

WILLIAMS, MATHEW (1732 - 1819), landsurveyor, author, and almanack-maker[?]

Name: Mathew Williams
Date of birth: 1732
Date of death: 1819
Gender: Male
Occupation: landsurveyor, author, and almanack-maker[?]
Area of activity: Engineering, Construction, Naval Architecture and Surveying; Literature and Writing
Author: William Llewelyn Davies

It is known that he lived at Llangadock in 1774 and at Rhos-maen, near Llandeilo, in 1788. He published (a) *Y Mesurwr Cyffredinol* (Carmarthen, 1775; another ed. in 1785); (b) *Speculum Terrarum et Caelorum: neu Ddrych y Ddaear a'r Ffurfafen ...* (Carmarthen, 1784; other eds. in 1804 and 1826); (c) *Hanes Holl Grefyddau'r Byd, yn enwedig y Grefydd Grist'nogol* (Carmarthen, 1799); (d) a series of (Welsh) almanacks - *Britannus Merlinus Liberatus* - from 1777 until at least 1814; and (e) *De Ultimo Judicio: neu Gan am y Farn Ddiweddaf ... Wedi ei gyfansoddi a'i gyddmaru a gwaith Saesonaeg B[enjamin] Francis* (Carmarthen, 1794?). It is possible that he was the translator of *Traethawd ynghylch Caersalem Newydd o waith E. Swedenborg* (Carmarthen, 1815; another ed. in 1885). In a diary of **David Jones**, Wallington - it is now in the Cardiff Public Library - is a reference under August 1790 to the death of ' Mathew Williams, author of a Welsh Almanack, this 14 years past, printed yearly in Carmarthen. He was from them parts by birth, by trade a weaver, by profession a dissenter, 55 years of age '; note, however, that our Mathew Williams describes himself as ' land surveyor ' in some of his works.

It is possible that there has been confusion between two men of this name. A Mathew Williams, land-surveyor, made his will 30 May 1819, and was buried at Llandeilo-fawr on 30 September 1819, aged 87; the will was proved 24 March 1820 (parish and probate records in N.L.W.).

Author

Sir William Llewelyn Davies, (1887 - 1952)

Sources

T. R. Roberts, *Eminent Welshmen: a short biographical dictionary of Welshmen... from the earliest times to the present* (1908)

Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Hanes y Methodistaid Calfinaidd, 1949, 48

John Davies, *Rhestr o lyfrau argraffedig yng Nghaerfyrddin gan John Ross rhwng y blynyddoedd 1763 a 1807* (Carmarthen 1916)

Notable Welshmen (1700â€“1900) (1908)

Works

Mathew Williams, Benjamin Francis, *De Ultimo Judicio: neu, gan am y Farn Ddiweddaf. Yn bedair rhan. Wedi ei gyfansoddi a'i gyddmaru a gwaith Saesonaeg Mr. B. Francis*Caerfyrddin 1788?

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