

## BOWEN, THOMAS (1756 - 1827), Independent minister

**Name:** Thomas Bowen  
**Date of birth:** 1756  
**Date of death:** 1827  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Independent minister  
**Area of activity:** Religion  
**Author:** Richard Griffith Owen

Born 1756 in the Capel Isaac neighbourhood, of humble parents. He was compelled to earn his living from a very early age, but the farmer for whom he worked encouraged him to get lessons from [John Griffiths](#) (1731 - 1811) of Glandŵr, and in 1777 he went to the Abergavenny Academy. In 1781 he was called to Maes-yr-onnen where he was responsible for a considerable increase in the vitality of the church. His sphere of influence extended, and he was fined by the magistrates at Brecon for preaching in a house in Llansantffraid parish without a licence. He established new churches in the neighbourhood.

In 1795 he moved to Maes-yr-haf chapel, Neath. While there he founded the churches at Melin-cwrt and Aberavon, as well as the first Sunday school in the district. In consequence of a doctrinal dispute many members left Maes-yr-haf and started a Unitarian church in the town. He died 27 February 1827.

### Author

**Reverend Richard Griffith Owen**, (1890 - 1973)

### Sources

- Hanes Eglwysi Annibynol Cymru*, i, 528, ii, 104-6  
Josiah Thomas Jones, *Geiriadur Bywgraffyddol o Enwogion Cymru (Aberdâr 1867-70)*, i, 31  
T. Morgan, *Enwogion Cymreig 1700-1900* (1907), 30  
T. Stephens, *Album Aberhonddu â'r flwyddyn 1755 hyd 1880* (1898)

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Thomas Bowen](#)

### Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q20734422](#)

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