

SIDDONS, SARAH (1755 - 1831), actress

Name: Sarah Siddons
Date of birth: 1755
Date of death: 1831
Spouse: William Siddons
Parent: Sarah Kemble (née Ward)
Parent: Roger Kemble
Gender: Female
Occupation: actress
Area of activity: Performing Arts
Author: Cecil John Layton Price

Born 5 July 1755 at ' The Shoulder of Mutton ' (now ' The Siddons'), Brecon, the eldest of eleven children of Roger Kemble and Sarah Ward. Both parents were members of John Ward's band of strolling players that had recently performed at Brecon. The company continued to play on both sides of the Welsh border, and Sarah's early years were spent with them. William Siddons, a Walsall man who had played in the Chester theatre in May 1772, joined Kemble's company soon afterwards, but his wish to marry Sarah was opposed by her parents and by a Brecon gentleman, named Evans. Siddons appealed in verse to the Brecon audience and was dismissed from the company. He married Sarah Kemble at Coventry on 26 November 1773. Mrs. Siddons's successful career is well known - a detailed account is given in the sources at the end of this article. She died from erysipelas on 8 June 1831. After her early years, her connections with Wales were limited to occasional visits to Brynbellia, in the vale of Clwyd, the home of her friend, [Mrs. Piozzi](#). Her sister [Julia Anne Hatton](#), and her brother [Charles Kemble](#), are separately noted.

Author

Cecil John Layton Price, (1915 - 1991)

Sources

Register of S. Mary's, Brecon

Adam's Weekly Courant, 19 May 1772

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

T. Campbell, *Life of Mrs. Siddons* (London 1834), 1839

Yvonne French, *Mrs. Siddons, Tragic Actress* (London 1936), 1936

Cecil Price, *The English Theatre in Wales in the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries* (Cardiff 1948) (University of

Wales Press, 1948)

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Sarah Siddons](#)

Additional Links

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Wikidata: [Q234746](#)

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