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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 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 cynghanedd. 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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