

WILLIAMS, BENJAMIN MORRIS (1832 - 1903), musician

Name: Benjamin Morris Williams
Date of birth: 1832
Date of death: 1903
Gender: Male
Occupation: musician
Area of activity: Music; Performing Arts; Religion
Author: Robert David Griffith

Born 28 December 1832 at Pen-y-braich, near the Cae Braich y Cafn quarry, Bethesda, Caernarfonshire. He started to work in the quarry when he was only eight, received a year's schooling when he was twelve, and then resumed work in the quarry. In 1853 he began to learn the work of printing music in the printing office of Robert Jones, Bethesda; it was he who set up the music of ' Storm Tiberias ' ([Tanymarian](#)) and the ' Requiem ' (by the same composer) for [John Jones](#), Tal-y-sarn. He moved to Ruthin to the printing office of Isaac Clarke; there he set up [Gems of Welsh Melody](#) ([Owain Alaw](#)). From Ruthin he went to London to set up music in sol-fa for the firm of John Curwen and Sons, he worked also for [Thomas Gee](#) at Denbigh, for Isaac Jones at Treherbert, and in the office of *Y Genedl Gymreig* (Caernarvon). He took the prize at a Ruthin national eisteddfod for an arrangement of some Welsh airs for a band. He edited and arranged the hymn-tunes in *Caniadau y Cysegr a'r Teulu*, published by [Gee](#) at Denbigh; this has some hymn-tunes and psalm-tunes composed by the editor, see also *Llyfr y Psalmiau* ([Alawydd](#)). He had choirs at both Ruthin and Denbigh, and used to serve as conductor of hymnod-y-festivals. He died at Caernarvon, and was buried 24 January 1903.

Author

Robert David Griffith, (1877 - 1958)

Sources

M. O. Jones, *Bywgraffiaeth Cerddorion Cymreig* (1890)

Y Cerddor, March and August 1903

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