



IOWA WELSH SOCIETY

CYMDEITHAS GYMREIG IOWA

SPRING 2016 VOLUME 88

**OFFICERS FOR
2016**

Jenifer Mercer-Klimowski
President

AdaMae Lewis
Vice President

Secretary

Nancy Evans
Treasurer
1009 Highland Ave
Red Oak, IA 51566

Ruth Hall
Historian

Board Members
(board includes all officers)

Nancy Evans
AdaMae Lewis
Richard Phillips
Margaret Patterson
Chad Davis

**Celebrate St. David's Day
March 5, 2016**

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Maytag Center on the Central College campus. This is a new location and a map is included on page 4.

First, there will be a Board meeting beginning at 10:30 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.

The menu will be a buffet: coq au vin (chicken in red wine sauce, Cawl (Welsh Soup), mashed red skin potatoes, vegetable medley, vegetarian option, salad with ranch and raspberry vinaigrette, rolls & butter, ice tea, water, coffee & Welsh cakes.

The program will be provided by Tammy & Kevin Morgan. They will share about their trip to Wales.

(continued on page 2)

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> before March 2.

Please make reservations to Richard Phillips by March 2. Use the registration form in the newsletter and send along with \$19.50 for each person attending. If paying by check make it out to the Iowa Welsh Society.

The following have paid their dues for 2016:

Cleone Cap	Opal McNitt
Sharon Rees	Enfys McMurry
Art Pugh	Doris Keldgord
AdaMae Lewis	John Carlo
Martha Davies & Berwyn Jones	
Karen & Allen Davis Perry	
Sheryl & David Llewellyn Thomas	

Newsletter Editor

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Phone: 515-987-2034

IWS Website

www.iowawelshsociety.org

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Iowa Welsh Society board met on Nov 7, 2015 at the Central Ave. Presbyterian Church. Present were: Jenifer Mercer-Klimowski, AdaMae Lewis, Nancy Evans, Margaret Patterson & Sharon Rees.

The minutes of the July 11, 2015 meeting were approved as corrected.

The treasurer's report was presented & approved. As of Nov 7, 2015 we had \$4905.44 in checking. 1 bill was presented and approved for the fall newsletter in the amount of \$44.64.

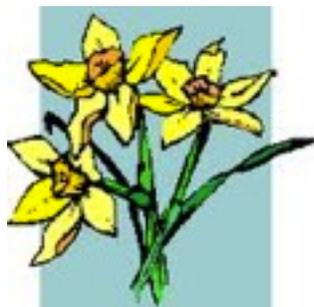
The new board member, Margaret Patterson, would like to be a temporary member. She would like us to see if someone from SE Iowa wants to serve.

We need a new secretary. The opening will be posted on the web site, our Facebook page & in the next newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned. We then had tea and a program from Nancy Boyd. She talked about her trip to the National Eisteddfod with her college choir.

Future Dates

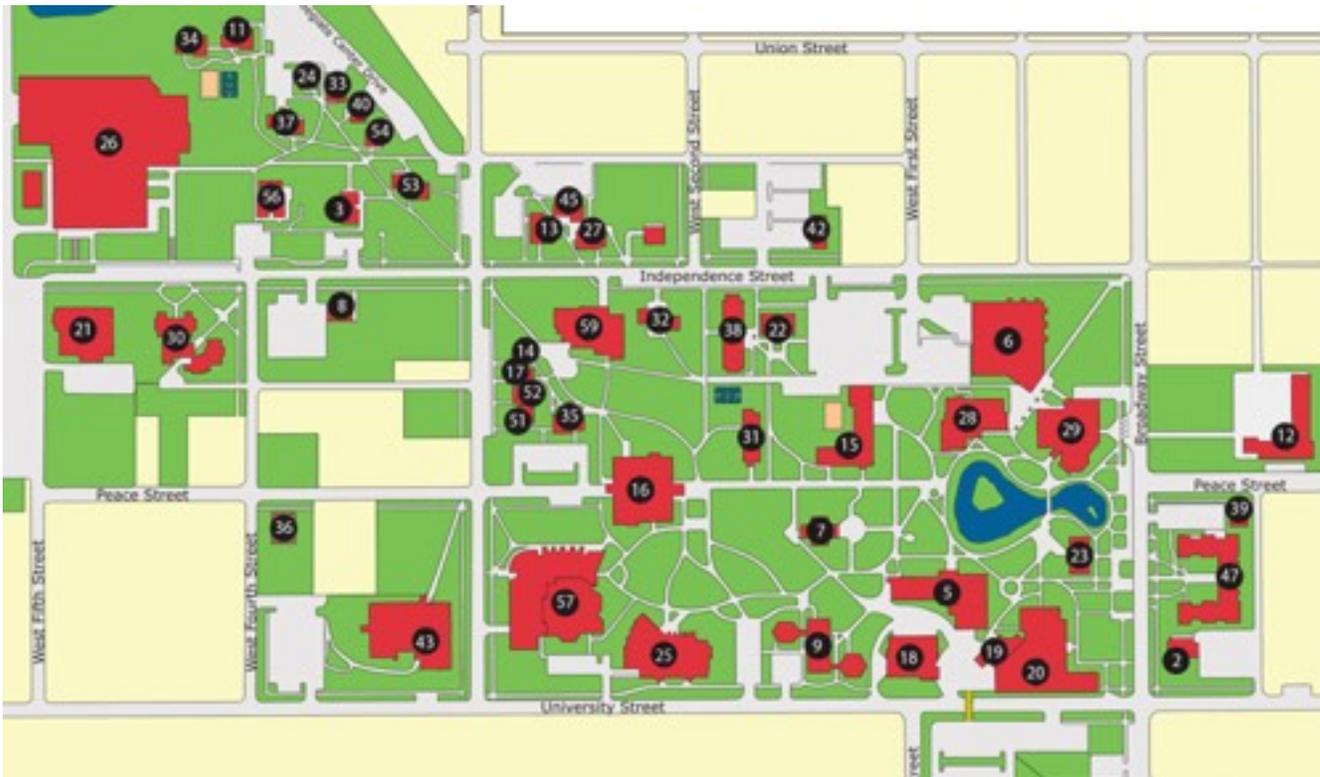
February 27	St. David's Day parade Columbus Junction
March 5	St David's Welsh Society of Nebraska luncheon IWS St David's Day meeting
July 10	Gymanfa at Old Man's Creek, Iowa City
August 6	IWS summer meeting at Lucas
July 17-24	Welsh Language Course, Huntsville, AL, sponsored by Cymdeithas Madog, www.madog.org
Sept 1-4	NAFOW Calgary, Alberta, Canada



Hotel special during St. David's Day celebration.



If people would like to come to town the night before, the Royal Amsterdam Hotel will do a rate of \$89 a night instead of the usual \$109 for those attending the Iowa Welsh Society meeting. They simply need to say that they are with the Iowa Welsh Society to get the discount. To contact the Royal Amsterdam Hotel, 705 East First Street in Pella, phone (641) 620-8400



Maytag Student Center, 401 Broadway, Pella, Iowa: **Location 29**, on the east side of the campus and the west side of Broadway

Who Was St. David?

Welsh people all over the world celebrate the life of St. David, the patron saint of Wales, on or around March first each year, supposedly the day of his death. The occasion is marked by music, teas, and the wearing of traditional costumes and sporting the national symbols of Wales, the leek or the daffodil.

St. David (Dewi Sant) was born sometime around 500 A.D., reputedly on a cliff top along the southwestern coast of Wales near present day St. David's. His parents, Sandde and Non, were descended from Welsh royalty.

David was raised to be a priest, educated at the monastery of Hen Fynyw under the tutelage of St. Paulinus. Stories and accounts of miracles abound for David's life, including the tale of a battle against the Saxons in which David had his soldiers wear leeks in their hats to distinguish themselves from their enemies (hence the traditional wearing of the leek on St. David's Day).

David was a gifted teacher and preacher, and founded monasteries, including Glastonbury and Minevia (St. David's), and churches in Wales, Dumnonia (Cornwall and parts of Devonshire) and Brittany. He was appointed Archbishop of Wales in 550 A.D.

The Water Drinker, as he became known, David ate only bread, herbs, and vegetables, and drank only water. He taught his followers to refrain from eating meat and drinking beer.

In 1120 David was canonized as a saint, and later as Patron Saint of Wales. Many pilgrimages were made to St. David's, two equaling one to Rome and three equaling one to Jerusalem. Over fifty churches in South Wales bear his name.

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Needed: secretary for the IWS

Due to the death of Leila Carlo, our long time secretary, we have an opening for the position of secretary. If interested please contact our president, Jenifer Mercer-Klimowski at jmercerc-klimowski@emcnl.com or come to the board meeting on March 5.



The family of Leila Carlo has given the Iowa Welsh Society a \$500 memorial in her memory. The board will be discussing what to do with this generous gift & how to continue to recognize all the years of service that Leila gave to the society. Leila was very proud of her Welsh heritage and the Iowa Welsh Society.



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS !

On July 10, 2016, the First Welsh Congregational Church on Old Man's Creek will hold a Gymanfa and Welsh Tea. This will mark 170 years since it's founding in 1846!

Although the church membership and it's Gymanfa has surged and waned over these years, the "Little Welsh Church on the Hill " building and it's adjacent Welsh Pioneer Cemetery, have been loved and cared for regardless, by descendants of the first members.

Now, descendants of the original founding families have decided to resurrect it's Gymanfa and hopefully continue it in the coming years. But, we will need help from IWS members who are more knowledgeable about organizing our first undertaking. When it was announced at the North American Festival of Wales last summer, we had an overwhelmingly positive response from everyone there. So, we are hoping any and all members who can, will try to attend.

July 10th is a Sunday, naturally, so there will be the usual church service at 10:00 AM. Afterwards there will be a traditional Welsh Tea with authentic Welsh cakes. The Gymanfa will start soon afterwards.

It is also planned to have a number of Welsh themed items for sale during events and afterwards. Not the least of these will be reprints of the beautiful original Stan Haring picture done for Dorothy (Tudor) Carran many years ago. Thanks goes to Mrs. Stan Haring for authorizing these reprints, and to Mr and Mrs Robert Carran, Jr, for letting us use the original to make these reprints.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or offers to help, pleas contact:

CONNI (TUDOR) LYNCH @ 319-631-0171, or her daughter, KELLI ROZINEK @ 319-321-7924.
(Please note that Kelli works full-time, so call evenings or weekends if possible.)



Another picture of the First Congregational Church on Old Man's Creek.

Wales Presbyterian Church Closes

After 141 years the Wales Presbyterian Church at Wales Iowa (near Red Oak) closed on Sunday, June 28, 2015 with a "Celebration of the Gifts of God Received and Shared Through the Wales Presbyterian Church."

On May 26, 1874, a group of 11 members founded the Calvinistic Methodist Church (forerunner of the present church). They met in various homes and the services were conducted in Welsh. The 1st building was built in 1876 of wood. An English service was started and held every 4 weeks. Later Welsh services were in the morning & English in the evening. In 1900 the present building was erected for a cost of \$2500.

In 1999 the church had 38 active members but by 2015 there were 15 active members with an average Sunday attendance of 7 including the pastor.



Wales church



Gomer cemetery

I'm going to start a new column for the newsletter. It doesn't have a name yet but it will be about how our Welsh connections came to the USA. I'll be first but the members will need to send stories for later columns.

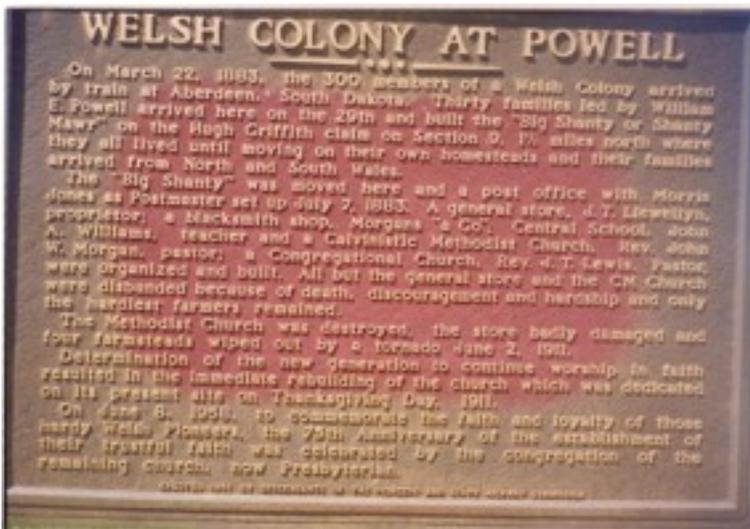
My great grandfather Thomas A Evans was born on Nov. 9, 1842 in Bryn Cilredyn, Camarthan. His parents were Jonathan (John) Evans & (H)Anna Andrews. On Feb. 24, 1866 he was married to Mary Phillips at Sardis Chapel in Pontypridd, Glamorgan. She was born Dec. 16 1846 at Coedtrehen, Tondy, Glamorgan. Her parents were John Phillips & Rachel Jenkins. According to their marriage certificate Thomas was a coal miner, John Evans was a cardmaker & John Phillips a coal miner.

They had 2 sons in born in Glamorgan - John in March of 1867 & Caswallon in April of 1869. They left Wales by 1870, settling in Frostburg, Allegany, Maryland where he worked in the coal mines. While there 2 daughters & 4 more sons joined the family. They also buried 2 sons & a daughter. They were living in a section of Frostburg called Welsh Hill in the 1880 census.

According to family stories he didn't want his sons to work in the coal mines so they followed a group of Welsh to the South Dakota prairie. They stopped in Bridgeport, Ohio for the birth of a daughter. They were in South Dakota by 1884 in the Welsh settlement of Powell. Here their last 2 daughters were born. They lived here or in the neighboring town of Ipswich until their deaths. Mary on April 22, 1902 & Thomas on May 8, 1924.

Thomas was 27 & Mary 24 when they left their families in Wales. They never returned & I don't know if they kept in touch. 1 of his brothers went to Australia & 2 of her brothers came to America.

I don't know if they spoke Welsh in the home but I do know my grandfather didn't speak it.



Deadline for Meal Reservations to be received: By March 2.

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
Box 5900
Central College
812 University
Pella, IA 50219*

Persons attending _____ x \$19.50 Total remittance _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Vegetarian Meal or other dietary concerns (be specific) _____

**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, 2016.

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 2016 now due.



IWS/CGI
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