

DAVIES, DAVID of Llandinam (1880 - 1944), first BARON DAVIES (created 1932)

Name: David Davies
Date of birth: 1880
Date of death: 1944
Spouse: Henrietta Margaret Davies (née Fergusson)
Spouse: Amy Davies (née Penman)
Child: David Davies
Parent: Mary Davies (née Jones)
Parent: Edward Davies
Gender: Male
Occupation: first BARON DAVIES (created 1932)
Area of activity: Medicine; Philanthropy; Public and Social Service, Civil Administration
Author: Gwilym Davies

Born 11 May 1880, only son of Edward Davies and Mary, daughter of Evan Jones, a Calvinistic Methodist minister who was closely related to [John Jones](#) of Talysarn (1796 - 1857). He was the grandson of [David Davies](#) (1818 - 1890, the Welsh industrialist of the Victorian period, whose energy and enterprise he inherited. Educated at King's College, Cambridge, he entered the House of Commons at 26 years of age as Liberal member for Montgomeryshire, resigning his seat in 1929. In World War I, he raised and commanded the 14th Battalion, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, at home and in France until 1916, when he was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to [David Lloyd George](#).

His name will be inseparably connected with his two main public interests—the Welsh campaign against tuberculosis and the international crusade for world peace. In 1911, together with his sisters, the [Misses Gwendoline E.](#) and [Margaret S. Davies](#) of Gregynog Hall, he founded the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association which, under his direction, developed into a nation-wide scheme with many sanatoria and hospitals. The Llandinam family also endowed the University Chair of Tuberculosis at the Welsh National School of Medicine. From 1919 David Davies was equally tireless in the pursuit of international peace, carrying on the tradition of the Welsh pioneers [Richard Price](#), [Robert Owen](#), and [Henry Richard](#). A founder of the League of Nations Union, he later gained prominence as the foremost advocate of strengthening the League of Nations by the creation of an International Police Force. In 1932 he established the New Commonwealth Society for 'the promotion of international law and order', writing several books on the right use of force, notably *The Problem of the Twentieth Century* (1930). In November 1938, one of his ambitions was realised in the completion of the Temple of Peace and Health in Cathays Park, Cardiff.

For many years he was president of the University College at Aberystwyth and amongst his numerous benefactions was the endowment of the Wilson chair of International Politics, the first chair of its kind in Great Britain. He was also president and a generous patron of the National Library of Wales.

Though he had a wide range of industrial and commercial activities, essentially he was a countryman keenly interested in sport and at Llandinam he maintained foxhounds. He was an ardent supporter of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society.

He was twice married. His first wife, who died in 1918, was Amy, daughter of L.T. Penman of Broadwood Park, Lanchester; they had one son and one daughter. In 1922 he married Henrietta Margaret (Rita), daughter of James Grant Fergusson, of Baledmund, Scotland (died 1948); they had two sons and two daughters.

Lord Davies died 16 June 1944. In September of the same year, his heir, Major DAVID DAVIES (1915 - 1944) of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, second Baron Davies of Llandinam (born 16 January 1915), was killed on the Western Front. He married Ruth Eldrydd, daughter of Major William Marshall Dugdale and his wife, of Llanfyllin, in 1939. They had 2 sons.

Author

Reverend Gwilym Davies, (1880 - 1955)

Sources

Personal information

Who was who?, 1941-50

Further Reading

NLW Archives: [Biography of Lord Davies, c. 1953](#)

NLW Archives: General Election 1906 Wales and Monmouthshire. A Souvenir containing photographs, biographical sketches etc., of all the Welsh MP's: David Davies Craig Owen, David Davies 75: Internationalist 'Father' of the Temple of Peace WCIA website, viewed 18 June 2019
Wikipedia Article: David Davies, 1st Baron Davies

Images

NLW: David Davies, Esquire

NLW: David Davies, Esquire, Plas Dinam, Llandinam

Additional Links

NLW Archives: Lord Davies of Llandinam Papers

NLW Archives: Rev. Gwilym Davies Papers

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