

Laureate of the Vale.

Death of Mr. John Morgan (Ioan Trithyd)

WITHIN 2 MONTHS OF BEING A CENTENARIAN

The death took place on Tuesday afternoon at his residence, Penrheol Farm, St. Mary Church, near Cowbridge, of the Vale poet, Mr. John Morgan, (Ioan Trithyd). Having attained the remarkable age of 99 years and 10 months, he witnessed many changes in the conditions of life in the Vale of Glamorgan. He could recall the old mail coach travelling between London and South Wales before the G.W.R. Co.'s main line was opened for traffic in 1841. He was seven years of age at the time of the death of King William IV and lived in the reign of four monarchs. The marriage of Queen Victoria to Prince Consort and the Repeal of the Corn Laws by Sir Robert Peel in 1846 were recalled, and as a young man he visited the great London Exhibition in 1859.

Ioan Trithyd was born at Ty Uchaf Farm, Llantrithyd, on October 12th, 1830. The family have a record of being connected with that farm for a period of nearly 600 years. It was in that farmhouse that the Welsh Methodist cause was carried on in that locality. He himself lived at Llantrithyd for 65 years and acted as agent for the Rev. Roper Tyler, M.A., for many years.

Ioan Trithyd married in July, 1858, Sarah Matthews, daughter of William Matthews of Watertown Court and whose mother was the only daughter of Lewis Jenkins, of Tyfran Farm, and a sister to ten brothers whose families are spread over the whole of the Vale of Glamorgan, at Cowbridge, Pen-coed, Creigiau, Pontyclun, Llangan and Treoes. Mrs. Morgan died in October, 1889, and was a sister of Mrs. Keziah Davies also a daughter of Watertown Court and mother of County Councillor W. M. Davies, Barry. There are six children surviving, one—Mr. Christopher Morgan—Cross Farm, Llantrithyd—having died some years ago, and there are at present living Mr. William Morgan, formerly of Maerdy Newydd, Bonvilstone; Councillor Richard Morgan, Village Farm, St. Hilary; and Mr. Thomas Morgan, Penrheol Farm, St. Mary Church; Mrs. Mary Evans, wife of Rev. W. E. Evans, Carmel, Bonvilstone; Mrs. A. Watts, widow of the late Mr. Thomas Watts, Llanmihangel Place, and Miss M. Morgan, Penrheol Farm, who with Mrs. T. Morgan, daughter-in-law, had bestowed unremitting attention and care upon the late Ioan Trithyd during the three years that he had been confined to his bed. There are over 40 grandchildren and many great grandchildren who, with other relatives, mourn the loss of a genial and kindly person.

A Liberal in politics, both in matters of politics and religion the late Ioan Trithyd was a man of sound convictions and high moral principles.

As a writer, he once wielded a facile pen in the Welsh language, contributing a weekly article to the "Bridgend Chronicle" on current topics, and was one of the most popular features of that journal, which was edited by Mr. John Evans, father of Mr. T. J. Evans, of the BARRY HERALD.

As a poet it was chiefly as a writer of stanzas that he excelled. At first his bardic name was Iolo Trithyd, but after winning a prize in a competition at an eisteddfod at the Stuart Hall, Cardiff, at which Dewi Wyn o Essyllt was the adjudicator, the latter changed his "ffug-enw" to Ioan Trithyd. He has won scores of prizes for englynion, many of which have appeared in these columns from time to time. One of his englynion to "The Tide" was greatly praised. It was as follows:—

Hyf lanw, byth aflonydd—ni erys
Hen araf ymweledydd;
Ar ei daith dwywaith y dydd,
Try i'w gawell dragywydd.

One of his latest compositions, "Y Teulu Dedwydd" (The Happy Family), was as follows:—

Gwraig gryno o ran rinwedd—a gwr
A garo dangnefedd;
Plant iachus, hoenus mewn hedd,
Yrrant arswyd o'r orsedd.

This was written when he was over 90 years of age.

As an agriculturalist he was well-known, having for over 30 years been secretary of the Glamorgan Ploughing Match, and with the late Mr. Hy. Thomas (St. Hilary) as treasurer, they carried on this organisation very successfully. For several years he won the prize offered for the best kept farm in Glamorgan. He could recall many of the songs with which the oxen were urged on when ploughing in the Vale, and the use of the flail for threshing corn was common in his day.

As an eisteddfod conductor his services were in great demand. His memory was remarkable, and his fund of good stories was inexhaustible. These had the conspicuous advantage of being native in their language and application.

Deceased was a member of Carmel Welsh Congregational Church, and for many years entertained the late Dr. John Thomas, of Liverpool, every summer when he paid a visit to the Vale Churches—an event which was looked forward to with a great deal of pleasure in Congregational circles.

Wil Ifan, the Welsh bard, writing the National Eisteddfod, says:—

Loes i lawer calon oedd clywed am farw
Ioan Trithyd, hen fardd y Fro, ar drothwy
ni gant. Pan welais ef fythefnos yn ol ni
llwn ddymunio iddo aros gyda ni lawer yn
swy, gan mor llesg ydoedd. Rhyfedd iddo
ddal mor hir i gymryd diddordeb ymhopeth
Cymraeg.

Fab awen, ni ddaeth henoed
I'w ganu tîrf yn gant oed.

The burial takes place on Friday at Zoar Churchyard, Bonvilstone, the funeral leaving the residence at 2.30 p.m.