

LLOYD, CHARLES (1766 - 1829), Unitarian minister and schoolmaster

Name: Charles Lloyd
Date of birth: 1766
Date of death: 1829
Parent: Letitia Lloyd (née Lloyd)
Parent: David Lloyd
Gender: Male
Occupation: Unitarian minister and schoolmaster
Area of activity: Education; Religion; Scholarship and Languages
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born 18 December 1766, fourth son of **David Lloyd** of Brynlllefrith (1724 - 1779). On his father's death he passed into the guardianship of his uncle John Lloyd of Coedlannau-fawr. In 1784 he went to 'Carmarthen' academy, at the time located at Swansea. In 1788, already 'a fairly high Arian,' he was called to Oat Street meeting at Evesham (a church which has had several Welsh pastors); he insisted, successfully, on administering communion without prior ordination, but when he went on to refuse christening infants his resignation was accepted. By this time he regarded himself as a General Baptist, and took charge of a General Baptist church at Ditchling (Sussex), where again he refused ordination. In 1792 he began to keep school, and in 1793 gave up his church and removed his school to Exeter, where he was quite successful. But in 1799 he took to farming at Coedlannau, and lost much money at it. Now a declared Unitarian, he sought to become co-pastor with **David Davis** of Castellhywel, at Llwynrhydowen, but **Davis** (an Arian) would have none of him - at that time. Arianism and the 'new' Unitarianism were in conflict (see the appendix to **R. J. Jones's Unitarian Students at Carmarthen**, and *A History of Carmarthenshire*, ii, 241-2). Unitarian sympathisers at Llwynrhydowen seceded, and in 1802 founded Unitarian churches at Pantdefaid and Capel-y-groes (see Lloyd's own article in the *Monthly Repository*, 1817, 740 sqq.) - this was the official beginning of Unitarianism in Cardiganshire, and in that sense Charles Lloyd was its 'father.' But in 1803 he removed to Palsgrave (Suffolk), to minister and to keep school. He received the LL.D. degree from Glasgow in 1809, removed his school to London in 1811, and died at Lampeter (while on a visit to Wales), 23 May 1829; he was buried at Llanwenog.

A man of great abilities, Lloyd, as the above account of him testifies, was a crank - intractable, ill-tempered, restless, with a biting tongue and a vitriolic pen. His autobiography, *Particulars of the Life of a Dissenting Minister*, is an odd book; it was published anonymously in 1813, and reprinted (by **George Eyre Evans**) in 1911, and is a valuable historical source; its descriptions of some of Lloyd's fellow-Arians and Unitarians are pretty scathing. Lloyd wrote frequently in the *Monthly Repository*, and published other works whose titles are given in Alexander Gordon's admirable article on him in *D.N.B.*

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Add to the above sources *Lloyd Letters (1754-96)* (1908) (ed. G. Eyre Evans), xxviii-xl, 35-42

T. Oswald Williams, *Hanes Cynulleidfaoedd Undodaidd Sir Aberteifi* (Llandysul 1930)

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Charles Lloyd](#)

Additional Links

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