

MORGAN, JENKIN died 1762), Independent minister

Name: Jenkin Morgan
Date of death: 1762
Gender: Male
Occupation: Independent minister
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

The date and place of his birth are unknown; **Thomas Rees** thought he had good grounds for placing it in the neighbourhood of Caerphilly; **Richard Bennett** (*Blynyddoedd Cyntaf Methodistiaeth*, 194-5) thought he hailed from the Vale of Neath, and added that he had been member of Blaen-gwrach congregation under **Henry Davies** (1696? - 1766). It should be noted, however, that his name does not appear in the list of Blaen-gwrach members in 1734, contained in **J. Rufus Williams's** reprint of ' *Henry Davies's Pocket-book* ' - and it may be significant that the place of his ordination was Watford, near Caerphilly. Morgan was one of **Griffith Jones's** 'circulating' schoolmasters. In a letter February 1739 by **Lewis Rees**, printed by **Bennett, Meth. Trefaldwyn Uchaf**, 14-16), he kept schools at Llanbryn-mair, Llandinam, and Llanwyddelan (all three are named in *Welch Piety* for that year, but the schoolmaster is not named); at Mochdre (op. cit., 16-17) he was arrested, and bound to appear before the next quarter sessions. Before the end of 1739 he had a school at Nantyeiliâu (Llanuwchllyn, Meirionnydd). By 1740 he was keeping a circulating-school in the kitchen of **William Prichard** (1702 - 1773) at Glasfryn Fawr, Caernarfonshire. On a visit to Bala in January 1741 (he had gone there to escort **Howel Harris** to Caernarvonshire), he was nearly dragged into the lake by a persecuting mob. **Harris**, in his diary in February 1741, hints that Morgan was not having a happy time at Glasfryn, but he advised him to remain there, and indeed Morgan found a wife in the neighbourhood, one of the daughters of Tyddynmawr, Tudweiliog - this was the house in which **Evan Williams** (1719 - 1748) of Cwmllynfell, later on, was hidden in a chest from his persecutors. In February 1742 Morgan and **Richard Tibbott** were arrested as vagabonds and sent back to their native parishes, being locked up for the night at each shire town on their way (*Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Hanes y Methodistiaid Calfinaidd*, iv, 13-14, i, 25).

But Jenkin Morgan returned to the North, and as **William Prichard** had been driven to settle in Anglesey, he too went there. By that time the early concord between Independents and Methodists in North Wales (as elsewhere) had suffered some eclipse. An Independent church was formed, in 1744, at the house of a yeoman named John Owen, Caeau Môn, in Cerrig-Ceinwen parish, and Morgan was ordained as its pastor at Watford, Glamorganshire, in June 1746 - **Thomas Morgan** (1720 - 1799) was there and **Edmund Jones** and **Lewis Rees** preached. Morgan received grants from the Presbyterian Fund Board from 1757 till 1751 and from the Congregational Fund Board from 1747 till 1762. He figures in 1747-50 in *Wesley's Journals* as having acted as interpreter for Wesley. Soon after 1745 he bought a holding named Tynyraethen in Cerrig Ceinwen, where he kept a school, and on a part of this holding, in 1748, he built the meeting-house of Rhos-y-meirch; we hear of his journeys to South Wales to collect money for this chapel. On 16 February 1762, when himself living on a holding named Trehwfa (there are two of that name), he sold the chapel-site to the congregation - possibly this indicates a feeling that his end was approaching. At any rate, he died in that year (Thomas Morgan, printed in *Y Cofiadur*, 1923, 15); the last entry of his name in the records of the Congregational Fund Board is on 7 June 1762. **Thomas Rees** conjectures that he was then 45-7 years old.

Author

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Sources

Trysorfa Ysprydol yn cynnwys amrywiaeth o bethau ar amcan crefyddol, yn athrawiaethol, yn annogaethol, yn hanesiol, &c., ynghyd ag ychydig farddoniaeth, 1813

Robert Jones (Rhoslan), *Drych yr Amseroedd* (Trefriw 1820)

Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru, ii, 457-9

E. B. Jones in *Llawlyfr Undeb yr Annibynwyr yn Llangedfni* (1923), 1923 (valuable records)

R. T. Jenkins, *Hanes Cynulleidfa Hen Gapel Llanuwchllyn* (1937) (indexed)

and the other references given above

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