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Trahaearn *ap* Caradog

(*d.* 1081)

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Trahaearn *ap* Caradog (*d.* 1081), ruler in Wales, was, according to the genealogies, the son of Caradog *ap* Gwyn *ap* Gollwyn. One textually corrupt genealogy states that he was also the son of Angharad, daughter of Maredudd *ab* Owain (*d.* 999). It has alternatively been suggested that his mother was a daughter of Gwerystan *ap* Gwaithfoed of Powys. Originally lord of Arwystli (the region around Llanidloes), he became in 1075, on the death of his first cousin Bleddyn *ap* Cynfyn, ruler of the greater part of north Wales. His claim was at once contested by Gruffudd *ap* Cynan, representing the old line of Gwynedd, who is said to have defeated Trahaearn at Gwaederw in the region of Meirionydd, but appears to have been beaten at Bron-yr-Erw later in the year and forced to return to Ireland. In 1078, at Pwllgwdig, Trahaearn defeated Rhys *ab* Owain of south Wales, who was soon afterwards slain. His power brought about a coalition between Gruffudd *ap* Cynan and Rhys *ap* Tewdwr of Deheubarth, who in 1081 led a joint expedition against him from St David's, and defeated him and his allies, Caradog *ap* Gruffudd and Meilyr *ap* Rhiwallon, at 'Mynydd Carn' (probably in south Cardiganshire), where Trahaearn fell. The battle is commemorated in a poem by Meilyr Brydydd. Robert of Rhuddlan's epitaph attributed to him a victory over 'Trehellum'. Trahaearn left four sons: Meurig and Griffri, both slain in 1106; Llywarch (*fl.* 1124), lord of Arwystli, and Owain. The descendants continued to rule in Arwystli and Cedewain until the thirteenth century.

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