

MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY

Volume 13 Number 2 – March 2018

WELSH SOCIETY EVENTS

The Malad Valley Welsh Society held its 2018 winter party on February 13. A dozen members and guests enjoyed a slideshow of scenes in Scotland, England, and Wales by Bob Crowther, who narrated the show with stories about the tour he was on in 2016.

A tradition throughout the British Isles is the naming of homes, and attendees discussed names for their homes. Bob showed a birdhouse he had decorated with his home's name, "Cryther Corner," and provided background on "Crowther" as a Welsh name. Dotty and Brent Evanson have named their home "Crosshands on Main" to recognize an ancestor, Richard "Crosshands" Jones, who owned an inn by that name in Wales prior to emigrating to the United States. Joan Hawkins named her home "Rocky Stream" because of the little stream that flows through her property. Helen Ravsten honored the original owners of her home by naming it "Hawkins Place." All members of the Welsh Society are encouraged to name their homes and tell us the history of the names.

St. David's Day was special this year because it was part of Samaria's Sesquicentennial and co-hosted by the Sesquicentennial Committee and the Welsh Society. The party was held on March 1 in the Assembly Hall, once part of the Samaria LDS Church. Over 200 people enjoyed a traditional Welsh dinner of leek and potato soup, breads, and Welsh cakes. Daffodils, dragons, and Welsh flags decorated the hall. A student in a red dragon costume greeted arrivals, and two students in Welsh women's costumes helped serve. Door prizes were awarded after the history of St. David was briefly presented.

The next event for the Welsh Society will be the Welsh Festival in June.

MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY OFFICERS – 2017-2018

Jean Thomas, President
Susan Wittman, Secretary
Brent Evanson, Treasurer

14TH ANNUAL MALAD VALLEY WELSH FESTIVAL – SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, WELSH OR NOT

This year's Welsh Festival will feature some new events and a lot of favorites. A new event will be an introductory program on each day. Jan Crowther Myers, chosen as Bard of the Welsh Festival last year, will preside over this year's Festival and will be honored at the introductory program. Lucie Thomas Washburn will then tell about the importance of music and poetry in Welsh culture and about the annual *eisteddfod*. **All Welsh Society members will receive a coupon to the craft and food booths upon attendance at the introductory program on either day.**

Presentations and Displays

Carla Kelly, award-winning romance and Western novelist will present about her research and writing of a sequel to "My Loving Vigil Keeping," an historical novel about the mine disaster in Scofield, Utah, that killed hundreds of Welsh and Scandinavian miners in 1900.

If you have ever wanted to travel to Wales, you will want to attend the presentation by Malad people who have travelled in Wales and will tell about the opportunities and challenges awaiting travellers in Wales.

That talk will be augmented by a "Walk through Wales" in the display area where enlarged photos and souvenirs of Wales will be reminiscent of Wales. Census records and artifacts related to the first settlers of Malad Valley will also be displayed.

Kids' Activities

Lots of new kids' activities will keep the littlest visitors entertained as they color castles, make dragons, and play games organized by the Malad Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization. A bouncy castle will again be featured along with games played by the pioneer children as they trekked from Wales to Malad Valley. The games will be organized again by the Malad Middle School MathCounts Team.

Music

The choral concert will feature some new choirs, and the piano ensemble concert and youth concerts will again feature talented musicians.

Sheila Hadden has scheduled several new Celtic music groups for the outdoor music part of the Festival. A dance instructor will come to Malad early in the summer and teach Welsh dances to groups of youth, who will then perform at the Festival.

Poetry

Poetry readings by students and adults will again be a highlight of the Festival, making it more like a real Welsh event. The winning students will be crowned on Friday, and the winning Bard will be chaired on Saturday at the finale event.

Other Events

Plans for extended wagon rides to historic sites around Malad are underway, as are plans for a larger photo exhibit. The quilt show and bake sale by the Oneida Quilters will again be held at the Senior Center in downtown Malad. Tours of the historic Presbyterian Church will be on both days with an afternoon tea held on Saturday.

The community cookout sponsored by the Malad Senior Center and the traditional community breakfast sponsored by the Samaria Community Foundation will serve as fund raisers for those organizations.

Lots of food and craft booths will sell practical and whimsical items during the

Festival. The Welsh Country Store will sell souvenirs of Wales and the Welsh Festival. The Taste of Wales booth will feature traditional Welsh goodies.

Samaria

Samaria will be the site for many events during the Welsh Festival as the community looks forward to celebrating its sesqui-centennial in July. An open house for the Malad Valley Heritage Square will be held on Friday and will feature tours of the pioneer family cabins that are under reconstruction there. The extensive "Welsh Experience" displays will tell the stories of the pioneer families that settled Samaria and the rest of Malad Valley. Self-guided tours of Samaria historic sites, a Welsh children's farm, Aunt Mary's Ice Cream Parlor, the Little Red Dragon Gift Shop, the Miners' Dragon Burger Shack, and, of course, the Blue Goose will welcome visitors on both days of the Welsh Festival.

Sunday Program

The only event of the Welsh Festival on Sunday, July 1, will be the performance by the Haywire Ranch String Band at the Presbyterian Church. This group performs pioneer music and narrates their show as if it were an old-time radio broadcast so it is entertaining for everyone.

Please see the enclosed brochure for the Welsh Festival schedule. **Note, however, that it is still early, and there may be changes to the schedule before June 29. See www.welshfestival.com for the most current schedule and additional information.**

**14th ANNUAL
MALAD VALLEY
WELSH FESTIVAL
JUNE 29 – JULY 1, 2018**

SAMARIA SESQUICENTENNIAL Celebrating the First 150 Years

The Samaria Sesquicentennial will celebrate 150 years since the first pioneers moved into what is now known as Samaria. In 1868 John Evan Price and his family homesteaded in Samaria; they were followed soon by other Welsh pioneers. Samaria was named by Lorenzo Snow, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who thought the people's kindness evoked thoughts of the Good Samaritan in the Bible.

At one time Samaria had over 300 residents, mostly Mormon Welsh and Scandinavian emigrants. Then the railroad bypassed Samaria, and many people moved into nearby Malad, which was known up to that time as a more "gentile" town.

Under the direction of Luke Waldron and the Samaria Community Foundation, the Samaria Sesquicentennial will be celebrated on July 20-21, 2018. Monthly events are being held to remind everyone of Samaria's history and culture.

In January Justin Osmond, the son of Merrill Osmond and grandson of Olive Davis Osmond, spoke on "Hearing with My Heart" at a Fireside held at the LDS Stake Center. Justin, who was born with the severe hearing impairment that afflicted two of his uncles, spoke of how he has overcome the effects of nearly 100% deafness and about the Olive Davis Osmond Foundation that he established to help children in 3rd world countries receive hearing aids. His famous father, Merrill, also spoke briefly and updated the crowd on his family, including Donny and Marie, who just signed another 2-year contract to continue their show in Las Vegas.

In February the Samaria Sesquicentennial Ball was held in the Assembly Hall in Samaria. The Haywire Ranch String Band played while people learned to square dance.

St. David's Day was the March activity, which was held on March 1 in the Assembly Hall (see earlier article).

The Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Easter Saturday at the Samaria City Park. An Arbor Day celebration will be held on April 26-27 when trees will be planted in Malad Valley Heritage Park and service projects will be completed.

In May everyone is invited to bring a paint brush and wear old clothes to hike up to paint the "S" on the mountain on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

Samaria may have fewer than 200 residents today, but the Sesquicentennial promises to bring back many people with ties to the community. A parade, games, tours of pioneer cabins, exhibits about pioneer families, and good food will be part of the 150th birthday of Samaria.

For more information, see www.welshfestival.com under the Samaria Sesquicentennial tab or contact Luke Waldron at luke.waldron@malad.us or 208-380-3522.

SAMARIA SESQUICENTENNIAL JULY 20-21, 2018

Traditional Leek and Potato Soup

4 large leeks, thinly sliced (white part)
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
5 medium potatoes, thinly sliced (4 cups)
4 cups chicken broth or 6 bullion cubes
1 T. salt
Pepper to taste
2 cups milk
2 cups half and half (light cream)
Cook leeks and onion in butter until tender. Add potatoes, broth, and salt.
Cook 30 minutes until potatoes are tender. Add milk and cream. Serve hot.

GUIDELINES FOR 2018 WELSH FESTIVAL ADULT POETRY COMPETITION

- 1) Theme: "Family"
 - 2) Adults may submit 1 or 2 poems.
 - 3) Length: no more than 80 lines
 - 4) Adults must submit poems, using a pseudonym of their choice. The pseudonym must appear on every page of every poem.
 - 5) A cover sheet must accompany each submission; it must include the poet's real name, his or her pseudonym, address, phone number and email address (if any). The cover sheet will be torn off before the poems are given to the judges so that the judging will be anonymous.
 - 6) Deadline: June 1, 2018
- Mail poems to Malad City Hall, 59 Bannock Street, Malad, ID 83252. See www.welshfestival.com for complete list of guidelines and copy of cover page.

**WATCH FOR WELSH
FESTIVAL INFORMATION AT
WWW.WELSHFESTIVAL.COM**

WANT TO HELP AT THE FESTIVAL OR IN PLANNING THE FESTIVAL?

Contact Jean Thomas (thomjea2@isu.edu or 208-766-5361)

**Give a unique gift-- membership
to the Malad Valley Welsh
Society! Only \$10 per year**

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!

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

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

Annual:	\$20
Handcart:	\$50
Covered Wagon:	\$100
Stagecoach:	\$200

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

***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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