

JONES, WILLIAM ELLIS (Cawrdaf; 1795 - 1848), poet and man of letters

Name: William Ellis Jones
Pseudonym: Cawrdaf
Date of birth: 1795
Date of death: 1848
Parent: Ellis Jones
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet and man of letters
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Poetry
Author: Thomas Parry

Born 9 October 1795, at Tyddyn Siôn, Abererch, Caernarfonshire. Having received his education at a local school and from his father, Ellis Jones, who was himself a schoolmaster, he was in 1808 apprenticed as a printer with his cousin, [Richard Jones](#) (1787 - 1855). On completing his apprenticeship he was engaged by another cousin of his, Lewis Evan Jones, at Caernarvon. There he came to know [Dafydd Ddu Eryri](#) and became a member of 'Cymdeithas yr Eryron,' which used to meet at Bontnewydd.

In 1817 he went to London and [is said to have] joined the Gwyneddigion Society, [though [Leathart](#) does not record this]. His ability as an artist led to his accompanying a gentleman, whose identity has not been established, on a journey to the Continent, and the years 1817-19 were spent travelling in France and Italy. On his return he worked for a period as an artist at Bristol and at Bath, and then went back to [Richard Jones](#)'s printing office at Dolgelley. He was employed by [Josiah T. Jones](#) at Merthyr Tydfil, and accompanied him when he moved to Cowbridge and later to Carmarthen.

As a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church he occasionally took preaching engagements; [at Carmarthen he was one of the leaders of the 'Little Wesley' schism]. He was enrolled as a member of several Cymreigyddion societies and wrote awdlau for eisteddfodic competitions on such subjects as 'A Welshman's longing for his country,' 1820; 'The regency of George IV,' 1824; 'The Druids of the Isle of Britain,' 1834; 'Job,' 1840. His prose work, *The Bard, or the Welsh Hermit*, 1830, an account of imaginary journeys to various parts of the world, written in a highly didactic vein, has often been described as the first Welsh novel, but has none of the attributes of a novel.

He died 27 March 1848.

Author

Sir Thomas Parry, (1904 - 1985)

Sources

William Ellis Jones, [*Gweithoedd Cawrdaf sef, y diweddar W. E. Jones: yn cynnwys 'Gwyddfa y bardd' a'r 'Meudwy Cymreig'*](#) (Caernarfon 1851)

A History of Carmarthenshire, ii, 215

A. H. Williams, *Welsh Wesleyan Methodism, 1800-1858 its origins, growth and secessions* (1935), 237, 322

Works

William Ellis Jones, [*Y bardd, neu, Y meudwy Cymreig: yn cynnwys teithiau difyr ac addysgiadol y bardd gyda rhagluniaeth*](#) (Caerfyrddin 1830)

Additional Links

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