

Trempealeau's Congregational Church

Rev William A Griffiths was the pastor of the Congregational Church in Trempealeau from 1895-1903. In 1988 his daughter, Margaret Griffiths Maitland, donated photos and the following history of her family.

"William A Griffiths was born in Llandilo, Wales March 29, 1846 and passed away in Ripon, WI in March, 1925. Mr. Girffiths attended Arnold College, Woodlands, Swansea, Wales 1879-1883, and came to the US to enter Oberlin College where he spent six years in the college and seminary for ministry.

After finishing at Oberlin, Mr. Griffiths accepted a call to the Welsh Congregational Church in Milwaukee, WI where he was ordained into the ministry in 1889. In this church he preached in Welsh Sunday morning and in English on Sunday evenings.

Following his pastorate in the Welsh church he accepted a call to the Congregational Church in Potosi, WI, Here he met Minnie Greene who had attended Platteville Normal School and was teaching school in Potosi and singing in the choir at the Congregational church where Mr. Griffiths was pastor.

Later they were married and moved from Potosi to the Lynxville Congregational Church and then moved to Trempealeau where Mr Griffiths was pastor of the Trempealeau Congregational Church for eight years.

A daughter, Margaret, was born April 29, 1899. The Griffith family spent eight wonderful years in Trempealeau and loved it! Trempealeau was a thriving river town at that time with many interesting people and a fine school system including a high school

Some of the people well remembered were a family by the name of "Atwood". Mrs Atwood had a camera and took the pictures of the Griffith family in the parsonage. A daughter of the Atwoods, Hazel, graduated from Ripon College in 1914 and was a missionary nurse to China for fifty years.

Another Citizen of Trempealeau during the time was a lady by the name of "Let" Goodhue who either published a newspaper or collected news. Across the street from the parsonage was a family by the name of Stangel. Their youngest child is pictured in a baby buggy. Mrs. Griffiths gave piano lessons and enjoyed singing for church and school commencements.

The Griffiths family always considered their years in Trempealeau as some of their happiest. Mr Griffiths would climb Trempealeau Mountain in the spring to gather spring flowers for his wife and daughter."

Margaret Griffiths Maitland 1988