

## DAVIES, BENJAMIN (1814 - 1875), Hebraist

**Name:** Benjamin Davies  
**Date of birth:** 1814  
**Date of death:** 1875  
**Spouse:** Eliza Davies (née Try)  
**Parent:** Silvanus Davies  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Hebraist  
**Area of activity:** Literature and Writing; Scholarship and Languages  
**Author:** Dafydd Rhys ap Thomas

Born at Wernberny, near St Clears, son of Silvanus Davies, farmer. He began to preach at the age of 15, but in later life lost his early bilingual eloquence. He was a pupil at Gland r, 'The Forge,' Carmarthen, and Rhyd-y-ceisiaid schools before entering Bristol Baptist College (1830), where he showed such promise in Semitic studies as to proceed to further courses at Dublin, Glasgow, and Leipzig. At Leipzig he gained the Ph.D. degree and the friendship of several eminent German Hebraists. Returning in 1838, he was ordained in London before undertaking the first of the four academic posts which occupied the remainder of his life. They were: (a) principal of the new Montreal Training College for North American missionaries (1838-44); (b) president and theological tutor of Stepney Baptist College, London (1844-7); (c) professor of Semitics at McGill College, Montreal (1847-57); and (d) classical and oriental tutor at the former Stepney - but then Regent's Park - Baptist College (1857-75). He married Eliza Try of Portland, Maine, during his first stay in Canada; he outlived her and died 19 July 1875 at his son's house in Frome.

His literary work includes: (a) an annotated edition of E. Robinson, *Harmony of the Gospels*; (b) substantial contributions to the R.T.S. *Paragraph Bible* and to the *Thes. Syr.* of Payne-Smith; (c) *Student's Hebrew Grammar* and *Student's Lexicon of the Hebrew Language*, based on the German works of Roediger and Gesenius respectively. He also edited the Canadian Baptist periodical *The Register* (1838-44), and in London served on the Revisers' Old Testament Committee.

### Author

Dafydd Rhys ap Thomas

### Sources

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

*The Baptist*, 30 July 1875

*The Freeman*, 30 July 1875

*Baptist Handbook*, 1876

*Hanes y Bedyddwyr yn Neheubarth Cymru* (1839), 499-502

C. H. Cooper, *From Stepney to St Giles': The Story of Regent's Park College 1810-1960* (London 1960)

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Benjamin Davies](#)

### Additional Links

VIAF: [100334550](#)

Wikidata: [Q18559698](#)

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