

EVANS, GRIFFITH (1835 - 1935), microscopist, bacteriologist, and pioneer of protozoon pathology

Name: Griffith Evans
Date of birth: 1835
Date of death: 1935
Spouse: Catherine Mary Evans (née Jones)
Child: Mair Olwen Jones (née Evans)
Parent: Mary Evans (née Jones)
Parent: Evan Evans
Gender: Male
Occupation: microscopist, bacteriologist, and pioneer of protozoon pathology
Area of activity: Nature and Agriculture; Science and Mathematics
Author: Ywain Goronwy ap Griffith

Born 7 August 1835 at Ty-mawr, Towyn, Meirionnydd, the third child and only son of Evan Evans (1801 - 1882) by Mary (1809 - 1877), daughter of William Jones of Tyddyn y Berllan, Towyn. His father claimed descent from Merioneth families which have a distinguished record in Welsh history, numbering among his ancestors **Lewis Owen**, slain 1555 and **Robert Vaughan** of Hengwrt, antiquary. Griffith Evans was educated at the British school, Bryn-crug, and afterwards privately. He was a pupil of **John Pughe** at Aberdovey and Towyn. In December 1853 he entered the Royal Veterinary College, qualifying as M.R.C.V.S. in May 1855. He was in the first group to obtain a commission in the Army as veterinary surgeon by examination, and, placed top of the list of examinees, he became veterinary surgeon in the Royal Artillery, January 1860. He went to Canada with troops, and was stationed at Montreal, June 1861. He registered in the medical faculty, McGill University, and graduated M.D., C.M., 1864. The subject of his graduation thesis was 'Tuberculosis' - he gave evidence of its infectious nature, and advocated open-air treatment. He returned with troops to England in July 1870.

Posted to India 1877, he was sent to Sialkot in the Punjab to investigate a disease that was endemic and had been for many years extremely fatal to cavalry and artillery horses there and at other stations in India. It proved to be anthrax fever. In August 1880 he was requested to proceed to Dera Ismael Khan to investigate a disease known as 'Surra' that had been fatal to horses and camels of the Punjab Frontier Force for many years. He was able to prove that the disease was caused by microbes in the blood; these have been given his name as 'Trypanosoma Evansi.' He returned to Britain in December 1885. He retired from the Army in 1890 with the rank of inspecting veterinary surgeon, and settled at Brynknallt, Bangor, Caernarfonshire. He was awarded the Mary Kingsley medal in 1917, and the honorary degree of D.Sc.(Wales) in 1919.

He married, 26 October 1870, Catherine Mary (1843 - 1923), only child of John Jones, surgeon, of Gelli, Llanfair Caereinion, and grand-daughter of **Owen Jones** of Gelli (1787 - 1828). They had one son and four daughters. He died 7 December 1935.

Author

Ywain Goronwy ap Griffith, (1882 - 1963)

Sources

Report on 'Surra' Disease, Military Dept., Government of India (December 1880)

report in *The Veterinary Record Journal of the British Veterinary Association*, 1880

autobiographical memoir in *Annals of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology*, xii, 1918

NLW Archives: [Griffith Evans papers](#)

personal knowledge

Images

Dr. Griffith Evans

Evan Evans, 'Ap Ieuan', (Ty Mawr, Towyn)

"Ap Ieuan", Tymawr, Towyn

Gruffydd Siencyn ap Ieuan, aged 17

[Silhouette of a young girl]

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APA Citation



Griffith, Y. G. (1959). EVANS, GRIFFITH (1835 - 1935), microscopist, bacteriologist, and pioneer of protozoan pathology. *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*. Retrieved 11 Nov 2024, from <https://biography.wales/article/s-EVAN-GRI-1835>

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