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Tachwedd i Rhagfyr
1999



November to December
1999

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

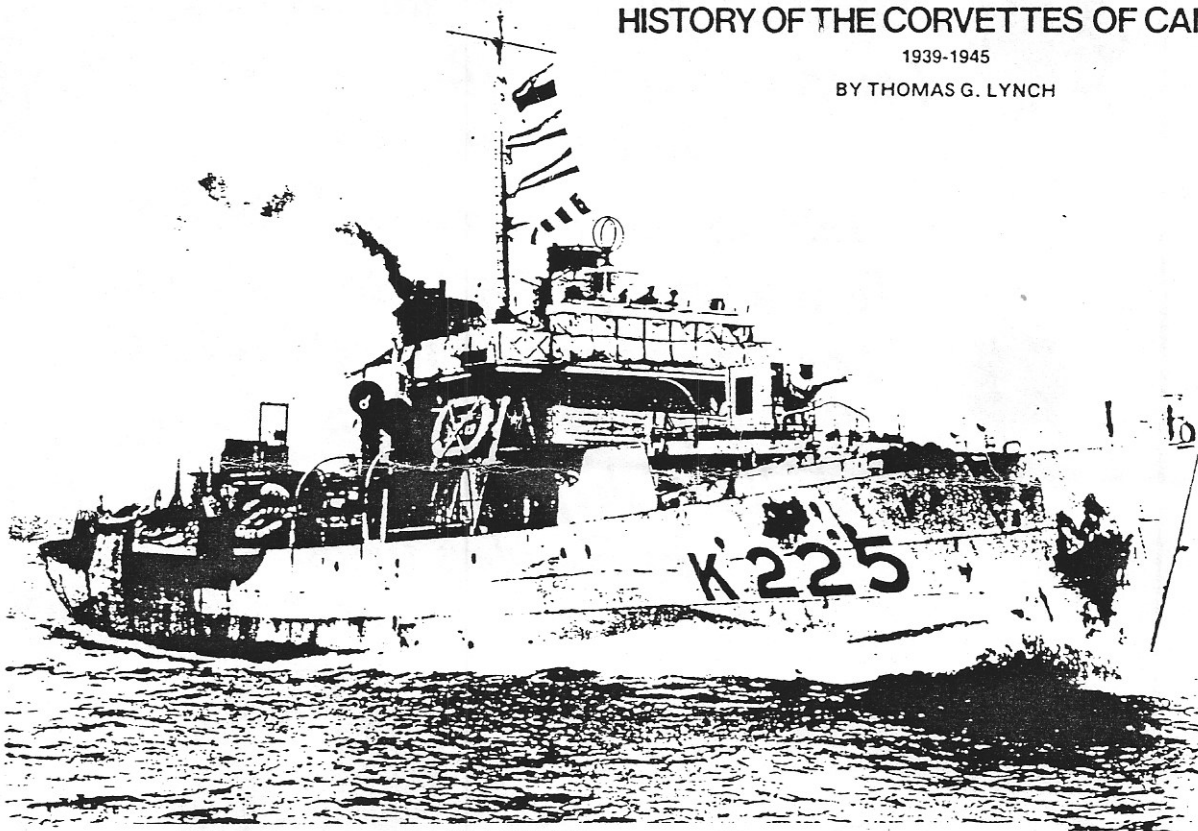
Welsh Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg

CANADA'S FLOWERS

HISTORY OF THE CORVETTES OF CANADA

1939-1945

BY THOMAS G. LYNCH



Ship	COMMANDING OFFICER	FROM	TO
K - 225 KITCHENER *	Lt. W. Evans RCNVR	28 June 1942	16 January 1944
K - 496 TILLSONBURG *	Lt.Cdr. W. Evans RCNVR	29 June 1944	26 November 1945

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

* BILL EVANS

Lest We Forget

IN FLANDERS FIELD

*In Flanders fields where poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

John McCrae (1872-1918)



CYMANFA GANU, NOVEMBER 7TH, 1999

November is traditionally one of the two months in which we hold our bi-annual Gymanfa Ganu. In early summer, Neville Thomas conceived the idea that the Welsh Society of Vancouver make this November Gymanfa Ganu a special one to mark the end of the century. Neville formed a nucleus of assistants and, with Tecwyn Roberts as his right hand man, he advanced the proposition that Mr. Roy Morris of Swansea, and now Ottawa, be invited to conduct the festival. Meetings were held and assigned tasks were allocated to various members of the *ad hoc* committee.

A dreary wet Sunday greeted us on the appointed day as we made our way to the Cambrian Hall for Sunday service. There was a good attendance and we were pleased to see the presence of many visitors, some from as far as California, Vancouver Island and the interior of B.C. After the service we were served refreshments thanks to Gwen and Tony Tonack and their helpers, and all those who contributed the fine fare. Then came a post-prandial lull which must have been a period full of anxiety for Neville, who with his wife Kathy, had put in a tremendous amount of energy and effort into the project and who still had no idea of the outcome of their campaign. Theirs, and our fears were soon assuaged as familiar and non-familiar faces began to stream past the little garden in front of our Hall which had been carefully rejuvenated recently by Jeff & Gaynor Owen, and Gwen and Tony Tonack. Before long an estimated 200 people were seated in the Upper Hall, and with that number of people the success of the Gymanfa was virtually assured — assuming they were all willing to sing!

Tecwyn Roberts presided over the proceedings and opened by extending a warm welcome to all and introducing our guest conductor, Mr. Roy Morris of Swansea and Ottawa. Mr. Morris came to us with impressive credentials and a wealth of practical experience conducting various cymanfaoedd over many years. But was he capable of moulding this untested motley crowd into an harmonious vocal entity? The answer was a resounding 'Yes!' as the martial rhythm of the first hymn, Rachie, echoed and re-echoed in the rafters of our hall. Seventeen other carefully chosen beautiful hymns were sung with equal fervour, ending with the lovely familiar and traditional God Be With You.

Mr. Roy Morris proved to be a competent, knowledgeable, no-nonsense conductor who was able to elicit the best possible vocal performance from the protean assembly. We collectively thank Mr. Roy Morris for taking the time to travel to British Columbia to conduct our end-of-the-century Gymanfa Ganu.

At the conclusion of the Gymanfa our President, Jeff Owen, gave a vote of thanks to all those who had participated.

An unusual feature of this Gymanfa was that it was videoed in its entirety, by Paul Lievesley, and we wish to thank him very much for this service. Copies of the video will be on sale in the near future.

We are all very much indebted to Margaret Airey and thank her for being our accompanist at the piano for the morning service, and again for the whole of our Gymanfa in the afternoon.

A vote of thanks is accorded all those who attended the Gymanfa; to Neville for his perseverance and foresight; to his *ad hoc* committee; to Tecwyn Roberts for a polished performance as chairman of the day; all those who participated in the Gymanfa on stage; Jane Byrne and Gaynor Owen and all those who prepared the excellent food, brought food and set up the delightful smorgasbord for both the morning service and the Gymanfa; all those that took part in setting up the hall as well as tending the garden; and all those who subsequently attended to the cleaning up; the greeters at the door; and all who contributed in any way at all and which may have been missed in the above list. You all deserve a great round of prolonged applause for a job well done.

It was unfortunate that the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir had a concert in Vancouver Island that clashed with our Gymanfa; we would have appreciated and enjoyed their company as well as their talents in this last great Gymanfa of the 20th century at the Cambrian Hall.

WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Minutes of General Meeting: September 8, 1999,
Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Ave., Vancouver.

Present: 16

1. Meeting called to order by Anne Roberts, Chairperson, at 7.00pm.
2. Agenda announced. Accepted as presented.
3. Minutes of previous General meeting circulated. Proposed adoption by Bernadette Howells, seconded by Gwilym Evans. Carried.
4. Matters arising out of Minutes:

The benefit concert, to be performed by David Tuck and Nerys Haqq, has been cancelled until further notice.

Plans are in progress for the Treorchy Choir to visit in September, 2,000.
7. Membership Report:

There are 158 paid-up members.
Following phone call reminders, four members have responded. There have been several new members since June.
At this time the Society has eight members less than last year.
8. Treasurer's report: Financial Reports circulated. Proposal to accept by Tony Tonack. Seconded by Ieuan Lampshire-Jones. Carried.
9. Divisions" Reports:
 - a) W.A.
Next meeting: September 15, 1999.
10. Committee Reports:
 - a) Bar/Social
Anniversary Dinner will be held October 2, 1999.
Dinner: 7:00p.m.
Tickets: \$20, available from Gwen Tonack, or Gaynor Owen.
Caterers: Jordans

November 27, 1999: Mulled Wine Night
December 4, 1999: Christmas Dinner Dance
Caterers: Jordans
Tickets: \$27 members

\$30 non-members

December 12, 1999: Children's Christmas Party: for children up to 12 years old. Please submit names of children planning to attend by November 1, 1999.

December 31, 1999: New Year's Eve Dance: D.J. booked.
Price of tickets not yet available.

b) Building

Some maintenance and repairs have been carried out over the summer, with some repairs still pending.

11.

b). Church Service: next Service will be next Sunday, September 12, 1999 at 11:00 a.m.

c). Welsh Speaking Night: next meeting Thursday September 16.

12. Old Business:

1. Cantorion Colin Jones:

Profit from the concert: \$974.04

To be given to Cantorion Colin Jones

Motion by Ieuan Lampshire-Jones to increase amount to \$1,000 even.

Motion seconded by Llinos Pritchard.

Vote: 8 for, 7 against

Motion carried

Statement of expenses and profit to be included with cheque sent to Cantorion Colin Jones.

2. Gymanfa Ganu:

Planning update presented by Tecwyn Roberts on behalf of Neville Thomas.

Conductor booked: Roy Morris, from Kanata, Ontario.

Venue: Cambrian Hall

Accompanist: Margaret Airey

Soloist: Possibly Richard Williams

Roy Morris is agreeable to use of the hymns and is available to answer any questions.

The Gymanfa '99 Committee will be working on the selection of hymns, publicity for the event and the development of a booklet.

3. Anniversary Dinner: Saturday October 2, 1999.
 Tickets: \$20
 At this time there are no volunteers for providing entertainment. Anyone wishing to volunteer may contact Jeff Owen.
 A video presentation is planned.
4. Millennium Stadium Pavers, Cardiff:
 To complete the new Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, an international balcony is being built. Pavers in the balcony may be sponsored by individuals, or groups. Rates vary, depending on the type of lettering and the number of pavers.
 Motion by Tecwyn Roberts to purchase a double paver with gold lettering. Seconded by Don Murray. All in agreement.
 Motion carried.
 Proposal by Ieuan Lampshire-Jones that paver read:
 Cymdeithas Gymraeg
 Vancouver
 B.C.
 Canada
 Seconded by Tecwyn Roberts. Carried. Tecwyn Roberts will make enquiries to ensure availability of space prior to Society forwarding payment.
16. Hostess for next meeting: Jane Byrne
17. Next General Meeting: December 8, 1999.
18. Motion to adjourn by Gwilym Evans. Seconded by Gwen Tonack. General Meeting adjourned at 08.35 pm.

VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Following a very successful tour to Vancouver Island, when we sang a joint concert with a 45-voice boys' choir in Comox on November 6 and shared the stage with Celtic and Paraguayan harpist Alison Vardy in Ladysmith on November 7, our next performance will be at Burnaby South United Church on November 20. The latter will be our last performance of our regular repertoire before our series of Christmas concerts which this year will total five. These will be in the New Life Church, Abbotsford on Saturday December 4, the Surrey Arts Centre on Tuesday December 7, Queen's Avenue United Church in New Westminster on Saturday December 11 and at St. Andrew's Wesley United Church at Burrard and Nelson downtown on Friday and Saturday December 17 and 18. Also contributing to these concerts will be the talented Magee High School Chamber Choir, another one of Music Director John Trepp's many performance groups. For tickets for any of these performances, please contact Ticketmaster or any choir member, who will be delighted to help you.

Mr. William (Bill) Evans(1911–1999)

After many years of chronic ill-health, borne with great dignity, Mr. Bill Evans passed away on October 13th, 1999. A memorial service was held at the Canadian Memorial United Church, Vancouver, on Oct. 21st., officiated by the Rev. Bruce Sanguin, who has kindly allowed us access to his eulogy to Bill. For this we are greatly indebted to the Rev. Sanguin.

Bill was the middle of three children born to Welsh-speaking Capt. and Mrs. Daniel Evans at Wallasey, Cheshire, England. When Bill was 12 years old he immigrated to Mont Clair, New Jersey when his father relocated with the Elder Dempster Shipping Line. Bill finished his education in the U.S. and although he won admission to Princeton University, he suddenly cancelled his plans for university education and opted instead to enter the insurance business by joining the Great American Fire Insurance Company. Posted initially to Baltimore he was moved to Vancouver after a year or so. Having also been to Europe around that time he quickly sensed the impending war, and whilst in Vancouver Bill joined the Supplementary Reserves of the Royal Canadian Navy in 1937. In 1938 Bill was posted to Toronto, but in 1940 found himself on active service as a lieutenant in the corvettes at Halifax. Rigorous training ensued and Bill was promoted to commanding officer of first the corvette Kitchener and later, in 1944, of the much larger corvette, the Clyde-built Tillsonberg. It was on one of his trips to the U.K. that he met his future wife, Betty McDougall, a pilot who ferried planes for the Air Transport Auxiliary.

Bill operated in the North Atlantic escorting convoys, and also in the Mediterranean Sea. One notable non-war duty was the rescue of the crew of 73 of a merchant ship that had run aground in heavy seas. Whilst on his last convoy escort duty in mid-Atlantic, word came of the end of the war whereupon all the ships turned on their lights and steamed off independently—an unforgettable sight.

Upon returning to Vancouver after the war Bill set up his own insurance company, William Evans & Co. He became successful and prominent in business, and travelled extensively with the Vancouver Board of Trade.

Bill had many interests, loved singing and had a fine bass voice. He sang with several choirs, including Vancouver Opera, and sang the operatic rôles Mephistopheles and Prince Igor. Such was his interest in music that he set out to teach himself to play the piano when he was 70 years old! He learnt some Russian and was also a treasurer and supporter of the Alliance Francaise. He was a keen golfer in his day and belonged to the Capilano Golf Club. He owned a cabin cruiser for some years and was a member of the Vancouver Club.

He supported the Canadian Memorial United Church and attended church services at the Welsh Hall when his health permitted. On those occasions he was accompanied by his faithful nurse, Nahid, who ministered to Bill for many years of his illness. He was a generous contributor to many charities and other worthy causes. The Welsh Society of Vancouver has lost a genial gentleman of great charm and dignity. We shall miss him.

Our condolences go to his daughter, Mrs. Mary Mathews, and his granddaughter, Catriona from the United Kingdom.

