

## DAVIES, EDWARD (Iolo Trefaldwyn; 1819 - 1887), poet and eisteddfodwr

**Name:** Edward Davies  
**Pseudonym:** Iolo Trefaldwyn  
**Date of birth:** 1819  
**Date of death:** 1887  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** poet and eisteddfodwr  
**Area of activity:** Eisteddfod; Poetry  
**Author:** Enid Pierce Roberts

Born at Moel-y-frochas, near Llanfyllin, Montgomeryshire. His parents were the first members of the Calvinistic Methodist society at Rhos-y-brithdir. He received a smattering of education at the school kept by **Morris Davies** (1796 - 1876) at Llanfyllin, but was forced to leave to work on the land at home. He soon left the farm, however, and obtained employment first at Llangynog quarry and then at the Rhyd-y-mwyn lead works. Then, for a time, he was a coal merchant in Liverpool, but this venture failed. He now settled in Wrexham, where he became traveller for a firm of Scottish publishers. He was a faithful frequenter of eisteddfodau and a regular competitor - too regular, indeed, to produce any work of real merit. In 1870 he won the chair at the Liverpool Gordofigion eisteddfod for his *prydest* 'Goleuni' (Light). There was considerable demand for his services at local eisteddfodau and competitive meetings as adjudicator, reciter, and singer of penillion. Shortly before his death he published a book of verse, *Caneuon Iolo Trefaldwyn*. He could turn out an excellent englyn and was one of the best epitaph writers of his day. He was for twenty-one years precentor of Zion C.M. chapel, Wrexham. He died 4 January 1887 and was buried in the new cemetery at Wrexham.

### Author

Dr Enid Pierce Roberts

### Sources

R. Williams, *Montgomeryshire Worthies* (1894), 36

*Cymru (O.M.E.)*, iii, 269

*Bye-Gones, relating to Wales and the Border Counties*, 1887

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