

## DAVIES, OWEN (1719 - 1792), Independent minister

**Name:** Owen Davies  
**Date of birth:** 1719  
**Date of death:** 1792  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Independent minister  
**Area of activity:** Religion  
**Author:** John Oliver Stephens

Born in a small cottage, where there was a fulling mill, on the Erwyon estate near Ffald-y-brenin, Carmarthenshire. As a young man he joined the Independent church at Crofft-y-cyff, began to preach at the age of 24, was ordained there in 1743, and laboured there acceptably as minister and schoolmaster until 1765, when he was called to Capel y Graig, Tre-lech, Carmarthenshire. There, he was very successful for over twenty years.

In 1787 dissension broke out in Glandŷr church, Pembrokeshire, concerning both doctrine and discipline. Some were of the opinion that the minister, [John Griffiths](#) (1731 - 1811), was too much of a Calvinist. Seventeen members who showed a tendency to Arminianism were excommunicated by [Griffiths](#). Owen Davies considered the discipline inflicted too severe and indicated that he was prepared to take them into his church at Tre-lech. The congregation, however, opposed this, although there was never any suggestion that he himself was inclined to anti-Calvinist views. A few left the church with him and he preached to them at his own house at Dinas. In 1787, when Rhyd-y-parc chapel was built, between Tre-lech and St Clears, and about nine miles from the latter place, he took over the ministry there and remained there until his death, 6 July 1792. The congregation gradually became Arians and then Unitarians. Towards the end of his life he showed a desire to heal the breach. He expressed a wish to be buried in the graveyard at Capel y Graig, and this was done although a grave had been opened for him at Rhyd-y-parc. A new chapel was erected at Rhyd-y-parc in 1860 when [Titus Evans](#) was minister, but the congregation diminished and it was closed in the nineties.

### Author

Reverend Professor John Oliver Stephens, (1880 - 1957)

### Sources

*Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru*, iii, 400, 555-6

*Y Tadau Anibynnol* (Caernarfon 1898-1900), ii, 158-9

*Yr Ymofynnydd*, 1884 (123-4, 279), 1930 (21-6)

*Carm. Welshman Antiq. Notes*, 15 December 1905

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