

## The Legend of Prince Madoc

In the days of legend lived a prince of the Britons, Madoc ab Owain, descended from kings in a line stretching beyond years, right up to Brán the Blessed. The blood of kings was in his veins, but a wanderer's heart beat in his chest. When his father, the mighty Owain Gwynedd, died untimely, Madoc watched his many brothers squabble lethally for the crown. He forsook his birthright and instead gathered folk to him, for to sail over the western horizon, chasing the setting sun in search of adventure and a new life.

After a long voyage across the vast ocean, Madoc's folk settled in a fertile bay, where they thrived for several years until they drew the enmity of nearby tribes. The settlers were forced inland, crossing river and wood before arriving in a land much like their old home. There they built a stronghold on a mountain top. And the legends tell of a crystalline stone which sent dreams to the prince, visions of distant places, peoples and futures. He kept this Dreamstone close, treasuring it as a sacred relic. And whether by the Dreamstone's luck or his own wisdom, the folk of Madoc began to prosper in their new settlement.

But there were people already in the hills, and they turned against the pale-skinned settlers, first with raids and then with open battle. The warriors of Madoc were mighty and fearless but few, and eventually all were forced to retreat to their fort. Besieged, the son of Owain looked once more into the shimmering Dreamstone and beheld two paths for his folk. One path showed a great but hopeless battle, and ravens thick on the ramparts. The other path showed a mighty river, and the harried remnants of his folk finding welcome among a red people.

Legend says the Welsh settlers left the mountains and found a home among a tribe which would be known as the Mandans. No history tells of Madoc's fate. It may be that he led his people to seek a new home in the north. Or perhaps he. But I feel that Madoc died defending his mountain fastness, giving battle to the besieging enemies to give his own tribe the chance to escape. For in the end the Dreamstone lay hidden among the fallen stones of the Welsh fort.

and no man would willingly part with such subtle beauty and potent power as the Dreamstone possessed.

The settlers of Madoc have long vanished, their fates lost in the fog of ages. Yet Madoc's prized jewel has been recovered and once again holds a place of honor, proving that the spiritual heirs of Madoc may justly reclaim the territory for which the Welsh settlers fought. That

For his courage, his wisdom and his vision, we honor Prince Madoc ab Owain Gwynedd, ap Gruffydd, ap Cynan, ab Iago, ab Idwal, ap Muriig, ab Idwal Foel, ab Anarawd, ap Rhodri Mawr, ap Merfyn Frych, ap Gwriad, ab Elidir, ap Sandde, ab Alcwn, ap Tegid, ap Gwair Caid, ap Dwywg, ap Llywarch Hen, ab Elidir, ap Merchion Gul, ap Gwryst, ap Cenyw, ap Col Hen, ap Tehvant, ap Urban, ap Gradd, ap Rhyfedel, ap Rhyddrech, ab Euddigan, ab Eudeyrn, ab Eifydd, ab Eudos, ab Euddolen, ab Afallach, ap Ludd Llaw Erint, ab Beli Mawr, ap Monnogon Degeullus, ab Eneid, ap Cerwyd!