
DAVIES, GEORGE MAITLAND LLOYD (1880 - 1949), Calvinistic Methodist minister and apostle of peace

Name: George Maitland Lloyd Davies

Date of birth: 1880

Date of death: 1949

Spouse: Leslie Eleanor Davies (née Royde-Smith)

Child: Jane Hedd Davies

Parent: Gwen Davies (née Jones)

Parent: John Davies

Gender: Male

Occupation: Calvinistic Methodist minister and apostle of peace

Area of activity: Politics, Government and Political Movements; Religion

Author: John Ellis Meredith

Born 30 April 1880, in Peel Road, Sefton Park, Liverpool, son of John and Gwen Davies. He was christened G.M. Temple Davies; he himself was responsible for changing his name. One of his brothers was [John Glyn Davies](#). His father was a tea-merchant, whose roots were in Cardiganshire and Llŷn, his mother was a daughter of [John Jones](#), Talysarn. He was educated at Liverpool and entered the Bank of Liverpool at an early age. In 1908 he was appointed manager of the branch in Wrexham, where later he took a commission in the Royal Welch Fusiliers (territorials). He gave up his work in 1913 in order to become the secretary of the Welsh Town Planning and Housing Trust and about this time he resigned his commission; at the end of the year he took up full-time work, without pay, with the Fellowship of Reconciliation. On 5 February 1916 at Finchley he married Leslie Eleanor Royde-Smith, sister of the novelist Naomi Royde-Smith; one child, Jane Hedd, was born to them. As a conscientious objector he was imprisoned more than once during the years 1917-19. In 1923 he was elected to Parliament, as a Christian Pacifist candidate, for the University of Wales; and as an unofficial envoy he carried out important work in the cause of peace - in arbitrating between [David Lloyd George](#) and Eamonn de Valera, for example. He was not returned in the following election and in 1926 he was ordained a minister in the Pres. Church of Wales. He was pastor of the churches at Tywyn and Maethlon from 1926 to 1930. He then responded to the appeal for help from the distressed areas of south Wales and spent the following years working among the unemployed in Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire, and in 1932 he moved to the Quaker Settlement at Maes-yr-Haf in the Rhondda. He retired to Dolwyddelan in 1946 and though his health was deteriorating he continued to preach and to address meetings. He suffered from depression for most of his life, and committed suicide on 16 December 1949 whilst a voluntary patient at the North Wales Mental Hospital, Denbigh. He was buried at Dolwyddelan.

He was a great and most unusual personality; a handsome man and an enchanting character. His circle of close friends included both the aristocracy and the poor of many nations. He consecrated his life to the ideals in which he believed so intensely - reconciliation between nation and nation and between person and person. He wrote a great deal to Welsh and

English periodicals and newspapers. He published an account of his mission in *Pererindod Heddwch*, and of his family in *Atgofion Talysarn*. In 1950 a selection of his writings was published entitled *A Pilgrimage of Peace*.

Author

Reverend John Ellis Meredith, (1905 - 1981)

Sources

Y Goleuad, 11 January 1950

Y Faner, 21, 28 December 1949

Pilgrimage of Peace (London 1950) (memoir by Dr. C. E. Raven)

NLW: [J. Glyn Davies Papers](#)

personal knowledge

E. H. Griffiths, *Heddychwr Mawr Cymru* (Caernarfon 1967-1968), 2 vols

Further Reading

Jen Llywelyn, *Pilgrim of peace: a life of George M. Ll. Davies* (Talybont 2016)

NLW Archives: [University of Wales Parliamentary Election. The Election Address of George Maitland Lloyd Davies Christian Pacifist Candidate](#)

NLW Archives: [University of Wales Election. Candidature of Mr George Maitland Lloyd Davies](#)

Wikipedia Article: [George Maitland Lloyd Davies](#)

Additional Links

NLW Archives: [George M. Ll. Davies Papers](#)

VIAF: [2159450](#)

Wikidata: [Q5542068](#)

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