

Apple Valley, MN

55124

City, State/Province Postal (ZIP) Code:

Phone: Area Code 612

(c:\custom\wp51\wng [redacted])

Dear Mr. Jones -

Enclosed is my order for 2 cassette tapes - one for my cousin in Calif. who was not able to attend the Gymnaofa.

May I extend my most heartfelt thanks and gratitude to you, to Mary Mergenthal and all the others behind the scenes who created a most memorable weekend experience for me. Because my mother, who gave to me her pride in being half Welsh, and my grandmother, whom I never met (her mother) are both deceased, this weekend stirred many strong emotions in my soul and more than once, brought me to tears. My other Welsh heritage included being cared for by my "grandparents" Annie and Fred Billing of St. Paul & St. Cloud - (perhaps you knew their son Osborne?) "Nawdypa" Billing taught me how to say "Hlanfairporthgwynn . . ." etc!! the village in Wales

with the long name. "Maudma" who died in 1950 taught me a Welsh song about a 'Mochindyé (black pig) that I recently heard again in the movie "How Green Was My Valley". All these people are gone from me - yet, by taking part in the Gynmufa Gannu weekend events, I felt spiritually very close to them.

So I would not have to drive into Npfs. alone, my dear husband (who is English) accompanied me. After the Thurs. evening Te Bach, where I had my first of many Welsh cakes, we took part in the practice session and were absolutely overwhelmed by the quality and enthusiasm of all present, as well as by the songs themselves. Our appreciation of Welsh singing continued to grow during the Friday and Saturday practice sessions and reached the top during the Sunday Gynmufa under the direction of Meirwyn Walters. I believe that God was greatly glorified and praised by our singing and Meirwyn's inspirational comments on the lyrics and I felt as if I was singing in the place of my deceased relatives who would have been there if they could. When we sang "God Be With You 'til We Meet Again" - I felt they were singing these words to me.

I attended the seminars on the state of the Churches in Wales by Rev. Eddie Morgan, the Welsh Travel Seminars, and those on Welsh Quilting (Annie Billings made me quilts when I was a child) and Gaudy Welsh China. All were most informative and enriching, and provided opportunities for mutual sharing with others and connections and offers of help with tracing of present-day relatives in Wales. All this was made possible by your efforts and hard work, which must have been, at times, difficult.

So Thank You! again, from the bottom of my heart. I hope to attend future Gynmufaedd if at all possible, but this first one will remain in my heart and soul forever!

Thank you and God Bless you -

Mary Clare Wareham

September 24, 1999

The Welsh National Gynanfa Ganeu Assoc., Inc.
Gustavus Adolphus College Box B15
West College Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082

Dear Sir:

I am returning my sisters' and
my name tags which we enjoyed
wearing at the Minneapolis convention.

The music, church service, and
banquet were very outstanding.

We found the St. Paul City tour
very informative.

Thank you for a delightful
convention. We had a pleasant
reunion there with several cousins.

Sincerely,

Col. Lucile M. Roberts, Retired

Corral Circle

Bella Vista, AR 72714



Just a quick "Thank you," for the
hours of work and sweetness of
perseverance that made
"The National" so successful,
so enjoyable.
Barbara Rames

X-From_: DLGIBBS [REDACTED] Fri Sep 10 15:23:43 1999
Return-Path: <DLGIBBS [REDACTED]>
From: "Gibbs, Debra L." <DLGIBBS [REDACTED]>
To: "'JONES ELLIS'" <elli [REDACTED]>
Subject: National Gmanfa
Date: Fri, 10 Sep 1999 15:23:41 -0500

Just wanted to drop you a quick note to thank you for the wonderful job you did on the National Gmanfa Ganu. We had a great time! As you know, I don't sing well but I love listening. I was in the balcony for Sunday's sessions and I couldn't believe how beautiful it sounded. It was especially meaningful for me as Sunday was my birthday so it was nice to spend it relating to my family roots. Thanks again!

We didn't get a chance to talk to you much since you were so in demand, but I hope things are going well for you and your family. Take care.

Deb Gibbs
Solutions Engineer
Norstan [REDACTED] Communications, Inc.
[REDACTED]
dlgibbs@norstan.com

Joseph, Jim, 11:01 AM 10/12/99, 1999 Gymanfa

X-From: Jim.Joseph [REDACTED] Tue Oct 12 13:02:05 1999
Return-Path: <Jim.Joseph@ [REDACTED]>
From: "Joseph, Jim" <Jim.Jos [REDACTED]>
To: "'Ellis Jones'" <ellis@ [REDACTED].u>
Subject: 1999 Gymanfa
Date: Tue, 12 Oct 1999 11:01:46 -0700

Hi Ellis,

It's hard to believe more than a month has already passed since the Gymanfa! My wife and I certainly enjoyed the chance to come to Minneapolis this year, and thanks for all you did to make it possible. I can't wait to get the tapes and CDs for the Gymanfa this year (of course, I have to ORDER them first - I hope it's not too late!) - Central Lutheran was a GREAT venue with wonderful acoustics (the Lutheran Book of Worship notwithstanding). It was nice that folks not of Welsh descent could share in the experience, too. We took our old neighbors from Oakdale (of Norwegian and Swiss Lutheran background) to the Sunday afternoon session, and they liked it so much that they might accompany us to Ottawa next year. Greg's girlfriend, of good old Gustie Swedish Lutheran descent, also got to hear the singing in the evening.

I also noticed that Cwrs Cymraeg is going to have a Welsh course in Carmarthen, Wales next summer. I might attend that - what about you? My Joseph ancestors originally came from Aberystwyth, but some settled in the area around Carmarthen and Llanelli before coming to America. (Despite the fact that Joseph is a relatively uncommon Welsh surname, I have the requisite collection of Jones and Williams ancestors, too!)

I hope that this note finds you in good health now. I'm sure the preparations for the Gymanfa probably didn't hasten your recovery from surgery, infections, etc.

Thanks again for everything you did to make this year's Gymanfa a great event!

Jim J.

██████ O St.
Lincoln, NE 68510-1529
Sept. 11, 1999

Dear Ellis:

I was very pleased to receive my Welsh hymnbook and also the Cymarfa Cane program in the mail from you. I gave it to a couple in the pew behind me to use during the afternoon session at the church, and they gave it back to me. I missed it after our supper and went back to the ^(supper) room to look for it and also to the pew where we had sat, but no luck. Someone may have seen it on the floor and taken it to "Lost and Found" before I searched for it.

I am enclosing a check for

the postage + a little extra for your trouble in sending it to me.

The Cymarfa Cane was an enriching experience, and you, Mary Mergenthal, and others are to be congratulated for excellent planning and organization. I am sure you were all relieved to have it come to such a successful conclusion.

The Hilton Hotel was very comfortable and the food very good. Mary Lou Pritchard and I enjoyed the seminars we attended, and the North American Welsh choir was truly inspiring. All its members made a tremendous commitment to its success and to singing in Welsh.

The mingling of the Lutheran and

Welsh church service was a very desirable association, but did not leave much time to get something to eat before the afternoon gymarfa ganu. We certainly had a dynamic director in Meirwyn Walters.

Diolch yn fawr.

Sincerely,

Rosalind Morris

Copyright
St. David Welsh Society of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska
Designed By:
C.G. Pritchard

Tel/Fax: (9 [redacted] 5208
e-mail: Nathan_Hughe [redacted]

[redacted] Shadyglen Circle,
Richardson, Texas, 75081

September 20, 1999

Dr. Ellis J. Jones
Minneapolis Gymanfa Executive Committee Chairperson.
c/o The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association, Inc.
Gustavus Adolphus College, Bo [redacted]
[redacted] West College Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082-1498

Dear Ellis:

Just a little note to say how much my wife and I enjoyed the Minneapolis Gymanfa and to thank you and Mary for the tremendous effort you put into it. It was evident from all the activities that great thought had been given down to the smallest detail. The facilities were super, the transportation between venues more than adequate, the tours were very interesting and all food events excellent. We appreciated the opportunity to interact with such a great group of people.

You are to be commended on the quality of the seminars. The people from Wales were outstanding, particularly the panel presenters. My wife enjoyed particularly the seminar presented by the Rev. E. D Morgan which I did not attend, but I also found those seminars that I attended to be most enjoyable since they reminded me of my early days in Wales. The Sunday morning sermon by the Rev. Vivian Jones was inspirational and given in such an awe inspiring setting which added immensely to the afternoon and evening hymn singing. I hope however that at future WNGGA events the audience will have the opportunity to sing at least one verse in Welsh of each hymn selected for the Gymanfa. I was disappointed that we deviated from this at Minneapolis.

We were disappointed in some of the musical presentations. The harp playing in the folk concert by Catherine Saloich Victorsen was excellent and reflected artistry of Welsh folk song material which was very traditional. The singing by the girls from Builth Wells High School was also excellent and appreciated by everyone at the folk concert. I cannot say the same for the group called Iona. Their inclusion of Welsh music seemed to be just tokenism as their emphasis was more on the Celtic.

When one considers the obstacles that the North American Welsh Choristers had to overcome from its inception, the formation and performance of the choir was a tremendous achievement. In my opinion however the avant garde nature of their music in the Grand Concert makes me question their choice of music for the Gymanfa. Much of the music was unknown (i.e commissioned specially for the choir). The choir which as yet has had no chance to develop its own particular style decided on a choice of

music which was too new and somewhat ambitious and pretentious. They should build a repertoire based on the more traditional Welsh songs and works by composers such as Vaughan Williams, William Mathias and others, before introducing contemporary composer. Jeremy Huw Edwards had a magnificent voice but here again his choice of music was somewhat rarefied. The Mansel Thomas songs included in the Grand Concert program have limited appeal and much of Alun Hoddinot music in my opinion does not reflect the traditional style of Welsh music. My wife and I speak with some experience as she was a member of Mansel Thomas' choir for a number of years, and I knew Alun Hoddinott when he was starting his musical career.

Whoever selected Gareth Daniel as guest speaker at the dinner made an excellent choice. The art of the after dinner speaker was truly exemplified in Gareth and we enjoyed it immensely. There are only a few in Wales who can convey humor in that particular style, and I had an opportunity to talk with him about some of these before we left Minneapolis.

None of the comments about the musical events at Minneapolis detract from the fact that it was a great success culturally (and I hope financially). You both really deserve so many thanks for giving so generously of your time to its organization.

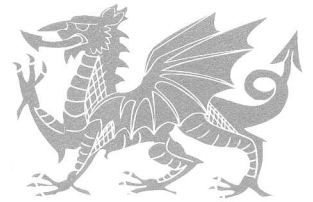
Sincerely,

Nathan Hughes

c.c. Mary Morris Mergenthal,
Minneapolis Gymanfa Executive Committee Chairperson

The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, Inc.

(Founded 1929)



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Gustavus Adolphus College
800 West College Avenue
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Phone: [REDACTED]
e-mail: WNGGA-ellis@gustavus.edu

22 September 1999

Mary Morris Mergenthal
Co-Chairperson
Executive Committee
Minneapolis National Gymanfa Ganu
[REDACTED] Bourne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Dr. Ellis J. Jones
Co-Chairperson
Executive Committee
Minneapolis National Gymanfa Ganu
[REDACTED]
St. Peter, MN 56082

Dear Ellis,

Please accept my congratulations, issued on behalf of the Officers, Board of Trustees, and Members of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, on the completion of the outstanding 68th Annual Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu held in Minneapolis, MN during the period 2-5 September 1999.

From its beginning with a Thursday evening Folk Concert and Twmpath to its final closing at the Sunday evening session of the Gymanfa Ganu, the 68th Annual Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu gave evidence of the meticulous and effective planning provided by the Executive Committee and its Co-Chairpersons.

Please pass on this expression of appreciation to all the members of the Executive Committee for their devoted and tireless work in making the 68th Annual Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu a resounding success.

Sincerely,

Alfred J. Reese, Jr.
President, WNGGA

68th WELSH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU – Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA – September 2-5, 1999

North America's final, foremost gymanfa of the century featuring a premiere for the new millennium...

Côr Cymry Gogledd America—The North American Welsh Choir