

## PARRY, DAVID (1682? - 1714), scholar

**Name:** David Parry  
**Date of birth:** 1682?  
**Date of death:** 1714  
**Parent:** William Parry  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** scholar  
**Area of activity:** Scholarship and Languages  
**Author:** Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born at Cardigan, son of William Parry, ' a poor man.' About 1695, when (as it would seem) at Cardigan grammar school (and ' a good Latinist'), he was brought by [William Gambold](#) to the notice of [Edward Lhuyd](#), who took him on as a helper, and as companion on his travels in Wales, Ireland, Scotland, and Brittany (there, both were imprisoned as 'spies'). On their return to Oxford (April 1701), Parry matriculated from Jesus College; in 1704 [Lhuyd](#) strove to get him a scholarship, but though ' all were fond of Parry,' that 'cold' Fellow [John Wynne](#) (afterwards bishop) prevented this. Parry graduated in 1705 (M.A. 1708), and became unpaid under-keeper at the Ashmolean, under [Lhuyd](#). In [Lhuyd](#)'s *Archaeologia*, 1707 (270-89), ' an Essay towards a British Etymologicon,' are by Parry. On [Lhuyd](#)'s death, Parry was appointed (19 July 1709) keeper of the Ashmolean - again without salary, however he may have supported himself. Hearne (*Collectanea*, ii, 224) avers that there was no one more competent, ' if he would set himself to work'; but [Hugh Thomas](#) describes him as ' capable ... if he could spare time from his pots and companions; but out of the tipling [ sic ] house he cannot spare one minute even to common civility ' (*Cambro-Briton*, ii, 369). Later on, Hearne confesses that things were not too good at the Ashmolean, excusing Parry because he was unpaid. A German visited the Ashmolean in 1710, but did not see Parry there - ' the custos, always in the tavern, was too busy guttling and guzzling ' (Mallet, *Hist. of the University of Oxford*, iii, 22). Parry died in December 1714 - 8 December according to [Richard Ellis](#) (below), 10 December according to Hearne (op. cit., v 2), who added: ' being a perfect sot he shortened his days, being just turned of thirty.' Foster gives his academic career correctly, but errs (wherein he is followed by *W. Wales Hist. Records*, i, 253; iii, 229) in identifying him with another David Parry, vicar of Nolton and Bridell, Pembrokeshire, whose will was proved in 1720.

### Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

### Sources

Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses*

R. T. Gunther, *Life and letters of Edward Lhwyd second Keeper of the Musaeum Ashmoleanum* (indexed)

Hearne, *Collectanea anglo-poetica or, a Bibliographical and descriptive catalogue of a portion of a collection of early English poetry, with occasional extracts and remarks biographical and critical* (Manchester 1860-83), ii, iii, v (indexed)

Richard Ellis in *The Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion*, 1906-7.

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [David Parry](#)

### Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q5238411](#)

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