

William Tallemach (1782 – 1816)

He was probably the son of Thomas Tallemach of Petersham, and the nephew of 'William Tallemach, stone mason of Kingston-upon-Thames', whose will was proved 9 January 1810.

Tollemache enrolled at the Royal Academy Schools in June 1800, aged 18. In 1804 he was a prize winner and again the following year, with a subject from Aeschylus. In the latter year he also submitted a sketch, presumably in pencil, of Hercules and Omphale. In 1813 he was awarded a silver medal by the Society of Arts. 'Tallmach' also submitted a letter to the Society, published in the Transactions, detailing his method of casting, the nature of the mould and the materials used. His address was then Castle Street, Oxford Street. A model by him was already in the Society's repository.

He exhibited at the Academy and at the British Institution, 1814 - 1816, showing various small models in wax, to be cast in bronze. His name was given as 'Tallemach' and his address in 1816 as 64 Upper Charlotte Street. He also won a prestigious commission from the Committee of Taste, for a monument in St Paul's Cathedral to General Gore and General Skerrett but the work was executed by Sir Francis Chantrey owing to Tollemache's early demise. The work is inscribed 'W. Tallimache inv./F. Chantrey sc'.

Skerrett/Gore Monument St Paul's Cathedral



Tallemach died on 18 November 1816 at his house in Charlotte Street, St Pancras, and was buried at St Marylebone (probably in St George's Burial Ground [plot 1565] which is now Paddington Street Gardens) on Friday 22nd November 1816 leaving a wife, Harriet (née Gilchrist) and five children. A headstone and footstone were paid for by Richard Watkins.

In the year of his death his widow wrote to the Academy 'stating her great distress and petitioning for assistance'. The Academy's Council awarded her a pension amounting to £127 10s, paid out between 1817 and 1835. She was also paid an annuity between February 1817 and October 1841 by the Artists'

Annuity Fund. She had married Tollemache at St James, Piccadilly, on 21 August 1804. She died in Liverpool on 28 October 1841.

One of his pupils was Charles Raymond Smith who was baptised at St Marylebone and who died 1888.