

ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 1905

Death Notice:-

**GRIFFITH** - On September 14<sup>th</sup> at "Lynhale," Ryde, **Arthur Gerald GRIFFITH**, aged 48 years (after two days illness), late District Commissioner of Opobo, Southern Nigeria, elder son of the late Dr Griffith GRIFFITH of Taltreuddyn, Merioneth, and of Hyeres, France . Funeral Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup>.

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### DEATH OF MR A. G. GRIFFITH

It will be with great regret that many of the people in Ryde will learn of the sudden death of Mr. **Arthur Gerald GRIFFITH**, which occurred on Thursday at his residence, Lynhale, George Street, Ryde at the comparatively early age of 48. He was apparently in his usual health on Tuesday, when he had a paralytic seizure, from which he never rallied. He was the elder son of the late Dr. Griffith GRIFFITH, of Taltreuddyn, near Llanbredr, Merioneth, was educated at Cheltenham College, and came to Ryde about thirty years ago with his mother and brother and speedily made many friends in the Island. He was extremely fond of any form of sport, and took an active part in many of the athletic clubs then existing on Ryde. In particular he was much interested in Rugby football, and being a good player, he was chosen captain of the old Rovers Club.

Subsequently he entered the service of the Niger Coast Protectorate, afterwards Southern Nigeria, and served as District Commissioner at Old Calabar, Opobo, and other places for about nine years. Like many others, his health broke down under the strain of living in the state of West African climate, and he had to be invalided home. During the period he held this position he had the respect and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. All the Calabar natives honoured him, and respected his decisions. He had wonderful influence over them, and when he had to return to England, 1898, their regret was very apparent. This is shown by the fact that the native chiefs of the old Calabar district presented him with an address on his departure. It is an eloquent testimony to his worth that they should, as they expressed in their address, desire to "bear the testimony of their appreciation of the services he has rendered to the people during the time he has been in the district. . . . and of the way in which he has discharged his various duties while holding the appointment of acting Vice-Consul and District Commissioner, also of the care and patience he has always bestowed on all complaints brought before him, both in and out of Court, and of the singleness of purpose manifested by him in seeking to arrive at a sound and righteous judgement in every case." This testimony is the more eloquent when it is said that so far as it known, no other Protectorate officer ever received one from the native chiefs.

On returning to Ryde, Mr. GRIFFITH interested himself in many public movements. His old love of athletics remained, and he was closely associated with the Ryde Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, of which he was the hon. Secretary, and by his indefatigable services in that capacity, gained the gratitude of all the members. He was also treasurer of the Ryde Badminton and Games Club, and his loss will be greatly felt by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

The funeral will take place on Tuesday next at 11 o'clock.

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