

CADWALADR, DAFYDD (1752 - 1834), Calvinistic Methodist preacher

Name: Dafydd Cadwaladr
Date of birth: 1752
Date of death: 1834
Spouse: Judith Cadwaladr (née Humphreys)
Child: Bridget Cadwaladr
Child: Elizabeth Davis
Parent: Catrin Cadwaladr
Parent: Dafydd Cadwaladr
Gender: Male
Occupation: Calvinistic Methodist preacher
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Second son of Cadwaladr and Catherine Dafydd, of Erw Ddinmael, Llangwm, Denbighshire; the family had lived on the holding for generations, and was typical of the region, delighting in 'interludes' and knitting-meetings. Dafydd was himself a versifier in his youth, but had to teach himself reading by noting the letters on sheep's backs and then picking his way through the *Prayer Book*; he became a great reader and was wont to recite the *Bardd Cwsc* and the *Pilgrim's Progress* at the knitting-meetings. After being a farm boy in several places, he became (c. 1771) a servant at Fedw Arian, Bala, under the preacher **William Evans**, who had already attracted him to Methodism.

About 1777 he married Judith Humphreys (or 'Erasmus'; she died c. 1795-6). Of his nine children, the four sons died before him; two of the daughters were **Elizabeth Davis** 'of Balaclava' and Bridget (1795? - 1878), who was maid to **lady Llanover** in London and at Llanover, and is buried at 'Capel Ed' near Llanover (*Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Hanes y Methodistiaid Calffinaidd*, June 1918); they were born at Penrhiw, a farm which Dafydd Cadwaladr rented from the **Rev. Simon Lloyd**.

About 1780 he began preaching. He knew his *Bible* by heart; his daughter tells us that he composed his sermons while knitting 'very fast'; and as he was an untiring walker (even to London) he became a favourite preacher throughout Wales. He was a great friend of **Thomas Charles**, and published elegies on the death of Mr. and Mrs. Charles (*Ehediadau y Meddwl*, Bala, 1816). He died 9 July 1834; he was buried at Llany Cil.

Practically everything written on Dafydd Cadwaladr derives ultimately from the anonymous *Ychydig Gofnodau ar ... Dafydd Cadwaladr*, Bala, 1836; but there are also sidelights upon him and upon his environment in his daughter **Elizabeth's** autobiography.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Ychydig gofnodau am fywyd a marwolaeth Dafydd Cadwaladr, yr hwn a fu farw Gorphenaf 9, 1834, wedi bod yn bregethwr llafurus ym mysg y Trefnyddion Calffinaidd 52 mlynedd (Bala 1836)

Further Reading

J. Morgan Jones and W. Morgan, *Y Tadau Methodistiaidd (1895-1897)*, ii, 98-108

Wikipedia Article: [Dafydd Cadwaladr](#)

Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q20732737](#)

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