

## GRIFFITH, DAVID (Clwydfardd; 1800 - 1894), eisteddfodic bard and arch-druid

**Name:** David Griffith  
**Pseudonym:** Clwydfardd  
**Date of birth:** 1800  
**Date of death:** 1894  
**Parent:** Richard Griffith  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** eisteddfodic bard and arch-druid  
**Area of activity:** Eisteddfod; Poetry  
**Author:** Daniel Williams

Born in Vale Street, Denbigh, 29 November 1800. Like his father, Richard Griffith, he was a watch- and clock-maker by trade. He was a powerful man physically and, as a Wesleyan lay preacher, (1827-94), frequently walked thirty miles to keep his Sunday engagements - at the age of eighty-four he walked to the top of Snowdon and back. He says: 'I was appointed Arch-druid ... in 1860; but it was at Wrexham eisteddfod in the year 1876 that I was licensed as Archdruid of the Gorsedd ... of the Bards of the Isle of Britain' (*Yr Eurgrawn*, 1895, 127). From 1860 to 1894 he only missed one (Carmarthen) of these eisteddfodau. He began his long career as an adjudicator at a local eisteddfod (Llan-nerch-y-medd, 1835) and he was the official bard of the Aberffraw eisteddfod in 1849. He competed against **Bardd Nantglyn** (Robert Davies, 1769 - 1835) on many occasions and was awarded a silver medal as early as 1827 for a translation of Goldsmith's '*Deserted Village*,' and composed the *englynion* which appear on the tombstone of **Owen Williams** of Waun-fawr (1790 - 1874). In 1890 the government made him an award of £200. He died 30 October 1894.

### Author

Reverend **Daniel Williams**, (1878 - 1968)

### Sources

*Y Geninen*, 1895, 86, 164, 260

*Yr Eurgrawn Wesleyaidd*, December 1844, April 1895

*Bye-Gones, relating to Wales and the Border Counties*, 1893-4, 478-9

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [David Griffith](#)

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