

# CENTRAL NEW BRUNSWICK WELSH SOCIETY NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

## Christmas Celebration

**When:** 5:30 p.m. to socialize with punch & nibbles  
6:00 p.m. for dinner  
Friday, November 30, 2018

**Entertainment:** *Céilí Kids of Canada*

**Where:** Nashwaaksis United Church  
46 Main Street, Fredericton  
\$20/person

**RSVP to your caller or 474-0812 or**  
[bwheal@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:bwheal@nb.sympatico.ca)



## NADOLIG LLAWEN

**From the Central New Brunswick Welsh  
Society and the New Brunswick Welsh  
Heritage Trust**



## WINTER TIME

by

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

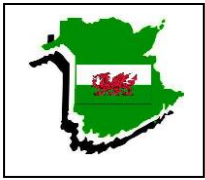
Late lies the wintry sun a-bed,  
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head;  
Blinks but an hour or two; and then,  
A blood-red orange, sets again.

Before the stars have left the skies,  
At morning in the dark I rise;  
And shivering in my nakedness,  
By the cold candle, bathe and dress.

Close by the jolly fire I sit  
To warm my frozen bones a bit;  
Or with a reindeer-sled, explore  
The colder countries round the door.

When to go out, my nurse doth wrap  
Me in my comforter and cap;  
The cold wind burns my face, and blows  
Its frosty pepper up my nose.

Black are my steps on silver sod;  
Thick blows my frosty breath abroad;  
And tree and house, and hill and lake,  
Are frosted like a wedding cake.



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## PLYGAIN

Christmas in Wales was traditionally a time of worship. The plygain was an early morning candlelight service held in most parish churches on Christmas morning. Originally the service began as early as 3 a.m. and continued until daylight and was only attended by the men of the community. Eventually this practice changed, and women and children began attending, with the service beginning nearer to daylight. People would come from the remotest rural areas to the plygain, bringing with them candles to light the church. The candles were an important part of the service. In some areas special candles were made for the plygain. The candlelight added to the beauty of the service.

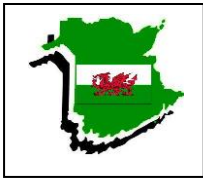


The plygain was essentially a carol service. Except for introductory prayers and the final blessing, the service was conducted by the singers. Until recently it was only men who were permitted to sing the plygain carols, most of which were composed in the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The carols were sung in three or four-part harmony by groups of singers without musical accompaniment. There was no preset programme. Each group would come forward to sing a carol and when they finished another group would come forward. When each group had performed, another round of singing would begin in the same order. Many of the groups were families who had their own plygain carols which they sang each year. No carol could be sung more than once during the plygain.

Many of the traditional plygain carols have disappeared from services in Wales, although lately there has been an effort to find and perform these fine pieces of music. Indeed, until recently when it has made a slight comeback, the plygain had all but disappeared in most parts of Wales. Today, the plygain is held mainly in the evenings and may be held not only on Christmas morning but at other times throughout the Christmas period.



Worrying about your 2018 income taxes? Why not reduce your tax bill by making a charitable donation to the New Brunswick Welsh Heritage Trust? You may receive a tax receipt 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.



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## **DATHLU/CELEBRATE!**

**WHEN?** Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**WHERE?** Cardigan, New Brunswick and Fredericton, New Brunswick

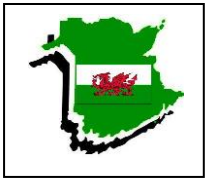
2019 will mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of 180 Welsh men, women and children in New Brunswick and the establishment of the Cardigan settlement. The Central New Brunswick Welsh Society and the New Brunswick Welsh Heritage Trust will be hosting a celebration to honour the courage, faith and perseverance of our ancestors. Activities will be held at the Welsh Chapel in Cardigan on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. A closing church service will be held on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at the Brunswick Street Baptist Church in Fredericton, the congregation with whom many of the early settlers worshipped. More details about the celebration will be shared over the next few months.

We are hoping to be joined by visitors from Cardigan, Wales as well as others from across the continent who have ties to the Cardigan settlers. Please encourage your family members to include our celebrations in their summer holiday plans and invite others to our celebration!



A considerable amount of research is underway to further our knowledge of the Cardigan settlement and its early families. Some of this information will be included in our 2019 newsletters, but much more will be shared over the coming months via our email list and on our Facebook page. If you are not already a member of our email group, make sure you don't miss anything interesting by sending a request to join our group to [bwheal@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:bwheal@nb.sympatico.ca). Or you can see our research by 'Liking' the Central New Brunswick Welsh Society Facebook page.

**CELEBRATING THE 200<sup>TH</sup> IN WALES** Plans are underway to commemorate the emigration of our Welsh ancestors. The celebration in Cardigan, Wales will occur during Easter week, beginning with an official kick-off on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Throughout the week there will be related exhibits, storytelling and events at local pubs and restaurants, tours of the area and local boat trips in the harbour. More details to be shared in the coming months. Wouldn't it be grand to have a group from New Brunswick there to participate in the celebration?



# CENTRAL NEW BRUNSWICK WELSH SOCIETY NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

**ANNUAL DUES** The Central New Brunswick Welsh Society has only one source of income, your membership dues. Over the past few years our expenditures have been about twice our income due to a decline in the number of people paying dues. In 2018 we have implemented some cost savings initiatives such as closing our post office and safety deposit boxes, eliminating the subsidy of your Christmas and St. David's Day dinner costs, and converting as many as possible to receipt of the newsletter electronically rather than via a printed and mailed copy. But we continue to have administrative costs as well as costs for our events. 2019 will be especially challenging as we will be hosting the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Cardigan settlers. How can you help? By encouraging your children, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews to join the Society, thereby increasing our membership; AND by paying your own annual dues. The 2019 dues remain the same at \$25 per family, \$15 per individual. Send your cheque, made out to the **Central New Brunswick Welsh Society**, c/o Janet Thomas, 100 Epworth Circle, Fredericton, NB E3A 2M6 or pay them at the Christmas celebration.

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## REPAIRS TO THE WELSH CHAPEL

There is an urgent need to replace the siding on the Welsh Chapel in Cardigan. Other repairs are needed to the exterior and interior as well, including repair of cracked windows, interior painting, and replacement of the ceiling in the basement meeting area. The NB Welsh Heritage Trust is in the process of soliciting estimates of the cost of this work from



local contractors. Preliminary estimates indicate that the replacement of the siding alone will carry a significant cost. We intend to begin with the siding replacement and then to complete other repairs as funds allow. Early in 2019 we will be conducting a special appeal for financial contributions as we would like to get this work completed in the spring, before the Cardigan 200 celebration slated for August 2019. All contributions of \$10 or more to the **NB Welsh Heritage Trust** receive a tax receipt when a name and address are provided.

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**TOURING WALES IN 2019** Interested in attending the commemoration of the emigration of our Welsh ancestors in Wales? Efforts are underway to organize a tour of Wales in April 2019 which will include attendance at the Cardigan, Wales activities. Contact **Ellen Tucker** at 1-800-561-2324 or [etucker@freedomtours.com](mailto:etucker@freedomtours.com)