

EDWARDS, WILLIAM (1790 - 1855), Gwilym Callestr (but much better known as 'Wil Ysgeifiog'), poet

Name: William Edwards
Pseudonym: Gwilym Callestr, Wil Ysgeifiog
Date of birth: 1790
Date of death: 1855
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet
Area of activity: Eisteddfod; Poetry
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born in a cottage called Plas Iolyn, at Caerwys, Flintshire. He was a millwright, but excessive drinking turned him into a tramp and a beggar — [Talhaiarn](#) (*Gwaith*, ii, 200-2) has an amusing tale about him. He was more than once confined in an asylum, and in fact died in Denbigh asylum. But he was a poet of merit, and in particular a good englynwr. He took the prize at Beaumaris eisteddfod in 1832 for an awdl (Seren Gomer, 1832, 312), and at Mold, 1823, for an englyn. His elegy on [Thomas Price](#) (Carnhuanawc) in 1853, printed in *Golud yr Oes*, 1863, 112-3), was written in the asylum. Much of his work is scattered through the pages of Seren Gomer, Y Gwladgarwr, Yr Eurgrawn, Y Geninen, and Cymru (O.M.E.). He published a volume, *Cell Callestr* (Trefriw, 1815), of his own poetry and that of others. [Talhaiarn](#) (John Jones, 1810 - 1869) and [Caledfryn](#) (William Williams, 1801 - 1869) had a monument placed on his grave at Ysgeifiog, Flintshire. The precise days of his birth and death have not been ascertained.


Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Hanes Llenyddiaeth Gymreig, 1651–1850 (1893), 596;
Cymru (O.M.E.), xviii, 302.

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