

WILLIAMS, RICHARD (1835 - 1906), antiquary and lawyer

Name: Richard Williams
Date of birth: 1835
Date of death: 1906
Spouse: Elizabeth Williams (née Lewis)
Spouse: Frances Williams (née Brown)
Parent: William Williams
Gender: Male
Occupation: antiquary and lawyer
Area of activity: History and Culture; Law
Author: William Emyr Williams

Born at Bontdolgadfan, Llanbryn-mair, son of **William Williams** (Gwilym Cyfeiliog). He was educated at schools at Llanbryn-mair and Newtown, and at Bala C.M. College. He then worked in the offices of David Howell of Machynlleth, 1851-6, and Abraham Howell of Welshpool, 1856-69 - both of them being solicitors; he himself was admitted a solicitor in 1866. In 1869 he moved to Newtown, where he spent the rest of his life. He was twice married (1) to Frances Brown, and (2) to Elizabeth Lewis of Rhyl. He was a faithful elder at 'Crescent' chapel. He held a number of public appointments and was the agent for the Liberal candidate, **Stuart Rendel**, when the latter was elected Member of Parliament in 1880 - the first Liberal member for the county of Montgomery. He published *Montgomeryshire Worthies*, 1884, 2nd ed. 1894; *History of the Parish of Llanbryn-mair*, 1889; and articles on the history and antiquities of his native county. He edited **Yorke's Royal Tribes of Wales**, 1887, with full notes of his own; *Caniadau Cyfeiliog*, 1878, and the *Mabinogion* in old and modern Welsh (published by **Isaac Foulkes**, 1880). He translated Bacon's *Essays* into Welsh in 1862. He was a contributor to *Bye-Gones* and *Y Geninen*. He was one of the founders of the Powysland Club and was joint editor of its *Transactions and Records*. He gathered together a valuable library which, on his death, was purchased, thanks to the generosity of **lord Davies** of Llandinam, and handed over to the National Library of Wales as one of its foundation collections. It is called the 'Celynog Collection.' He died 15 June 1906 at Newtown, 'at the age of 71.'

Author

William Emyr Williams, (1889 - 1958)

Sources

Handlist of Manuscripts in the National Library of Wales, ii, etc. (see the index)

NLW Archives: [Bontdolgadfan \(Williams family\) Papers, 1741-1920](#)

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