

DAVIES, OWEN (1719 - 1792), Independent minister

Name: Owen Davies
Date of birth: 1719
Date of death: 1792
Gender: Male
Occupation: Independent minister
Area of activity: Religion
Author: John Oliver Stephens

Born in a small cottage, where there was a fulling mill, on the Erwyon estate near Ffald-y-brenin, Carmarthenshire. As a young man he joined the Independent church at Crofft-y-cyff, began to preach at the age of 24, was ordained there in 1743, and laboured there acceptably as minister and schoolmaster until 1765, when he was called to Capel y Graig, Tre-lech, Carmarthenshire. There, he was very successful for over twenty years.

In 1787 dissension broke out in Glandŵr church, Pembrokeshire, concerning both doctrine and discipline. Some were of the opinion that the minister, **John Griffiths** (1731 - 1811), was too much of a Calvinist. Seventeen members who showed a tendency to Arminianism were excommunicated by **Griffiths**. Owen Davies considered the discipline inflicted too severe and indicated that he was prepared to take them into his church at Tre-lech. The congregation, however, opposed this, although there was never any suggestion that he himself was inclined to anti-Calvinist views. A few left the church with him and he preached to them at his own house at Dinas. In 1787, when Rhyd-y-parc chapel was built, between Tre-lech and St Clears, and about nine miles from the latter place, he took over the ministry there and remained there until his death, 6 July 1792. The congregation gradually became Arians and then Unitarians. Towards the end of his life he showed a desire to heal the breach. He expressed a wish to be buried in the graveyard at Capel y Graig, and this was done although a grave had been opened for him at Rhyd-y-parc. A new chapel was erected at Rhyd-y-parc in 1860 when **Titus Evans** was minister, but the congregation diminished and it was closed in the nineties.

Author

Reverend Professor **John Oliver Stephens**, (1880 - 1957)

Sources

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