

## RHYS CAIN (died 1614), a herald bard

**Name:** Rhys Cain  
**Date of death:** 1614  
**Spouse:** Catrin ferch Dafydd  
**Spouse:** Gwen wraig Rhys Cain  
**Child:** Elisabeth  
**Child:** Dorithie  
**Child:** Ann  
**Child:** Siôn Cain  
**Child:** Roger  
**Parent:** Rheinallt ap John Wynn  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** herald bard  
**Area of activity:** History and Culture; Poetry; Royalty and Society  
**Author:** Evan David Jones

The older biographical dictionaries make him a native of Trawsfynydd, but it is more probable that he took his bardic name from another river Cain, in Mechain Iscoed. His pedigree is traced from [Edwin](#), king of Tegeingl. His father was Rheinallt ap John Wynn, and his paternal grandmother was a daughter of Thomas Ireland of Oswestry, in which town he also resided for the greater part of his life. His younger children were christened there - Ann in 1579, Dorithie in 1587, Roger in 1589, and Elizabeth in 1592. There, too, his wife, Gwen, was buried 19 April 1603. He married again, Catherine verch Dafydd, who survived him. His bardic teacher, [William Ll n](#), left him, by the name of ' Rice ap Rinald alias Kain ', his books and rolls in his will, 1580, and Rhys composed an elegy upon his death in the form of a dialogue, as [William Ll n](#) himself had done when his own teacher, [Gruffudd Hiraethog](#), died. It is said that he was a painter, and that a picture of the Passion painted by him met with the disapproval of his fellow-townsmen. As a herald bard, who compiled pedigree charts for his clients, he had some knowledge of the art of painting, though his work was somewhat crude. His great visitation book, in which he entered his genealogical poems, was lost in the Wynnstay fire, 1859, but a considerable body of his work for the period 1574-90 survives in holograph (Pen. MSS. 68-9), and a collection of his elegies in (N.L.W. MS. 433). [Robert Vaughan](#) of Hengwrt regarded him as his mentor in genealogy. Ten letters written to him are preserved in Pen. MS. 327 and in MS. 178 in the same collection is an interesting record of the profits (£23 2s. 6d.) of one of his bardic itineraries. He was buried at Oswestry, 10 May 1614, and was succeeded in his profession by his son, [Siôn Cain](#).

### Author

Evan David Jones, (1903 - 1987)

### Sources

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

Robert Williams, *Enwogion Cymru. A Biographical Dictionary of Eminent Welshmen (1852)*

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*Reports on Manuscripts in the Welsh Language* (Historical Manuscripts Commission 1898–1910)

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*A History of the Diocese of St. Asaph* (1874), iv

N.L.W. *Peniarth Manuscripts at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth* 68-9, 117, 139, 141, 149, 161, 178, 269, 288, 327, and *NLW MS 433*

pedigree rolls in Peniarth, Plas Nantglyn, and Aberglaslyn collections

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Rhys Cain](#)

### Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q7321765](#)

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