



IOWA WELSH SOCIETY

CYMDEITHAS GYMREIG IOWA

VOLUME 86

OFFICERS FOR 2015

Jenifer Mercer-Klimowski
President

Leila Carlo
Secretary

Nancy Evans
Treasurer
1009 Highland Ave
Red Oak, IA 51566

Ruth Hall
Historian

Board Members
(board includes all officers)

Nancy Evans
Harriet Jones
AdaMae Lewis
Richard Phillips

Celebrate St. David's Day
March 28, 2015

We are looking forward to seeing you at Monarchs Restaurant, in the Royal Amsterdam Hotel, 705 East First Street, Pella, Iowa, March 28. We are hoping a delayed celebration will mean warmer weather to celebrate St. David's Day. We are fortunate to be at the lovely restaurant owned by Richard and Kellie Phillips, where we have met for a number of years, and are grateful for the opportunity to be there. They are wonderful hosts. (Map to the hotel located elsewhere in the newsletter.)

First, there will be a Board meeting beginning at 10:15 am. All members are encouraged to attend. You might want to volunteer to be on the Board, or you may have suggestions for the Board or both of these things. In any case, feel free to attend. The IWS is your society so you are invited to share your ideas.

At 11:30 am. We will gather to meet new people and visit with old friends and prepare for our noon meal.

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The menu will be Cawl (Welsh Soup), Lettuce salad with French and Ranch dressings, New York strip steak, cooked medium, topped with pureed leeks and garlic, Roasted quartered red potatoes, Root vegetable medley, Ratatouille Bake for vegetarians (assorted sauteed vegetables in a tomato sauce) baked with Mozzarella cheese, Dinner rolls and butter, Assorted cheese cakes, Welsh Cakes and Tea or Coffee.

We understand that some people have dietary requirements, and Richard Phillips, our host, is willing to accommodate them, so contact him directly to make arrangements. There is a vegetarian option listed, but he has experience with gluten free and other dietary issues as well. E-mail him at <phillipsr911@gmail.com> by March 24.

Please make reservations to Richard Phillips by March 24. Use the registration form in the newsletter and send along with a \$20 check made out to the Iowa Welsh Society.



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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2015: The Iowa Welsh Society Board met January 10, 2015 at the Central Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, Iowa. Present were Nancy Evans, Jenifer Mercer-Klimowski, AdaMae Lewis & Leila Carlos. The meeting was called to order at 11:30. After discussion Jenifer agreed to be president and AdaMae will assist her. Nancy will accept the position of treasurer and Leila will continue as secretary.

Discussion: decided a ticket price \$20. for St. David's luncheon. The tentative is March 28th. Nancy submitted a bill for the March 2014 mailing of \$74.34 and a bill for Dec 2014 mailing of \$28.18. Leila moved to pay the bills, AdaMae seconded. The motion was approved. Nancy moved & AdaMae seconded to adjourn the business meeting. It was approved at 1:00.



March 1, 2014: The Iowa Welsh Society Board met March 1, 2014 at the Monarch Restaurant in Pella, Iowa. Present were Chad Davis, Nancy Evans, Richard Phillips, Leila Carlo, Berwyn Jones & Martha Davies. The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m.. There were no additions or corrections to the secretary's report. Nancy moved, Chad seconded and it was filed. There was no treasurer's report as Donelle was unable to attend.

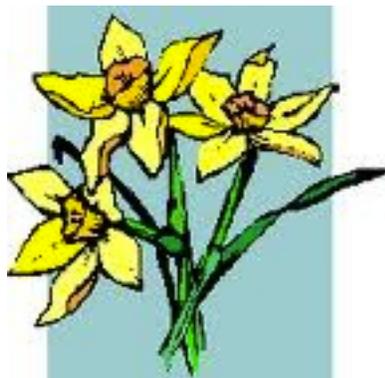
Chad offered a mini van for transportation to the NAFOW in Minneapolis, Minn. in August if it works out.

Berwyn Jones reported that the IWS records are now housed at Wymore, Nebraska in a new Archives building with constant temperature & humidity. The archives are also fire protected & tornado proof.

Chad will look into opportunities for a fall meeting, maybe at Central College involving the study abroad program.

Berwyn made the motion for Chad to look into an early summer meeting to host Dr. Benjamin Bruch for his program that was cancelled in Pella because of the winter weather in the area. He also suggested scheduling a Gymanfa Ganu.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. Respectfully submitted, Leila Carlo, Secretary



Hotel special during St. David's Day celebration.

If you are coming from out of town and would like to spend Friday and or Saturday night of the St. David's Day celebration at the Royal Amsterdam Hotel, 705 East First Street in Pella, phone (641) 620-8400 and ask for the Central College rate. This has been cleared by Richard Phillips with Sherri, Office Manager. Several have stayed their other years and have reported they very much enjoyed their stay there. The restaurant where we will have our St. David's Day luncheon is on the first floor of the hotel.



The speaker for our St. David's Day celebration will be one of our own and one of our favorites, Enfys McMurry. Enfys, originally from Cowbridge, Wales, taught English, history and literature at Indian Hills Community College. She is a gifted and entertaining speaker so why not invite guests to the luncheon and make it a special St. David's Day celebration. Enfys will introduce the subject and will show the DVD she brought from Wales. On the DVD, the women of Fishguard, Wales, describe in detail their work on the Last Invasion Tapestry.

In 1066, at the Battle of Hastings, the Norman French invaded England. The invasion was successful. In commemoration of the event, the women (probably) left behind stitched one of the most famous artworks in history: the BAYEAUX TAPESTRY. It is an embroidered work stitched in wools onto canvas. It measures 20 inches high and 230 feet long. It is a continuous, frieze-like narrative telling the story of this crucial moment in the history of England. It is exhibited at the town of Bayeux in Normandy. It's shown under protected glass, and attracts some 400,000 visitors a year.

In 1797, the French tried to invade England again. Knowing British soldiers were assembling directly across the English Channel, they chose to make their point of entry on the west coast of Wales 4 miles west of Fishguard at Carregwastad Point. This invasion failed. And it failed largely because of the Pembrokeshire women! To celebrate the 200th anniversary in 1997, which is the last invasion of Great Britain, the women (mostly) of Fishguard, using the same format as the Bayeux Tapestry, embroidered the LAST INVASION TAPESTRY. It took 4 years to complete and it's on permanent exhibition at Fishguard Town Hall. Enfys viewed the tapestry last September and loved it. Because of the brilliant colors used, more than one viewer prefers it to the one at Bayeux.

Meet our new president: Jenifer Mercer- Klimowski

Jenifer was born in Des Moines, Iowa. She was always generally aware of her Welsh heritage, but when she found she was expecting a child, she decided to look more closely into her personal and national heritage. With the help of Pearl Faessler, who she knew from local community theatre activities, she attended her first Gymanfa Ganu in the summer of 1993, at the Church at Old Man's Creek. Son Elliot, then seven months old, attended in his baby buggy! She attended her first Iowa Welsh Society meeting the following [December](#), and joined the Society at that time.

Jenifer claims Welsh heritage from both sides of her family, although she has never done the detailed research that would help pin down where her ancestors originated. On her father's side, she can trace her heritage to Robert Mercer, born in 1741 in Pennsylvania. It is likely that Robert was a Quaker, and his family [may](#) have come to America as a part of the Quaker diaspora. Robert was Jenifer's six-greats-grandfather.

On her mother's side, at some point in time, the family lived in Pennsylvania, but her documented knowledge only goes back to her great-great-grandfather, Nathaniel Moore, who eventually lived in southern Indiana.

Both ancestors were primarily farmers; the Moore family story is that when the coal miners emigrated to America, the support systems, including the teachers, farmers and shopkeepers, moved with them.

From the Moore side, Jenifer learned to pronounce the traditional word, Celtic, with an Italian "c" – that is, "Cheltic." She has been told that it might be a clue to her Moore family point of origin, but has never followed up on this. Perhaps a project for her retirement...

Neither Moore nor Mercer are traditional Welsh names, so it looks like the English married in, and adopted the better country as their home!

Greetings!

I am writing to you as the new President of the Iowa Welsh Society. First, let me apologize to you profoundly for the less-than-exemplary operation of our organization for the past year. As you may know, some of our members struggled with business and health considerations that affected their ability to be on top of things. We certainly intend that we can put this behind us and move forward in way that will endear your Society to you.

Our new Treasurer is Nancy Evans, who is also our newsletter editor. If you have a story, or even a question or an idea for a story you would like to see included in an edition of the Newsletter, send it to Nancy! She will also be accepting checks for annual membership dues.

And now, about those checks! Many of you have expressed concern about checks you sent for 2014 dues, that have never been cashed. Before March 11, we will be returning checks that are more than six months old, and hope that you will be generous and send replacements. Any check written more recently than six months ago, or cash sent in for memberships, we are depositing into the bank as soon as possible – quite probably by the time you read this message. All dues will be applied to 2015 membership.

Checks should be made payable to the Iowa Welsh Society, and mailed thus:

Nancy Evans
1009 Highland Ave
Red Oak, IA 51566

And, I understand that other checks sent in, some for membership dues prior to 2014, some for last Saint David's Day, some just for general donations, have also never been cashed. Unfortunately, we have not been able to locate those. I have no good answer for how you should handle this, whether you want to go to the expense of having a stop pay placed on them, consider them not cashable as stale, or taking some other approach. If we learn anything else about these missing checks, we will let you know, either by a direct letter to the affected individual(s) or in a future newsletter.

We appreciate your support of the Iowa Welsh Society, and hope you will continue joining us for future meetings.

Cheers!

Jenifer Mercer-Klimowski

NAFOW

The 2015 North American Festival of Wales will take place in Columbus, OH, Sept 3-6. Highlights include an opening concert by young vibrant Welsh fiddle group Calan, a performance by 2014 National Eisteddfod winner Meinir Wyn Roberts at the Grand Banquet where AdaMae Lewis will be awarded the 2015 Heritage Medallion by the National Welsh American Foundation and the Grand Concert featuring the Cor y Penrhyn, with appearances by soloist Gwawr Edwards and actor John Ogwen. Seminars will be given on a variety of Welsh topics and we are excited to welcome back genealogy expert Darris Williams.

Registration is now open and additional information can be found online: <http://www.nafow.org> To request paper forms, please contact Megan Williams: PO Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886 607-279-7402 or email IHQ@thewnaa.org



Directions to the Royal Amsterdam Hotel and Monarch Restaurant: Coming from the north and west take Iowa 163. Take the first exit into Pella. (Business route of Iowa 163). Follow to the center of town and turn south on the east side (Main Street) and go to East 1st Street. Those coming from the south take the business route north and East 1st Street is one block south of the town square.

NWAF TAPS ADAMAE LEWIS FOR 2015 HERITAGE MEDALLION

AT THE NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES in Columbus, Ohio, the first week of September, the National Welsh-American Foundation will award its 2015 Heritage Medallion to AdaMae Lewis for her significant contributions to promoting Welsh Culture in North America.

AdaMae says, “I am passionate about, in alphabetical order, continuing education, dogs, gardening and landscaping, family and Welsh associated activities.” Those who have worked with AdaMae are inclined to reverse the alphabetical order and start with Welsh associated activities: AdaMae has played a pivotal role in a number of organizations that have advanced the Welsh-American community. First and foremost, she has began her involvement in Welsh America as president of the Iowa Welsh Society and serves as its vice-president today. She has served as a vice-president of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, as chair of the Welsh Heritage and Cultural Centre Charitable Foundation, as president of Cymdeithas Madog, and as president of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, bringing it into the age the modern communications and guiding its transition into the Welsh North American Association. She was the first female president of the WNGGA from the USA.

AdaMae’s great-grandparents, Lewis and Jane Davies Lewis, emigrated to Wisconsin in 1866 from Llanidloes, the first town on the River Severn in historic Montgomeryshire in Mid Wales. They left Wales because Jane did not want her sons to work in the lead mines, as Lewis had done. AdaMae’s grandfather Malachi was born in 1867 and, later, the family homesteaded in Dakota Territory. She still maintains contact with cousins in Wales, in Aberystwyth, in Devil’s Bridge, where the family farm is, and in Llanidloes and Cardiff.

AdaMae is a microbiologist and lives in Ames, Iowa, where she owns Lewis Biologics Consulting and co-owns Consultants for Veterinary Biologics, working with people and companies needing to know federal regulations for licensing, producing and distributing veterinary vaccines, diagnostics and serums. She received a Bachelor of Science from South Dakota State University, having majored in Zoology and Entomology. She went on to a Master of Science at South Dakota State in Entomology and Microbiology and a PhD in Microbiology at Iowa State University. She attended a one-room school through the fifth grade. AdaMae says, “I loved school, and why not! At the end of the day, I’d been to classes for all the grades in school, because I listened as all the classes had their oral recitation time.” She went on to become valedictorian of her high school class in Rutland, SD.

Her professional career included teaching a post- graduate course in Integrated Pest Management for the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, through the Peace Corps, in Central America.

Somehow, AdaMae manages to devote time to her passion for gardening. She is the Iowa State Chair of the Gardening Study School sponsored by the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa. That includes both continuing education and gardening. She is also a Master Gardener, a Master Gardening Study Consultant – the two are not related – and a Landscape Design Consultant.

On behalf of WNAA, HWYL is proud to extend its *llongyfarchiadau* to AdaMae who, in 2010, directed the modern incarnation of this newsletter.

Reprinted from the Welsh North American Association Newsletter, VOL 25 NO. 2

Deadline for Meal Reservations to be received: By March 24.

No additions or cancellations after this date. Thank you.

If you need to contact Richard, his email is phillipsr911@gmail.com.

*Iowa Welsh Society
c/o Richard Phillips
510 Liberty Street
Pella, Ia 50219*

Persons attending _____ x \$20.00 Total remittance _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Vegetarian Meal? _____

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: IOWA WELSH SOCIETY AND SEND
TO RICHARD AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS**

Dues Payable to Iowa Welsh Society: **\$15** for individual or family. Our membership year is from
January 1 to December 31, 2015.

Please mail your check to: **Nancy Evans, Treasurer: 1009 Highland Ave, Red Oak, IA,
51566**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

NEW MEMBER _____

RENEWAL _____

WELSH ORIGINS:

Dues for 2015 now due.



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