

# THOMAS, ROBERT JERMAIN (1840 - 1866), missionary pioneer of the London Missionary Society

**Name:** Robert Jermain Thomas  
**Date of birth:** 1840  
**Date of death:** 1866  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** missionary pioneer of the London Missionary Society  
**Area of activity:** Religion  
**Author:** Evan Lewis Evans

Born 7 September 1840 at Rhayader, Radnorshire; his father was a Congregational minister at that place and later at Hanover, Monmouthshire. He served as a teacher at Oundle in 1856, and matriculated in the University of London. He offered himself to the missionary field, studied at New College, London, and graduated in the University (B.A.). Ordained in 1863, he sailed for his appointment in Shanghai. He visited Korea in 1865 and gained some knowledge of its language. In 1866 he was given charge of the Anglo-Chinese school in Peking, but later he offered to join in an expedition to Korea, when he and all the passengers and crew were captured by the Koreans and put to death. He succeeded in throwing some of the Bibles on to the shore, and these were read with effect. In 1931 a 'Robert Jermain Thomas Memorial Church' was built near the spot where he died; this memorial was erected by the natives.

## Author

Reverend Dr Evan Lewis Evans, (1898 - 1978)

## Sources

E. Lewis Evans, *Cymru a'r Gymdeithas Genhadol, sef hanes ei Chychwyn* (1945)

## Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Robert Jermain Thomas](#)

## Additional Links

VIAF: [121145067402766630405](#)

Wikidata: [Q7346107](#)

**Published date:** 1959

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