

Date of death: 1940 Spouse: Alice Davies (née Wall) Parent: John Rowlands Gender: Male Occupation: secretary to the Commissioners of Church Temporalities in Wales, littérateur and collector of books Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Religion; Scholarship and Languages Author: John Lias Cecil Cecil-Williams

Born at Pen-uwch, Cardiganshire, 20 April 1882, and brought up by his grandmother, an old lady of strong character. From Pen-uwch board school neighbours assisted him to Tregaron county school, whence he won an exhibition to the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, where he studied chemistry and mathematics. His thoughts of entering the ministry did not materialize, though for some years he was well known as a lay preacher with the Welsh Presbyterians. In 1906 he became assistant secretary to the Royal Commission on the Welsh Church; from 1911-14 he was private secretary to the Home Secretary (Reginald McKenna); and from 1914 till his death was secretary to the Commissioners of Church Temporalities in Wales.

His interests lay in literature, books, and politics. Davies was an eloquent speaker and an attractive writer; he contributed articles on literature and politics to the Welsh and English press, several memorial articles to the *Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion*, and ' Some recent Welsh literature and the limitations of realism ' to *Cymmr*., xxvii; he edited Y Wawr (a London-Welsh journal), 1905-6, and *Llawlyfr Cymdeithas Ceredigion Llundain*, 1934-9; for some years he was editor of *The Welsh Outlook*, to which he contributed numerous articles.

Davies married, 1913, Alice Wall of Oswestry. He died in London, March 1940.

#### Author

Sir John Lias Cecil Cecil-Williams, (1892)

#### Sources

The Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, 1940, 13-29

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