

EVANS, JOHN (1768 - c. 1812), topographical writer

Name: John Evans
Date of birth: 1768
Date of death: c. 1812
Parent: Benjamin Evans
Gender: Male
Occupation: topographical writer
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Travel and Exploration
Author: Frederick John North

probably the son of Benjamin Evans, clergyman, of Lydney, Gloucestershire. (He is sometimes confused with John Evans, a Bristol schoolmaster who wrote topographical works relating to Bristol and philosophical treatises.) Evans matriculated at Jesus College, Oxford, 1789 (B.A. 1792). Little is known about him beyond his writings - four works descriptive of and based on tours in Wales. They were (a) *A Tour through part of North Wales in ... 1798 and at other times: principally undertaken with a view to Botanical researches in that alpine country; interspersed with observations on its Scenery, Agriculture, Manufactures* (London, 1800, with other editions in 1802 and 1804); (b) *Letters written during a Tour through South Wales in ... 1803 and at other times*, 1804; (c) 'Monmouthshire' in vol. xi of *The Beauties of England and Wales*, 1810; and (d) 'North Wales' in vol. xvii of the same series, 1812; he was to have written on South Wales but died after completing a small part of the work. Although full of interesting detail, his works seem to have been based more upon reading than upon observation. His account of coal-mining methods in Pembrokeshire, in his *Tour through South Wales*, 1804, for example, was a paraphrase, in 19th century wording, of what **George Owen** of Henllys had written two centuries before. He died c. 1812, i.e. before the publication in 1815 of vol. xvii of *The Beauties of England and Wales*.

Author

Frederick John North, (1889 - 1968)

Sources

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

T. R. Roberts, *Eminent Welshmen: a short biographical dictionary of Welshmen... from the earliest times to the present* (1908)

T. Rees, *The beauties of England and Wales* (1815), xvii

T. Rees, *A topographical and historical description of South Wales* (1815), v-vi

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [John Evans](#)

Additional Links

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