

## WILLIAMS, ZACHARIAH (1673 - 1755), medical practitioner, and inventor

**Name:** Zachariah Williams

**Date of birth:** 1673

**Date of death:** 1755

**Child:** Anna Williams

**Gender:** Male

**Occupation:** medical practitioner, and inventor

**Area of activity:** Business and Industry; Engineering, Construction, Naval Architecture and Surveying; Medicine

**Author:** Gwyn Jones

Father of [Anna Williams](#). He was born at Rosemarket, Pembrokeshire, and practised for a time in South Wales. He was admitted a 'poor brother pensioner' of the Charterhouse, London, in 1729. His interests are indicated by the titles of his books: *The Mariners Compass Completed*, 1740 and 1745; *A True Narrative of certain Circumstances relating to Zachariah Williams in the Charterhouse*, 1749; and *Account of an Attempt to ascertain the Longitude at Sea by an exact Theory of the Variation of the Magnetical Needle*, 1755. He had no luck with his discoveries, and accused Samuel Molyneux of stealing his plans. From December 1745 he was bedridden, and he died a disappointed man, 12 July 1755. Samuel Johnson took a great interest in him - see Powell's index to the Birkbeck Hill edition of Boswell.

### Author

Professor Gwyn Jones, (1907 - 1999)

### Sources

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

T. R. Roberts, *Eminent Welshmen: a short biographical dictionary of Welshmen... from the earliest times to the present* (1908)

### Additional Links

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