

PROF. WILLIAM APMADOC DEAD

LONG A RESIDENT OF THIS CITY

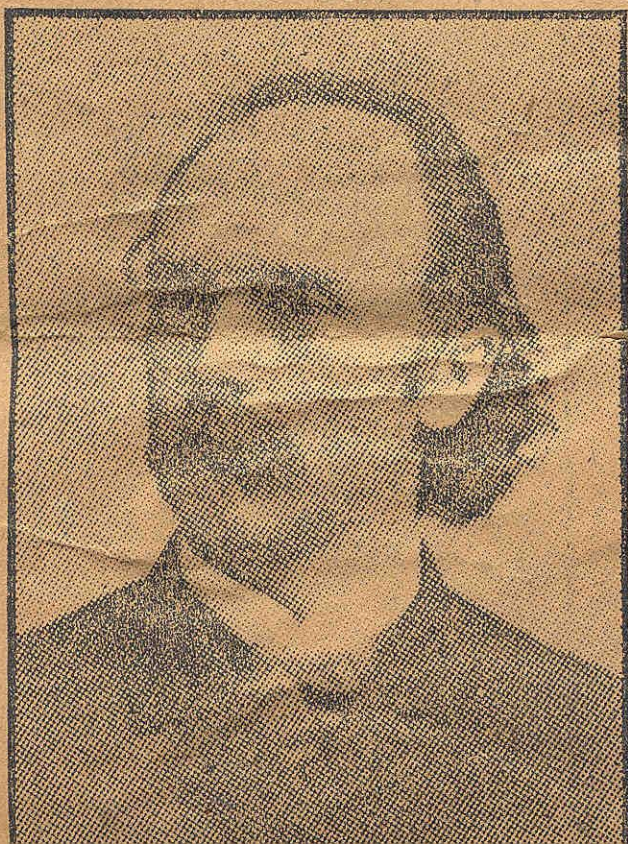
Passes Away in Chicago, Where He Had Resided for Many Years — Widely Known in This Section as a Musician — A Versatile and Admirable Citizen Who Had a Host of Friends in Utica.

Many friends in this city and throughout Central New York will learn with sincere regret and sorrow of the death of Prof. William ApMadoc, which occurred at his home in Chicago last Saturday. For nearly thirty years he was a resident of Utica, and during that time none was better known here, especially in musical circles. He was a singer and composer of marked ability, as well as a poet, writer and critic, and he made his influence felt in the community. Moreover, he possessed a commanding and distinguished appearance, coupled with a grace of manner and felicity of speech that won for him immediate admiration and recognition.

Of his residence here he was Utica's best known musician in the full acceptance of that term. He at one time sang in the First Presbyterian Church, but his chief work was as a teacher and choral leader. He taught hundreds of private pupils in this city and conducted singing schools and concerts in all the towns and villages of this region. In some of the schools of this section, notably Waterville, he taught music, giving a portion of one day each week to this work. Wherever he conducted a singing school he concluded the term with a concert, in which the pupils under his guidance and direction participated, and the occasion was always a community event.

While in Utica Prof. Apmadoc was active in Welsh affairs and an ardent patron of the eisteddfod. At one time, in connection with the late T. Solomon Griffiths, he edited a Welsh periodical known as Blodau'r Oes, for he had literary as well as musical ability and wrote with felicity and grace, especially on musical topics. For years he conducted a music department in The Drych and The Cambrian, published in this city. A few years ago he was invited to conduct the eisteddfod in this city, and accepted the invitation. When he appeared on the platform he received an ovation that testified to the admiration in which he was held by his Utica friends.

PROF. WILLIAM APMADOC



the same South Wales town, I learn that when a boy of 17, he translated the acts of Sheridan's "Pizarro," adapted the same for a stage and trained the actors for a performance that proved to be a fine success.

"Mr. Ap Madoc is aptly described by his own people in the principality, as well as by those in the United States, as 'a man of many talents.'"

"It has been a difficult task for the writer of this sketch to get at some facts herein accorded. In the literary and musical competitive festival called 'Eisteddfod,' Ap Madoc has been awarded prizes by the ablest critics, such as Dyved Myvyr, Caledvryn (Bardic names) and others. He has served in all the functions of this festival 136 times. It was Judge H. H. Edwards of Scranton Pa., a notable literary scholar, who wrote in The Druid that Ap Madoc was the only one of his nation who can organize and hold an Eisteddfod alone and fulfill all its functions. He has just been chosen one of the adjudicators and conductors at next July's international Eisteddfod of the Panama Exposition. For 22 years he had been conducting the singing at All Soul's Church, Jenkin Lloyd Jones, pastor. It is long a story to mention his previous songs—'Music Notes' in The Cambrian, special articles in The Welshman, his programs 'Cambrian Solitudes,' 'Musico-Literary Recollections,' 'The Story of the Kymry in America,' 'Poetry and Song,' etc., all of which reflects creditably upon this Welsh and English scholar of 'many talents.'"

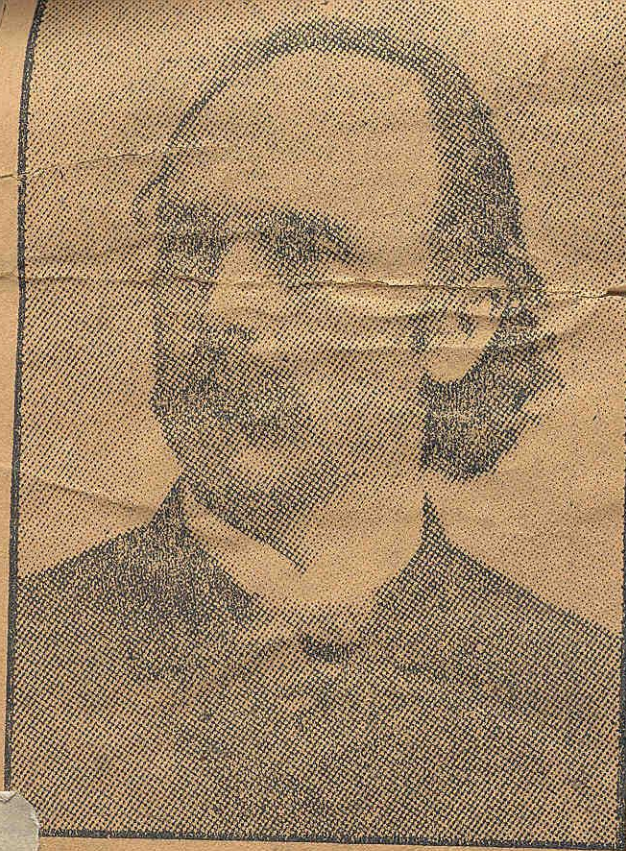
Dr. H. O. Rowlands' Tribute.

Among those in this city who heard of the death of Prof. Apmadoc, was Dr. H. O. Rowlands, who is supplying the pulpits of Park and Tabernacle Churches. Dr. Rowlands knew him intimately and last evening contributed the following estimate and appreciation of his character:

"In the death of Prof. Apmadoc the Welsh people have lost a well known and eminent son. Through his relations to the eisteddfod and other literary institutions he had become a familiar character to Welsh people on both sides of the Atlantic. He was not a man of creative and original gifts—few are—but he was the genius of versatility in investing the talents he had by nature and acquisition. His adaptiveness seemed to turn on a swivel for any angle and in all directions. He had a poetic mind, full of sentiment and sympathy, nor was he a shabby writer of verses when he gave himself to the task. He was an omnivorous reader and readily assimilated the mental pabulum he relished. He was a singer of no mean ability and a choral leader of exceptional power. Indeed, he was in his most congenial element and on his native heath, when leading a choir or conducting an eisteddfod. He had an attractive presence and a magnetic personality—'born to command'—and he displayed those talents to a splendid advantage when called to such activities. He had much experience as an editor of both Welsh and English papers. He wielded a facile pen and wrote and spoke felicitously in both English and Welsh. In Welsh literary affairs and functions he was very efficient. He understood well the ancient customs of the nation and was an authority in respect to their ordering. He was a literary critic of rare merit. If he was not a prolific producer he was a good judge of the merits of others' productions and he was constantly called to direct and advise in public literary functions. This he did wisely and well and few appeals from his judgment were made.

"For years in Chicago he supervised the department of music in the public schools and so long as his health permitted he filled the position with honor to himself and satisfaction to the city.

"Personally he was a cultured gentleman; to his natural suavity and refinement



minent Singer, Teacher and Com-
poser, Who Was Well Known in
This City.

The following article which appeared in The Cambrian a few years ago shows the place occupied by Prof. Apmadoc in the music world and the extent of his activities:

His Musical Activities.

The editor of Music News has read a letter from the distinguished Welsh musician and composer, Dr. D. C. Williams of Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, in which he writes of a translation of Shelley's famous "Indian Serenade" and its adaptation to the music Dr. Williams has composed to the same lyric, the translation into Welsh done by William Ap Madoc. He writes to the translator:

"You have provided an extremely effective version of the serenade 'in our own dear old language.' This was no easy matter, when one considers the restrictions placed upon you. I am extremely obliged to you for the thoughtful care displayed in your excellent and musical adaptation."

This is the "Serenade" for mixed voices that was to be sung in competition at the September Bangor National Eisteddfod, postponed on account of the war, the prize for the best rendering being £40. It is published in staff and tonic sol-fa notations by J. Fischer & Brother, New York, who also publish quite a number of compositions by Welsh composers.

"It was the J. Fischer & Brother Company that asked Mr. Ap Madoc to translate the "Serenade." "But," writes a well-known Welsh musician, "this is only one out of scores of lyrics composed and translated by the same writer for Dr. W. Rhys-Herbert of Minneapolis; Dr. Daniel Protheroe of Chicago; Dr. J. J. Mason of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Dr. David Davis of Cincinnati, Ohio; Dr. Parson Price, New York; the late Gwilym Gwent, the famous Welsh glee composer, etc. The librettos of Dr. Rhys-Herbert's sacred cantatas, "Bethlehem," "The Nazarene," "Bethany" (cantatas already published by J. Fischer & Brother), and to the forthcoming cantatas, "Calvary" and "Olivet," as suggested by Sidney Grew of London; also for a cantata not published as yet. "The Kingdom of God," the music composed of Dr. Thomas S. Lovette, Belton, Texas, formerly of Chicago. These form but a small part of his labors. The late critic and editor, D. Emlyn Evans, in reviewing the cantata "Bethany," remarked that the librettist, being a musician as well, was a decided advantage in writing such a suitable text.

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"For years in Chicago he supervised the department of music in the public schools and so long as his health permitted he filled the position with honor to himself and satisfaction to the city.

"Personally he was a cultured gentleman; to his natural suavity and refinement were added the graces and attractions that come from the best social and educated circles. Environments and public activities added luster to his natural endowments. He was the embodiment of courtesy, geniality, and conversational powers made him a delightful guest, and if possible he was a still more charming host. His friends and admirers are a legion, not alone among his Welsh kindred, but wherever he was known. Few Welshmen will be more missed from among the living who knew him than the genial, bright, versatile and courteous Apmadoc."

A Native of Wales.

Prof. Apmadoc was born in Wales in 1844. He came to this country in 1864, and settled in this city, where he remained until the year of the World's Fair in Chicago, when he went to that city, where he had since resided. He was connected with the music department of the Chicago public schools and led the singing in what is known as Lincoln Center, the church of Rev. Jemkin Lloyd Jones. He had been in poor health for a number of months and for some time friends in this city had known that he could not long survive. About a year ago he underwent an operation at one of the Chicago hospitals and it was feared at that time he would not be able to survive the ordeal. He became better, however, and was able to return to his home, but his recovery was only temporary. Besides his widow he is survived by two sons, Tudor, a lawyer and a former state senator, and Perris, a dentist, both of whom live in Chicago, and a daughter, Blodwen, who is married and a resident of the same city. Funeral services were held yesterday in the Lincoln Center Church and burial made in Mount Hope Cemetery in Chicago. The late Thomas Madoc of this city was a brother.