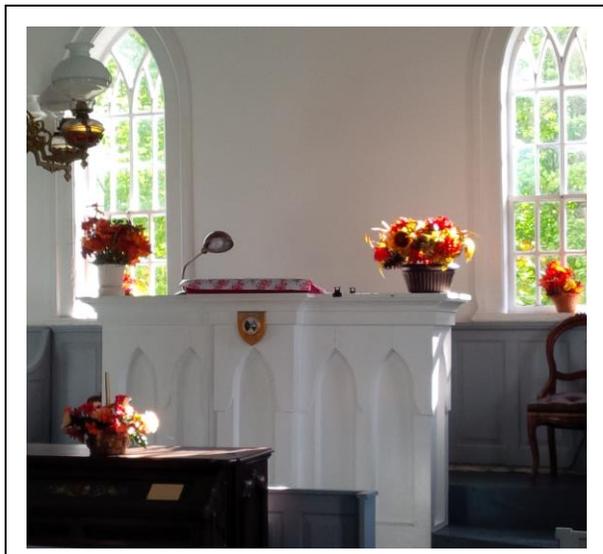




CENTRAL NEW BRUNSWICK WELSH SOCIETY

MAY 2016



FOUNDERS' DAY SERVICE

When: 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 12, 2016

Please come to the church service and then join us for a light lunch afterwards.

Where: Welsh Chapel
2900 Cardigan Road
Route 620

Bring your friends, neighbours and family!



Many hands make light work. We've had a very small crew the last few years, so please consider coming out to help giving us an hour of your time on Saturday, May 28th at 9:00 at the Welsh Chapel.



Are you enjoying the colour editions of our newsletter? Do you want to continue receiving your newsletter in beautiful technicolour? Then, send an email to bwheal@nb.sympatico.ca to be added to our email list.



Save The Date

May 30, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Annual General Meeting, St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Main Street – *we desperately need new volunteers to keep the Society operational, this is a very small time commitment. Our older members need you to step-up and continue their good work.*

May 28, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. Spring Clean-up at the Welsh Chapel

June 12, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Founder's Day Church Service, Welsh Chapel, Cardigan followed by shared lunch

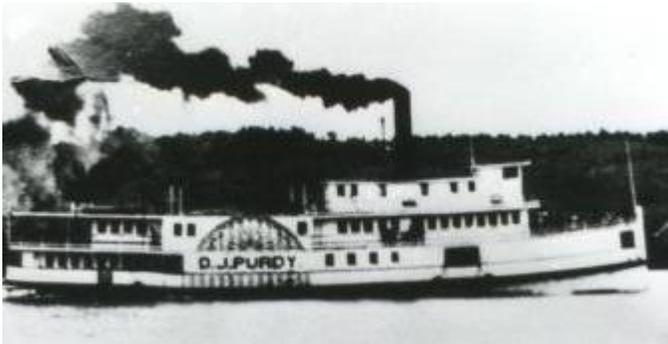
October 2, 2016 – 3:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Day Church Service, Welsh Chapel, Cardigan followed by shared potluck supper



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One wonders how the Cardigan settlers travelled from Saint John to Fredericton to take up their land in Cardigan. While they may have travelled overland by stagecoach, the more comfortable method of transport was by water. The steamboat, the *General Smythe*, made weekly trips upriver under the experienced hand of Captain James Segee, a Loyalist who had settled in Fredericton. The *General Smythe* was a 105 foot steamer who had made her maiden voyage in May, 1816. The cost of the 15-hour trip between the two cities ranged from 22 shillings 6 pence to 17 shillings 6 pence for adults, depending upon the cabin chosen. The passage for children under 12 years of age was 10 shillings. Passengers were provided either breakfast and dinner or dinner and tea. Men were not permitted in the ladies' cabins, nor were they allowed to wear their hats in the cabins. Gambling, cards and profanity was not permitted either. The *General Smythe* plied the river until 1824.



Seventy-four steamboats travelled the river between 1816 and 1946, when the *D. J. Purdy* made her last voyage on September 30, 1946. Passengers found them a comfortable way to travel and farmers relied on them to send their produce to markets in Fredericton and Saint John.



Did you know the cardigan sweater was named after James Thomas Brudenell, the 7th Earl of Cardigan who led the Charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimean War? The sweater is modelled after the knitted wool waistcoat that was worn by soldiers during the Crimean war. It was originally called the cardigan jacket. It became very popular in the 1800's because it was exceptionally warm, being closed up the front and having long sleeves that were tight at the wrists. Cardigans were particularly desired by fishermen because of their warmth.

WELSH BLESSING

WISHING YOU A HOUSE FULL OF SUNSHINE,
HEARTS FULL OF CHEER,
LOVE THAT GROWS DEEPER
EACH DAY OF THE YEAR.



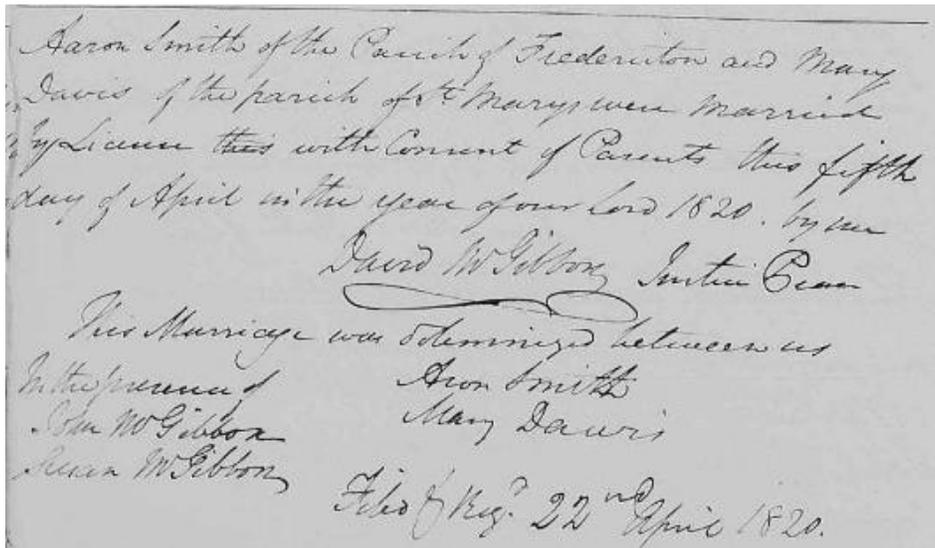
CENTRAL NEW BRUNSWICK WELSH SOCIETY

MAY 2016

AN AMERICAN? IN CARDIGAN?

The Welsh heritage of the community of Cardigan is clearly evident in the 1851 Census records. However, one oddity is the listing of the family of Aaron Smith, a 60 year-old American farmer. How did an American come to be one of the original settlers of Cardigan?

Clearly Aaron became involved with the Welsh immigrants soon after their arrival in 1819. The 1851 Census reports that Aaron arrived in June, 1819. If this is the case, he may have met the Welsh immigrants upon their arrival in Saint John and travelled upriver with them to Fredericton. The only fitting American birth record is that of Aron Smith, born in 1794 on a small island south of Bar Harbour, Maine. Could this Aron Smith have travelled north to settle in New Brunswick?



However he came here, Aaron met young Mary Davis, the 20 year old daughter of William Davis, a Welsh immigrant. In 1819 the Davis family was living in Fredericton, having been provided by supplies by the Fredericton Emigrant Society to assist William, his wife and seven

children, five of whom were employed 'in service'. Aaron and Mary were married on April 5, 1820 in Fredericton and subsequently moved to Lot 7 on the east side of the Cardigan road, not far from Mary's family who were living in a cabin on Lot 10 on the western side of the road. This property is south of the Welsh chapel which is located on one acre of Lot 8.

Aaron Smith is listed on both the 1825 and 1827 petitions for land in Cardigan, along with the familiar names of Davis, Jones, Phillips and Sansom.

In 1832 Aaron and Mary sold their 300 acre Lot 7 to Fredericton merchant Francis E. Beckwith and bought Lot 2 (150 acres) in Hamtown on the east side of the road to Cardigan Road from Benjamin Phillips. In 1839 they sold this lot to Dr. Edwin Jacob and bought his neighbouring Lot 3, where they farmed for a number of years. In 1863 Aaron and Mary bought Lot 14 in Cardigan from their oldest son, Aaron Junior, selling it back to



CENTRAL NEW BRUNSWICK WELSH SOCIETY

MAY 2016

young Aaron in 1870. In 1871, they sold their land in Hamtown to David Saunders, excepting a small piece of the lot that they had previously sold to their son Benjamin. At that time Aaron was the postmaster in Hamtown. It is not clear where they lived following this sale. Perhaps they remained on the Hamtown land, or perhaps they moved to the portion of Lot 1 in Cardigan that Aaron had purchased in 1860 as the result of a tax sale. This lot had been owned by James John, a non-resident landowner. Since the taxes on the 24 acres of the lot of two shillings, one penny and a half-penny had not been paid, the land was sold at public auction and bought by Aaron for 2 pounds, 8 shillings, 1 penny and a half-penny. It's not clear when Aaron disposed of this land.

The *New Brunswick Reporter and Fredericton Advertiser* reported that Aaron Smith died in Hamtown on August 20, 1879 at the age of 101. While it is unlikely that Aaron was a centenarian, he was certainly in his late 80's. There is no record of Mary Davis Smith's death.



NORTH SIDE HERITAGE FAIR 2016 – it was great to have so many interested visitors stop to chat and ask questions. There were also some familiar faces.



Boss and Mary Gibson stopped to chat with Harold Price.

The love spoons are always a hit as is the interest in the Welsh language.

