

## WILLIAMS, RICHARD (Gwydderig; 1842 - 1917), collier and poet

**Name:** Richard Williams  
**Pseudonym:** Gwydderig  
**Date of birth:** 1842  
**Date of death:** 1917  
**Parent:** Mary Williams  
**Parent:** Daniel Richard Williams  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** collier and poet  
**Area of activity:** Business and Industry; Poetry  
**Author:** William Llewelyn Davies

Born 16 February 1842 in a cottage called Pen-y-graig, Brynaman, the son of Daniel Richard Williams, collier, and Mary, his wife, the daughter of a farmer. Gwydderig was brought up in a house named Bryn Hafod, Brynaman, Glamorganshire. He lost his father when he was only a boy and went early to work in a coal mine. He began to contribute poems to *Y Gwladgarwr* at a time when **William Williams** (Caledfryn) was editor of the poetry column of that journal. When a depression came to the Brynaman and surrounding districts, Gwydderig went to work in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. After his return he continued to write poems, particularly *englynion*, and won prizes at national and other eisteddfodau; he became, in fact, known in many parts of Wales as 'Bardd yr englyn.' It is said that, in conjunction with **Evan Gurnos Jones** (Gurnos), another poet, he began to compile a dictionary giving examples of cynganedd. It does not appear that a collected edition of his poems was published; they must, therefore, be sought in newspapers and journals of his time - there are some examples in the articles in *Y Geninen* noted below. He died 30 March, and was buried 4 April 1917 in the burial ground attached to Gibea chapel, Brynaman.

### Author

Sir **William Llewelyn Davies**, (1887 - 1952)

### Sources

*Y Geninen*, April and October 1917

*Amman Valley Chronicle*, 5, 12, 19, and 26 April, and 3 and 10 May 1917

*South Wales Weekly Post*, 7 April 1917

*Western Mail*, 24 January 1936

Information from John Jenkin Morgan, Glanaman

### Further reading

Adgof am Gwydderig, *Y Drych*, 18 Ebrill 1918

BBC cymrufyw: Cymuned yn codi arian i adfer bedd y bardd Gwydderig

### Additional Links

NLW Archives: [NLW MS 22196D - Cerddi Gwydderig](#)

NLW Archives: [NLW MS 22197D - Cerddi Gwydderig](#)

NLW Archives: [NLW MS 22198C - Cerddi Gwydderig](#)

VIAF: [51497442](#)

Wikidata: [Q28361692](#)

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