

IOWA WELSH SOCIETY

CYMDEITHAS GYMREIG IOWA

Fall 2018 - Volume 92

Croeso! 

2018 Officers

President

Jenifer Mercer-Klimowski

Vice President

AdaMae Lewis

Membership Chair

Margaret Patterson

Secretary

Wendy Knowles

Treasurer

Nancy Evans
1009 Highland Ave
Red Oak, IA 51566

Ruth Hall Historian
Chad Davis Webmaster

Board Members

(board includes
all officers)
Nancy Evans
AdaMae Lewis
Richard Phillips
Margaret Patterson

HOLIDAY MEETING

Saturday, December 8, 2018

Our Winter/Holiday meeting will be held in the East Parlor of Central Presbyterian Church, 39th & Grand, in Des Moines on Saturday, December 8. We will celebrate the season with a short (23 minutes) video about Welsh settlers in and around Granville, Ohio. A map is attached for how to get to Central Presbyterian. Since this will take place on a Saturday, only one door will be unlocked. Please park on the east side, and enter through the first door on the left, as you go through the patio; there will be a sign on the door.

The Copper Kettle Bakery is going to send us some samples of their products. They specialize in Welsh cakes of many varieties; I have visited their table at NAFOW, and they have a splendid product! You can visit their website at <https://copperkettlebakery.com> for more information.

We will have a Board meeting, starting at 10:30, followed by the program at 12:30. Feel free to come to the board meeting, and to bring your lunch with you, as well. We will end the afternoon with treats and fellowship. I hope to see you there!



Save the Date!

Saint David's Day will be celebrated on
Saturday, March 2, 2019

*Sadly, we will no longer be able to meet in Pella,
but we are working on finding a new
(and equally convenient) location.*

NAFOW in Milwaukee in 2019

Great news! The North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) is within driving distance next year. Milwaukee is about 375 miles from Des Moines. It will be August 29-September 2. This will be the 90th Festival. Some of you may remember it as The National Gymanfa Ganu through 2002 and then it became the North American Festival of Wales, the NAFOW. The Gymanfa Ganu is still an important part of the NAFOW and is held Sunday afternoon and evening.



The Welsh North American Association (WNAA) is the sponsoring organization. The NAFOW is partially funded by the Women's Welsh Clubs of America. The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin will be the host organization. One of the local organizers is Danny Proud. His name will be familiar because he directed the Gymanfa Ganu at the Welsh Church in the Old Man's Creek Welsh Community within the last couple of years. Danny's co-organizer is Jan Jones Batty, well known in Wisconsin for growing up with Welsh speaking parents and her long association with Welsh activities. Both Danny and Jan had grandparents who performed with the Welsh choir at the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago.

The festival headquarters will be at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center. It has been recently restored to its original 1920s splendor. The Intermodal Station is only 3 blocks from the Hilton if you prefer to take the train or bus to Milwaukee.

There will be tours Thursday and Monday, a tea room, marketplace and eisteddfod competitions. There will be multiple concerts, a choir, a banquet honoring the 2018 recipient of the NAWF (North America Wales Foundation) Heritage Medallion, a bilingual church service, seminars and a wonderful opportunity to meet old and new friends. Some people use it as an opportunity to have a family reunion with siblings or cousins attending.

**As plans are publicized you can find them on the WNAA website,
<http://thewnaa.org/index.html>, in Ninnau, <http://www.ninnau.com>**

The North American Welsh

AdaMae Lewis



North American
**Festival
of Wales**

the Welsh North American Association



Old Man's Creek

The First Welsh Congregational Church of Old Man's Creek just south of Iowa City, Iowa is asking for donations to do several urgent repairs to our building and the parsonage. The wood shingles on the steeple are leaking, but salvageable if repaired and painted soon. The chimney has cracks that need repaired. The front steps are crumbling, and several window sills are rotting. The parsonage also needs rotted window sills replaced, and the entire house needs to be repainted.



Kelli Rozinek, and her mother, Conni (Tudor) Lynch are direct descendants of several generations of those buried in the cemetery. Kelli has set up a go fund me page: It can be accessed on Facebook through the Church's Facebook page, or search GoFundMe.com for "Historic Welsh Church Repair." Or alternately, donations could be sent to the church's treasurer:

Janice Hining - 3556 Osage St - Iowa City, Iowa 52240

This is a very historic church, founded in the mid-1800's by Welsh immigrants. It has a cemetery adjacent which has many old stones with inscriptions in Welsh. It sits on a hill overlooking farm fields, and has a beautiful view. There are several century farms in the area, still owned by descendants of the original immigrants.

It deserves to be saved for posterity. Membership has declined to a handful. Sunday donations barely cover basic expenses, like utilities and such.

In order to rescue the church we need to raise nearly \$20,000. But any help, small or large will be greatly appreciated !

Thank you,

Conni (Tudor) Lynch



Here is a great picture of Welsh Church and cemetery in past times.



Condolences

*The Society is sorry to have to report
the passing of long-time and
stalwart member, Martha Ann Davies.*

Martha Ann Davies

June 27, 1941 - August 23, 2018



Martha Ann Davies, of Lincoln, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and aunt, died Thursday, August 23, 2018, at The Monarch Hospice House in Lincoln of a glioblastoma brain tumor. Martha was born June 27, 1941, in Santa Monica, California, to Lucius and Josephine (Williams) Mull. Martha received a bachelor's degree in music education at Redlands University, California, then worked as a librarian at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Subsequently, she lived in New Haven, Connecticut; Buffalo, New York; London, England; Aberystwyth, Wales; Albany, New York; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Ames, Iowa; South Hadley, Massachusetts, and most recently Lincoln. Her work included teaching poetry in the schools in Buffalo and restoring a three story Edwardian house in Aberystwyth. She also trained and worked as a dental hygienist. Most recently, Martha was a well known Welsh-English translator, historian and genealogist. She had learned the Welsh language while living in Aberystwyth with her late husband, James Dickey. In recent years, she was the archivist at the Archive for Welsh America at the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre in Wymor. In addition, she served tirelessly on the Board of Directors for the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project. One of her chief passions was translating the stories of the Welsh-American settlers and sharing these stories with others. These stories were brought to life in historical reenactments. Martha interpreted the story of Ellinor Francis, an American pioneer who had come from Wales in 1852. In 2016, she was honored by the Gorsedd of the Bards of the Isle of Britain at the National Eisteddfod in recognition of her translation of countless newspaper articles, histories of Welsh-American communities, and hundreds of obituaries of Welsh-American ancestors as well as her translation and publication of four books of Welsh-American history, one with her late husband, Phillips G. Davies of Ames, Iowa. This honor is rarely bestowed on an American. Her final major project was the production of a short film about Welsh settlers in Nebraska in the 1800's for the Nebraska Sesquicentennial. It is available on the website www.welsh-heritageproject.org and has been shown on several public television stations. Her genealogical research led her to the discovery that she was the ninth great-granddaughter of Myles Standish, the captain of the Mayflower. She was enormously proud of her membership in the Nebraska Mayflower Society. She was also recently inducted into P.E.O., a philanthropic organization supporting the advancement of women. Martha has touched countless others with her kindness, generosity, enthusiasm and joy. The remarkable serenity and peace with which she faced her transition to everlasting life will continue to serve as an example to all who spent time with her in her last days. She will be greatly missed. She is survived by her loving husband; Berwyn Emrys Jones of Lincoln. She is survived also by her children: Elinor (Dickey) Kelliher of Ludlow, Massachusetts, and Albert Dickey of Austin, Texas; two grandsons, Patrick and Owen Kelliher of Ludlow, Massachusetts and a sister Catherine Smythe of Laguna Beach, California. Services will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, September 2, at St Mark's on the Campus Episcopal Church in Lincoln. Memorials may be made to the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project Endowment, the Monarch Hospice House, or St Mark's on the Campus. Condolences online at roperandsons.com.



IOWA WELSH SOCIETY

2018 Christkindlmarket Des Moines

The Des Moines European Heritage Association (DMEHA.org) is holding its annual Christkindlmarket event. Christkindlmarket Des Moines is a German-inspired Christmas market whose goal is to educate and entertain the community by exposing it to European-style foods, products and activities. They plan to have regional vendors sell their hand-crafted wares and ethnic foods from traditional wooden stalls, an entertainment area where polka bands, choirs, and bell ringers can perform, a kid's area where they can participate in various cultural



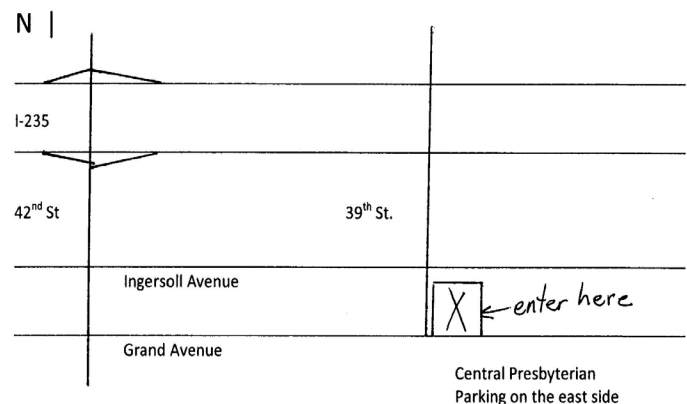
activities and a beer tent offering European-style beverages. This year's Market will take place on November 30 thru December 2, at Cowles Commons, across from the Des Moines Civic Center. The IWS will be helping on Saturday morning, in the information tent.

Holiday Meeting

Saturday, December 8
Central Presbyterian Church
39th & Grand
Des Moines

See You There!

Central Presbyterian Church Map Winter Meeting



IOWA WELSH SOCIETY

IOWA WELSH SOCIETY **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Dues Payable to Iowa Welsh Society:

\$15 for individual or family.

Our membership year is from January 1 to December 31, every year.

Please mail this form and your your check to:

Jenifer L. Mercer-Klimowski

910 – 31st Street

West Des Moines, IA 50265-3223

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
Street or PO Box

City State Zip Code

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____



NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL _____

WELSH ORIGINS:

