

## WILLIAMS, JOHN (1728 - 1806), hymn-writer

**Name:** John Williams  
**Date of birth:** 1728  
**Date of death:** 1806  
**Spouse:** Mary Williams (née Voss)  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** hymn-writer  
**Area of activity:** Poetry; Religion  
**Author:** Gomer Morgan Roberts

He is said to have been born at Blaen Pennal, Cardiganshire, and to have been the brother of [David Williams](#) (1717 - 1792) of Llyswyrny; but this belief is without foundation. He was a cooper by trade and for many years kept a shop at St Athan, Glamorganshire. He is probably the 'John Williams, Carpenter,' who married Mary Voss at S. Athan, 24 June 1755; he subsequently married three other wives. He was a member of the society at Aberthyn, but left the Methodists in 1791 when [Peter Williams](#) was expelled. He was one of the leaders of the company which founded the church at 'the Briton' and chose [Thomas William](#) as its minister. Both were friends and used to take communion at Llan-gan in [David Jones](#)'s (1736 - 1810) time. He died 26 August 1806 at the age of 78, and was buried at Saint Athan. He wrote some melodious hymns, as well as other poetry. His *Halsing, neu Gân Newydd ar Ddydd Natolic* appeared in 1781. His well-known hymn, 'Pwy welaf o Edom yn dod,' is to be found in a little book produced by [Jones](#) of Llan-gan in 1784, and there is a note above it to the effect that the subject was suggested to him by [Christopher Bassett](#). He wrote a number of elegies - one on the above-mentioned [Bassett](#) was published in [Jones](#) of Llan-gan's book. He also wrote a bitter poem on the occasion of [Peter Williams](#)'s expulsion and published it, together with other poems, in *Can Diddarfod: sef Pennillion Addysgiadol*, etc., in 1793. A few of his hymns are still very popular.

### Author

Reverend Gomer Morgan Roberts, (1904 - 1993)

### Sources

*Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru*, ii, 236

D. E. Jenkins, *Life of Thomas Charles* (Denbigh 1908), ii, 78

*Y Traethodydd*, 1873, 479

G. M. Roberts, *Bywyd a Gwaith Peter Williams* (Cardiff 1943), 99, 122, 155

J. Thickens, *Emynau a'u Hawduriaid* (1945), 131

a letter from Prof. G. J. Williams

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