Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE3974

Griffiths, Glynde Nesta

(1889 - 1968)

Born	18890704, Double Bay, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Died	19680604, Bellevue Hill Sydney New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Author, Historian, Philanthropist

Summary

Nesta Griffiths wrote *Point Piper: Past and Present* in 1947, followed by *Some Houses and People of New South Wales* in 1949 and *Some Southern Homes of New South Wales* in 1952. The stories of various well established families recounted in each publication were partly informed by society gossip, and partly by research conducted by Griffiths in Sydney's Mitchell Library.

Details

Glynde Nesta Griffiths – always known as Nesta – was the daughter of London-born merchant Frederick Close Griffiths and his wife Annette Agnes. Nesta and her sister Gwendolen were raised at Point Piper, near Sydney. Neither married, and they lived together at Bellevue Hill from 1929 until their deaths, just five months apart, in 1968.

The Griffiths sisters (known 'affectionately and disrespectfully as the Griffs' according to Helen Rutledge) were members of the Royal Sydney Golf Club. Passionate about family history and heritage, they supported the National Trust and Nesta was a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society. Her books on southern and northern homes in New South Wales were sometimes self-published and not well edited, but their value lies in the author's personal acquaintance with her subjects.

The sisters, who had received little inheritance, came to live quite comfortably thanks to a number of Gwendolen's shrewd investments on the stock market. Both made significant contributions to Sir Lorimer Dods' Children's Medical Research Foundation during their lifetimes. In her will, Gwendolen provided for Dods' grandchildren, while Nesta bequeathed her residual estate – valued at $300,000 – to the Foundation itself.

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Resource Section
Griffiths, Glynde Nesta (1889-1968), Rutledge, Martha, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A140379b.htm

Book
My Grandfather's House, Rutledge, Helen, 1986

Some Houses and People of New South Wales, Griffiths, Glynde Nesta, 1949

Point Piper: Past and Present, Griffiths, Glynde Nesta, 1947

Some Southern Homes of New South Wales, Griffiths, Glynde Nesta, 1952

Thesis
In Her Gift: Activism and Altruism in Australian Women's Philanthropy, 1880-2005, Lemon, Barbara, 2008

Site Exhibition
In Her Gift: Women Philanthropists in Australian History, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2009,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/wiph/home.html

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection
Griffiths, Nesta (1)

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