

## MARGED vch IFAN (Margaret Evans; 1696 - 1801?), a 'character'

**Name:** Marged Vch Ifan  
**Pseudonym:** Marged Vch Ifan (Margaret Evans)  
**Date of birth:** 1696  
**Date of death:** 1801?  
**Spouse:** Rhisiart Morys  
**Gender:** Female  
**Occupation:** 'character'  
**Area of activity:** History and Culture  
**Author:** Robert Thomas Jenkins

She is first heard of in the Nantlle Vale, Caernarfonshire ([W. R. Ambrose](#), *Hynafiaethau Nant Nantlle*, 59), as the keeper of Telyrniau tavern, Gelli, in the heyday of the Drws-y-coed copper-workings in the mid-18th century; we are told that she could make a fiddle and a harp, and play upon either while her customers danced. Afterwards she moved to Penllyn at the foot of lake Padarn (Llanberis); there, she ferried the copper-ore from the foot of Snowdon to Penllyn. [Thomas Pennant](#) visited her house in 1786, but she was not at home. [Pennant](#) (*Tours in Wales*, 1883 edn., ii, 320-1) recounts marvellous tales about her. She kept, says he, a dozen hounds or more, and could catch more foxes in a year than the hunts could catch in ten; she knew old airs and played them on the fiddle; she was a good carpenter and built her own boats; she was a smith, and shod her own horses; and she was a shoemaker. At 70, she could throw any other wrestler. [Pennant](#) ends with: ' finally, she gave her hand to the most effeminate of her admirers.' [W. J. Gruffydd](#) (*Hen Atgofion*, 88), on traditional evidence in his family, states that the bridegroom was one Richard Morris, and that Margaret had given him two fearful bastings - after the first, he married her, and after the second he became a Methodist, indeed, ' one of the chief leaders of Methodism in the parish.' But [Ambrose](#) (loc. cit.) gives this hero's name as William Richards. [Ambrose](#) says, too, that she died in 1788, aged 92. But according to the *Cambrian Travellers Guide* (quoted in [Hobley](#), *Hanes Meth. Arfon*, iv, 22), she died in 1801, aged 105 - it will be noted that both accounts agree (and agree with [Pennant](#)) on the year of her birth.

### Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

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