



## Review

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THE FAMILY OF GRIFFITH OF GARN AND PLASNEWYDD IN THE COUNTY OF DENBIGH. By T. A. Glenn. 10" × 6½". Pp. xxv. + 376. London: Harrison and Sons, Limited, 1934. 95 copies printed and type distributed.

This volume is, mainly, an important contribution to Welsh genealogy, although a number of pedigrees of English and other families are included. It should also be noted that historical matters, apart from genealogies are dealt with at some length.

The editor states that the volume was undertaken at the request of the Right Honourable the Lady Daresbury of Walton; to the memory of whose son, the Hon. Gilbert Greenall, Lieutenant, The Life Guards, who died 27th July, 1928, the work is dedicated.

The chief sources of the information on which the work has been based are the Garn and Plasnewydd deeds, together with a collection of papers concerning various allied families preserved at Walton Hall. Supplementary sources are documents in the Public Record Office, in the National Library of Wales, and in the Public Library at Cardiff.

The main part of the volume consists of the descent of the family of Griffith of Garn. This has been successfully traced back to the beginning of the eleventh century and has been proved and registered in the College of Arms. The editor remarks that very few pedigrees approaching it in length have ever before been so verified and recorded. The arms (argent, five palets sable) borne through the centuries by the owners of Garn, and already on record in the College of Arms (as those of Madog Ddu), were allowed

by right of descent, and the crest, traceable to the fourteenth century was confirmed to the descendants of Lieutenant-Colonel John Wynne Griffith, of Garn, M.P., born 1763.

Mr. Glenn has paid much attention to identifying an early ancestor, Edwin of Tegeingl, shewing his connection with Mercia, and disentangling his career from that of his namesake Edwin, Earl of Mercia. He advances evidence to prove that he was partly of Norse, and not of Welsh extraction: the son of Uchdryd (the *Outredi* of the chartulary of St. Werburgh), the son of Ugan, son of the King of Man. A full account is given of Mr. Glenn's excavations at Llys Edwin, near Northop, and of discoveries there. This account shews that much of the building remains, and amends and extends considerably the report on the site printed in the Inventory of Ancient Monuments in Flintshire (Royal Com. Anc. Monuments in Wales and Mon.). The original timber house of Saxon date gave place in early Norman times to a half-timbered building later reconstructed largely of stone, and there was a final rebuilding during the first half of the thirteenth century.

Space will not permit an enumeration of the pedigrees of allied families which are included, but there are some sixty of them. The volume has a large number of illustrations, many of them of unusual interest, and the paper and printing do justice to the work.

There is so much of interest that the absence of a complete index, at least to names of persons and places, cannot but be regretted, in spite of the naive remark at the head of the index which has been included, that it "is not intended to be nearly exhaustive."

It is evident that the volume is the result of a great amount of research and care, and justified the tribute paid by Lady Daresbury to the ability and patience of Mr. Glenn in unravelling the many tangled knots and reducing the mass of material to the orderly record now presented.

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