Griffith

Christ Church Cemetery · Hannah Griffith's family and its two marriages into the Fairfaxes

Christ Church Cemetery · Buried elsewhere · Context, or burial not researched · Grave unknown

Family tree by Gravestone Stories · gravestonestories.com

Rev. Dr. David Griffith
(1742 – Aug 3, 1789) · born in New York
Physician (London, 1762); ordained 1770
Chaplain and surgeon, 3rd Virginia, 1776–1779: Brandywine, Valley Forge, Monmouth
Rector of Fairfax Parish; lived at its glebe in present-day Arlington
Elected Virginia's first bishop, 1786; never consecrated
Burial: *Christ Church, Philadelphia — grave unmarked and lost*

m.

Hannah Colville Griffith
(c. 1750 – Nov 22, 1811) · born in New York
Daughter of William Colville
Ran the Loudoun County plantation while her husband served, 1776–1779
Widowed 1789 with eight children and his debts
Petitioned in 1791 to keep the family's Alexandria land; gave up her dower, 1809, so her children could divide it
Kept the Alexandria Coffee-House (now part of Gadsby's Tavern Museum), 1794–at least 1797; then a King Street boardinghouse
Burial: *unknown — probably Christ Church Cemetery, Lot 67, bought by her son Camillus in 1809*

Col. William Fairfax
(Oct 30, 1691 – Sept 3, 1757) · of "Belvoir"
His daughter Sarah Fairfax Carlyle (1730–1761) lies at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House
Burial: *Fairfax Family Cemetery, Fort Belvoir*

Deborah Clarke Fairfax
(c. 1708 – 1746/47)
His second wife; mother of Bryan
Burial: *Fairfax Family Cemetery, Fort Belvoir*

Rev. Bryan Fairfax, 8th Lord Fairfax of Cameron
(Aug 11, 1736 – Aug 7, 1802)
Succeeded Rev. Griffith as rector of Christ Church, 1790–1792; of "Mount Eagle"
Burial: *Ivy Hill Cemetery, moved from Mount Eagle*

Elizabeth Cary Fairfax
(1738 – 1778)
Daughter of Col. Wilson and Sarah (Pate) Cary, of "Ceeleys"; sister of Sally Cary Fairfax
m. Bryan Fairfax, 1759
Burial: *Ivy Hill Cemetery*

The eight children of David and Hannah Griffith

Sarah Winslow "Sally" Griffith
(1771 – Dec 22, 1864)
Never married; died in Alexandria at about 93
Her will left her estate to the Hoxton children
Burial: *Christ Church Cemetery, Lot I, with the Hoxtons*

Six more children
Elizabeth (Mrs. Thompson), Llewellyn, Camillus, Colvill; William and Alfred died by 1807
Camillus, King St. grocer, bought Lot 67 (1809); d. by 1839
Colvill, b. c. 1789; a merchant, died in Jamaica, Sept 12, 1812
Graves not found

David Griffith Jr.
(c. 1770 – before 1805)
Eldest child; 19 when his father died
With his bride, lived in the Fairfax Parish glebe house, 1790–1792
Four children, all minors in 1807: Elizabeth, Emily, Frederick Llewellyn and Lucy

m. after 1789

Elizabeth Fairfax Griffith
(c. 1770 – ?)
Daughter of Bryan Fairfax
m. David Griffith Jr.
His widow, "Eliza," by 1805

Ferdinando Fairfax
(c. 1768 – Sept 24, 1820)
Godson of George and Martha Washington
Heir to the 29,000-acre Shannondale tract (1787); of Shannon Hill
Died at home in Fairfax County
Burial: *Ivy Hill, moved from Mount Eagle*

Elizabeth Blair Cary Fairfax
(1770 – Jan 20, 1823)
His first cousin; daughter of Col. Wilson Miles Cary
Died at Shannon Hill
Burial: *Ivy Hill Cemetery*

son

Lucy Anna Griffith Fairfax
(? – 1861)
Daughter of David Jr. and Elizabeth
m. her first cousin, Mar 2, 1824
Burial: *Congressional Cemetery, Washington*

m. Mar 2, 1824
first cousins

Wilson Miles Cary Fairfax
(Dec 1, 1798 – Aug 8, 1860)
Born at Shannon Hill
Engineer, Alexandria Canal Company
Burial: *Christ Church Cemetery; his broken stone lies in the pile Pippenger calls "Lot 110"*

Children of Lucy and Wilson Fairfax, 1824–1839
Among them Emily Cary (1824–1894), m. Rt. Rev. F. Whittle · Llewellyn (1826–before 1860), drowned in the Potomac · Frederick (1835–1904) · Alice Fairfax Lyne (1839–1866)

Where is Hannah? She died on Friday evening, November 22, 1811, "after a tedious illness" (*Alexandria Gazette*, Nov 25, 1811, p. 3); the notice does not say where she was buried. Christ Church had moved its burials to Wilkes Street on May 1, 1809. The vestry book's list of the first lot buyers (1809) shows Lot 67 bought for $15 by "Cam Griffith" — her son Camillus. The lot has no stones, so it is the likeliest place for her unmarked grave. In 1807–08 only Hannah, Sarah and Camillus lived in the District; the other heirs lived elsewhere.

The family lawsuit: In *Camillus Griffith v. Heirs of David Griffith* (1807–1810), the heirs agreed to divide their father's land "in and about the Town of Alexandria" into 97 lots; George Gilpin was one of the commissioners. The file names the six heirs and confirms Lucy as David Jr.'s daughter and Colvill as a minor in 1807 (not born 1780, as Webb has it).
Still to verify: who was buried in Lot 67; how Eliza L. Hoxton was related to Sally; where the Griffith land lay (the partition plat is missing).
Mount Eagle: Bryan's home stood where the Montebello condominiums are now; his and Ferdinando's graves were moved to Ivy Hill.

Sources: Gadsby's Tavern Museum exhibit text (OHA); D. Griffith letters to Hannah, 1776–1778, and her petition to the General Assembly, Oct 21, 1791; Camillus Griffith v. Heirs of David Griffith, Arlington Co. Chancery 1810-036 (Library of Virginia); Alexandria Gazette, Oct 16, 1805, Nov 25, 1811 and Nov 24, 1812; Obituary Notices from the Alexandria Gazette, 1784–1915 (Lloyd House); Wardell, Alexandria City and County Wills, Administrations and Guardian Bonds, 1800–1870; Christ Church Vestry Book, plat of the burial ground and proprietors' names (1809); Willard J. Webb, "David Griffith, the Forgotten Arlington Patriot," Arlington Historical Magazine (Oct 2006); Find a Grave memorials; "Meet Hannah Griffith" interpretive panel (Public Dining Room); Burke's Peerage (2003) via thepeerage.com; Some Prominent Virginia Families, Vol. II; e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia; History of Shannondale Springs (2009); Harpers-Ferry Free Press, Jan 29, 1823; Pippenger, Tombstone Inscriptions of Alexandria, Virginia, Vol. 3 (1992).