

## REES, WILLIAM JENKINS (1772 - 1855), cleric and antiquary

**Name:** William Jenkins Rees  
**Date of birth:** 1772  
**Date of death:** 1855  
**Parent:** Rice Rees  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** cleric and antiquary  
**Area of activity:** History and Culture; Religion  
**Author:** Selwyn Jones

Born 10 January 1772 at Llandovery; for his family, see the article [Rees](#) of Tonn. He went to Carmarthen grammar school (1789) and afterwards (12 April 1791) to Wadham College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1795. He was ordained in 1796 and held the curacies of Stoke Edith and West Hide, Herefordshire until 1806, when he was given the living of Cascob, Radnorshire. From 1806 he was also vicar of Heyop, near Knighton, and in 1820 became prebendary of Christ College, Brecon. He was elected F.S.A. in 1840. When his father died (1826) he inherited some property, but continued to live at Cascob, where he died of paralysis, 18 January 1855. A more industrious man would be difficult to find. There is a long list of his books in the *Cardiff Catalogue*, but that gives a faint indication of his industry. A better idea of his output may be obtained by looking at the great collection of his letters ('Tonn MSS.') in the Cardiff City Library. He was one of the most zealous of the band of literary clergymen (such as [John Jenkins](#) and [Thomas Price](#)) who were reviving the eisteddfod and helping to resurrect the Cymmrodorion Society - for this see Helen Ramage in *Cymm.*, 1951, ch. v. He was also on the editorial board of the Welsh MSS. Society whose books were printed by his nephew [William Rees](#) (1808 - 1873). It was for this Society that he completed his nephew [Rice Rees](#)'s edition of *Liber Landavensis*, 1840, and edited *The Lives of the Cambro-British Saints*, 1853. Unfortunately, his scholarship was not commensurate with his zeal, and these two books were sharply criticized by later scholars - see [J. E. Lloyd](#)'s references to them in his article on Rees in the *D.N.B.*

### Author

[Selwyn Jones](#), (1906 - 1981)

### Sources

Foster *Alumni Oxonienses: the members of the University of Oxford*  
and the other references given above

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [William Jenkins Rees](#)

### Additional Links

VIAF: [17653296](#)

Wikidata: [Q16858267](#)

**Published date:** 1959

**Article Copyright:** <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC-RUU/1.0/>

not receive grant support. A donation would help us maintain and improve the site so that we can continue to acknowledge Welsh men and women who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Find out more on our [sponsorship page](#).



APA Citation



Jones, S., (1959). REES, WILLIAM JENKINS (1772 - 1855), cleric and antiquary. *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*. Retrieved 9 Nov 2024, from <https://biography.wales/article/s-REES-JEN-1772>

[Copy to Clipboard](#)

[Privacy & Cookies](#)  
[Copyright](#)  
[The Project](#)  
[Help](#)  
[Contact](#)



LLYFRGEL  
THE NATION



Yn eiddo gan  
Llywodraeth Cymru  
Sponsored by  
Welsh Government