

MORGAN, JOHN JENKYN ('Glanberach'; 1875 - 1961); local historian and essayist

Name: John Jenkyn Morgan
Pseudonym: Glanberach
Date of birth: 1875
Date of death: 1961
Spouse: Harriet Morgan (née Jones)
Parent: Angharad Morgan
Parent: Jenkin Morgan
Gender: Male
Occupation: local historian and essayist
Area of activity: History and Culture; Literature and Writing
Author: Huw Walters

Born at Bodist Isaf, Glanaman, Carmarthenshire, 10 August 1875, son of Jenkin and Angharad Morgan. He was educated at Brynllloi British school, Glanaman, but began working in Mynydd pit, Cwmaman, when he was 12. He later worked in the Raven tinplate works Glanaman until his retirement in 1930. He married Harriet, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Jones, Brynllloi shop, Glanaman, 5 October 1901. She died 25 November 1956 at a service in Bryn Seion chapel, Glanaman : she was a sister of the ministers, W. Glasnant Jones, Dafydd G. Jones and E. Aman Jones. They had 4 children.

In an underprivileged age J.J. Morgan took advantage of every opportunity to develop his abilities. He was a cultured man and through his close friendship with **Richard Williams** ('Gwydderig'), he became a keen follower of eisteddfodau and won many prizes, mainly for essays and handbooks of local history. He became a member of the Gorsedd of Bards at Llanelli in 1895 adopting the name Glanberach. He competed regularly at the national eisteddfod and was a sharp critic of adjudicators, especially if they were 'college people'. He gained prizes at the *eisteddfodau* in Ammanford (1922), Swansea (1926), Holyhead (1927), Denbigh (1939), Llanrwst (1951), Pwllheli (1955): some of these compositions are in the National Library. He was one of the Presidents of the Day at the Bridgend National Eisteddfod in 1948 and he was the oldest member of the Gorsedd following the death of **Elfed** (H. Elvet Lewis) in 1953. He broadcast frequently and wrote articles on local history to Welsh periodicals. He collected a large library of material relating to the Amman valley and the surrounding area and he was active in every cultural movement in the district. He was secretary of the children's eisteddfod during the ministry of **Rhys J. Huws** in Bryn Seion chapel, Glanaman, a church in whose foundation he played a prominent part; he was librarian and secretary of the miners' reading-room in Glanaman. He published *Cofiant John Foulkes Williams* (1906), and *Hanner canrif o hanes Bryn Seion, Glanaman, 1907-1957* (1957). He died at his home in Brynllloi, Glanaman, 18 May 1961 and was buried in Hen Fethel Cemetery, Cwmaman.

Author

Dr Huw Walters

Sources

A. T. Davies, *Crwydro Sir Gŏŕ* (Llandybie 1955), 285

Y Tyst, 8 June 1961

personal information

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