



Message from the WNAA President



WNAA President
David Matthews

Dear Members and Friends of the WNAA,

We are quickly approaching the end of 2020, the first year, with the exception of the war years that, since its inception in 1929, a 'live' Gymanfa Ganu or North American Festival of Wales has not been held.

Despite this, several of the WNAA's hardworking board members were able to put together the first virtual NAFOW where many of us were able to celebrate and enjoy our Welshness once again, if indeed, by ourselves or together with family. Remarkably, this virtual 'online' 2020 NAFOW was seen in over 22 countries by over 2,600 people.

At this point I would like to give a huge "thank you" to WNAA members and other NAFOW supporters for their generous financial support during the year. Such contributions help cover recurring general and administrative expenses. Diolch yn fawr iawn i chi gyd!

As you may know the WNAA has been busy and has successfully reorganized dates for future NAFOWs. The Philadelphia NAFOW we all looked so much forward to this year has now been slated for 2022.

Preparation for the 2021 Ottawa North American Festival of Wales is well under way and the local organizing committee is very active in, for example, selecting suitable venues for our much beloved Gymanfa Ganu and Grand Concert and confirming seminar presenters.

I'll end this letter with the lovely words with which we end every NAFOW: "God be with you till we meet again, When life's perils thick confound you, Put His arms unfailing 'round you, God be with you till we meet again".

Stay safe and enjoy the upcoming festive season!

David Matthews, WNAA President



2021 North American Festival of Wales

We are pleased to announce that the 2021 North American Festival of Wales will be held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Please remember a valid passport is needed for travel to and from Canada.

Festival dates are September 2 through 6, 2021.

Local chairperson is Myfanwy Davies, and our hosts are the Ottawa Welsh Society. Planning is under way for many interesting seminars, unique workshops and fun tours.

Registration information will be online in Spring 2021.

Register through: www.nafow.org

2021 North American Festival of Wales Host Hotel

The festival hotel is the Delta Hotels by Marriott Ottawa City Centre, 101 Lyon Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1R5T9.

Festival rates:

Rooms: \$170+ tax per night CAD
Parking: \$25 per day

Room rates are available now, subject to availability. Make your hotel reservation through www.nafow.org.



Delta Hotels by Marriott Ottawa City Centre

Annual General Meeting

Please note that due to the cancellation of the 2020 festival, the next AGM will be held Saturday, September 4, 2021 in Ottawa, ON in conjunction with the 2021 North American Festival of Wales.



Although the COVID pandemic did not allow us to meet in person, the WNAA Executive Board persevered via Zoom meetings this summer and fall.

2020 NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES WENT VIRTUAL! SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS!

FYI from IHQ



WNAA Executive Secretary Megan Williams

As the year 2020 comes to a close, I join you in recognizing what a remarkably different year it was. So many plans that would have been didn't happen, and while most of us snuck in a St. David's Day celebration, that was the end of our Welsh gatherings for the year.

I have faith that while 2021 may start out differently, as the months progress, we will continue to get closer to coming together again. We are planning for Ottawa and are monitoring closely the factors that will make the event possible.

I would encourage you to make a hotel reservation now if you are interested in attending. All rooms can be cancelled up to 72 hours before arrival without charge. I would also ask you to mark your calendars now for Philadelphia 2022!

I wish you well over the holiday season and hope to see many of you in person again in September. As always, please let me know if you have any questions; call 607-279-7402 or email wnaahq@gmail.com. Many thanks,

Megan Williams, Executive Secretary

WNAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019-2021

- President: David Matthews, Alberta
- Vice President: Jeanne Jones Jindra, Ohio
- Secretary: Jan Jones Batty, Wisconsin (one-year term)
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Megan Williams, PO Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886
Phone 607-279-7402

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WALES

- Edward Morus Jones, Anglesey

Website: festivalofwales.org

WNAA MISSION

The Welsh North American Association strives to preserve, develop and promote our Welsh cultural heritage and traditions, including the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, and to do all things necessary and appropriate to accomplish these goals.

HWYL is published in the fall, winter and spring by the Welsh North American Association.
Editors: Jan Jones Batty and Danny Proud

Direct comments or inquiries to:
editor@theWNAA.org

Sponsorships and Donations for 2021

We cannot express enough gratitude to those who helped support us financially during this unprecedented year.

We anticipate the impact of COVID to be noticeable to the organization for the 2021 fiscal year as well.

End of the year donations, pledges and sponsorships for 2021 will be crucial in making the 2021 festival a success and in helping to sustain our Welsh heritage in North America.

I am excited to announce that through a partnership with the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society, donations by Canadian residents towards the 2021 festival will be tax deductible. Donations by US residents are also tax deductible.

Please contact Megan Williams for more information: wnaahq@gmail.com or send donations to: WNAA, PO Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886

Welsh Heritage Week

Plans are under way for the 2021 Welsh Heritage Week.

So set aside the week of July 18 through 25, 2021 and join us for a week of Welsh culture, fun and fellowship. Activities include language, dance, arts, poetry, music, food and much more!

Contact Beth Landmesser at hwyl@ptd.net for information and follow us on Facebook.



2021 North American Festival of Wales

Make sure your passport is up to date and join us at the 2021 North American Festival of Wales in Ottawa, Canada!

Highlights of the 2021 NAFOW

We look forward to the talents of Caitlin McKee and Huw Chiswell at the Opening Concert, and the NAWF Awards Banquet with Dafydd Jones and Edward Morus Jones, recipient of

the 2020 NAWF Heritage Medallion Award.



Steve Jensen will accompany the 89th Gymanfa Ganu

Also we are pleased that Eschoir will entertain us at the Grand Concert and that Steve Jensen will once again accompany the Gymanfa Ganu.



Edward Morus Jones

Eschoir



Huw Chiswell



Caitlin McKee



Dafydd Jones

Update on Ottawa 2021 NAFOW Planning

2020 has certainly been a year for the unexpected. But as this virus won't last forever, and normal activities have been curtailed for now, we've been spending time working on arrangements for the Ottawa NAFOW in 2021.

The hotel has been booked, and you can now make a reservation for your room. We are using the Delta Hotel on Lyon Street, which is in the heart of downtown Ottawa. The Canadian Parliament Buildings are a couple of blocks away, and a little further is the Rideau Canal, a UNESCO Heritage Site. You can take a leisurely boat cruise along the canal and hear the history of its building. Also nearby are the Byward Market and the Rideau Centre shopping mall which feature some interesting shops and nice restaurants.

Ottawa is the nation's capital so there are a number of excellent museums to visit, as well as the National Gallery and the Royal Canadian Mint, all within walking distance. One of the tours we have planned is a bus trip around Ottawa to highlight the Welsh contributions to the history and architecture of the city. We are also planning a trip out to the Diefenbunker which was the Cold War shelter for the Canadian government. After the Festival we are looking at a day tour to visit Upper Canada Village and the Thousand

Islands, or a multi-day tour to Quebec City and Montreal.

We are planning some interesting seminars and workshops for attendees. One workshop will give you the chance to carve your own lovespoon. Another will offer harp lessons. We will have harps available for rental if you don't have one, or don't want to lug yours on the plane.

Seminars will feature the Welsh-Canadian astronaut Dr. Dafydd Williams; a musical story of the life of Ivor Novello presented by Alan Thomas, Sheryl Clay-Newell and Ed Newell; a talk about the Patagonia-Canada Welsh connection by Dr. Pawl Birt; and a talk by David Matthews, WNAA President, about his time teaching in the Canadian North. Other seminars are still in the planning stages and we will update you on them as the details are finalized.

Plans are also under way for the Opening Concert featuring Huw Chiswell and Caitlin McKee; Eisteddfod; Cinema Wales; Marketplace and Tea Room; the Grand Concert featuring ESCHOIR; the Sunday morning service and the Gymanfa Ganu. It is possible that we will have to adjust some of these events depending on the situation, but we plan to make the gathering another memorable weekend. Please plan to join us. Like me, I'm sure your Welsh batteries will need charging by then.

Myfanwy S. Davies

Get Your Welsh On!

If you just can't wait until Ottawa to sing in the Language of Heaven, you can purchase CDs from past Cymanfaoedd Ganu at the WNAA website. Recordings from 2019 (Milwaukee), 2018 (Alexandria), 2017 (Rochester) and 1953 (Rochester—5000 voices!) are available.

Books for sale are the official WNGGA hymnal, available in regular and enlarged size; Caneuon Y Ddraig (Songs of the Dragon) Welsh folk songbook; and the History of the WNGGA.

Of particular interest to Welsh learners is the WNAA eHymnal CD, which includes 118 hymns spoken by a native Welsh speaker. Learn to pronounce the verses, listen to the music and learn your voice part.



Virtual NAFOW 2020



Here are some highlights of our virtual NAFOW 2020.



Dafydd Wigley presents "A Gangster in the Family," focusing on Chicago gangster Llewelyn Morris Humphreys, the most-wanted gang criminal in the US when Robert Kennedy was Attorney General.



WNAA President David Matthews offers a warm welcome to all who attend the Virtual NAFOW.



Philip Davies, President of the North America Wales Foundation (NAWF) extends a welcome to the virtual NAFOW. This year's recipient of its Heritage Medallion Award goes to Edward Morus Jones, who will receive this honor in Ottawa. Edward also recorded a greeting.

Eluned Morgan, Minister for International Relations in the Wales government stresses "...I am determined that we reach out and see to better relationships with our Welsh friends and relations who are scattered all over the world."



Co-chairs Jack R. Williams and A. Taylor Williams extend a warm welcome to Philadelphia for NAFOW 2022. Their presentation included baritone Todd Thomas singing "Men of Harlech," a duet with Todd and Katherine Crusi, and an address by "Alice Paul" of the Militant Wing of the Women's Suffrage Movement. It closed with "We'll Keep a Welcome" sung by Todd and Katherine.



Online Eisteddfod—NAFOW 2020

This article is an excerpt of the "NAFOW Poetry Competition ~ A Success" written by Ian K. Samways and published in the November-December 2020 issue of NINNAU.

At a most challenging time when there was no safe way for us all to meet in person, the Board and Executive Committee of the Welsh North American Association, in the depths of summer, truly turned some lemons into lemonade by making this year's virtual North American Festival of Wales an accessible, appealing global event. Whatever that lemonade may have had in it... the NAFOW Eisteddfod Committee happily partook, and – inspired by the WNAA's way better than 20/20 vision – we were thrilled to offer real competitions in quite the un-real year!

With the strictures placed by the pandemic, after very careful consideration, we decided to focus this year on competitions that were best suited to "virtual" participation and that, fortuitously, were planned for introduction this year anyway. Thus, telling the pandemic to "stuff it" ... we ran with two new competitions in Poetry Composition – Welsh Language Poem and English Language Poem – and ended up attracting competitors from wholly six nations and four continents!

The two separate competitions each offered a single grand prize of \$250 (US), graciously sponsored by Rev. Robert Dayton (a former WNAA Trustee, and current President of St. David's Society of Pittsburgh) and an anonymous donor. Also, as seemed highly appropriate for 2020 in particular, we specified a theme of "Hope/Gobaith" in both categories.

We want to heartily thank our four adjudicators, two for each category, for their excellent work at this most interesting of times: Menna Elfyn and Eurig Salisbury in Welsh; and Tony Curtis and Bob Dayton in English.

We were very pleased, in the end, to see 13 entries stream in for the Welsh Language competition and 20 for English Language. Across both competitions, they came not only from the familiar corners of the US, Canada and Wales, but also from England, Argentina and ... Nigeria!



On the Welsh language side, the winner was the poet "Mimosa" with the poem "gobaith." "Mimosa" turned out to be none other than Dr. Christine James of Cardiff, former Archdruid of the National Eisteddfod of Wales (2013-16), and winner of the Eisteddfod Crown in Snowdonia in 2005. Currently, she is the Gorsedd Recorder for the National Eisteddfod.



The writer of the English language winner, "Alphabet," went by the pseudonym "Euros West" and turned out to be Dr. Robert Walton of Bristol (England). He was born and brought up in Cardiff before going on to study English Literature at Exeter University and then moving to Bristol to start a long career as an English teacher in state comprehensive schools.

These winning entries are published on the next page.

gobaith

wrth gyrraedd Porth Madryn: 1865 a 2015

Rywle rhwng myth a hanes,
rhwng 'chredwch-chi-byth
ac addewid, rhwng ffaith
a phumed gainc rhyw fabinogi
gwyh am daith arwyr tua machlud
dros Iwerydd – i Annwfn neu
i ddrych o Gymru'r dychymyg
ym mhen draw byd ...

... rywle yma,
ie, rywle fan hyn,
ar draeth Madryn, dan frath
y gwynt, rhwng symudoledd twyni,
a thwmpathau prysg y paith,
anweddodd hud eu breuddwyd
dorfol, o'r diwedd,
yn ddiriaeth
fwy sylweddol na'u gobaith.

Mimosa

Alphabet

The new girl's name was as hard to say and spell
as the words in Welsh our teacher posted on the wall
but we knew she came from a distant, different land
so when Mrs. Jones called her out to write
on the board, we watched her snake-braid of hair swing at
her back as she stepped from her desk to the front
and we sat with eyes and mouths of stone when she held
the stick of chalk mid-air, a tilted axis,
a wand with gnostic powers concealed in its tip.
The week before, we'd had some fun with codes
that marked the pirates' buried treasure on the chart,
but in the map of stems, loops and tails
Arianna Lambadarios inscribed, all I could see
were soaring fiery eagles, the gleaming fins
of dolphins leaping the waves, a team of horses
hauling a chariot through the skies: a terpsichorean
pomp of creatures whirling around the classroom
as if they'd sprung from her breath, she stood so close
to the board. Mrs. Jones held us in the compass
of her gaze: Thank you, Arianna, diolch yn fawr iawn.
Now this, children, is the origin of all our writing,
so let me hear you repeat after me ... Alpha, Beta,
Gamma, Delta ... And as the new girl returned to her seat,
I stared at her lips for the next wonder to emerge.

NAFOW On Demand

The festival on demand, our pre-recorded virtual festival, was extremely well received. We would like to thank all of those who helped to make it possible and to the Welsh government for their sponsorship.

As the president's letter mentioned, we had over 2,600 people view the event and reached many corners of the globe.

The mini-lecture series that was included with the festival will remain on our website for some months to come, so please take time to enjoy any items you missed. You can find it on our website under 'Blog and Archive.'

Practice Your Conversational Welsh



CYMDEITHAS MADOG

Cymdeithas Madog's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the official launch of a new, free service for Welsh learners: monthly "Siop Siarad" conversation groups on Zoom. In September they held a trial run with some students from their recent Virtual Cwrs, and it was a great success. They will hold their Siop Siarad on the third Saturday of each month (unless otherwise indicated). There are three sessions: two at the beginning/intermediate level and one at the advanced level, each facilitated by an experienced Welsh speaker. You can now sign up online for the October and November sessions, and read more about the details on their calendar page: <https://speakwelsh.org/courses/calendar/>

Registration opens late in November for the next Cwrs Rhith (Virtual Welsh Course), January 22-24, 2021 via Zoom. They have added a few more sessions and reduced the class size to 12, with three sessions each at the Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced levels. The registration fee is \$25 per session. They will also a special guest lecture by Llinos Griffin on the history and mythology of Santes Dwynwen, free to all registered participants.

As always, go to www.madog.org to learn more about them and other online learning.

Affiliated Welsh Organizations

The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project



Dean Cole filmed Janey Williams for the virtual NAFOW 2020 video

The Hall of Welsh Heroes gets a fresh coat of paint from Gary Colgrove, Abigail Colgrove and Kylee Lakers



The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project has been gifted with an extensive library of books, Welsh china, translations, etc., from the home of the late Berwyn Jones and Martha Davies. During this pandemic time volunteers have been going through over 60 boxes of items to be put into our Past Perfect program. From this gift, we are now the repository of many rare Welsh books and numerous translations that Martha had done and was in the process of completing from nearly every state in the U.S.

Also to be shown shortly on our Facebook and website, are videos of the Welsh museum, railroad museum and one-room school we completed this summer. Board Member, Robert Humphries also prepared a video about our Project for the virtual NAFOW during the month of September.

From Puget Sound, we were given a John Speed map of Wales produced in the 1600's. This is of exceptional quality and a one-of-a-kind artifact.

With the shutdown of hosting events and coffees, it was a great time to re-fresh our walls with new paint and update our Wall of Welsh Heroes.

We are very excited about the opportunity to host the 2023 NAFOW in Lincoln, NE. This will be the first time ever in our beautiful state and what an opportunity for us to showcase our museum, archive, railroad museum and one-room school.



Some of the archive shelves at the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project

Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymru Ottawa

The Ottawa Welsh Society was founded in 1919. Current membership is 33 families, 20 singles and two honorary, and it publishes four editions of its newsletter, Y Bwletin, each year.

Fall events have included a Medieval Dinner with costumes, Faggots and Peas Dinners with Noson Lawen; an Homage to Patagonia Night; Film Night; 100th Anniversary Pot-luck supper with an engaging talk by our own historian, David Jeanes; and Wales in Canada 150, a celebration of immigration featuring the ancestors of members complete with slide shows and oral histories. St. David's Day activities include a reception at the British High Commission, luncheon and Gymanfa ganu.

The OWS sponsors two Welsh-speaking opportunities every month. Awr Sgwrsio is an informal Welsh chat gathering. More recently, a small group of learners has been attending Awr Sgwrsio I Ddwysgwyr under the guidance of Welsh speakers Alison Lawson, John Williams and Geraint Lewis. We almost always have an annual Pub and Quiz night as well as a Family Picnic.

In this challenging year of COVID-19, the OWS has held Zoom meetings for planning and events. In October we had a talk by David Jeanes featuring his ancestral homes in Wales. In November, Film Night featured short films from a series created by It's My Shout Productions featuring young talent from across Wales and which can be viewed on YouTube.

We are working on a Lessons and Carols event on Zoom and will likely hold other film nights. We are looking for a substitute for our regular St. David's Day activities, and with the enthusiasm and creativity shown thus far, we will have an enjoyable, if distanced, activity.

In 2019, the OWS sponsored the first ever Welsh Film Festival in Ottawa and in Canada. On the four Wednesdays in the month of March, Welsh language films with English sub-titles were shown at a local independent theatre called the Bytowne. All were well-attended, even beyond what we had thought likely. We hope to have another Film Festival in the coming years.

For more information check us out at www.ottawawelsh.org or find us on Facebook. Our email address is ottawa.welsh.society@gmail.com.



OWS Penillion Group

A Tribute to Sue Richards, WNAA Auditor

Susan L. Richards of Granite Springs, NY, died Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at the age of 74 after a courageous battle with leukemia. Born in Joliet, IL, on March 8, 1946, she was the daughter of William D. Richards and Carolyn J. (O'Brien) Richards. Her paternal great-grandparents, William D. Richards and Magdalene Morgan were born in Brynmawr, Blaenau Gwent, and married in the Llanileth chapel in Merthyr Tydfyl. One of their 14 children, Reginald, became Sue's grandfather.



She earned a bachelor's degree in classics, with a minor in voice, from Illinois State University – Normal, and received a master's degree in business administration from Boston University. Despite her intention of becoming a teacher of Latin and Greek, Sue's early career involved working for Girl Scouts of the USA on the local, national, and international levels. Her last post with the Girl Scouts' Troops on Foreign Soil program was in High Wycombe, England.

Returning to the States, she became a Certified Financial Planner, working for several firms, most recently Round Rock Advisors in Wilton, CT. Her clients appreciated her common sense approach to her fiduciary responsibilities and told her she could never retire -- which she didn't.

An avid amateur carpenter, Sue loved working with wood but was also willing to learn any of the skills necessary for homeownership, from plumbing to tiling. She was a lifetime member of Girl Scouts of the USA and was an active member of the American Association of University Women for close to 50 years.

Sue enjoyed researching her Welsh, Irish, and German roots. She was especially supportive of the Welsh North American Association (WNAA), attending each successive North American Festival of Wales (except 2005) from Utica in 1996 through the 2019 Festival in Milwaukee. She loved the music presented throughout each event, most notably the hymns selected for the Gymanfa Ganu. She served as an auditor for the WNAA's finances, presenting a report at a number of WNAA annual general meetings.

Sue is survived by her mother; her brother Thom Richards (Debi) of Boulder, CO; her sister Patti Kwasigroch (Richard) of Joliet; several nieces and nephews; and numerous friends and colleagues. Memorial donations to the WNAA in her name may be made online at: <http://festivalofwales.org/contribute.html> or via mail at: WNAA, P.O. Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886.

A Note About Sue from our Treasurer

As Treasurer of the WNAA I want to add a few words about how much Sue Richards contributed to the WNAA. For as long as I have been Treasurer, Sue did our annual audit. Nonprofit organizations too often forget the importance of doing things correctly. An audit must be done every year, not because we suspect anything is wrong but because it is the right thing to do. A good auditor does not just "look" at the books and records, she also finds ways the organization can organize its finances in a more sensible way. Sue never failed to mention little things to Megan or me that would improve the way our records are kept. She was an invaluable resource for our organization and her wise counsel will be missed.

David Allen

Remembering Roy Morris



On April 14th 2020, Roy Morris passed away in Ottawa. He was well known in the Welsh communities throughout Ontario and North America as a conductor and a former President of the WNGGA/WNAA.

Roy was born in Swansea and as a young boy he was active in musical productions and local Eisteddfodau. He began conducting at the age of 13 with a school choir, and also studied piano and organ. After emigrating to Canada and beginning his professional career, he worked part time as a church organist and choir director. In 1968 he was invited to be the conductor of a newly-formed Welsh Society mixed choir. Amongst other tours, it competed at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in 1973. Later, in 1984, Roy was asked to lead The Gwalia Singers. He also served the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association for several years. Roy was on the planning committee for the Ottawa 1977 National Gymanfa Ganu, and conducted part of the Grand Concert. He was also on the committee for Ottawa 2000, which was chaired by his son, Ian. With Alan on the organ, Roy was delighted to conduct his first National on home turf. He later conducted the 2006 National Gymanfa in Cincinnati. These appearances led to invitations to conduct local cymanfaoedd in Toronto, Delta, PA and Wisconsin, just to name a few.

Roy served on the Board of WNGGA for several years before being elected Vice President in 2004 and President in 2006. In recognition of his many contributions to Welsh culture in Ontario and beyond, Roy was awarded the Ontario Welsh Festival Gold Award in 2016. His last conducting appearance was on March 1, 2020 at the St. David's Day Gymanfa in Ottawa where he was invited to lead us in Blodwen, his favourite hymn. He was in fine form and we will have that memory forever.

A full obituary appeared in the July-August 2020 issue of NINNAU—The North American Welsh Newspaper



WELSH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
PO Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Contact List Cleanup

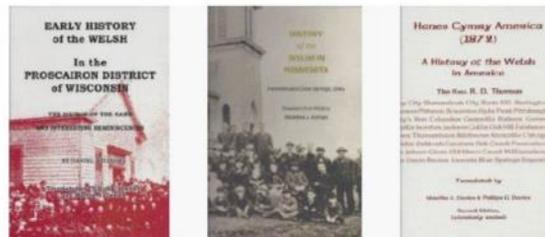


Early this year, the WNAA made a first pass at cleaning up its mailing list. We updated some addresses, corrected a few names and removed several people from the list. However, we need your help.

If you or someone you know had a change of address, or you know someone who should be removed from our list, let us know.

We would also like your email address; occasionally we send email updates. And indicate if you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email. Please direct corrections to our mailing address or to: editor@theWNAA.org

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH & GENEALOGY PAY FOR SHIPPING ONLY!



We have the following books that we would gladly send your way:

[Early History of the Welsh in the Prosecairon District of Wisconsin](#) Translated by Phillips & Martha Davies
[History of the Welsh in Minnesota, Foreston & Lime Springs, Iowa](#) Translated by Martha Davies
[Hanes Cymry America \(1872\) A History of the Welsh in America](#) Translated by Phillips & Martha Davies

If your local Welsh or historical society and/or library would appreciate receiving any of the above volumes; we only ask that you pay for the postage of the book rate. If interested contact us at: gcolgrove@neb.rr.com