

WILLIAMS, RICHARD (1747 - 1811), cleric and man of letters

Name: Richard Williams
Date of birth: 1747
Date of death: 1811
Parent: Richard Williams
Gender: Male
Occupation: cleric and man of letters
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born at Hawarden in 1747, the son of the rector, Richard Williams (M.A., Jesus College, Oxford), who in turn was the son of Peter Williams, also a clergyman, owner of Fron (Arddynwynt) near Mold - the family claimed to be descended from Cynwrig Efell (*Yorke, Royal Tribes of Wales*). He entered Brasenose College, Oxford, in December 1765, at the age of 18, but there is no record of his having graduated. He was rector of Machynlleth, 1789-1805, and of Llanferres, 1805-11; he died suddenly 4 June 1811. Whether he graduated or not, it is clear that he had the scholar's temperament; he translated Seneca's tragedy, *Medea*, into English, and left manuscript translations into Latin of Gray's poems, and other writings. But he is chiefly remembered as **Thomas Pennant's** friend, and as the translator of the Welsh poems (e.g. **Owain Cyfeiliog's** 'Hirlas') in *Pennant's Tours*; some of his translations also appear in *Musical and Poetical Relicks*, by **Edward Jones** (Bardd y Brenin).

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses: the members of the University of Oxford*

The Cambro-Briton, i, 263

H. B. Thomas, *A History of the Diocese of St. Asaph* (1874), ii, 403 (and 393 in respect of his father)

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