

REES, OWEN (1717 - 1768), Independent minister

Name: Owen Rees
Date of birth: 1717
Date of death: 1768
Spouse: Mary Rees
Child: Josiah Rees
Gender: Male
Occupation: Independent minister
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born in 1717 in the Cefn-arthen district, near Llandovery. When Cefn-arthen congregation was rent by theological differences, the Calvinistic party formed a church (incorporated by **Edmund Jones** in 1740) at Clun-pentan; Owen Rees was one of its members. He went to school at Pen-twyn under **Samuel Jones** (fl. 1715-64) - in his last months there he was joined by **Thomas Morgan** (1720 - 1799). It is fairly clear that he had been invited to take charge of Clun-pentan in 1741, for a letter of 7 August (*T.L.* 362) from **Edward Jones** to **Howel Harris** names Rees as a Dissenting minister favourable to Methodism; but he was not ordained till March 1742; 9 March says **Thomas Morgan's** diary (regretting his inability to attend 'my dear friend's ordination') and the Cilgwyn church book (*Cofiadur*, 1923, 30), but 11 March according to *Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru*. During his pastorate, the congregation built a meeting-house at Pentre-ty-gwyn. In 1756 he left, to become pastor at Aberdare. His predecessor there had been a Calvinist, and as far as is known Rees, too, was a Calvinist at that time; but it is clear that he and his church afterwards became Arminian; **Edmund Jones** in 1789 speaks of Rees's 'backsliding'. He died 14 March 1768, and was buried in the old Aberdare churchyard; two acrostic verses by his eventual successor in the pastorate, **Edward Evan** appear on his tombstone. His widow, Mary, married again, and lived to be 100 - see her obituary in the *Monthly Repository*, 1818, 143. **Josiah Rees** was their son.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru, iii, 583, 588-9

The Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, 1946-7, 125-6, 145

and the other references given above

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