

ELLIS, WILLIAM (Gwilym ab Elis; 1752 - 1810), hymn-writer and balladist, of Bala;

Name: William Ellis
Pseudonym: Gwilym ab Elis
Date of birth: 1752
Date of death: 1810
Parent: Jane William
Parent: Ellis William
Gender: Male
Occupation: hymn-writer and balladist
Area of activity: Music; Poetry; Religion
Author: Gomer Morgan Roberts

Born at Ty-nant in the parish of Llanycil, Meirionnydd, son of Ellis and Jane William. His wife's name was Ellen and in 1780 they were living in the township of Ismynydd; between 1780 and 1790 they had four children. He died December 1810 and was buried at Llanycil. It was for his benefit that *Ychydig o Hymnau*, etc. (undated), written by [Edward Parry](#) (1723 - 1786) of Llansannan, [William Evans](#) (1735 - 1805) of Bala, and others, was published - 'for a poor man called *William Ellis*.' A number of his own hymns are to be found in the second part of the book. It is thought that he is the 'Gwilym ab Elis' who, in 1786, published a hymn-book, *Ychydig o Hymnau a Chaniadau Newyddion*, etc., at Trevecka. There are twenty-five hymns in this collection, one of them being very well known. The collection includes a 'carol' and a secular poem; two ballads, c. 1790, are attributed to him in [J. H. Davies](#)'s list.

Author

Reverend Gomer Morgan Roberts, (1904 - 1993)

Sources

Y Traethodydd, 1874, 483

J. H. Davies, *A Bibliography of Welsh Ballads printed in the 18th century* (1908-11), 144

Llanycil parish register

Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q20734604](#)

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](#).

