

## WALTERS, THOMAS (1729-1794), an Independent minister

**Name:** Thomas Walters  
**Date of birth:** 1729  
**Date of death:** 1794  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Independent minister  
**Area of activity:** Religion  
**Author:** Robert Thomas Jenkins

who lived at his ancestral home, Pant-yr-hesg, Mynydd-islwyn, Monmouth. It is not known when he started to preach; he was obviously too young to have been recruited by [Howel Harris](#) during his mission to that neighbourhood, but it is equally clear that it was a revival of Methodistical nature which influenced him, for [Philip David](#) censures him time and again in his diary for ' ranting and roaring ' while preaching. In 1765, he built a meeting-house almost on the threshold of [Philip David's](#) old church at Pen-main; the chapel was generally known by the very Methodistical name, Tynwydd (the New House) - its official name being Bethel - and [Williams of Pantycelyn](#), [David Williams](#) of Llyswyrny (1717 - 1792), and other Methodist preachers came there to preach. About 1765, Thomas Walters was ordained minister (by the congregation itself, following the example of New Inn - see under [Morgan John Lewis](#)), as an Independent, of course. He died 25 May 1794, at the age of 65. Bethel continued to flourish for some time after the death of Thomas Walters, but about 1811 a minority seceded and founded the Methodist chapel at Gelli-groes.

The direct successor of Thomas Walters as minister of Bethel (until 1811) was his nephew, also

### THOMAS WALTERS (1761 - 1821),

who was already (1793) minister of New Inn. He, too, was more of a Methodist than an Independent until 1793, and about 1817 he returned to the Methodist connexion. He died 2 November 1821 at Cwm-dows, Mynydd-islwyn.

### Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

### Sources

*Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru*, i, 90-2, 84-5

*Y Cofiadur*, 1935, note 73

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