

DRA^QON TALE^S

February 2020–July 2020

The Welsh Society of Central Ohio—Cymdethas Gymreig Canolbarth Ohio
Promoting a Strong and Vibrant Welsh Community in Central Ohio

2020's St. David's Day Luncheon

By Kelsey Wright

In what may end up being the last in-person meeting for WSCO members for quite some time, the 2020 St. David's Day luncheon and annual meeting at the Worthington Hills Country Club was a delightful experience for all.

The day began before 10 a.m. with Bob Penry's seminar on photos genealogy. He talked at length about how interested people can trace

their Welsh roots, and he shared his extensive expertise with finding long-lost ancestors.

Right on schedule came the annual meeting where the WSCO board gave what everyone hopes is a temporary break to former President Kathy Chamblin and former recording secretary Diana Wafe. However, the board was joined by a first-time



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WSCO members listen to Bob Penry's discussion on genealogy (photo credit: Tegwyn Lantz).

President's Message for July 2020

By Mike Schroeder

This is a very strange time in which to be starting one's term as the president of a membership organization which prides itself on maintaining the social customs of our forebears from Wales. In the first few weeks of my term, the Viking Festival and the Celtic Festival have had to be canceled, and the Governor's order to maintain safe social distancing and to avoid gatherings of 10 or more people has made it impossible for the WSCO Board of Directors to meet face-to-face.

In anticipation of this, Bob Penry, at the March Board meeting suggested that we meet via Skype,

but not all members have access to the technology to do so. We all, however, have phones, so will conduct our monthly meetings via [freeconferencecalls.com](https://www.freeconferencecalls.com). This is being done as an experiment to try to get our business conducted, but stay home and stay safe.

I am really pleased to report that we have two additions to the Board of Directors, Laura Thomas, who is returning to the Board, and Becky Jones, who is filling a one-year vacancy. Both have strong, proven interest in their Welsh heritage, and are we welcome them with open

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Summer Picnic rescheduled for September 5th

In light of guidelines from the State of Ohio and CDC, the board has decided to postpone the annual summer picnic until September 5th, 2020.

The event is still scheduled to meet at the Radnor Township Community Center at 4061 State Rt. 203, Radnor Ohio 43066.

Like last year's event, it is a potluck. Bring a dish to share; main courses, side dishes, desserts are all needed.

After the event, the museum may be opened for a tour.

Bicentennial of the Radnor Congregational Church

By Laura Thomas

The Radnor Congregational Church (Radnor Church of Christ) celebrates its two hundred year anniversary this year.

According to Rev. James Davies, an early pastor, the church began in the winter of 1820, when several early Welsh immigrant families began to hold prayer meetings in their homes. These early participants included John P. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. William Penry, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Morgans, and Mr. and Mrs. John R. Jones.

In its early years, the influential preacher Benjamin Chidlaw, who was born in Bala, North Wales and grew up in Radnor, worshiped with the congregation. Originally Welsh-speaking, the church gradually changed over to the use of English in its services in order to retain the younger generations. According to the 105 year anniversary program from 1925, "The Welsh language was used exclusively until 1865 when English was



The façade of the Radnor Congregational Church from State Route 203. (photo credit: Laura Thomas)

introduced. A sermon in that language was given every alternate Sunday evening. In 1898 the Welsh language was abandoned entirely. The old frame building gave way to the present church edifice built in 1864."

The church is known for

its stained-glass windows, donated by Welsh families in the church in the early 1900s. Many of the original founders of the church are buried in the old area of Radnor Cemetery, across from the church. The church through the years has retained a pride in its

origins, hosting events that echo the original founders of the church and their Welsh faith, culture, and music. The history of this beautiful church has been

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arms. Laura has also agreed to be the Recording Secretary, a role long filled by Diana Wafe, who is taking a much deserved break after many years of service on the Board.

We have a new mailing address! Our old PO Box was in a post office where parking was scarce and which presented accessibility problems. Our new box is in the

Columbus main post office on Twin Rivers Dr., which has ample parking and is easily accessible. The new address is PO Box 16851, Columbus, Ohio 43216.

We have tentative plans to have our summer picnic at the Radnor Community Center, on September 5, 2020, after a very successful meeting there last year. It was a very hot day, and the air-conditioned room was most welcome. There were historic presentations and tours. We will, of course, have to see if we are able to gather. We will be exploring the possibility of an alternative dates, but it is by no means clear that such events will be available even then.

Flag Raising Followup: The Governor’s Proclamation



Mike DeWine and Jon Husted
Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Ohio
do hereby officially recognize

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF CENTRAL OHIO

On behalf of the State of Ohio, we extend a warm welcome to the Welsh Society of Central Ohio as you raise your flag in honor of St. David’s Day. Since 1948, the Welsh Society of Central Ohio has worked to promote and preserve Welsh heritage and foster appreciation for Welsh literature, poetry, music, and art. Ohio is a wonderfully diverse state with an exceptional community of ethnic organizations and businesses and the Welsh community should be proud of their accomplishments that have helped to make our state a welcoming place for people of all nationalities.

Best wishes for another memorable event!

On this 28th day of February 2020;

Mike DeWine
Governor

Jon Husted
Lieutenant Governor



Fond Farewells

Johanna Ruth Keiser
 Johanna Ruth Keiser, 86, of Plain City, passed away unexpectedly Friday, January 24, 2020.

She was born on July 29, 1933 in Wellston, Ohio to the late Charles and Laurretta (Melvin) Jones. Johanna graduated in 1951 from Wellston High School and in 1955 from The Ohio State University.

She was a member of Chi Omega Sorority, Dublin Community Church, Plain City Presbyterian Church, and Plain City Book Club. Johanna belonged to Friends of Plain City Library and served on the Board. She was also a member of the Union County Master Gardeners, Union County Retired Teachers and the Welsh Society of Central Ohio.

She taught over 20 years at Jonathan Alder High School in the Business

Education Department. Johanna is a cancer Survivor and worked in the family business of Civil Construction for many years.

She loved to travel, enjoyed arts and music, was an enthusiastic gardener and cherished her time spent in museums and the theater.

She is survived by her husband, Bruce E. Keiser who is also a 1955 graduate of The Ohio State University in Civil Engineering; children, Kevin E. (Dr. Julia A.) Keiser of Columbus, Kelley J. Keiser of Plain City, Ellen K. (James O.) Hughes of Bath, Maine; grandchildren, Matthew E. Keiser of St. Louis, Missouri, Dr. Patrick C. Hughes of Columbus, Michael J. Hughes of Washington, D.C.; great grandchildren, Falynn Keiser and Beau Keiser.

Welsh-Language Discussion Groups Postponed

All Welsh-language meetings have been postponed until State guidelines allow for groups of more than ten people to safely meet at libraries.

WSCO members are welcome to attend our informal practice sessions. These monthly meetings will last about an hour and

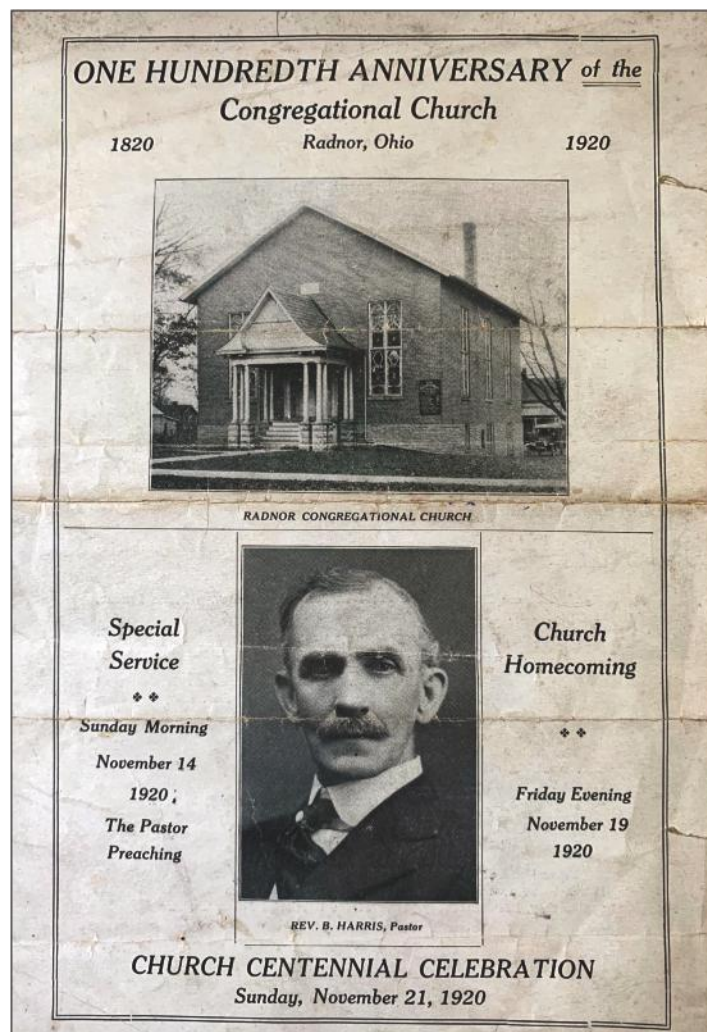
half. Sessions operate on a rotating “reservationist” format where the person who reserves the room/location for a particular month will choose the main focus for that day. For information on attending, email info@welshsocietyofcentr.alohio.org.

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lovingly documented and passed down in handwritten notes, photographs, books, and programs from special events.

Information about the church’s history will be shared at the WSCO/Radnor Heritage Society potluck event on September 5 at the Radnor Community Center. An anniversary service is planned to take place at the church in October.



A pamphlet for the Radnor Congregational Church’s centennial celebration from 1920. (photo credit: the Radnor Historical Society)

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member in Becky Jones. This is the second consecutive year that the board was joined by a first-time member.

The luncheon itself was served on tables with centerpieces created by WSCO board member Cathy Beacom, and on display in the common area were a series of quilts from early 1900s, lovingly crafted by members of Jeff Johnson's family in the Oak Hill area (see photos of the

quilts and some of the descriptions on page 7). At the check-in table members could also see Governor DeWine's proclamation from the flag raising ceremony that took place on February 28th.

In Kathy's final pronouncement as President, she opened the luncheon with thanks for all the hard work that went into preparing for the annual event.

Bob Penry led the prayer before food was served.

The traditional leek soup, topped with fried leeks, opened the meal along with soft rolls and butter. This was followed by the main course:

either chicken piccata with lemon butter, red wine-braised short ribs, or baby carrots with fingerling potatoes. Dessert was a crème brulee with blueberries.

During the meal, Jeff Johnson sang accompanied by Elaine Bowers on piano. His performance included the ever-popular My Little Welsh Home by Gwynn Williams, a rendition of Just As I Am, and Cymru Fach.

After the meal ended, Bob Penry, accompanied by Cindy Williamson on piano, led the entire assembly in singing Diadem, Cwm Rhondda, and the Welsh National Anthem, Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau.



Top left, Jeff Johnson sings; top right and bottom left, members talk after eating; bottom right, the table settings. (photo credits: Kyle Wright, Tegwyn Lantz)



Membership Matters

Basic WSCO Membership Information

Membership Benefits include:

- Subscription to WSCO's newsletter Dragon Tales
- A vote at the Annual Meeting (except children under 16)
- Advance notice of WSCO Events
- Membership roster
- Great new friends!

WSCO General members are also welcome to silently observe WSCO Board Meetings.

Note - to present an item for discussion at a Board meeting, arrangements must be made in advance with the current President.

Annual Memberships (membership period Jan 1-Dec 31)

\$25 for an Individual or Family Unit (parental unit and dependent children), due by January 1st of each year.

Annual memberships begin the day they are received by WSCO (if received between January 1st and September 20th), or those received September 21st through December 31st will be applied to the next membership year and will begin on January 1st of that next year.

Please note - memberships not current as of January 31st may not be included in the annual member roster, and membership must be current to vote during the Annual Meeting.

Lifetime Memberships (begin on date received)

\$175 for an Individual or a Family Unit or three annual installments of \$75 each.

Or, \$30 one time for each individual over 80 years old.

Membership Application

Current WSCO Membership Application and other information is available on the Membership page on WSCO's website, and questions can be emailed to info@WelshSocietyOfCentralOhio.org, or call (614)500-7998.

Membership Chair – Shawn Hitchings

Welcome to New Members

WSCO sends a big Croeso! (Welcome!) to all our new members!

Members can find the WSCO Constitution on the website at:
www.WelshSocietyOfCentralOhio.org.

Members without access to Internet can request to have a copy mailed by leaving a message at WSCO's Information Line: (614)500-7998

Quilts From The St. David’s Day Event

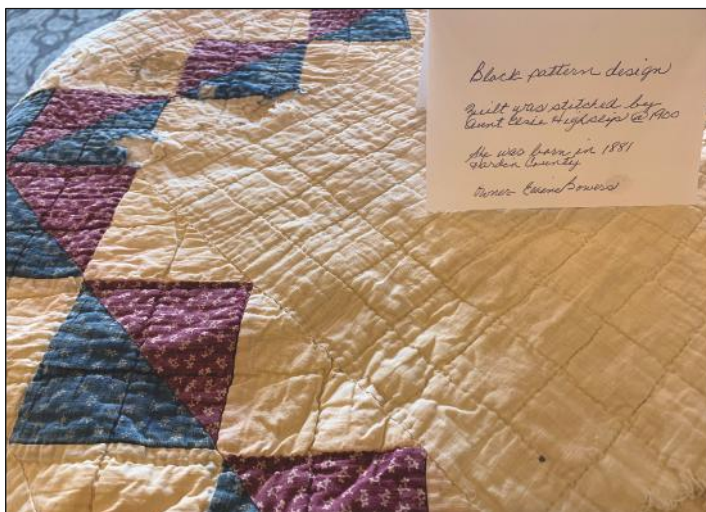


These are examples of the quilts that member Jeff Johnson’s family quilted. The text on the bottom left reads:

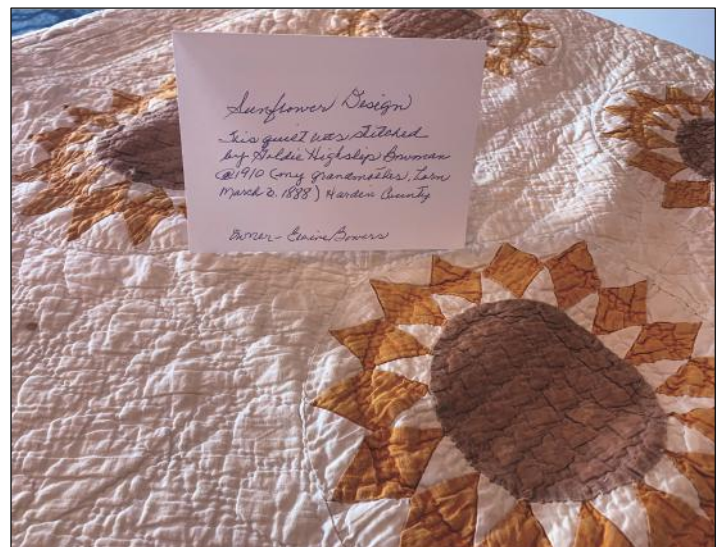
*Block pattern design
Quilt was stitched by aunt Elsie Highslip @1900 She was born in 1881 Hardin County
Owner - Elaine Bowers.*

The text on the bottom right reads:

*Sunflower design
This quilt was stitched by Goldie Highslip Bowman @ 1910 (my grandmother, born March 3 1888) Hardin County
Owner - Elaine Bowers*



*Block pattern design
Quilt was stitched by
Aunt Elsie Highslip @1900
She was born in 1881
Hardin County
Owner - Elaine Bowers*



*Sunflower Design
This quilt was stitched
by Goldie Highslip Bowman
@1910 (my grandmother, born
March 3, 1888) Hardin County
Owner - Elaine Bowers*

WSCO Board Meetings

Board meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month, except for July, August and December, from 7pm to 9pm and usually take place at the Glenwood United Methodist Church, 2833 Valleyview Dr. (at Hague Ave.) Columbus, Ohio, in room 4.

Meetings are open to all adult WSCO members. Anyone wishing to put an item on the agenda or speak before the Board should contact the President at least one week in advance of the meeting

Current WSCO Board Members

Cathy Beacom, Ken Evans, Eve Goodwyn, Jeanne Jones Jindra, Becky Jones, Jeff Johnson, Tegwyn Lantz, Mary Ellen Morgan, Bob Penry, Charlotte Prior, Mike Schroeder, Anne Powell Riley, Laura Thomas, Dianne Williams, Homer Williams, Cindy Williamson, Kelsey Wright, Kyle Wright.

WSCO Officers

President – Mike Schroeder

Vice-President – Eve Goodwyn

Treasurer – Tegwyn Lantz

Recording Secretary – Laura Thomas

Corresponding Secretary – Cindy Williamson

WSCO Contact Information

PO Box 16851

Columbus, OH 43216-9532

Phone: 614-500-7998

Email: info@welshsocietyofcentralohio.org

Web: <http://www.welshsocietyofcentralohio.org>

Facebook: Welsh Society of Central Ohio

Dragon Tales

The newsletter of the Welsh Society of Central Ohio is published three times a year, about 3-4 weeks before each of our annual events.

Editors – Kelsey Wright and Kyle Wright

Submissions

Submissions for Dragon Tales can be made to: newsletter@welshsocietyofcentralohio.org.

Please include your name, phone number, and email address; or leave a message at 614-500-7998 and include your name and phone number.

Submissions must be received by Board Meetings in January, June, and September to appear in the next issue.

Sharing Welsh Culture in Ohio

WSCO

All of the festivals have been cancelled for this summer: Ashville Viking Festival, the Wooster Celtic Festival, so WSCO is not currently scheduled to attend any festivals in the near future.

If you are "cleaning things out" and run across any documentation having to do with WSCO or the Welsh in Columbus, especially if you don't want to keep it anymore but don't want to throw it away, please mail these items to PO Box 16851, Columbus, OH 43216-9532. We will accept anything right now, like:

- Event programs
- Pictures
- Articles
- Old Dragon Tales
- Newspaper clippings
- Books

Madog Center

Just about every festival or activity has either been cancelled or postponed, so we feel no need to open just at the moment.

Madog Center is closed until July 1st, but I am working from home. If there is a need to open the center or museum for someone I know who wants to visit, I would not mind doing that.

—Jeanne Jindra

Granville Historical Society

As the memory-keepers of Granville, Ohio, we encourage all of you to keep some kind of record of life during this pandemic, and invite you to share them with us, and the community at large.

Recording these extraordinary days is critical.

Tell us; are you learning to bake, playing board games again, redecorating, gardening, rediscovering "family or me time", painting or reading?

In other words, how are you dealing with the social distancing/stay at home order connected with the Covid-19 emergency?

Have you taken any photos of Granville scenes that are highly unusual compared to the norm?

Show us how you are spending your days. We invite you to "tag" us (Granville Ohio Historical Society) when sharing these images on Facebook or simply email to granvillehistorical@gmail.com your text, images, audio, video or drawings.

When you have tagged us or have emailed your information to us, you give rights to the Granville Historical Society to use this information. These will be accumulated for our Archives for future research on how the Covid-19 pandemic impacted Granville.