

MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY

Volume 11 Number 1 – March 2016

ST. DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATED WITH CLASSIC MOVIE

Members of the Malad Valley Welsh Society and friends were transported back to the Wales of the 1920s as they watched "How Green Was My Valley" in the Iron Door Playhouse on February 29, the day before St. David's Day. The film, adapted from the book by the same name by Richard Llewellyn, won the 1941 Academy Award for Best Picture and starred Walter Pidgeon as the father of the Morgan family, Maureen O'Hara as Bronwen, the wife of the oldest Morgan son, and Roddy McDowell as the youngest Morgan son and teller of the story. Welsh-themed door prizes were given out before the movie.

WELSH SOCIETY MEETINGS

The Welsh Society meets monthly, usually at the Oneida County Library. The Society will meet on Thursday, April 28, and discuss Welsh Festival plans.

DARL GLEED, an original member of the Welsh Society, died suddenly on January 24, 2016, of a heart attack. He and his energetic support of the Welsh Festival and many other community events and organizations will be missed by his family and many friends.

12th ANNUAL MALAD VALLEY WELSH FESTIVAL JUNE 24-26, 2016

Watch www.welshfestival.com
for more information.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE 12TH ANNUAL MALAD VALLEY WELSH FESTIVAL

The 12th annual Malad Valley Welsh Festival will be held the last weekend in June - the 24th - 26th. Lots of favorite activities plus several new events are being planned.

Wagon Rides

Thanks to a grant from the Union Pacific Foundation, the wagon rides will have a new focus this year. Bannock Street, formerly a cutoff of the Oregon Trail, and Main Street, formerly known as the Gold Trail because of it serving as part of the freighting route between Montana and Utah, will be marked with signs indicating the owners of houses and businesses as taken from the earliest available plat map of Malad. The role of the railroad in the history of Malad will be emphasized.

Presentations

Presenters will be Lucie Thomas Washburn, who will talk about the role of the Welsh in settling Scotland; Wil, a

film maker from Wales, who will talk about tourist sites and sights in Wales while showing clips of his films; and Boyd Roberts, who will tell the story of the Roberts family in Malad Valley.

Missionary Reunion

All former missionaries to the British Isles are invited to a missionary reunion where Steven and Richey Albrechtsen will talk about missionary work in Wales today. The sons of Connie Thomas Albrechtsen, formerly of Malad, Steven and Richey both served in Wales.

Displays

Displays of the family history charts of 30 of the original Malad Valley pioneer families will be in the cultural hall of the Church along with exhibits about life in Wales, especially their clothing at the turn of the century.

Music

Music will again be a focus of the Festival with the choral concert on Friday evening, the youth concert on Friday afternoon, and the piano duet concert on Saturday afternoon. Several well-known Celtic musical groups will be performing on the amphitheatre with the finale concert moved indoors this year unless the weather is a lot cooler than in the past. "Idlewild" from Salt Lake City will be a featured group this year.

The Sunday evening concert will feature Dr. James Drake, internationally renowned organist, who learned to play the organ on the 2nd Ward organ when he lived in Malad as a child. Joining him will be Dr. Cathy Clayton, whose expertise on the harp has impressed Festival attendees during the past two years. That concert will be held in the 2nd Ward chapel.

Food and Crafts

The craft booths are going to be moved this year so that they will be more accessible. They will be along the street by the amphitheatre. Food booths will continue to be near the pavilion. A booth where kids can get their faces painted with Celtic designs will be a new activity this year.

The Welsh Country Store will again have souvenirs to sell, including some new items imported from Wales.

A community hamburger lunch will again be sponsored by the Oneida County Senior Center, and a community pancake breakfast will be sponsored by the Samaria Community Foundation.

Games

The Malad Middle School MathCounts Team will again organize the games. Participants will learn the games kids played in Wales, as they crossed the plains, and when they arrived in the Malad Valley.

Quilt Show and Photo Exhibit

The Oneida Quilters will again host their quilt show during the Festival at the downtown Senior Center. The Malad Photo Club will host its 2nd photography competition and exhibit at the Malad Fire Station, located just a block away from the City Park. Prizes will be awarded in several categories, so come and see the work of some of Malad's best photographers.

Samaria Events

Self-guided tours of Samaria will start at the Blue Goose and include stops for ice cream goodies at the Davis/Osmond cabin.

Welsh Society Meet-and-Greet

Welsh Society members should plan on meeting at noon on both Friday and

Saturday of the Festival at the Welsh Society booth to meet and mingle. Identifying name tags will be sent out prior to the Festival so that you can be recognized at the Festival.

Plan on attending the Festival and celebrating your Welsh heritage and interest in Wales and all things Welsh!

PLAN YOUR FAMILY REUNION AT THE WELSH FESTIVAL!

Contact Jean Thomas (thomjea2@isu.edu or 208-766-5361) if you want to reserve meeting space, have your reunion advertised in Festival publicity, and receive coupons for the Festival food and craft booths for all of your Reunion attendees!

100th Anniversary of Dedication of 2nd Ward Tabernacle

On August 30, 2015, the commemoration of the dedication of the 2nd Ward Tabernacle was held in that historic building, the oldest LDS building still in existence in Malad. Now housing the 2nd, 4th, and 5th wards, the building is not a tabernacle today, but its history is important to everyone in Malad Valley. Construction on the building began in 1913, and the completed building was dedicated on August 29, 1915, by Joseph F. Smith, the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In its location on the outskirts of town near the train depot, it was the first building seen by travelers and the last building seen by those leaving Malad via train.

Don Buehler and Bob Crowther headed the committee that organized the 100th anniversary celebration. Myra Jean Williams John returned to Malad to take her familiar place at the organ to play prelude and postlude music. The Malad Valley Men's

Welsh Chorus sang the Welsh hymn "Guide Us, O Thou Great Jehovah" and "O Home Beloved" by Evan Stephens, which was appropriate since the family of Evan Stephens settled in Malad and Evan hitchhiked often to Malad Valley to visit them. Bob Crowther told the history of the 2nd Ward Tabernacle, augmented by a slide show created by Kathy Kent. The Malad Valley Community Chorus sang two numbers, and Dr. James Drake performed an organ solo. A nationally renowned organist who has performed in some of the greatest cathedrals in the world, Dr. Drake credits hearing the organists play the 2nd Ward organ with inspiring him to become a professional organist. Videotaped memories by Hope Price, Myron Sorensen, and 102-year-old Margaret Jones were shown, and an article about the 2nd Ward building by Mable Jones Gabbott that was published in the LDS *Friend* magazine was read. The program concluded with Stake President Matt Wray reading selections from the original dedicatory prayer and the congregation singing "The Spirit of God," accompanied by Dr. Drake.

The historic Church of the Seven Spires and the old 1st Ward Building predated the 2nd Ward, but both of those buildings have been torn down. The 2nd Ward is on the National Register of Historic Places. For a free copy of the Centennial Booklet prepared for this event, go to www.oneidacountylibrary.org where you can either read the booklet or download it.

HESS PUMICE DONATES TO RESTORATION PROJECT IN WALES

When on a business trip for Hess Pumice Products of Malad, Mike Hess, Jr., met some of the people involved in the restoration of the tramway in Chirck, Wales. On behalf of Hess Pumice Products of

Malad, Mike made a donation to the project. A plaque listing the Malad company is on display at the site. More information, including photos, can be seen on their website: www.thegvt.org.

Part of the historic Glyn Valley Tramway -- dubbed the "Little Bit of Heaven Railway"-- is being restored by volunteers from the Trust who want to recreate the tramway as it would have been in its heyday.

Chirk, known as the Gateway to Wales, is a little town situated on the edge of the County of Wrexham, and at the start of the beautiful Ceiriog Valley. Chirk will soon see steam trains running once again through its picturesque scenery.

RON DENNIS TO GUIDE TOUR TO WALES AND SCOTLAND

Under the sponsorship of the Mormon Heritage Association, a 44-person tour will be conducted by Dr. Ron Dennis of historic sites in Scotland and Wales. Several Malad people signed up for the September tour before it quickly sold out. They will report on their trip at future Welsh Society meetings.

CRAYON PORTRAIT PRESERVATION PROJECT AT ONEIDA PIONEER MUSEUM

Funded by grants from the Idaho Heritage Trust and the Idaho Historical Society, preservation work has been done on 12 crayon portraits that have been donated to the Oneida Pioneer Museum. Dianne Iverglynne, who did the preservation work several years ago on all the crayon portraits then in the museum's collection, again did the work on these newest acquisitions. The portrait collection will be featured at the grand opening of the Museum on the Saturday before Memorial Day.

Become a "Friend of the Museum" to support the Oneida Pioneer Museum.

Annual: \$20 (2 years - \$35)

Handcart: \$50 (2 years - \$95)

Covered Wagon: \$100 (2 years - \$190)

Stagecoach: \$200 (2 years - \$390)

Send your tax deductible donation to the Museum at P.O. Box 79, Malad, ID 83252.

Malad Valley Family History Books, Volumes 1-3, are available at Thomas Market, the Blue Goose, the Oneida Pioneer Museum, and Malad City Hall.

The Malad Valley Welsh Society Newsletter is published semi-annually. All members of the Malad Valley Welsh Society receive a copy as a benefit of membership. To put stories, ads, or information in the Newsletter, contact Jean Thomas (208-766-5361) or thomjea2@isu.edu.

The Malad Valley Welsh Foundation is the nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that raises funds to support the Festival. All donations to the Festival and Society are tax deductible. To make charitable donations to benefit the Society and Festival, please send your donation to the Malad Valley Welsh Foundation, 59 Bannock Street, Malad, ID 83252.

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LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE GIFT? Give a membership to the Malad Valley Welsh Society – just \$10. Contact Jean Thomas (208-766-4417).