

GALE BRICK WALL and GRIFFINS

The last solid and certain person that gives rise to **THE GALE BRICK WALL** is Anthony Gale, second son of Robert, who was born – probably – in the Long Ditton/Tolworth area. We don't know when he was born, although obviously before his father's death in 1666, nor whether he was younger or older than his sisters, Ann and Elizabeth. Either way, he married relatively late (or married more than once) in 1695 to Mary Griffin in Stoke D'Abernon.

As is the general rule of genealogy, when you can no longer go backwards, you go sideways. Working on the reasonable assumption that back in the 17th and 18th centuries, sons and daughters did not usually meet potential spouses down the local inn, in the supermarket, or launderette, but relied on family acquaintances, business contacts or parental advice, suggestions, manipulations or downright orders as to who they would marry – especially in families above “hayseed” peasant status – researching sideways into the in-laws can be profitable; at the very least giving an insight into with who and where people associated. With informative wills, possible family intermarriages (hopefully!), and a whole lot of luck, it is possible to gather up enough clues to be able to chip sideways at a genealogical brick wall until the wall crumbles. Of course, there will be another, bigger wall, behind it

So, has sideways research in Anthony Gale's in-laws had a productive impact on the Gale Brick Wall? Unfortunately, no! Not one single useful hint, sign, or uneducated guess has materialised out of two generations of research into the family of Anthony Gale's wife, Mary Griffin to further our Gale research. So far! There are many questions still to be answered and missing dates, names and details are still to be found. Obviously, the Griffins are, as much as the Gales, part of my (and Terry Gale's) direct bloodline, so research into that family is relevant and interesting for its own sake. The Griffins were an ancient family, associated tantalisingly with many other old and powerful local families and that opens a whole new genealogical world of its own.

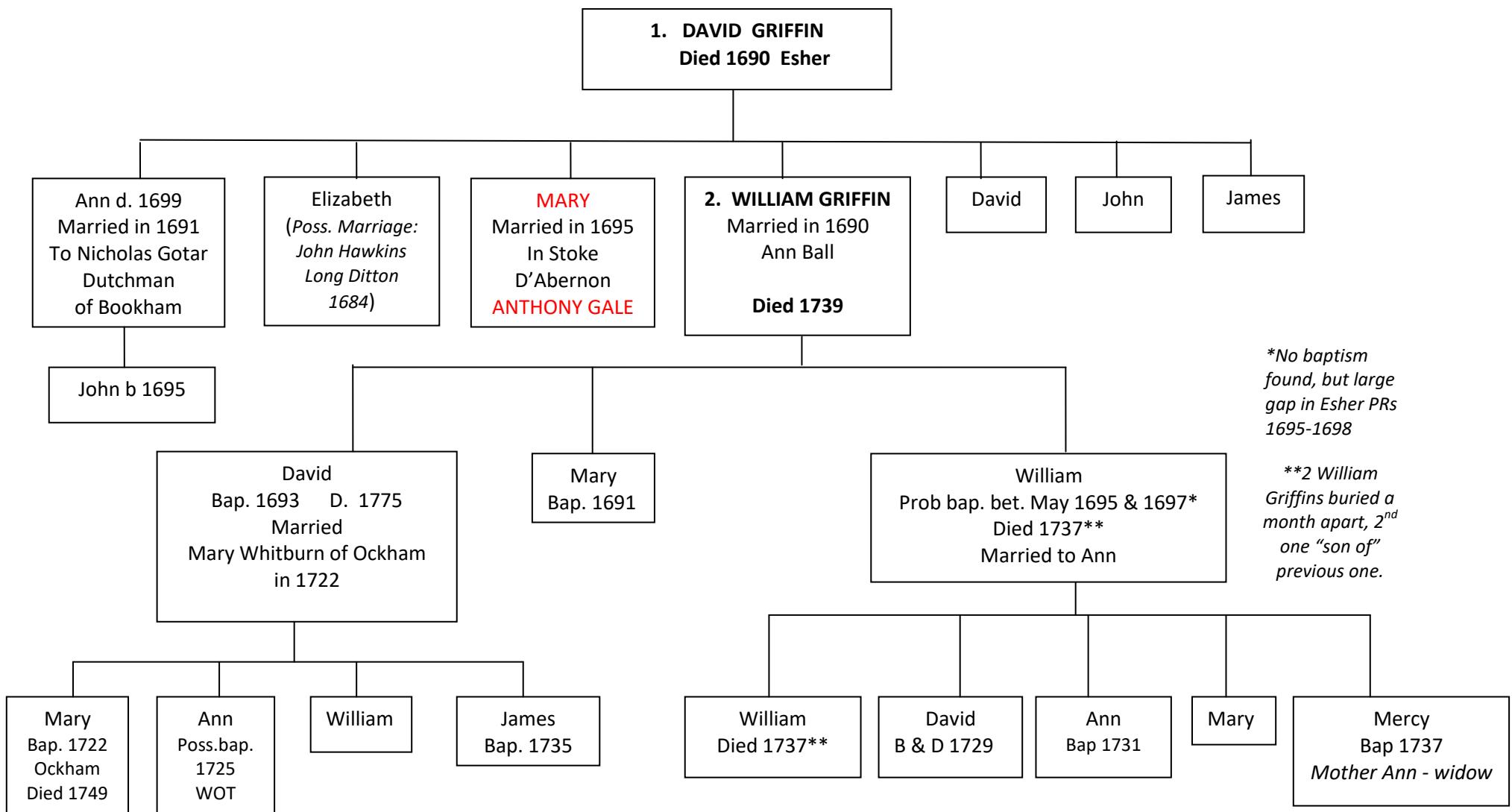
There is only one Mary Griffin who is anywhere near a good “fit” as a wife for Anthony, so I am as sure as I can be that this is the correct family. Her father was David Griffin, my 8th great grandfather, who *may* have married in Long Ditton parish, and who died in Esher. That is all I know. There are two other Griffin patriarchs in Long Ditton; Jacob and Edward, of the same generation, and possibly related. Research into them has not yet begun.

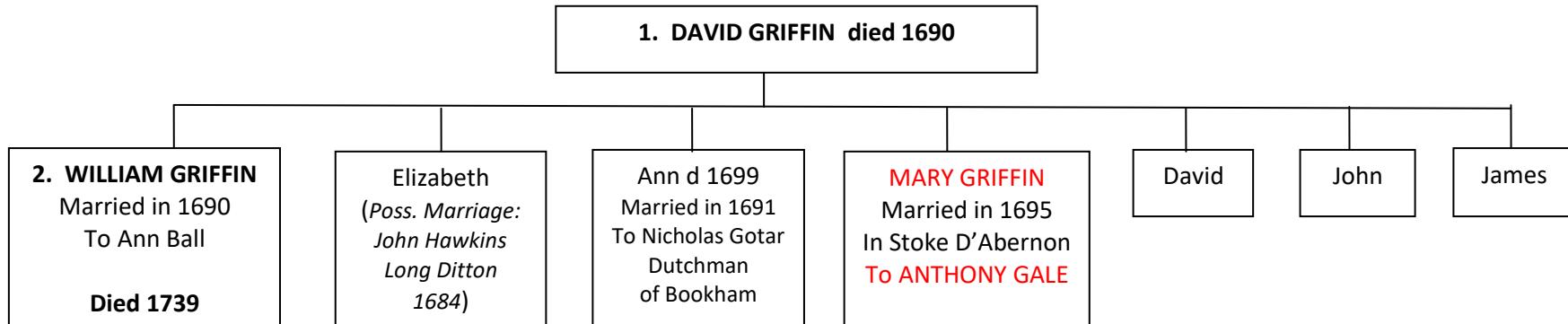
There is a family rumour that one of ancestral lines is of “wealthy farmers”. On present evidence, it doesn't appear to be the Gales. Robert Gale, Anthony's father, left a will at a time when very few people other than the rich left wills, which suggests a man with self-respect, and although the exact value of his estate isn't mentioned, his bequests were extremely small. In marrying Mary Griffin, who inherited about 40 times the entire written content of Robert's will, it seem likely that Anthony Gale married “up”. The Griffins clearly had money and land, so maybe they were the “wealthy farmers” of family legend.

There are the inevitable gaps, puzzles, anomalies and question marks all over this small piece of research, but it's a start. If anyone has further information or ideas, I would love to hear them.

**Terri Last
2018**

GRIFFIN FAMILY OVERVIEW





1. DAVID GRIFFIN The Elder of Esher, yeoman. Extract from Will written on 15th September 1688. Proved on 18th February 1690/1 (Julian Calendar)

I give and bequeath unto my eldest son William Griffin and his heirs and assigns forever immediately after my death all that my acres of land with their appurtenances lying and being in Esher aforesaid upon this condition - nevertheless that the said William Griffin and his heirs and assigns shall well and truly pay or arrange to be paid unto my daughter Elizabeth Griffin the sum of forty pounds of lawful money of England, to David Griffin my son the sum of thirty pounds of like money, to John Griffin my son the sum of twenty pounds of like money, to Mary Griffin my daughter the sum of forty pounds of like money, to James Griffin my son the sum of twenty pounds of like money and to Ann Griffin my daughter the sum of forty pounds of like money.

NOTES

No wife mentioned, so she had presumably pre-deceased David. Likely Burial: Ann Griffith(sic), wife of David, buried 1/12/1682 Esher
A possible marriage: David Griffin "of Esher" to Ann Holt, Long Ditton, 30/5/1674.

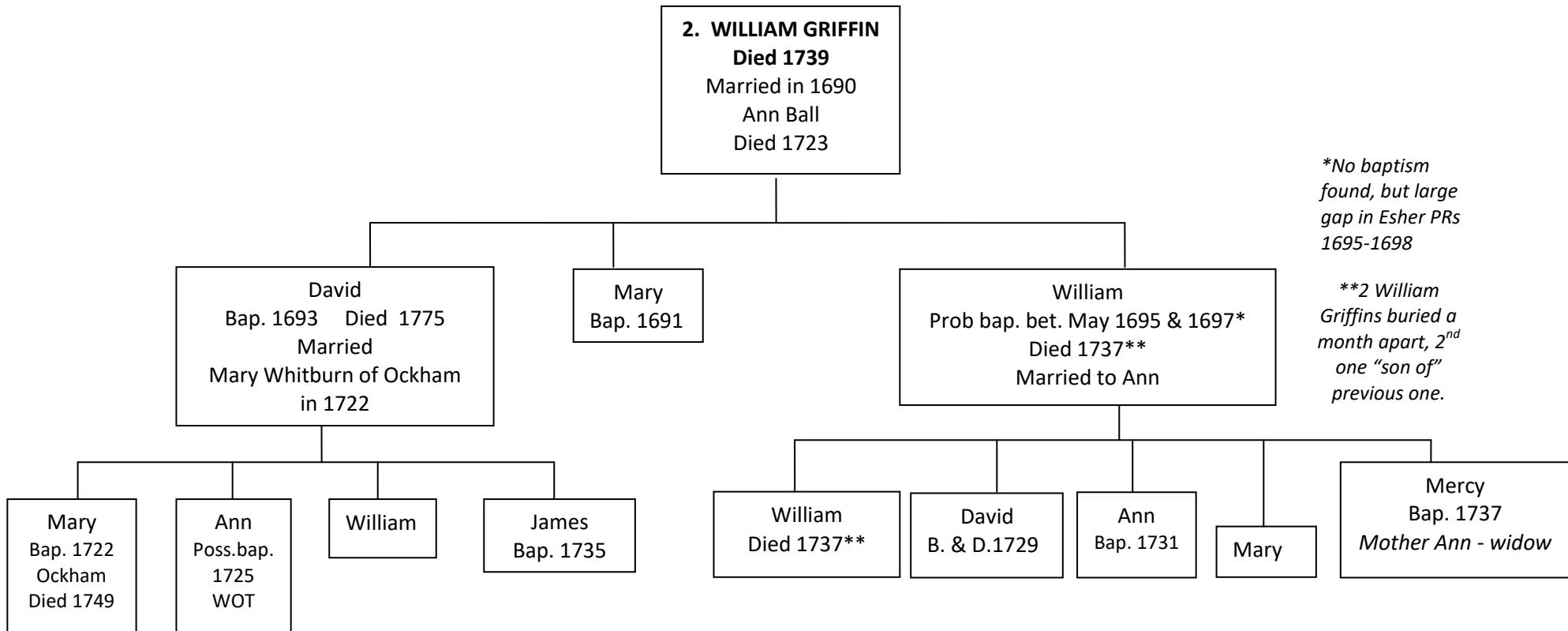
But this is either not the correct Ann, or the correct David, or this is not David's first marriage, as this Ann Holt is very unlikely to have been the mother of all of his children, unless William (at least) was born before they were married.

Unusual apportionment of money: £40 to each of his daughters, £30 to one son, £20 to his two other sons. Does this suggest the girls were the eldest children after William, and John and James were the youngest? Unusually, the will does not qualify the bequests to the children with the standard "*when they reach the age of 21 or marriage*". This simply might be because they were actually all aged over 21. That would mean none of the children belonged to Ann Holt.

Eldest son William married on 24/7/1690; before his father died, but after the will was written.

Elizabeth (potentially) married first – suggesting she is the eldest daughter, and she is the first named daughter in the will. But, if Elizabeth did marry John Hawkins, David would have had 2 grandchildren before the will was written and it would have been unusual to omit them. Also unusual for father not to mention a daughter's married status in a will. So there are many doubts over the Hawkins marriage.

A possible marriage for David Griffin to Elizabeth Abbot (both of Ewell) in WOT in 1700, but nothing concrete found on James or John Griffin.



2. WILLIAM GRIFFIN The Elder of Esher, Yeoman. Eldest son of DAVID GRIFFIN Extract from Will written 18th December 1738. Proved 10th December 1740

I give and bequeath unto my son David Griffin his heirs and assigns forever all my freehold messuages or tenements, barn, orchard and one enclosed piece of land containing by estimation an acre of ground more or less with all appurtenances which I purchased and bought off Edward Buly and is situated in West End in this parish aforesaid upon this promise that my said son David his heirs or assigns shall pay unto John Buly his executors administrators or assigns the full sum of twenty pounds with the interest due for the same said twenty pounds I gave a bond to the above named Edward Buly when I bought the above said premises off him and also that my said son David do and shall freely and fully forgive arguments and discharge my Executrix hereafter named the sum of twelve pounds fourteen shillings and two pennies being a legacy given to him in and by the last will and testament of his grandmother *Mrs Joan Ball deceased which I as Executor of the said will should have paid unto my said son but never did but if my said son David shall refuse to pay this said sum of twenty pounds and the interest of that sum and also refuse or to argue it and (not) discharge the said legacies of twelve pounds fourteen shillings and two pennies within one year after my decease then my will is and I give all the above named messuage, tenements, lands and premises with all appurtenances unto my granddaughter Ann the daughter of my late son William Griffin who is deceased his heirs and assigns forever for paying the said debt and legacies within one year after my decease and for their true payments thereof either by my son David or Granddaughter Ann their heirs and assigns I do hereby bind all the above said tenements, land and premises.

*I give and bequeath unto my above named granddaughter Ann six acres of freehold land being in one enclosed piece or field and called the six acres Close or Meadows with all appurtenances being in West End also and in my own tenure to hold to her and her heirs and assigns forever under this condition and provided that she pay unto her sister Mary the sum of twenty pounds and unto her sister Mercy the sum of twenty pounds both which are my granddaughters by my above named son William who is deceased and also that she pay unto my grandson William Griffin the son of my above named son David Griffin the sum of five pounds and also until my granddaughters Mary and Ann the daughters of my above named son David the sum of ten pounds (to wit) five pounds to each of them and my will is that all those legacies above given be paid unto each person or legatees when they formally accomplish and be one and twenty years of age, or upon their several respective days of marriage which first happens and that the above said all legacies may be trusty paid to each person as they shall become due as above mentioned and also that my funeral charges be borne and paid. I hereby give full power unto and my will is that my said granddaughter Ann together with my trusty friend Roger Adams and **kinsman Benjamin Dally** yeoman (during the minority of the said Ann) or either or any two of them in concert shall then borrow such funds or sums of money as shall then be necessary for the payment thereof and not for any other use and my will is that they mortgage the said six acres of land for the surety of such funds or sums to be borrowed and that the said six acres to be subject to the payment thereof and to this end I hereby make and ordain my said friend Roger Adams and kinsman Benjamin Dally overseers and guardians in trust for the said use of Ann during her minority but if my said granddaughter Ann shall die before she is one and twenty years old and shall leave no heirs, then my will is and I give the above said six acres and appurtenances unto her two sisters above named to wit Mary and Mercy their heirs and assigns forever they paying the legacies and funeral charges as above mentioned and I also appoint the said Roger Adams and Benjamin Dally in like manner their overseers and guardians during their minority and I allow them their reasonable charges and expenses and also for their loss of time. Item all the rest, residues and remaining part of my goods, chattels and estates whatever not above given and bequeathed I give unto my daughter in law Ann the widow of my late son William also paying four pounds unto my **kinsman George Moor** yeoman. Item I do hereby make constitute and appoint my above named granddaughter Ann daughter of my late son William sole Executrix of this my last will and testament desiring her to bury me in concert with her mother and herself.*

NOTES

Clearly some kind of disagreement between son David Griffin and Edward Buly.

***Mrs Joan Ball** – in her will of 1705 she refers to “the £90 in the hands of Thomas Peters of Walton End, Esher, (*could that be West End, Esher*) husbandman, to the children of William Griffin by my daughter Ann and the children of George Moore by Joan Laughter”. Joan Laughter is later referred to as the “grandmother”. But Joan clearly refers to the Moore children as her grandchildren and George Moore as her son-in-law in her will. The whole short will extract is confusing and mostly nonsensical, but this will is a FMP transcription – from experience the will transcriptions on this website have many massive errors in them. But, it does confirm beyond a doubt that William Griffin married Ann Ball and presumably, this is how George Moore becomes William Griffin’s “kinsman”. No mention in Joan’s will transcription of the unpaid legacy that was supposed to have been passed to David, unless it is part of the £90 mentioned.

The only two children of William and Ann mentioned in the will are David, the only living son, and William, who predeceased his father by 3 years. No mention of daughter Mary and no burial found for her either beforehand. If she was alive, she would almost certainly be married by 1738 and could be anywhere, alive or otherwise. I suspect deceased as there is no mention of grandchildren by her.

I am slightly bewildered that an apparent 7 year old should be appointed executrix of the will, so I am guessing that Ann Griffin was baptised late. Clearly she is under 21, so she was born after 1718, but for unknown reasons was not baptised until 1731. If her father William's birth is as is likely, around 1695 to 1697 (which fits with his older brother and sister) and he married in his early 20s, that could place Ann as the eldest grandchild, which puts her in the position to be the will's executrix, given that William doesn't seem overly impressed with his son David.

All living grandchildren are named, with £20 each given to Mary and Mercy – William's children, but only £5 each given to William, Mary and Ann - David's children. James is not mentioned and a burial is not found either, but (again!) the words "desunt" appear between 1735 and 1736 – another gap in the records.

Mercy Griffin was baptised on 16th February 1737; her father was buried 21st December 1737. Still in the Julian Calendar; William was obviously alive when Mercy was born, but had died before she was baptised, around 8 weeks later.

Kinsman Benjamin Dalley So where does this Benjamin Dalley fit into the Griffin clan? The name "Mercy" in particular, (In conjunction with Mary) are a regular feature in Dalley families. There are at least three "Mercy" and "Mary" combination names in Dalley families. There they are, Mercy and Mary in the family of Wiliam Griffin, making it very tempting to guess/hope/assume that William Griffin who died in 1737 married an Ann Dalley. Unfortunately, there is no evidence to suggest so. There appears to be no Ann Dalley of an appropriate age to be the wife of William and annoyingly, no marriage can be found for William Griffin.

The most likely, in fact the only contender for the title "Kinsman Benjamin Dalley", would be the son of another Benjamin Dalley whose will was written in 1726. This Benjamin is named in his father's will as being under 21, (in PR's he is baptised in Esher in 1713), along with sisters Ann, Mercy and Mary. Ann (my one-time, best-fit potential wife of William Griffin) is, in 1726, unmarried and under 21 (she was baptised in 1710) and is therefore unlikely to have been the wife of William Griffin. (Unless she married very young and almost immediately after the death of her father, and Ann Griffin was around 10 years old when named the executrix of her father's will). Not terribly likely. William Griffin (the elder presumably) is a witness to the 1726 will of Benjamin Dalley.

I am now trawling through Dalley wills and Moore wills and whatever other surname comes up