

Myths and Legend
Summary of a Report in 1964 in Carmarthenshire Historian
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“**Land of Enchantment** The vale of Cych is a splendid dream, a haunted glen, a land of enchantment, spell-weaving. The source of the Cych is hidden in a heavily wooded ravine The source of the river whose course for over eight wooded meandering miles forms the boundary between Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. There must be few rivers in Wales which are unspoilt from source to estuary...

“One person whose actions were sufficiently significant for inclusion in the historical chronicles of medieval Wales, was to the compiler of the *bruts*, Cadifor ap Gollwyn, but to the genealogists and bards he was **Cadifor Fawr**, Lord of Blaen Cych and of the Seven Royal Courts of Dyfed...

“There can be no doubt that Cadifor lived somewhere in this area of which he was overlord. A few hundred yards to the northwest is the farmhouse of **Gilfach Gam** alongside the **remains of a once powerful fort...**

“Originally, the farmhouse stood on the eastern side of the old castell. An inscribed stone in the courtyard wall states that an earlier Gilfach Gain had been built in 1769 by one William Jones, and a tablet set high in the front wall of the house describes its fate – “The old house which was built about 200 feet to the north-east from this spot took fire from the back parlour flue and burnt down at night on August the 8th 1831”. Would that all householders raised such memorials so that he who reads might be instructed..

“In the field below the farmyard I came upon castell Gilfach Gam, a green arrow head of land above the junction of the Pibydd and the Cych. The ground falls abruptly about 50 to 60 feet to the bed of the ravine, providing a natural defence against attacks from the north, east, and west. Traces of two ramparts raised to protect the vulnerable south side, are still to be seen, one of which now does duty as a hedge; these ramparts run along the “neck” of the promontory, something over 200 feet long, the enclosed area containing about half an acre. The fairly even surface slopes gently towards the point of the promontory, and there are traces of defences at the top of the steep sides. The entrance was near the ruins of the old farmhouse of Gilfach Gam...

“According to a former owner-occupier of the farm, here was the castell of Cadifor Fawr whose pages lived at Gilfach y Gweision, another farmhouse about a hundred yards away, and the local people speak of cellars and dungeons below the fort, connected by a secret tunnel to Gilfach y Gweision. Not far from the last named farm is Gilfach Ymerson (rendered as Ymryson on O.S. maps), also associated with the lord of the castell. Tradition states that Cadifor’s dwelling was in the ravine itself, a massive structure built in the form of a bridge across the stream, sufficiently near to the fort to which he could retire when danger threatened. Cadifor and twelve of his warriors, clad in full armour, are said to lie sleeping in a cavern in the glen below, awaiting the call to return to “liberate” their fellow-countrymen.”