

LLEWELYN, SION (1690 - 1776), poet

Name: Sion Llewelyn
Date of birth: 1690
Date of death: 1776
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet
Area of activity: Poetry
Author: Watkin William Price

Born at Cefn Coed y Cymer, Vaynor, Brecknock, 30 November 1690. His educational advantages were meagre, and although he learned to read Welsh, he was totally ignorant of English. Nevertheless, this self-taught bard published a collection of his poetry and hymns in a book of 60 pages, which became so popular as to demand four (possibly five) editions up to the year 1814; the title of the 1791 edition is *Difyrrwch diniwaid ... sef deunaw o Ganiadau ... Gyd a Now o Hymnau duwiol*^[↗]. He was received as a member at the age of 18 into the old Nonconformist chapel of Cwm-y-glo, on the mountain-side between Merthyr and Aberdare by [Roger Williams](#) (1667 - 1730), the pastor. This pastor was an Arminian. Ultimately the Arminian members under their minister, [Richard Rees](#), built a new chapel, the Hen D Cwrdd at Cefn, nearer to the home of Siôn, in 1747, with Siôn as one of the prominent promoters, and first deacon. The poet, a blacksmith by trade (although one manuscript calls him a weaver), died 1 January 1776, and was buried in the grounds of Hen D Cwrdd, Cefn. A marble memorial tablet was unveiled at the old chapel by his descendants on 17 August 1947. His grandson was [William Harri](#), of Garw Dyle, Penderyn.

Author

Watkin William Price, (1873 - 1967)

Sources

T. Lewis, *The History of the Hen Dy Cwrdd Cefn Coed y Cymmer* (1947)

W. Morgan, *The Vaynor handbook containing photographic views of Vaynor, Cefn Coed, Pontsarn and Morlais Castle, with the history and folk-lore of the parish* (Merthyr 1893)

NLW MSS 1159, 2196-7

W. Rowlands, *Cambrian Bibliography*

Hanes llenyddiaeth Gymreig o 1651 O.C. hyd 1850 (1893)

Y Drysorfa Gynnulleidfaol (Swansea 1843-1851)

Works

Sion Llewelyn, *Difyrrwch diniwaid, i blant i'w hystyriaid, i'w cwnnu ar gynnydd mewn deall a chrefydd: sef deunaw o ganiadau, ar amryw destynau* (Caerfyrddin 1770)

Sion Llewelyn, *Difyrrwch diniwaid i blant i'w hystyriaid: sef, Deunaw o ganiadau ar amryw destynau, gwedi eu cyfansoddi ar fesur cerdd... gyda naw o hymnau duwiol* (Caerfyrddin 1791)

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