

MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY

Volume 14 Number 1 – October 2018

WELSH SOCIETY EVENTS

The first event of the Malad Valley Welsh Society this year will be a “Ghost Tour of Samaria” on Thursday, November 1. Luke Waldron will coordinate the tour, during which guides will tell some scary stories (mostly true) about old-time events and pioneers in Samaria – so appropriate for Halloween. The tour will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. at the Pavilion at the Samaria City Park. Dress warmly!

The other Welsh Society events for the year will be a holiday party in January and a St. David’s Day party near March 1.

Welsh Society members are contacted by email and telephone about upcoming events. If you are not being contacted, please contact Jean Thomas, President (thomjea2@isu.edu or 208-766-5361) to make sure we have your contact information.

MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY OFFICERS – 2018-2019

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

One of the original members of the Welsh Society – Helen Thomas Williams – passed away on Friday, September 28. Although she could not get out to meetings or the Festival, she was a true Welsh woman.

Edna Thorpe, long-time member of the Welsh Society, passed away in October. She will be missed by her family and friends.

14TH ANNUAL MALAD VALLEY WELSH FESTIVAL WAS A SUCCESS

This year’s Welsh Festival was very successful for everyone who attended. The new opening ceremony marked the beginning of each day of the Festival. Last year’s Bard of the Welsh Festival, Jan Crowther Myers, was proceeded down the aisle of the 2nd Ward Chapel by a knight carrying a sword and young girls wearing traditional Welsh costumes. Lucie Thomas Washburn told about the importance of poetry and music to Welsh tradition, Jan Myers read her winning poem, and the crowd sang “Land of My Fathers,” the Welsh National Anthem.

Presentations and Displays

Walking through the cultural hall of the Church was like taking a walk through Wales because large photo banners of scenes in Wales dominated the exhibit area. Malad people who have travelled to Wales told stories of their adventures and challenges during one presentation period.

Carla Kelly, award-winning romance and Western novelist, told about the challenges of writing historical fiction, including how to include real characters and how to make fictional characters appear real. She used examples from her two novels about the 1900 mine disaster in Scofield, Utah, when over 200 Welsh and Finnish miners were killed.

Music

The choral concert, youth concert, and piano ensemble concert again featured talented groups and soloists who entertained large audiences. The outdoor amphitheatre was the site for several Celtic music groups that performed throughout both days of the Festival.

Poetry

Poetry readings by students and adults were again a highlight of the Festival because every authentic Welsh event has to have good music and good poetry. Young poets who had been selected as finalists in written competitions before school was out read their entries with the winners in each grade category receiving crowns.

The 2018 Bard of the Welsh Festival honor was presented to Dotty Evanson, whose poem "It's a Good Tree" rose to the top of the competition. Dotty was "chaired" during the finale event, sitting in the special Malad Valley Bard's Chair from which she will preside at next year's Festival.

Quilt Show

The excellent quilters of Oneida County had beautiful hand-made quilts on display, and visitors could vote for their favorites. The Oneida Quilters also sold baked goodies at the quilt show held in the Senior Center.

Wagon Rides

Wagon rides to historic sites around Malad are always popular. This year's tours were again up Bannock Street (a cutoff of the Oregon Trail) and North Main Street (the Gold Road) with guides telling about the homes and businesses that once were located along these historic roads.

Presbyterian Church

Tours of the historic Presbyterian Church were held on both days with a large number of people enjoying afternoon tea on Saturday. The Haywire Ranch String Band performed their Sunday concert at the Presbyterian Church and entertained the crowd with their "radio broadcast from the pioneer trail," complete with commercials, road reports, and weather reports.

Food and Craft Vendors

The community cookout was again sponsored by the Malad Senior Center, and the traditional community breakfast was sponsored by the Samaria Community

Foundation. The Taste of Wales booth featured traditional Welsh goodies.

The many food booths sold burgers, corn dogs, lemonade, fish and fries, and other delicious items throughout the Festival. Attendees could purchase practical and whimsical gifts for themselves and others at the craft booths. The Welsh Country Store sold souvenirs of Wales and the Welsh Festival and included a special section just for kids this year.

Samaria

Samaria was the site for many events during the Welsh Festival in preparation for the community's sesquicentennial in July. Tours of the three pioneer-era cabins, panning for "gold," a Welsh Children's Farm where kids could ride ponies, milk cows, and see baby calves, oxen, bunnies, chicks, ducks, and even a skunk, and a scavenger hunt were held at the new Malad Valley Heritage Square. Self-guided tours of historic sites in Samaria were also a highlight of Festival events.

If you attended this year's Welsh Festival, THANK YOU for making the Festival so successful. If you were not able to attend, we hope you will be at next year's Festival.

**15th ANNUAL
MALAD VALLEY
WELSH FESTIVAL
JUNE 28 – 30, 2019
Mark your calendars!**

SAMARIA SESQUICENTENNIAL Celebrating the First 150 Years

The Samaria Sesquicentennial celebrated 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 rough-and-tumble freighter town where "gentiles" lived.

Under the direction of Luke Waldron and the Samaria Community Foundation, monthly events were held throughout 2018, leading lead up to the Sesquicentennial on July 20-21.

The Queen Contest was held on Friday, July 20, with the main events on Saturday, beginning with the parade. Families with ties to Samaria were encouraged to have entries in the parade, and many floats, wagons, and vehicles reminded people of the Evanses, Prices, Waldrons, Atkinsons, Davises, and others who once lived and still live in Samaria.

The gift shop at the Heritage Square sold special sesquicentennial t-shirts, aprons, and booklets. People toured the Jenkins, Williams, and Deer cabins at the Square and read exhibits about pioneer life in Samaria.

The auction held in Samaria Park again brought out lots of generous people to bid on all kinds of useful and beautiful items. Good food was available at the breakfast before the parade and at Doug's Burger Shack afterward.

New this year, two people were named to the Samaria Hall of Fame because of their support for Samaria. Jean Thomas has written over \$35,000 in grants to benefit Samaria, and Marie Waldron has been the spirit and backbone of Samaria Days since

its beginning. Plaques with their names will be on display in the Blue Goose.

The Sesquicentennial ended with an outdoor dance before hundreds of visitors headed home.

GUIDELINES FOR 2019 WELSH FESTIVAL ADULT POETRY COMPETITION

- 1) Theme: "Gratitude"
- 2) Deadline: June 1, 2019
- 3) Adults may submit up to 3 poems.
- 4) Length: no more than 60 lines
- 5) Adults must submit poems using a pseudonym of their choice. The pseudonym must appear on every page of every poem.
- 6) A cover sheet must accompany each submission. The cover sheet will be torn off before the poems are given to the judges so that the judging will be anonymous.
- 7) Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 5 poets.
- 8) The winning poet will be named the "Bard of the Malad Valley Welsh Festival" and will preside over the next year's Festival.

Mail poems to Mary Alice Telford, Chair of Malad Valley Welsh Festival Adult Poetry Competition, P.O. Box 79, Malad, ID 83252. Contact Mary Alice at 208-431-2683 or maryalice2014@gmail.com. See www.welshfestival.com for complete list of guidelines and copy of cover page.

***Cymru am Byth!
Wales Forever!***

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

**MUSEUMS HONOR WELSH
PIONEERS**

The Oneida Pioneer Museum featured pictures of Wales and Samaria in its window displays last summer.

The Idaho Historical Society featured John Evan Price as an Idaho pioneer in its display in Boise during 2017-2018.

The Museum of Idaho in Idaho Falls is planning an exhibit about pioneers of Idaho and will include Welsh pioneers. Watch for more information!

If you know of Museums or other exhibits that feature Idaho and Utah pioneers, please contact the Welsh Society so that the Welsh are not forgotten in the history of these states.

**DO YOU WANT TO HELP AT THE
FESTIVAL OR IN PLANNING THE
FESTIVAL? DO YOU HAVE IDEAS
FOR THE FESTIVAL? Contact Jean
Thomas (thomjea2@isu.edu or 208-766-
5361). We welcome all new ideas!**

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

**Subscribe to NINNAU (The North
American Welsh Newspaper) – Phone:
908-766-4151 or ninnau@poboxes.com.**

**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, and the Welsh/Pioneer
Cookbook 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.**

