

profession. Under the direction of Judge Conkling, he pursued a course that was substantially that of the colleges of the day, and with him completed his legal education. His industry and assiduity were crowned with such success that soon after coming of age he was admitted to the bar in Albany County, in April, 1826. He selected Buffalo, then a small village on the Western frontier, in which to commence the professional career that gained him such honor. Soon after his arrival there, a case of much importance arose between the owners of uplands along the Niagara River, who claimed the right to extend their warehouses to the river's edge for convenience of loading and unloading vessels, and the other inhabitants, who claimed a right of way along the bank. Mr. Davies was retained on the popular side, and undertook to establish an ancient right of way by the testimony of the older inhabitants, and of Indians, many of whom still remained in the vicinity. Among the witnesses whom he summoned was the celebrated Seneca Chief, Red Jacket. He succeeded in proving to the satisfaction of a jury that from time immemorial a right of way along the river bank had existed, and had been constantly used. This victory gave him at once a high professional standing and resulted, during the next year, in his election as City Attorney.

In the winter of 1829-30 he removed to the City of New York, and soon after formed a partnership with his uncle, Samuel A. Foote, which continued until Mr. Foote's retirement from the practice of his profession in 1848. Among other large corporations which this firm represented as counsel was the Erie Railroad Company. The advice of Foote & Davies contributed largely to the successful progress and completion of what was a work of enormous magnitude, in a time of