

June 22, 2006

Have you a Jones in your genes?

An exhibition telling the story of Welsh immigration into the USA, and of the contribution that the Welsh have made to life in America, opens June 26 at the Statue of Liberty National Monuments and Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York. *Keeping up with the Joneses – the Story of the Welsh in the USA* will also give details of Welsh surnames in the USA today and will allow visitors to discover if their name is of Welsh origin and if, therefore, they have “a Jones in their genes.” The exhibition will be at Ellis Island until September 4.

The 80 sq.-ft. exhibition comprises ten panels telling the story of Welsh immigration into the US from the early settlements in modern-day Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania; through the War of Independence; the movement west; the American Civil War; immigration through Ellis Island; and ending with present-day “settlers” such as Sir Howard Stringer, Sir Anthony Hopkins, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Sir Tom Jones. An edited version of the highly-acclaimed BBC program “Star Spangled Dragon” will be shown on a video screen and the exhibition will also include an interactive touch-screen computer.

The exhibition was researched and produced by the Welsh Assembly Government in association with The National Parks Service Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island; the National Library for Wales; National Museum Wales; BBC Wales; and a number of academics and historians from both Wales and the USA.

Ellis Island is open daily from 8.30 am to 6.30 pm during the summer months and can be reached by The Circle Line Statue of Liberty Ferry which leaves from Liberty State Park in New Jersey and from the Battery in Lower Manhattan. The ferry ticket of \$11.50 (discounts available for children and seniors) includes the price of admission to Ellis Island and Liberty Island and departure times are 8.30 am to 4.30 pm. For more information visit www.statueoflibertyferry.com or www.nps.gov/elis

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Notes to journalists:

PDF files of the exhibition panels and other further information available from:
Catrin Brace, Welsh Assembly Government, New York T 646 792 8930 or email
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Journalists wishing to join a special media visit to the exhibition please contact Catrin Brace as above.

