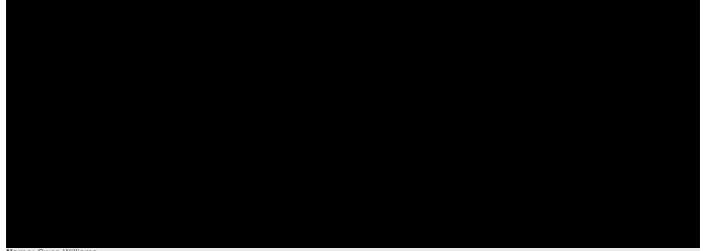
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## WILLIAMS, OWEN (Owain Gwyrfai; 1790 - 1874), antiquary



Name: Owen Williams Pseudonym: Owain Gwyrfai Date of birth: 1790 Date of death: 1874 Spouse: Margaret Williams (née Lloyd) Child: Thomas Williams Parent: Siàn Pritchard (née Marc) Parent: William Pritchard Gender: Male Occupation: antiquary Area of activity: History and Culture Author: Griffith Thomas Roberts

Born in a cottage called Bryn-beddau on the Plas Glan'rafon estate, Waun-fawr, and christened at Betws Garmon, 10 January 1790. His parents were William Pritchard of Pant Ifan Mawr, Llan-rug, and Siân Marc of Plas Mawr, Llandwrog. When he was still very young, Owen Williams married Margaret Lloyd of Pen-y-bryn, Llanwnda, and they set up house together at Tu-ucha'r-ffordd, Waun-fawr. He was a short, spare man with a round face and fair hair. He used to walk with short, quick steps, stooping a little, and he was never seen without a stick. A cooper by trade, he used to make wheel-barrows for sale to the Dinorwig quarries before the latter began to use waggons. When Dafydd Ddu Eryri kept a school at Waun-fawr and Betws Garmon, Owen Williams was one of his pupils and it was Dafydd Ddu who taught him the rules of prosody. Owen Gwyrfai's awd/ on 'Baron Richards' was judged to be the best at the Cymreigyddion eisteddfod held at Caernarvon in 1824. He edited a life of Peter Williams (1723 - 1796), which was published in 1817, and in 1820 published a metrical version of the *Song of Solomon*. After 1830 his labours were directed to producing a Welsh dictionary, *Geirlyfr Cymraeg*, which he published in forty-five parts sold at a shilling each. He then began to publish *Y Drysorfa Hynafiaethol*, four parts only of which were issued. In 1847 he published a half-crown book called *Hanes y deg erledigaeth o dan Rufain Babaidd*. Many of his works are still unpublished and the manuscripts are in the National Library of Wales, e.g. Cwrtmawr MS 149E , Owen Gwyrfai's 'Piser Hir,' containing a collection of pedigrees prepared by him and Eben Fardd, while in Cwrtmawr MS 456D there is another collection of pedigrees prepared by him and Eben Fardd, while in Cwrtmawr MS 456D there is another collection of pedigrees prepared by him and Eben Fardd, while in Cwrtmawr MS 456D there is another collection of pedigrees prepared by him and Eben Fardd, while in Gwrtaw Junchyard. Joan Arfon and other friends of his collected fifty pounds to pr

### Author

**Griffith Thomas Roberts** 

### Sources

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Caernarfon, 1824, beddargraffiadau, cywyddau, awdlau, emynau, carolau, englynion, ffraethebion, hynodion ac hanesion (Bala 1904)

Gemau MÃ 'n ac Arfon sef nodiadau hynafiaethol, hanesiol ac eglurhaol, yn nghylch Ynys MÃ 'n a'i henwogion, a hynafiaethau eraill

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## **Further Reading**

Wikipedia Article: Owen Williams

# **Additional Links**

Wikidata: Q13130556

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