

EVANS, JOHN (1796 - 1861), schoolmaster

Name: John Evans
Date of birth: 1796
Date of death: 1861
Spouse: Gwen Evans (née Mason)
Gender: Male
Occupation: schoolmaster
Area of activity: Education
Authors: Bertie George Charles, Llewelyn Gwyn Chambers

Born 7 February 1796 at Blaen-plwyf, parish of Llanychaearn, Cardiganshire. His father was a weaver, and he himself followed the same occupation until, becoming weary of it, he walked to London at the age of 17 in quest of more congenial work. There he supported himself by selling books from door to door. He was befriended by David Davies, a fellow-countryman and a musical instrument tuner, who helped to send Evans to a school conducted by **Griffith Davies**, the famous actuary. There he made rapid progress in mathematics.

After keeping school at Llanfair Caereinion and Llanidloes, he returned to Aberystwyth about 1821 (or earlier, for his tombstone states that he was a schoolmaster for forty-four years) to open his famous school, 'The Mathematical and Commercial School,' in Chalybeate Street, where the youth of the neighbourhood received a practical education for over forty years. Among his pupils were **Lewis Edwards**, **Henry Richard**, **David Charles Davies** and **Ieuan Gwyllt** (John Roberts). When **Lewis Edwards** kept a school in Aberystwyth he did not consider it to be in competition with but, rather, preparatory to Evans' school. The school had a good name for the teaching of navigation. Evans was also skilled in astronomy and in the construction of sundials and mechanical instruments.

He married, in S. Michael's Church, Aberystwyth, Gwen Mason (1796 - 1834), of the parish of Llanbadarn-fawr, on 14 May 1821. In 1858 the townsmen of Aberystwyth presented him with a testimonial for maintaining a clock for the use of the town. Evans was an elder in Tabernacle Calvinistic Methodist church, Aberystwyth, for fourteen years. He died 2 April 1861.

Authors

Dr Bertie George Charles, (1908 - 2000)

Dr Llewelyn Gwyn Chambers

Sources

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