

THOMAS, ROBERT (died 2 April 1692), Puritan preacher

Name: Robert Thomas
Date of death: 2 April 1692
Gender: Male
Occupation: Puritan preacher
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Thomas Richards

His name is associated with Neuadd Baglan in Glamorgan, and he is probably the Robert Thomas who matriculated from Jesus College, Oxford, August 1658. When the Restoration came and the Act of Uniformity, he was not named among the ministers that were ejected; he was a preacher merely, unordained. In 1669 he was reported as preaching secretly to about twenty followers, those being made up of Baptists as well as Independents; three years before that, in March 1666, he had founded a church, binding the members closely together by covenant which became famous in turn as the congregation of Cilfwnwr, Tirdoncyn, and Mynyddbach, the members coming from Llangyfelach and the adjoining parishes. He received a licence to preach at his own house in Baglan under the Indulgence of 1672, and **Henry Maurice**, in his report of 1675, assigns him an important place as Dissenting leader in Glamorgan. His name often appears in the Margam manuscripts as a person who refused to attend the parish church. In 1687 he was one of the few Welsh Nonconformists who believed in the sincerity of James II's declaration of that year; on 15 April he gave intimation to **Sir Edward Mansell** of Margam that he intended holding a meeting for religious worship at his own house (Pen y Gisla was the name given) and at the house of Mary Thomas in Cilfwnwr. He saw the Toleration Act coming into operation, and towards the end of his life he is described as a man moderately well off, of undoubted piety, who had served his Lord for over forty years. By 1692 his congregation was definitely Independent, though he himself was son to one of the preachers of **John Miles**, baptized at Ilston in November 1650.

Author

Thomas Richards, (1878 - 1962)

Sources

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