

THELWALL, JOHN (1764 - 1834), reformer, lecturer and poet

Name: John Thelwall
Date of birth: 1764
Date of death: 1834
Spouse: Henrietta Cecil Thelwall (née Boyle)
Spouse: Susan Thelwall (née Vellum)
Parent: Joseph Thelwall
Gender: Male
Occupation: reformer, lecturer and poet
Area of activity: Education; Poetry; Politics, Government and Political Movements
Author: David Jenkins

son of Joseph Thelwall (1731 - 1772), silk merchant of London, descended from a branch of the **Thelwall** family of Plas y Ward which settled in Crosby, Lancashire. He was born at Chandos Street, Covent Garden, 27 July 1764. He published *Poems upon various subjects* (London, 1787), and became editor of *Biographical and Imperial Magazine*. He came under the spell of the French Revolution, and joined the Society of the Friends of the People. Because of his extreme radical views, he had to stand trial, 1-5 December 1794, having been imprisoned in the Tower of London since the previous May; however, he was found not guilty. Soon afterwards he published *Poems written in close confinement in the Town and Newgate* (London, 1795). He took a farm near Llyswen, Breck., c. 1798, but returned to London within two years to lecture mainly on oratory and elocution. He was a friend of Southy, Hazlitt, Coleridge, and Lamb. *Poems chiefly written in retirement ... with a prefatory memoir of the life of the author* (Hereford, 1801) contains several poems relating to Wales. Thelwall also wrote a number of works on political matters and oratory.

He died at Bath, 17 February 1834. He married (1), Susan Vellum, (2) Cecil Boyle.

Author

Dr David Jenkins, (1912 - 2002)

Sources

Poems Chiefly Written in Retirement. The Fairy of the Lake, a dramatic romance; Effusions of Relative and Social Feeling; and specimens of the Hope of Albion, or Edwin of Northumbria; an epic poem &€1; *With a prefatory Memoir of the life of the author and notes and illustrations of Runic mythology* (1801), (1801)
Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [John Thelwall](#)

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