

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-islywn, 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, Tynewydd (the New House) - its official name being Bethel - and **Williams of Pantycelyn**, **David Williams** of Llyswrny (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-islywn.

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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