

the founders of Independency or Congregationalism in Welshpool, and was a man of exemplary piety.

Upon the death of his father, he succeeded, as tenant in tail, to the Upper Mill property, and, as heir-at-law, to the Evans moiety of the lands which descended from the Fields. The leasehold property at Tirymynech became divisible with the rest of the personalty between himself and his mother, who married William Lloyd and went to live at the Farm, but was afterwards induced to give it up to his uncle John Evans (one of the lives, on failure of which the term of 99 years rested), who lived there to the time of his death in 1817, the lease having thus lasted for 58 years. In 1784, upon his coming of age, Thomas Evans disentailed the Upper Mill property and limited it to the joint appointment of himself and Grace his wife.

This Grace, his first wife, was his senior, and he was married to her during his minority. She was the daughter of John Sugden, of Grey-stones, near Halifax. It seems probable that before this marriage Thomas Evans was not a Nonconformist. His wife was a strong Dissenter, and both were of the eight who formed themselves "into a church on the Independent plan," on 19 Dec., 1794. He expressed great admiration of the liturgy of the Church of England, which, he said, honoured the Scriptures by embodying so much of them in her Service. He attended the Church of England at Shrewsbury (Mr. De Courcy's), and his correspondence (some of which is still extant) with Sir Rich. Hill, W. Huntingdon, and others, also seems to justify the opinion here divulged. The state of the Establishment at that period in his locality would be an element in his decision to leave. Grace Evans died in childbed.

Thomas Evans married secondly Martha Cook, and by previous indenture, dated 31 Dec., 1807, the moiety of the Field lands at Tirymynech and Trewern were settled for the benefit of himself and his intended spouse. He had sold the Upper Mill property in 1807 to Thomas Colley, a step which it is said was rendered necessary by his having been induced to rebuild the mill. Martha survived him and was living in 1832, without issue, but is since dead.

He died in 1829, and was buried at Pool, where there is a tomb-stone in the churchyard to the memory of him and his first wife Grace. There has also lately been erected to their memory a tablet in Welshpool Congregational Chapel.

By his wife, Grace Sugden, he had issue:—

1. *Thomas Evans*, born 2, bap. 7 March, 1786, married *Hannah Bickerton*, of Oswestry, and had issue:—

1. *Martha*.

2. *Hannah*, wife of . . . Hastings, went to America.