

JOHN, DAVID (1782? - 1853), Unitarian minister, a Chartist, and, by trade, a smith

Name: David John
Date of birth: 1782?
Date of death: 1853
Child: Matthew John
Child: David John
Gender: Male
Occupation: Unitarian minister, a Chartist, and, by trade, a smith
Area of activity: Anti Establishment; Business and Industry; Politics, Government and Political Movements; Religion
Author: Edward Ivor Williams

of St Clears, Carmarthenshire. He left the Independents to join the Unitarian church founded at St Clears by [Benjamin Phillips](#), and received financial help from Unitarians to become one of their ministers, but was not at an academy. In 1816 he was serving, with [Benjamin Phillips](#), the congregation that later settled at Capel y Graig, St Clears. In 1826 he became minister of the Unitarian church at Twynyrodyn, Merthyr Tydfil, where he remained until 1847, his Chartist and like activities causing repeated dissension that threatened his supersession, in 1835, and led to the dispersal of the congregation, and the closing of the chapel, about twelve years later. He died 15 January 1853, at the age of 71, and was buried at Cefn Coed y Cymer. At Merthyr Tydfil (and near his smithy) he established a school, where on Sundays and the evenings of week-days, subjects to help workmen in their occupations were taught.

His sons, DAVID JOHN and MATTHEW JOHN, were also prominent Chartists; the former, a fiery soul, published, with [Morgan Williams](#), the Welsh Chartist paper *Udgorn Cymru*, 1840-2, and the English *Advocate and Merthyr Free Press*, 1840, of which only five numbers appeared. He represented the Chartists of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire at the Manchester convention in 1839.

Author

Edward Ivor Williams, (1885 - 1958)

Sources

Yr Ymfynnydd, 1853, 1930

David Williams, *John Frost, A Study in Chartism* (1939), 332-4

A History of Carmarthenshire, ii, 254

Charles Wilkins, *The history of Merthyr Tydfil* (Merthyr Tydfil 1867), 424-5

Monthly Repository, 1816, 682

Cardiff Manuscript 4.207

Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q20732836](#)

Published date: 1959

Article Copyright: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC-RUU/1.0/>

The Dictionary of Welsh Biography is provided by The National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. It is free to use and does not receive grant support. A donation would help us maintain and improve the site so that we can continue to acknowledge Welsh men and women who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Find out more on our [sponsorship page](#).

