

WILLIAM(S), ROBERT (1744 - 1815), poet, and farmer

Name: Robert William (S)
Date of birth: 1744
Date of death: 1815
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet, and farmer
Area of activity: Nature and Agriculture; Poetry
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

of Pandy Isaf, Tre Rhiwedog (Bala); born (according to his tombstone) in 1744. Hardly anything is known of his life. He learned the bardic craft from [Rolant Huw](#), and became himself the teacher of [Ioan Tegid](#) (John Jones, 1792 - 1852) and others. He used to write 'C.C.' ('Friend of the Cymmrodorion') after his name, and wrote an elegy on the death of [Richard Morris](#) of Anglesey, and a *cywydd* on the Day of Judgement, which his master [Rolant Huw](#) thought not unworthy of comparison with the better-known *cywyddau* of [Goronwy Owen](#) and [William Wynn](#) (of Llangynhafal) on the same subject. He also wrote a to [Dafydd Ionawr](#) (David Richards), and exchanged *englynion* with [Twm o'r Nant](#) (Thomas Edwards). But the bulk of his work consists of elegies of purely local interest, carols, and 'club songs' - there is a manuscript volume at N.L.W. Though his name does not occur in the records of the neighbouring Calvinistic Methodist chapel (Llwyneinion), he had affinities with Methodism : he extolled the Bible Society (a line of his on its work has passed into common parlance) and was warm in his praises of [Peter Williams](#) (1723 - 1796) - indeed, his elegy on [Peter Williams](#) was, as far as is known, one of the only two works of his which he printed and published (Oswestry, 1797; see *Y Drysorfa*, 1944, 60-1). Selections from his work were printed by [O. M. Edwards](#) (*Cymru Fydd*, iv, 41-4; *Cymru*, ii, 210-3; *Beirdd y Bala*, 40-8) - for that matter, nearly all our knowledge of him and his works is due to [Owen Edwards](#). He died in August 1815 - he was buried at Llanfor, 1 September. [William Edwards](#) (1773 - 1853), the hymnwriter, was a nephew (brother's son) and bardic disciple of his.

Author

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Sources

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Published date: 1959

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