

MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY

**Volume 18 Number 1
November 2022**

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 16TH ANNUAL MALAD VALLEY WELSH FESTIVAL

The biggest highlight of the 16th annual Malad Valley Welsh Festival was that it happened! After two years of being cancelled because of the pandemic, the Festival was held the last weekend in June 2022 with the largest crowds ever on both days.

PRESENTATIONS

Lucie Thomas Washburn's popular presentation was about the famous Welsh persons enshrined in Cardiff's Hall of Heroes.

Everyone agreed that Jill Morgan's Welsh accent was a favorite part of her presentation on historic sites in Wales.

Jan Crowther Myers, the 2018 Bard of the Welsh Festival, introduced traditional music and poetry of Wales at the Opening Ceremonies.

POETRY and FICTION WINNERS

Monte John was chaired as the 2022 Bard of the Malad Valley Welsh Festival. His poem is attached to this newsletter. Cory Webster, the 2019 Bard, performed the Bard's duties for three years, due to the pandemic. He performed some of his popular original cowboy songs and recited his cowboy poetry during the Festival.

Winner of the Patsy Price Scott Poetry Prize was Leonard Hawkes. Honorable Mention poetry winners were James Christiansen and Ann Willford.

Student poets read their poems, and then the winners were crowned and received certificates and cash prizes.

Bob Crowther was the winner of the first Fiction Competition. His historical fiction story was based on the national Welsh choir that toured the United States and then boarded the ill-fated Lusitania for the return trip to Wales.

MUSIC

Authentic Celtic music was performed on the outdoor amphitheater throughout the Festival.

The Malad Valley Men's Welsh Choir sang at several events during the Festival. In their red or green ties, the Choir set the mood for the Opening Ceremony, the Friday night concert, and the Finale.

Cathy Clayton from the University of Utah performed and spoke at the Friday evening concert about the Welsh harp.

Youth performers, including three pianists who played Welsh songs, were featured in the Youth Concert. Adult pianists performed at the Piano Ensemble Concert.

DISPLAYS

The "Walk Through Wales" brought scenes from Wales to Malad. The ever-popular census and family tree displays taught visitors about the pioneer families of Malad Valley.

ART

The Youth Art Exhibit featured winning works of daffodils, castles, dragons, and even a carved love spoon.

The downtown "Art on Main" sponsored chalk art on the sidewalks near the artists' booths. The Oneida Quilters displayed their many gorgeous quilts in the Co-op building.

WAGON RIDES

The wagon rides went up and down North Main Street and Bannock Street. Signs based on the 1915 plat map had been placed along the routes, and guides told about the history of Malad as the wagons rolled along.

KIDS' ACTIVITIES

Face painting and coloring dragons were two activities available to the youngest attendees. Older kids learned about the games played by pioneers as they left Wales and crossed the Plains to southern Idaho.

SAMARIA ACTIVITIES

To celebrate the first Welsh settlers to Malad Valley, Samaria's Heritage Square hosted tours of pioneer cabins, the Welsh children's farm, and a driving tour of historic sites in Samaria.

VENDORS

The food and craft booths were the best ever with a great variety of foods available all day and lots of great gifts for sale. The Welsh Country Store and the Taste of Wales food booth brought Wales to the Welsh Festival.

With this being the first Welsh Festival since 2019, the organizers thought the Festival generally went well. Plan to come to celebrate the Welsh heritage and culture of Malad Valley in 2023!

Do you have an idea for an event, speaker, activity, or improvement for the Welsh Festival? Please let Jean Thomas, Chair of the Festival, (thomjea2@isu.edu) or Dotty Evanson, Co-Chair, (dotty.evanson@me.com) know soon!

**17th ANNUAL MALAD VALLEY
WELSH FESTIVAL**

**June 30-July 1, 2023
Fireside on July 2, 2023**

Malad First Presbyterian Church Celebrated 140th Anniversary During Welsh Festival

The celebration of the 140th anniversary of Malad's "Little Church on the Hill" was held on Sunday, June 26, 2022, in conjunction with the Malad Valley Welsh Festival. The special evening program at the Presbyterian Church was presented twice with capacity crowds both times.

Marvin Hess, Edna Palmer, and Mike Hess presented the history of the church, the school, and the bell. Marvin told the history of the church, which was the first church building in Malad.

Edna reminded everyone that any child in Malad who went to school prior to 1900 would have attended the Presbyterian Mission School because there was no public school before 1900.

Mike told about the Presbyterian Church bell being rung to announce church services as well as celebrations, fires, and floods. Mike recounted being one of the many "ring-and-run" high school boys in the past who thought it a great trick to ring the bell and escape down the back hill before the sheriff could arrive.

Several former Malad residents and members of the Presbyterian Church told stories of the Church. D.L. Evans, JoAnn Harrison Ward, Lorie Harrison Peterson, Cheryl Jenkins Marshall, Diane Jenkins Deeg, and Sue Naugler Fineman told hilarious and touching stories about attending Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, hunting bats in the chapel, and earning attendance pins.

Special musical numbers were all traditional Presbyterian hymns. The Malad

Valley Men's Welsh Choir, the trio of Carrie Jensen, Emily Rossow, and Pennie Wolf, the sister duo of Christine Snow and Amy Smith, and the Treasure family provided the music with Jeff Treasure and Darla Thurber leading the congregational hymns.

Refreshments were provided by the Presbyterian women, who held their collective breath that there would be enough for everyone to enjoy a treat.

PLANS FOR WELSH SOCIETY IN 2022-2023

The Malad Valley Welsh Society will sponsor three activities this year for all members and guests.

The first will be the annual Malad Valley Community Chorus Concert in December. With more than half of the chorus members having Welsh ancestry, the Chorus will perform contemporary and traditional Christmas songs. The concert is scheduled for December 18 at 7:00 at the LDS 2nd Ward Building.

The second will be a New Year's/winter party to get rid of the winter doldrums. The date and activities will be decided soon.

The third will be the observance of St. David's Day. Although St. David's Day is March 1, the celebration will be on Tuesday, February 28 due to conflicts on March 1.

Society members will be contacted via text, email, or phone call. We hope you will come to the Society's annual events.

OFFICERS

MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY

President - Jean Thomas

Secretary - Roxanne Albretsen

Treasurer - Brent Evanson

Welsh Festival Adult Poetry Competition

Theme: "Kindness"

Watch for guidelines on website:
www.welshfestival.com

Welsh Festival Fiction Writing Competition

**Theme: Welsh or Western pioneer
setting, theme, or main character**

No Horror or Science Fiction please!
Watch for guidelines on website:
www.welshfestival.com

17TH ANNUAL MALAD VALLEY WELSH FESTIVAL

Although it is still early to finalize the plans for next year's Festival, organizers are already contacting potential presenters and musicians. New wagon routes will be designated. Student and adult poets have been invited to submit their poems with the theme "Kindness." We hope to offer traditional favorite and new activities and events in 2023. The 17th Welsh Festival will be on June 30 and July 1 with a Fireside on Sunday, July 2.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

**MEMBERS
MALAD VALLEY
WELSH SOCIETY**

2022-2023

Malad

Roxanne Albretsen

Fay Cottle

Bob Crowther

Jan Edwards

Annette Elcock

Brent Evanson

Dotty Evanson

Joan Hawkins

Don Lee Hess

Larry John

Terri John

Helen Ravsten

Helen Scott

Kent Scott

Gloria Jean Thomas

Larry Thomas

Randy Thomas

Ruth Zivkovic

Idaho

Joelle Anthon, Burley

Kelly Anthon, Burley

Julie Hall, Pocatello

Clay Handy, Burley

Kristine Handy, Burley

Carla Kelly, Idaho Falls

Carolyn Meline, Pocatello

Brady Pickett, Oakley

Doug Pickett, Oakley

Mary Ann Price, Pocatello

Nikki Ripplinger, Driggs

Steve Roberts, Pocatello

Amanda Ross, Paul

Paul Ross, Paul

Dick Thomas, Moreland

J.D. Williams, Boise

Arizona

Stephanie Allen, Prescott

California

Craig Evans, Volcano

Donna Holzer, Tahoe City

Pat Overton, Rancho Cordova

Nevada

Erin Galyean, Henderson

Ned Thomas, Henderson

Utah

Ann Calvert, Logan

Tony Calvert, Logan

Glen Cooper, Springville

Margaret Favero, Eden

Todd Goodsell, Bountiful

Mark Grover, Orem

Brad Hales, Centerville

Glenna Hayes, Salt Lake

Audrey Henrie, North Ogden

Mark Howard, Cedar Hills

Candice Lemmon, Bountiful

Jan Myers, Cedar City

Karaleen Parkinson, Collinston

Evelyn Rice, Ogden

Richard Rice, Ogden

Klea Scott, Fielding

Pat Soper, West Bountiful

Bob Washburn, Providence

Lucie Washburn, Providence

Roger Williams, Lehi

Washington

John Ezell, Belfair

Wyoming

Cherie Benevides, Afton

Nola T. Coats, Glen Rock

COMING HOME

by Lamonte John

There's hardly a phrase in this language of ours or in any a lengthy tome
That brings more joy to the human heart than to say, "I'm coming home."
My first recollection of experiencing that joy was when I was off to college
A time zone away and far to the north; I was trying to gain more knowledge.
But I missed my mates and my family, too, and especially my sweetheart I missed,
So at Thanksgiving break, I sped down the road, looking forward to a welcome home kiss.
The time slipped by; we married soon after, and then we started our crew
Of four little boys full of mischief and laughter, intermixed with adventurous brew.
We lived closer now, and from Utah to home was a short little drive up the road,
And homesick feelings of being too far away were something that never we showed.

Then the circumstances of life took a changing turn, moving us far, far away
To the other side of this beautiful land and the question of how long we'd stay.
Some thought it short, and some thought it long; some weren't sure what to think.
In the end it seemed longer than we ever imagined, but the time hurried by in a blink.
We were there so long that it became home, and where we longed for had shifted
To the woods of Virginia near the Capitol city; our interests apparently had drifted.
For 30 years plus, we planned most of our summers with intent on traveling west
To unite with our family – the young and the old – but now we felt more like guests.
It was great to see all and catch up on news, and sometimes we wouldn't want to leave,
But our homesick hearts had now shifted east, a concept not previously conceived.

And late in my life, I had the good fortune to connect with some family long lost
In the country of Wales, where my ancestors started before the ocean they crossed.
Families were split with some left behind, and no plan was ever thought viable
To reunite in the future, with travel so difficult and communication so unreliable.
Fast forward a century, or maybe more, and the tools of communication are vast
To facilitate connection with the family that was split and seemingly lost in the past.
It sparked an interest in my ancestral homeland, a place that I've still never walked.
It created curiosity in my forebearers' past, a subject about sometimes we talked.
So I dug even deeper, with my cousins in Wales, and learned much more than I knew
About the place where it started many centuries ago, and now with a much better view,
Using tools of the day, I was able to find the streets of the villages and towns
Where my grandfathers walked in their early days while still being subjects of the crown.
I considered the stories, both written and verbal, of their courage in starting anew
In a land far away, where freedom was found, which today blesses me and blesses you.
My newly found clan sent me records and photos of gravestones of ancestors past,
In the churchyard plot where they prayed each week 'til finally the day was their last.
So I've come to feel affinity, to that country afar, I can say that without any strife,
And I hope someday to make a pilgrimage there to complete my circle of life.

So now we've returned to the valley of Malad where, for both of us, life had its start;
Where we lived and we laughed and we learned a lot about what to keep in our heart--
Like the families that raised us and the values they taught, the lessons we'll never forget,
And the lifelong images of good friends and teachers; forever we'll be in their debt.
And then there's the "village" from a now-distant state, who loved us right from the start,
And the ones who came later and enriched our lives; forever they'll be in our heart.
And what of my family from a far distant land, the ones whom I've yet to embrace?
Won't they be part of my life from now on and something I can never erase?

So what's the solution; can I figure it out, which of these places to call home?
It's a question I've been pondering and hoping I could answer by the final line of this poem.
But failing all that, I think the solution is to not give it any more thought;
Perhaps it's best just to bask in life's blessings and to give thanks for all that I've got.
For indeed, I've been blessed from the very start with abundant influences for good;
And to think I'd call home, just one of these places; it's selfish to think that I could;
And so for today I'm happy to say that my home is wherever I'm standing.
With more than six decades of life's lessons learned, I'm happy today notwithstanding.
My Welsh heritage tells me that all things are possible, and no matter how far I can roam,
It's the loved ones around me who show me they care that tell me for sure that I'm home.