THE ARCHIVE FOR WELSH AMERICA IS NEARING COMPLETION

Over $130,000 Raised So Far
More is Still Needed!
PLEASE HELP!

Construction on the Archives for Welsh America building is nearing completion. The basic structure has been built, and the heating and air conditioning system, and the fire protection system will soon be installed. We decided to spend a little more than originally intended to use cement board siding instead of the originally specified stucco since stucco can be cracked or chipped, allowing mold to infect the expanded polyethylene insulation. We then took a leap of faith and ordered that the front façade, whose siding has been looking more and more disreputable, be re-sided with cement board siding as well. We are about to address the issue of remodeling the library to include the former archives space, which will require additional funds not yet raised. All work is expected to be done before the Welsh Heritage Festival in October.

We hope that the success so far will inspire others to add their contributions to the fund, so that next October we can dedicate a completely remodeled library as well as a new Archives.

You will find the gift card on page four of this newsletter. Or go online to www.WelshHeritage.org, and use a credit card or PayPal. Please help.

5th Welsh Heritage Festival October 4, 5, and 6, 2013

The Fifth Welsh Heritage Festival will be held in Wymore. Featured programming will be:
• Celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the Welsh Heritage Centre
• Dedication and Open House of the new Archive Addition and Library.
• Welsh and Welsh American Family History Seminar and individual Workshops by Darris Williams
• Herding Dog Demonstration by J. Holman, Nebraska Stock Dog Association
• Love Spoon Carving Seminar and Sales
• Gymnfa Gau conducted by Rev. Joe Corbin of Reedsburg, Wisconsin
• Spirits of the Welsh Pioneers in Bethel Cemetery

Reservations are available in Beatrice at the Holiday Inn Express $89.95, call (402) 228-7000, or at Capri Hotel
(formerly New Victorian Inn) ($69.99), call (402) 228-8808. These are group rates for the “Welsh Festival.”

Evening events will be held at the Holiday Inn Express.
Registration forms and schedule are posted on the website, www.WelshHeritage.org.
You have received a special mailing with the registration materials. Deadline is September 15.
Robert Humphries of Spring Green, Wisconsin is our newest Advisory Board member. Robert was nominated by Mona Everett and unanimously elected at our recent GPWHP Annual Meeting.

Within days of his election, Robert proved his mettle by alerting Berwyn to an item for sale on eBay, an original letter written by William E. Powell, Welsh-American land agent. This letter will be a centerpiece in our soon-to-be exhibit on Powell, South Dakota. Here's more about Robert from his bio:

I was born in Casnewydd (Newport) in Gwent, South Wales and grew up in Wales and England before moving to the United States in 1988. I attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio earning a BA in History. Most recently, I earned an MA in Celtic Studies from the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David in Lampeter, Ceredigion, Wales. My dissertation was "Yn eu Hiaith eu Hunain / In Their Own Language: The Settlement and Assimilation of the Welsh in Iowa County, Wisconsin, 1840-1920" Deeply interested in both Welsh and American history and also a second-language Welsh speaker, I have given numerous talks about Welsh-American history. I'm a freelance researcher and translator and a member of the boards of the Cambrian Heritage Society of Madison and the Iowa County Historical Society of Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Since 2000, I have lived in Spring Green, Wisconsin with my wife, Jenafer Lloyd-Jones, herself a descendant of Welsh immigrants, and our two children, Rhiannon, 9 and Rhys, 3.
Gwenith in Lincoln

Welcome back to Nebraska, Gwenith Closs Colgrove, a member of our Advisory board. She and her husband Gary recently moved to Lincoln from Casper, Wyoming where he had been working. Come and meet Gwenith at our 5th Welsh Heritage Festival where she will be our featured soprano soloist during the weekend.

R. I. P. Dai Bach

1999-2013

It is with great sadness that I must report that Dai Bach, my beloved Cardigan Welsh Corgi, has come to the end of the trail. He came to me on a Saturday in December 2000, and the very next morning, Sue, my beloved wife of 42 years, did not wake up. She had a massive heart attach in the night. Dai Bach has been my constant companion through that grief, and later through the joy of marrying my dear Martha, who has loved him as I have. He has been the official greeter both at our home and at the Welsh Centre. He will be greatly missed. Berwyn

Two New Exhibits

"Cardigan Welsh Corgis--the Corgi with a Tail" and "Don O. Woods--Navy Ship Named for Wymore Sailor" are our newest exhibits. Visit us during our Summer Open Hours on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m. To visit at other times, phone 402-645-3222 or 402-645-3186 and a volunteer will meet you.

Our Books FREE to Library

Genealogical Collections

Thanks to Linda Townsend of Texas and Marnette Cross of Iowa who are delivering our books to their local genealogy libraries.
19th Century Facebook

Well, not exactly "Facebook" but the nearest thing to social media back in the day was a weekly newspaper in the Welsh language. Welsh settlers would write articles from all over the USA and Canada. Those stories in Y Drych (The Mirror) from 1851 onward proved to be a vital lifeline to connect settlers who found themselves scattered over a vast continent.

Our microfilm collection of Y Drych is a goldmine of stories that we're gradually making available in translation in our newsletter as well as in the bimonthly newspaper, Ninnau, and the newsletter of the Welsh American Genealogical Society.

Perhaps you are related to persons mentioned in the following stories from settlers in Judson, Minnesota and Sheridan, Montana as published in Y Drych on 4 March 1897. You'll read about long-lost friends who are reunited after having news of one another in the Welsh language newspaper.

Judson, Minn. Feb. 1 [1897]. Here is a letter [the Hon. W. R. Jones] received recently from my old friend, William E. Thomas, formerly of Rochester, Minn. who now lives in Montana. Forty years ago he came with me from Rochester to Blue Earth County, Minn. It was a difficult journey because it rained every day and the roads so bad it took 12 days to travel a hundred miles. I was very interested to receive his letter after so much time. I had not had word of Mr. Thomas and his family for many years and his reference to Richard Jones and John K. Davies shed light on something that had been very mysterious for many. Richard Jones had gone to Denver with two other Welshmen about 38 years ago. The two Welshmen came back but did not know what had become of Richard, so it was thought he might have come to a bad end. However this letter from W. Thomas sheds light on that matter. As for John K. Davies, he and I came to Blue Earth County about the same time, and he bought 240 acres of land here. Then he went away and nobody knew what had happened to him until now, as far as I know.--W. R. Jones, Judson, Minn.

W. R. Jones then quoted from a letter he had received from his old friend, W. E. Thomas of Montana:

Sheridan, Montana [in SW Montana]. Dec. 24, 1896.--Dear friend: When I read "Y Drych" tonight I saw your name, W. R. Jones, on your article, "Trem i'r Gorphenol," [A Look at the Past] and I decided to write to you. Many years have gone by since you saw me, and my life has changed. Still I ought to be grateful because I have enjoyed good health the whole time. About eight years ago I heard news of you from B. Frank Shawbut, formerly of Montana. He said you had been elected to the Minnesota Legislature representing Blue Earth County. I noticed the title "Hon." in front of your name. I remember our two journeys together from Rochester to Blue Earth County, Minnesota.

In 1867 I met John K. Remine in Platte Valley, Neb. and he told me about the death of John K. Davies who was killed by Indians on Smoky Hill Point while on his way to Colorado in the spring of 1860.

When my sister was in Rochester [Minn.] she heard about the death of Mrs. Jones, your dear wife. I had a letter from the wife of William G. Jones, Penlan, telling of his death in Washington state. The last I heard, Thomas O. Jones was living in Kakota and has reached old age. He was an old man forty years ago. It would be a pleasure to see you and to hear about the old times in Minnesota. I had a letter from Griffith Pool asking if I know of a good place to keep a drug store.

My brother Evan came to Montana in 1885 and I came in 1887. My sister Elizabeth and her husband, John Williams, son of old Mrs. Williams, came here in 1871. Also my brother Ellis and my mother came in 1877. My dear wife died here on Jan 6, 1880 and Elizabeth died on Jan 23, 1895. John Williams has lost the use of his limbs and has not been able to walk for years. After the death of his wife, Elizabeth, he went back to his family in Rochester and now lives there with the widow of one of his brothers. My brother Ellis is married, but Evan and I are bachelors. We ranch, that is, raise stock. That's a little of our story. We would like to hear about you and your family. It is likely that few of those who came to Blue Earth are still living. Richard Jones, the old servant of Thomas O. Jones and D. C. Evans, still talks about you. He was here for years but is now in Santa Cruz, Calif.

--W. E. Thomas.

P. S. Our "cowboy" went to town without my letter last night so I will write a bit more this Christmas morning. I saw in the English newspapers and also in your article in "Y Drych" that you had heavy rains around Thanksgiving Day. I have seen little rain since I left Minnesota 30 years ago. This country is quite dry and it is necessary to irrigate the land to grow crops. If we get water, we have an abundant crop. It is usual to get 40 bushels an acre of wheat, 60 bushels of oats and from 300 to 400 bushels of potatoes. I have seen six tons of alfalfa an acre in a season by cutting it three times. This land cannot be beat for barley and peas but the summers are too cold to raise corn. Our winters are not as cold as in Minnesota. Today [Christmas] we are having an Indian summer. We get no snow in this valley so we cannot use sleds. On the mountain, about fifteen miles from my home, there is 15 feet of snow in places. Come for a visit to the mountains to view nature. You would be welcomed here.

Tell me where your farm is in relation to Judson and where Jabez Lloyd's family lives. I remember them well when they were children. The family of John Jones, Rose Place, near Cambria, Wis. still lives i Judson, I have heard. There are people from Welsh Prairie, Wis. that I don't know so let me know a little about them. I read about your trip to Kansas in "Y Drych." I will close by wishing you a Happy New Year.----W. E. Thomas.

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PLEASE

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

If the date above your name is 6-30-2013 or before, your membership is overdue.
If your dues are not current, a billing form is inserted in your newsletter.

We appreciate your support!
Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project
P.O. Box 253
Wymore, NE 68466

Yes! I want to help build the Welsh Archive!

I will contribute:

[] $35  [] $50  [] $100  [] $250  [] $500  [] $1,000  [] $2,000  [] $5,000  [] $__________

[] My check is enclosed  [] I’ll complete my pledge by September 1, 2013

Name (As you want it listed): ___________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________

Phone _____________  Email ______________________________________________

Diolch yn fawr iawn! Thank you very much! Your gift will be acknowledged on a plaque in the Welsh Centre

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Gifts are tax deductible.
Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project

2013-14 Membership Please Circle one: New Renewal

Please Circle one:

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Memberships above $20 are tax-deductible.

Our Tax ID number is 47-0844022

| Name ________________________________________________________ |
| Address ______________________________________________________ |
| City, State, zip ____________________________________________ |
| Email _______________________________________________________ |
| Telephone __________________________________________________ |

I am including an additional gift of $ _____________

For: Endowment _____, Building Fund _____, Operating Fund _____,

Memorial for _____________________________________________

Enclosed please find my check for $ ____________, Payable to GPWHP

Mail this form and your check to: GPWHP Treasurer
P.O. Box 253
Wymore, NE 68466

Dear GPWHP Member,

Every year this time, all GPWHP memberships come up for renewal. We have not yet received your renewal, so we are enclosing this bill for your convenience. We’ve never done this before, so we are trying something new.

If you are like me, you have a special place to put bills to be paid. Please put this bill in that place, and the next time you write checks, you can pay us along with all the others.

Thanks for your continued support. We depend on memberships for the basic income that keeps the doors open and the lights on!

Berwyn Jones, President