

## PRICE, WILLIAM (1800 - 1893), eccentric

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**Name:** William Price

**Date of birth:** 1800

**Date of death:** 1893

**Partner:** Gwennllian Llewellyn

**Child:** Penelope Elizabeth Price

**Child:** Gwnehelion Price

**Child:** Iesu Grist Price

**Child:** Iesu Grist Price

**Parent:** Mary Price

**Parent:** William Price

**Gender:** Male

**Occupation:** eccentric

**Area of activity:** Law; Medicine; Anti-Establishment

**Author:** Islwyn ap Nicholas



Born 4 March 1800 at Ty'nycoedcae, in the parish of Rudry, Monmouthshire, third son of the Rev. William Price and his wife, Mary. He attended school at Machen, and later became a medical pupil to Dr. Evan Edwards, Caerphilly. He entered the Royal College of Surgeons in 1820, qualifying the following year. He practised at Nantgarw, Treforest, and Pontypridd, becoming very well known both as physician and surgeon. He claimed to be an arch-druid, and performed ancient rites on the Pontypridd rocking-stone. His dress consisted of a white tunic, covering a scarlet waistcoat, while his trousers were of green cloth. On his head he wore a huge fox skin. He practised free-love, advocated cremation, was a vegetarian, opposed vaccination and vivisection, scorned orthodox religion, despised the law and its administrators, and was a Chartist leader. After the Chartist march on Newport in 1839, he escaped to France disguised as a woman, and became acquainted with Heine. His last visit to Paris was in 1860. He was involved in innumerable lawsuits; in court he would refer to his young daughter, whom he styled 'Iarlles Morganwg,' as 'my learned counsel.' He was indicted at the Cardiff assizes in 1884, before justice Stephens, with having attempted to cremate the body of his infant son, Iesu Grist. As a result of the trial, the legality of cremation was established. At the age of 83 he took as 'companion' Gwennllian Llewellyn, who became the mother of his two children, Iesu Grist the Second and Penelopen. He died at Llantrisant on 23 January 1893, and his body was cremated in accordance with his explicit and detailed instructions.

### Author

Islwyn ap Nicholas

### Sources

Islwyn ap Nicholas, *A Welsh Heretic. Dr William Price, Llantrisant* (Aberystwyth 1973)

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [William Price](#)

### Additional Links

VIAF: [48717443](#)

Wikidata: [Q8017083](#)

Published date: 1959

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