

## OWEN, JEREMY (fl. 1704-1744), Presbyterian minister and writer

**Name:** Jeremy Owen  
**Parent:** David John Owen  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Presbyterian minister and writer  
**Area of activity:** Literature and Writing; Religion  
**Author:** Robert Thomas Jenkins

Son of David John Owen of Bryn, Aber-nant, Carmarthenshire (1651? - 1710), and thus nephew of **James Owen** and of **Charles Owen**. The father, who lived at Pwllhwyaid, had been for many years teaching elder of Henllan Amgoed congregation before being ordained (c. 1705) as its pastor. Like his brother **James**, he was a 'moderate' Baxterian in doctrine and Presbyterian in his views on church polity. There was, however, a strong hyper-Calvinist and 'congregationalist' element at Henllan, led by Lewis Thomas of Bwlch-y-sais, another of the teaching elders. Repeated attempts by neighbouring ministers to compose their disputes (1707-9) ended in the expulsion of Lewis Thomas and his party, who founded a new congregation at Rhyd-y-ceisiaid.

On D. J. Owen's death (7 October 1710), his son Jeremy, a young man of considerable parts, was called (1711) to succeed him. The date of his birth is unknown; but he was educated at his uncle's Academy at Shrewsbury, where **Thomas Perrott** was his contemporary and friend. His uncle had imparted to him not only a sound classical scholarship but also the 'moderate' views associated with his name. Fresh troubles now broke out at Henllan, and another secession to Rhyd-y-ceisiaid ensued, led by **Mathias Maurice** and **Henry Palmer**. Undefined but self-confessed laxity of conduct on Jeremy Owen's part compelled him to resign his pastorate, c. 1715. He is found keeping school in London in 1718; in 1721-6 he was pastor at Petworth; in 1726-32 at Barnet; and in 1733-44 at Princes Risborough. He afterwards emigrated to America (**T. Rees**, *Hist. of Prot. Noncon.*, 2nd ed., 294), and died there at an unknown date.

In the meantime, **Mathias Maurice**'s published account (1727) of the Henllan disputes had provoked Jeremy Owen to a rejoinder, *Golwg ar y Beiau sydd yn yr Hanes a Brintiwyd ynghylch Pedair i Bump Mlynedd i nawr, ym mherthynas i'r Rhwygiad a wnaethpwyd yn Eglwys Henllan yny Blynnyddoedd 1707, 1708, 1709* (Carmarthen, 1732/3; reprint, University of Wales Press, 1950), a pamphlet written in the racy idiomatic Welsh and with merciless dialectical skill. Owen's other works are entered in *Llyfryddiaeth y Cymry*, under 1711 and 1713; but the ascription to him there of a funeral sermon on his uncle **Charles Owen**, 1746, and of another work in the same year, is incorrect (see *Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru*, iii, 360) - these were by JOSIAH OWEN (1711 - 1755), of Rochdale, who is in the *D.N.B.* He was certainly, on his own statement, one of the Bryn family - possibly a posthumous son of D. J. Owen (and therefore brother to Jeremy), possibly a son of EVAN JOHN OWEN, of Cyffig parish, who is conjectured (*Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru*, iii, 338) to have been a fourth of the sons of Bryn.

### Author

**Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins**, (1881 - 1969)

### Sources

*Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru*, iii, 338-40, 357-60

Owen Jones in *Y Traethodydd*, 1887, 128-140, 400-412 (with copious excerpts from Jeremy Owen's writings)

D. M. Lewis in *Y Cofiadur*, 1925, 22-49

T. Richards in *A History of Carmarthenshire*, ii (1939), 165-70

Walter J. Evans, NLW MS 10329B: Carmarthen Presbyterian College roll of students

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