

JONES, DAVID (1741 - 1792), Baptist minister

Name: David Jones
Date of birth: 1741
Date of death: 1792
Spouse: Hannah Jones
Gender: Male
Occupation: Baptist minister
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born at Ynys-domlyd, Cwmaman, Carmarthenshire, he worked as a tailor in Monmouthshire. Converted by [Howel Harris](#), he was throughout his life a Methodist in temperament, though he joined the Baptists at Pen-y-garn, where he began to preach and was in 1773 ordained as assistant to [Miles Harry](#) - he is indeed generally referred to as 'David Jones of Pontypool.' He had published in 1758 *Pererindod Ysrydol, o'r Aipht i Ganaan*, and in 1777 he published an elegy on [Miles Harry](#). He was twice married; his second wife was Hannah Jones, a widow, who had a farm and a malt-house at Dol-goch, Newcastle Emlyn; and in 1785 or 1786 he went to live there. He now joined Graig church at Newcastle[emlyn], becoming co-pastor. His new church suited him well, for it was a quasi- Methodist, revivalistic, church which had hived off in 1775 from the older and 'drier' church at Pant Teg. And his closest friends in the neighbourhood were Methodists - [David Morris](#) (1744 - 1791) and [Peter Williams](#) (1723 - 1796). In September 1786, Jones conceived the idea of a Welsh edition of the 'pocket Bible' (with notes) of John Canne (died 1667?), which in its English form had been widely sold by [Howel Harris](#) and [Miles Harry](#). He induced [Peter Williams](#) to join him - this was the direct cause of [Williams](#)'s expulsion by the Methodists (1791), but the Baptist Association in 1787 and in 1788 officially commended the book. Publication began in 1788, and was completed in 1790; Jones himself acted as travelling salesman. He died 24 January 1792, and was buried at Troed-yr-aur; elegies upon him were written by [Morgan John Rhys](#) and others. His widow became very poor (owing to losses in her own business rather than to losses on the 'little Bible'), and is said to have died a pauper at some time after 1839.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

M. J. Rhys in *Y Cylchgrawn Cyn-mraeg*, May 1793

Joshua Thomas, *Hanes y Bedyddwyr ymhlith y Cymry: o amser yr Apostolion, hyd y flwyddyn hon: yn ddwy ran* (1778), 497, 573

D. Jones, *Hanes y Bedyddwyr yn Neheubarth Cymru* (1839), 694
Cambrian Bibliography

Gomer M. Roberts, *Bywyd a Gwaith Peter Williams* (Cardiff 1943), chapters 6 and 8

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