

Newyddion o Gymdeithas Dewi Sant

St. David's Society News

North American Festival of Wales in Scranton, Pa.

August 29–September 2

Reserve tickets now for the 2012 NAFOW headquartered at the Scranton Hilton Hotel.

NAFOW highlights:

- **Dafydd Iwan**, Welsh folksinger and politician;
- **Iris Williams**, Welsh contralto;
- **Côr Godre'r Garth**, a mixed-voice choir from Pontypridd, conducted by Eilir Griffiths;
- **Seminars** on Welsh family history; the Welsh revival and the gymanfa ganu in America; Welsh American suffragette Margaret Evans Roberts, plus Welsh language and dancing; and children's activities;
- **Tours** to the Steamtown National Historic Site and Lackawanna Coal Mine. Learn about the Avondale mine disaster. Stay over for the Labor Day tour to Danville, Pa., the home of prolific Welsh composer Joseph Parry.
- **Sunday Gymanfa Ganu** conductor is Gareth Hughes Jones, administrator of the William Mathias College of Music in Caernarfon. This hymn sing, the 81st national event, will be held at Elm Park Methodist Church across from the Hilton Hotel.

The event is sponsored by the Welsh North American Association. Go to www.wngga.org/ for registration and information on hotel accommodations (they're filling fast).

A bus to Scranton is being considered.

Names of interested persons are needed by June 1 to make final announcement of price.

It could begin in Mankato Tues., Aug. 28; stop in the Twin Cities and Madison, Wis.; and possibly in suburban Chicago. Riders would stay overnight in Indiana and arrive in Scranton Thurs., Aug. 30.

Returning, the bus could leave Scranton on Labor Day, again stay overnight in Indiana, and arrive in the Twin Cities and Mankato on Tues., Sept. 4.

If 47 passengers commit, cost would likely be about \$200 + the 2 overnight stays and all meals on the road.

If you are interested or want information, please contact President Pam Rose ASAP. (952) 854-4743 or pamresearch@hotmail.com

MAY 2012

Volume 34, Issue 3



Picnic & annual meeting set for Sat., July 21

- ▲ **At Pam Rose's house, 8514 - 13th Ave S., Bloomington, MN 55425 (952) 854-4743.**
- ▲ **1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 21.**
- ▲ Bring a dish to share and a lawn chair, if you have one. A few extra card tables would be fine as well.
- ▲ The society will provide plates, utensils, napkins, cups and beverages.
- ▲ There is a bus line (route 538) just half a block away (on 86th St.). There is on-street parking on 13th Ave. (It's not a busy street).
- ▲ We will have the usual annual meeting and elections (positions needed are: secretary and two additional general board members).
- ▲ Games and other activities are planned. We really hope that you can make it that day!
- ▲ Please call **Pam Rose, (952) 854-4743**, if you have any questions (or need help getting there).

**Visit us on the web:
www.stdavidsofmn.org**

Two events scheduled for historic Lake Crystal farm

The farm of member Kent Wilson Jones outside Lake Crystal, Minn., is on the National Historic Register because of its importance for early Welsh settlers. Kent has recently restored the barn and is celebrating with two events.

Sunday, May 27, an **ecumenical church service** will be held in the barn. Coffee and conversation can be enjoyed between 9:30 and 10:15 a.m. The church service, mainly singing, will follow at **10:30–11:45 a.m.** For the noon “church supper,” please bring a dish to share; your own plates, etc; non-alcoholic beverages, chairs, and blankets.

Saturday, June 2, Kent Wilson Jones' 65th birthday celebration will be held noon to 9 p.m.

Bring food to share, chairs, small tables, non-alcoholic beverages, plates, etc. There will be 1919 Root Beer and Schwan's ice cream for root beer floats.

The horse shoe pit will be open and ready. The path in woods will be cleared for walks.

If their schedules permit, Kent's friends Scott Filzen and Jim Sutherland will have draft horses at the farm for wagon rides.

Please RSVP for either event to: tkwjco@aol.com or 507-947-3030.

CAMBRIA EISTEDDFOD A celebration of the Celtic heritage of poetry, song & story

By John C. Rezmerski

Poets, friends of poets, and fans of poetry are invited to participate in the 2012 Cambria Eisteddfod, Sunday, June 24.

A hand-carved oak chair, along with a cash prize, will be ceremonially awarded to the victor in a bardic competition at the fifth annual Cambria Eisteddfod at Morgan Creek Vineyards, located near the town of Cambria (between Mankato and New Ulm, just off Highway 68).

Each year, poets submit manuscripts to a panel of judges, who select five finalists to compete in oral presentations of their work. The judges then select a winner, who is ceremonially seated on the hand-carved oak chair and formally inducted as a bard. The event includes an afternoon of music (contemporary and traditional Celtic tunes), recitations by other poets, and opportunities for winery tours and wine-tastings.

This family-friendly activity raises funds to support the Blue Earth County Historical Society's efforts to keep alive the ethnic heritage of the area. It was settled by Welsh immigrants who began to arrive in the mid-1800s, bringing with them the tradition of competitions in music and poetry, always culminating in the awarding of a bardic chair. The word “eisteddfod” means “a sitting” in Welsh.

For full details on how to participate in the event, please see competition rules. **Poetry submission deadline is May 28, 2012.**

Please contact Paula Marti at (507) 947-3547 or visit www.bechshistory.com for details. At that site, click [poetry competition rules](#) and [event details](#).

Ann Lemmenes from Wisconsin to direct Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival, Sept. 23

The Minnesota Welsh Association has announced that Ann Lemmenes, Waupun, Wis., has accepted the invitation to direct the 2012 Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival (Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu) on **Sunday, September 23, 1:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, Mankato.**

This will be her fourth appearance at the Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival.

LEARN WELSH THIS SUMMER

CYMDEITHAS MADOG PRESENTS:

Cwrs Halen y Ddaer

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, July 22–29

Cwrs Cymraeg, meaning Welsh Course, is a week-long residential course emphasizing the spoken language and provides instruction/ classes at seven levels, ranging from the absolute beginner to those who are well advanced.

There are approximately five hours of language class each day, supplemented by further language and culture-related activities in the afternoon. In addition, this year's course will include an opportunity to attend a rehearsal of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Contact:

Wayne Morrissey, Registrar, Cwrs Cymraeg 2012
2505 S. Walter Reed Dr. Apt. A
Arlington, VA 22206-1207

Visit www.madog.org, then contact registrar@madog.org

Wythnos Treftadaeth Cymru Welsh Heritage Week

Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colo.
July 22–29

Language, Welsh literature, Welsh culture and more are part of this week-long course. Contact:

Beth Landmesser, director
Box 241
Bear Creek, PA 18602 or hwyl@ptd.net

www.welshheritageweek.org/

Scholarships are available for both courses.

**Check with Don Anderson, president of the
St. David's Foundation, 612-789-8923,
about matching scholarship possibilities.**

“The Well-Read Dragons” learn of the Welsh prince, Madoc

By Austin Evans

For the April meeting, members were asked to find and read a book about a 12th century Welsh Prince by the name of Madoc (sometimes spelled Madog). Bardic poetry and 15th/ 16th century records claim he sailed across the Atlantic in 1170/'71 and discovered a new world by landing on what is believed to have been the shores of Mobile Bay—300 years before Columbus came to America.

The books chosen included three containing extensive research and two historical novels about Madoc's adventures. The three research books were: *Who discovered America? The amazing story of Madoc* by Zella Armstrong, Lookout Publishing Co., 1950; *Madoc and the discovery of America: Some new light on an old controversy* by Richard Deacon 1967, and *Footprints of the Welsh Indians, settlers in North America before 1492* by William L. Traxel, Algona Publishing 2004. The last book has many quotes from the first two earlier books. The novels included *Madoc* by Patricia Winter and *Children of the First Man* by James Alexander Thom.

Welsh at Mobile Bay, Alabama?

In 1782, a U.S. Army Colonel, John Servier, who later became Governor of Tennessee, interviewed a Cherokee chief named Oconostota. He told Servier that white people calling themselves Welsh had come over a great water and landed at the bay of Mobile. Driven away from the Mobile area by the Indians, they travelled up north to the Hiwassee River in Tennessee.

Servier also became interested in stone forts built in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. The ruins of three of those forts can still be seen today: “The Old Stone Fort” in Tennessee, 70 miles west of Chattanooga; “De Soto Falls Fort” in Alabama, on top of Lookout Mountain, 45 miles south of Chattanooga; and the “Fort Mountain” in Georgia, 70 miles southeast of Chattanooga. It is believed that there were other forts, long since destroyed.

Archaeologists and historians accept that these forts were not constructed by Indians and were built because the inhabitants were in deadly peril. Many say they were built by Europeans and have similarities to forts in Wales of the same era. A Kentucky surveyor compared the remains of the De Soto Falls fort with a plan of Dolwyddelan Castle, Madoc's birthplace, and found that the mode of design was almost identical.

In the Old Stone Fort, three 2nd Century Roman coins were found, but have since disappeared! It is known that the Welsh traded with the Romans, but would Madoc's men still possess Roman coins 900 years later? Zella Armstrong believes there is no proof that Welsh people built these forts and that it is improbable that proof will ever be discovered. Still the consensus is that these forts are pre-Columbus and built by Europeans.

Did these Welshmen become the Mandan Indians?

It is surmised that these Welsh people moved west to the Missouri River country, where they established themselves as a different people to the Indians around them. They became known as the Mandan Indians. There are many reports from explorers and travelers about this strange tribe, the best of which is by George Catlin. He wrote in 1830 that they had fair skin; wore clothes as opposed to animal skins; were of white complexion; had blond/reddish hair; carried skin wrapped parchments which they could not read (possibly a Latin Psalter or Bible?); relied on cultivation as opposed to hunting; used a boat similar to the coracles used in Wales; had a folk history of having ancestors who had come a long way to reach this country over a great water, spoke a language similar to Welsh and whose women were considerably more fair and handsome than other Indian women.

Lewis and Clark met with these unusual people and General Clark spoke of the daughters of the Mandans as the handsomest women in the world, his eyes beaming with youthful fire!

There are a number of stories of the Mandan language being understood by Welsh-speaking people. One concerns a Welsh-speaking minister who was about to be executed and prayed in Welsh for God's help. On hearing his prayer the Mandans released him for his language was the same as theirs!

A similar story: Welshman Francis Lewis, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a weather-beaten New York City merchant, was captured by Indians, tied to the stake for burning, but released when he started talking to them in Welsh.

Madoc to next page

Prefer to receive the newsletter online?

Notify Kay Gavin at kaywgavin@hotmail.com.

**She will notify you when the next issue is available on the Society's web page.
Help the Society save printing & mailing costs.**

Madoc from previous page

A report by a Lt. Joseph Roberts in the Louisville newspaper the "Public Advertiser" on May 15, 1819, recounts how he got angry in a Washington hotel at a Welsh servant boy who brought a brandy warm instead of cold and said jocosely to the lad in Welsh, "I'll give thee a good beating." In the same room there was an Indian chief who on hearing him speak in Welsh approached him with the question, in Welsh, "Is that thy language?" Roberts answered in the affirmative, whereupon the Chief said it was likewise his language and the language of his father and mother and his nation. Roberts goes on to write: "I was astonished and greatly amazed when I heard such a man.....speaking the ancient British language as fluently as if he had been brought up in the vicinity of Mount Snowdon. Many Mandan words are very similar to Welsh words, some are identical. Space does not permit a list.

To counter this circumstantial evidence, one should mention the account in all three of the research books of a young Welshman, John Evans, who left Wales in 1791 with the high purpose of finding the Welsh Indians. He was sponsored by a consortium of Welsh benefactors with a promise of more support from the Welsh community in Philadelphia, which was never forthcoming. He found the remnant of the Mandan tribe and lived with them for a winter, but on returning to St. Louis was given a substantial amount of money by the Spanish, who at the time were in conflict with the British in trying to obtain control of the upper Missouri area. Evans claimed that "from intercourse I had with Indians in this area I think you may with safety inform our friends that they have no existence." Historians believe that the Spanish were using Evans to disprove any British claim based on the existence of a Welsh Indian tribe.

Well, the books provide so many stories of the Mandans that it is no wonder that it is a mine of information for historical novels. Indeed on listening to members who read these novels one could get the impression that they were convinced that the Mandan tribe are the descendants of Madoc's crew. In discussing this subject with a doctor

friend of mine, he queried why someone had not taken DNA samples from these Indians to compare with Welsh people? Alas, the Mandan tribe became extinct in the early in the early 19th Century due to a smallpox epidemic!

If you are interested in coming to The Well-Read Dragons, you're welcome even if you haven't been able to read the book. The fellowship is always warm and the discussion intriguing.

Coming up:

June 2 — Calvinists Incorporated: Welsh Immigrants on Ohio's Industrial Frontier by Anne Kelly Knowles. Many Minnesota Welsh pioneers came to the Mankato/Lake Crystal area as a result of second-migration from Ohio.

Four copies are available at mmlink.org through interlibrary loan. WE WILL ALSO CHOOSE THE BOOKS FOR THE COMING YEAR AT THIS MEETING. BRING IDEAS!

August 4 — A Man's Estate by Emyr Humphreys.

Hannah Ellis is 35, unmarried, and still living at Y Glyn, the family farm in Wales where she has been brought up by her mother and step-father—a forbidding man with a powerful hold on the neighborhood.

Loving her country, yet resenting the egotism of her family, she yearns for the return of her long-banished brother Philip, believing that he will rescue her from this bleak existence.

Little does Hannah realize that Philip's arrival is imminent and will herald enormous changes as he unwittingly ignites the passions and strengths of an unusually intertwined community.

AbeBooks.com has a number of copies available for \$1.00 U.S. + about \$6.00 shipping from the U.K.

Luncheon meetings are held at 11:30 a.m. the first Saturday noon of alternate months.

The group meets at Davanni's in Roseville (west of Rosedale), in a private room conducive to discussion. Before discussion, plan to purchase lunch. Those purchases make it possible for us to continue to use this room. So don't eat a big breakfast!

Please...when attending St. David's Society events, eschew cologne, after-shave, etc. To be respectful of members with fragrance allergies and to allow their attendance/enjoyment,

PLEASE HELP US MAKE ALL SOCIETY EVENTS FRAGRANCE-FREE.

Diolch yn fawr.

WordFind

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle—horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell a flower close to a DAFFODIL.

Thanks to Karen Titrud for her help with this puzzle.

C	S	N	S	L	L	I	H	K	E	S	B	L	U	B
E	Y	A	E	A	U	T	U	M	N	S	D	I	S	C
N	M	C	I	D	G	N	E	W	H	I	T	E	A	E
T	B	G	L	N	L	H	T	N	A	L	P	E	E	A
R	O	B	E	A	T	O	X	I	C	I	T	Y	M	S
A	L	L	O	N	M	D	G	Y	T	T	E	R	P	T
L	L	R	R	W	U	I	A	P	E	A	R	L	U	E
E	E	C	A	O	L	S	N	V	R	W	I	B	P	R
A	B	H	N	L	F	T	R	E	I	T	E	A	C	O
V	L	I	G	L	E	A	W	L	U	D	H	I	B	O
E	O	N	E	E	E	O	D	S	G	S	S	R	U	D
S	O	E	W	Y	L	S	E	D	A	R	A	P	D	T
T	M	S	W	F	N	E	D	R	A	G	O	L	S	U
A	P	E	T	A	L	S	P	R	I	N	G	W	E	O
R	N	U	S	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L	I	O	S

Autumn, Bell, Bloom, Bowl, Buds, Bulbs, Central, Chinese, Cyclamineus, Disc, Easter, Feel, Festival, Flower, Garbo, Garden, Genus, Golden, Grow, Hills, Leaves, Length, New Year, Orange, Outdoor, Parades, Pearl, Petals, Pink, Plant, Pretty, Saint David, Sale, Seeds, Shape, Soil, Split, Spring, Star, Stem, Sweet, Symbol, Theme, Toxicity, Tube, White, Wild, Yellow.

Dragon News

News of Society members & friends

SUNSHINE REPORT: Betty Kinsey, the Society Sunshine chairwoman, reports sending get well greetings to Doris Strong, Ellis Jones, Mike Gavin and Ruth Jones.

Please let Betty know when you know of a member who is ill or has suffered a loss, or is rejoicing over a birth, marriage or something else. You can reach her at (612) 871-7587.

Croeso i Betws-y-Coed Welcome to Betws-y-Coed

According to "News of the Weird" by Chuck Shepherd, included in the April 7, 2012, Star Tribune.

The town of Betws-y-Coed, Wales, holds the distinction of having its name likely butchered by more misspellings on Internet search inquiries than any other. Website managers told BBC News in February that they have compiled a list of 364 different spellings from people ostensibly looking for the town. The most common references were to "Bwtsy Code" and "Betsy Cowed."

Dr. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, resigns

Swansea Valley-born Dr. Rowan Williams has announced he will retire in December after 10 years in the post of Archbishop of Canterbury.

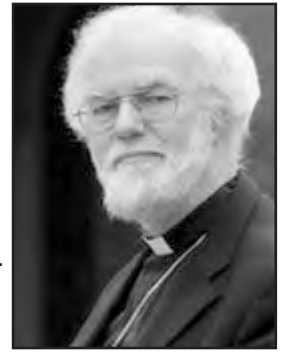
The Archbishop of Wales, Dr. Barry Morgan, said Dr. Williams had worked tirelessly over the past decade to hold the Anglican Communion together. "He has tried to encourage everyone to work together, rather than to pursue their own agendas, and that is always a difficult task.

"Perhaps his true worth will only really be appreciated by the church once he's gone," Morgan said.

Born in 1950, Williams was educated at Swansea's Dynevor grammar school before going on to Christ's College, Cambridge.

From 1991 to 1999 he served as Bishop of Monmouth, before becoming Archbishop of Wales.

When he was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, he was the first Welsh bishop to hold that post since the English Reformation.



**Dr. Rowan Williams,
Archbishop of
Canterbury**



Photo by Trilby Busch

Would that we could print this in color so readers could appreciate the beauty of a small portion of the daffodils in member AdaMae Lewis' Ames, Iowa, garden. She's shown under the Welsh flag with Mary Mergenthal to the left. Trilby Busch gave her presentation on her new book, Darkness Visible, at the Iowa Welsh Society's St. David's luncheon, March 24.

OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES

President Pam Rose, (952) 854-4743, '13
Vice-President Bill Kimes, (763) 862-3130, '13
Secretary open
Treasurer Ron Adams, (952) 237-0506, ('12)

Directors

Janice Barbee, (763) 544-9396 ('12)
Karen Conradi-Jones, (651) 639-1688, '13
Judy Herbert, '13
Karen Kidwell, (952) 236-0955, ('13)

Investments — Ron Adams
Archivist — Mae Howells Anderson
Cards & Remembrances — Betty Kinsey
Past-President — Judith Evans Warner
Membership Chairperson — Kay Gavin, (651) 484-1778
Newsletter Editor — Mary Mergenthal

Officers of St. David's Foundation —
Don Anderson (pres.), Mae Anderson, Betty Kinsey

**Please consider a tax-deductible
contribution to the
St. David's Society or
the St. David's Foundation.**

**Gifts can remember
or honor a Welsh friend or relative.**

**You are also encouraged to remember the
St. David's Society or Foundation in your will. For
information, please contact
Don Anderson, (612) 789-8923, or
Ron Adams, (952) 237-0506.**

Calling all crafters

Do you quilt, knit, crochet, make greeting cards, paint, take photographs, or engage in other types of crafts? We need you! We would like to sell homemade crafted items at the North American Festival of Wales in the marketplace area when the festival comes to Minneapolis August 28–31, **2014**. We don't have a budget for supplies, but we know that most everyone who does crafts has an ample supply of "stash" that they probably wouldn't mind contributing to our projects. We have acquired quite a bit of daffodil material that we thought could be made into cloth napkins, placemats, tea cozies, and also a quilt to raffle. We have patterns for knit and crochet tea cozies.

Do you have other ideas that would be Welsh-related?

We'd like to gather any who would be interested in being involved with this project. Being that the Welsh North American Association (WNAA) is monetarily in charge of the festival, the local societies do not garner any proceeds from the event itself. This will be a way for the St. David's Society of Minnesota and the Minnesota Welsh Association (MWA), co-sponsors for the NAFOW 2014, to raise funds for the local societies.

Please call or e-mail Kay Gavin at 651-484-1778 or kaywgavin@hotmail.com if you would like to help out in this manner. We have about 2 1/2 years until the NAFOW so we should be able to accomplish a lot in that period of time.... and, it will be fun!

Next Deadline: August 15

MAIL COPY TO: **Mary Mergenthal**
2393 Bourne Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108-1618

OR E-MAIL TO: mary.mergenthal@comcast.net

St. David's Society of Minnesota MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

If family membership, include all names to be listed.

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Membership category: Single Annual (\$15) _____; Couple/Family Annual (\$22) _____

Supporting Annual (\$50) _____; Life (\$175) _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____ (Make check payable to St. David's Society of Minnesota, note "membership")

Mail to: Kay Gavin
2737 Aglen St.
Roseville, MN 55113-2046

or contact Kay at: kaywgavin@hotmail.com

Membership year is July 1–June 30.
You may pay for multiple years in advance.

Diolch yn fawr.

St. David's Society of Minnesota
2737 Aglen St.
Roseville, MN 55113-2046

Return Service Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING UP...

Annual picnic & annual meeting – Sat., July 21,
1–4 p.m., home of Pam Rose, 8514 13th Ave. S., Bloomington, 55425.
Bring a dish to pass, please. Beverages, plates & flatware provided.

Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival —
Sun., Sept. 23, 1:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Mankato, Minn.
Ann Lemmenes conducting.

**If you need a large-print version of the newsletter,
please call Mary Mergenthal, (651) 644-1650.**