

Letter #6

2127 Jackson Place
Chicago, Ills
Feb 8, 1911

Mr Justus A. Griffin
14 Rebecca St
Hamilton, Ont.

Dear Friend,

Just a word or two, I have after some correspondence with Charles Griffen of Grassland, St Clair Co. Ills and his Cousin Morganza Griffen of Brunswick, Mo - got their family records - But they are only able to go back to a Jacob Griffen of Dutchess Co., NY in 1790 their grandfather which settled in Albany Co - Westaloo Town and had five sons who migrated to St Clair Co. Ills and settled there.

Now I think "Jacobs father was Benjamin of Mamaroneck , Westchester Co NY - This family are Baptists - but Benjamin is of the Quaker line to John son of Edward of Flushing LI from Wales.

As I progress in the study of our lineage I am more and more of the opinion that we should commence with "Richard Griffeth " of Penrith near Cardigan South Wales who fought for Henry Tudor against Richard III King of England at Bosworth Field, August 22, 1485 his pedigree given in Dwnns Visitation, to Pembrokshire in 1613 Vol 1 page 244 - I have had published in the NY Genealogical and Biographical Record - in 1905 and this publication was noticed in the Bulletin of the American Genealogical Society the next year- I think - I hazarded the idea that this "Richard" of Bosworth Field fame - was the paternal ancestor of our Edward G. Of Flushing LI - viz: Edward son of John, son of Griffith son of said Richard Griffith - and I have not been "called down" as yet by any genealogist on either side of the water. If I am correct this unlocks the mystery of who the Ancestors of Thomas Griffin of Va are - He was a cousin of our Edward and his brother John - both of whom sailed October 24, 1635 for Va. I was compelled to go to the Domestic State Papers of England - and the Welsh pedigrees lately published by the House of Lords, to obtain any data of these persons - I found also "Gaspar Gruffydd" who wrote his name in Hebrew and Welsh on the Margin of some of the Welsh MS - about 1607. These MS are in the Penarth Library [in] Wales. Now this "Gaspar" is the ancestor of Maj Jasper Griffin of Southold LI - whose genealogy was published by Miss Stone.

I can find no connection between "Gaspar" and our Richard Griffith" of Bosworth fame except he lived in or about "Penarth" South Wales. Those were strenuous and troublesome times in Wales and the Griffiths were sturdy and stubborn fighters for Welsh liberty and soil- in fact they were the bitterest "Taffys" against the Anglo-Saxons and Norman robbers who invaded their country. "Glendower" was a Griffith you know and disappeared about 1416, no one knows where , after teaching the English a salutary lesson and you must not blame me for being so inspired with affection for the Welsh - "When I tell you that not only my father was rather pure blood- but my mother - a Thomas - yet purer -

i.e. my “Mam and Tad” are Taffys, for you may know why this name is applied to the Welsh - Taffy was a Welshman. Taffy was a thief - he came into my cabin and stole a piece of beef.; etc. Why: St. David - is our patron and David in Welsh is pronounced “taffy” just as the Johnny Bulls style the Irish “Paddies” - from ‘Patrick’ the patron Saint of Ireland - and we “Yankees” call you chaps “Canucks”, etc -

So I still think you should stay in the “field” until our ancestors are correctly found and separated properly from the Jasper Griffin line in America, at least .

In 1907 a genealogy of “Griffin” in Delaware was published and a Griffin is working at a family history in Maryland and Dutchess Co NY . I am informed besides your, [Robert] Miller in Brooklyn - But there must be an end of most things - not of genealogy at least for many years of the Griffins. So I will wait your pleasure - for a reply or “calling down”.

Sincerely and with much respect for those old Griffins - whose shadows you so kindly elect n_

Zeno T. Griffen