

JONES, LEWIS (1837 - 1904), pioneer in Patagonia, and writer

Name: Lewis Jones
Date of birth: 1837
Date of death: 1904
Spouse: Ellen Jones (née Griffith)
Child: Eluned Morgan
Gender: Male
Occupation: pioneer in Patagonia, and writer
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Travel and Exploration
Author: Richard Bryn Williams

Born at Caernarvon. He moved to Holyhead where, in conjunction with his fellow-printer [Evan Jones](#) (afterwards of Caernarvon) (1836 - 1915) he edited the *Pwnsh Cymraeg*. He then went to Liverpool where he became one of the leaders of the Welsh Colony movement.

In 1862 he was sent with [Capt. T. Love Jones-Parry](#) to explore Patagonia, and returned with a report so highly coloured as to be misleading. The result was that he persuaded Welsh emigrants to undertake the venture, and he and [Edwin Cynrig Roberts](#) were sent to prepare the way for the first contingent. The emigrants were disappointed, there was a quarrel, and after three months Jones left for Buenos Aires where he spent the next eighteen months working as a printer.

In 1867, however, when he heard that the Welsh colonists were proposing to leave Patagonia, he returned to that country and, by the exercise of his unusual gift of oratory, persuaded them to stay there. He was for a short time governor of Patagonia - the only Welshman ever to have been appointed by the government of Argentina to this post. But he was also on occasion thrown into prison for attempting to uphold the rights of the Welsh. He imported his own printing press and started two newspapers - *Ein Breiniad*, 1878, and *Y Dravod*, 1891; the latter is still being published. A lecture given before the Cymmrodorion in 1885, when he was visiting Wales, was subsequently published, and his book *Y Wladfa Gymreig* was published in 1898.

He had two daughters - [Eluned Morgan](#) and another who married Llwyd ap Iwan, son of [Michael D. Jones](#). Lewis Jones was a gallant leader in the Colony for thirty-five years, but he was heart-broken when the land was ravaged by the great floods of 1899. He died 24 November 1904 at the age of 68.

Author

Reverend Richard Bryn Williams, (1902 - 1981)

Sources

R. Bryn Williams, *Cymry Patagonia* (Aberystwyth 1942), 13, 20-31, 43-6, 53, 61-4

R. Bryn Williams, *Straeon Patagonia* (Aberystwyth 1946)

R. Bryn Williams, *Rhyddiaith y Wladfa* (Denbigh 1949)

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Lewis Jones](#)

Additional Links

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