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**MRS. CROSBY ADAMS, TEACHER  
OF WIDE REPUTATION, DIES**

Mrs. Crosby Adams, who often was referred to by newspaper writers as the "grand old lady of music," died Nov. 9 in Asheville, N. C. She was 93 years old.

Mrs. Adams was born Juliette Aurelia Graves at Niagara Falls, N. Y., and she began the study of music when 8 years old. In 1883 she was married to Crosby Adams, a steam heating engineer whom she had known from childhood. Mr. Adams was severely burned in a heating plant accident only three months after their marriage. Mrs. Adams then resumed the music teaching she had given up for matrimony and her husband took up music.

In 1892 Mr. and Mrs. Adams moved to Chicago, where they established a music school. Mrs. Adams was for some time organist of the Second Congregational Church of Oak Park, now Pilgrim Congregational Church.

In 1913 Mr. and Mrs. Adams moved to Montreat, N. C., where they were to spend the rest of their lives. Mr. Adams died last Feb. 27. Mrs. Adams won a wide reputation as a composer of songs, choral works and piano pieces. Her teaching materials are well known. She received the honorary degree of doctor of music from Converse College.



## THE HYMN SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

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### By REGINALD L. McALL, MUS.D.

Forty years of service as organist by Frederick A. Earle at Trinity Methodist Church, Newark, N. J., were recognized at a special vesper service Sunday, Oct. 21. His compositions were used for all the organ and choral numbers and the words and tunes of the hymns also came from his pen. We notice the names of his son and daughter appearing as soloists.

In the *Hymns* for October mention was made of the death of Philip Doddridge just 100 years ago in the article on his hymns by George Litch Knight. The bicentenary was observed with a memorial service at his grave in the British Cemetery at Lisbon last month. At the suggestion of Miss Ruth Garland, whose father's recent life of Doddridge has just reached us, a wreath was placed on the grave in the name of this society. The service was conducted by the Rev. Canon Hugh Farrie, chaplain to the British embassy.

Professor Albert E. Bailey, who died Oct. 31 at his home in Worcester, Mass., was a valued member of the Hymn Society. He gave us a stimulating address on his experiences in preparing his last book, "The Gospel in Hymns," at a meeting in New York a year ago. Professor Bailey had held professorships in several colleges and seminaries. An authority on religious art and Biblical history, he also had a lifelong devotion to church music, especially hymns, their use by congregations and their origins. He was the founder of the Intercollegiate Tours of Boston, the first travel agency specializing in college credit study tours in Europe. On these tours he visited many of the hymnic shrines of England and the continent, thus being provided with invaluable experiences which were assembled later in "The Gospel in Hymns."

In the passing of Mrs. Crosby Adams of Montreat, N. C., Nov. 9, the church has lost a wise and courageous musician. She was a member of the Hymn Society for many years and in 1948 she received an honorary membership in recognition of her many services in the field of sacred song. President Noble's letter of notification reached her exactly on her ninetieth birthday, March 25. The last occasion when we shared her fellowship was at the M.T.N.A. convention in Cleveland, Feb. 27, 1950, when she gave a remarkable musical "credo" at the afternoon session. Her sparkling wit and her true musicianship made a deep impression on her hearers.

In her long life, Mrs. Adams rendered service in several fields. The titles of her books include textbooks on piano study, graded worship songs for all ages of children and studies in hymnology. As a composer she wrote for the piano; she also wrote and collected children's songs, Christmas carols and carols. After a long career in Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. Adams established themselves near Asheville, N. C., in the picturesque and now famous House-in-the-Woods at Montreat. Here they were associated with Montreat College and that institution is now the possessor of all their collections of music and art.

For several years the First Methodist Church of Orange, Cal., has been the host for a hymn festival, sponsored by the ministerial union of that city and supported by a steady group of its choirs. The programs for the seven services reflect the benefits of joint preparation year by year. We know of only two comparable series of annual hymn festivals by similar sponsoring groups, one of eight services and the other of six. They were held at Bethlehem and Washington, both in Pennsylvania. Are there any others?

### VIRGIL C. TOMS APPOINTED

#### TO PENNS GROVE, N. J., CHURCH

Announcement has been made of the appointment of Virgil C. Toms as organist and choirmaster of the Episcopal Church of Our Merciful Savior, Penns Grove, N. J. In 1942 Mr. Toms volunteered for military service with the air force and after serving four and one-half years at home and in the African and Italian theaters he reverted to inactive status in Washington, D. C., with the rank of major. During the period of military service and later, while connected with the government as a civilian, Mr. Toms served temporarily as organist and choirmaster in various churches in the Eastern area. He now intends to devote his full time to music.

Prior to the war Mr. Toms served as interim organist at Princeton University following the retirement of Ralph Downes, now of the London Oratory; later he became organist and supervisor of music at St. George's School, Newport, R. I. He entered military service from Mount Holyoke College after completing three years as organist and member of the music faculty of that college.

Mr. Toms holds the degree Mus. B. from Yale and was a student at the Schola Cantorum in Paris. He also attended the music division of the Beaux Arts (Conservatoire National) of Paris as "auditeur libre". Here he came under the tutelage of Marcel Dupré and studied harmony, fugue and composition with other masters. His other organ teachers include Harry B. Jepson, T. Tertius Noble, M. Souberbelle of the faculty of the Schola Cantorum and M. Gilles of St. Pierre de Chaillot, Paris.

### BRAHMS REQUIEM SUNG IN

#### WALLACE MCPHEE'S MEMORY

The choirs of Union Theological Seminary, New York, under the direction of Hugh Porter, sang the Brahms Requiem Nov. 26 as a memorial to Wallace McPhee, for many years a member of the faculty. John Huston, an alumnus of the school, played the organ accompaniments, augmented with harp and timpani. Two favorite anthems of Mr. McPhee were sung: "To Thee, O Lord", Bachman-off, and the "Litany" of Schubert arranged for choir and also solo by Dr. Dickinson. Dr. Clarence Dickinson, with whom Mr. McPhee did much of his study and with whom he was associated for many years, played the organ prelude. The two selections were "O, How Blessed Are Ye, Faithful Souls", Brahms, and "The Joy of the Redeemed", by Dr. Dickinson.

Mr. McPhee, an alumnus of the school, had taught applied theory and organ at the seminary for many years. He was also organist-choirmaster of the First Baptist Church in Montclair, N. J., where he carried on an outstanding program of church music. As a permanent memorial to his work both at the seminary and at his church the school was presented with a plaque which is to be hung in the new Davella Mills Audio-Visual Center of the seminary.

### ELECTRICAL UNIT CONTROLS

#### MOISTURE IN THE CONSOLE

An electrical device for regulating the moisture inside musical instruments is being manufactured under the trade name "Damp-Chaser" in Hendersonville, N.C. This small unit is the brain child of Allen M. Foote, an electronics engineer, who first grasped the extent of the problem of damage by dampness when he was making radar installations in the British West Indies. Mr. Foote's first commercial development along this line was a unit to prevent dampness in kitchen food closets. The success of this encouraged him to design a similar appliance for musical instruments. The "Damp-Chaser" is being installed as standard equipment on the spinet pianos made by one large manufacturer. The company recommends its use in organ consoles for protection from mold, rust, corrosion and deterioration due to dampness.

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BOSTON

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## Notes from the Executive Secretary

**MRS. CROSBY ADAMS:** On Friday, November 9th, Mrs. Crosby Adams went to her reward at the age of ninety-three. Her professional career in music began in 1879. She and her husband, who died last February, influenced the whole field of music education as pioneers in advanced teaching methods and materials. Her early compositions were for the use of her young pupils, and she was widely known as a pianist and recitalist for many years. In 1892, Mr. and Mrs. Adams settled in Chicago, establishing the first complete course for teacher training in public school music in America, and adding summer classes which were maintained for forty years. When they decided to leave Chicago in 1913, by chance, they visited and fell in love with Montreat, N. C. Here they built and settled in their now famous House-in-the-Woods, and began their work at Montreat College.

Deep in Mrs. Adams' heart was the love of hymns. She issued *Studies in Hymnology* and edited numerous hymns for youth. Knowing well the power of the tune, LASST UNS ER-FREUEN, to mention only one, she determined to find a text for it which would voice its spirit of praise in the language of youth. She secured a stirring lyric, "Lord of all Life, our God and King," from the pen of a gifted poet, Irene Foreman Williams. This hymn was sung for many years at the State and Biennial Conventions of the National Federation of Music Clubs, of which Mrs. Adams was later made an honorary member. "Lord of all Life" became the first of a series of *Great Hymns Youth Should Know*. Among the honors which were heaped

upon Mrs. Adams, was the honorary degree, Doctor of Music, membership in numerous women's and musical clubs, and finally, Honorary Member of the Hymn Society, in recognition of her pioneer service in the field of song. The letter of notification from Dr. T. Tertius Noble was delivered on her ninetieth birthday. Some of us recall seeing her at Cleveland on February 27, 1950, at the MTNA Convention where she spoke informally to the Society session.

On the campus at Montreat College stands the Crosby Fine Arts Building. Plans are under way to erect a stone wing with an exact replica of the famous music room at The House-in-the-Woods, with its two pianos, rare manuscripts, music and souvenirs. But the real memorial to Mrs. Adams and her faithful husband lies in countless lives that have been inspired by their example and teaching.

**PROFESSOR ALBERT EDWARD BAILEY**, who died on October 31st at his home in Worcester, Mass., was a valued member of the Society. His illustrated address given in New York a year ago was of exceptional value. He held professorships in several colleges and seminaries. Dr. Bailey was an authority on religious art and Biblical history, and was a life-long devotee of church music with special emphasis on hymns and their origins. He will be long remembered for his last book, *The Gospel in Hymns*, with its rich variety of information about contemporary American hymnody. Among other interests, Dr. Bailey found time to establish the Inter-collegiate Tours, Inc., of Boston, the first travel agency specializing in college-credit study tours of Europe.

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