



Come, Celebrate the Welsh Culture and Heritage!

THE ST. DAVID'S WELSH SOCIETY OF NEBRASKA ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM
COMMEMORATING ST. DAVID (GWYL DEWI SANT)

Saturday, March 24, 2007

Villager Courtyard & Gardens

5200 O St.

Lincoln, NE 68510

The schedule is as follows:

10:00-11:00 Complimentary tea, coffee and Welsh Cakes
Welsh Marketplace - Display of Welsh items - Welsh Bakery
(Visitors are welcome.)

11:00-11:30 Business meeting

11:45 Luncheon

Program – **'ALIENS, MONSTERS, AND EXTRATERRESTRIAL VISTAS**
Or

**How a Big Blue Box Saved the World and Brought Prosperity
and International Notoriety to Cardiff'**

Presented by: **Gregory Weinert and his son, Malcolm**

Group Singing
Moments in Memoriam

Gregory and Malcolm Weinert



Malcolm Weinert



Gregory Weinert

Greg Weinert is a product of the 'finest German, Scottish, and Welsh breeding.' He had the good fortune to marry a Welsh beauty and sire three exceptional children – Malcolm 9, Cambria, 6, and Tristan, 8 months. Greg was born and raised in south-east Nebraska and graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University with a degree in Theatre Arts. Working professionally in the arts for over twenty-five years, he is also a lay pastor for fine arts in the United Methodist Church. He is currently gainfully employed as a real estate appraiser for the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Malcolm Weinert is currently a professional third-grader at Brownell Elementary School in the highly-gifted program. Residing his entire life with his parents and home-schooled for the four years, Malcolm has been reading since the age of three. He has been a fan of Welsh television for the past three years. His ambitions include becoming a professional LEGO designer and writing for the BBC Wales production of DOCTOR WHO.

SIR CHARLES EVANS, MY MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING COUSIN

Rosalind Morris



In May 1953 ten climbers from Britain and New Zealand were in the Himalayas preparing for an ascent of Mount Everest, slightly over 29,000 feet at the summit. Among them was my first cousin, Charles Evans, 33 years old. He was the son of Welsh parents and his first climbing experiences were in the Snowdonia Range of North Wales, followed by Switzerland and the Himalayas. He was Deputy Leader of the Everest Expedition in case the leader, Sir John Hunt, was incapacitated. He was also the barber for the team, probably because of his training as a surgeon.



Sir Charles Evans, 1954
Picture taken in Pioneers Park,
Lincoln, NE by Rosalind Morris

After months of preparation and with the help of 34 Sherpas, equipment and supplies were carried from lower to higher camps. On May 26 Charles and another climber were chosen to make the first attempt to reach the summit. They climbed to within about 300 feet of it and made the wise decision to turn back because their oxygen supply and the daylight hours were limiting factors. However, they were able to pass on information to the second team, Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa Tenzing, who on May 29 were the first explorers to reach the summit.

Charles had artistic ability and contributed black-and-white sketches to Sir John Hunt's book, *The Ascent of Everest*. He also produced a book of his sketches titled *Eye on Everest*. In 1955 he led a successful expedition to another Himalayan mountain, Kangchenjunga, and wrote a book about the experience.

In 1957 Charles married Denise Morin, a leading woman climber. Where did they spend their honeymoon? In the Himalayas, of course. The following year he was appointed Principal of the University College of North Wales at Bangor, a position he held for many years until he retired due to multiple sclerosis. He died in 1995.

Among the many honors he received during his life were medals from the American, Scottish, and Royal Geographical Societies for his explorations in the mountains of Nepal; President of the National Eisteddfod in Wales and initiation into the Bardic Circle in 1956; a knighthood in 1964; and twice Vice Chancellor of the University of Wales.

In 1954 some members of the Everest team traveled through The United States and Canada giving talks on their successful ascent. When they were in Colorado, I was invited to join them. It was a thrill for me to meet Charles because we had last seen each other as small children in Wales. After the team gave their talks in Denver, we went to the home of a lady mountain climber in Colorado Springs, and I had my first experience climbing with a rope in the Garden of the Gods. I had another rope-climbing experience on Snowdonia with Charles in 1956 when I was in Wales, and he was very patient with my lack of experience.

LETTER FROM WALES

Jean Owens received the following letter from her husband's second cousin:

“Another year gone by and Christmas approaching fast.having to put up with this crazy weather we are having. At the moment we are having severe gales and torrential showers, six of the glass panels in the green house were blown out yesterday. ... Last week a village quite near suffered a mini tornado, some property was badly damaged, it frightens people, we are not used to this sort of weather.

Parking has become a big problem in this country – too many cars on the road. We have a good bus service in Pennal and it's free for Pensioners, also a good rail service from Machynlleth

...oldest grandchild is working in Wales, decided to go to Welsh classes to learn the language. I'm very pleased with her. Most young people have gone to England to work like two of my girls, except for the farmers; they are the ones that keep the Welsh language going.

We are only a few elderly people attending (church), 12 at the most and just one or two services in a month. ...our chapel has closed down – we all go now to the Vestry that belongs to the other chapel.

Hope this finds you in good health. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. All the best, Janet" (from Wales)

MORGAN J. BEVAN, JR. – RETURNED FROM OKINAWA

Capt. Morgan J. Bevan, Jr., U.S.M.C., is now on Active Reserve and going to school at the University of PA at Kutztown, PA. He plans to teach social studies and coach track and hopes to eventually return to Lincoln. We wish him well.

IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Hazel F. Closs** (93) who passed away on November 7, 2006. She had been living with her daughter and son-in-law, Gwenith and Gary Colgrove, in Montrose, CO. She was born near Blue Springs, NE on January 12, 1913 and graduated by Blue Springs High School. Her parents were Robert M. and Ola M (Fry) Jenkins. She married Ellsworth Closs on April 24, 1938. Hazel and Ellsworth farmed together for many years. Both Hazel and Ellsworth were actively involved for many years in the St. David's Welsh Society of NE

She is survived her son, Stanley Closs, Adelaide, Australia; daughter, Gwenith Closs-Colgrove and husband Gary, Montrose, CO; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brother, Carl Jenkins and wife Berniece, Las Vegas, NV; sister-in-law, Vera Closs-Whittaker, Beatrice. (Hazel's sister, Gladys M. McPheron just passed away on August 9, 2006 at the age of 100+.)

We extend sympathy to the family of **Warren William Eickman** (82), Crete, NE, who passed away on December 30, 2006. He was born September 26, 1924, in Republic County, KS to Lawrence William and Margaret (Davis) Eickman. He graduated from Chester High School in NE in 1942 and later served in the U.S. Army. He married Gweneth Moxham Eickman on March 8, 1945 at Belleville, KS. Warren farmed for several years and later worked for the NPPD Sheldon Station near Hallam before retirement in 1990.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 63 years; children and spouses, Susan and Marvin Weber, Milford; Sarah and Ray D'Aguanno, Coventry, R.I.; Anne Walden, Lincoln; Paul and Eleanor Eickman, Springfield, VA and Brad and Joann Eickman of Denver; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brothers Milton and Neal; sisters Ruth Eickman and Marge TeKolste; stepbrother Elmer Corbit and stepsisters Betty Bradford and Ruth Canning. His parents were Lawrence and Margaret Eickman and stepmother, Ruth Corbit Eickman.

Request for Names & Information of Members Who Passed Away in the Past Year

Each year at our St. David's Day observance, we remember those members of the Society who passed away during the year. If you know of others, please send information about them to Morgan Bevan; 5443 Locust St.; Lincoln, NE 68516.

Mailing List Update

If you have either a **new address/telephone number/e-mail address**, please **send this information to Stanley Owens**; 11027 Washington St.; Omaha, NE 68137; (402) 339-4929.



UPDATE ON ASTRONAUT'S FUTURE SPACE FLIGHT

We're continuing to follow the future NASA Space Shuttle Endeavour's STS-118 (Space Transportation System) mission to the International Space Station on which Canadian – and veteran - astronaut/aquanaut **Dr. Dafydd (Dave) Rhys Williams** will be returning to space for his second mission. His father was from Borgoed, South Wales. (Dr. Williams indicated he was planning to brush up on his Welsh so he can speak it in space again as he had on his first mission in 1998.

Dr. Dafydd Rhys Williams, The 11-day mission launch date will be no earlier than June 28, 2007. The STS-118 Aquanaut and Astronaut crew will lift into space to “continue the extraordinary task of assembling the International Space Station.

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/sts118

REMARKABLE WELSH WOMEN

We have known of the many famous Welshmen who have contributed to the development and progress of America. However, there are many women who have possibly gone unrecognized for their contributions to Wales - and America. Consider:



Stamp issued in 1982

Varina Banks Howell Davis (5/7/1826 - 10/16/1905) - **First Lady of Confederacy**

Mary Harris Jones (5/1/1830 to 11/30/1930) - **“The Miner’s Angel”** (Wales)

Dr. Martha Carey Thomas - (1/2/1857 - 12/2/1935) - **American Educator and Feminist.** (Became Bryn Mawr College’s second president from 1894 - 1922)

Elizabeth David (1913 - 5/1992) - **Organizer of the 1st Suffrage Petition**

Petula Sally Olwen Clark (11/15/1932 -) - **Music**

Laura Ashley (1925 - 1985) - **Fashion Designer and Founder of a global fabric and furnishing empire**

Charlotte Church (2/21/1986 -) - **Music**

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker (11/26/1832 - 2/21/1919) - **First and Only Woman** (so far) to receive the **Congressional Medal of Honor.** (Born in Oswego, NY)

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker was a pioneer woman physician and decorated Civil War heroine. She was the second woman in the U.S. to receive a medical degree, volunteering for the Union Army during the Civil War. On a number of occasions she would cross enemy lines to assist Georgians whose lives had been destroyed by the Civil War.

She devoted much of her life to advocating women’s rights, including dress reform. At a time when most clothing for women was uncomfortable, and because they were less restrictive, she wore trousers.

She was the first woman ever to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest military award for valour having it presented to her by President Andrew Johnson because of her outstanding service with the Union Army during the worst years of the Civil War.

In 1917, when she was 85 years old, a special commission revised the rules for awarding the Congressional Medal of Honor and Mary, along with more than 900 others, had their medals “revoked” for “unusual circumstances.” She refused to return the Congressional Medal back to the Army and wore it proudly every day until her death in 1919. Because of the continual efforts of her granddaughter, President Jimmy Carter signed a bill in 1977 reinstating her medal.

(For more information about outstanding Welsh women or women of Welsh heritage, including the above, - read “100 Great Welsh Women,” by Terry Breverton, Published in 2001 by Wales Books (Glyndwn Publishing.)

(Also, check the website - Women on Stamps - www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/pubs/pub512.pdf)

WEBSITES

Sing4Wales.com The purpose of this site is to provide you with the words, translations, vocal renditions, and videos to a wide range of famous Welsh hymns and songs, as well as

translations. Each entry will have at least one video, so you can listen to exactly how they are meant to sound. **The posters at the luncheon are provided by Sing4Wales.** This is a beautifully done site.

St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska Sincere thanks to Dennis Mathias for providing the creative work for our website. Check it out! He has graciously agreed - as he has done in the past - to keep us updated – thus we continue to be connected with many other societies nationally.

ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA

Paddywhack Trio

The trio, **Paddywhack**, will be performing folk music from the British Isles and North America (including jigs, hornpipes, polkas, and reels on **March 15, 2007**. This will be one of the **Lied Center for Performing Arts *Free at 6*** series in which local artists are featured in a performance beginning at 6 p.m. It is free to the public and celebrates the achievements of local artists as well as the richness and diversity of local cultures. The concerts last approximately 45 minutes each. (Lied Center for Performing Arts, 301 N. 12, Lincoln, NE)

Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project

The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project will be hosting its Second Welsh Heritage Festival on Oct. 6-8, 2007. A variety of special activities will be held along with a visit to the Homestead National Monument and a Welsh singing group from Toronto, Canada for the concert. For additional information contact Berwyn E. Jones, **berwynjones@alltel.net** or 6220 Andrew Ct., Lincoln, NE 68512.

76th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu

Washington, D.C.

Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2007

Sponsored by the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association

FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS AND HOTEL: Hilton Alexandria Mark Center; 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22311 (703) 845-1010. Reservation deadline: 9 August, 2007

Contact: North American Festival of Wales; WNGGA International Headquarters, PO Box 215, Hartland, MI 48353. (E-mail: wngga@comcast.net to request a packet) (Phone: 810-632-7850; fax: 810-632-7805) Website: www.nafow.org

Wilkes to Conduct "Musical Tour of Wales"

June 13-22-2007

For a treat and guide to and through Wales, Geraint Wiles is conducting a "Musical Tour of Wales." The dates are set and this will be an opportunity to "Meet the Welsh" and chat with them where they live and work, enjoy the music of Wales, and touring – from Beddgelert through St. David's Cathedral to Cardiff and many stops in between. Contact: Showcase Ireland & Britain Group Travel; 9853 Tamiami Trail N., Naples, FL 34108; 1-800-654-6527.

"This Month in Celtic History"

| | |
|----------------|--|
| March 1 | St. David's Day, Patron Saint of Wales |
| March 9, 1804 | Charles Foster Barham, Cornish physician and pioneer investigator of miner's diseases, born |
| March 11, 1747 | Iolo Morganwg (Edward Williams), Welsh poet, antiquarian, self proclaimed Druid and founder of the Modern Eisteddfod, born |
| March 16, 1316 | End of revolt by Llywelyn Bren against the Normans in South Wales |

| | |
|----------------|--|
| March 16, 1864 | Richard Roberts, Welsh inventor and developer of textile machinery, died |
| March 17, 1337 | Edward III of England makes eldest son pretender to Cornish throne, in addition to the Welsh. |
| March 18, 1772 | Henry Trengrouse, Cornish inventor of rocket propelled life-saving apparatus, born |
| March 22, 1900 | William Daniel Davies, Welsh journalist, co-founder of Baner America and contributor to <i>Y Drych</i> , died. |

* (From the Celtic League American Branch Celtic Calendar - An Historical and Mythological Calendar Representing the Celtic Year: Nov. 1, 2004 to Oct. 31, 2005." www.celticleague.org) (Research for calendar by Stephen DeVillo, stephendevillo@prodigy.net)

Calendar of Upcoming Events – 2007

Coming Welsh Events in Nebraska:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Mar. 1 (Wed) | <u>St. David's Day</u> - - Happy St. David's Day to you! (Dydd Gwyl Ddewi Hapus i chil) Get together with your local Welsh friends for tea or coffee. |
| Mar. 4 (Sun.) | <u>Welsh Heritage Sunday</u> . Encourage your pastor to observe this Sunday by including one or more hymns that use a Welsh hymn tune. (See p. 3) |
| Mar. 17 (Fri.) | <u>St. Patrick's Day</u> (the Welsh missionary who became patron saint of Ireland) |
| Mar. 24 (Sat.) | <u>St. David's Luncheon and Program</u> , <u>Lincoln, NE</u> . The Villager Courtyard & Gardens. (See front page) |
| Aug. 12 (Sun.) | <u>Planning Meeting for St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska</u> . Officers of the Society and all interested persons will meet on August 12 th at 2 p.m. at the home of Joan Longacre, 6325 O St., #511, <u>Lincoln, NE</u> . The purpose of the meeting will be planning for this year's Gymanfa Ganu on October 21, 2007. For information contact Morgan Bevan – (402) 489-7208. |
| Oct. 21 (Sun.) | <u>23rd Annual Nebraska Gymanfa Ganu</u> , <u>Lincoln, NE</u> ; 2 p.m.; Northeast United Church of Christ, 6200 Adams St. Geraint Wilkes, conductor and soloist. Hartland, WI. Te Bach following. Contact: Morgan Bevan (402) 489-7208 |

Welsh Events in Other Areas:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Mar. 1 (Wed.) | <u>A Welsh Tea</u> . Lebo United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall; 201 W 4 th . <u>Lebo, KS</u> ; 1:30–3:30 p.m. For more information, contact Paula Evans at (620) 256-6687. |
| Mar. 3 (Sat.) | <u>Iowa Welsh Society</u> . St. David's Day Luncheon. Luncheon, program, and marketplace. Monarchs Restaurant, Royal Amsterdam Hotel, <u>Pella, IA</u> ; Market Place open before 12:00 noon luncheon. Program: Central College, Pella, IA, students -just returned from a semester in Bangor, Wales. More information – contact Ada Mae Lewis at lewis@isunet.net or Ruth Hall at HallRoss@aol.com |
| March 3 (Sat.) | <u>St. David's Society of Minnesota</u> , St. David's Luncheon. St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. W., (just east of Hwy. 280), St. Paul, MN. Speaker: David Evan Thomas, composer. 12:00 noon social hr., 12:30 p.m. meal, 1:30 p.m. program. Questions: Robert Minish (763) 571-6162. |
| Mar. 4 (Sun.) | <u>St. David's Society of the State of Kansas</u> ; St. David's Day Concert, 2:30 p.m. Westminster United Presbyterian Church; 1702 W. 15 th . <u>Emporia, KS</u> . Geraint Wilkes, director and soloist. Te Bach following. More information: contact Paula Evans (620) 256-6687. (If interested in singing in the choir, contact Susan Evans-McEwen (316-322-7734) |
| Mar. 11 (Sun.) | <u>St. David's Welsh Society of Greater Kansas City</u> , <u>Kansas City, MO</u> ; 2:00 p.m. Festive Hymn Sing accompanied by John Schaefer; Second Presbyterian Church, 318 East 55 th St. (55 th and Oak), Kansas City, Missouri. Regular meeting room. (Witherspoon Place). Program by Evan Ash about St. David and St. David's Cathedral, Wales. Welsh Tea following. |
| Apr. 22 (Sun.) | <u>St. David's Society of Minnesota</u> . Spring Gymanfa Ganu. 2 p.m. First Christian Church, 2201 First Ave. S., Minneapolis. Rev. Joseph Corbin, Reddsburg, WI, directing. Questions: Robert Minish (763) 571-6162. |
| Apr. 24 (Tues.) | <u>St. David's Welsh Society of Greater Kansas City, Harp Workshop</u> led by Robin Huw Bowen, Independence, MO. Information: Jennifer Liebnitz, 816-444-4581 (\$30.00) Reservations required. |
| Apr. 25 (Wed.) | <u>St. David's Welsh Society of Greater Kansas City. Welsh Triple Harp Concert.</u> |

7 p.m. **Robin Huw Bowen**, from Aberystwyth, Wales. Harper Asbury United Methodist Church, 5400 West 75th St.; Prairie Village, KS 66208. Information: 913-236-8818.

June 21 (Thurs)

St. David's Society of Minnesota Indoor Picnic. St. Anthony Park Lutheran in St. Paul, MN. Questions: Robert Minish (763)571-6162

Aug. 30 – Sept. 2
(Thur.-Sun.)

North American Festival of Wales and the 76th National Gymanfa Ganu (2007). Alexandria, VA Host Hotel: Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, Alexandria, VA Contact: WNGGA Headquarters, PO Box 215, Hartland MI 48353.

(Info: 810-632-7850. Fax: 810-632-7805, www.wngga@comcast.net)

North American Welsh Newspapers

Remember that a good way to learn of our Welsh heritage is to subscribe to and read the North American Welsh newspaper, "***Ninnau***." There is news of Wales, news of Welsh North Americans, news of Welsh events in the United States, Welsh recipes, genealogical information – and much more.

Yearly subscriptions, \$25.00, published monthly except in September. Gift subscriptions are \$18 if donor is a subscriber. Send to: "***Ninnau***" (now incorporating "***Y Drych***"); 11 Post Terrace; Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-2498 (There will be a few copies available at the luncheon.)

Organizations Furthering Our Welsh Heritage

Welsh-American Genealogical Society (WAGS) – 60 Norton Ave.; Poultney, VT 05764-1029. Website:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~vtwags> e-mail: wagsjan@sover.net

Wales Tourist Board – Website: www.visitwales.com

National Welsh American Foundation (NNAF) – 24 Carverton Road; Trucksville, PA 18708; 1-570-696-6923; fax (707-696-1808; Website: www.wales-usa.org e-mail: NWAF@epix.net

Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association; % Dr. John Ellis; PO Box 215, Hartland, MI 48353-0215

Website: www.wngga.org E-mail: wngga@comcast.net

Cymdeithas Madog – Residential language courses focusing on modern spoken Welsh. Website: www.madog.org.

E-mail: president@madog.org

Selling Welsh Products

The Harp and Dragon; 25 Madison St.; Cortland, NY 13045 (607) 756-7372. 10-10 daily; fax (607) 756-0366; e-mail harpdrag@HarpAndDragon.com. Anne Habermehl, proprietor. See online catalog at web site: www.HarpAndDragon.com

Hiraeth Celtic Goods; 77 Cranberry Drive; Duxbury, MA 02332; (781) 585-6592; 10am - 6pm EST, Monday – Friday; See online catalog at website: www.hiraethcelticgoods.com. Orders to be placed at: orders@hiraethcelticgoods.com

Request for News Items for Next Newsletter

The deadline for items for the next newsletter is September 1. Please send to: Joan Longacre; 6325 "O" St., #511; Lincoln, NE 68510; (402) 486-2417; e-mail: longacre@inetnebr.com or Marjorie Bevan; 5443 Locust St.; Lincoln, NE 68516; (402) 489-7208.

Society Officers and Newsletter Editors

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Treasurer: Stanley Owens; 11027 Washington St.; Omaha, NE 68137; 402-339-4929;

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