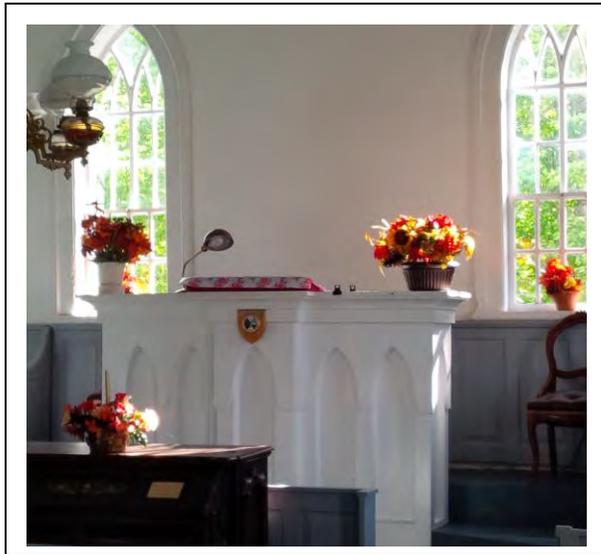




# CENTRAL NEW BRUNSWICK WELSH SOCIETY

## MAY 2018



### FOUNDERS' DAY SERVICE

**When: 7:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, June 10, 2018**

***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 give us an hour of your time on **Saturday, June 2nd at 9:00** at the Welsh Chapel. (Rain date if needed is the following Saturday).



### Change of Address

With a reduced membership we simply can no longer afford to rent a post office box at an annual cost of nearly \$200. Thus, all correspondence with the Central New Brunswick Welsh Society and the New Brunswick Welsh Heritage Trust should be sent c/o Janet Thomas, 100 Epworth Circle, Fredericton, NB E3A 2M6. You can also contact me at [bwheal@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:bwheal@nb.sympatico.ca) or at 506-474-0812 or via our Facebook page.



The Central New Brunswick Welsh Society celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2018. In April 1988 the Society was established with the approval of a Constitution and by-laws. Officers and directors were elected to serve the members. Within a year the Society boasted more than 100 members!



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### Captain Davies' Rules

Despite his youth, Captain Llewellyn Davies understood very well the difficulties that can arise among 200 men, women and children living in close quarters for a couple of months. According to Donald Davies in his 1984 article in the Tivyside Advertiser, Captain Davies developed strict rules for passengers on an earlier voyage to North America that he undoubtedly adopted for the *Albion* voyage. The rules were enforced by a committee formed from the heads of various families. This committee also had the responsibility to settle differences between passengers. If anyone on the committee was found guilty of breaking the rules, he would be replaced by another passenger. The rules were:

1. To keep the Sabbath day, everyone to be clean by 10 a.m. and to come to service if weather permitted. *(This is certainly in keeping with the deep personal faith of the emigrants.)*
2. To refrain from swearing and taking the Lord's name in vain. The penalty was a half ration of water and to be made to wear a badge.
3. No stealing. The penalty was to wear a thief's badge and to clean the lower deck for a week if proved guilty by two witnesses. The thief would be punished by law upon reaching their destination. *(There is no record that anyone was remanded to law enforcement upon arrival in Saint John so apparently stealing was not a problem.)*
4. No lying. The penalty was to clean the privy for three days if proved guilty by two witnesses.
5. No quarrelling to create doom and despondency. The first person to begin this would be punished by law upon landing. *(I am not sure what law that would have been, but again, there was no record that anyone was placed in custody upon arrival in Saint John.)*
6. No family, including children, to be dirty or neglect their person. The penalty for this was a half ration of water. *(It seems to me that reducing the water ration wouldn't necessarily be conducive to improving personal cleanliness!)*
7. No one was to speak to the man at the wheel. The penalty for this was to be kept below decks for a day except for one purpose. *(The purpose was not specified – presumably if fire or some other disaster occurred or perhaps for worship.)*
8. No one was to interfere with the working of the ship or to let their children 'run riot'. The penalty was to be the last to be served food.
9. No family was to keep their pots filled during the night, but were to carefully take them up on deck and throw their contents over-board. *(I am sure that this was adhered to by all in an effort to improve the terrible conditions below deck.)*



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### The Roman Occupation of Wales

The Romans began the military invasion of the British Isles in 43 A.D., arriving in Wales in 47 A.D. with the intention of subjugating the 5 tribes of Wales - the Deceangli in the north east; the Ordovices in the north west; the Demetae in the south west; the Silures in the south east; and the Cornovii in the central borderlands area. The Romans described the Welsh as warlike and fiercely independent. As the hilly terrain of Wales was well-suited to guerilla warfare, subduing the Welsh was not easy. However, by 90 A.D. most of the Welsh tribes had been defeated.

Wales and England were under Roman rule for more than 350 years. In Wales, it was primarily a military occupation, with the Romans building military roads and fortifications. The primary fortification in Wales was established in 74 or 75 A.D. at Isca Augusta, known today as Caerleon. The Second Augustan legion was stationed there, comprising more than 5,500 Roman soldiers. At least 30 auxiliary forts, joined by straight roads and spaced one day's march from each other, were constructed. Settlements grew adjacent to the forts or along the roadways, at crossroads and river crossings. The Romans brought industry to Wales in the form of mining (gold in particular), smelting and processing iron and lead ore as well as brick, pottery and tile making.

In addition to changing the settlement patterns, the Romans had a significant impact on the lives of some of the Welsh people. In south Wales where most of the Roman settlements were established, the Welsh were exposed to trade goods from across the Roman Empire and to improvements in architecture, medicine and agriculture. They integrated Latin words into the Welsh language and Christian worship became more widely accepted. Smaller communities located farther from the Roman settlements, particularly those in north Wales, were less impacted by the Romans, and in fact, life

went on much as it did in pre-Roman times.



The town of Caerleon is now an important archaeological site. Visitors can get a sense of Roman times by visiting the Wales National Roman Legion Museum and the Roman Baths Museum. Excavated remains of the barracks of the Roman legion and a

Roman amphitheatre can also be seen at Caerleon. More recently, excavations have centred around the remains of a Roman harbour, discovered in 2011.



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### CALAN MAI

Like other Celtic people, the Welsh had their own unique celebrations of May Day. Originally called 'Calan haf', Calan Mai is celebrated on May 1<sup>st</sup> and is considered to be the first day of summer. In past times, Calan Mai celebrations actually began the evening before with the lighting of bonfires. Villagers would decorate their houses with hawthorn branches and flowers, symbolizing new growth and fertility. Placing mountain ash or holly over windows and doors was also intended to keep the witches out! 'Carolau haf', or summer carols were sung by singers who visited families on May 1<sup>st</sup> morning to wish them good luck and a successful crop. If their singing was thought worthy, the singers would receive food and drink. The most common drinks during Calan Mai festivities were mead, elderberry or rhubarb wine and beer. In south Wales, young men would decorate bouquets of rosemary with white ribbons and leave them at the windows of young women who they admired. Maypole dancing was also common in Wales, with many variations of the dance being practiced.



*Introducing Our New Web Page!!!* Thanks to funding provided to the New Brunswick Celtic Affairs Committee from the Government of New Brunswick, the Central New Brunswick Welsh Society and the New Brunswick Welsh Heritage Trust have a beautifully designed web page. Take a look at <https://nbwelsh.ca/> and share this address with your friends



New Brunswick  
**Celtic**  
Affairs Committee



Pwyllgor Materion  
**Celtaidd**  
New Brunswick

*Funding from the Government of New Brunswick has been provided to the New Brunswick Celtic Affairs Committee for a number of priority*

*projects including a new web portal that will provide interested persons access to information about the various activities of the Committee and its members organizations. A calendar of Celtic events will inform the public of events across the province. Also, a Directory of Celtic historical, cultural, educational and economic organizations and services is currently being populated. Please apply to add your information so we can make the Directory as complete and helpful as possible. Visit <https://celticnb.ca> to see this new web portal!*



**May 17, 2018** – Annual General Meeting – 7:00 p.m. St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Main Street, Fredericton. We did not have a quorum last year which restricted our ability to plan for the upcoming year and the *Cardigan 200* celebration. Please attend if you can.