

ELLIS, WILLIAM (Gwilym ab Elis; 1752 - 1810), hymn-writer and balladist, of Bala;

Name: William Ellis
Pseudonym: Gwilym ab Elis
Date of birth: 1752
Date of death: 1810
Parent: Jane William
Parent: Ellis William
Gender: Male
Occupation: hymn-writer and balladist
Area of activity: Music; Poetry; Religion
Author: Gomer Morgan Roberts

Born at Ty-nant in the parish of Llanycil, Meirionnydd, son of Ellis and Jane William. His wife's name was Ellen and in 1780 they were living in the township of Ismynydd; between 1780 and 1790 they had four children. He died December 1810 and was buried at Llanycil. It was for his benefit that *Ychydig o Hymnau*, etc. (undated), written by **Edward Parry** (1723 - 1786) of Llansannan, **William Evans** (1735 - 1805) of Bala, and others, was published - 'for a poor man called *William Ellis*.' A number of his own hymns are to be found in the second part of the book. It is thought that he is the 'Gwilym ab Elis' who, in 1786, published a hymn-book, *Ychydig o Hymnau a Chaniadau Newyddion*, etc., at Trevecka. There are twenty-five hymns in this collection, one of them being very well known. The collection includes a 'carol' and a secular poem; two ballads, c. 1790, are attributed to him in **J. H. Davies**'s list.

Author

Reverend Gomer Morgan Roberts, (1904 - 1993)

Sources

Y Traethodydd, 1874, 483

J. H. Davies, *A Bibliography of Welsh Ballads printed in the 18th century* (London 1908-11), 144

Llanycil parish register

Additional Links

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