

HARRIES (HARRIS, HARRY), JOHN (1722 - 1788), 'of Ambleston', Pembrokeshire, early Methodist exhorter

Name: John Harries
Date of birth: 1722
Date of death: 1788
Child: Evan Harries
Gender: Male
Occupation: early Methodist exhorter
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Not to be confused with [John Harris](#) (1704 - 1763) 'of S. Kennox.' Considering Harries's fame, it is curious how very few definite facts about him are available. He was at an early date in charge of a group of Societies in north Pembrokeshire, and became [Howel Davies](#)'s right-hand man; it is by no accident that Woodstock, the oldest Calvinistic Methodist chapel in Pembrokeshire, is in Ambleston parish. On the death of [Howel Davies](#) (1770), Harries (who was a well-to-do farmer) superintended the whole Methodist work in the county until the arrival of [Nathaniel Rowland](#); according to [William Gambold](#), 'he was one of the strictest and most approved of men, universally beloved'; and Rowland Hill thought very highly of him. He strove hard to stem the Moravian tide in Pembrokeshire: we find him in 1768 accusing the Brethren of 'taking away [Mr. Howell Davies](#)'s people,' and [Edward Oliver](#) reports that Harries remonstrated vigorously with him in 1770 'for coming among their people, as he called them' - though the two men lodged together at Treddafydd after preaching together, amicably enough, 'in the Methodist Meeting House.' He died at Newport, Pembrokeshire, 7 March 1788, when (according to his tombstone) 66 years of age. He had a son, EVAN HARRIES, who began to exhort in 1784, and was one of the thirteen South Wales exhorters ordained in 1811; he died 1819. Several of John Harries's descendants became ministers.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Moravian manuscript records at Haverfordwest

Methodistiaeth Cymru (1851â€“6), ii, 303-9

Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Hanes y Methodistiaid Calfinaidd, iv, nos. 1 and 2

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