

## ELIAS, WILLIAM (1708 - 1787), poet

**Name:** William Elias  
**Date of birth:** 1708  
**Date of death:** 1787  
**Spouse:** Ann Elias (née Williams)  
**Child:** William Elias  
**Parent:** Elias ap Richard  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** poet  
**Area of activity:** Poetry  
**Author:** Garfield Hopkin Hughes

According to [David Thomas](#) (Dafydd Ddu Eryri), he hailed from Clynnog - Elias ap Richard of Talhenbont smithy was his father, says [J. E. Griffith](#) (*Pedigrees*). He is said to have started life as a shoemaker, and the list of subscribers to the *Diddanwch teuluaidd*, 1763, and an occasional note in the manuscripts (e.g. Wynnstey MSS. 7, 105, 131, etc.), confirm this. Later, he became a farmer and land agent to the [Wynn](#) family of Glynllifon. He married Ann Williams, 19 January 1730, as is shown by a letter in Wynnstey MS 7, and ten of his children are mentioned in the pedigrees, among them the 'William Elias junior' whose name is found in Wynnstey MS. 7 and also in the *Diddanwch teuluaidd*. He moved to Plas-y-glyn, Llanfwrog, Anglesey, in 1774, died there in 1787, and was buried at Llanfwrog 2 July, at the age of 79. Elegies upon him were written by Dafydd Ellis of Holyhead and by [Twm o'r Nant](#). He had been taught prosody by [Owen Gruffydd](#) - some of the latter's manuscripts, e.g. Llyfr Madryn (N.L.W. MS. 799), had passed into his possession - and the elegy (a *cywydd*) upon his old master, 6 December 1730, is his principal poem. Several of his lyrics and *englynion* are to be found in manuscripts which formerly belonged to him - e.g. N.L.W. MSS. 799, 7892; Wynnstey MSS. 6, 7. He was on friendly terms with [Michael Prichard](#), and there was correspondence between him and [Goronwy Owen](#). See further the article [Hugh Williams](#) (1722? - 1779).

### Author

Garfield Hopkin Hughes, (1912 - 1969)

### Sources

*Cwrtmawr Manuscript in the National Library of Wales* 554 - Myrddin Fardd's collection concerned with William Elias, including Twm o'r Nant's elegy

N.L.W. *Mysevin Manuscript in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth* 1 (452) - Dafydd Ddu's note

J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families* (1914), 253

*The Letters of Goronwy Owen (1723-69)* (Cardiff 1924), 203-4

### Additional Links

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