

MARGED vch IFAN (Margaret Evans; 1696 - 1801?), a 'character'

Name: Marged vch Ifan
Pseudonym: Marged Vch Ifan (Margaret Evans)
Date of birth: 1696
Date of death: 1801?
Spouse: Rhisiart Morys
Parent: Ifan Powell
Parent: Elizabeth Powell (née Hughes)
Gender: Female
Occupation: 'character'
Area of activity: History and Culture
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

She is first heard of in the Nantlle Vale, Caernarfonshire (*W. R. Ambrose, Hynafiaethau Nant Nantlle*, 59), as the keeper of Telyrniau tavern, Gelli, in the heyday of the Drws-y-coed copper-workings in the mid-18th century; we are told that she could make a fiddle and a harp, and play upon either while her customers danced. Afterwards she moved to Penllyn at the foot of lake Padarn (Llanberis); there, she ferried the copper-ore from the foot of Snowdon to Penllyn. **Thomas Pennant** visited her house in 1786, but she was not at home. **Pennant** (*Tours in Wales*, 1883 edn., ii, 320-1) recounts marvellous tales about her. She kept, says he, a dozen hounds or more, and could catch more foxes in a year than the hunts could catch in ten; she knew old airs and played them on the fiddle; she was a good carpenter and built her own boats; she was a smith, and shod her own horses; and she was a shoemaker. At 70, she could throw any other wrestler. **Pennant** ends with: 'finally, she gave her hand to the most effeminate of her admirers.' **W. J. Gruffydd** (*Hen Atgofion*, 88), on traditional evidence in his family, states that the bridegroom was one Richard Morris, and that Margaret had given him two fearful bastings - after the first, he married her, and after the second he became a Methodist, indeed, 'one of the chief leaders of Methodism in the parish.' But **Ambrose** (loc. cit.) gives this hero's name as William Richards. **Ambrose** says, too, that she died in 1788, aged 92. But according to the *Cambrian Travellers Guide* (quoted in *Hobley, Hanes Meth. Arfon*, iv, 22), she died in 1801, aged 105 - it will be noted that both accounts agree (and agree with **Pennant**) on the year of her birth.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Further reading

Sian Lewis, *Marged: arwres Eryri* (Llanrwst 2010)

ODNB: Marged ferch Ifan (bap. 1696, d. 1793)

Isaac Samuel Lloyd, 'Brenhines y Llynnoedd. Marged uch Ifan,' *Y Llenor: cylchgrawn chwarterol dan nawdd cymdeithasau Cymraeg y colegau cenedlaethol*, 23 (1944), 40-43

Wikipedia Article: Marged ferch Ifan

Additional Links

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