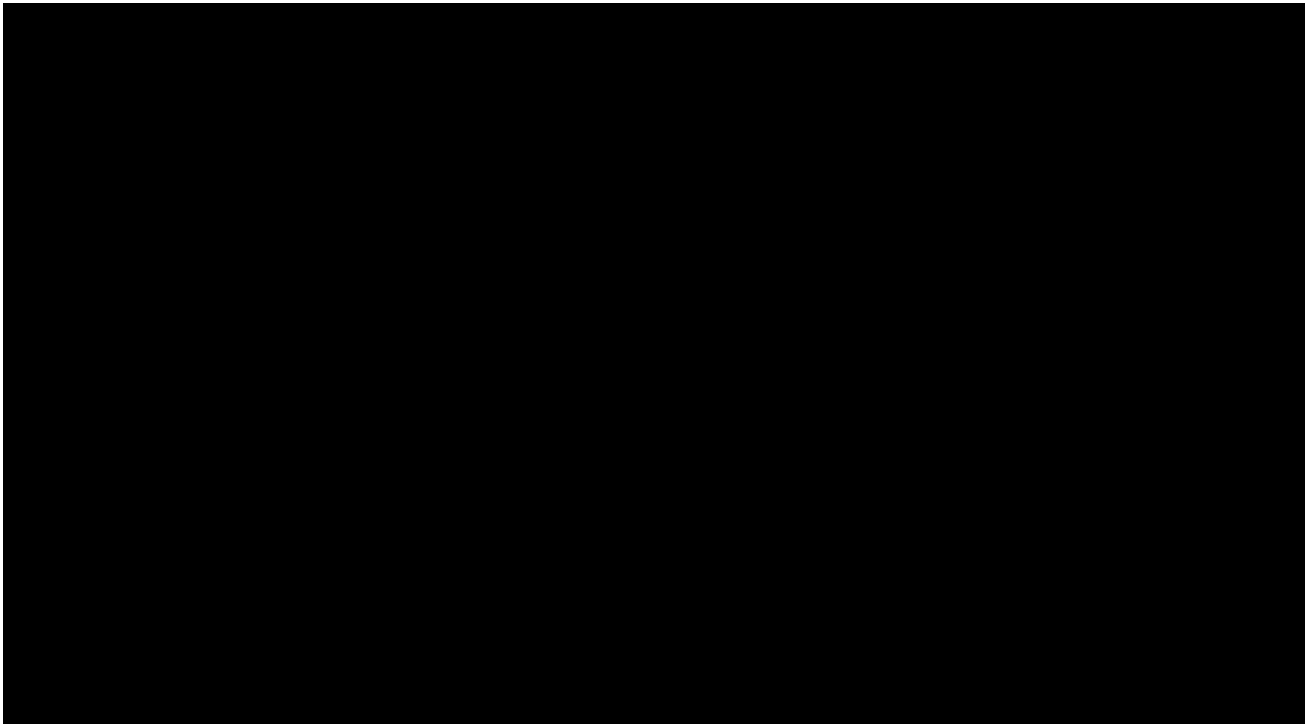


## WILLIAMS family, of Aberpergwm, Vale of Neath.



This family was descended from [Morgan Fychan](#), second son of [Morgan Gam](#), who in his early days was connected with the area round Baglan; poets of distinction (see [D. R. Phillips](#), below) wrote in honour of various members of this family during the Middle Ages. The surname was adopted by the descendants of William ap Jenkin ap Hopkin of Blaen Baglan; it was his second son, Jenkin William, who first settled at Aberpergwm, c. 1500. The family produced no particularly noteworthy member until the end of the 18th century; but long before that (certainly not later than 1670) it was deriving an income from the coal and ironstone on the estate by leasing the rights to speculators. George Williams, a notable athlete (died 1796), is believed to have been the last of the legitimate line, and it was REES WILLIAMS (died 1812), who is thought to have been his illegitimate son (or perhaps that of his father of the same name), who launched the family on a more distinguished career. He was interested in literature, and in 1802 corresponded with Southey; but he also maintained the strong Welsh traditions of this family, and the poet [Dafydd Nicolas](#) was given a home by him at Aberpergwm for many years. On the industrial side, Rees Williams, in 1810, after considerable litigation with the contractors, took the coal mines into his own hands. [Maria Jane Williams](#) was his daughter. He was succeeded by his eldest son, WILLIAM WILLIAMS, born 7 December 1788, died 27 March 1855. He was a man of considerable culture, a great traveller, and a patron of Welsh writers. Another member of the family who was 'a man of his own people' was his son, REES WILLIAMS, who died 9 November 1863; his burial service was conducted in Welsh, and memorial services were held in every chapel in the neighbourhood - the Baptist minister, [T. E. James](#), published a sermon on the occasion, together with an elegy. His successor was his brother, MORGAN STUART WILLIAMS, born 1846, died 13 December 1909. He bought S. Donats castle; but after the 1914-18 war both the castle and the coal mines were sold.

### Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

### Sources

D. Rhys Phillips, *The History of the Vale of Neath* (Swansea 1925), especially 364-72, but see also the index

G. J. Williams, *Traddodiad Llenyddol Morgannwg* (1948), 241-3

### Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q20804837](#)

Published date: 1959

Article Copyright: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/1.0/> 

The Dictionary of Welsh Biography is provided by The National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. It is free to use and does not receive grant support. A donation would help us maintain and improve the site so that we can continue to acknowledge Welsh men and women who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Find out more on our [sponsorship page](#).

