

JONES, THOMAS (1742 - 1803), landscape painter

Name: Thomas Jones
Date of birth: 1742
Date of death: 1803
Spouse: Maria Jones (née Turnstaat)
Parent: Hannah Jones
Parent: Thomas Jones
Gender: Male
Occupation: landscape painter
Area of activity: Art and Architecture; Nature and Agriculture
Authors: Megan Ellis, Llewelyn Gwyn Chambers

Born 26 September 1742, second son of Thomas and Hannah Jones of Trevonon in Cefnlllys, Radnorshire. His parents moved to Pencerrig in Llanellwedd near Builth, which still remains the property of the family. He entered Christ College School at Brecon in 1753 and there first developed an interest in pictures and in drawing. He moved in 1758 to the school at Llanfyllin, Montgomeryshire, kept by **Jenkin Jenkins**, and proceeded thence to Jesus College, Oxford, where he matriculated 11 July 1759. It was intended that he should take holy orders, but on the death of John Hope, his mother's uncle, in 1761, he left Oxford and devoted himself to painting.

He entered William Shipley's drawing school in the Strand, London, then directed by Henry Pars, in November 1761, and in March 1763 he became Richard Wilson's pupil, agreeing to pay Wilson fifty guineas for two years' tuition. He was awarded premiums by the Society of Arts for figure drawing in 1764 and for landscape painting in 1767 and 1768, and was elected a member of the Incorporated Society of Artists in 1766.

For the following ten years Thomas Jones devoted himself to landscape painting in Wales and in London and other parts of England. His friends included Garrick, **Evan Lloyd** (1734 - 1776), Farington, and Francis Wheatley. He left for Italy in 1766 and settled in Rome, moving to Naples in 1780. His circle of friends in Italy included Towne, John Smith, Edward Pars, and Day, and he carried out a large number of commissions there.

He returned to England in 1783 with his wife, Maria, and two daughters, and continued to paint, avowedly at times imitating Wilson and Zuccarelli. On the death of his elder brother in 1787 he succeeded to the estate at Pencerrig and finally left London in 1769. He was elected high sheriff of Radnorshire in 1791 and a magistrate for the county in the following year.

Thomas Jones exhibited ten pictures at the Royal Academy between 1764 and 1798 and a large number at the Society of Artists' exhibitions. Some of his work was engraved and examples of his paintings are to be found in public and private collections. Many are still owned by the family. He died at Pencerrig in May 1803.

Authors

Megan Ellis, (1906 - 2001)

Dr Llewelyn Gwyn Chambers

Sources

Copy of 'Autobiographical Diary' lent by a member of the family

A. P. Oppé (ed.), *Memoirs of Thomas Jones, Penkerrig, Radnorshire* (Walpole Society 1951)

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

R. C. B. Oliver, *The family history of Thomas Jones the artist of Pencerrig, Radnorshire* (Llandysul 1970)

Further reading

Richard Veasey, *Thomas Jones Pencerrig: Artist, Traveller, Country Squire* (Talybont 2017)

Wikipedia Article: **Thomas Jones (artist)**

Images

National Museum Wales: **Thomas Jones (1742-1803)**, NMW A 82

Works

ArtUK: **Thomas Jones**

NLW Archives: **NLW MS 23812D: Memoirs of Thomas Jones, Pencerrig**

NLW Archives: **NLW MS 23811E: Day book of Thomas Jones, Pencerrig**

Sound and Film

Lona Mason: **Thomas Jones Pencerrig and Friends**

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