

GRIFFITH, JOHN (fl. 1548-1587), civil lawyer

Name: John Griffith
Parent: Margaret ferch John Wyn ap Meredith
Parent: William Griffith
Gender: Male
Occupation: civil lawyer
Area of activity: Law; Public and Social Service, Civil Administration
Author: Arthur Herbert Dodd

He was probably the son of **William Griffith** of Plas Mawr, Caernarvon, and of Trefarthen, Llanidan, Anglesey (died 1587), the eldest son of the second marriage of **Sir William Griffith** of Penrhyn. His mother was Margaret, daughter of **John Wyn ap Meredith** of Gwydir and aunt to the first **Sir John Wynn**. He became a Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, in 1548, took his B.C.L. in 1551 (18 July) and his doctorate in 1563 (7 July).

In 1559 (23 February) queen Elizabeth allowed **William Awbrey** to hand over to Griffith his office of Regius professor of civil law at Oxford, which Griffith held till 1566, combining it from 1561-4 with the principalship of New Inn Hall. On 26 February 1564 he was admitted to Doctors' Commons. He was elected M.P. for Caernarvon borough in 1571, and served as sheriff of Caernarvonshire in 1582-3 and of Anglesey in 1587.

His younger brother, WILLIAM GRIFFITH, LL.D., was admiralty judge for Caernarvon and M.P. for the borough in 1586, and in the following year was responsible for setting on foot the man-hunt which resulted in the discovery of a group of recusants meeting in the Rhiwledyn cave in Creuddyn with their own printing press (see under **Puw**).

Author

Emeritus Professor Arthur Herbert Dodd, (1891 - 1975)

Sources

J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families* (1914), 125, 184-5

Anthony Wood, *Athenae Oxonienses* to which are added *The Fasti* (1813), i, 161

Rymer, *Foedera conventiones, litterae, et cujuscunq[ue] generis acta publica, inter reges Angli[ae] et alios quosuis imperatores, reges, pontifices, principes, vel communitates, ab ingressu Gulielmi I. in Angliam, A.D. 1066, ad nostra usque tempora habita aut tractata ex autographis, infra secretiores archivorum regionum thesaurarias, asservatis, aliisque summ[is] vetustatis instrumentis, ad historiam anglicanam spectantibus, fideliter exscripta* (1816-1830, 1869), xv, 505

W. R. Williams, *The parliamentary history of the principality of Wales, from the earliest times to the present day, 1541-1895* (Brecknock 1895), 65

Caernarvonshire Historical Society Transactions, 1946, 14

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [John Griffith](#)

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