

EVANS, JOHN (1702 - 1782), cleric and anti-Methodist

Name: John Evans
Date of birth: 1702
Date of death: 1782
Parent: Rice Evans
Gender: Male
Occupation: cleric and anti-Methodist
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born at Meidrym, Carmarthenshire, 2 September 1702, son of Rice Evans and grandson of Thomas Price, vicar of Meidrym with Llanfihangel Abercowin for thirty-nine years; educated at Carmarthen grammar school and at Jesus College, Oxford, where he matriculated 26 February 1721/2, and is possibly the unidentified John Evans who, according to Foster, graduated in February 1725/6. In 1730 he received the Crown living of Eglwys Cymyn (variously spelt), but resided only for a few weeks each summer - **Peter Williams** (1723 - 1796) was one of his curates, but was dismissed for Methodism. Evans lived in London, in Cowley Street, Westminster, where **Richard Morris** of Anglesey was his neighbour and friend. He was a protégé of bishop Edmund Gibson's, and about 1742 became 'Reading Chaplain' of the Chapel Royal in Whitehall. In 1750, he preached the annual S. David's Day sermon before the ' Society of Ancient Britons '; the sermon was published. He was a foundation member (1751) and member of council of the Hon. Society of Cymmrodorion. In 1769 he edited a reprint of the Welsh Bible; his orthography did not commend itself to the Morrises. But he won much more fame (or rather notoriety) by his attacks on **Griffith Jones** and upon Methodism - imitating, and inspired by, his patron Gibson. As early as 1745 there was bad blood between him and **Griffith Jones**; in 1749 he published a pamphlet against **Griffith Jones** and Whitefield, and in 1752 his *Some Account of the Welch Charity Schools* (etc.), a most scurrilous piece of invective which, however, contains valuable facts which cannot be ignored, difficult as it may be to distinguish between the facts and the twist which Evans gives to them. The book did far more harm to Evans's reputation than to **Griffith Jones**'s. He died in March 1782 - buried at Eglwys Cymyn, according to the register, 14 March 1781/2.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Statements in *Some account of the Welch charity-schools and of the rise and progress of Methodism in Wales, through the means of them, under the sole management and direction of Griffith Jones, clerk, Rector of Llandowror in Carmarthenshire in a short history of the life of that clergyman, as a clergyman* (London 1752) (above)

Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses: the members of the University of Oxford*

J. H. Davies (ed.), *The Letters of Lewis, Richard, William, and John Morris, of Anglesey, (Morrisiaid MĀ´n) 1728-1765* (1907&€"9), vol. I, 171, 174, 177, 197-8, 224
Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society and Field Club, viii, 19

D. Salmon, in *Journal of the Welsh Bibliographical Society*, i, 118-22, ii, 65-71,

and also in the appendix to F. A. Cavenagh, *The life and work of Griffith Jones of Llandowror* (Cardiff 1930)

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [John Evans](#)

Additional Links

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