

JAMES, ROBERT (Jeduthyn; 1825 - 1879), musician

Name: Robert James
Pseudonym: Jeduthyn
Date of birth: 1825
Date of death: 1879
Spouse: Ann James (née Parry)
Parent: Ann James
Parent: Morgan James
Gender: Male
Occupation: musician
Area of activity: Music; Performing Arts
Author: Robert David Griffith

Born 7 March 1825 at Aberdare, son of Morgan and Ann James. He was taught music in **Rosser Beynon**'s classes. He had a good voice and, in 1845, was elected precentor of Bethesda chapel, Merthyr Tydfil, where he started a choral society which won many eisteddfod prizes. The society published *Organ y Cysegr*, a collection of sacred music arranged by Robert James. He was a good composer and many of his anthems were popular in the Merthyr area. One of his tunes, 'Aberafan,' is to be found in **Rosser Beynon**'s *Telyn Seion*.

In 1853 he married Ann Parry, sister of **Joseph Parry** (1841 - 1903), but she died in 1855. In 1857 he went to Australia where he lived for five years. Returning to Wales, he spent six months organizing a series of concerts. He then emigrated for the second time, this time to the U.S.A., taking his relations by marriage with him and settling at Dannville, Penn. Thence, in 1876, he moved to Ashland where he was appointed Clerk of the Courts of Lucerne County, and, later still, to Wilkes-barré where he died 6 October 1879.

Author

Robert David Griffith, (1877 - 1958)

Sources

M. O. Jones, *Bywgraffiaeth Cerddorion Cymreig* (1890)

David Morgan, *Music and musicians of Merthyr and district: Together with a list of eisteddfodau to the year 1901* (Merthyr Tydfil 1922)

Y Cerddor, June 1893

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