

## MORGAN, DAVID (1779 - 1858), Independent minister and historian

**Name:** David Morgan  
**Date of birth:** 1779  
**Date of death:** 1858  
**Spouse:** Mary Morgan (née Hughes)  
**Child:** Ann Bynner (née Morgan)  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Independent minister and historian  
**Area of activity:** History and Culture; Religion  
**Author:** Richard Griffith Owen

Born December 1779 at Dôl-wen, Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn, Cardiganshire; his father, who was well-to-do, was an Anglican for the greater part of his life but became a Methodist in his later years. David received a better education than was usual in those days and, at the age of 23, went for a short time to a school at Shrewsbury, his intention being to become a merchant. He then went to Machynlleth where he joined John Jones, the shopkeeper, one of the pillars of the Independent church, at whose home on the very first night he met the [Rev. John Roberts](#) of Llanbryn-mair (1767 - 1834). Many years later, as a very old man, he used to say that the personality of that good man had changed the course of his life. He did not take kindly to a tradesman's life and within six months had returned home to Dolau, Tal-y-bont, near Aberystwyth (whither, in the meantime, the family had moved), with the intention of becoming a farmer.

He married Mary Hughes (1782 - 1826), daughter of the Llwyn-glas household and the two young people went to live at Cerrig-cyrannau where, contrary to the wishes of their respective families, they joined the Independents. He began to preach at Tal-y-bont, which was then under the ministry of [Azariah Shadrach](#). In 1811 he took charge of the churches at Towyn, Llanegryn, and Llwyngwriil, Meirionnydd. He was ordained in the open air at Towyn, March 1813, and the following year received a call to Graig, Machynlleth, where he remained until 1836. During his stay there he established branches at Soar, Uwchgarreg; Pennal; Llanwrin; Penegoes; and Glasbwl. In 1836 he moved to Gartside chapel, Manchester, and in 1839 to Llanfyllin, where he remained until his retirement in 1857. He died at Oswestry 14 July 1858, and was buried in the Pendref chapel burial ground at Llanfyllin.

His daughter, Ann, married Thomas Bynner, Llanfyllin, draper, and they had a son, David Morgan Bynner who married Catherine Jones, daughter of Owen Daniel, Caethle, Tywyn in 1877 (see article on [John Daniel Jones](#)). Catherine's first husband was [Joseph David Jones](#).

He was one of the leaders of his denomination and was a well-known and active Liberal. He wrote a great deal to the *Dysgedydd* and was one of those who contributed articles to [John Roberts](#) of Llanbryn-mair's ' *Blue Book*.' But it was as an historian that he came into greatest prominence. His chief work was *Hanes yr Eglwys Gristnogol*. He also published ten

parts of *Hanes Ymneillduaeth yn Nghymru*, which is mostly the story of the Independent churches, but was unable to complete this work. His other book was a commentary, *Esboniad ar Lyfr y Datguddiad, a rhannau o Broffwydoliaeth Daniel*.

## Author

Reverend Richard Griffith Owen, (1890 - 1973)

## Sources

*Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru*, i, 276-84

*Geirlyfr Bywgraffiadol o Enwogion Cymru* (1870), 732-3

Josiah Thomas Jones, *Geiriadur Bywgraffyddol o Enwogion Cymru (Aberdâr 1867-70)*, ii, 281-3

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