

DAVIES, JOHN LLEWELYN (1826 - 1916), translator, chaplain, and one of the most successful of the early climbers of the Alps

Name: John Llewelyn Davies
Date of birth: 1826
Date of death: 1916
Spouse: Mary Davies (née Crompton)
Child: Margaret Llewelyn Davies
Parent: John Davies
Gender: Male
Occupation: translator, chaplain, and one of the most successful of the early climbers of the Alps
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Religion; Sports and Leisure Pursuits
Author: Ioan Bowen Rees

Son of [John Davies](#), cleric and philosopher. He was a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, Hulsean Lecturer, Cambridge, Lady Margaret Preacher at Oxford, chaplain to Queen Victoria, an advocate of higher education of women, and an associate of Frederick Denison Maurice. He was joint author (with D. J. Vaughan) of a well-known translation of *The Republic of Plato*

He was one of the 31 founding members of the Alpine Club and one of the most successful of the early climbers of the Alps. With the guide Johann Zumtaugwald and other guides, he was the first to climb the Dom (14,942 ft.), the highest mountain entirely within Switzerland (on 11 September 1858) and, in 1862, the Täscherhorn (14,700 ft.). He ascended the Finsteraarhorn as early as 29 August 1857. He published only one article on mountaineering, 'An ascent of one of the Mischabel-Hörner, called the Dom' (*Peaks, Passes and Glaciers*, first series, 1859) but Leslie Stephen, one of his pupils and the best writer of his generation on mountains, thought highly of him.

He married Mary Compton, and their daughter Margaret Llewelyn Davies (1861-1944) was a women's rights activist and pioneer of the Co-operative movement.

Authors

Dr Ioan Bowen Rees, (1929 - 1999)

Revised by the editorial team, 2024

Sources

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, 1912-21, 147

A. L. Mumm, *The Alpine Club register, 1857-1863* (London 1923), 85-7

Alpine Journal, 30, 324-30

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