

THE GREATER KANSAS CITY CORNISH CONNECTION

(SINCE 1994)

A newsletter of Cornish history, culture and events of interest to the Cornish of Missouri & Kansas

Saint Piran's Day Pasty Lunch

Mar. 6th, 2010

Central United Methodist Church
52nd & Oak, Kansas City MO

Gathering 11:30, lunch at noon, followed by a brief meeting and program by Society members.

Cost of Pasty Lunch:

Members who have paid dues in 2009 -- no cost

Members' guests and others -- \$10 each

R.S.V.P. is requested.

Send RSVP with payment (checks payable to
Greater Kansas City Cornish Society) to:

Nancy Wagner
12008 W 121st St
Overland Park, KS 66213
913-469-5341
snclare8740@att.net

**Deadline: RSVPs should be received NO LATER
THAN Feb. 17, 2010.**

*We cannot guarantee a lunch will be available
without an RSVP.*

Pasties, Yum, Yum!



This could be you!

Is your mouth watering for pasties? Mark your calendar now, and send in your RSVP for our main gathering of the year in honor of Saint Piran, patron saint of Cornwall. You don't have to have Cornish blood in you to enjoy a delicious pasty and the company of Society members and friends.

Help us save postage and paper

Did you receive this newsletter by mail? If you have an email address, send it to Mary Siegle at sieglefm@sbcglobal.net, and we'll send the newsletter instead via email as an attached .pdf file.

Harold Hudgins, 1918 - 2009

Founding member, Harold Hudgins, passed away on December 23, 2009. He and his wife have contributed to the Greater Kansas City Cornish Society in countless ways over the past years, and he will be very missed by those who knew him.

The society has made a contribution to the Mooresville Christian Church in Harold's memory.



Harold Hudgins, here pictured with his wife, Lila, in a photo from an article that appeared in the Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune, February 13, 2009.

Obituary from the Caldwell County News:

Harold Rockhold Hudgins, age 91, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2009 at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City.

He was born on Aug. 6, 1918 in Mooresville Township in Mooresville. He was the son of Warren Thomas and Nannie May (Rockhold) Hudgins. On June 6, 1942, he married Lila Goodman in Chillicothe. She survives of the home. He lived his entire life in Mooresville except while serving in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Before retirement, he worked as a self-employed electrician and as a rural mail carrier. Harold installed the original wiring in many of the area's older houses as well as in countless farm buildings. He was a devout member of the Mooresville Christian Church. He was a carpenter and a woodworker and made rocking chairs and rocking horses for the newborns and children in the community. He loved playing cards, dominoes, and making wine from his own vineyard. Outgoing and friendly, Harold will be missed by all who knew him.

Harold is survived by one son, Gary (Cynthia) Hudgins of Liberty; two daughters, Doris (Ronald) Hudgens of Clinton and Janet (Gary) Anderson of Moorpark, CA; 11 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday, Dec. 26, 2009 at Mooresville Christian Church in Mooresville. There was a family visitation at the church prior to the service. Burial was held Saturday in the Utica Cemetery in Utica. Memorial contributions may be made to the Mooresville Christian Church and/or Mooresville Community Center and/or Livingston County Senior Center and may be left at the funeral home or mailed to Lindley Funeral Home, P. O. Box 47, Chillicothe, Mo., 64601.

President's Message:

As president I want to write something of an urgent note. I will be 70 in March and many of our long time members are my age or older. Clearly we need to do as much as we can to broaden our demographic base. The British fair has been one outlet to seek that, and last year Brits (store in Lawrence) held a mini-fair at which we had a table. Not long after Mary and I joined we lost one of our most energetic founders, Polly Curnow Whitman; Don Whitman passed away in 2008 and we've lost other valuable, contributing members either to death or to their moving out of our area, as Gordon and Betty Cotton did last summer.

An organization can exist as long as its membership does; it grows harder to maintain if new people are not there to take the reins and continue to keep the interest and energy alive.

Groups sometimes go out of existence. That is a fact of life. Facing some of the same issues affecting our society, the St. Piran's Society of Minnesota went moribund some time after Mary and I left Minneapolis. They are just now getting back in operation.

We need the active participation and the collective wisdom of our members to determine the direction the Greater Kansas City Cornish Society should take. Your board is considering a project that may have some potential, but I know we would also like to hear your ideas and opinions. We will be soliciting your input, either by mail/email or face to face in a get together of any interested people, particularly those who are new members (perhaps in a congenial atmosphere with either a potluck or refreshments). I'm including this in the newsletter in hopes of encouraging thought on this.

Why It Matters

Cornwall has its own history and heroes and villains, and its own far flung diaspora. Americans of Cornish heritage have made their own contribution here. In the present day have been people such as Cornish born Rick Rescorla, one of the heroes who gave their lives saving people on

From BBC World:

Helston, Cornwall based Shelterbox sent 4000 Shelterboxes to Haiti. Each one contains a 10 person tent, blankets, water purification, a stove, kitchenware, tools and children's packs. Families with children will be a priority.

9/11, and people of Cornish heritage such as the singer and actress Kristin Chenoweth, and the actor Michael J. Fox. We all come from someplace and the places we come from are our roots, and British roots are among the oldest in Europe, going back to the close of the last ice age.

Southwestern Britain in ancient times gained prominence for its tin and copper and became a trading station for Greek and Phoenician, and a later lure for Rome.

Later, after the Battle of Deorham which cut the southwest apart from the rest of Celtic Britain, it began to develop on its own until the shift from Celtic to Germanic reached the Tamar which became the acknowledged boundary between the Saxons and the southwest Britons. There were Cornish kings until around 900. Bretons who came across with the Normans were granted fiefdoms in Cornwall, bringing sundered sisters back together. Brittany means "little Britain" and there is a Cornwall department to this day in Brittany (Cornouaille in French, Kernev in Breton.)

Cornwall has its own history of struggle against English domination, along with Wales and Scotland, and it has its own sense of itself and place in the entity known as Great Britain and its own contributions of lore (the supposed birth place of King Arthur) and music and story, such as "Jack in the Beanstock," and setting for many a gothic novel.

And, then, of course there is the Cornish diaspora and the saga of Cornish mining in America, including the area around Pittsburg, Kansas where one of our founders, Polly Curnow Whitman, grew up and we are blessed to have Eleanor Symons, a native of Cornwall, in our society. There is the Cornish American Heritage Society, which is a national organization, and their biennial Cornish gathering at varying places in the U.S. Next year the gathering will be fairly close by in Mineral Point in southwest Wisconsin.

All of this, it seems to this descendant of John Johns Trigg who fought in the Revolutionary War and served in the Virginia House of Delegates and the U.S. congress, makes a society such as this worthy of support by those whose Cornish heritage is far closer than mine.

Oll an gwella, (All the best,)

Frank

News of the Society

Picnic, June 2009

Our annual picnic took place last summer on June 6th. A small gathering of members met at Sapling Grove Park in Overland Park. We visited over hamburgers and brats and played "Cornish Bingo" devised by Mary Siegle.



Our next event was a gathering at Doris Purpus' home in September. We enjoyed refreshments and viewed a DVD of short films made in Cornwall that included story enactments and documentaries.

(Frank Siegle points out that at both the picnic and the gathering in September, he was the only male present. You missed out, guys.)

In addition, GKCCS had a presence at the new Brits "Mini-British Fair" in May and also, as usual, at the annual British Fair in Lenexa in November. Those are always neat to do, and we generally talk to a lot of people about Cornwall and have a number of interested people signing up to receive news of our activities.

Kansas City Celtic Event

Another event of interest is happening the week after our pasty lunch.

The St. David's Welsh Society's annual hymn sing (gymanfa ganu) will be on the 14th, this time in connection with a new Celtic event in KC. The Westport Arts Council is planning a sort of mini-Celtic festival for the weekend of March 13-14. Saturday afternoon, March 13, will feature music and dance, including a reunion of Woad, the pan-Celtic band that Frank Siegle was in back in Minnesota. Woad will be including some Cornish songs in their program, and our society will have a table with information on Cornwall. At the gymanfa the next day, Frank will be singing a Cornish number as special music. Look for more information in the mail or e-mail.

The event will be at the Westport Presbyterian Church, 201 Westport Road, Kansas City MO 64111. It is between Broadway and Main Street, on Westport Road. The parking lot is in back of the church, with entry off of the parking.

