

Chwefror i Mawrth
1999



February to March
1999

Cymdeithas Gymkaeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



LAMPETER ST. DAVIDS UNIVERSITY

C 2477X

Postcard: Courtesy of member. Pam Williams

CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 East 17TH Ave, VANCOUVER B C V5V 1A6 Tel: (604) 876-2815

THE BEGINNINGS OF CORONEL SUAREZ RECALLED BY TWO HEROES:
Evan Parry and Barbara Lloyd Evans

John Coslett Thomas came to Chubut with his parents in 1875. Ten years later he moved with his father-in-laws family, Thomas Morgan Jones, to Sauce Corto -presently Coronel Suarez- where for a number of years he shared the joys and griefs of the Welsh colonists who had settled there. On his return to Chubut, he worked for a while as a school teacher in Trelew. In 1902 he emigrated again with his family to Canada.

His memoirs were published posthumously in 1949, and 1950, in the Welsh newspaper, "Y Drafod" (The discussion). From these memoirs, we have chosen and translated extracts which refer to the time he lived in Coronel Suarez.

THE WELSH AND CORONEL SUAREZ

Of those who left the Welsh colony in Chubut some two years before I did, were some who went to try to sow wheat on land offered to them by a gentleman named Cassey. They did so at his expense, in case they did not want to buy the land which could be bought and owned under very favourable conditions.

Their efforts exceeded their expectations, and some wrote to friends in Chubut urging them to join them. Mr. Cassey was so pleased that he concluded an agreement with Lewis Jones requiring him to go to Wales to look for more immigrants for which he would pay Lewis Jones so much per person and would appoint him administrator of the settlement.

But the Welsh who were already in Curumalan didn't want Lewis Jones to control them and opposed him, resulting in the group going to Puerto Madryn to build the railway, from which Lewis Jones profited much more. But, of course, the group would have benefited much more if they had settled in Curumalan.

It was said that the authorities had offered these lands, which now belonged to Cassey, to Lewis Jones and Sir Love Jones Parry before the Welsh came to settle in Patagonia, but they refused the offer because there too many indians there and there was little hope of the Welsh being independent in any province under the direct influence of the central government.

But that was twenty years ago, and already there were no indians, who could interfere with people and communications, and trading opportunities had greatly improved.

A FAMILY DECIDES TO GO TO CURUMALAN

When this news arrived in the Welsh Colony in Chubut, Thomas Morgan Jones sent his son, Morgan, to see the place, and when he returned, the family decided to move to Curumalan, and as a member of the family (Caroline Jones) was engaged to me, and as I thought it was a better place to begin a new life, I went with them.

In order to 'burn their bridges' the family sold or gave away all that they had. The farm, along with the shares in the canal company, which brought them water, they sold for their face value, that is to say, sixty pounds sterling. This was a stupid thing to do, as some of the family returned later, and the sixty pounds was not really needed to make the move.

They had earned enough for it, not by cultivating the land, but by carting wheat to Rawson, and bringing back goods to Gaiman, where they lived for ten years. There were ten children in the family, and because of that, it was considered better to sell the farm in Chubut and go to a place, where they could probably obtain all the land they wanted.

Welsh Weekend 1999
April 16-18 Tacoma, Washington

The Ninth Pacific Northwest Welsh Weekend, this year cosponsored by the Puget Sound Welsh Association and The Welsh Association of the Pacific Northwest, will be held in Tacoma, Washington over the weekend of April 16-18. Events will be located at Christ Episcopal Church, 310 North K Street. The Tacoma Dome Ramada Inn has been designated as the headquarters hotel.

The Weekend will feature the traditional Noson Lawen on Friday, Saturday evening concert, and Gymnfa Ganu, as well as a Welsh folk afternoon and market place during the day on Saturday. The Noson Lawen will feature presentations from many of the usual contributors, but look out for a few surprises. Some food will be provided and drinks will be available for sale. The Saturday night concert will feature the Seattle Welsh Choir, baritone Blake Hodgetts of Eugene, Oregon, harpist Bronn Journey, and his wife Kathryn who sings soprano.

In addition to the music, the concert will be tied together by a selection of readings from the compilation Notes from the Past: Conversations with the Welsh of the Puget Sound Region, to be read by Liz Heath of Tacoma and Bob Smith of Seattle. The Gymnfa Ganu on Sunday afternoon will be directed by Beverly Ratajak of Corvallis, Oregon and Rhiannon Acre of Los Angeles. Both of these talented musicians impressed Gymnfa Ganu participants in the past, and we can look forward to a moving Gymnafa experience.

Hotel Information

The Ramada Inn - 2611 East E Street, Tacoma WA 98421, is our headquarters hotel and will hold a block of rooms for participants until March 16th. The room rates are \$62 per night for a single and \$67 for a double, plus a 13.4% hotel tax. Please indicate that you are with the Welsh Association when making reservations to receive this discounted rate. Their phone numbers are (800)755-1547 or (253) 572-7272; fax number (253) 572-9664. This is the best hotel bargain in the area. The Tacoma Sheraton is also convenient to the church, and could serve as an alternate if needed.

Driving Directions

To the Ramada Inn at the Tacoma Dome: From I-5 either north or southbound, take exit 133, the City Center exit. Stay to the right in the lane marked for the Tacoma Dome. Turn right at the light at the end of the exit. Go three blocks to the Ramada Inn.

To Christ Episcopal Church from I-5: From I-5 either north or southbound, take exit 133, the City Center exit. Follow I-705 toward Tacoma. Exit from I-705 at the Schuster Parkway exit, and stay in the right lane for the Stadium Way ramp. At the

light, turn right onto Stadium Way. Follow Stadium Way as it curves past Stadium High School & becomes Division Avenue. Stay on Division past Wright Park to North K Street (El Toro Restaurant is on the right corner). Turn right on to K Street. Christ Episcopal Church and Wells Hall are in the next block on the left.

To Christ Episcopal Church from the Ramada Inn: Go west on 26th to Pacific Avenue, Turn right on Pacific and follow it all the way through town to South 7th. Turn left on South 7th (Old City Hall is on the corner). Go one short block and turn right on Commerce which becomes Stadium Way. Follow Stadium Way as it curves past Stadium High School & becomes Division Avenue. Stay on Division past Wright Park to North K Street (El Toro Restaurant is on the right corner). Turn right on to K Street. Christ Episcopal Church and Wells Hall are in the next block on the left.

Parking Notice: The parking lot between Wells Hall and the El Toro Restaurant belongs to the restaurant and is not available for our use. Please use street parking. Carpooling between the hotel and church is recommended.

Lost?: Call (253) 381-9654 for on-the-spot directions.

How to Pre-Register

Complete the registration form for one or two participants (make photocopies of form if needed). Include a check payable in US or Canadian dollars for those events you wish to attend to PSWA, PO Box 19344 Seattle, WA 98109. An acknowledgment of your registration will be sent by return mail.

You can pick up your tickets and schedule of events at Wells Hall at the church on Friday from 5pm to 8pm and Saturday morning from 9:30am-11:30am.

The Noson Lawen runs from 7:30pm to 10:00pm on Friday evening, while the grand concert on Saturday begins at 7:30pm.

Submitted by Ellen Webber



Conscience

(a) To know what is right and not to do it is the worst cowardice.

— CONFUCIUS

(b) Conscience is a small inner voice that doesn't speak your language.

— ANONYMOUS

Dylan Thomas Circle

A highly innovative presentation of 'A Child's Christmas in Wales', highlighted our Christmas gathering on December 18th. Gareth Hill did the readings interspersed by Celtic tunes and carols played on the Welsh harp and the violin by the group *Music from the Mist*. Carolling and wassailing followed to complete a most successful evening.

Our next gathering is on February 19th. Titled *Personal Choice* — members are encouraged to read a poem by any poet of their choice (preferably a Dylan contemporary). It is an opportunity to hear some other Welsh poets. This has been a most successful event offered by the Dylan Thomas Society of Swansea. Those interested in participating should contact Russell Roberts (521-0028).

Russell, himself, is experiencing great success at present — he is the "Spend Doctor" on all those Lotto 6/49 ads which you see on billboards, buses and television.

ST DAVID'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

2475, FRANKLIN ST.,
VANCOUVER, B.C. V5K 1X3
Church Office: 253-8524

Father James A. Penrice,
Rector: 873-6740

1st EVE of
ST DAVID'S
DAY

February 28th
1999

at 4 pm



A CHURCH OF ST. DAVID'S — here in our midst

Set in the midst of the east-end of Vancouver is the Anglican Church of St. David's (2475 Franklin Street, one block north and one block east of Hastings and Nanaimo). Welsh people in Vancouver, who attend this delightful attractive church, find out that not only does it bear our 'Good Saint's' name but it also has a two and one-half foot statue of St. David and a Welsh flag permanently and prominently displayed behind the altar.

The rector of St. David's, Fr. James Penrice, traces Welsh ancestry from both his parents. "Father Jim" has a passionate interest in Celtic history, especially as it relates to St. David. (See a portion of his church newsletter in the next article.)

St. David's Day has particular significance for this church. It has scheduled a special service on Sunday, February 28th, at 4 p.m. After the consecration of a new chapel by the Anglican Bishop of Vancouver, a service will follow. For this solemn occasion all the hymns are Welsh (albeit hymns sung in English).

An invitation is extended to all Welsh Club members to attend this special service. There is no entrance fee.

Afterward you may wish to attend a roast beef dinner at St. David's (\$12, Seniors \$10). But they request advance notice for the dinner (253-8524).

You will find the service and the rector a delight. It is a High Anglican church. Fr Jim informs us that this Communion Mass "a sung-family Eucharist" is sure to be enjoyed by everyone. He also says the traditional format of his church is based upon the Celtic roots of the Church in Wales.

Do plan on attending on February 28th, at 4 p.m. (If you wish more information call Neville Thomas, 294-4332.)

A big 'Thank You' to all the ladies who came to clean the kitchen at the Cambrian Hall on February 1st.

Gaynor Owen

.....

Who Was St. David?

The following are excerpts from Church newsletters by Fr. James Penrice, of St. David's Anglican Church:

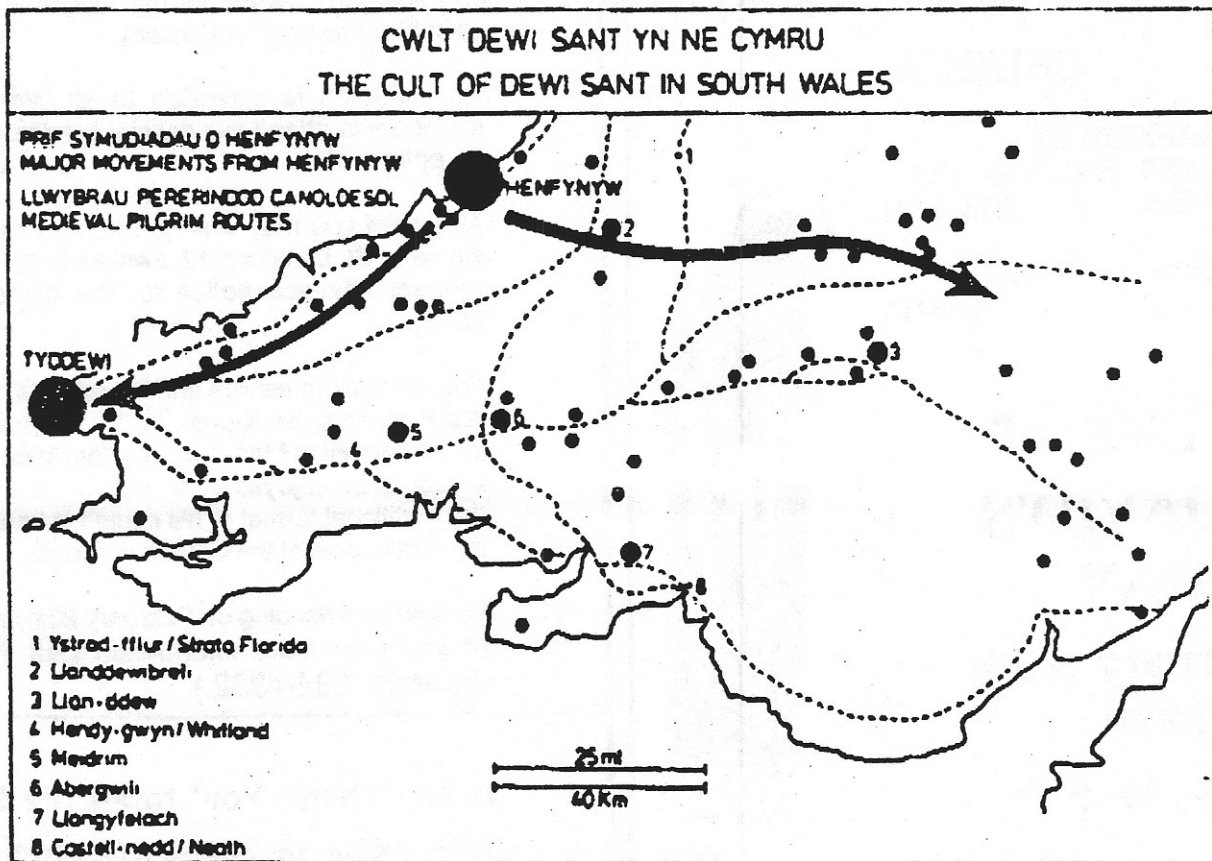
First as a Prince, an extremely bloody battle, nationalism satisfied – but remorse after the passion; a Celtic honest repentance. So our beloved 'Dewi Sant' – St. David of Wales – repented at the "huge blood-letting" that he had witnessed as the leader of an army and sought to compensate by giving up all to do the Lord's work.

From the writings of Rhygyfarch, the monk-author who wrote "Vita Davidis" around 1095 A.D., and much detailed research by the University of Wales (E.G. Bowen – "Dewi Sant") we discover that our Patron Saint was a well-travelled man. He was consecrated Bishop by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. David and his monks made extensive trips over Wales, Cornwall and Brittany. Indeed, they built many churches, monasteries and secured many wells for the faithful.

By what many believed to be "divine inspiration" St. David brought an end and peace to many controversies in the church of his time. As a result they elected him Archbishop and saw what benefits stem from the fruits of unity.

In 1120, Pope Callistus II canonized St. David.. Our Patron Saint's last words were: "Be Cheerful, Keep The Faith."

In Christ,
Father James Penrice



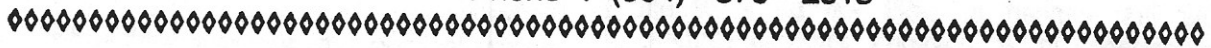
Annual MEMBERSHIP Renewals

Name :
Address :
City :
Postal Code : Phone No. () -

Please :- Cheques or Money Order payable to :
"THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER"

Membership :- Regular : \$35.00
Family (Member, Spouse & Children to 18) : \$60.00
Seniors : \$20.00
Out-of- town (50 miles or more) : \$20.00

Send renewals to :- Membership Secretary,
Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th. Ave.,
Date :- Vancouver, B. C. V5V 1A6
Phone : (604) 876-2815



St. David's Day Dinner

The Vancouver Welsh Society's Annual Dinner to celebrate our Patron Saint is scheduled for Saturday, February 27th next at the Cambrian Hall. (Please note its being held at the Lower Hall)

Catering by Jordan's.

Tickets are available from: Gaynor Owen (946-4956) or,
Gwen Tonack (738-3377)

Please call for tickets before Feb. 23rd.

Ticket Prices : MEMBERS : \$26.00
GUESTS : \$29.00

Cocktails at 6pm

Dinner at 6.30pm. (changed from 7pm originally).

Please note again that the dinner is in the Lower Hall.

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

Choral music was saddened recently by the death on January 25 at age 82 of Robert Shaw, Music Director Emeritus and Conductor Laureate of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Renowned as North America's greatest conductor of choral music, he created both the 200-voice Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the smaller ASO Chamber Chorus. In 1949 he formed the Robert Shaw Chorale, the premier touring group in the US for two decades. His week-long Robert Shaw Choral Workshops at Carnegie Hall drew choral directors and singers from across the country, and it was at that location that he conducted Handel's Messiah on his 80th birthday, with singers both on stage and ranged round the hall in two tiers of box seats! His talents will be sorely missed.

Our first concert in 1999 will be a benefit performance in St. George's Anglican Church, Maple Ridge on Saturday, February 20 at 8 p.m. and the next will be in and for St. Andrew's Wesley Church downtown on Saturday, March 6.



Vancouver Welsh Society

Officers and Directors For 1999

- President : Jeff Owen (604) 946 -4956
- V. Pres. : Ann Roberts (604) 925-4662
- Secretary : Bernadette Howells 873 -0532
- Treasurer : Tecwyn Roberts (604) 464 - 2760
- Mem. Sec.: Margaret Monck (604) 733 - 9787
- News. Ed. : Gwilym Evans (604) 274 -3794

- Directors : Rob Barclay
- Jane Byrne
- Ieuan Lampshire-Jones
- John Pritchard
- Mary Slaney

**The Legends of
Saint David (Dewi Sant)
Patron Saint of Wales**

David was a Celtic monk, abbot and bishop.
He lived in the sixth century.

He was of royal lineage.

His father, Sant, was son of Ceredig, prince of Ceredigion.

His mother, Non, was a niece of King Arthur. He was born near Capel Non on the coast of South West Wales.

He established several churches in Wales. He travelled to England, Cornwall and Brittany.

He drank only water.

As penance for have committed what he felt was a sin he would stand up to his neck in cold water reciting scripture.

He founded a very strict and hard monastic brotherhood.

The brothers had to work very hard besides praying and celebrating mass. They had to get up early in the morning for prayers and afterwards work hard at maintaining life at the monastery by cultivating land and even pulling the plough.

They practised many crafts and were proficient in beekeeping. They kept themselves fed and provided food and lodging for pilgrims and travellers.

They also fed and clothed the poor.

David raised a youth from the dead.

Springs of water appeared along his route.

A hill rose under his feet so that he could address a crowd.

He is quoted as saying:

"Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed.

Do the little things that you have heard of or seen me do. I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us."

He lived for over a hundred years and he died in 589. In 589, the monastery in which he lived was "filled with angels as Christ received his soul".

Gwnewch y pethau bychain

Do the little things.

is a well-known Welsh inspirational phrase.

St. David's Day Open House

As usual there will be an open house from 7pm. to 10pm at the Cambrian Hall on Monday, March 1st./ 1999.



Crasdant

featuring
Robin Huw Bowen - triple harp
Stephen Rees - fiddler (played with Ar Log)
Huw Williams - dog dancer (part of the song and dance team of Huw and Tony Williams)
Andy McLaughlin - guitar

Date - Thursday, March 4, 1999

Place - Wise Club

Time - 8:00 p. m.

Price - \$ 15.00

12.00 members of Wise Club and The Welsh Society
Seniors half price

Reservations - Steve Edge 736-3022

Cambrian Circle Singers

The Cambrian Singers had a fairly busy Fall season ending with a performance at Vandusen Gardens. This year we had a cold clear evening so a fair number of people stopped to hear our music. This is our second year with the Gardens and is an engagement the choir enjoys doing. The week before we had the pleasure of singing in Kevisdale Presbyterian Church.

Rehearsals are as usual :- Fridays following first and second Wednesdays, and third and fourth Wednesdays. Concerts to date are :

January 28 - New Vista Care Home - 7550 Rosaroad, Bby 7p.m.
March 3 - Windermere Lodge - 900 W12th. Ave., Van 7:30 p.m.
March 11 - German Care Home - 2010 Harrison, Van. 7p.m.

Neuys Haqq - 278-8978

The RICHMOND SINGERS UPCOMING CONCERTS

♪ FEB. 12 / 99	7:30 PM	- Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Parish 2465 Crown St., Vancouver
♪ FEB. 14 / 99	2:30 PM	- Shaughnessy Heights United Church 1550 W. 33rd Ave. Vancouver
♪ MAY 29 / 99	8:00 PM	- Gateway Theatre 6500 Gilbert, Richmond

For more information, please phone -
Wendy at 271-3831 or Judy at 271-1631

February 1999

Mis Chwefror 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 Valentine's 11:00 a.m. Church Service and to back 2:30 p.m. Richmond Singers @ 1550 W 33 Shoughnessy Hts Und	15	16	17 W.A. (Noon) Meeting Cambrian Circle Singers Rehearsal	18 Thursdays Welsh Folk Dancing Welsh Sponting Evening	19 7:30 pm: Poetry Dylan Thomas Circle Personal Choice Readings	20 Orpheus Choir PIG & WHISTLE 7:30 p.m. Upstairs Red Dragons Open 8:30 p.m.
21	22	23	24 Cambrian Circle Singers	25	26	27 by ticket only St. David's Day BANQUET

28 2:30 pm Seattle
Folk Band Concert
4805 NE 45th info
Jackie Cedarholm
206 - 282-5680

March 1999

Mis Mawrth 1999

Cymdeithas Cymraeg Vancouver Welsh Society
Cambrian Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Vancouver, B.C.
V5V 1A6 Telephone:- (604) 876-2815

28 4 pm E Van (PNE) St David's Anglican CA 2475 Franklin-WalshMead St David's Day Celebrations	1 7 - 10 pm Saint David's Day OPEN HOUSE Lock Eating Ceremony&Singing	2	3 Cambrian Circle Singers Singers 7:30 Windermere Lodge 900 W 12 Exec. Mtg	4 Thursdays Welsh Folk Dancing 8:00 Boves- Herpet @ Wise Club	5	6 8:00 pm VWMChoir St Andrew's Wesley Red Dragons Open 8:30 p.m.
7	8	9	10 7:30 p.m. General Mtg	11 7:00 Cambrian Circle Singers @ German Cafe 2010 Harrison Van	12 Cambrian Circle Singers Rehearsal	13 Red Dragons Open 8:30 p.m.
14 11:00 a.m. Church Service and to back	15	16	17 W.A. (Noon) Meeting Cambrian Circle Singers	Welsh Men's Choir Rehearsals Tuesdays at Cambrian Hall Orpheus Choir Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. @ John Oliver High School		

Orpheus Choir edit Vanisle
(604)

Orpheus info line: 515-5686