

DAVIES, JOHN (1787 - 1855), stone-mason and composer

Name: John Davies
Date of birth: 1787
Date of death: 1855
Gender: Male
Occupation: stone-mason and composer
Area of activity: Business and Industry; Music
Author: Robert David Griffith

Born at Banwen, Morriston, Glamorganshire, 13 November 1787. As a boy he enjoyed the advantages of an education and became a good scholar. When he was 14 years of age a Londoner who lodged at his home taught him to play the dulcimer. He was a stone-mason by trade and, when his day's work was done, used to carve tombstones by night. He married at the age of 24 and built himself a house at Treboeth near Swansea. At the age of 30 he began to study music and became a competent musician. He wrote many anthems and hymn-tunes. The tune which appears in Welsh hymnals under the name ' Gethsemane,' 9-8 (arranged by [R. H. Pritchard](#) of Bala in 8-beat), first appeared in *Lleuad yr Oes*, June 1827. Other tunes composed by him are found in *Haleliwia Drachefn*, *Llwybrau Moliant*, and *Y Caniedydd Cynulleidfaol*; these show that he had musical ability. He died 27 April 1855 at Llanelly and was buried in Mynydd-bach cemetery.

Author

Robert David Griffith, (1877 - 1958)

Sources

Cronicl y Cerddor, June 1883

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

Y Cerddor, October 1890

Edward Jones, *Rhestr gyda nodiadau byrion, o Enwogion Cymreig o 1700 i 1900* (1908)

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