

THOMAS, JOHN (fl. 1689-1712), early minister of the Tivy-side Independents

Name: John Thomas
Gender: Male
Occupation: minister of the Tivy-side Independents
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

He lived at Llwyn-y-grawys, Llangoedmor, near Cardigan; nothing is known of his family, and little of his career; unsupported tradition makes him a university man. He was a member of a mixed (Independent and Baptist) congregation on Tivy-side; one of the houses at which it gathered for worship was Rhosgilwern (Kilgerran), which is thought to have been the home of [Jenkin Jones](#) (died 1689). As John Thomas's signature is the first of those attesting [Jenkin Jones](#)'s will, it is possible that he was already co-pastor with him. But by that time, the question of infant Baptism was disquieting local Dissenters, and a public debate on that subject was arranged (1691 or 1692) between John Thomas and [John Jenkins](#) (1656? - 1733) of Rhydwylym. The upshot was that the Baptist members of the mixed congregation left it and became members at Rhydwylym. In 1709, Thomas localised his congregation in a new meeting-house at Llechryd. He was a member of the 'synods' which met in an attempt to compose the famous controversy at Henllan Amgoed, Carmarthenshire - see [Owen, Jeremy](#)); it is clear that his influence was great, for the leaders of both parties speak of him with great respect. His name does not appear in [John Evans](#)'s list of ministers (c. 1715), and a deed resolving the property of his widow gives the date of his death as December 1712.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru, iv, 154-5, 158

Josiah Thomas Jones, *Geiriadur Bywgraffyddol o Enwogion Cymru (Aberdâr 1867-70)*, ii, 585

Mathias Maurice, 'Byr a Chywir Hanes,' in *Y Cofiadur*, 1925, 45

Jeremy Owen, *Golwg ar y Beiau y sydd yn yr hanes a brintwyd ynghylch pedair neu bum mlynedd i nawr, ym mherthynas i'r rhwygiad a wnaethbwyd yn Eglwys Henllan ... 1707, 1708, 1709* (Carmarthen 1732-3), pp. 43, 45-7 in the University of Wales reprint

NLW Clynfiew deeds, Box 6, 463 (information from James Lloyd)

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Wikidata: [Q20821176](#)

Published date: 1959

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