

BEYNON, TOM (1886 - 1961), minister (Presb.), historian and author

Name: Tom Beynon
Date of birth: 1886
Date of death: 1961
Spouse: Eleanor Annie Beynon (née Whittaker)
Parent: Elizabeth Beynon
Parent: William Beynon
Gender: Male
Occupation: minister (Presb.), historian and author
Area of activity: History and Culture; Literature and Writing; Religion
Author: Gomer Morgan Roberts

Born 3 June 1886 in Cenfu, Mynydd y Garreg, near Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire, son of William and Elizabeth Beynon. At the end of his time in the local council school he went to work in Pontyberem in 1903, and was received as a member of Soar church where he began preaching at the height of the 1904-05 Revival. He was educated for the ministry in the Old College School, Carmarthen, in Newcastle Emlyn grammar school, and Bala Theological College. He was ordained in 1916 and was pastor of Tabernacl, Blaengwynfi, Glamorganshire (1916-33), and Horeb and Gosen near Aberystwyth (1933-51). He married, 1922, Eleanor Annie Whittaker of Caerau, Maesteg.

He took an interest in the history of Wales, particularly the history of Calvinistic Methodism in Wales, and wrote regularly for *Y Goleuad*, *Y Drysorfa*, *Y Traethodydd*, and local papers such as *The Llanelly Mercury* and *The Welsh Gazette* (see his Bibliography in *Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Hanes y Methodistaidd Calfinaidd*, 47). He was co-editor of *Y Pair*, the college magazine, when he was in Bala, and he edited the journal of the Calvinistic Methodist history society from 1933 to 1947, and contributed much to it. He was a member of the history committee of his Connexion from 1926 till his death, and was both secretary of the committee for a long period (1930-60), and keeper of the Calvinistic Methodist Archives in the N.L.W. He was also a member of the court of the National Library for many years.

He took a great interest in the Methodist 'fathers', particularly **Howel Harris**. He researched assiduously in **Harris** ' diaries, publishing extensive excerpts from them in the journal mentioned above, and in his books. He wrote the history of Gyfylchi and Pontrhyd-y-fen chapels (1926), and of Morfa church, Kidwelly (1930); and many of his interesting essays were collected in five volumes: *Golud a mawl dyffryn Tywi* (1936); *Gwrid ar orwel ym Morgannwg* (1938); *Treftadaeth y Cenfu a Maes Gwenllian* (1941); *Cwmsêl a Chefn Sidan* (1946); and *Allt Cunedda, Llechdwnni a Mwdlwscwm* (1955). The excerpts which he transcribed from the Trefeca diaries appeared in *Howell Harris, reformer and soldier* (1958); *Howell Harris's visits to London* (1960); and *Howell Harris's visits to Pembrokeshire* (which was published by his widow in 1966). These volumes are of particular value to those seeking information on the life and career of the reformer from Trefeca. He died 10 February 1961 at his home in Penparcau, Aberystwyth, and was buried in the cemetery at Mynydd y Garreg.

Author

Reverend Gomer Morgan Roberts, (1904 - 1993)

Sources

Trysorfa y Plant, 1931, 57-8

Treftadaeth y Cenfu a Maes Gwenllian (1941)

Allt Cunedda, Llechdwnni a Mwdlwscwm (Aberystwyth 1955), 87, 92, 94, 100-5, 131

Blwyddiadur y Methodistaidd Calfinaidd, 1962, 256

Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Hanes y Methodistaidd Calfinaidd, 45, 54-6; 47, 29-33

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