

# 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. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Central United Methodist Church

Gathering 11:30, lunch at noon  
Followed by a brief meeting and  
**Program** by Society member and  
Cornwall native, Eleanor Symons:  
*"Some Thoughts on Cornish Railways"*

Lunch, \$6 each  
Extra Pasties (frozen), \$5.50 each

**R.S.V.P. requested.**  
**Specify #s for lunch & extra pasties.**  
**Send RSVP with payment (checks  
payable to Greater Kansas City Cornish  
Society) to treasurer,**

**Gordon Cotton**  
**12460 S. Ellsworth**  
**Olathe, KS 66062-4969**

**Deadline: To be received NO LATER  
THAN Feb. 21, 2009**

*No assurance of pasties or lunch being  
available without RSVP.*

## It's Pasty Time!



Don't miss 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 program that Eleanor Symons will present on the Cornish Railways.

**All Aboard! Invite a friend.**  
**Cornish pasties on the dining car menu...**

**2009 Annual Dues will be collected  
at the pasty lunch – or may be mailed  
to Treasurer Gordon Cotton.**

**Individual: \$10/year**  
**Family: \$15/year**

## President's Message:

2008 certainly was an eventful year for us; the primary thing being founding member Don Whitman's passing and his beautiful memorial service, to which Eleanor made such a nice contribution, and Marge's buffet afterward.

We managed to hold a number of events:

- Saint Piran's Day pasty lunch last March was well attended as usual;
- In January, an interesting and well-received program by Gordon Cotton on genealogical records for Cornwall and Great Britain in general.
- Potluck picnic in June at the home of Gordon and Betty Cotton;
- September meeting, attended by about 10-12 members, at which we viewed a video, *Mysterious Britain*, and Mary and I read a couple of Cornish folk tales;
- A table at the British Faire in November. Several members helped staff it during the day and a number of the people we met expressed interest.

We had hoped to schedule a program in November to coincide with the "Art in the Age of Steam" exhibit at the Nelson Atkins museum, but the timing was not good. Marge Roberts and a few other members met on November 22 to tour the exhibit and have lunch together,

but Eleanor Symons' presentation on Cornish railroading was put off until this year's Saint Piran's lunch. Put March 7<sup>th</sup> on your calendar!

I took a brief trip north to Minneapolis for a "start up" gathering for the St. Piran's Society of MN over the weekend of Jan. 17 this year. I had been a founding member and president before Mary and I moved back to Kansas. Sometime after we moved the society became moribund. I received word that an attempt was being made to resuscitate it. I felt rather duty bound to be present and offer my encouragement if I could. The weather being favorable, I was able to.

I was quite pleased at the turn out – some two dozen or so – and the enthusiasm. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find information on a project the MN chapter became involved in before we left. For those of you involved with your genealogy it may prove helpful.

May we all have a good year.

Oll an gwella (All the best,)

Frank

*A Cornish publication that I get by e-mail is the MAGA newsletter put out by the Cornish language partnership. It presents some of the latest news from and about Cornwall, with particular emphasis on language. It has articles in both English and Cornish. Here is an English excerpt that might be of interest:*

Penzance-Newlyn Scouts recently approached MAGA to translate the Scout Law, Promise and Motto into Cornish. Subsequently John Parker, a local Cornish speaker and teacher, visited the group in December to help the scouts with the pronunciation of the translations and to tell them a bit more about the language. Below, John tells MAGA how he got on:

"I first gave a brief background to the history of the language, mentioning the fact that Newlyn was one of the last places in which Cornish was spoken. The scouts knew about Dolly Pentreath, whose memorial is at Paul, just up the hill from Mousehole, but none of them knew the meaning of the name of the street in which the headquarters is situated, namely, Trewarveneth Street.

"Then we studied the translations carefully, trying to match the Cornish to the English, and finally each of the ten scouts present repeated each line after me, with the emphasis on the correct pronunciation. They seemed very enthusiastic about the whole venture. I am going back in the new year to talk to the scouts who were unable to be at the meeting in December. In future, whenever the occasion arises, the scouts will make their promise and recite the law first in English and then in Cornish."

MAGA is now in discussion with Cornwall Scouts about spreading this Cornish language input to other scout groups in Cornwall, as well as exploring the possibility of working with Girl Guide groups in Cornwall too.



## 15<sup>th</sup> Gathering of Cornish Cousins

July 21 - 26, 2009  
Grass Valley & Nevada City  
California

On April 16, the day before his death, the Cornish American Heritage Society nominated Greater Kansas City Cornish Society member and organizer, Don Whitman, for the first Founding Members' Award for foresight, initiative and dedication in support of Cornwall and the greater Celtic family in the United States. His wife, Marge Roberts, will receive the award in his memory at this summer's Gathering of Cornish Cousins in California.

**If you have never attended one of the biannual Gatherings, you should consider going to Grass Valley this July for five days of activities including lectures, seminars, downtown & cemetery walking tours, keynote banquet, pub night, Cornish-style worship service, living history tour of the Empire Mine Historical State Park, special programs for children, and a concert featuring Heather Dale with the Marazion-Apollo and Grass Valley male voice choirs.**

Excerpted from the web site, [www.cornishgathering.org](http://www.cornishgathering.org) :

Come to Nevada County in 2009 to celebrate the achievement of the Cornish settlers and see their heritage alive today in the golden foothills of California, on the Comstock Lode of Nevada and in the American West. Join your Cousins from the homeland, from across America and around the Pacific in celebrating the Cousin Jacks and Jennies who ventured so far to contribute so much.

Nevada County, California encompasses the richest mining districts in California. Its major town, Grass Valley, is 'heart of the gold industry.' Its county-seat, Nevada City, is 'the queen of the northern mines.' Nevada county includes some of the most colorful mining camps in the west. Bret Harte drew on the county's lore to write his gold rush tales. Here the Cornish organized the famous Grass Valley Carol Choir that became part of the golden age of radio in the 1920s.

Principle Speakers (partial list)

\* Prof. Philip Payton, University of Exeter in Cornwall, \* Grand Bard Vanessa Beeman, Gorsedd Kernow (Congress of Bards), \* Ros Paterson, South Australia, \* Chris Dunkerley, New South Wales, \* Virginia Graham, New Zealand, \* Ron James, Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, \* Prof Gary Noy, Sierra College, \* Gary Kurutz, Special Collections, California State Library, \* Seminar presenters from Cornwall, America & the Pacific Rim countries.

More information can be found on the web site cited above. We're including the registration form (downloaded from the web site) with this newsletter – as a separate pdf file attached to our e-mail, or separate printed sheet with mailed copies.

# Cornish Resources

## Cornwall Online Parish Clerks

A group of volunteers who love Cornwall, and offer their free help to researchers in Cornish Family History.

OPCs maintain websites, transcribe parish registers and other material, and develop deep knowledge of their particular parishes. They make this available upon request to any researcher.

Please visit the POC website at

<http://cornwall-opc.org>

to discover parish coverage, links to all OPCs, and to access the on line data base of over half a million birth, marriage and death records (which is growing daily), as well as discovering more about the OPC.

## The West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser

**A Cornish newspaper, 1837-1843, plus 1850, 1853 and 1887**  
Transcriptions now available online for free at

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wbritonad>

- local intelligence – selected news reports from parish correspondents,
- shipping – especially dealing with emigration,
- advertisements,
- coroner's inquests,
- all quarter sessions and assize courts, local police and court cases,
- as well as sundry articles touching on education, history, religion, etc.
- and all births, marriages and deaths.

Posted three times weekly to the Cornish Lists at  
**Rootsweb.com**

Then added to the OPC website (see above).  
Check frequently for updates.

**Coming events from our near Celtic Kin, the Saint David's Welsh Society of Greater Kansas City:**

**Sunday, March 8, 2009**

**St. David's Day celebration** will be at 2 p.m. at the Second Presbyterian Church, 55<sup>th</sup> and Oak, Kansas City, MO. There will be hymn singing and a presentation talk on the North American Welsh Choir tour of Patagonia last October.

**Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**4:30 p.m. Noson Lawen (Merry Evening)** at the Second Presbyterian Church followed by a group meal at a restaurant. Carolyn Adkins (816-363-5194) is organizer. She will be seeking volunteers to perform in singing, recitation, instrumentals and dancing. Please call her if you wish to participate.

**Are you able to help with our newsletter?**

Scouting news of Cornish interest from around the nation and the world

Writing articles

Editing and layout

Mailing

Contact Mary Siegle at  
[sieglefm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sieglefm@sbcglobal.net)

