

## LEWIS, JOHN (GOMER) (1844? - 1914), Baptist minister and orator

**Name:** John (Gomer) Lewis  
**Date of birth:** 1844?  
**Date of death:** 1914  
**Parent:** John Lewis  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Baptist minister and orator  
**Area of activity:** Philanthropy; Performing Arts; Religion  
**Author:** William Caradoc Davies

Born June 1843 (1844?) at Pensarn, Llangeler, Carmarthenshire, son of John Lewis, a tradesman and Baptist deacon. He was baptized at the age of 14, grew to maturity under the ministry of **Benjamin Thomas** (Myfyr Emlyn), and began to preach in 1862. In 1864 he left the Newcastle Emlyn grammar school and went to Haverfordwest Baptist College. In 1867 he was ordained minister of Salem chapel, Maes-teg. New Salem was built, and by 1878 had admitted over 1,100 members. In March 1878 he went to Belle Vue, Swansea, and after the opening of Capel Gomer in March 1891 added the name 'Gomer' to his own. He was regarded by the poor as a great philanthropist, was celebrated as a preacher, and had no rival as a lecturer. In 1898 he was chairman of the Union of Welsh Baptists, the subject of his address on that occasion being 'Our Nation and our Religion.' He died 11 July 1914 at Bron-deg, Tre-fach, and was buried at Saron, Llangeler.

### Author

Reverend **William Caradoc Davies**, (1907 - 1983)

### Sources

*Seren Cymru*, 17 July 1914

T. Morgan, *Darlithiwr enwocaf Cymru sef y Parch J. Gomer Lewis, Abertawe* (Carmarthen 1911)

*Baptist Handbook*, 1915

### Images

NLW: Rev. Gomer Lewis D.D 10 years Chairman of the Swansea Board of Guardians 1905

J. Lambert, *Funeral procession of John (Gomer) Lewis*

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