

BENNETT, RICHARD (1860 - 1937), Calvinistic Methodist historian

Name: Richard Bennett
Date of birth: 1860
Date of death: 1937
Parent: Jane Bennett (née Richards)
Parent: Edward Bennett
Gender: Male
Occupation: Calvinistic Methodist historian
Area of activity: History and Culture; Literature and Writing; Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born 21 September 1860, at Hendre, Cwm Pennant, Llanbryn-mair, son of Edward Bennett, farmer, and his wife Jane (Richards), who was of the same stock as **Richard Lumley**. He had only a primary education, and lived on his native farm till 1914, when he retired (owing to deafness) to Bangor, and afterwards to Caersws, where he died 13 August 1937, unmarried.

Bennett had early shown a taste for historical inquiry, and had copied the parish registers of his district. In 1899, he began writing in the *Traethodydd*. In 1905 he visited Trevecka to examine the manuscripts there, and thenceforth he spent his winters at Trevecka, returning to his farm with each spring. It was he who made the copies of the Trevecka letters for printing in the supplements of the *C.M. Historical Journal*; to the same journal he contributed numerous articles. He published the following books: *Blynyddoedd Cyntaf Methodistiaeth* (Caernarvon, 1909), *Methodistiaeth Trefaldwyn Uchaf* (Bala, 1929), *Methodistiaeth Trefglwys* (Llanidloes, 1933), *Methodistiaeth Cemaes* (Llanidloes, 1934), *Methodistiaeth Caersws* (Llanidloes, 1938). After his death, some of his addresses were published, with a short memoir, in *Cyfral Goffa Richard Bennett* (Bala, 1940).

Bennett was a researcher and historian of unusual distinction, especially when his total lack of training is remembered. Not only was his detailed knowledge of the Trevecka MSS. well-nigh miraculous, but he had a very wide perspective of Methodist history. No one was more deserving than he of the honorary degree of M.A. conferred upon him by the University of Wales in 1932.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Cyfral Goffa Richard Bennett, M.A., 1860-1937: hanesydd, llenor a sant (Bala 1940) and further references therein

Y Llenor: cylchgrawn chwarterol dan nawdd cymdeithasau Cymraeg y colegau cenedlaethol, Winter number, 1939

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