

ROBERTS, RICHARD (Gruffydd Rhisiart; 1810 - 1883), writer and Independent preacher

Name: Richard Roberts
Pseudonym: Gruffydd Rhisiart
Date of birth: 1810
Date of death: 1883
Parent: Mary Roberts (née Breese)
Parent: John Roberts
Gender: Male
Occupation: writer and Independent preacher
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Religion
Author: Richard Griffith Owen

Born 5 November 1809 at Diosg, Llanbryn-mair, youngest son of [John Roberts](#) (1767 - 1834). He was educated at the school kept by his father, was brought up to be a farmer, and had the chief responsibility for the smallholding, but like his brothers, '[S.R.](#)' and '[J.R.](#),' he was keenly interested in writing. The periodicals of the time, especially *Y Cronicl* (which was edited by his brothers), abound with his articles and poems. In 1855 he published a novel, *Jeffrey Jarman, y Meddwyn Diwygiedig*, which he had entered unsuccessfully in an eisteddfod competition. An easy, familiar style made all his work very readable, and his lampoons were biting. He and his wife and daughter emigrated in 1856 to Tennessee, where, in 1857, they were joined by '[S.R.](#)' They farmed there for about fifteen years but, owing to the dishonesty of those who 'sold' them the land and the ravages of the Civil War, they experienced a great deal of suffering, and on many occasions were in danger of their lives. In 1872 the two returned to Conway where their brother '[J.R.](#)' was minister. 'G.R.,' as he was called, died 25 July 1883, and was buried in Conway cemetery.

Author

Reverend Richard Griffith Owen, (1890 - 1973)

Sources

E. Pan Jones, David Onllwyn Brace, *Cofiant y Tri Brawd o Llanbryn-mair a Conwy* (Bala 1892)

R. Williams, *Montgomeryshire Worthies* (1894), 288-9

Iorwerth C. Peate, *Hen Gapel Llanbryn-mair, 1739-1939* (1939), 49-50

Glanmor Williams, *Samuel Roberts, Llanbryn-mair* (Cardiff 1950)

NLW Archives: [Minor Deposit 488: Llanbryn-mair Congregational Church](#)

Images

Alfred Ford Smith, [Samuel Roberts, Richard Roberts and John Roberts, of Llanbryn-mair](#)

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Additional Links

NLW Archives: [Llawysgrifau S.R. a J.R.](#)

VIAF: [96803068](#)

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