

## GRAVELL, DAVID (1787 - 1872), farmer, herbalist, and publisher

**Name:** David Gravell  
**Date of birth:** 1787  
**Date of death:** 1872  
**Parent:** Mary Gravell  
**Parent:** Thomas Gravell  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** farmer, herbalist, and publisher  
**Area of activity:** Literature and Writing; Medicine; Nature and Agriculture; Printing and Publishing  
**Author:** Tom Beynon

Born 3 June 1787, son of Thomas and Mary Gravell of Cwmfelin, in the parish of Llandyfaelog, Carmarthenshire. He took to religion under the ministry of [David Peter](#) of Carmarthen. As a young man he suffered from bad health and this led him to experiment with herbal remedies; at the same time, he made the most of his friendship with [\(Sir\) David Daniel Davis](#), the royal physician who was a native of the parish and whose father was a deacon in Pen-y-graig church. There are still people who remember 'Gravell of Cwmfelin's Oil.'

He published at least six books: *Caniadau Seion*, 1847, comprising over 1,200 Welsh hymns, twenty-one anthems, and a number of English hymns; *Crist yn Llawn Perlau, sef Egwyddoreg*, 1855; *Hynafiaethau Cristionogol, sef Hanes yr Eglwys*, 1859; *Corph o Ddiwinyddiaeth wedi ei Ddethol o Catecism Cymanfa Westminster*, 1862; *Crefydd Gymdeithasol, neu Gydymaith y Cristion gan y Parch. Mathias Maurice gyda Byrdraeth*; *Bywyd David Gravell ynghyd a Hanes Eglwys Penygraig*, 1865; *Athrawiaeth Pabaid-Esgobol yn cael ei Gwrth-brofi*, 1871. Among the *Caniadau Seion* there are a few hymns written by himself but they are very ordinary and lack popular appeal. He regarded himself as an elder, not as a deacon, of Pen-y-graig Independent church and in his later years his views on church government were a sore trial to his minister, Joseph Jarvis, and there were frequent tussles between him and [David Rees](#) of Llanelly on the same point.

He had a deep-seated interest in education and it was chiefly through his generosity that the British school at Idole near Pen-y-graig was built.

He was a bachelor, and lived all his life at Cwmfelin. He died 15 August 1872 and was buried in Pen-y-graig burial ground.

### Author

Reverend Tom Beynon, (1886 - 1961)

### Sources

*Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru*, iii, 444

W. A. Griffiths, *Hanes Emynwyr Cymru* (Caernarfon 1907), 162-3

### Additional Links

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