

THE STORY OF JOHN JONES BOOKSELLERS ABERAERON

John Jones 1842 – 1923 Jane Jones 1833-1891

John Jones was born in 1842 in Penbanc, Talsarn His parents were Daniel and Jane Jones and his grandmother who lived in Lampeter claimed to be a direct descendant of Vicar Pritchard (a 17th century poet from Llandovery)

During his childhood in Abermeurig he learnt to read music and involve himself in choral singing. When apprenticed to a tailor in Blaenpennal he established an Ysgol Gan before the Sunday morning service, and trained choirs which would compete in local Eisteddfodau

In addition to tailoring he was also a Bookbinder and would travel to fairs in the area plying his trade whilst also buying and selling books and sheet music. He learnt to read Tonic Sol-Fa and was the main instigator of this method of music tuition in the district. From 1867 and 1905 he was in examiner in the discipline of Tonic Sol Fa and became known as Jones y Cantwr.

In 1852 he had moved as a tailor to Pontrhydfendigaid and in 1854 aged 22 he married Jane Roderick of Strata Florida at St. Ioan's church. In 1859 he moved to 32 Alban Square in the new town of Aberaeron with his wife and son Daniel. They set up the bookshop whilst John continued to travel as an itinerant bookbinder, bookseller and music teacher. He lived in Booksellers with his family around him until his death aged 91yrs in 1923. John Jones and his wife had 12 children:

| | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------------|
| Daniel | 1857-1895 | Bachelor |
| Jane | 1859- ? | Married 6 children |
| Anne | 1861- 1938 | Unmarried |
| Moses | 1865- 1943 | Married 2 children |
| John Richard | 1868-1943 | Married 2 children |
| Elizabeth | 1870-1952 | Unmarried |
| David J. | 1873-1950 | Married 3 children |
| Catherine | 1875- ? | Unmarried |

Three children died in infancy. Daniel, Anne, Elizabeth and Evan Philip remained unmarried and lived at home with their father. Anne and Elizabeth ran the shop. Evan Philip became clerk to the court in Lampeter. Jane married and was grandmother to the Hubbard family.

John Richard married Sophia Patrick a niece of local businessmen Francis and David Evans. They were parents to:

Mary Elsie, who taught at National School before marrying in 1936 D T Evans the barber

Jane Ann Davies, who returned to Aberaeron in 1944 to run **Booksellers**. (known as Nan Booksellers)



John Jones (bearded) with his son Evan Philip and gran-daughter Jane Ann (Nan) circa 1909.

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Bookseller remained a family business for 5 generations. It continued to sell books throughout its history adding to its stock newspapers cards confectionery toy gifts etc. In 1990 Kevin Davies great-great grandson of John Jones Bookseller sold the business and premises. Now 170 years on, and still an independent retailer 'Aeron Booksellers can be visited today overlooking Cae Sgwar at 32 Alban Square.

(On a personal note I (Elinor) worked at Booksellers for John Jones's grandson Keith Davies circa 1964 as a holiday job and recall the basement held the latest pop Singles and LP's on which I would spend my earnings!)

In 1860 John Jones was appointed choir master and Precentor at Holy Trinity Church Aberaeron – a post he held for 47 years before he retired due to failing eyesight in 1907.

TYSTEB MR. JOHN JONES, ABERAYRON.



MR. JOHN JONES.

Y mae MR. JOHN JONES, arweinydd Cor Eglwys y Drindod, Aberayron, oherwydd pallu o'i olygon, wedi rhoddi i fyny ei swydd fel hyfforddwr ac arweinydd Gwyliau Corawl y Ddeoniaeth, a theimla aelodau yr Eglwys fod yr achlysur o'i ymddiswyddiad yn fanteisiol i wneyd tysteb iddo, fel arwydd o'i parch tuag ato, a'u gwerthfawrogiad o'i gymeriad pur, a'i lafur ffyddlon a difino gyda Chaniadaeth y Cységr am y cyfnod maith o 47 o flynyddoedd. A chan fod cylch ei wasanaeth a'i ddefnyddioldeb yn llawer eangach na'r Eglwys yn y lle, ac hyd yn nod na'r Ddeoniaeth, cred y pwyllgor yr ystyrir hi yn fraint ac yn bleser gan ei luaws cyfeillion a'i ddisgyblion yn y gwahanol ardaloedd, lle y bu yn dysgu cerddoriaeth, i gymeryd rhan yn y mudiad.

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor, PARCH. E. EVANS, R.D.

Tresorydd, D. G. MUNRO HUGHES, Bank.

Ysgrifwyrddion, { J. DAVIES, London House.
W. J. PHILLIPS, Manor Hall.
T. C. DAVIES, London House.

1907

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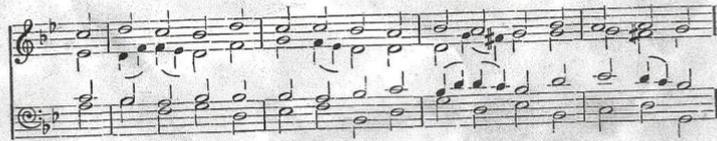
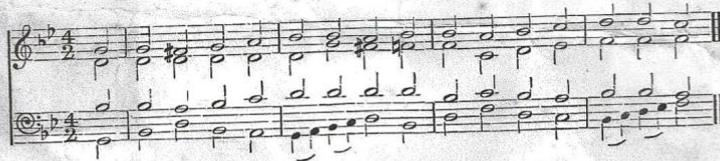
MR JOHN JONES ABERAYRON, TESTIMONIAL

Mr John Jones precentor of the choir at Holy Trinity Aberaeron, because of failing eyesight, has given up his position as trainer and conductor of the Choral Festival in the diocese and the church members feel that the occasion of his retirement is a suitable time to make a testimonial to him as a symbol of respect we have for him and as gratitude for his pure character and his untiring and loyal work for Caniadaeth y Cysegr for the past 47 years. As the circle of his labours and his service is much wider than the church of this parish and even of the Diocese, the committee believe that it would be an honour and privilege for his many friends and disciples from the different areas where he taught music, to participate in this proposal

ALBAN.

("BYWYD Y MEIRW!")

JOHN JONES, LLYFRWERTHWYR,
ABERAERON.



Doh Bb (G leaf).

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| :m ₁ | m ₁ | :m ₁ | m ₁ | :m ₁ | m ₁ | :l ₁ | s ₆ | :s ₁ | s ₁ | :r ₁ | m ₁ | :f ₁ | s ₁ | :s ₁ | s ₁ | | | |
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Mr. John Jones, bookseller, Aberaeron, long known as a bookseller and a highly successful choirmaster, will be 91 on August 3 this year. He has a beautiful tune called 'Alban'.

1 Bywyd y meirw! tyrd i'n plith,
A thrwy Dy Ysbryd arnom chwŷth;
Anadla 'n rymus ar y glŷn,
Fel byddo byw yr esgyrn hyn!

2 Dy Ysbryd Santaidd, oddi fry,
Ddisgyno 'n helaeth arnom ni;
Gwnaed ein calonau ni, bob un,
Yn demlau santaidd iddo 'i Hun.

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1923 Welsh Gazette

Article produced by Eirwen Ebenezer (known to her Aberaeron friends as Eirwen Barbwr) great grand daughter of John Jones. Eirwen now lives in Maidenhead.