

WILLIAMS, WILLIAM (Gwilym Cyfeiliog; 1801 - 1876), poet and hymn-writer

Name: William Williams
Pseudonym: Gwilym Cyfeiliog
Date of birth: 1801
Date of death: 1876
Spouse: Mary Williams (née Evans)
Spouse: Mary Williams (née Morris)
Spouse: Anne Williams (née Evans)
Child: Richard Williams
Child: John Williams
Parent: Mary Williams (née Roberts)
Parent: Richard Williams
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet and hymn-writer
Area of activity: Poetry; Religion
Author: William Emyr Williams

Born 4 January 1801 at Winllan, Llanbryn-mair, son of Richard Williams (Calvinistic Methodist exhorter) and Mary Williams (one of the descendants of **Henry Williams** of Ysgafell, and sister of the **Rev. John Roberts** (1767 - 1834) of Llanbryn-mair), and elder brother of the **Rev. Richard Williams** (1802 - 1842) of Liverpool. He was educated at the school kept by his uncle and at the school of **William Owen** (1788 - 1838). He returned home to help his father on the farm and in a flannel mill which he owned. About 1822 he acquired possession of some land, houses, and a flannel mill at Pont Dolgadfan, where he went to live. For a time he held the posts of vestry clerk, assistant overseer, and parish registrar. He was married three times - (1) 1828, to Anne Evans of Minffordd; (2) 1834, to Mary Morris of Dolgwyddyl, Trefeglwys, who was descended from **Elystan Glodrydd**; and (3) 1845, to Mary Evans of Tyn-llwyn, Llanbryn-mair. He had ten children - among them **Richard Williams** of Celynog, Newtown (1835 - 1906). From 1823 on, pieces of poetry by Gwilym Cyfeiliog were frequently published in *Y Dysgedydd*, *Golevad Cymru*, *Y Drysorfa*, *Seren Gomer*, and the *Gwylidydd*. His *awdl* on 'The founding of St. David's College' was awarded the second place at the Carmarthen eisteddfod, 1823, when **Daniel Ddu o Geredigion** won the first prize. He won the prize at the Llanfaircaereinion eisteddfod, 1826, for a series of *englynion* on 'The starry sky.' He excelled in his treatment of the classical forms of poetry and was accounted a good writer of englynion. His hymn, 'Caed trefn i faddau pechod yn yr lawn' is well known and has been translated into the language of the Khasi Hills. He died 3 June 1876 at Pont Dolgadfan, Llanbryn-mair. His son, **Richard Williams** of Newtown, collected and published his works in 1878 under the title, *Caniadau Cyfeiliog*.

Author

William Emyr Williams, (1889 - 1958)

Sources

R. Williams, *Montgomeryshire Worthies* (1894)

NLW Archives: Bontdolgadfan (Williams family) Papers, 1741-1920

Y Cronicl ('S.R.'), September 1876

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Published date: 1959

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APA Citation



Williams, W. E., (1959). WILLIAMS, WILLIAM (Gwilym Cyfeiliog; 1801 - 1876), poet and hymn-writer. *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*. Retrieved 11 Nov 2024, from <https://biography.wales/article/s-WILL-WIL-1801>

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