

# Welsh Society Picnic and fall 2021 Newsletter

**Invitation From The Gulf Coast St.David's Welsh Society**



**Please join the Welsh Society for  
Our Annual Free Fall Family Picnic  
Saturday, October 30 at 12:30 p.m.  
Turtle Beach Pavilion, Midnight Pass,  
South Siesta Key, Sarasota, Florida**

Please bring your family's own picnic and place settings.

RSVP: [sarasotawelsh@gmail.com](mailto:sarasotawelsh@gmail.com) or leave a message for Amy (941) 346-1104 so we will know how many tables to cover and name tags to bring.

Meet, Greet, Eat, Share, Remember, Congratulate, and Sing!

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Quiz: Did you know who this renowned explorer was, pictured in our summer newsletter? It was a Jeopardy question in the summer.



Sir Henry Morton Stanley (1841-1904) was a 19th century, Welsh-born, United States journalist and explorer famous for his exploration of Africa and his search for David Livingstone. "Dr. Livingstone I presume?" He is mainly known for his search for the source of the Nile, work he undertook as an agent of [King Leopold II of Belgium](#). He was [knighted](#) in 1897. He was born John Rowland.

Information from "Wikipedia". Does anyone know why he changed his name?

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Interesting paragraph on Welsh immigration to the US from

[Ancestry.com](#)

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## **"1850–1875 Creating Community: Wales**

The population in Wales had doubled in the first half of the 19th century and was growing steadily, despite the flow of immigrants to the United States. In some cases, entire Welsh communities were transplanted to the northeastern United States. There they were

**2nd** about the Government's plans and priorities. Those of us who attended the North American Festival of Wales this year heard Lowri, Eoghan, and their colleagues Andrew (stationed in Canada) and Efe (in NYC) talk about the Welsh Government's strategy overseas, and we found it interesting and surprising. Come join us for what promises to be a fascinating conversation!

They will distribute a Zoom link closer to the event which I will forward to you.

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Congratulations: to Geoffrey Poole and his bride, Gwen, who were married September 12 in England!



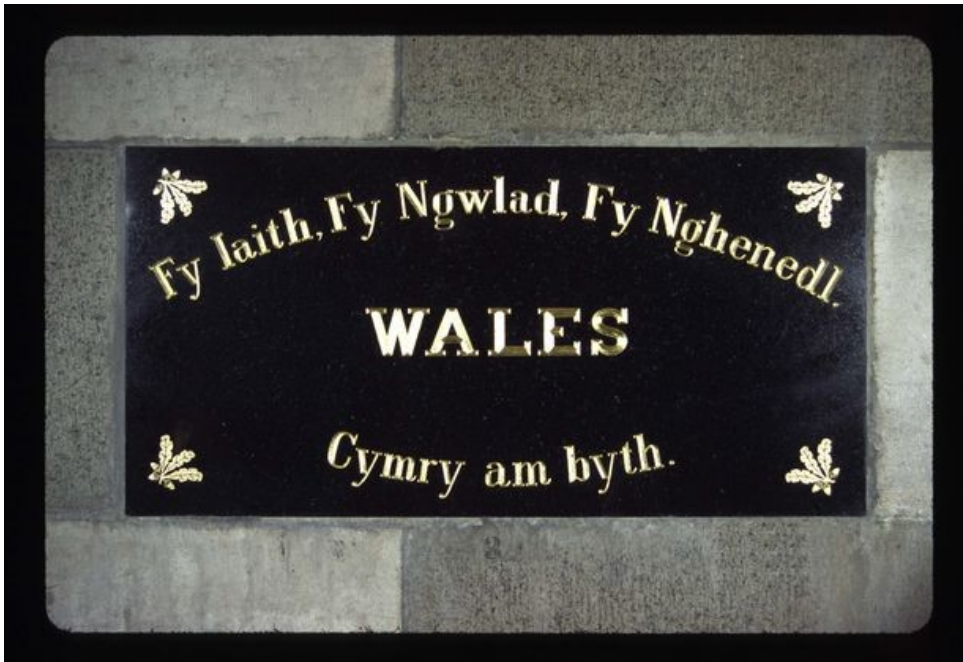
Geoffrey and his late wife, the renowned artist Olwen Hughes, were long-time members of our Society.

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"Despite being thousands of times smaller than the USA, Wales has had plenty of influence on its history. The Welsh were [some of the very first settlers](#) to go to America and [plenty of presidents had a connection to Wales](#).

At least five of the signatories of the Declaration of Independence were Welsh, or of recent Welsh descent, and there have been many US Presidents with Welsh ancestry, including Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, John Adams, and John Quincy Adams (also James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, James A. Garfield, Calvin Coolidge, Richard Nixon and Barack Obama) from <https://hisdoryan.co.uk/american-presidents-of-welsh-descent>.

Even the street roof structure of the White House [was made in Pontardawe in the late 19th Century](#). Although many on both sides of the Atlantic won't know about the two countries' strong connection, there is one permanent reminder at the Washington Monument. Built in the 19th-Century, the 555 ft. tall structure was built to honour George Washington and was the tallest structure in the world when it was completed in 1884. Starting in July 1848 the Washington National Monument Society invited states, cities and patriotic societies to contribute memorial stones.



The Welsh memorial stone (Image: US National Park Service) The stones had to be durable, a "product of the state's soil", and measure four feet long, two feet high and 18 inches thick. And one of the stones came all the way from a quarry near Swansea.

At the 240-foot level of the monument sits a stone which reads: "Fy Iaith, Fy Ngwlad, Fy Nghenedl, Cymry am byth / Our language, our country, our birthplace, Wales forever."

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## **British labour camps**

Shared by the Suncoast Welsh Heritage Society in St. Petersburg:



**WELSH LABOUR CAMPS** In August 1932, at the height of the Depression of the inter-war years, 42.8% of Wales's insured males were unemployed. The Ministry of Labor was particularly concerned about the younger men, who, through prolonged unemployment, have become so soft and temporarily demoralized as to require reconditioning by hardening off...under canvas and in healthy open countryside surroundings. In Wales, labour camps were established at Brechfa (Llanfihangel Rhos-y-Corn), and Treglog (Llansawel), Presteigne, Gaullwyd, and Betws-y-Coed. The unemployed were sent to these camps for 12 weeks, where the work was physically demanding: felling trees, digging ditches, and road building. Working six 12-hour shifts per week earned them 4 shillings (the equivalent of 20p, but about 16 pounds if inflation is taken into account) and a half-day pass to the nearest town or village. Some 200,000 men attended these camps, over a quarter of whom absconded, Only a third of those who remained subsequently found work."

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Mark your 2022 calendars:

Saturday, December 18, BRITISH CLUB invites us to their CHRISTMAS PARTY: Meadows Country Club.

Saturday, January 24 ANNUAL GYMANFA and LUNCHEON MEETING: beginning at 11 a.m., we're planning for our usual hour and a half of singing followed by the delicious buffet luncheon at The Glenridge for our Annual Meeting, which we greatly missed in 2021. (We were grateful that we could meet via Zoom, with singing and a Welsh fairy tale expertly told by Anna Bedford, and a short business meeting.)

March 1: ST. DAVID'S CELEBRATION: Details to follow.

September 1-4: WELSH FESTIVAL: Let's go to Philadelphia!



Photos which I took at a previous Welsh Festival, showing that there are, indeed, Welsh kilts and Welsh bagpipes!



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If you no longer wish to remain on the Welsh Society contact list, let us know.

Directors

: Amy Ferrell, Dr. John and Mona Garrison, Meg Larrabee, Maureen and Phil Jones, Don Hughes, Meryl and Bill Fell, Sandra and David Rees, Bob Griffiths, Susan Lewis (more volunteers are welcome)

Website: [Sarasotawelsh.com](http://Sarasotawelsh.com)