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Owain *ab* Edwin

(*d.* 1105)

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Owain *ab* Edwin (*d.* 1105), ruler in Wales, was the son of Edwin ap Gronw (a descendant of Owain ap Hywel Dda, according to some late genealogies) of Tegeingl, a north-eastern cantref between the Dee and the Clwyd, and Iwerydd, daughter of Cynfyn ap Gwerystan. His father is thought to be the Edwinus who held lands in Tegeingl and south-west Cheshire, both before 1066 and at the time of the Domesday survey, and was probably the most important Welshman at this time in Tegeingl. To this position Owain probably succeeded about 1090.

In 1098, Hugh d'Avranches, earl of Chester, and Hugh de Montgomery, earl of Shrewsbury, were aided by Owain and his brother Uchdryd in their invasion of Anglesey. Following the resulting flight of Gruffudd ap Cynan and Cadwgan ap Bleddyn to Ireland, it is possible that Owain's position was strengthened. Indeed, when the men of Gwynedd rose against the Normans later in the same year, it was Owain who led the revolt against his erstwhile lord the earl of Chester. However, Gruffudd and Cadwgan returned from Ireland in 1099 and made peace with the Normans, receiving back parts of their former territories. Owain, who was probably no longer of use to the Normans, disappears from the picture, though his brother Uchdryd was still active in 1118. Owain died in 1105, after a long illness. His wife was Morwyl ferch Ednywain Bendew. Some of his sons founded families of note in Tegeingl, but were all themselves killed in inter-dynastic or intra-familial strife: Llywarch in 1118, Gronw, Rhirid, and Meilyr in 1125 by their nephew Cadwallon ap Gruffudd ap Cynan, and Cynwrig in 1139 by Madog ap Maredudd of Powys. Owain's daughter Angharad was the wife of Gruffudd ap Cynan.

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