

DAVIES, THOMAS (1812 - 1895), Baptist minister and principal of Haverfordwest Baptist College

Name: Thomas Davies
Date of birth: 1812
Date of death: 1895
Spouse: Emma Davies (née Davies)
Spouse: Jane Davies (née Williams)
Parent: Ann Davies (née Edmunds)
Parent: John Davies
Gender: Male
Occupation: Baptist minister and principal of Haverfordwest Baptist College
Area of activity: Education; Religion
Author: Benjamin George Owens

Born 13 November 1812, son of John and Anne Davies, well-to-do farmers, Y Wern Fawr, S. Mellons (near Cardiff). He received a good education at a local school, and at the age of 16 moved to Dowlais, where he worked as a grocer's apprentice. He was baptized at Zion, Merthyr Tydfil, by [David Saunders II](#), and with others helped to form the new church at Caersalem, Dowlais. Returning to S. Mellons in 1830, he joined the church at Castleton and became the founder of the Sunday school at S. Mellons. At the suggestion of his minister, [Evan Jones](#) (Gwrwst, 1793 - 1855), he started to preach, and after a year's study at Cardiff under the direction of William Jones, minister of Bethany English Baptist church, he was admitted in 1832 to Bristol Baptist College, and in 1836 accepted a call to the ministry of the English Baptist church at Merthyr Tydfil. He also established a school there and became a prominent figure in the life of the town. In 1856 he became principal of the Baptist College and co-pastor of Bethesda church at Haverfordwest, where he laboured with great success until his retirement in 1894. He died 10 March 1895. His address to the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland in 1867 on 'Ministerial education in Wales' was published. He was chairman of the Welsh Baptist Union in 1874, a vice-president of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and chairman of the Haverfordwest school board. He married (1) Jane (died 1857), daughter of Lewis Williams, Merthyr, and (2) Emma (died 1899), daughter of the Rev. W. Davies, Hailsham.

Author

Benjamin George Owens

Sources

Welsh Political and Educational Leaders in the Victorian Era (1908), 495-517;

Baptist Handbook 1896;

The Baptist Union of Wales Handbook and Diary, 1896;

NLW MSS 9251A-9277A: 'Dictionary of Welsh Biography';

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

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