

GRUFFYDD ap IEUAN ap LLYWELYN FYCHAN (c. 1485 - 1553), bard and member of a Welsh landed family

Name: Gruffydd ap Ieuan ap Llywelyn Fychan
Date of birth: c. 1485
Date of death: 1553
Spouse: Alice Owen
Spouse: Sioned ferch Rhisiart ab Hywel
Child: Catrin ferch Gruffydd ab Ieuan ap [Llywelyn?] Fychan
Child: Alis ferch Gruffudd ab Ieuan ap Llywelyn Fychan
Child: Thomas ap Griffith ap Ieuan
Child: Edward Gruffydd ab Ieuan
Parent: Ieuan ap Llywelyn Fychan
Gender: Male
Occupation: bard and member of a Welsh landed family
Area of activity: Eisteddfod; Land Ownership; Poetry; Royalty and Society
Author: William Llewelyn Davies

Son of [Ieuan ap Llywelyn Fychan](#). He lived in Llewenni Fechan (later Llannerch), near S. Asaph. Some poems by him in British Museum manuscripts (*Detholiad o waith Gruffydd ab Ieuan ab Llewelyn Vychan*) were published in 1910, edited by [J. C. Morrice](#), who gave some biographical details. Subsequently, i.e. in 1934, [T. Allen Glenn](#) gave, in *The Family of Griffith of Garn and Plasnewydd in the County of Denbigh*, additional particulars concerning him, both as a poet and as a country gentleman, [Glenn](#)'s account being based on a study of [Griffith](#) family muniments, supplemented by study of other original records.

Gruffydd ap Ieuan is of importance for two other reasons. With the bard [Tudur Aled](#) he was called upon to assist at the first Caerwys eisteddfod (1524) in the grading of bards and musicians; the two sat with three commissioners, viz. [Richard ap Howel ap Ieuan Fychan](#) of Mostyn (father-in-law of Gruffydd ap Ieuan), [Sir William Gruffydd](#), (father-in-law of [Thomas Mostyn](#), son of [Richard ap Howel](#)), and [Sir Roger Salusbury](#) of Llewenni. A second reason for his importance is the fact that his nephew, or 'great-nephew,' [bishop Richard Davies](#) (1501? - 1581), says that he remembers seeing in the possession of Gruffudd ap Ieuan (it is [William Salesbury](#) who identifies the 'hen ewythr' as Gruffudd ap Ieuan) a manuscript translation in Welsh of the Pentateuch; for details see the book by [D. R. Thomas](#) which is generally referred to under the short title of *Davies and Salesbury*. The manuscript which [D. R. Thomas](#) prints in this work, is, however, not the 'lost' translation of the Pentateuch but the Welsh translation by [Richard Davies](#) of some of S. Paul's epistles; this latter manuscript found its way from Llannerch, the home of Gruffydd ap Ieuan and afterwards of his [Davies](#) (of Llannerch) descendants, to Gwysaney, Flintshire, the home of the [Davies-Cooke family](#), also descendants. It is now at the National Library of Wales.

Gruffydd ap Ieuan was twice in. His first wife was Janet (Sioned), daughter of [Richard ap Howel](#) of Mostyn; by this marriage he was the father of [Alice 'ferch Gruffydd ap Ieuan'](#), a poetess. It was by his second marriage, with Alice, daughter of John Owen of Llansantffraid, that he became the ancestor of the [Griffith](#) family of Garn and Plasnewydd. For some of the family connections see the articles in this dictionary on [Davies](#) (of Llannerch), and [Davies-Cooke](#) (of Gwysaney) and [Mostyn](#) (family) of Mostyn; see also [lord Mostyn](#) and [T. Allen Glenn](#), *History of the Family of Mostyn of Mostyn* (London, 1925).

His will, dated 11 March 1553, was made at Henllan, Denbighshire, and was proved 3 May 1553.

Author

Sir William Llewelyn Davies, (1887 - 1952)

Sources

To the references given above add Jones and Lewis, *Mynegai i Farddoniaeth y Llawysgrifau* (1928) NLW MSS 16, 253, 255, 431, 433, 552, 675, 695, 727, 832, 834, 1246-7, 1260, 1553, 1559-60, 2288, 3487, 4710, 5269, 5273, 5283, 5545, 6209, 6471, 6499, 6681, 7191, 9166, 11087, 13064, 13066, 13167, and the following manuscripts (also in N.L.W.)
Bodewryd MS. at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth 2,
Brogyntyn MS. at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth 2,
Cwrtmawr Manuscripts at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth 114, 129, 200, 207, 448, 454,
Esgair Manuscript at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth 41,

Glyn Davies Manuscript at the National Library of Wales 2,
Gwysaney MS. at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth 25,
Swansea Manuscripts 1-3,
and *Wynnstay Manuscripts at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth 1, 2, 6, 7*

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