

ELLIS, JOHN (died 1665), cleric and quasi-Puritan

Name: John Ellis Date of death: 1665 Gender: Male Occupation: cleric and quasi-Puritan Area of activity: Religion Author: Thomas Richards

Rector of Dolgelley from 1646 to 1665. Born, as his will states, at Gwylan, Maentwrog, Meironnydd, he was educated at Oxford [at his matriculation he is described as 'of Landecwyn '], becoming Fellow of Jesus College in 1628 and D.D. of S. Andrews in 1634. He was rector of Wheatfield (Oxfordshire) till he was nominated by the Commissioners for the Great Seal to the living of Dolgelley, at a time when the religious policy of Parliament was wielded by Puritan lords, the Committee for Plundered Ministers, and the Westminster Assembly, all of them orthodox, moderate, more or less Presbyterian in tendency, before extremer men came into power with Pride's Purge and the Second Civil War. The migration from Oxfordshire to his native Merioneth had one great advantage - the substantial emoluments of the new promotion, which included the natural revenue of the rectory ('nearly £100 a year,' it was reputed in 1648), together with a reserved rent of £40 per annum from the rectory of Towyn and £80 from the prebend of Vaynol allowed him as 'augmentations' by the Puritan authorities. Ellis was named one of the twenty-five ' approvers ' under the Propagation Act of 1650; his name is occasionally found attesting certificates for the Protectorate Triers; he was prominent in advocating the institution of a college for the training of Puritan The vacuum of the Dream of the province to the protect of the province to the the use of the Prayer Book). He died in 1665, having in his will placed a tenenent in the parish of Llanaber (Barmouth) in the hands of his trustees for the yearly maintenance of an able and godly schoolmaster at Dolgelley to teach twelve children, boys, especially orphans, up to the age of 16; a provision which is usually taken to be the foundation of the Dolgelley grammar school.

Author

Thomas Richards, (1878 - 1962)

Sources

The Journals of the House of Lords, viii, 568 Bodleian MS. 325. 166 Lambeth MS 904 (iii, 124), 989 (190-1) Wales, a National Magazine for the English speaking parts of Wales, iii, 123-4 Endowed Charities Report, Merioneth (1895), sub Dolgelly information from Mr. John Lloyd, Llanbedr, Meironnydd

Further Reading

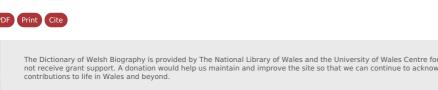
Wikipedia Article: John Ellis

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