

ROBERTS, JOHN (Minimus; 1808 - 1880), Calvinistic Methodist minister, and author

Name: John Roberts
Pseudonym: Minimus
Date of birth: 1808
Date of death: 1880
Spouse: Elizabeth Roberts (née Milnes)
Parent: Richard Roberts
Gender: Male
Occupation: Calvinistic Methodist minister, and author
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Religion
Author: Derwyn Jones

Second son of Richard Roberts, a ship's chandler, of Liverpool. He became elder (1827?) of Bedford Street C.M. church, began to preach in 1830, and was ordained in 1857 at the Dolgellau Association. He married, in 1849, Elizabeth Milnes, of Oswestry (died 1865). His youngest sister, Ann, became the second wife of the [Rev. David Charles](#) (1803 - 1880). While continuing in the employ of sail shipping company, he became, in 1840, the unpaid secretary of the newly-formed C.M. Foreign Missions Society (see [Thomas Jones](#), 1810 - 1849); from 1861 till his wife's death he lived near Mold.

In 1866 his connection with the C.M. Missions was severed, and he removed to Edinburgh, as secretary of the 'Scottish Sabbath Observance Society'. He died there 6 January 1880, and was buried in S. James's cemetery, Liverpool. A daughter survived him.

Minimus wrote much for the C.M. periodicals, e.g. *Y Traethodydd* and *Y Drysorfa* - he edited the latter in 1846, and afterwards, jointly with [Roger Edwards](#), till 1852. With [Richard Williams](#) (1802 - 1842) he edited *Y Pregethwr*, 1835-8. He collaborated with [John Jones](#) (1790 - 1855) in a biography of [John Elias](#), and wrote two other biographies; he also wrote hymns, one of which, beginning 'Bywha dy waith ...' which first appeared in *Y Drysorfa* in 1840, is still sung.

Author

Derwyn Jones

Sources

Y Drysorfa, 1840 and 1880

Y Goleuad, 17 January 1880

J. Hughes Morris, *Hanes Methodistiaeth Liverpool* (Liverpool 1929-1932), i, and *The history of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists' foreign mission to the end of the year 1904* (1910)

John Roberts, *Lizzi Milnes; a Memoir of a Beloved Wife, with selections from her letters* (Edinburgh 1876) (Edinburgh, 1876)

J. Thickens, *Emynau a'u Hawduriad* (1945) (1945)

Published date: 1959

Article Copyright: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC-RUU/1.0/> 

The Dictionary of Welsh Biography is provided by The National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. It is free to use and does not receive grant support. A donation would help us maintain and improve the site so that we can continue to acknowledge Welsh men and women who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Find out more on our [sponsorship page](#).

