

MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY

Volume 19 Number 1 – September 2023

17th Malad Valley Welsh Festival – A Success!

Although it is difficult to determine exact numbers of attendees at the Malad Valley Welsh Festival, organizers were pleased to note that many more people were at the events on Friday than in the past and the crowds on Saturday were about the same as in the past.

Presenters

The Festival began each day with the Knight of the Festival leading the Bards to the podium. Lucie Thomas Washburn then introduced the theme of the Festival: “St. David and Kindness.” The patron saint of Wales, St. David was known for his humility and kind acts.

Presenter Dean Hughes emphasized his Malad Valley roots, describing his frequent visits to close relatives (Hugheses and Pierces) in Samaria and St. John as he was growing up in Ogden.

Native Welshman Dulais Rhys playfully jabbed the English several times during his presentation on how to sing the Welsh National Anthem. He taught the pronunciation of the words and played the piano while the audience sang. He inspired the Malad Valley Welsh Men’s Chorus to learn the entire song – not just the chorus – in Welsh for next year.

Bob Washburn educated and entertained the audience at the Sunday evening program with his presentation on the history of the Logan Temple. Bob used different voices to portray the

words of Brigham Young, John Taylor, Truman Angell, and other historic figures.

Chairing of the Bard

The finale event of the Festival is always the Chairing of the Festival Bard, who will preside over the next year’s Festival. After the poetry reading at which all entrants read their submissions to the poetry contest, Blaine Scott was announced as the winner and escorted to the podium where he was “chaired” by taking his place in the Bard’s Chair.

Ned Thomas won the Patsy Price Scott Poetry Prize. James Christiansen and Dotty Evanson poems earned Honorable Mention.

Crowning of Youth Poetry Winners

Youth winners were crowned by the 2022 Bard, Monte John. Students from kindergarten through high school had previously been named semi-finalists and invited to become finalists and read their poems at the Festival, vying for cash prizes and the crown for the winner in each grade level.

Displays

Attendees were able to “Walk through Wales” by viewing enlarged photographs of scenery and sites in Wales. Two Welsh Bibles that date back to the 1700s were on display. The importance of the Bible in preserving the Welsh language will be the topic of the Sunday evening program next year. Pedigree charts of pioneer families were also on display.

Wagon Rides

Wagon rides to historic sites in Malad City took visitors down South Main or Bannock Street. Signs indicated owners of properties, as shown on the 1915 plat map of Malad Village, the earliest plat map available. Guides told stories of the history of Malad.

Music

The Youth Concert featured talented young musicians, including high school students who participated in the State Music Contest, Malad's 2023 Distinguished Young Woman, Alexis Tarbot, and the 1st Alternate to the 2022 State DYW, Raegan Smith. The Piano Ensemble Concert introduced new performers and pieces, ending once again with the Mack Wilburg arrangement of "Stars and Stripes Forever" for 8 hands, 2 pianos.

The Friday Night Concert featured Cory and Jill Webster performing their popular "Radio Show" as if broadcast along the Mormon Trail from Illinois to Utah. Original songs and poetry were interspersed with "commercials" and jokes that related to Malad Valley's history, especially nicknames.

The talented Malad Valley Men's Welsh Chorus performed on Friday evening, at both introductory programs, and at the Sunday Fireside.

Janice Bunker performed at the Friday Night Program, demonstrating just how beautiful the organ in the 2nd Ward Building can sound when played by a professional.

Rhiannon, Teton Skye, Louisa's Legacy, and the Haywire Ranch String Band provided entertainment in the Park on both days of the Festival.

Kids' Activities

Young attendees could draw castles and participate in games sponsored by the Malad After-School Program. Teens participated in pioneer-era games that their ancestors might have played as they crossed the Plains. The Heritage Games were organized by the Malad Middle School MathCounts Team.

Vendors

Festival attendees could feast on food provided by several vendors and then shop for gifts at the many unique craft booths. The Welsh Country Store and the Taste of Wales provided Welsh goods and foods for the Festival.

Quilt Show

The Oneida Quilters once again exhibited their beautiful quilts during the Festival. Held at the Malad Co-op, the Quilt Show provided another opportunity for local persons to demonstrate their talents.

Samaria

People who wandered out to Samaria had the opportunity to taste several authentic Welsh foods, including Welsh rarebit and Welsh cakes based on recipes that Luke Waldron brought home from his trip to Wales just before the Festival.

**18th MALAD VALLEY
WELSH FESTIVAL
June 28-29, 2024
Fireside on June 30, 2024**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

IF YOU ATTENDED THE WELSH FESTIVAL
THIS YEAR, PLEASE COMPLETE AND

RETURN THE ATTACHED EVALUATION SO
NEXT YEAR'S FESTIVAL WILL BE BETTER!

WELSH COUNTRY STORE GOODS FOR SALE!

The Welsh Country Store at the Festival offered a lot of items that would make excellent gifts for you or your family and friends. We are not putting the Country Store items on the website as we do not have staff to handle the wrapping, mailing, billing, and other features of an online store.

However, we are offering items to Welsh Society members. Pictures and prices of available goods are attached to this newsletter. Please note that supplies of almost everything are limited, and there may be delays in shipping items due to lack of staff.

OFFICERS

MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY

President - Jean Thomas

**Secretary/Treasurer - Roxanne
Albretsen**

*If you would like to volunteer to help
plan the 2024 Welsh Festival, please
contact Jean Thomas at
thomjea2@isu.edu or 208-509-2262.*

GREAT PLAINS WELSH HERITAGE CENTRE NEWS

Anyone who travels through Nebraska should plan to visit Wymore, the home of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre. Wymore is a small town (population 1400) founded in 1881 as a

railroad town. It became known as the Welsh capital of the Great Plains because it was home to generations of immigrants from Wales, who protected their culture, founding a Welsh-language church, school, and cemetery, as well as preserving the Welsh traditions of poetry, dance, and music.

The Centre made the news recently because of a mural that was painted on the building. One side of the building has a beautiful mural depicting Welsh emigration from Wales to Nebraska, but the other side of the building was blank until now. It is now known for its "COFIWCH DRYWERYN" mural painted by Robert Humphries. The original mural in Wales commemorates the drowning of the village of Capel Celyn and the Tryweryn Valley in 1965 in order to supply water for Liverpool. Over 800 acres of land were covered to create the Llyn Celyn reservoir. The original mural on a wall near Llanrhystud in Ceredigion was vandalized in 2019, sparking a spate of similar murals painted in solidarity with the Welsh community.

The North American Festival of Wales will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, August 30 – September 4, 2023. A side trip to Wymore is part of the Festival program.

***THEME for 2024
Malad Valley Welsh Festival
Adult and Youth Poetry
Competitions***

Theme: "DRAGONS"

Watch for guidelines on website:
www.welshfestival.com

MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY MEMBERS – 2023-2024

MALAD

Roxanne Thorpe Albretsen
Fay Sweeten Cottle
Jan Eliason Edwards
Brent Evanson
Dotty Thorpe Evanson
Joan Ward Hawkins
Larry John
Terri Jones John
Helen Ward Ravsten
Gloria Jean Thomas

ARIZONA

Stephanie Allen, Prescott

CALIFORNIA

Erin Coleman, Granada Hills
Donna Ezell Holzer, Tahoe City
Pat Overton, Rancho Cordova
Heidi Yeates Posada, Valencia
Trudy Wayman Yeates, Camarillo

IDAHO

Rose Elguezabul, Aberdeen
Janice Williams Goddard, Boise
Clay Handy, Burley
Kristine Handy, Burley
Sam Handy, Burley
Rebecca Hyde, Pocatello
Carla Kelly, Idaho Falls
Carolyn Meline, Pocatello
Chris Price, Pocatello,
Mary Ann Price, Pocatello
Steve Roberts, Pocatello

Amanda Ross, Paul
Paul Ross, Paul
Karen A. Smith, Hagerman

David Sollender, Moore
J.D. Williams, Boise

NEVADA

Ned Thomas, Henderson

UTAH

Sherrie Scott Ainsworth, Fielding
Ann Calvert, Logan
Tony Calvert, Logan
Glen Cooper, Springville
Margaret Favero, Eden
Mark Grover, Orem
Leonard Hawkes, Beaver Dam
Audrey Jones Henrie, North Ogden
Mark Howard, Cedar Hills
Brad Jones, Logan
Jan Crowther Myers, Cedar City
Karaleen Parkinson, Collinston
Evelyn Rice, Ogden
Richard Rice, Ogden
Blaine Scott, Layton
Klea Lusk Scott, Fielding
Pat Jones Soper, West Bountiful
Bob Washburn, Providence
Lucie Thomas Washburn, Providence
Roger Williams, Lindon

WASHINGTON

Jack Ezell, Belfair

WYOMING

Nola Jean Thomas Coats, Glenrock

