

**JOHN WESLEY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649172306

John Wesley by J. H. Overton

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**J. H. OVERTON**

# **JOHN WESLEY**





JOHN WESLEY, M.A. *Æt.* 67.

# JOHN WESLEY

BY

J. H. OVERTON, M.A.

**Methuen & Co.**

18, BURY STREET, LONDON, W.C.

1891

*[All rights reserved]*

## PREFACE.

IT is obviously impossible, within the compass of two hundred short pages, to give anything like a full account of a life which was all but commensurate with the eighteenth century, and which was certainly the busiest, and in some respects the most important life in that century—a life about which the most divers views have been taken, and in which the interest, so far from having slackened through lapse of time, is as keen if not keener than ever it was. All that can be attempted is to select the salient points of John Wesley's life and character, and to draw as vivid a picture of the man and his work as space will permit. As a native of the same county, a member of the same University, on the foundation of the same college in that University, a Priest of the same Church, a dweller in the same house, a worker in the same parish, a student for nearly twenty years of the Church life of the century in which John Wesley was so prominent a figure, the present writer has naturally for a long time taken the deepest interest

in his subject, but whether he has succeeded in communicating that interest to his readers is quite another question. It only remains for him to return his hearty thanks to the Rev. L. H. Wellesley Wesley and Edward Riggall, Esq., for placing at his disposal a vast number of portraits, out of which one has been selected belonging to the former gentleman.



## CONTENTS.

CHAP.		PAGE
I.	EARLY YEARS ... ..	1
II.	CHARTERHOUSE AND CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD	8
III.	LINCOLN COLLEGE, OXFORD ... ..	15
IV.	GEORGIA ... ..	43
V.	THE MORAVIAN INFLUENCE ... ..	59
VI.	JOHN WESLEY'S TEACHING ... ..	69
VII.	WESLEY AS AN ITINERANT ... ..	86
VIII.	WESLEY AS AN ORGANIZER ... ..	120
IX.	WESLEY'S FRIENDS AND OPPONENTS ... ..	145
X.	INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES ... ..	160
XI.	LITERARY WORK ... ..	169
XII.	PERSONAL TRAITS ... ..	179
XIII.	OLD AGE AND DEATH ... ..	193



# JOHN WESLEY.

---

## CHAPTER I.

### EARLY YEARS.

JOHN WESLEY<sup>1</sup> was born on June 17th (O. S.), 1703, at Epworth Rectory, his father, Samuel Wesley, being rector of the parish from 1696 to 1735. He was of gentle birth on both sides. The Wesleys were an ancient family settled in the west of England from the time of the Conquest. The Annesleys, his mother's family, were an equally ancient and aristocratic stock. The fact that Wesley was a gentleman born and bred was no slight help to the influence he afterwards acquired. The native delicacy of such a man gives him a certain tact in dealing with the poor, which is rarely acquired by those who are not to the manner born. He had no temptation to flatter the great, and was not intoxicated by being brought into contact with them. But John Wesley owed much more to his parents than the good blood in his veins. Both Samuel and Susanna

<sup>1</sup> He was christened John Benjamin, but the second name was always dropped both by himself and all the family.