

## REES, HENRY (1798 - 1869), the most famous minister among the Calvinistic Methodists in his day

**Name:** Henry Rees  
**Date of birth:** 1798  
**Date of death:** 1869  
**Spouse:** Mary Rees (née Roberts)  
**Child:** Anne Davies (née Rees)  
**Parent:** Ann Rees  
**Parent:** David Rees  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** most famous minister among the Calvinistic Methodists in his day  
**Area of activity:** Religion  
**Author:** Griffith Wynne Griffith

Born 15 February 1798 at Chwibren Isaf, Llansannan, Denbighshire, eldest son of David and Ann Rees; a younger brother was **William Rees** (Gwilym Hiraethog). He attended school at Llansannan for three years, and was in service at Syrior Farm, which belonged to **Thomas Jones** (1756 - 1820), Denbigh. He visited Bala in 1814 to seek the *Geiriadur Ysgrhythyrol* from **Thomas Charles**, and met **John Elias** in **Thomas Charles**'s house - this was the only occasion on which these three great leaders of Calvinistic Methodism met.

Henry Rees started to preach about the end of 1818. He gave evidence of remarkable powers in the pulpit - listening to him caused **John Jones**, Tal-y-sarn, to give himself to the ministry. He was at school under T. Lloyd, Abergel, 1819-21. He was licensed as preacher, 1820. In 1821 he went to Shrewsbury to learn bookbinding. He served the Welsh C.M. church there on Sundays, having food, clothes, and lodging for remuneration. He attended school at Dorrington in order to become more proficient in English. He blossomed forth as a most earnest, able, and effective preacher and was in great demand throughout Wales; he preached at the Association at Bala in 1822 and thenceforth regularly with but few exceptions at Association meetings to the end of his life. He made an intense study of the work of Puritan divines, especially **Dr. John Owen**. He was ordained at Bala in June 1827. He married Mary Roberts, of Shrewsbury, 20 October 1830, and had four children of whom three died in infancy; the fourth, Ann, grew up and married **Richard Davies** (1818 - 1896). He moved to Liverpool at Christmas 1836 and ministered there to the Calvinistic Methodist community which had a number of churches; he later became more closely identified with the church in Chatham Street. He visited America in 1839. He took a leading part in opposition in Wales to the Education Bill of 1843. He attended a meeting of the Evangelical Congress in Berlin in 1857. Long recognized as the foremost leader of the Calvinistic Methodists in Wales, he was appointed moderator of the North Wales C.M. Association in 1855-6 and again in 1867, and became the first moderator of the General Assembly in 1864. He was regarded by many in his day as the most saintly minister and the most perfect preacher they had known. He wrote many articles to *Y Traethodydd* and other periodicals. Two volumes of his sermons were published. He died at Benarth, near Conway, 18 February 1869, and was buried at Llantysilio, Anglesey.

### Author

Reverend Griffith Wynne Griffith, (1883 - 1967)

### Sources

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Owen Thomas, *Cofiant y Parchedig John Jones, Talsarn: mewn cysylltiad a hanes duwinyddiaeth a phregethu Cymru* (Wrexham 1874), 922-38

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W. Rees, 'Fy nhad', in *Y Traethodydd*, July 1856

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D. Jones, *Rev. H. Rees*

W. Rees, *Rhyddweithiau Hiraethog sef, casgliad o weithiau llenyddol*, ii, 131-45

W. Rees, *Cathlau Henaint yn cynwys can o'r gwely a'r gongl, neu awdl foliant y bardd yn ei gystudd; yn nghyda'r goffaon hiraethlon am ei ddiweddar frawd, y Parch. Henry Rees, Liverpool, (yr olaf yn Saesoneg,) a chaniadau eraill, etc.*

## Further reading

Jane Hughes, *Galar-gan am y diweddar Barch. Henry Rees, Liverpool*

Owen Jones, *Some of the great preachers of Wales*(London 1885)

## Images

John Thomas, *Revd Henry Rees (1798-1869)*

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John Thomas, *Rev. Henry Rees*

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John Thomas, *Rev. Henry Rees*

Y Parch. Henry Rees

Rev. Henry Rees

Parch. H. Rees

John Thomas, *Revd Henry Rees (1798-1869)*

Robert Humphreys, *Rev. Henry Rees*

J. C. Napper, *Rev. Henry Rees*

Rev. Henry Rees

John Thomas, *Er cof am y Parch. Henry Rees, Liverpool bu farw Chwefr. 18ed 1869. 72 oed*

John Thomas, *Chwibren Isaf, Llansannan, old home of Henry & William Rees*

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