



CENTRAL NEW BRUNSWICK WELSH SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2020



ST. DAVID'S DAY FLAG RAISING AT THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Join us as we raise the Welsh Dragon at the Legislature at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 28, 2020.

ST. DAVID'S DAY FLAG RAISING AT FREDERICTON CITY HALL

Join us as we raise the Welsh Dragon at City Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 28, 2020.

ST. DAVID'S DAY HAM DINNER

**When: 5:30 p.m. to socialize with punch and nibbles
6:00 for dinner
Friday, February 28, 2020**

**Where: Nashwaaksis United Church
46 Main Street
Fredericton, NB**

Cost: \$20 per person

RSVP to your caller or bwheal@nb.sympatico.ca before Sunday, February 23rd. You must RSVP to attend as the cooks will prepare only the number of dinners pre-ordered. Note that we can only take cash or cheques, cash preferred. On the menu: ham, potato scallop, baked beans and more!

A NEW LOOK

for 2020! Your newsletter has taken on a new look to celebrate a new decade. As always, I am happy to receive contributions from our readers – photos, articles and family stories are very welcome. Just send them to me at bwheal@nb.sympatico.ca I hope you enjoy the new format.

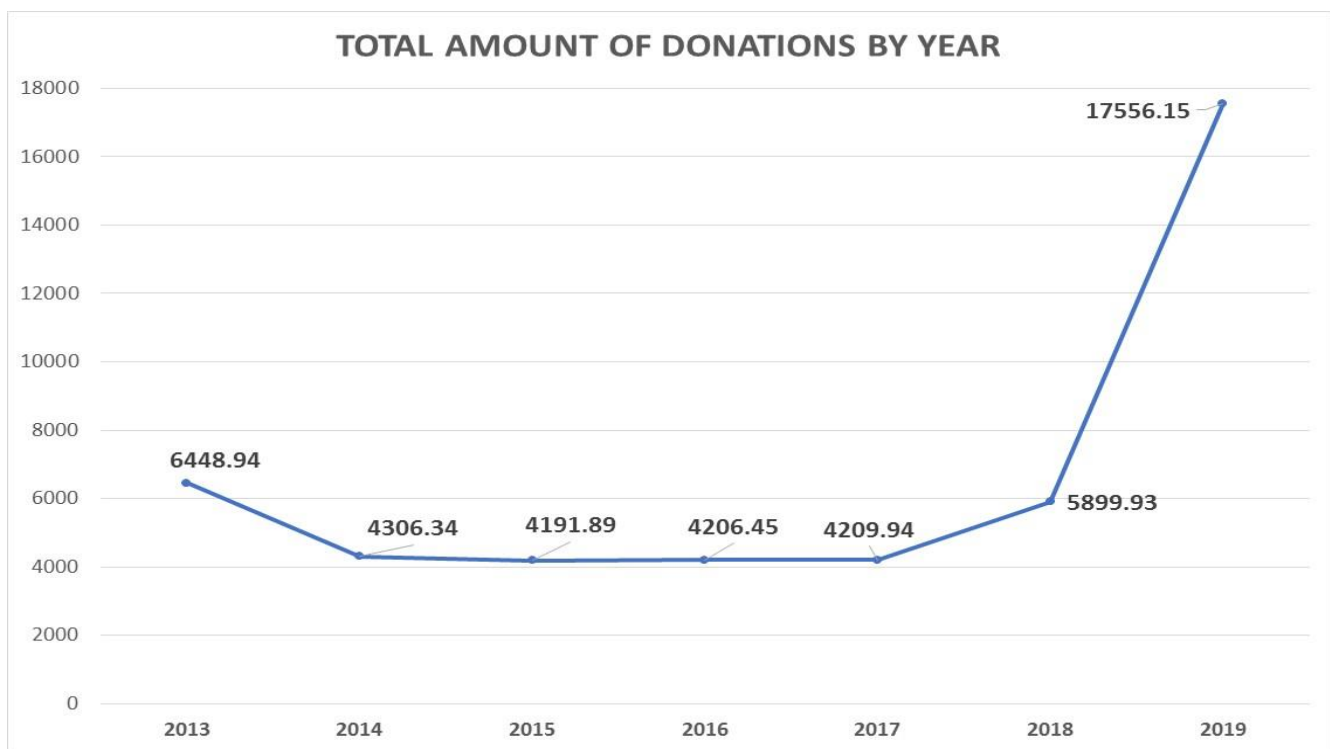
Twmffat

Is there someone in your life who irritates you with their silly conversation and foolish actions? Why not use this wonderful Welsh insult that just rolls off the tongue! A **twmffat** is an idiot, pronounced 'toom-fat'. Just take care that the someone doesn't also speak Welsh!

SAY IT IN CYMRAEG

DONATIONS TO THE NB WELSH HERITAGE TRUST are used to maintain the Welsh Chapel and the graveyard, and to grow the investment portfolio to a level where the interest earned each year will be enough to meet the maintenance needs of the Chapel and graveyard. In 2019 we conducted a successful financial appeal to raise the more than \$37,000 needed to replace the siding on the Chapel and to complete a number of repairs. We are so very thankful to all of you who stepped-up to help us and to the provincial government which covered half of the cost. With the completion of the work on the Chapel our funds are much reduced so we hope that you will continue to support the Welsh Heritage Trust.

Don't forget that tax receipts are provided for all donations of \$10 or more if you provide your name and mailing address. Cheques made out to the **New Brunswick Welsh Heritage Trust** can be mailed c/o Janet Thomas, 100 Epworth Circle, Fredericton, NB E3A 2M6



Honourable Brenda Murphy, 32nd Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, is a well-known and respected social justice advocate. But did you know she is also a descendant of one of the *Albion* passengers? Her great, great, great, great- grandfather, William Thomas, was born in Kidwelly, Wales in 1787. In 1819 he and his family left Wales in search of a better life. He settled with his family on Lot 28 on the western side of the road in Tay Creek. Wouldn't he be surprised to know that one of his descendants was appointed to such an important position!



- There are no changes to our membership fee in 2020 - \$15 for a single person and \$25 for a family. Your fees are our only source of income to cover Society expenses for our newsletters and events. You may pay your fees at the St. David's Day celebration with either cash or a cheque. Or you may mail your cheque c/o Janet Thomas, 100 Epworth Circle, Fredericton, NB E3A 2M6. **Cheques must be made out to the Central New Brunswick Welsh Society.**

- May 25, 2020 – Annual General Meeting
- May 30, 2020 – Welsh Chapel Spring Clean-up
- June 7, 2020 – Founders' Day Service and Potluck Lunch



OUR STORIES

Although not one of the ten most common surnames, Vaughan is a Welsh name. Wikipedia reports that it derives from the Welsh words *bychan* or *fychan* which mean small, junior or younger. My thanks to the Vaughan family, members of our Society, for their family story which was written several years ago by Helen B. Vaughan for an earlier newsletter.

'To trace our Vaughan family from Wales to New Brunswick you must follow a roundabout path.

John Vaughan (Vahen, Vachen, Vychan r Vaughn) was born in Wales about 1612. In the 1600s, because of religious discontent in Wales, thousands of Puritans emigrated to the New World. Among these was John Vaughan, who arrived in Boston in 1632. In 1638 he was granted land in Newport, Rhode Island on condition he would build a house within a year. His house was known as "The Hermitage".

For four generations the Vaughans remained in Rhode Island. In 1761 David Vaughan and his brothers Anthony and John emigrated to Chester, Nova Scotia, where they built a saw and grist mill. It was at Chester in 1838, that William Stearns Vaughan, my husband's grandfather, was born. He acquired a shipyard at Walton and built many sailing vessels. One of his sons, William Eliot Vaughan, met and married a New Brunswick girl. They moved to Fredericton in 1908 where he was a pioneer in the automobile business. During World War II he reverted for a time to shipbuilding, when he built wooden minesweepers for the British navy at St. Andrews.

My husband, Walter E. (better known as 'Pete') carried on in the Fredericton automobile business until his retirement.

And that's how the Vaughans got from Tretower, Wales to Fredericton, N. B.'

DAUGHTERS OF THE SEA

'is a sad story, and I am reminded of it when I hear the cry of a seagull. The story is set in Cardigan Bay, near the Irish Sea, often hit by powerful storms. It tells that Dylan the sea god, who lives under the waters of Cardigan Bay, envies an old man his three daughters. Dylan calls up a great storm and sends a huge wave to steal the girls. Their father is heartbroken. Regretting his evil deed, Dylan turns the girls into seagulls, belonging both to the sea and the land. Since that day, when the old man walks on the beach and calls their names, three white gulls fly to him from the sea.'

*Gillian Clarke, the national poet of Wales
The Guardian, December 3, 2015*

AFTER THE CROSSING

David Urwin 2019

We are not wanted here, I am thinking.
We immigrants are never wanted,
even by those who were immigrants themselves.
They stare, hostile. This land is our land.
They eye us with suspicion.
They don't like our women's dress, our language.
At home in our own land we could not
freely speak our own tongue.

I want to work, to make a new life.
I didn't want to leave home
but what choice was there?
We were surviving on boiled nettles,
on barley meal and water,
and farm rents were beyond our means.
We risked our lives on this overcrowded brig.
They told us that this is a land of dreams,
a land of opportunity. Our Promised Land.
Our arrival is full of hope.

This part of St. John is full of noisy busyness.
Carmarthen and Cardigan seem like backwaters.
So many people coming and going.
I've heard tell of two thousand souls just arrived.
I've heard there are thousands more heading here.
There must surely be land for a farmer to work.
I will do any work, any at all.
How else will I feed my wife and children?
A man cannot live by hope alone.
All we can do now is to trust in God.

In mid-April 2019, a bicentenary celebration of the sailing of the *Albion* from Cardigan, Wales to Saint John, New Brunswick was held in Cardigan, Wales. The celebration featured many events, including an evening which explored the emigration of the Welsh families through poetry, paintings and song.

This poem was written by poet David Urwin for the event. David Urwin grew-up in Manchester, England but lives on a small farm in rural southwest Wales.