

PHILLIPS, DAVID (1751-1825), Unitarian minister

Name: David Phillips
Date of birth: 1751
Date of death: 1825
Gender: Male
Occupation: Unitarian minister
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born in 1751 at Waun-bwll near Glandŷr, Pembrokeshire, but after his marriage he farmed Pant-glas, Llanboidy, Carmarthenshire; subsequently he bought the farmstead of Pant-maen near Rhyd-y-parc, and was therefore currently known as 'the apostle of Pant-maen.' He was a member of Glandŷr church, and is said on doubtful authority to have been a preacher there. When the Arminian wing of Glandŷr seceded (c. 1787), and founded the church of Rhyd-y-parc (Llanwinio), Phillips joined it, and began preaching. On the death of [Owen Davies](#) (1719 - 1792), Phillips was ordained pastor. By 1811 (the date of the Unitarian missionary Lyons's visit to Rhyd-y-parc), Phillips was definitely a Unitarian, but too poorly in health to be active - it would seem that the church was then served chiefly by [Benjamin Phillips](#) of St Clears and [William Thomas](#) of Llangydeyrn. But in 1816, when the missionary Wright visited the church, Phillips had a coadjutor, a John Evans, who may possibly have been the man named on p. 500 of [David Jones's Hanes Bed. Deheubarth](#), but is more likely to have been the John Evans who, at that time (1816-25), had charge of the Unitarians who then used Dark Gate chapel at Carmarthen. Phillips died 11 June 1825 - according to his tombstone at Rhyd-y-parc; he was then 74.

His nephew, DAVID PHILLIPS (fl. 1814), who farmed Pil-mawr, Llanwinio, wrote hymns, and published, in 1814, *Ychydig o hymnau newyddion yn bennaf at wasanaeth Undodiaid* (J. Harris, Carmarthen) - the preface of seven pages is informative. See *Yr Ymfynnydd*, February 1930.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Monthly Repository, 1811, 683 ff. (Lyons), and 1816, 680 ff. (Wright)

Yr Ymfynnydd, 1884, 123 and 279 (and cf. 1859, 195)

Yr Ymfynnydd, 1930, 21

A History of Carmarthenshire, ii, 248-9 (but correct 'Penmaen' to Pant-maen) and 247

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