

ROWLAND, DANIEL (1713-1790), Methodist cleric

Name: Daniel Rowland
Date of birth: 1713
Date of death: 1790
Spouse: Elinor Rowland (née Davies)
Child: Nathaniel Rowland
Child: John Rowland
Parent: Janet Rowland (née Thomas)
Parent: Daniel Rowland
Gender: Male
Occupation: Methodist cleric
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Gomer Morgan Roberts

Born at Pantybeudy, Nantcwnlle, Cardiganshire, son of Daniel and Janet Rowland - his father holding the living of Nantcwnlle and Llan-geitho. According to tradition, he was educated at Hereford grammar school. He was ordained deacon in 1734 and priest in 1735, and became his brother John's curate in the above-mentioned places. In 1734 he married Eleanor Davies of Caer-llugest. He experienced a profound spiritual conviction under the ministry of **Griffith Jones**, c. 1735, and began to thunder against the people's sins. On the advice of **Philip Pugh** he modified his style and preached grace rather than the law. He began to travel up and down the country, and in 1737 met **Howel Harris**; the result was that, before long, these two had joined forces to push forward the great Methodist revival in Wales. Disagreement arose between him and **Harris**, against whom he published, in 1750, *Ymddiddan rhwng Methodist Uniawngred ac un Cyfeiliornus*. In 1752 there was a complete split between them and he now became the leader of 'Rowland's people,' as his followers were known. In 1760 his brother was drowned at Aberystwyth and the revivalist's son was given the living of Llangeitho. For some time he was his son's curate and built a meeting-house near the parish church for his own services, but c. 1763 he was, for some reason or other, deprived of his curacy. In 1767 the parishioners of Nantcwnlle vainly appealed for his return. From that time on he chose to stay with his people in the 'New Church' at Llangeitho, although he was offered the comfortable living of Newport, Pembrokeshire, in 1769. He died 16 October 1790, and was buried at Llangeitho 20 October, 'at the age of 77,' according to the parish register.

Daniel Rowland was, above all, a preacher, and for a long time made Llangeitho the Mecca of Welsh Methodists. Thousands flocked there from every part on Communion Sunday, and he exercised a profound influence on the spiritual life of his generation. Small books of his sermons were published in 1739, 1762, 1772 (two volumes), and 1775. Some of them were translated into English and were published in 1774, 1775, and 1788. He also wrote a number of hymns for the early collections, such as *Llwybur Hyffordd i'r Cymry*, 1740, and *Sail, Dibenion, etc.*, 1742. Six of his hymns will be found at the end of *Marw i'r Ddeddf, etc.*, 1743, nineteen in *Hymnau Duwiol, etc.*, 1744, and he published a small collection of *Hymnau Duwiol* in 1745. His last collection was published in 1772 under the title *Pum Pregeth ac Amryw o Hymnau*. He was a pioneer of the Welsh hymn before **William Williams of Pantycelyn** had begun to write hymns. He translated some English books into Welsh, e.g. Bunyan's *Holy War*, 1744; *Acelandama*, 1759; Wetherall's *Fifteen Sermons*, 1762; and the elder Thomas Boston's *The Crook in the Lot*, 1769.

His eldest son was

JOHN ROWLAND (1735 - 1815)

Born 14 October 1735, ordained deacon, 1757, and priest, 1758. In 1760 he was given the living of Llangeitho. He went to Jesus College, Oxford, in 1757; Foster does not say that he graduated (incidentally, he calls his father 'John' and gives the date of his admission as 1767); yet he is described as M.A. He was curate at S. Mary's, Shrewsbury, in 1761, and curate of Clive, 1783-1810. He was a master at Shrewsbury school, 1771-98. He died 28 November 1815. His wife was Mary, daughter of the Rev. William Gorsuch of Shrewsbury.

Two of his sons may be mentioned:

WILLIAM GORSUCH ROWLAND (1770 - 1851)

vicar of S. Mary's, Shrewsbury, and prebendary of Lichfield.

DANIEL ROWLAND (1778 - 1839)

antiquary, patron of the fine arts, and philanthropist.

Another of his sons was **Nathaniel Rowland**.

Author

Reverend Gomer Morgan Roberts, (1904 - 1993)

Sources

J. Owen, *Hanes bywyd a gweinidogaeth y Parchedig Daniel Rowlands, (gynt o Langeitho), ynghyd a chofiant byr am yr enwogion canlynol, sef William Salesbury, William Morgan, Richard Davies, Richard Parry, Dr. Davies, o Fallwyd, Archddiacon Prys, Rowland Heylin, Syr Thomas Myddleton, 1839* (English ed. 1848)

M. Davies, *Cofiant y Parch. Daniel Rowland* (1871)

D. Worthington, *Cofiant y Parch. Daniel Rowland, Llangeitho* (Lampeter 1905)

J. Morgan Jones and W. Morgan, *Y Tadau Methodistaidd (1895-1897)*, i, 41-70

D. J. Odwyn Jones, *Daniel Rowland, Llangeitho* (Llandysul 1938)

Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Hanes y Methodistaidd Calfinaidd, vii, 34; xii, 41-72, 111; xiv, 90; xix, 125; xx, 155; xxvi, 36; xxviii, 165; xxix, 33; xxx, 80

Heddiw, iii, 378

Y Cymmrodor, xxii, 62

Archaeologia Cambrensis, xcix, 151

Horsfall-Turner, *Walks and Wanderings in County Cardigan* (1902), 254-7

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

The National Library of Wales Journal, i, 167

Episcopal Registers and *The Records of the Church in Wales at the National Library of Wales*

Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses: the members of the University of Oxford* - the points raised in the article should be noted, but the date of admission and the connection with Shrewsbury school and with W. G. Rowland suggests that this is the man he had in mind; 1767 is probably a misprint

Further Reading

Owen Jones, *Some of the great preachers of Wales* (London 1885)

Wikipedia article: [Daniel Rowland \(preacher\)](#)

Images

NLW: [The Revd. Daniel Rowland](#)

Robert Bowyer, [Daniel Rowlands, Llangeitho](#)

J. Bailey, [Y Parch Daniel Rowlands Llangeitho Bu farw Hydref 16eg 1790 yn 77 oed](#)

James Fittler, [The Revd. Daniel Rowland, of Langeitho, who departed this life Octr: 16: aged 77](#)

John Thomas, [Er cof am y diweddar Barch. Daniel Rowlands, Llangeitho bu farw Hyd: 16. 1790, yn 77 mlwyd oed](#)

Works

Daniel Rowlands, *Ychydig o hymnau yn ychwaneg* (Caerfyrddin 1773)

Daniel Rowlands, Peter Williams, *Pumtheng araith ar amryw destynau* (Caerfyrddin 1762)

Daniel Rowlands, Morris Davies (ed.), *Deuddeg pregeth ar bynciau ymarferol... hefyd cofiant yr awdwr, ynghydag attodiad, yn cynnwys gweddillion amrywiol o'i waith, a marwnadau coffadwriaethol iddo* (Dolgellau 1876)

Sound and Film

Eryn Mant White: [Cofio Daniel Rowland Llangeitho](#)

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