

## LEWES, Sir WATKIN (1740 - 1821), lord mayor of London

**Name:** Watkin Lewes  
**Date of birth:** 1740  
**Date of death:** 1821  
**Spouse:** Rebeca Eleanora Lewes (née Popcyn)  
**Parent:** Ann Lewes (née Williams)  
**Parent:** Watkin Lewes  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** lord mayor of London  
**Area of activity:** Public and Social Service, Civil Administration  
**Author:** John James Evans

second son of Watkin Lewes, Penybenglog, Melinau, and Ann Williams of Ambleston, Pembrokeshire. His father was rector of Melinau (1735-59) and of Newport, Pembrokeshire (1759-70). The son was educated at Shrewsbury school and Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1763. He entered the Middle Temple [ 1760 ], and was called to the (Chancery) Bar in 1766. He married Rebecca Eleanora, eldest daughter and co-heir of Thomas Popkin of Fforest, near Swansea, who brought him considerable estates in Glamorgan, and Rudbaxton in Pembrokeshire. Having contested Worcester unsuccessfully in four elections, he sought civic and parliamentary honours in the City of London. His rise was rapid; in 1772 he was made sheriff and also alderman of Lime Street Ward, was knighted in 1773, and in 1780 became lord mayor. In 1771 he had presented addresses in the Tower from the counties of Pembroke, Carmarthen, and Cardigan to the political prisoners, John Wilkes, the lord mayor Crosby, and alderman Oliver. In 1780 he was elected one of the four M.P. s for the City of London, which seat he retained until 1796. He took an active interest in Welsh literature and music, and was at one time Treasurer of the Society of Ancient Britons; [he was the second president of the Cymmrodorion, in succession to [Richard Morris](#)]. The last part of his life was clouded by financial difficulties; he was arrested for debt and ended his days (13 July 1821) in the London Coffee House on Ludgate Hill within the rules of the Fleet prison.

### Author

John James Evans, (1894 - 1965)

### Sources

*Column of antiquarian notes in The Pembroke County Guardian (1900-c. 1906)*, 1900-3, 63

*West Wales Historical Records (1910-29)*, iii, 111

*Y Cymmrodor*, xix, 1906 (89-123), 1919 (148)

*The Welsh Outlook*, xiii, 1926 (286-8)

[ *Y Cymmrodor*, 1951, 52-3]

## Further Reading


Wikipedia Article: [Watkin Lewes](#)

## Additional Links

VIAF: [48319458](#)

Wikidata: [Q7974676](#)

**Published date:** 1959

**Article Copyright:** <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/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](#).

