

## WILLIAMS, RICHARD (1747 - 1811), cleric and man of letters

**Name:** Richard Williams  
**Date of birth:** 1747  
**Date of death:** 1811  
**Parent:** Richard Williams  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** cleric and man of letters  
**Area of activity:** Literature and Writing; Religion  
**Author:** Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born at Hawarden in 1747, the son of the rector, Richard Williams (M.A., Jesus College, Oxford), who in turn was the son of Peter Williams, also a clergyman, owner of Fron (Arddynwynt) near Mold - the family claimed to be descended from Cynwrig Efell ([Yorke](#), *Royal Tribes of Wales*). He entered Brasenose College, Oxford, in December 1765, at the age of 18, but there is no record of his having graduated. He was rector of Machynlleth, 1789-1805, and of Llanferres, 1805-11; he died suddenly 4 June 1811. Whether he graduated or not, it is clear that he had the scholar's temperament; he translated Seneca's tragedy, *Medea*, into English, and left manuscript translations into Latin of Gray's poems, and other writings. But he is chiefly remembered as [Thomas Pennant](#)'s friend, and as the translator of the Welsh poems (e.g. [Owain Cyfeiliog](#)'s ' Hirlas') in [Pennant](#)'s *Tours*; some of his translations also appear in *Musical and Poetical Relicks*, by [Edward Jones](#) (Bardd y Brenin).

### Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

### Sources

Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses*

*The Cambro-Briton*, i, 263

H. B. Thomas, *A History of the Diocese of St. Asaph* (1874), ii, 403 (and 393 in respect of his father)

### Additional Links

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