

INGRAM, JAMES (died 1788), Methodist exhorter, and afterwards Independent minister

Name: James Ingram
Date of death: 1788
Gender: Male
Occupation: Methodist exhorter, and afterwards Independent minister
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

the date of his birth is unknown, but his home was Cwm Brith in Cefnlllys parish, Radnorshire (*Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Hanes y Methodistiaid Calfinaidd*, xxxv, 47). As a lad, he came under **Howel Harris's** influence, and in November 1742 (*Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Hanes y Methodistiaid Calfinaidd*, 24), at Erwood, it was arranged that he should be **Harris's** amanuensis and travelling-companion; it was he who, after 1743, took the minutes of the Associations, and much of his work as copyist of **Harris's** letters appears among the Trevecka records. He was also an exhorter, and indeed is remembered chiefly because he was 'pressed' for the army in 1744 (*Y Tadau Methodistiaid*, i, 222-3) - a common device for persecuting Methodist exhorters, but illegal when applied to Ingram, who was under-sized; strenuous exertions by **Harris**, by **Marmaduke Gwynne**, and by the countess of Huntingdon, procured his release and he resumed exhorting. The Trevecka letters include some forty letters by Ingram or to him, between January 1743 and July 1750. He parted company with **Harris** at the 'disruption' (1750); indeed, their correspondence becomes thin from 1747 onwards. A Moravian record at Haverfordwest (*Cymm.*, xlv, 34) tells us that Ingram became an Independent, and that he died as Independent pastor at Ludlow. This note, however, leaves a blank of fully twenty years in his career, for the pastor of Corve Street church at Ludlow in 1750 was a Jenkyn or Jenkins (he was a Welshman), and according to the 'Diary' of Leominster Moravian congregation (*Trafodion Cymdeithas Hanes Bedyddwyr Cymru*, 1935, 16) Jenkyn did not die till 1770; then (Eliot, *Congregationalism in Shropshire*, 102), 'the next pastor was Mr. Ingram of Maesgronnnin, Brecon' - Maesyronnen, Radnorshire, in fact - 'this pastor died in 1788, and was buried in the chapel yard.' But Ingram can hardly have been pastor of Maesyronnen, for the roll of pastors there is fairly continuous from 1748 to 1775 (*Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru*, ii, 528), and does not include his name. Possibly Ingram was a member of that (quasi-Methodist) congregation, and acted as lay-preacher there and in the surrounding countryside.

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