

## HOWELL, GWILYM or WILLIAM (1705 - 1775), almanac-maker and poet

**Name:** Gwilym Howell

**Date of birth:** 1705

**Date of death:** 1775

**Gender:** Male

**Occupation:** almanac-maker and poet

**Area of activity:** Eisteddfod; History and Culture; Literature and Writing; Poetry; Scholarship and Languages; Science and Mathematics; Space and Aviation

**Author:** Enid Pierce Roberts

He was born in the parish of Llangurig, Montgomeryshire, but spent the greater part of his life in the parish of Llanidloes where, for many years, he was the steward of the Berth-lwyd estate. In 1762-3 he was mayor of Llanidloes. He was not only a poet himself but collected the works of other poets, in particular those of **Huw Morys**. **Iolo Morgannwg** says that when **Gwallter Mechain** was preparing his edition, *Eos Ceiriog*, of **Huw Morys**'s work, he made extensive use of this material. Howell's almanacs, *Tymhorol Newyddion o'r Wybren*, were of high literary standard; they included the works of poets contemporary with the Anglesey **Morris**es as well as extracts from the earlier poets such as **Wiliam Cynwal**, **Siôn Tudur**, and **Huw Morys**. He published a series of ten, the first being for the year 1766. As he was unable to obtain astronomical instruments he made these very skilfully himself. He succeeded in setting on foot an annual eisteddfod in the district, the first being held at the Red Lion, Llanidloes, in 1772. He died 4 March 1775 and was buried in Llanidloes churchyard.

### Author

Dr Enid Pierce Roberts

### Sources

T. R. Roberts, *Eminent Welshmen: a short biographical dictionary of Welshmen... from the earliest times to the present* (1908)

*Hanes llenyddiaeth Gymreig o 1651 O.C. hyd 1850* (1893), 728-30

Hamer and Howell William Lloyd, *History of the Parish of Llangurig* (London 1875), 98-100

R. Williams, *Montgomeryshire Worthies* (1894), 123

Horsfall-Turner, *A municipal history of Llanidloes* (1908), 84-6

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