

OHRAB Interim Report

August 2012

Organization: Welsh-American Heritage Museum, Inc.

Project Title: Access and Preservation of Historical Records at the Welsh-American Heritage Museum

Project Director:

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Summary of Project Activities and Accomplishments:

Our project began in early June after securing our student intern and orientating her to the museum and the targeted records she would be working with. We reviewed the archival supplies list to verify needs and then ordered the supplies, adjusting the amount of archival storage boxes due to a supply made available from the Madog Center. To date we have spent \$444.79 on archival bags, boxes and other materials, and \$1300 for wages for our intern, who has worked a total of 130 hours thus far. We would like to request that we use the \$222.21 left from the archival supplies line to pay our intern to continue to work on cataloging the identified records since the majority of her time has been spent organizing, cleaning and preserving materials.

To begin our project the targeted records and resources were sorted, inventoried with Welsh to English translation when necessary, and then items were cleaned and placed in archival storage sleeves or bags with appropriate labels. Many records were then organized chronologically and placed in shelf holders. These items were then placed back on shelves following a revamped organizational system for paper records and resources. Temporary category labels are in place until permanent printed labels can be produced. Three steel four-drawer file cabinets were donated to the museum by the University of Rio Grande and were utilized to organize some of the single records alphabetically in general categories. This one aspect of organization has vastly improved accessibility to our files by the general public and we were able to locate family genealogical information in the file drawer records for two different individuals who made appointments to visit.

Press releases announcing the OHRAB funded project in the local newspapers and also in the National Welsh newspaper, *Ninnau*, have helped increase visitor traffic to the museum and informational calls about the museum in general. Press information includes an article in *The Telegram* announcing the OHRAB preservation project at the Museum on June 1, 2013; an article in the *Gallia Hometown Herald* on July 23, 2013 at <http://www.galliaherald.com/welsh-american-heritage-museum>; and a front page article in *Ninnau* July-August 2013 issue. Information on the project and OHRAB funding was also posted on the museum's website through the Madog Center for Welsh Studies at <http://www.rio.edu/madog/Welsh-American-Heritage-Museum.cfm>. A Facebook page for the museum is being created so we can post photos and updates on our preservation and renovation project.

At this point in the project, we realize we would have benefited from limiting the records and resources we identified in the initial grant proposal. As we began to sort through the materials in the museum, we uncovered much more than we originally felt was in need of organization and preservation. One positive note is that the general environment in the museum is now cleaner and more organized due to the countless hours volunteers have spent working alongside our intern.

As we approach the fall season we have three goals; to secure additional funding to support the digital preservation of our collections; to develop three new displays; and to identify volunteers to keep the museum open on a Saturday schedule. One big event, the Annual Museum Advent Carol Sing is schedule for Sunday, December 1, 2013. We look forward to hosting a large group and showcasing our work from the OHRAB funded project.

Jeanne Jones Jindra

Project Director

September 5, 2013

