Halloween: the eve of winter, or the night before *Calan Gaeaf* (the first day of winter); also known as *Ysbrydnos* or Spirit Night

**OtherWorld** ~ the place, known as *Annwn* in Welsh, thought by some to be where people went when they died, and by others to be more of a parallel world identical in most ways to our own; in Welsh legends, people sometimes exchanged bodies with people who lived in the OtherWorld

**pibgorn** ~ Welsh pipe-horn (*phibau*) with one reed (sounds like a bagpipe)

**Prysor Castle** ~ castle in west Meirionnydd thought to have been the location of a *llys* or royal court; King Edward sent a letter from this location in 1284

**quintain** ~ shield rigged to swivel on a wooden pole; when training, boys would ride horses toward the quintain as hard as they could and try to hit the shield squarely with a lance; after the hit, the wooden apparatus swung around behind the rider to unhorse the unwary with heavy swinging sandbags

**rhaeadr** ~ waterfall in Welsh (Rhaedr Fawr is Aber Falls)

**Rhuddlan** ~ castle in Northwest Wales near the Welsh-English border

**score** ~ unit of measure—twenty (of anything)

**sell-sword** ~ one who sells his services with a sword; a mercenary

**sext** ~ sixth hour (noon) in a monastery, a fixed time for midday prayers in praise of God's works

**Shrewsbury** ~ town in northern England, near the English-Welsh border

**Simon de Montfort** ~ English lord who fought for an early form of democracy and was brutally hunted down and killed for it by King Henry and his son Edward, who later became Edward I; Llywelyn may have fought beside de Montfort, and in 1263 Llywelyn was betrothed to his daughter Elinor

**Sir Gawain** ~ knight in the legends of King Arthur, and Arthur's nephew

**solar** ~ private sitting room for a lord or lady in a castle

**telyn** (TEL-in) ~ Welsh harp

**terce** ~ fixed time for mid-morning (9:00 a.m.) prayers in a monastery

**teulu** (TAY-lee) ~ "family" in Welsh, a Welsh prince's personal bodyguard (Llywelyn reportedly had 160 in his *teulu*, more than any other Welsh prince had before)

**torque** (tork) ~ ring of gold thought to have been worn by Celtic warriors around the neck, often crafted with intricate designs

**trencher** ~ English tradition: flat loaves of bread, cut in half and used as plates for food

**Twelfth Night** ~ English tradition: last day of the 12 days of Christmas, on January 5, celebrated today as Epiphany; often the day when gifts were given, ending the Christmas season

**Tŷ Hir** ~ the longhouse, possibly the royal dwelling at Garth Celyn

**Tylwyth Teg** (tuhl-with taig) ~ faeries in Welsh

**Tywysog** (tuh-WUH-sog) ~ leader in Welsh, translated as Prince

**unshriven** ~ without the process of confession, penance and absolution by a priest

**vespers** ~ evening prayers of thanksgiving

**vigils** ~ prayer service at night; in some traditions, specifically at midnight

**Watchers** ~ legendary characters that sleep within the Welsh mountains, in some Welsh legends thought to be the Old Ones (faeries) and in others King Arthur and his knights; it was said that the Old Ones would return to the people of *Cymru* in the time of their greatest need

**weft** ~ filling yarn in weaving

**Y Calan** ~ traditional Welsh song for the New Year

**Ynys Môn** ~ Anglesey, the island off the northwest coast of Wales

## Further Reading

### Nonfiction Books

*A Collection of Welsh Riddles* by Vernam Hall and Archer Taylor  
*A History of Wales* by John Davies  
*Broadview Anthology of British Literature: The Medieval Period*, edited by Joseph Black  
*Cadw* Guidebooks on various castles  
*Castles of the Welsh Princes* by Paul R. Davis  
*Castles of Wales* by Alan Reid  
*Celtic Gods and Heroes* by Marie-Louise Sjoestedt  
*From Medieval to Modern Wales* by R.R. Davies and Geraint H. Jenkins  
*Life in Medieval Europe* by Danièle Cybulskie  
*Llywelyn ap Gruffudd: Prince of Wales* by J. Beverley Smith  
*Medieval Wales: c. 1050-1332: Centuries of Ambiguity* by David Stephenson  
*Medieval Welsh Poems* translated by Joseph P. Clancy  
*Stories and Ballads of the Far Past* by Nora Kershaw Chadwick  
*The Age of Conquest: Wales 1063-1415* by R.R. Davies  
*The Journey Through Wales: The Description of Wales* by Gerald of Wales  
*Wales and the Welsh in the Middle Ages* edited by R.A. Griffiths and P.R. Schofield  
*Trioedd Ynys Prydain (Welsh Triads)* by Rachel Bromwich  
*Welsh Wars of Independence* by David Moore

### Online Resources on Welsh History

Archeology of Northwest Wales: <http://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/areanorthwest.html>  
Anna Belfrage: "Historical People ~ Elizabeth who? A reflection on the life of a medieval woman."  
<https://www.annabelfrage.com/2018/05/27/elizabeth-who/>  
Castles of Wales: <http://www.castlewales.com> (articles and essays)  
Cadw Dolwyddelan: <http://cadw.wales.gov.uk/daysout/dolwyddelancastle/?lang=en>  
Cadw Dolbadarn: <https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/dolbadarn-castle>  
Llys Rhosyr: <http://www.heneb.co.uk/palaceoftheprinces/rhosyr.html>  
Gathering the Jewels: Castles of the Welsh princes: <http://education.gtj.org.uk/en/item10/28986>  
International Heraldry and Heraldry: <http://www.internationalheraldry.com/>  
Medieval cavalry: <https://www.medievalchronicles.com/medieval-people/medieval-military/medieval-cavalry/>  
Medieval insults: <http://knighttimes.webs.com/insults.htm>  
[http://kol.coldfront.net/thekolwiki/index.php/Ye Olde Medieval Insult](http://kol.coldfront.net/thekolwiki/index.php/Ye_Olde_Medieval_Insult)  
[http://www.funnyjunk.com/funny\\_pictures/4254438/Medieval+insults/](http://www.funnyjunk.com/funny_pictures/4254438/Medieval+insults/)  
Medieval riddles: <http://www.increasebrainpower.com/easy-riddles.html>  
<http://www.justriddlesandmore.com/riddlearchive.html>  
Sarah Woodbury: "Making Sense of Medieval Wales" video series,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQfG6WlyxEU>  
Midlands: "Shrewsbury Castle and Town Walls," in Castles, Forts and Battles  
[http://www.castlesfortsbattles.co.uk/midlands/shrewsbury\\_castle\\_town\\_walls.html](http://www.castlesfortsbattles.co.uk/midlands/shrewsbury_castle_town_walls.html)

**Online Maps of Wales:**

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wales after the Treaty of Montgomery 1267.svg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wales_after_the_Treaty_of_Montgomery_1267.svg) (Alex D.)

Source: Wrex County exhibition:

[http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/heritage/medieval\\_exhibition/struggles.htm](http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/heritage/medieval_exhibition/struggles.htm)

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gwynedd after the Treaty of Aberconwy 1277.svg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gwynedd_after_the_Treaty_of_Aberconwy_1277.svg)

Gwynedd General Map (James Frankcom):

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Gwynedd General Map.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Gwynedd_General_Map.jpg)

**Fiction**

*After Cilmeri* (series) by Sarah Woodbury

*Assassins Apprentice: The Farseer* by Robin Hobb

*Lord of the Rings* (series) by J.R. Tolkien

*Ranger's Apprentice* (series) by John Flanagan

*The Brothers of Gwynedd* (series) by Edith Pargeter

*The Dark is Rising* (series) by Susan Cooper

*The Once and Future King* (series) by T.H. White

*Tomorrow's Magic* by Pamela F. Service

*Welsh Princes* (trilogy) by Sharon Kay Penman

*Wheel of Time* (series) by Robert Jordan

"Y Gododdin" in *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: The Medieval Period*

## Marie Powell



Marie Powell's adventures in castle-hopping across North Wales to explore her family roots resulted in the YA Fantasy series, *Last of the Gifted*. The series includes the books *Spirit Sight* and *Water Sight*. Marie is the author of more than forty traditionally published children's books, and her award-winning short stories and poetry appear in such literary magazines as *subTerrain* and *Room*. Among other degrees, she holds a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia.

Marie lives on Treaty 4 land in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

For links to the books, promos, giveaways, and more, join Marie's mailing list at [mariepowell.ca](http://mariepowell.ca)