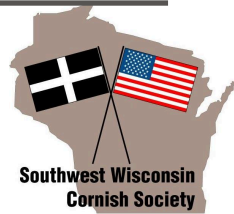


Cousin Jack and Jenny Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society NEWSLETTER



The 32nd Annual Cornish Festival
In Historic Mineral Point
Presents
Cornwall's Favorite Band

THE COUNTRYMEN

Returning from Cornwall by popular demand!



It's difficult to find a musical genre that would fully describe The Countrymen but Cornish Folk Rock Harmony is close.



www.thecountrymen.co.uk

**Saturday
Sept 26
7pm**

TICKETS:
\$30.00 ADULTS
\$15.00 CHILDREN

Tickets available at
The Opera House or online at
tickets.mpoh.org

Mineral Point Opera House
139 High Street
Mineral Point WI



More info:
www.cornishfest.org

Two Events Celebrate the Cornish in Mineral Point This Year

New and different this year will be the Cornish American Heritage Society (CAHS) biennial gathering in Mineral Point on Thursday and Friday September 24–25. You must pre-register to attend this event, see details at end of this article. The 32nd annual Cornish Festival will have events running from Friday September 25–Sunday September 27.

The CAHS meets every other year at a historic Cornish area in North America. The 2024 Gathering was in Calumet, Michigan, where many Cousin Jacks and Jennys lived in the copper country. Theme of the 2026 Gathering is, **Celebrating Cornish Identity: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow**. The CAHS will be bringing two people from Cornwall as speakers for the Gathering.

Nicola Lloyd will be the keynote speaker at the gathering. She is a director and founder of Global Cornish and is striving to achieve a strong vision for Cornwall's place in the world. Global Cornish has the objective to build a global community, bringing together those who are Cornish by birth, Cornish by ancestry or Cornish by choice.

Global Cornish aims to harness the strength of Cornwall's unique and vibrant diaspora and turn it into meaningful partnerships that drive economic opportunity, cultural exchange, and shared prosperity—at home and abroad. More information at www.globalcornish.com.

Also taking part in the CAHS Gathering will be Sharron Schwartz, a native of Redruth, who will speak Friday afternoon on The Cornish In Mexico. She will be a presenter on Friday evening on her latest book, The Great Trek of The Transport Party, Mexico 1825–26" The book describes the transatlantic delivery of 1,500 tons of machinery, including eight steam engines from Cornwall to the Real del Monte silver mine in Mexico.



Schwartz is a specialist in Cornish mining migration and is a Bard of Gorsedh Kernow. She has authored numerous books on Cornwall as well participating in many venues of Cornish history. She has a website all Cornish descendants would be interested in: www.cousinjacksworld.com She also has a Facebook page that is actively followed by 3,200 people at the present time. You can join the group by typing in the search engine: Cousin Jack's World–Cornish Mining Migration.

Matt Nevers, Sandy Weitzel and Jim Jewell will do a presentation on Friday afternoon at the Gathering, "Mineral Point–Redruth Twinning 1997–2026." All events of the CAHS will take place at the Quality Inn in Mineral Point.

If you act quickly you can still register for the CAHS Gathering. The CAHS has a website: cousinjack.org and a Facebook page: Cornish American Heritage Society. Cost of registration for the Gathering is \$180, registrations will close in early September. Questions can be directed to: treasurer.CousinJack@gmail.com

Mineral Point has been host for past Gatherings in 1983, 2001, 2011 and this year.

32ND ANNUAL CORNISH FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 25–26–27

Be sure to check out cornishfest.org for a complete listing of all events for the 2026 Cornish festival, final updates are being made as this is written. As with other years a 4 page yellow bulletin will be available at all Mineral Point places of business just prior to the festival.

It is planned to once again use the Masonic Temple on High Street as a venue on Friday and Saturday. Inside will be displays on Cornish history and historical photos. Saturday we will have a presentation on Cornish immigration to Southwest Wisconsin. Friday night is Pendarvis Pub night, always a fun event with music and food. Admission is charged for that event.

Saturday will have many events going on throughout the day starting with the pancake breakfast and Music in Library Park on High Street with food. Most Mineral Point restaurants are within walking range of Library park with many food options. Pasty meal at the Walker House from 4–6 PM is always a favorite. Saturday's grand finale will be the Countrymen concert starting at 7 pm at the Opera House. Best to buy tickets in advance, see front cover for ordering information, their 2024 concert was sold out and we expect that to happen again. A Welsh hymn sing will take place at Trinity Episcopal Church on Sunday afternoon to close out the festival. Look forward to seeing you at the 32nd Cornish Festival !

MINERAL POINT-REDRUTH TWINNING EXCHANGE NEWS

From Matt Nevers: We are currently in the planning processes for our next student exchange trip to Redruth in March. We had seven students (Mineral Point High School) submit applications, and we can happily say all seven have been accepted. The students will have two fundraisers to help pay for their trip. The first is the annual Kringle sale, which will take place in October/November with delivery right before Christmas.

The second fundraiser will be helping out the Odd Fellows with their pancake breakfast during the Cornish Festival. Please consider helping our students afford the trip to Cornwall by purchasing a Kringle or two, and visiting the Odd Fellows lodge on Saturday morning of the festival to have a delicious pancake breakfast and to meet the students. We are also looking forward to hosting students from Redruth in October 2027 !



The Twinning Proclamation between Redruth and Mineral Point was signed in Mineral Point, July 1997

NEW OFFICERS ANNOUNCED AT SWCS ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society was held on May 3 in Mineral Point. The SWCS board has decided to create a four person Executive Committee for this year in place of electing a President. This will allow for the sharing of tasks and management of the Society.

The Executive Committee is made up of Glen Ridnour, Sandy Weitzel, Tina Barrette and Sue Ensrude. Other board members are: Jane Rux, Nancy Schmit, Tamara Funk and new member Heather Harris. If you are interested in serving on the board contact any board member.



Mineral Point has long been famous for its annual 4th of July parade down High Street. Recently a local family has donated funds to be awarded for the top three best parade entries—The Golden Pasty awards for first, second and third place. This year the Mineral Point High School marching band was the first place Golden Pasty award winner.

Congratulations to the students and our SWCS board member Matt Nevers who is the band director and music instructor at Mineral Point High School.

HELP MARION HOWARD CELEBRATE 95 YEARS AT OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to an open house at the Darlington Country Club on Sunday, August 30 from 2-5 pm. Marion has been a fixture in the SWCS over the years serving as board member, performer, storyteller, President and newsletter editor of Cousin Jack and Jenny to mention a few roles. She is a Cornish Bard and if you have attended any Cornish events in the past you would have seen her on stage.

Darlington Country Club
17098 Country Club Road,
(off highway 81)
Darlington, Wisconsin
2-5 PM No gifts please



Marion Howard performed at many of our events over the years, she is shown here entertaining our guests at a Cornish Festival.

LINDEN METHODIST CORNISH STYLE CHURCH BUILDING 1851–2026

The Linden United Methodist Church is a prominent landmark in this former Cornish mining town. The 175th anniversary of the structure will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2026 and you are invited to join the congregation with a special church service at 10:30 a.m. with a light lunch to follow in the vestry after the service.

The mostly Cornish congregation can be traced as far back as 1834 when a group of miners worshiped in their homes. William Thomas was appointed leader of the first Methodist class organized here. Other members of that class were: John Pryor, Robert Vial, William Webster, Samuel Treloar, John Heathcock and William Barrett.

The first two church buildings were located on the Eastern edge of Linden and also served as the village school. In 1850, despite many miners leaving for the California gold rush and a cholera epidemic, Cornish stone masons constructed the exterior and two Linden Cornish carpenters, John Vivian and George Goldsworthy helped finish the interior of the stone church.

In 1870 a gallery or balcony addition was needed for a growing congregation. It was designed by Thomas Blake, a Linden cabinet and furniture maker who was also an early undertaker. One historical account states he emigrated from London and another newspaper paragraph stated he was from Cornwall.

There are several Methodist chapels in Cornwall that have a very similar balcony and interior appearance as the Linden church, so Thomas may have adopted that design. The gallery features wonderful workmanship featuring classic Doric pillar supports. The oak family style pews upstairs and tiny swinging doors are original with some remaining buckle locks still intact. These were the same type of pews that originally existed in the main body of the church. It was the custom early in the history of this church for families or people to rent a pew for themselves for Sunday services.



Cornish stone masons and Cornish carpenters combined to create a church building that is today a landmark structure.

The Linden church is the oldest Methodist Church building in continuous use in Wisconsin. It was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, through the efforts of the Linden Historical Society.

Around 1880 a local Cornish woman Mrs. Elizabeth Warmington George offered to pay for a town clock and church bell provided that the community would contribute towards a steeple or belfry to house the bell and clock. Mrs. George personally asked people for donations and led fund-raising events such as a play using Linden actors. On Sunday morning, May 21, 1882 the church bell was rung for the first time.

ceremonies were held within these walls. The usual Methodist tradition of church fundraising suppers, a special Christmas Eve program that continues to this day, lectures of a moral nature, and funeral services were all held here. An event looked forward to each year is the Harvest Festival Auction, the biggest fundraiser of the year. Locals enjoy bidding against each other and paying exorbitant prices of over \$100 for a pie for example. The Harvest Festival observance at the Linden Methodist Church stretches back over a century. Local auctioneer Larry Springer has donated his services for over 50 years and adds his banter to the sometimes frantic bidding to add to the fun.

This rugged stone building has not only been used for church services but for other community events as well. In the early days of Linden High School, graduation

Much like the nearby Cornish towns of Dodgeville and Mineral Point, a Primitive Methodist Church branched off and was active in Linden from the 1860's to 1975. The United Methodist Church has survived into the 21st century with a smaller flock than decades before. In recent years the congregation has dealt with the covid epidemic, maintenance and upkeep issues with the building with hard working church members and the help of outside donations. Continued on 5.

LINDEN CHURCH, continued from 4

In November 2025, the steeple had deteriorated and needed to be removed. The weight of the steeple and bell had also started to cause structural problems for the church. Now today, the church looks just like it did in 1851, with one exception—stunning stained glass windows that were installed in 1906.

All are welcome to come to the special celebratory service on October 11, the church requests if you do plan to attend to drop a note so they can better plan on how much food to have.
The contact is: Richbeck13@yahoo.com

CAHS COLLECTION HOUSED AT MINERAL POINT ARCHIVES

Since 2023 the records of the Cornish American Heritage Society are located in the Mineral Point Archives on the top floor of the Mineral Point Public Library. Curator, Shan Thomas said the efforts of the CAHS over the years to collect family history and information on parishes and villages has made up a terrific collection.

The records were created and compiled by founders and members of the CAHS beginning in 1982. The records were previously stored in the Wisconsin Historical Society's Area Research Center at UW-Platteville.

CAHS was originally focused on family history but expanded to collect and preserve all aspects of Cornish and Cornish American culture. The CAHS mission states that the purpose of the organization is to recognize the courage of the Cornish immigrants and the contributions they made to the places they lived and worked.

The Mineral Point Archives has a very helpful Finding Guide to help anyone locate materials. For more information go to the website: mineralpointlibrary.org and click on Archives tab.

A few highlights from the collection are genealogical resources, newsletters from Cornish societies in America, Canada and Great Britain. Many of the American Cornish organizations are no longer in existence but their stories are preserved here.

WSGS STATEWIDE CONFERENCE IN MINERAL POINT OCT. 9–10

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society (WSGS) will have their annual fall conference this year in Mineral Point. If you have any interest in family history you will want to check this out. There is a fee and you do have to pre-register, all the details are at: wsgs.org.

Administrative files contain past board minutes, financial records, files of past national gatherings. The files are not complete but give a good overall picture of the history of CAHS.

Family history files within the collection are arranged alphabetically by surname. Background files on Cornish Churches and parishes are also arranged alphabetically.

Within the collection are references to Cornish heritage and culture, language, food and music. There is some information on the Cornish Global Migration Programme and the Cornish American Connection. Not to be overlooked is a folder of our own SWCS member Marion Howard's research.

Media and photographs are stored with the Mineral Point Library Archives media and photography collection. There are a large number of books about Cornwall and its heritage included in the CAHS holdings that are now incorporated into the Mineral Point Archives reference library.

Materials are non-circulating. Harry Curnow is the current CAHS Historian.

It is likely the Mineral Point Archive hours will be extended Thursday--Saturday during the Cornish Festival week. The hours will be listed on the yellow festival bulletin and at cornishfestival.org



Tam Kernewek newsletters from past years are one of the treasures in the CAHS collection.

MINERAL POINT'S CORNISH BOOT HILL CEMETERY

Legend goes that in the early 1830's a miner made a request upon his passing to be, "buried underneath the oak tree on the hill." Many more would follow on this three acre cemetery in a quiet secluded spot just South of the Congregational church in Mineral Point, known as the Old City Cemetery (OCC).

The majority of those buried here were born in Cornwall, possibly 65% states Shan Thomas, one of the volunteers in an on going restoration project of this hallowed ground going back to 2015.

There were years in the past when this cemetery was neglected and overgrown with tall grass, grapevines and invasive shrubs. The community would rally and do mostly cleanup work and in 1966 a more organized approach involved a Women's Church group from six Protestant congregations who weeded, piled broken tombstones so they would not be lost, and created the first list of those buried here.

In 1976 the Mineral Point Women's Club made restoring the cemetery a bicentennial project. But there was still much more work to do and in 2015 Jim Bennett, Head of the Mineral Point Parks Department and responsible for the OCC, began repairing tombstones and mowing the grass. This caught the attention of OCC neighbors Dave and Nancy Larson who became involved and were joined by other volunteers who with their specific skills were able to repair and document most of the grave markers. Other people donated money for expenses of repairing graves.

In the past decade over 200 tombstones have been repaired. Some were dug up, others were straightened and broken ones repaired. The number of people buried here will never be known because many of the early burials had wooden crosses, death records were not kept, and during the years when Mineral Point had a newspaper a single line instead of an obituary might be printed. The oldest stone found is from 1830. Continued page 7.



The Lanyon family were prominent early Cornish settlers in Mineral Point. This is one of the better quality markers.



Harriet Rickard has one of the more legible stones in the old city cemetery, many others have lost details over the years.

CORNISH BOOT HILL CEMETERY, continued from 6



When the new nonsectarian cemetery, Graceland, was opened on the West edge of Mineral Point 111 graves were exhumed and removed from the OCC to the new place. Now, 250–260 burials in the OCC have been documented. A data base has been created, more information at the Mineral Point Archives, and a Facebook group page has been created that you can access at: The Mineral Point Old City Cemetery Project.

The Facebook pages have fascinating profiles on some of those buried in the OCC, such as Margaret (Chinn) Ivey, born in Camborne 1838, emigrated to Mineral Point with her parents. In 1857 she married Henry Ivey and they had two children. In March, 1867, Margaret died at the age of 29. Her stone was broken and face down in the dirt. Dave Larson dug it up, repaired the break and set it back on its base.

Directions for the Old City Cemetery: Going down High Street turn right (South) at the Ben Franklin store at Chestnut St., go down the hill, cross Fountain Street and continue up the hill past the Congregational church until the street ends.

Dave Larson painstakingly restores the grave marker of Margaret (Chinn) Ivey in the Old City Cemetery. Photo courtesy of Old City Cemetery restoration.

IN MEMORIAM

I received an email from Gorsedh Kernow on May 25 that **Stephen Hall** had passed away. Stephen took part in our 1997 Mineral Point Cornish Festival as a performer and speaker. He was our main speaker at the Saturday evening Pasty Banquet, held in the Congregational Church, told stories and played fiddle tunes at the Opera House and Sunday afternoon gave a slide presentation on Cornwall.

The release from Gorsedh Kernow stated, "Stephen was Barded in Bodmin (1997) for services to culture and public life. He was a Cornish historian, writer and storyteller." His Bardic name was, Staver An Hall in Cornish and the English translation, Fiddler of The Moor.

Ruby Griffiths, passed away August 3 at the age of 93. She was the daughter of Alice (Brown) Rowe and was raised by her grandparents Richard and Mary Ellen (Fine) Brown. She grew up in Linden and graduated at the age of 16 from the Linden High School class of 1949. She married Bob Griffiths and they raised four children in Linden: Linda, Stan, Steve and Todd.

Ruby enjoyed a dream come true trip to Cornwall where her grandfather was born and emigrated direct to Linden in the early 1900's. Ruby loved to tell interesting stories about her grandpa Brown, his dialect and Cornish adventures. She also had fond memories of her Grandmother Fine and their Cornish connections. Funeral services were held August 11, with burial in the Linden cemetery.

Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society

Officers:

Executive Committee: Glen Ridnour, Sandy Weitzel, Tina Barrette, Sue Ensrude

Vice-President, Tamara Funk, Email: tamara.h.funk@gmail.com

Secretary, Nancy Schmit

Treasurer, membership co-chair, Sandy Weitzel, 217 Mineral St., Mineral Point, WI 53565

Directors:

Carolyn Meuer, dcmeuer@mhtc.net; Matt Nevers, Jane Rux, Heather Harris

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