

## RICHARDS, JEDEDIAH (1784? - 1838), hymnist and itinerant bookseller

**Name:** Jedediah Richards

**Date of birth:** 1784?

**Date of death:** 1838

**Gender:** Male

**Occupation:** hymnist and itinerant bookseller

**Area of activity:** Business and Industry; Literature and Writing; Music; Poetry; Printing and Publishing; Religion

**Author:** Evan David Jones

a remarkable character who lived for the greater part of his life at Tan-yr-esgair near Ffald-y-brenin, Llan-y-crwys, Carmarthenshire. He described himself as a ' free practising Christian ' and ' peripatetic philosopher.' He published ballads and pamphlets, sold books, and collected subscriptions for publications and periodicals. He travelled extensively in Wales and amassed a store of information about Welsh literature. He inaugurated a ' Christian Singing School ' at Llandovery, 29 December 1819. From 1821 to 1823 he kept what he called a ' Free Christian Practice-Schools ' at Carmarthen and other places. He was buried in S. Peter's churchyard, Lampeter, 9 March 1838, aged 54. His first publication was on comparative religion - *Hanes Crefyddau'r Byd* (Carmarthen, 1820). He described his singing school in a sheet entitled *Cyhoeddiad neu Hyfforddiad ar Reolau yr Ysgol Ganu i Gristion* (Trefriw, 1821). In 1824 he published, at Aberystwyth, a four-page prospectus of his ' Free Christian Practice-Schools ' under the bilingual title - *A Publication of the Purposes and Articles of the Free Christian Practice-School, in sundry Places, by Jedeiah Richard, T - r. 1820. Cyhoeddiad o Reolau neu Hyfforddiadau yr Ysgol er Rhydd-Ymarfer Crist'nogaidd. Gan Jedeiah Richard, Ffald-y-Brenin, Hyfforddwr ac Addysgwr yr Ysgol er Rhydd-Ymarfer Cristianogol, yn Nghaerfyrddin a Lleoedd ereill, 1821, 1822, 1823*. He published a collection of hymns, including his own compositions, entitled *Diddanwch y Pererinion* (Carmarthen, 1825). The following books and pamphlets are also attributed to him: *Cynghorion Da a buddiol ... ynghyd a Hymnau* (Carmarthen, 1823); *Marwnad David Evans, Morfa* (Caernarvon, 1825); *Marwnad ... Ebenezer Morris, Blaen y Wern, Troed yr Aur* (Caernarvon, 1825), *Golwg ar Ddrych y Greadigaeth* (Aberystwyth, 1826); *Hanes Ymneillduwyr Protestanaidd* (Carmarthen, 1826); *Palmer's Catechism* (Carmarthen, 1827); *Casgliad o Hymnau, sef Pleser y Pererinion* (Cardigan, 1827); *Cofiant byr D. Dafis, Castell Hywel* (Carmarthen, 1827); *Hanes cywir am Lofruddiaeth Hannah Davies* (Aberystwyth, 1829); *Addysg ac Amddiffyniad* (Carmarthen, 1832); and *Marwnad Ebenezer Richards* (Carmarthen, 1837). [Dr. Timothy Richard](#) (1845 - 1919) was his nephew.

### Author

Evan David Jones, (1903 - 1987)

### Sources

*Seren Gomer*, 1838, 157

*Cymru (O.M.E.)*, xxxiii, 18

*Y Diwygiwr*, 1838, 126

N.L.W., a copy of the *Catalogue of Printed Literature in the Welsh Department, Cardiff Free Libraries* (1898) (with manuscript additions by J. H. D.)

Lampeter parish register

NLW MS9721

R. D. Griffith, *Hanes canu cynulleidfaoel Cymru* (Cardiff 1948), 54-5

*Y Tyst*, 10 May 1951.

### Additional Links

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