

ELLIS-GRIFFITH, Sir ELLIS (JONES) (1860 - 1926), barrister and M.P.

Name: Ellis (Jones) Ellis-griffith
Date of birth: 1860
Date of death: 1926
Spouse: Mary Ellis-Griffith (née Owen)
Child: Ellis Arundell Ellis-Griffith
Parent: Thomas Morris Griffith
Gender: Male
Occupation: barrister and M.P.
Area of activity: Law; Politics, Government and Political Movements
Author: Edward Morgan Humphreys

Born 23 May 1860 in Birmingham, where his father, Thomas Morris Griffith, was a builder. While Ellis Griffith was still a child, his father retired and the family came to live at Ty Coch, Brynsiencyn, Anglesey. He went to school at Brynsiencyn and Holt and was one of the first batch of students at the University College, Aberystwyth. He graduated in the University of London when he was 19 years of age, won an open scholarship to Downing College, Cambridge, in 1880, and took his degree with first class honours in the law tripos [of 1883, taking the first place in that class]. He was president of the Union at Cambridge and was elected a Fellow of his college. In 1887 he was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple and joined the North Wales and Chester circuit. He was appointed recorder of Birkenhead in 1907 and retained the appointment until 1912. He took silk in 1910. Both as a lawyer and as a public speaker he was noted for his sparkling wit and for his ability to coin a telling phrase. In 1892, as a Liberal, he contested unsuccessfully the Toxteth division of Liverpool; but, in the general election of 1895, he was elected Liberal member for Anglesey - a seat he held until 1918 when he was defeated by **Sir Owen Thomas**, the Labour candidate. In 1912 he was elected chairman of the Welsh Parliamentary Party in succession to **Sir Alfred Thomas**, who had been elevated to the House of Lords as **lord Pontypridd**. In the same year he was appointed parliamentary secretary to the Home Office and took a prominent part in steering the Welsh Disestablishment Bill through the House of Commons. He resigned in 1915. He was appointed a member of the Privy Council in 1914 and was created a baronet in 1918. After having lost his seat in Anglesey he was again chosen as Liberal candidate but withdrew in 1921. In 1922 he was one of three candidates for the University of Wales seat but was again unsuccessful. In December 1923 he was elected as Liberal member for the Carmarthen district, but he resigned in 1924, and his parliamentary career came to an end. He died very suddenly, 30 November 1926, while attending the assizes at Swansea, and was buried in Llanidan churchyard, Brynsiencyn. He married in 1892 Mary, daughter of Robert Owen, Ty Draw, Mold. There were two sons and one daughter of this marriage, of whom only one son, Ellis Arundel, who succeeded to the title, survived him. Sir Arundel died in June 1934 and Lady Ellis-Griffith in 1941.

Author

Edward Morgan Humphreys, (1882 - 1955)

Sources

Newspaper articles

personal knowledge

T. Huws Davies in *The Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion*, 1926-7

information received from Mrs. Gwilym Davies, Aberystwyth

T. I. Ellis, *Ellis Jones Griffith* (Llandybie 1969)

Further Reading

NLW Archives: [To the Electors of Anglesea](#)

NLW Archives: [Anglesey Parliamentary Election, 1895... How to vote for Griffith](#)

NLW Archives: [Town Hall, Beaumaris... public meeting...](#)

NLW Archives: [Votiwch dros Griffith ac Ymreolaeth](#)

NLW Archives: [General Election 1906 Wales and Monmouthshire. A Souvenir containing photographs, biographical sketches etc., of all the Welsh MPs: Ellis Jones Griffith](#)

NLW Archives: [Etholiad Môn, 1910. Ymgeisiaeth Mr Ellis J. Griffith](#)

Delweddau

Hugh J. Hughes, Ellis Jones Griffith

Hugh J. Hughes, Ellis Jones Griffith May 23rd 1877 on his seventeenth birthday

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VIAF: 46545724

Wikidata: Q7526639

Published date: 1959

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Humphreys, E. M., (1959). ELLIS-GRIFFITH, Sir ELLIS (JONES) (1860 - 1926), barrister and M.P.. *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*. Retrieved 9 Nov 2024, from <https://biography.wales/article/s-ELLI-JON-1860>

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