

## WILLIAMS, ZACHARIAH (1673 - 1755), medical practitioner, and inventor

**Name:** Zachariah Williams  
**Date of birth:** 1673  
**Date of death:** 1755  
**Child:** Anna Williams  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** medical practitioner, and inventor  
**Area of activity:** Business and Industry; Engineering, Construction, Naval Architecture and Surveying; Medicine  
**Author:** Gwyn Jones

Father of [Anna Williams](#). He was born at Rosemarket, Pembrokeshire, and practised for a time in South Wales. He was admitted a 'poor brother pensioner' of the Charterhouse, London, in 1729. His interests are indicated by the titles of his books: *The Mariners Compass Completed*, 1740 and 1745; *A True Narrative of certain Circumstances relating to Zachariah Williams in the Charterhouse, 1749*; and *Account of an Attempt to ascertain the Longitude at Sea by an exact Theory of the Variation of the Magnetical Needle*, 1755. He had no luck with his discoveries, and accused Samuel Molyneux of stealing his plans. From December 1745 he was bedridden, and he died a disappointed man, 12 July 1755. Samuel Johnson took a great interest in him - see Powell's index to the Birkbeck Hill edition of Boswell.

### Author

Professor Gwyn Jones, (1907 - 1999)

### Sources

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

T. R. Roberts, *Eminent Welshmen: a short biographical dictionary of Welshmen... from the earliest times to the present* (1908)

### Additional Links

VIAF: [8238869](#)

Wikidata: [Q18917778](#)

**Published date:** 1959

**Article Copyright:** <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/1.0/>

The Dictionary of Welsh Biography is provided by The National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. It is free to use and does not receive grant support. A donation would help us maintain and improve the site so that we can continue to acknowledge Welsh men and women who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Find out more on our [sponsorship page](#).



#### APA Citation



Jones, G., (1959). WILLIAMS, ZACHARIAH (1673 - 1755), medical practitioner, and inventor. *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*. Retrieved 8 Nov 2024, from <https://biography.wales/article/s-WILL-ZAC-1673>

Copy to Clipboard

LGC  
NLW

LLYFRGEL  
THE NATION



Ysgrifeddiadau  
Llywodraeth Cymru  
Copied by  
Welsh Government