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THOMAS, WILLIAM (1727 - 1795), schoolmaster and diarist	
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Name: William Thomas Date of birth: 1727 Date of death: 1795 Spouse: Ann Thomas Child: William Thomas Parent: William Thomas Gender: Male Occupation: schoolmaster and diarist Area of activity: Education; Literature and Writing Author: Gomer Morgan Roberts

Born 29 July 1727, son (it seems) of a William Thomas of St. Fagans, Glamorganshire. He was probably the 'William Thomas, Charity-school Master' who wrote a manuscript of hymns and other matter, now in the C.M. Archives kept at N.L.W., and who is said to have kept school at one time at Llandybïe, Carmarthenshire - he is known to have kept schools in various south-eastern parishes of Glamorgan in the second half of the 18th century; he was commonly known as 'William Thomas, scholar,' and some regarded him as a soothsayer; he was also ' clerk to the Commissioners of Taxes in Dinas Powis hundred, and a surveyor of land.' He and his wife Ann lived at Roughbrook, Michaelston-super-Ely, Glamorganshire. He died 11 July 1795, and was buried in his son William's grave in Michaelston churchyard.

For very many years Thomas kept a diary, which was seen by John Rowland (Giraldus, 1833 - 1891), and quoted by him in his *Caer-marthenshire Monumental Inscriptions* - p. xxiii of that work shows that the diary was begun in 1750. The diary, or part of it was, in 1888, in the possession of a Dr. Lewis of the vale of Glamorgan, and in that year considerable excerpts of it, covering the years 1762-94, were made by David Jones (1834 - 1890) of Wallington - they are now in the Cardiff City library (Crd. 4.877). As far as they go, they show that Thomas's diary was a detailed and important chronicle of events in Glamorgan at a very interesting period, and the loss of the original diary must be a subject of great regret.

Author

Reverend Gomer Morgan Roberts, (1904 - 1993)

Sources

Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Hanes y Methodistiaid Calfinaidd, xxxiii, 54, xxxiv, 45, xxxv, 36

G. J. Williams, Traddodiad Llenyddol Morgannwg (1948), 236

other sources cited above, and information from Mr. T. J. Hopkins of the Cardiff City Library

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