

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

JAMES OWEN GRIFFIN (d. 1939)

James Owen Griffin, Professor Emeritus of German, died at his home on the Stanford campus on February 11, 1939.

Professor Griffin was called to Stanford in 1891, one of the group invited by Dr. Jordan to form the first faculty of the University. Prior to his coming, he had spent six years as a member of the German Department of Cornell University and one year as Registrar in the same institution. From 1891 to 1917, he served Stanford as Professor of German and for much of that time, until impaired eyesight forced some relinquishments upon him, as head of the German Department. Retiring in 1917, he continued, during his twenty-two years as Professor Emeritus, to make Stanford his home. Almost to the time of his death, he and his accompanying dog were familiar sights as they took their daily walks along the campus roads.

Throughout his university career, Professor Griffin's strongest interest was in his teaching. Though usually carrying a load of executive work, he found time not only for the encouragement of academically promising students but also for wide personal interest in the individuals, promising or otherwise, within his classes. The self-supporting student, the student handicapped by ill health or by defective early training could count on his sympathetic comprehension and on an inexhaustible patience. During his teaching years and in years immediately after his retirement, his house on Alvarado Row was recurrently the gathering place of groups of students for whom he had made Stanford not only a place of learning but of affectionate remembrance.

Professor Griffin is survived by no immediate family. He had, however, nieces who filled the place of daughters. Be it resolved, therefore, that we, the Academic Council of Stanford University, extend to these nieces our sympathy in the termination of a long companionship, and that we record in the minutes of the Council this memorial to one of Stanford's pioneer faculty.

Edith R. Mirrieless
Leroy Abrams
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