

Haverford College Library
Special Collections

Finding Aid for The Welsh Society of Philadelphia Records,
1798-1978

Collection No. 1186
Accession # 6839
9 document boxes and 11 volumes (6.5 linear feet)
On indefinite loan from
The Welsh Society of Philadelphia
©March 2003

INFORMATION FOR USERS

RESTRICTIONS

No Restrictions

RELATED MATERIALS

Books from The Welsh Society of Philadelphia have been deposited at the Historical Society of Philadelphia.

ABSTRACT

Records of The Welsh Society of Philadelphia, a benevolent society founded in 1729 to guide and assist people of Welsh descent.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Many of the early settlers of Philadelphia and environs were Welsh immigrants, several of whom played significant roles in their new country, such as Biddles, Cadwaladers, Clymers, Lloyds, Merediths and Morgans. A number of them were persons of means who bought large quantities of land, and for whom townships were named, such as Haverford, Merion and Tredyffrin. Others were poor and needed assistance, and it was for them that a Welsh Society, the St. Davids Society, was established in 1729. The present Welsh Society of Philadelphia first met in 1798 "for the relief of such emigrants

as may arrive in this country from Wales.”¹ The assistance included: medical; legal; financial; and burial services. The current Welsh burying ground is at Mt. Moriah Cemetery, Cobbs Creek, Philadelphia, though it was originally on Washington St. in Philadelphia. Notable in the Society’s history is Horatio Gates Jones, president of the Society for about 35 years.

Today, it is an educational society, which honors Welsh/American individuals and awards scholarship.

These records had previously been housed at the Balch Institute in Philadelphia.

(Information provided by current president of The Welsh Society of Philadelphia, Charles Wenzel and the Charter and By-Laws of the Society.)

SUBJECT HEADINGS

610 20 Mt. Moriah cemetery |z Philadelphia ((Pa.)
610 20 William Mann Co.
610 20 Welsh Society of Philadelphia
650 0 Charity organization |z Philadelphia (Pa.)
650 0 Immigration and emigration |z Wales
650 0 Welsh Americans
700 1 Jones, Horatio Gates, |d 1822-1893.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

Series List:

Series I. Boxes
Series II. Volumes

BOX CONTENTS LIST

Box 1: Correspondence & Miscellaneous, 1943-1969, p. 3
Box 2: Correspondence & Miscellaneous, 1970-1990, p. 4
Box 3: Correspondence & Miscellaneous, 1992-2010, p. 4
Box 4: Attendance, Financial, Genealogies, Obituaries, Procedures,
Membership Applications, A-C, p. 4
Box 5: Membership Applications, D-J, p. 4
Box 6: Membership Applications, K-P, p. 4
Box 7: Membership Applications, R-Z, p. 5
Box 8: Society Activities, p. 5
Box 9: Society Activities, p. 5

Vol. 1: Minutes, 1798-1839, p. 5

¹ From the charter and by-laws of the Welsh Society.

- Vol. 2: Minutes, 1840-1868, p. 5
- Vol. 3: Burial Committee Minutes, 1858-1869, p. 5
- Vol. 4: Minutes, 1869-1911, p. 5
- Vol. 5: Minutes, 1911-1956, p. 5
- Vol. 6: Financial records, 1856-1869, p. 5
- Vol. 7: Financial records, 1870-1903, p. 5
- Vol. 8: Charity to Welsh immigrants, 1817-1855, p. 5
- Vol. 9: Charity to Welsh immigrants, 1830-1871, p. 5
- Vol. 10: Mt. Moriah Cemetery: Register, 1814-1864; List of interments, 1862-1943;
List of reinterments, n.d, p. 5
- Vol. 11: Proclamations and resolutions relating to Welsh immigrants in
Philadelphia, 1985-1990, p. 5

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

Records include: attendance, 1810-1870; correspondence, 1947-2000; financial, 1856-1903; 20th century membership records; minutes, 1798-1956, including constitution and rules in vol. 1; charity to Welsh immigrants, 1817-1871; interment at Mt. Moriah Cemetery, 1862-1943; proclamations and resolutions relating to Welsh immigrants in Philadelphia, 1985-1990. In addition, there is a metal printing plate for membership certificates made by the William Mann Co. in Philadelphia in 1877.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series I. Boxes

Box 1 : Correspondence and Miscellaneous, 1943-1969

Note: Correspondence, most often with the current secretary of the Society, and miscellaneous items concerning membership, fundraising and financial issues, historical notes, British Officers' Club, meetings, scholarships, memorials and other special events, awards, receptions, banquets, issues of Welsh heritage, charter and by-laws. The secretaries in this period were William Badham and John E. Rosser; the president was Ronald S. Drysdale.

6 folders (ca. 200 items).

Box 2 : Correspondence and Miscellaneous, 1970-1990

Note: Correspondence, most often with the current secretary of the Society, and miscellaneous items concerning membership, fundraising and financial issues, including estates, British Officers' Club, historical notes, meetings, committees, scholarships, memorials and other special events, awards, receptions, banquets, issues of Welsh heritage, charter and by-laws. The secretary in this period was Daniel E. Williams; the presidents were Owen Williams, T. Charles Davies, James M. Davis, Richard H. Davis, F. Reeve Williams.

8 folders (ca. 300 items)

Box 3 : Correspondence and Miscellaneous, 1992-2010

Note: Correspondence, most often with the current secretary of the Society, and miscellaneous items concerning membership, fundraising and financial issues, historical notes, British Officers' Club, meetings, committees, scholarships, memorials and other special events, awards, receptions, banquets, issues of Welsh heritage, newsletter, charter and by-laws. The secretary in this period was Daniel E. Williams; the presidents were David J. Jones, James A. Martin, Jack R. Williams.

Added in 2010 is historical information on the Mount Moriah Cemetery of the Welsh Society of Philadelphia and interments in the cemetery by Charles D. Wenzel. Also, a list of interments provided by Deborah Jerome of Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

9 folders (ca. 300 items)

Box 4: Attendance, Financial, Genealogies, Obituaries, Procedures, Membership Applications, A-C

- Attendance Record, 1814-1870
- Check stubs, 1878-1888
- Dues, 1814-1835

Miscellaneous materials: re financial, genealogies, obituary notices. 1 folder (ca. 100 items)

- Financial records, 1864-1869
- Genealogical information re: Donaldson, Gustafson, Reese family names
- Obituaries and death notices in alphabetical order

Constitution Procedures and related items, n.d. 1 folder (6 items)

Applications for Membership, A-C. 1 folder (ca. 100 items)

Box 5: Membership Applications, D-J

7 folders (ca. 300 items)

Box 6: Membership Applications, K-P

6 folders (ca. 250 items)

Box 7: Membership Applications, R-Z

9 folders (ca. 250 items)

Box 8: Society Activities

Gymanfa Ganu, 1954-1983. 1 folder (ca. 35 items)

Note: Gymanfa Ganu is an association to promote religious song services to promote Welsh hymnology in the U.S. & Canada.

Includes primarily financial information, but also a constitution, photograph of a group including Gov. Thornburgh & William Griffith of the Society, 1983, programs and miscellaneous.

St. Davids Day Plaque ceremony at City Hall, Philadelphia, 1976-1988. 1 folder (ca. 15 items)

Includes photographs and ceremony speeches.

St. David's Day Banquet, 1968-69, 1970, 1979-80. 5 folders (ca. 200 items)

Includes programs, correspondence (including TLS of Frank Rizzo, 2.18/1969), historical information about the Robert Morris award, speeches, songs, miscellaneous.

Box 9: Society Activities

St. David's Day Banquet, 1981-84, 1987-88, 1994-1998 7 folders (ca. 300 items)

Includes programs, correspondence, speeches, miscellaneous. In 1983, Drew Lewis, Secretary of Transportation, was a guest.

Series II: Volumes

- Minutes, 1798-1839
- Minutes, 1840-1868
- Burial Committee Minutes, 1858-1869
- Minutes, 1869-1911
- Minutes, 1911-1956
- Financial records, 1856-1869
- Financial records, 1870-1903

- Charity to Welsh immigrants, 1817-1855
- Charity to Welsh immigrants, 1830-1871
- Mt. Moriah Cemetery: Register, 1814-1864; List of interments, 1862-1943; List of reinterments, n.d.
- Proclamations and resolutions relating to Welsh immigrants in Philadelphia, 1985-1990

MATERIALS REMOVED

To PG:

Newsletters, 1996-2002; other ephemera, including clippings (published)

To Lockwood Annex:

Metal printing plate made by William Mann Co., 1877, for printing membership certificates.

To 988E:

2 uncut copies made from the membership printing plate.

In bindery for conservation: Membership records, 1915; Attendance record, 1810-1815; Dues Record, 1834-1868 (80 members: 39 resident, 41 nonresident (over 3 miles from Custom House))

PROCESSING INFORMATION

Processed, January 2004.