

EVANS, HOWELL THOMAS (1877 - 1950), historian and schoolmaster

Name: Howell Thomas Evans
Date of birth: 1877
Date of death: 1950
Spouse: Gwenllian Evans (née Howells)
Parent: Mary Evans
Parent: John Evans
Gender: Male
Occupation: historian and schoolmaster
Area of activity: Education; History and Culture
Author: Thomas Iorwerth Ellis

Born 6 November 1877, at Cwmbwrla, near Swansea, the second son of John Evans, steelworker, and Mary his wife. Educated at Swansea Grammar School, the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and St. John's College, Cambridge, he held the degrees of B.A. (Wales), B.A. (London), and M.A. (Cantab.) After teaching at Wellington College and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Carmarthen, he was on the staff of the High School for Boys, Cardiff, from 1905 to 1917. In that year he was appointed Headmaster of the County School, Aberaeron, Cardiganshire, and held the post until his retirement in 1944. He wrote a number of history books, among them *History of England and Wales* (1909, 1910); *Making of Modern Wales* (1912); *Wales and the Wars of the Roses* (1915); *Once upon a time* (1929); *At Such and Such a time* (1931); *Long long ago* (1932); *The Age of Expansion* (1933). In 1940 he was President of the Welsh Secondary Schools Association, and for a period he was one of the representatives of the Headmasters of Secondary Schools upon the University of Wales Court.

Howell Evans was a man of wide interests, and refused to be confined within the limits of a teacher's professional life, considerable though his output of historical text-books was. In his presidential address to the Welsh Secondary Schools' Association (1940) he expounded his educational ideas, emphasising particularly the importance of individuality and the need to avoid the imposition of a colourless uniformity upon every pupil. He poured scorn on the prevailing tendency towards centralisation and rationalisation, and commended the public schools of England for maintaining the principle of independence in education; he gave it as his opinion that the powers of educational administrators were increasing, and should be curtailed. He was an enthusiastic gardener and an expert on chrysanthemums. He married in 1904, Gwenllian Howells, of Briton Ferry, Glamorganshire, and they had four sons. He died at Aberaeron, 30 April 1950 and was buried in Cardiff.

Author

Thomas Iorwerth Ellis, (1899 - 1970)

Sources

Information from his family

Welsh Secondary Schools Review, 26, 1940

Lyn Evans, *Portrait of a Pioneer a biography of Howell Thomas Evans* (Llandybie 1982)

Images

NLW: Howell T. Evans with colleagues

NLW: Howell Thomas Evans with his elder sons

NLW: Howell T. Evans fishing in the Aeron river

NLW: Howell T. Evans fishing in the Aeron river

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