

Phillips G. Davies. *The Welsh in Wisconsin* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1982) 37 pp., \$2.00 paper.

Phillips G. Davies, part Welsh himself, has taught in the English Department at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, since 1954. He has recently published translations of accounts of Welsh settlements, mostly in the Middle West.

This pamphlet provides background material for anyone planning to do research on the Welsh in Wisconsin or in the United States. It suggests places one might look for documented information. The format of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin pamphlets does not allow footnotes, endnotes or citations, so the only sources fully identified are found in the selected bibliography which lists nine publications, two of them articles, the rest books. A map of Welsh settlements in Southern Wisconsin is included along with nine pages of photographs showing church gatherings, song fests, farms, and one group of lead miners.

Great stress is given to the Welsh desire to remain together and apart from others, to maintain their own language, to establish their own churches and to avoid cities, sin, and the English, German and Scandinavian immigrants in the United States. Despite interest in owning land and a keen desire to remain apart from the mainstream of American life and in spite of printed warnings against town life, a fair number of Welsh did settle in the cities of Milwaukee and Racine, where they entered the business community. Richard Griffith Owens, for example, established the first brewery in Milwaukee in 1840. Facts of this nature are scattered throughout the pamphlet. However, no subdivisions or headings are provided, and the organization follows no clear pattern. The following topics are dealt with in a sort of pastiche: the reasons for emigration and difficulties of immigration, the principal difficulty facing the Welsh in having to learn a foreign and hated language; the extent of Welsh immigration to Wisconsin based on census data; Welsh values including sobriety, piety, education, frugality, community and ethnic separateness; religious denominations and practices; singing and speaking festivals; the Welsh newspapers in the United States. Since no attempt has been made to produce a scholarly record here, no fault can be ascribed to the makers for its lack. The pamphlet is useful as an overview of Welsh immigration to this country, particularly in Wisconsin.

—Marilyn Meisenheimer
University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse