

Notes on Some of the Descendants of Henry Kyffin, Bailiff of Llanfyllin, 1708.

By WILLIAM ARTHUR GRIFFITHS, Officier d'Académie.

This article is the result of a casual remark made to me at the Alverstoke Lawn Tennis Club by Rear Admiral (S) W. K. Campbell Grace that his wife was Welsh and was a Miss Kyffin, the daughter of Dr. John Kyffin, formerly in practice in Alverstoke. Mrs. Grace is a very prominent social worker and a Borough Magistrate. The next time I saw her, I charged her with being a Welshwoman to which she proudly pleaded Guilty! She told me that her father was born at Tremadoc in Caernarvonshire and that his father, Thomas Lloyd Kyffin, had been Rector of Beaumaris. The latter's father and grandfather had been Vicars at Bangor, so that she was truly a Welshwoman.

The Rev. Thomas Lloyd Kyffin had a breakdown in health at Beaumaris, and came to stay with his only son at Alverstoke where he died on 2 May, 1909. Many will remember the Rev. T. Lloyd Kyffin as an outstandingly fine example of a Welsh clergyman. He usually preached four times each Sunday, twice in Welsh for his parishioners and twice in English for visitors. He was a splendid all-round sportsman, coxswain of the local lifeboat, a generous supporter of all youth organizations, an expert boxer, and a prominent freemason. He, and also his son, held the Royal Humane Society's Medal for Saving Life.

Shortly afterwards, Mrs. Grace showed me a type-written pedigree showing her descent from Henry Kyffin, maltster, of Llanfyllin (Bailiff in 1708), so we may correctly describe her family as a Montgomeryshire one. The pedigree was a very bare one, just giving names with few details and fewer dates. I therefore promised to compile a fuller account. Hence this Article.

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In this type-written pedigree, Henry Kyffin of Llanfyllin is shown as being the son of John Kyffin of Cae Coch by his wife, Frances Parry, daughter of Bishop Parry of St. Asaph, the translator of the Bible into Welsh. This however is incorrect, as John Kyffin had an only child, his daughter Jane, who married her cousin Richard Parry. Mrs. Kyffin died in 1637, and was buried at Wrexham.

Alfred Thomas
Heyland's
1st cousin
? Alfred
ATL's
traced

As Caernarvonshire is in the "area" of Mr. W. J. Hemp, F.S.A., I wrote and asked him whether he could tell me anything of the family of Kyffin of Beaumaris and Bangor. To my surprise he replied that the pedigree of Mrs. Grace (Edith Gwendolen Elizabeth Kyffin) was published in 1914 by Mr. J. E. Griffith in *Pedigrees of Caernarvonshire and Anglesey Families*, and sent me a copy. This pedigree gives the father of Henry Kyffin of Llanfyllin (Bailiff 1708) as Charles Kyffin, mercer of Llanfyllin, the brother of John Kyffin of Cae Coch. This also is incorrect. The will of Charles Kyffin, dated 16th October, 1669, and the law suit which later arose concerning it, shows that he had only one child which survived infancy, a daughter, Lowry, who died in November, 1673, aged 8 years. I have therefore limited this article to some of the descendants of Henry Kyffin of Llanfyllin, Bailiff in 1708, giving new information not contained in the publication quoted.

① HENRY KYFFIN OF LLANFYLLIN, BAILIFF, 1708, etc.

No one of the name of Kyffin appears on the Burgess Roll of Llanfyllin under the 1673 Charter until 1700, not even John Kyffin of Bodfach, Llanfyllin, Sheriff in 1678, with Henry Kyffin, his brother, as Deputy Sheriff. On 21st October, 1700, Henry Kyffin, gent., was sworn Common Burgess of Llanfyllin. In 1707, he was sworn Capital Burgess, and in 1708 Bailiff. He was again Bailiff in 1714, 1719, 1725, 1730, and 1734.

There is no record in the Llanfyllin Parish Register of the baptism of his eldest son, Henry, but his second son, John Kyffin, was baptised at Llanfyllin on 30th September, 1703, Henry Kyffin being described as "Maltster, of Town" Township. His wife was named Catherine and they had two other sons, William and David, neither of whose baptisms is recorded in the Llanfyllin Register.

A number of documents bearing the signature of this Henry Kyffin are preserved among the Powis Castle records deposited at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Henry Kyffin, the maltster, was the owner of the Cock Inn, Llanfyllin, the tenant of which at the time of his death being Ellis Griffith. He died in March, 1736/7, as did also his grandson, William, the son of Mr. Henry Kyffin, apothecary, both being buried at Llanfyllin on 11th March, 1736/7. Whether both died as the result of an accident or from an epidemic is not stated.

His eldest son and heir, Henry Kyffin the apothecary, was sworn Capital Burgess in the place of his father in 1737.

The will of Mr. Henry Kyffin, senior, a copy of which is appended, is dated 8th March, 1736/7, and was proved at St. Asaph Probate Registry on 21st May, 1737. It bears an armorial seal, a rampant lion, the crest of the Kyffins of Glascoed, Cae Coch, Bodfach, etc. The Tax paid on his personal estate amounted to £1 13s. 6d.

② HENRY KYFFIN OF LLANFYLLIN, APOTHECARY, BAILIFF. 1737, etc.

The services of an apothecary, trained under the Apothecaries' Society of London, were invaluable in those days. Superstition and a belief in the Evil Eye and magic were still very prevalent in the Welsh mountains. Home-brewed nostrums were customary, though risky for the patient. A book containing the recipes for human as well as animal complaints used in my own family in those days is still preserved and some of the ingredients now seem incredibly risky.

Mr. Henry Kyffin, the apothecary, was Bailiff in 1737, and Coroner in 1738, the Coronership of the Borough being normally filled by a retiring Bailiff. He was Bailiff again in 1743, 1751, 1755, 1759 and 1763. His eldest son, William Kyffin, was educated at Shrewsbury School, and was admitted Pensioner at Magdalene College, Cambridge on 21st April, 1766, aged 18. He is described as the "son of Mr. Kyffin, Chemist, of Llanfyllin, Co. Mont." He matriculated at Michaelmas, 1766, and took his B.A. Degree in 1770. I have not traced his subsequent career.

*different from
the one who
died 1736?*

③ REV. JOHN KYFFIN (No. 1.) B.A., (1703—1766).

As stated above, he was baptised at Llanfyllin on 30th September, 1703. He was educated at Jesus College, Oxford, where he matriculated on 21st January, 1721/2, aged 18 years. He is entered on the College Books as the son of "Henry Kyffin of Llanfyllin, Co. Montgomery, plebs." He became B.A. in 1725. Described as "John Kyffin, B.A., of Jesus College, Oxford," he signed the Subscription Book for St. Asaph Diocese on Ordination as Deacon on 9th July, 1726, and as Priest on 16th September, 1727.

Described as John Kyffin, Clerk, of Llanfyllin, he was sworn a Burgess of Llanfyllin in August, 1727. The Appointments Book for the Diocese of St. Asaph for a number of years of that period is missing, but evidently the Rev. John Kyffin became Curate and Schoolmaster of Llanfyllin. He was Vicar of Eglwys Fach in Denbighshire from 1738 to 1746. In this Parish stands the mansion house of Maenan, the home of the Kyffin family, members of which were Sheriffs of Caernarvonshire and Denbighshire on several occasions. John

Kyffin's appointment to the living suggests that he was related to the Maenan Kyffins.

From 1746 to 1760, John Kyffin was Vicar of Llandurog, and from 1760 to 1766, Vicar of Dolgelley. He died at Dolgelley on 2nd June, 1766, aged 63 years, and was buried there. His will is not recorded either at Bangor or St. Asaph Probate Registries. He had two sons, John and Henry, both of whom went to Jesus College, Oxford.

④ REV. JOHN KYFFIN (No. 2.), M.A., (1744—1824).

The Oxford University Registers record that John Kyffin, son of John Kyffin of Eglwys Fach, Co. Denbigh, Clerk, entered Jesus College, Oxford, where he matriculated on the 22nd May, 1760, aged 16 years. He became B.A. in 1764, and M.A., in 1767.

The following Appointments have been extracted from the Bangor Diocesan Registers :—

- 1768 John Kyffin, M.A., from Jesus College, Oxford, to be Curate of Llandegai.
- 1770 John Kyffin, M.A., confirmed Curate of Llandegai.
- 1775 John Kyffin, M.A., to be Master of Bangor Grammar School.
- 1785 John Kyffin, M.A., to Bangor V. with Hospital of Peter vice N. Owen deceased.
- 1790 John Kyffin, M.A., to Trefdraeth, vice R. Griffiths, deceased.
- 1810 John Kyffin, M.A., resigned Bangor Cathedral V. in favour of John Kyffin, M.A., Junior.
- 1824 Harry Williams, M.A., to Trefdraeth, vice John Kyffin, M.A., deceased.

The Act Books of the Province of Canterbury (Ang XII, 241) contains the following entry in connection with the appointment of John Kyffin to the living of Trefdraeth in addition to the Vicarage of Bangor and Mastership of Bangor Grammar School: "1790, John Kyffin, Jesus College, Oxford. Dispensation to be Vicar of Bangor, Co. Caernarvon, and Rector of Trefdraeth." The Rev. John Kyffin married, on 14th February, 1779, Ann, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Lloyd, D.D., Rector of Albrighton, Salop. She died 26th April, 1823, aged 69.

John Kyffin's will is dated 15th May, 1824, copy appended, and was proved at Bangor Probate Registry 1st November, 1824. Its seal is armorial and is in

perfect condition. The crest is a lion rampart and the shield quarterly 1 and 4 the Kyffin lion and 2 and 3 a chevron between three pheons also for Kyffin of Salop, etc. The identically same arms also appear on the will of John Kyffin of Bodfach, Llanfyllin, dated 3rd February, 1694/5.

⑤ REV. JOHN KYFFIN (No. 3.), M.A., (1781—1838).

The records of Brazenose College, Oxford, state that John Kyffin, son of John Kyffin of Bangor, Co. Caernarvon, Clerk, matriculated 26th May, 1800, aged 19 years. He became B.A. in 1804, and M.A. in 1807.

The following are extracted from Bangor Diocesan Registers :—

- 1804 John Kyffin, B.A., from Brazenose College, Oxford, ordained Deacon and licensed to Bangor C. Ordained Priest 22nd September, 1805.
- 1810 John Kyffin, Junior, M.A., appointed Cathedral V. Portioner of Bangor on resignation of John Kyffin, M.A., Senior.
- 1810 John Kyffin, Junior, M.A., to Derwen vice J. H. Cotton resigned.
- 1810 J. H. Cotton, LL.B., to Bangor V. vice J. Kyffin, Junior, resigned.
- 1815 J. Kyffin, M.A., to Llanystymdwy vice T. Hughes, resigned.
- 1816 H. W. Majendie, M.A., to Derwen vice J. Kyffin, Junior, resigned.
- 1837 Ellis Owen Anwyl, M.A., to Llanystymdwy vice J. Kyffin, resigned.
- 1837 John Kyffin, M.A., to Llanbadrig with Chapelleries vice Peter Williams, deceased.
- 1838 John Owen, M.A., to Llanbadrig with Chapelleries vice J. Kyffin, deceased.

The Rev. John Kyffin married Ann, daughter of the Rev. Edward Pugh Owen, M.A., Rector of Llaniestyn, Co. Caernarvon, who claimed descent from Baron Owen, the Judge who was murdered in 1554 by the Red Bandits of the Mawddwy, while on Circuit to Dolgelley. This event made a lasting impression on local minds. When as a boy I was at my father's old home at Cynhinfa, near Dolanog, I was going to cycle to Dolgelley. My Uncle at Cynhinfa urged me to start at daybreak so as to be certain to arrive at Dolgelley before dark. He said that it was not safe to go through the Mawddwy neighbourhood after dusk as a Judge had been murdered there a few years ago!

A poem in praise of the Rev. John Kyffin was published in Cardd Einion on his removal to Llanbadrig from Llanystymdwy in 1837, written by the Bard, Robert ap Gwylm Ddu.

REV. THOMAS LLOYD KYFFIN, M.A., (1824—1909).

Thomas Lloyd Kyffin was educated at Cheltenham whence he won a scholarship at Jesus College, Cambridge, thus breaking his family connection with Jesus College, Oxford. He was admitted a Pensioner at Jesus College, Cambridge, aged 18, on 23rd November, 1852. He is registered there as the son of the Rev. John Kyffin, deceased, of Caernarvonshire. He was born at Criccieth, Co. Caernarvon, on 28th October, 1834. He matriculated at Cambridge in 1853, becoming B.A. in 1857 and M.A. in 1866. He was ordained Deacon at Bangor in 1858 and Priest in 1859. He was Curate of Llanghenedd, Anglesey, from 1858 to 1862. He then became Curate of Tremadoc, Co. Caernarvon, from 1862 to 1868. From 1868 to 1889 he was Vicar of Llanbadrig, Anglesey, his father's old Vicarage. From 1889 to 1900 he was Vicar of Llanfaes with Penmon. From 1900 to 1907 he was Rector of Llandegfan with Beaumaris when he had a breakdown in his health. He then went to Alverstoke, Hampshire, to stay with his son, Dr. John Kyffin, and took temporary duty with the Rector of Alverstoke for the St. Faith's Mission Church. He died here on 2nd May, 1909.

I mentioned in the opening part of this article his wonderful personality and attainments; he left a beautiful memory behind him.

He married Sarah, daughter of William Nestfield Andrews, a descendant of the famous Bishop Launcelot Andrewes. Their only child was Dr. John Kyffin, late of Alverstoke in the Borough of Gosport.

⑥ DR. JOHN KYFFIN OF ALVERSTOKE AND OXFORD (1866—1951).

Dr. John Kyffin was educated at St. Mark's School, Windsor, which, after amalgamation with Kipling's old School—the United Service College, Westward Ho—became the Imperial Service College, Windsor. Two of my sons were there. Now it has been amalgamated with Haileybury College. John Kyffin had a beautiful voice and was a chorister at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. He went to Keble College, Oxford, where he matriculated on 16th October, 1883, aged 17 years. He entered the medical profession taking his Degree in 1893 from London Hospital. He then practised for many years at Alverstoke and Gosport in Hampshire. From the outbreak of the 1914—1918 war, he served as a Lieut. Colonel in the R.A.M.C. and was in charge of Military Hospitals at Salonica, Cremona in Italy, and Balbeis in Egypt; he was awarded several decorations. Later he was orthopaedic Surgical advisor to the Ministry of Pensions in South Wales, where his knowledge of the Welsh language was most useful. He later retired to Oxford where he took a special interest in the County and also the University Amateur Boxing. He died at Oxford in 1951. He married

Glascod ✓ 741/95

Maenan ✓ 663/794

Cae Coch 733715 ???

Bodfach Hall 130202

DESCENDANTS OF HENRY KYFFIN

firstly Edith Elizabeth Mallinson, daughter of Mr. James Mallinson of Gravesend, Kent, by whom he had one son, John Trevor Kyffin, and one daughter, Edith Gwendolen Elizabeth Kyffin. He married secondly Dorothy Vidal who survived him.

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JOHN TREVOR KYFFIN, (CAPTAIN, R.A.F.) OF RIDLEY HOUSE KINGSWEAR, DEVON.

John Trevor Kyffin served in the 1914—18 war as a Captain in the old Royal Flying Corps, later named the R.A.F. On 19th June, 1918, he married Margaret Joyce de Winton Wills, daughter of Sir Ernest Salter Wills, 3rd Baronet. They had two sons and two daughters. Their elder son, John Seton Kyffin, was a Sub-Lieutenant in the Fleet Air Arm and was killed in action at Tobruk in 1941. The other son was Thomas Kyffin who is unmarried. The two daughters were Susan Kyffin now Mrs. Michael Baillie-Grohman, and Jane Kyffin, now Mrs. Michael Laloë.

EDITH GWENDOLEN ELIZABETH KYFFIN married Rear Admiral (S) W. K. Campbell Grace of Alverstoke. They have five children, two sons and three daughters. The sons, David and Jeremy Grace, are both in the Navy. The daughters are Pamela, Helen and Virginia. Pamela Grace married Peter Tebbit and they have an infant daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, who is the latest descendant of Henry Kyffin, Bailiff of Llanfyllin in 1708.

The old Kyffin home of Maenan in Eglwys Fach Parish went to the Lenthall family, while Glascod and Cae Coch went to the Watkin Williams. Bodfach went to the Price family. Yet there were still Kyffins of Llanfyllin, of Glanbrogan in Llanfechain Parish, of Guilfield, of Welshpool, of Llanerfyl and elsewhere. That fine old patriarch, Griffith Kyffin of Cae Coch, Bailiff of Llanfyllin in 1598, who died in 1653, had five sons, all of whom married; yet, before 1700, his extensive estates had gone away in female lines. What happened to the Kyffin men? I hope to give some portion of this story in a future Article.

Marchfield,
10, Monckton Road,
Alverstoke, Hants.

W. A. GRIFFITHS

24th June, 1953.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

I desire to express my great indebtedness to Mr. J. Lloyd Thomas, J.P., of Llanfyllin, for so kindly and carefully extracting the Kyffin entries in the Parish Register for me and to the Librarian and Staff of the Manuscripts Department of the National Library of Wales for their willing and courteous assistance in my search of the Manorial and Probate Records preserved there.

W. A. GRIFFITHS

- ✓ Bodfach nr. Llanfyllin
- ✓ Cae Coch = no other manor nearby
- ✓ Glascod = S.E. Derbyshire nr. Mansfield
- ✓ Maenan Hall n. of Llanwrst, River Conway

APPENDIX I.

①
WILL OF HENRY KYFFIN, THE ELDER, OF LLANFYLLIN, dated
20th February 1736/7.

Precis.

I, Henry Kyffin, the Elder, of Llanfyllin in the County of Montgomery, Gentleman, do make this my last Will etc., etc.

First I give and bequeath unto my loving wife Catherine all that Messuage, Dwelling House, Brewhouse, Stables, Lands, Backsides, and Gardens situate in the Town of Llanfyllin called or known by the name or sign of the Cock and now in the holding or possession of Ellis Griffith with all the appurtenances thereto belonging for and during the term of her natural life and from and immediately after her decease I give and bequeath the same Messuage etc. unto my youngest son David Kyffin and his heirs and assigns for ever.

I also give and bequeath unto my said loving wife Catherine as much of my household stuff as will be fitting and convenient to her to furnish one room.

I give and bequeath unto my sons Henry, John and William the sum of one shilling each.

All the rest and residue of my personal estate, goods, and chattels I give and bequeath unto my son Henry Kyffin whom I nominate and appoint Sole executor.

In witness whereof I, the said Henry Kyffin the Elder, have hereto set my hand and seal the 21st day of February and 8th year of our Sovereign Lord King George the Second, King of Great Britain, 1736.

Sd. HENRY KYFFIN.

Witnesses :

Griffith Griffithes.

The Mark of

O. T.

Owen Thomas.

John Jones.

seal in red wax. Crest a lion rampant.

Proved etc., 21st May, 1737,

before me Thomas Richards,

Surrogate.

No Inventory exhibited. £1 13 6d. P.D.

APPENDIX II

WILL OF MARY KYFFIN OF LLANFYLLIN, SPINSTER, MADE 2nd
MAY, 1788 AND PROVED AT ST. ASAPH 8th JUNE, 1824.

Precis.

I, Mary Kyffin of Llanfyllin in the County of Montgomery, Spinster, etc., etc.

I give and bequeath all my messuage, tenement, etc. lying in Llanfihangel in Co. Montgomery now in the holding of Edward Perry, all my messuage, tenement, etc., lying in Llanrhaiadwr in Co. Denbigh, now in the holding of John Pugh, all my messuage, tenement, etc., lying in Llanfechain in Co. Montgomery now in the holding of Richard Evans, all my four several dwelling houses in Llanfyllin in the occupation of myself, Edward Pugh, Edward Evans and Jane Jones To John Kyffin of Bangor, Clerk, and William Williams of Llanfyllin, Clerk (Rector of Llanfyllin) in Trust for John Kyffin, son of the aforesaid John Kyffin, Clerk, and William Kyffin for their lives and then to the first son of the said John Kyffin and to the eldest son in turn and if they have no issue to Mary Kyffin daughter of the said John Kyffin and her first son, etc.

I give and bequeath to my maidservant Susan Thirkell certain furniture. All the rest I give and bequeath to Mary Kyffin aforesaid. I appoint John Kyffin, William Williams, and Mary Kyffin as my executors, etc. Dated 2nd May, 1788.

Sd. MARY KYFFIN.

seal bears a dove rising.

Witnesses :

William Stubbs of Sprouston
near Middlewick.

Joseph Low of Brereton.

John Cartwright of Church Holme.

Probate granted to Mary Heyland

8th June, 1824.

Value of personal estate sworn as not exceeding £100.

APPENDIX III.

④
 WILL OF REV. JOHN KYFFIN OF BANGOR, Co. CAERNARVON,
 DATED 15 MAY, 1824 AND PROVED AT BANGOR 1 NOVEMBER, 1824

Precis.

I, John Kyffin of Bangor in the County of Caernarvon, Clerk, etc., etc., give to my daughter Mary Heyland all that messuage or dwelling house and garden which I now do dwell in and hold under a lease from the late Lord Penrhyn and also leasehold premises which I hold under Thomas Assheton Smith, Esquire. I also give to Mary Heyland all that portion of my lands etc. which I may be seized of which are not otherwise settled and assigned under the Indenture of Settlement on the intermarriage of my late daughter Elizabeth Ann Williams and William Williams of Shrewsbury, Esquire. I give the monies due to me and secured by a mortgage on my son John Kyffin's estate situated in the parish of Llanfechain in the County of Montgomery called Pentref namely £800 in manner following: that is I give £400 part thereof to my grand daughter Anne Louisa Loveday Williams but in case my said grand daughter should die without issue before she attains the age of 21 years then my Will is that the £400 should be divided among the surviving brothers of the said grand daughter, sons of the said lamented daughter Elizabeth Anne Williams, equally to be divided among them. I give £200 (out of the said £800) to my grand daughter Mary Kyffin. I also give the further sum of £800, secured on my said son's estate as aforesaid, unto my grand daughter Dorothy Kyffin. To my grand daughters Mary Anne Kyffin Heyland and Anne Elizabeth Heyland £400, i.e. £200 each, viz. a legacy of £200 left by the will of the late Mistress Mary Kyffin of Llanfyllin which I paid out of my own money and which is now due to me from my said son John Kyffin and £100 due to me from my said son John Kyffin and £100 due to me from my said son in law William Williams of Shrewsbury to which £300 I direct my executors hereafter named to add £100, making in all £400, which I give and bequeath to my said grand daughters Mary Anne Kyffin Heyland and Anne Elizabeth Heyland equally to be divided between them. All the Rest I give to my said grand daughter Mary Heyland whom I appoint Sole Executor.

In witness etc., etc. and dated 15th May, 1824.

Sd. JOHN KYFFIN (very shaky writing).

Witnesses :

Thomas Robert, Surgeon, Bangor.
Ann Vaughan Williams, Siamberwen.
John Hughes, Attorney, Bangor.

Seal Armorial and in perfect
condition.

Crest a lion rampant.

Shield quarterly (1) and (4) Per fess
sable and argent a lion rampant
countercharged (2) and (3) argent
a chevron gules between 3
pheons sable.

Will proved by Mary Heyland 1st November, 1824,
before John Warren,
Principal Surrogate.

Value of Good and Chattels sworn as not exceeding £2,000.