

EVANS, WILLIAM (Cawr Cynon; 1808 - 1860); colliery official and poet

Name: William Evans
Pseudonym: Cawr Cynon
Date of birth: 1808
Date of death: 1860
Parent: Richard Morgan Dafydd Evan
Gender: Male
Occupation: colliery official and poet
Area of activity: Business and Industry; Eisteddfod; Poetry
Author: Watkin William Price

Born in a small thatched cottage near Ynys-gau iron bridge, Merthyr Tydfil, son of Richard Morgan Dafydd Evan, miner and country 'doctor.' He became a miner, but devoted his spare time to studying the *cynganeddion*, and at an early age, won a prize for five *englynion*. He was a frequent competitor at the local eisteddfodau writing *cywyddau* and *englynion*; he won a prize for an essay on the history of Caerleon-on-Usk at Abergavenny eisteddfod, 23 November 1836. A poem written on the birth of a son to [Sir John](#) and [lady Charlotte Guest](#) won him the admiration of [lady Charlotte](#), and a post as foreman in the Dowlais works. He lived for a time at Hirwaun, and it was while there that he adopted the bardic title of Cawr Cynon. He returned to Dowlais, and later became the 'mine agent' at the Plymouth works for [Anthony Hill](#) (see the article on that family). He died 15 November 1860, and was buried in Cefn Coed cemetery.

Author

Watkin William Price, (1873 - 1967)

Sources

Charles Wilkins, *The history of Merthyr Tydfil* (Merthyr Tydfil 1867), 1867

Merthyr Star and *Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian*, November 1860

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Tarian y Gweithiwr, 18 and 25 December 1924

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Wikidata: [Q20734614](#)

Published date: 1959

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