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## A Simplified Welsh Topographical Dictionary

A surprisingly large number of common Welsh Place Names may be translated by reference to one word of List 1, combined with one from List 2. However, mutations make life difficult; the most common changes of initial letter in place names are as follows:

b → f                      c → g                      d → dd      m → f                      p → b                      t → d

Thus, for example, Felin (Mill) is shown as the root form "Melin", and goch (red) as "coch".

When f occurs as a final letter, it is often dropped:-                      pentref → pentre (village)

"Gwynedd" is the new county name, and that of the ancient kingdom whose area it roughly covers.

"Arfon", "Lleyn", "Mon" and "Aberconwy" are the District Councils of Gwynedd.

The Suffix -le generally denotes "place" e.g. "Hyfryd-le"

Likewise -fa or -fan:-                      Canol-fan      (Middle Place, i.e. Centre)                      Morfa      ("sea-place", i.e. sandhills, dunes)

<u>List 1</u>		<u>List 2</u>	
Blaen	Front	Tref	Town
Braich	Arm	Pentref	Village
Cefn	Back	Dinas	City
Bron	Breast	Porth	Harbour, Door
Croes	Cross	Llan	Parish
Pen	Head	Eglwys	Church
Mawr	Large	Capel	Chapel
Bach	Small	Ty (Tai)	House (s)
Bychan	"	Melin	Mill
(-fechan)	"	Pandy	Fulling-Mill
Uchaf	Upper	Lon	Lane
Isaf	Lower	Allt	Hill
Newydd	New	Bryn	"
Hen	Old	Garth	"
Tal	End	Rhiw	"
Tan	Under	Moel	Bald, i.e. Treeless Hill
Tros	Over	Mynydd	Mountain
Ar	On	Craig	Rock
Coch	Red	Carreg	Stone
Du	Black	Maen	"
Gwyn (-Wen)	White	Nant	Valley
Glas (-Las)	Blue, Green	Cwm	"
Llwyd	Brown, grey	Dyffryn	"
Melyn	Yellow	Maes	Field
Teg	Fair	Cae	"
Dau, Deu	Two	Coed	Wood
Tri	Three	Bwlch	Pass
Pedwar	Four	Waun, Waen	Meadow
		Afon	River
		Aber	Estuary
		Mor	Sea
		Traeth	Beach
		Ynys	Island
		Llyn	Lake
		Pwll	Pool
		Pont	Bridge
		Rhyd	Ford
		Llech	Slate
		Glo	Coal
		Chwarel	Quarry
		Cloddfa	Mine, Pit
			("Digging-Place")
		Gwaith	Working

With the common connecting words:

-y-      -yr-      -yn-      'r-      'n-      (the, of the, in the etc.)