

DAVIS (DAVIES), RICHARD (1658 - 1714), Independent minister

Name: Richard Davis
Date of birth: 1658
Date of death: 1714
Spouse: Rosamond Davis (née Williams)
Gender: Male
Occupation: Independent minister
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

A Cardiganshire man from Llechryd, as some have it, he was at first a schoolmaster in London, but in 1689 was ordained minister of the Congregational church at Rothwell ('Rowell'), Northamptonshire His ministry there provoked much controversy among Dissenters : (1) he was accused of teaching Antinomian doctrines; (2) his use of 'revivalistic' methods in preaching and his extensive employment of lay itinerants, were repugnant to the more academic of his fellow- ministers; (3) his insistence on 'congregational' church-government and his hostility to 'a Presbyterian classis' greatly influenced English Congregationalists in their decision to abandon the ' Union ' of 1690 between Presbyterians and Independents. [Daniel Williams](#) was one of Davis's chief critics. In 1692 the Common Fund stopped its grant to Davis, and thus expelled him from the ' Union.' He died 10 September 1714. On his gravestone at Rothwell parish church he is said to have died on 11 September, aged 56. His successor at Rothwell was [Mathias Maurice](#).

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

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Transactions of the Congregational Historical Society, ii, 128, vii, 224, and more especially vi, 389

Jeremy Owen, *Golwg ar y Beiau y sydd yn yr hanes a brintwyd ynghylch pedair neu bum mlynedd i nawr, ym mherthynas i'r rhwygiad a wnaethbwyd yn Eglwys Henllan ... 1707, 1708, 1709* (Carmarthen 1732-3) (University of Wales reprint, 1950)

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