

RICHARDS, JEDEDIAH (1784? - 1838), hymnist and itinerant bookseller

Name: Jedediah Richards

Date of birth: 1784?

Date of death: 1838

Gender: Male

Occupation: hymnist and itinerant bookseller

Area of activity: Business and Industry; Literature and Writing; Music; Poetry; Printing and Publishing; Religion

Author: Evan David Jones

a remarkable character who lived for the greater part of his life at Tan-yr-esgair near Ffald-y-brenin, Llan-y-crwys, Carmarthenshire. He described himself as a ' free practising Christian ' and ' peripatetic philosopher.' He published ballads and pamphlets, sold books, and collected subscriptions for publications and periodicals. He travelled extensively in Wales and amassed a store of information about Welsh literature. He inaugurated a ' Christian Singing School ' at Llandovery, 29 December 1819. From 1821 to 1823 he kept what he called a ' Free Christian Practice-Schools ' at Carmarthen and other places. He was buried in S. Peter's churchyard, Lampeter, 9 March 1838, aged 54. His first publication was on comparative religion - *Hanes Crefyddau'r Byd* (Carmarthen, 1820). He described his singing school in a sheet entitled *Cyhoeddiad neu Hyfforddiad ar Reolau yr Ysgol Ganu i Gristion* (Trefriw, 1821). In 1824 he published, at Aberystwyth, a four-page prospectus of his ' Free Christian Practice-Schools ' under the bilingual title - *A Publication of the Purposes and Articles of the Free Christian Practice-School, in sundry Places, by Jedeiah Richard, T - r. 1820. Cyhoeddiad o Reolau neu Hyfforddiadau yr Ysgol er Rhydd-Ymarfer Crist'nogaid. Gan Jedeiah Richard, Ffald-y-Brenin, Hyfforddwr ac Addysgwr yr Ysgol er Rhydd-Ymarfer Cristianogol, yn Nghaerfyrddin a Lleoedd ereill, 1821, 1822, 1823.* He published a collection of hymns, including his own compositions, entitled *Diddanwch y Pererinion* (Carmarthen, 1825). The following books and pamphlets are also attributed to him: *Cynghorion Da a buddiol ... ynghyd a Hymnau* (Carmarthen, 1823); *Marwnad David Evans, Morfa* (Caernarvon, 1825); *Marwnad ... Ebenezer Morris, Blaen y Wern, Troed yr Aur* (Caernarvon, 1825), *Golwg ar Ddrych y Greadigaeth* (Aberystwyth, 1826); *Hanes Ymneillduwyr Protestanaidd* (Carmarthen, 1826); *Palmer's Catechism* (Carmarthen, 1827); *Casgliad o Hymnau, sef Pleser y Pererinion* (Cardigan, 1827); *Cofiant byr D. Dafis, Castell Hywel* (Carmarthen, 1827); *Hanes cywir am Lofruddiaeth Hannah Davies* (Aberystwyth, 1829); *Addysg ac Amddiffyniad* (Carmarthen, 1832); and *Marwnad Ebenezer Richards* (Carmarthen, 1837). Dr. **Timothy Richard** (1845 - 1919) was his nephew.

Author

Evan David Jones, (1903 - 1987)

Sources

Seren Gomer, 1838, 157

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Y Diwygiwr, 1838, 126

N.L.W., a copy of the *Catalogue of Printed Literature in the Welsh Department, Cardiff Free Libraries* (1898) (with manuscript additions by J. H. D.)

Lampeter parish register

NLW Archives: [NLW MS 9721E](#)

R. D. Griffith, *Hanes canu cynulleidfaol Cymru* (Cardiff 1948), 54-5

Y Tyst, 10 May 1951.

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