

EVANS, HUGH (1712-1781), Baptist minister and Academy tutor

Name: Hugh Evans
Date of birth: 1712
Date of death: 1781
Child: Caleb Evans
Parent: Caleb Evans
Gender: Male
Occupation: Baptist minister and Academy tutor
Area of activity: Education; Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

He was a member of a family prominent in the history of the Baptist denomination in Radnorshire and north Brecknock - his very name, indeed, was given him in memory of the local Baptist 'father', **Hugh Evans**, d. 1656, though there was no blood-relationship between them.

His grandfather was **Thomas Evans** (1625 - 1688).

Thomas Evans's son **CALEB EVANS** (1676 - 1739) took out a preaching-licence in 1705, became pastor at Pentre (Llanafan-fawr, Brecknock) and died 12 April 1739; two of Caleb's sons will be noticed.

HUGH EVANS (1712 - 1781), Baptist minister and Academy tutor

Hugh Evans, born in 1712, was educated under **David Price** at Llwyn-llwyd Academy near Hay. He then went to live with an aunt at Bristol, where he received baptism and was in 7 February 1740 chosen coadjutor to Bernard Foskett, minister of Broadmead Baptist church and head of the Bristol Baptist Academy; on Foskett's death (1758) Evans succeeded him in both functions. He died 28 March 1781. His son was

CALEB EVANS (1737 - 1791), Baptist minister and Academy tutor

Born at Bristol 12 November 1737, became his coadjutor in 1758 and his successor in 1781, dying in August 1791; he was D.D. of Aberdeen. Caleb Evans published several books, but is chiefly remembered for his championing of the American colonists against John Wesley in 1778. Though he and his father had left Wales, neither lost touch with Wales. **Joshua Thomas** records that Hugh Evans regularly attended Welsh association meetings, and preached thereat seventeen times 'always in English, but repeating portions of his sermon in Welsh'; Caleb Evans 'did not understand Welsh,' yet he would attend the meetings, and he preached six times. The Evans family were very influential among the Welsh Baptists, and their Academy attracted able young Baptists from Wales - **William Richards** of Lynn (1749 - 1818) was one of these.

CALEB EVANS (died 1790), schoolmaster

Half-brother of **Hugh**. He was a schoolmaster, and though a preacher, never took a pastoral charge. He was tutor of the Baptist academy at Trostant (Ponty-pool) in 1739; there he was prosecuted under the Schism Act, but was protected by the Dissenting Deputies (see **Spinther**, iii, 53). Later, he kept school for some twenty years at Usk, and after that at Bristol, where he died in 1790; a grandson of his, **John Evans (1767 - 1827)** of Islington, is separately noticed. Several other members of this Evans clan became Baptist ministers.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Joshua Thomas, *Hanes y Bedyddwyr ymhlith y Cymry: o amser yr Apostolion, hyd y flwyddyn hon: yn ddwy ran* (Caerfyrddin 1778), under 'Dolau' and 'Pentre'

Joshua Thomas, *A History of the Baptist Association in Wales* (1795)

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