

THE WELSH WAY

ORAL HISTORIES

LEAVING WALES



Two streams of Welsh immigrants came to Louisa County. The early settlers left an agricultural Mid and North Wales in the nineteenth century and came to America in search of a better life. They often stopped in New York State, Pennsylvania, Ohio, or Wisconsin, before arriving at the Long Creek Settlement in Iowa. Later settlers left industrial South Wales in the 1920s to seek their fortunes in the Welsh farming communities of southeast Iowa.

Looking back to Wales has not been strongly characteristic of Welsh Americans in Louisa County. Most people know the broad outline of the story of their family leaving the old country. Fewer can fill in the details and know why they decided to come to Long Creek in southeast Iowa. There was a fair amount of contact back and forth between the Welsh settlements in Ohio, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. Luther Davis remembers a couple of girls from Lime Springs, and a neighbor, Lee Davis, going "with some awfully pretty girl from Ohio," and that Everette Davis's wife was from Nebraska.

My grandfather was born in Holyhead. His mother and father both died by the time he was six years old, and an uncle came to Anglesey and picked up the five boys. They had no other relatives. He thought the best thing to do with them was to bring 'em to America. They landed at Charleston, South Carolina, traveled from there to New Orleans and got on a steamboat coming up the Mississippi River. When they got to Davenport, Iowa, the uncle had James and his younger brother John. The other boys had been given away as he come up the river to anybody who was willing to take a teenaged boy and keep him. And the uncle bound my grandfather [James] out to a man name of John Friday. He was to keep him until he was twenty-one years old. Then he was to give him a hundred dollars, and a team of horses and a wagon, a harrow, and a plow.

I've traced my wife's family back to 1766. William Williams and his wife Jane Williams lived at a place called Cae Glas. It was in Anglesey, about five miles from Holyhead. In 1830 their grandson, John, and several children got on the boat to come to New York City. We've got a diary that starts on September 18, 1830. It took 'em about ten years to get to Flint Creek in Des Moines County, Iowa. John died in 1868 in Flint Creek and his wife Anna came up here and bought the farm just catty corner from here. LEROY OWENS

My grandmother's parents both came from Wales, and my great grandfather, David D. Davies, was born in 1842 in Sir Aberteifi, which is Cardigan. They came over when he was twelve years old. He went to school until he was about eighteen and then he enlisted in the army in New York State and served in the Civil War. He lived in what is called Nelson Flats in New York and that's where my grandmother was born. She said she came to Louisa County in a covered wagon. She was the oldest child. They came and settled in Louisa County, Columbus Junction. [My great-grandfather's] mother came with him. He had two old bachelor uncles that came in the family group. They attended Zion Congregational Church. All of that family is buried in the Cambrian Cemetery. They were all farmers. They brought the name of the farm over from their place in Wales, and it was Derlwyn. LEILA WILLIAMS CARLO

Well of course, I'm a third generation Welshman. It was my grandparents who came from Wales. They came from different parts of Wales. Some came from North Wales—Machynlleth and Towyn. Some from Mid Wales—Cardiganshire. And some of them from South Wales—from Swansea. My mother's folks (Owens) lived at Aberystwyth and he was a miner. And at that time the English owned the mines and lots of times they were closed. They were poor, and people were being sold out. They would just come with a sheriff's sale and put all the things out on the sidewalk. Grandma kinda nursed, and once in a while got a little bit of money. So she saved it. And when it was just about time to sell them out, why she said to her husband, Joseph Owen, "I'm going to America. I have enough money for steerage to take myself, you, and our two children. And you can come, or you can stay here." So he came.

Grandma had lost three children in Wales—they had all died in infancy—and she had said it was just because they didn't have enough food to eat. One of the other children, Uncle John, he was a hunchback. So she decided to come to America, where she thought they could make more money and things would be a lot better. She had a brother in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, and they stopped there. Then they came on to Iowa.

Now on the other side of the family, my grandfather, Lewis Edwards, and his two brothers came to this country. They came to Cotter and worked for people until they'd made enough money to buy a farm of their own. They were farmers in Wales too.

GAYLE EDWARDS ROTTER

My father was Hugh Rees Davis and he was born on the place he lived all his life in Louisa County, halfway between Cotter and Wyman. His parents came from North Wales. The two Davis brothers came and settled right here and they had large families. They either homesteaded the ground or else there'd only been one previous owner. The older brother was John Davis and Evan Davis his brother. Then about ten years later, why the younger brother came. They were farmers in Wales.

My mother's name was Claudia Evans and she lived at Williamsburgh. Both of her parents were Welsh and her grandfather fought in the Civil War. I think they settled in New York and then came out. Their name was Owens. DONALD DAVIS

My Grandfather Williams owned a small store in the town of Bangor, but because three of their five children were old enough to work in the mines he grew unhappy. Jane, his wife,

had a brother, Griff Williams, who had come to America and they would write letters to the sister and encourage them to come to this country. They did so in 1856. They brought the five children to Des Moines County and then later on moved to Crawfordsville. MARIE GREENE

My father was born in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. He came here in '85. His sister Sophia Rees lived here. He came to her. He worked out until he got married and then he farmed.

My mother was born in New York in '67. My grandfather come over from Wales in '51. My mother was two years old when they came to Iowa. They spoke Welsh. Us kids didn't know anything else for a long time—only Welsh.

D. D. Davis was my grandfather on my mother's side—David Derlwyn. That's the name of the farm in Wales. ROSINA WILLIAMS HAWKINS

My father, Hugh Thomas, was born in Wales and my mother here in Louisa County. Her folks were Welsh, 100 percent, both of them. They come from New York to settle here. My grandfather, John Thomas, lived in Llwyngwrl, North Wales. He died in 1886 at the age of thirty seven. Grandma Thomas brought the five children, one girl and four boys, to the United States. She had a little acreage at Cotter right north of the church, about 14 acres. My mother passed away in 1918 and Nain Jones [Grandmother Thomas, who remarried in Long Creek] lived with us for about ten years and kept house.

We went to South Dakota in 1910 and we lived there three years, up in Aberdeen. Then he [father] was burned out two years, so he moved back to northern Iowa where Nain Jones had a cousin with a half section and we farmed there for ten years. Then Nain Jones had arthritis pretty bad and she couldn't stand the cold weather up there. So we moved back down here. ELMER THOMAS

My dad was born in Corris, Wales, in 1867, the oldest of eleven children—ten boys and a girl. His father was a Calvinistic Methodist minister in Wales. Dad worked in the slate quarry since he was sixteen years old. Then he and a brother and a cousin decided to come to the United States at the age of nineteen. He had been working in the slate quarry about three years and didn't see any future in that. They felt bad about leaving home at the age of nineteen. I think they left Liverpool. They came off the shores of Ireland, and the Irish were dancing and singing and having a big time. My dad said at least for the moment they forgot about leaving home and joined in the fun.

So they came to Canada first. My dad worked for a Scottish farmer for about a year and really enjoyed the family, but found it rather cold. So he heard about the Welsh community down here at Long Crick and came down. When he came here to Louisa County he started working for a farmer. When he left there he had met my mother over at the Welsh church and they were married and so they started farming with 80 acres of land.

My dad came over with an Uncle John. He and Uncle John bought a farm together. But that didn't last too long because Uncle John couldn't take living in America. Aunt Lizzie and Agnes came over and the only sister Elizabeth came over in later years and her daughter came with her. She was always a bit of a curiosity because of this Welsh brogue. My uncle Edwin came over here.

My dad had many stories about Wales and about his own family. He was always telling us stories about Wales. GOMER OWEN

Here's the story of [Gomer's] grandfather: "Joseph Davies, farmer of Columbus City Township. He emigrated to America in company with his family, and took up residence in Louisa County, Iowa, where he bought a partially improved farm of 200 acres. He died in January of 1877." IVA OWEN

Grandma Arthur came from Ohio and then came up here, But I'm pretty sure that her folks came from Wales. They were Tudors and the Tudors are relations to that old king, the mean one, Henry, cut off the women's heads. They settled in a homestead south of Cotter. The Peters—my mother was a Peters—came over from Wales. They packed up what few things they could get into a trunk. They settled in Crawfordsville. This would be around the First World War. I was born in 1909. EVELYN ARTHUR QUIGLEY

My father's name was Rowland G. Davis. He was named after an uncle. Rowland is still a common name in this area, and they're all Welsh. His father, Hugh J. Davis, came from Wales. It was Davies in Wales, but when they came over here they omitted the "e" and called it Davis. I think he came from Llandudno. My mother was Blodwen Williams, and she came from Cambria, Wisconsin. Her father was from Wales. NORMA WHITHAM

Bob Elm Grove was my great grandfather. My grandmother was a Griffith. Her father was seventeen and his brother was nineteen when they came over from Wales. He worked for a big sheep herding place and they mistreated all their younger workers and stuff. So they fled the country. He never got to see his family from Wales again. My grandmother's cousin in Wales said that the mother never got over it—never to see her two boys again.

My great great grandmother was the first white baby born in Louisa County. My mom has her glasses. TIFFANY HOGUE

My father's name was William Arthur Williams. He was born near Cotter and his father came from Ohio I think, from Wales through Ohio. His mother was an Arthur. That's a well-known family in this area. Her name was Jane Arthur. My mother was born in Towyn, Wales. Her name was Jane Peters. She was four years old when she came. I was figuring this morning. She was born in 1878, so they must have come about 1882. My grandparents had my mother, who was four, her sister, who was two, and she was pregnant. A baby was born after she came here. And my grandfather's brother came. The two brothers came together with their wives. MARGARET WILLIAMS QUIGLEY

Why did they pick this area?

I've often wondered why they came here. They started farming as soon as they got here.

ROSINA WILLIAMS HAWKINS

Being from North Wales my ancestors went for the farm country and naturally Iowa appealed to them. NORMA WHITHAM

I think the older brother came and settled around Cincinnati for a short time. There was a Welsh settlement there. Then they'd heard about Iowa and they came to look the territory over and they thought it would be a good place to settle, so they came and settled here.

DONALD DAVIS

I don't know for sure, but I think they knew people here. They took a freighter you know. Took them weeks to come on a freighter. They came from Ellis Island. Took a train to Winfield and walked from Winfield to Wyman. I don't know why they left. I don't know the condition of Wales at that time.

I have friends who came here in later years. This man worked in the coal mines and he did not want his sons to work in the coal mines so he came during the Depression. They were very poor in the United States but he came first with two boys and a sister-in-law and then later his wife and four daughters.

My parents moved to live in Carroll, Nebraska. It was a Welsh settlement. We lived in Carroll until I was about ten or eleven. Some way or other my grandad had a farm there. In 1926 they came back to Iowa.

Now this [shows picture] is my grandfather's house in Wales, Pontygarth farm. It was a stone house with the bridges. It's an oil painting from a postcard. My uncle who came from Wales said that the artist did too much color. He said it was too bright for Wales.

MARGARET WILLIAMS QUIGLEY

Mother [Margaret Jones] was all Welsh. Her father, Thomas Hugh Jones, came from Aberystwyth when he was like twenty-three. He married Jennie Evans, who was the daughter of the Rev. Thomas W. Evans, and they lived on the first farm that was south and west of Zion Church.

I didn't know my grandfather at all. I was three when he died of a heart attack. He was a real, real Welsh character. He had three sisters and they stayed in Wales. My Great-Grandfather Jones in Aberystwyth was a shipbuilder and his son, T. H. Jones, was not going to do much of anything if he didn't have to. They tried to send him to school and they tried to have him work at the books in the shipbuilding yard. He didn't do that well. So they put him on one of the ships and he sailed as a mate on the ocean. He had a parrot and a monkey and he had a lot of fun. He talked about the great huge turtles they had in the South Seas. Then when he came back from that sailing boat trip, why the captain said, "He's no sailor at all, no sailor. He doesn't buckle under." So my Great-Grandpa Jones wrote to his friend south of Cotter and said. "Now if you would take my son and teach him to be a farmer, I'll pay you so much money for the year." So he can go out and farm and be a farmer. Kinda seems to me the name of the person was Rees that my Grandpa Jones went to live with. I think he was there two years and then he married my Grandma Evans. Free farmhand and got paid. But that's the way. This man felt like he had to do something with his son and I think the farther away from home the better. Now he passed away in 1933. PEG BUTLER

My mother was born in Wales in 1886. Her name was Mary Jones. She came from the Cardiff area—Pontypridd is the town. Her sisters came before her, older sisters, one at a time. There was eight in the family and they were in a poor family, and so the parents decided to send the oldest one, and then just kept going. They all came over here but two. They could provide for them there, but not real flourishing. My mother's father was a coal miner. Her mother always worked out by the day and she just thought there had to be a better life over here.

They lived very poorly over there. When you'd see the country you'd understand why. It's just rough country, more like Arizona out in the sagebrush. Just isn't hardly anything there. They raise sheep in the coal mining country where they were at.

Mother was sent to a sister in North Dakota in 1921, and finally she came down here to the sister that lived near Crawfordsville. She'd have been thirty five. She got a job in Cotter, in the hotel as a maid. My dad had a farm out about a mile northwest of Cotter. They were married in 1925. My father's family came from northern Wales—around Towyn. His parents came over.

My mother's mother lived over there and she'd knit a pair of stockings every year for us. We'd look forward to that every Christmas. Woolen stockings, would go clear to our knees, so we'd keep warm to go to school.

We had a neighbor, Donald Davis, we even seen his father's farm over there in Wales. Davis lived neighbors to Ernest Jones's farm and we looked up that farm when we was over there. Found Ernest and talked to him for all afternoon. Ernest and Betty lived here for thirty years and then they went back. BILL EDWARDS

John D. Jones was an uncle who came from Wales too. Oh, we [the Welsh] was different all right! EDWARD GRIFFITH

My father, Robert Evans, was born in Towyn, Wales. My mother's father was born in Towyn, too. We always spoke Welsh at home. ELSIE FULLER

My mother was born in Llwyngwrl. She came here to study voice with her mother's brother, who was a professor of voice in Chicago. I would say she was in her late twenties. Her idea was to stay two years, see America, vacation, maybe get a job. And with her came a first cousin—their mothers were sisters. The cousin, Margaret, had a brother or two that had come and two sisters. Well it happened she never did return, and my mother went back in twenty years.

Mother came from a family of nine. I heard her tell many times how hard it was at Liverpool when she left on the steamboat. Her dad was crying, and her mother. And her dad says, "I'll never see you again, Ann. I'll never see you again." DOROTHY DAVIS PLETT

My father was Lewis Pugh, he came to the United States in 1921. He had a relative here that he knew, Maggie Davis, a cousin. My father was not a farmer, he was a tailor. The Pugh home was Pantygarrreg.

My mother was Sclenia Peters. Her parents came from Wales. Richard, Lewis and Evan

Peters were brothers, and the way I understand it, they went back and got their families. [My grandmother] Ann Peters, came with two boys, ten and eleven. After she came to this country she had ten more children. They came from Abergonalwyn. I think things were not going well over there and they thought things would be better over here. You know they never seemed to tell stories about the old country. Or they never complained about it. Farming is not good over there, only for the sheep farming. MARIAN PUGH CECIL

My grandparents, three of 'em came from Wales. No, they didn't talk too much about Wales. One grandfather [William Machno Jones] stopped in Pennsylvania to visit some friends. Then they decided to come to Iowa because there was quite a movement coming to Iowa. ROSELLA WILLIAMS CRAWFORD

My mother-in-law, Mary Jones Edwards, left Wales to come to the States on June 11, 1929 at the age of thirty five. She was born in Hirwaun, South Wales in 1886 and worked there carrying water on shoulder buckets to the miners. She told of long walks to and from streams with fresh water. Her older sister, Elizabeth, had come to South Dakota earlier and persuaded her to come to the States. She packed her possessions in trunks and laid her money between the veneer and hood of the trunk so as not to be discovered. She traveled the White Star line on the S.S. Megantic. From New York she took a train to South Dakota. Realizing there would be no work there she came to Cotter, Iowa, as she had another sister living near Crawfordsville, married to John Williams.

She took employment in the hotel in Cotter and there she met Evan Edwards and shortly was married at the home of her sister, Mrs. Williams. Evan lived a couple of miles northwest and ate a meal in Cotter.

She never expressed a desire to return to Wales as her life had been so hard. There were six boys and three girls in her family and all but two sisters came to the States permanently. Her two sisters from Wales came in 1945 to the States and all the family got together.

MARY ANN ELGAN EDWARDS

My mother, Mary Evans, came from Wales. We talked Welsh together at home.

LUTHER DAVIS

My mother's mother's brother came first and settled in western Iowa or Nebraska. Then he bought a little land and built a log cabin or something. Then he sent money back for a sister to come. Then they got a brother, then a sister, until they had the whole family over here. Mother's mother had three sisters in Iowa when she died. Mother was four years old, and she had three more brothers. So the sisters came, took turns, to keep house.

IRENE THOMAS MORROW

My father was David Thomas Davies from Pontrobert, Montgomeryshire. He came to this country as a seminary student up in North Dakota. He preached in either language, but Welsh is what he enjoyed most. He came alone as just a young man out of high school. My mother was Hannah Davis. Her parents were John S. Davis from Penal, Montgomeryshire and Mary

S. Davis from Melynshelyn. My parents met through the *gymanfa* in Cotter or Salem. My father came to preach. They corresponded. I think he probably stayed at her place.

You couldn't buy a farm over there. All the lords owned the land. You could always rent but you could never buy anything. Quite a few Welsh boys came over here, a lot of 'em. We had quite a few in this community that came from over there mostly because they just couldn't get ahead like they wanted to. I've never been to Wales. EVERETTE DAVIS

OCCUPATIONS

The promise of economic prosperity led many Welsh emigrants of various occupations to leave family and poverty behind. The immigrants to Long Creek mostly farmed, otherwise they worked in a wide range of occupations throughout the community. Women, like Gayle Rotter's grandmother, often made an important contribution to the finances of the family.

[Grandmother Owens] worked out. Lots of times she would take these two little children and walk clear to Cotter, four miles away, leading one, carrying the other, work all day, washing, cleaning house or something, get some money, and then walk the four miles back to the little house. But she was able to buy a little acreage and a little house and live there. My grandfather, Joseph Owens, worked out for farmers for a dollar a day, never got more. He had what they called "Quick Consumption," but really I guess they'd call it "Black Lung." Now on the other side of the family, my grandfather, Lewis Edwards, and his two brothers came to this country. They came to Cotter and worked for people until they'd made enough money to buy a farm of their own. GAYLE EDWARDS ROTTER

My grandparents, three of them came from Wales. They were mostly farmers. I only had one grandfather living, when I was five years old. He [William Machno Jones] was pastor of the Welsh Church, Salem Presbyterian Church. ROSELLA WILLIAMS CRAWFORD

My grandfather's name was Edward Williams. He died when my dad was just fourteen years old, so my dad took over more or less the family farm, 'course he had help. It was right south of the Salem Church on the east side of the road. My dad and mother bought 160 acres of his mother's farm and they lived about a mile south. That's where I was born and raised.

RUTH WILLIAMS GIPPLE

When he [father] came here to Louisa County, he started working for a farmer. The choice farms were those that had water and rock and later they weren't the best farms in the county. But this man had a need for rock, so my dad went to work for him and helped him quarry rock. Then this farmer would teach in the summertime about farming. And so that's how my dad got into farming.

My dad said when he first went to work for this farmer he didn't know which end of the horse to put the bridle on. They started farming with 80 acres of land, three, four miles west of Columbus Junction. The creek that they were quarrying rock from was called Long Creek, and that's how the Welsh settlement came to have the name the Long Creek Welsh Settlement. My dad was the only one that I knew of that quarried the rock. They built the Methodist Church in Columbus Junction, and my dad was quite instrumental in quarrying the rock that went for the foundation of this church. GOMER OWEN

He [father] worked out until he got married and then he farmed. Raised a lot of them [draft horses]. We had little colts. And raised our own or we bought them and we'd sell them. We had oats and hay and I think we had millet. I wanted to be outdoors. I was born and raised to be outdoors. That's where I wanted to be. I could do anything with horses, harness them and everything. When I got big enough to take care of the chickens I did all the outside work then. ROSINA WILLIAMS HAWKINS

My grandma was the banker. She was the one who saved the money to come to this country, too. GAYLE EDWARDS ROTTER

At that time women had no way of making a livelihood. She [Peters family member] moved back here and lived with her parents. She did a lot of sewing. She and her sister did sewing in the home, dressmakers they called them.

At that time there were other young men that would come over here from Wales. One or two would come and then they'd get jobs, you know, and then they'd write back and some others would come. Salem Church had a big choir of them. Well, they didn't have any homes over here and people hired them a lot to do work. And there were a couple of them that stayed at my folks' home. They brought their trunks too, and that's where they would call home. But then they stayed wherever they worked. EVELYN ARTHUR QUIGLEY

There was a very good blacksmith shop here, Peters' Blacksmith Shop. Known everywhere, Omrie Peters. So you see, it was a very up-and-coming town. And a hotel. We mustn't forget the hotel. They fed and boarded all these railroad people that would stop off, and traveling men. DOROTHY DAVIS PLETT

[Mother] got a job in Cotter in the hotel as a maid. My dad had a farm about a mile northwest of Cotter. She met my father when he'd bring livestock to the stockyards. She [mother] worked right beside us. Shock oats and do hay, loose hay. We put up over 120 loads of loose hay a year and that's a lot of work if you count that everything had to be handled with a fork. BILL EDWARDS

His father [Bob Smylie] started the sale barn. There used to be buyers who would come around to buy horses, and they would ship them East. For logging and other use.

DONALD DAVIS

He [father] farmed his brother-in-law's farm for one year and then he started working for the county. He worked for the county for the rest of his life. There's a big house north of it [Cotter Church] and then there's a smaller—that's the place where we were. Hugh O. Jones owned that section there, or half section, 160 acres and course this part where we lived, dad lived there. When dad and my sister moved, I lived there until the fall of '47. Some of the relation wanted it. They decided to get married, and that's when we moved out of there.

I just got out of school and about two weeks later I started working for him [LeRoy Owens] and worked for him about two years. Then they had their drought in '34. The chinch bugs, they ate up the crop, the corn and the small grain. And then I went to work for another Welshman, Hugh Morris. I was there until fall of '37. I was married in '38 and then I went to work for a man who had a house to live in. Then I started farming on my own in 1944. Farmed for thirty-six years on the same farm out there.

He [Ed Thomas] started carpentering when he was seventeen years old and stayed at it until he almost fell off the roof when he was almost seventy-five years old.

Johnnie Roberts, that's who he [Ed Thomas] started to work for and later on he retired from the carpentry. He worked for the post office then, Johnnie did. And there was a D. R. Jones there, he was a farmer and a carpenter. Ninety percent of them were connected with the farm. ELMER THOMAS

One of grandfather Denis Thomas' two brothers were carpenters and built furniture.

IRENE THOMAS MORROW

And well, when the kids were growin' up, I figured it was my job to make the living. We had two farms here, 'bout 400 acres. LEROY OWENS

Bob Williams in Cotter came from Wales. Two of them came and started a store right here in Crawfordsville—Williams and Edwards grocery store.

I have 140 acres here, but I don't do much field work anymore. I do have a lot of chores and livestock. EVERETTE DAVIS

She [mother-in-law] worked very hard as the Depression took a hard toll on farmers. They were to lose their farm one day in spring, and the man from Cedar Rapids came with papers in hand. When he saw this small pleasant-looking woman shoveling manure from a wagon, he went back to Cedar Rapids and told the officer in charge that the repossession was canceled. MARY ANN ELGAN EDWARDS

The Pughs, he was a Welshman. That would be Marian Cecil's dad. Her dad worked in the clothing store there [Columbus Junction]. I remember he'd always greet us in Welsh.

BILL EDWARDS

My father was Lewis Pugh. He came to the United States in 1921. My father was not a farmer; he was a tailor. But see he came here and worked for someone else when he came here and then bought the store. He worked in the store, this clothing store, for Siegel. It was

the Came store. Well, I think they still called it the Fair Store, but Max Came owned it and he worked for him. And then he wanted to leave for some reason so dad bought the store. It was a grocery store and clothing and yard goods and a little bit of everything.

MARIAN PUGH CECIL

My grandpa Davis left a 160-acre farm to the other boys. And my dad was the only one that has one today. Ours was made a Century Farm in '84. DOROTHY DAVIS PLETT

This came from a great uncle, the farm that we have. It's over a Century Farm. I don't remember, when I finally went up. My sister went up before I did, because she took one of the other farms of ours. But my brother didn't want to farm, so we sold the other.

GAYLE EDWARDS ROTTER

My mother's sister married a minister who was from Wales, Humphrey W. Owen, and they retired here in Washington. Reverend Owen was the minister of the Salem Welsh Presbyterian Church. My mother came to visit her sister in Iowa from Cambria, Wisconsin. She met my father. That's how I happened to be all Welsh.

My grandfather's farm was called The Prairie. It's a hundred-year farm. We had the recognition at the Iowa State Fair many years ago when my father was still living.

NORMA WHITHAM