

WILLIAMS, JOHN (fl. 1739-1779), Methodist exhorter and hymn-writer

Name: John Williams
Gender: Male
Occupation: Methodist exhorter and hymn-writer
Area of activity: Poetry; Religion
Author: Gomer Morgan Roberts

In 1739 **Howel Harris** mentions 'dear Jack of Errwd'; there was, in fact, a family with that surname living at 'Erwood,' in the parish of Cerrig Cadarn, Brecknock. He and his brother, William, were exhorters in 1742-3 and the Methodist society met at their house. William (died 1746) married Ann Bowen of Tyddyn. Sarah, his sister, married **Thomas James** (died 1751), the Builth exhorter. In 1748 **Howel Harris** was godfather to John Williams's son, but in 1750 the Erwood family, acting under the influence of **Thomas James**, deserted **Harris** and by 1751 had joined Thomas Bowen's independent party. John Williams is believed to have been the author of a little collection of hymns published at Brecon in 1779, *Ychydig Hymnau: O waith John Williams o Sir Frecheiniog*. The collection comprises four very mediocre hymns. One man of this name was buried at Cerrig Cadarn 28 July 1779, and another 22 December 1783. A collection of his hymns, *Hymnau o Fawl i Dduw a'r Oen*, etc., was published by the Trevecka press in 1805.

Author

Reverend Gomer Morgan Roberts, (1904 - 1993)

Sources

Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Hanes y Methodistiaid Calfinaidd, xxvii, 100; xxviii, 123; xxxi, 116; xxxiv, 31, 34, 75

R. Bennett, *Methodistiaeth Trefaldwyn Uchaf, 1738-1852* (1929), iii, 182, 187

Cerrig Cadarn register

Charles Ashton, *Llyfryddiaeth Gymreig o 1801 i 1810* (1908), 109

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