

WILLIAMS, WILLIAM (Gwilym Peris; 1769 - 1847), poet

Name: William Williams
Pseudonym: Gwilym Peris
Date of birth: 1769
Date of death: 1847
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet
Area of activity: Poetry
Author: Griffith Thomas Roberts

Born at Tyn'r-aelgarth, Llanberis. After spending his youth wandering over the slopes of the Snowdonian range he went to live at Waun-fawr. He was there on 'All Saints' Day' (Old Style - 12 November) 1802, and **Dafydd Ddu Eryri** mentions him as one of those who had prepared an *awdl* on 'Happiness' for the poets conference, which took place on that occasion at Llanddeiniolen. He is described as 'a married man, a slate quarryman, born in the parish of Llanberis but now resident at Waunfawr.' He wrote an *awdl* on 'Providence,' which was the subject prescribed by **Humphrey Thomas**, brother of **Dafydd Ddu Eryri**, as a set piece for the poets of Caernarvonshire at their meeting at Bontnewydd, Llanwnda, in 1803. In 1804 he sent an *awdl* on 'Ynys Prydain' to the Gwyneddigion eisteddfod, but it was **Dewi Wyn o Eifion** who won the medal on that occasion. In 1813 Gwilym Peris published his poetical works in a book called *Awengerdd Peris*, which includes all the *awdlau* mentioned above. Later, he went to live at Llandygái, where he came into close contact with **Gutyn Peris**. A of greeting by **Gutyn** to Gwilym is included in the *Awengerdd*, and Gwilym's in reply is the most interesting piece he ever wrote. In it he describes the Llanberis district and Cwmglas Mawr, the home of **Abraham Williams**, who taught him and **Gutyn** the rudiments of prosody; then comes a description of **Dafydd Ddu**, 'their second teacher,' and then there is a reference to **John Morgan** (1743 - 1801), the curate, 'yn y lle yn gwaini llan.' Gwilym Peris died in 1847, and was buried in Llanllechid churchyard.

Author

Griffith Thomas Roberts

Sources

Additional Manuscript in the British Museum 15027 (75)

Hynafiaethau a Thraddodiadau Plwyf Llanberis a'r Amgylchoedd (1892) 93-5

Llyfr Hanes Llenyddiaeth ac Enwogion Llanllechid a Llandegai (1921), 103

Awen-gerdd Peris, neu, Gasgliad o ganiadau sef awdlau, cywyddau, englynion, carolau a cherddi, etc. (Trefriw 1813, 1843), 1813 (2nd imp., 1843)

Additional Links

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