

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 Archives: [NLW MS 116B](#)

NLW Archives: [NLW MS 253A](#)

NLW Archives: [NLW MS 255A](#)

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