

## JENKINS, DAVID (1582 - 1663), judge

**Name:** David Jenkins  
**Date of birth:** 1582  
**Date of death:** 1663  
**Spouse:** Cecil Jenkins (née Aubrey)  
**Parent:** Jenkin ap Richard  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** judge  
**Area of activity:** Law  
**Author:** Henry John Randall

He was the best known member of a family established at Hensol, Pendeylwyn (Pendoylan), Glamorganshire, which claimed an impressive ancestry and had illustrious descendants. His father was named Jenkin and his grandfather Richard, and he was apparently the first member of the family who adopted a surname. He was born in 1582, died on 6 December 1663, and was buried at Cowbridge, where there is a memorial tablet. He married Cecil, daughter of Sir Thomas Aubrey, of Llantrithyd, on 7 September 1614, and had four sons and one daughter, but the male line became extinct in the 18th century. His great-grand-daughter Cecil, heiress of the Hensol estate, married **Charles Talbot**, Lord Chancellor from 1731 to 1737, who took the title of **lord Talbot of Hensol**.

Jenkins graduated at Oxford in 1600 and was called to the Bar in 1609. His life falls into two well-marked periods: the period of calm, and the time of storm and stress during the Civil War. Of the earlier period little is known, but his practice must have been extensive for he accumulated a considerable fortune. He had opposed the king's method of raising money and had incurred the displeasure of the bishops, but when war broke out he supported the king firmly and consistently. In 1643 he was appointed judge of the Court of Great Sessions for the Carmarthen circuit, much against his will, because the expenses of the office exceeded the emoluments; it was from this office that he got the title of 'Judge Jenkins.' He incurred the particular odium of the parliamentarians by condemning several of them to death for treason, though they managed to escape. Consequently, when he was captured at Oxford in 1645 he was charged with the same offence, but argued, logically enough, that consistent support of the king could not be treason against the king. The charges were ultimately dropped on grounds of expediency, but he enlivened his imprisonment by writing a series of controversial pamphlets that were collected into a volume in 1648. He also completed his *Reports* of 800 common law decisions, much in the style of 'Leading Cases.' He was not finally released from surveillance until the Restoration, and then retired to his estate at Hensol.

### Author

**Henry John Randall**, (1877 - 1964)

### Sources

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, and sources therein cited

W. R. Williams, *The history of the Great Sessions in Wales, 1542-1830, together with the lives of the Welsh judges* (Brecknock 1899), 169

*Y Cymmrodor*, xxxvi, 1926

W. H. Terry, *Judge Jenkins* who was kept prisoner in the Tower and elsewhere after being sentenced to death by the House of Commons (London 1929), 1929

*Catalogue of tracts of the Civil War and Commonwealth period relating to Wales and the Borders*, National Library of Wales (Aberystwyth 1911), 1911 (indexed)

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [David Jenkins](#)

### Additional Links

VIAF: [79221649](#)

Wikidata: [Q5235613](#)

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