



CENTRAL NEW BRUNSWICK

WELSH SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2020



Sadly, our **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION** will not be held this year due to the ongoing pandemic.

2020 has been a difficult year for most of us, especially the restrictions we have had on visiting family and gathering with friends. Who could have guessed that our many successful bicentenary activities of last year would be followed by a year of no events at all?

Fingers crossed that a vaccine becomes available soon and we will be able to gather to celebrate our shared Welsh heritage in 2021. In the meantime, we will try to keep you connected via our newsletter, our emails and our Facebook page. Stay safe, everyone!



NADOLIG LLAWEN

from

*The Central NB Welsh Society and
The NB Welsh Heritage Trust*

May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope;
The spirit of Christmas which is peace;
The heart of Christmas which is love.

– *Ada V. Hendricks*



2021 Membership Dues remain at \$15 for a single person and \$25 for a family. Since we are unable to come together, please send your dues c/o Janet Thomas, 100 Epworth Circle, Fredericton, NB E3A 2M6. Dues cover the costs of copying and mailing our newsletters as well as Society events. Cheques must be made out to the **Central NB Welsh Society**.

HAMTOWN.

HAMTOWN, Dec. 26.—The weather for the past week has been very rainy which left the roads in a very icy condition. During the last few days there has been considerable travelling, people coming from all the neighboring villages, on their way to Fredericton.

Christmas is further off than ever. It was very welcome indeed, especially to the little ones. Santa Claus having visited all their homes.

Mrs. Jas Evans and Mrs. D. Richards and her little daughter Kathleen, of Campbellton, Restigouche county, are here visiting relatives and friends. Their coming was warmly welcomed by all. Mrs. Richards taught about six terms in this district. Her scholars all remembered their old teacher and friend.

All of our men are busily engaged in the lumbering business along the Dunbar.

Mr. Harry Egan, who returned home from the lumber woods a few weeks ago, on account of poor health, is greatly improved and is able to go to work again. He was accompanied home by Mr. Wm. Steen.

Mr. Clarence Sansom has resigned his position as teacher of the Birdton school, and intends going back to Normal school when it opens to finish his course. We wish him success.

Miss Aggie Egan, teacher of New Maryland, has returned home to spend her holidays with her mother.

The funeral of the late Mr. John Nicholson of Birdton passed through here on its way to Cardigan for burial. The sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Young.

Mrs. David Evans, who has been ill for some time, is greatly improved.

Miss Annie Yeomans, whose foot was badly cut some time ago, is improved so that she is able to be around again.

Mr. Thomas Evans paid his home a flying visit last week. Mr. Evans has returned to look after his camp.

Christmas 1899

The days leading up to the final Christmas of the 19th century were busy for the inhabitants of Cardigan and the surrounding hamlets. The *Daily Gleaner* correspondent from Hamtown reported that despite icy roads, there was much travelling from the neighbouring villages to town. Perhaps they were headed to Lemont & Sons to see Santa who arrived on December 21st, much to the delight of the local children. Or maybe they were attending the large Christmas market at Phoenix Square, held on Friday, December 22nd. If so, they would have seen the 618 lb. hog purchased by Mr. Estabrooks from Mr. Charles Fisher of Marysville. Pork was selling for \$0.05 per pound so Mr. Fisher went home with \$30 in his pocket, equivalent to \$941 today! The market was even larger the following day, with teams from the country overflowing Phoenix Square onto Queen Street. There was an abundance of goods. Turkeys were selling at \$0.11 per pound, much cheaper than either geese or chickens. The throngs of shoppers were very appreciative of the liberal application of sand on the icy sidewalks by the city roadmaster.

Christmas morning was damp, but by noon the sun was shining. Most families attended morning services at their local church. The mild afternoon weather brought out hundreds of spectators who gathered on the river behind City Hall for the horse racing. Horse racing was a Christmas Day tradition in Fredericton, with races usually occurring down King Street from Government House to Church Street. However, the warmer pre-Christmas weather and inadequate snow cover had made the city streets 'unfit' for racing, so they were held on the road built on the river between St. Mary's (North Devon) and City Hall. The *Daily Gleaner* printed a detailed account of the many races held between 2:00 p.m. and dusk.

In addition to the racing, there was excellent skating on the river, to the satisfaction of school children who were anticipating many hours of skating fun during their Christmas holidays. Many people attended the first match of the 1899-1900 curling season and the curling rink was opened to the public in the evening for skating.

Residents of the Fredericton almshouse, located at what today is the corner of York and Dundonald streets, were treated to a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, and the children who lived there were

provided sweets, candies, games and toys, all donated by some of the good citizens of Fredericton.

Many households had visitors, with travelers coming from around the province and as far away as Boston, Montreal and Halifax. The famous Canadian poet, Charles G. D. Roberts was home visiting his parents in Fredericton. Families in the Cardigan area also welcomed guests, and many of the men who were lumbering on the Dunbar Stream were home for the celebrations, including Thomas Evans who ran his camp at Lake Brook.

The final Christmas of the century was enjoyed by all. In fact, some enjoyed it too much – there were six people arrested on Christmas Day for drunkenness!

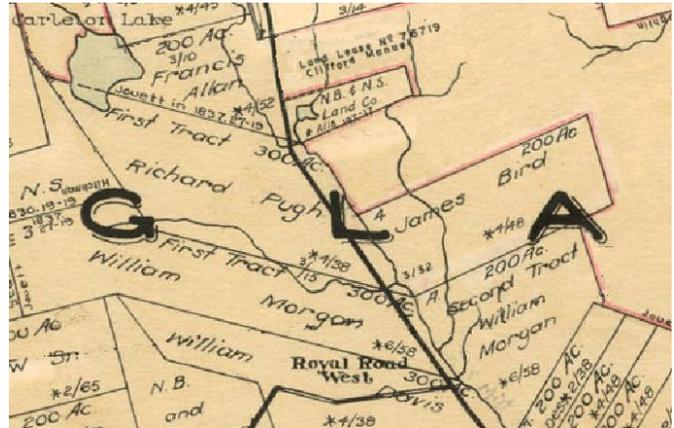


OUR STORIES

WILLIAM MORGAN AND MARY DAVIS

Nineteen-year old William Morgan arrived in Nova Scotia in 1818, a passenger on the *Fanny* which brought Welsh settlers destined for Shelburne. It appears, however, that the young carpenter remained in Halifax until 1821 when he joined the Welsh families in the Cardigan area. He received a location ticket in January 1822 for land just south of Hamtown. In November 1822 he married Mary Davis whose father owned the land adjacent to William's. She had arrived on the *Albion* with her family in 1819.

In January 1824 William petitioned for his land, stating that he was located on lot 3 on the road leading to the Cardigan settlement and on the west side of the main branch of the Nashwaaksis Stream. He asked to be granted his land plus 90-100 acres of vacant gore land on the opposite side of the stream upon which he intended to build a grist and hulling mill, there being none in the area. The following month he petitioned the General Assembly for



financial assistance for the establishment of a grist mill on his land. He said that, at the desire of the inhabitants of Cardigan, he intended to erect a grist and hulling mill and that he had experience in erecting such mills. He said that the mill would be of great service to the inhabitants as their 'mode of agriculture and living in the mother country made oatmeal their chief and desirable food (bread kind).' He said that because of the plentiful crop of oats raised in Cardigan, the inhabitants would be able to live off their own crops rather than needing imported flour or corn if they had a suitable mill. He also said that the mill would benefit others living in the area as well and would induce others to move there. William was granted his original lot of land and given £50 towards the erection of his mill, although the money was not to be paid until the mill was erected and ready for operation.

Twice during the next two years he petitioned for more land, particularly a piece of gore land that would adjoin his land to Carleton Lake and allow him to divert water from the lake for use in his mill. His requests for additional land were not approved until 1834 by which time he had already bought Richard Pugh's 300 acres adjoining his grant which gave him access to the lake.

The mill operation must have been lucrative. By 1836 William and Mary were living in Fredericton with their family – Thomas, John, William, Ann and Hannah. Their family home, located where Kings Place is today, fronted on King Street but his two lots ran back to Brunswick Street. William also owned a plot of land on King Street, approximately where the Lunar Rogue is now located. In addition to operating the mill in Hamtown, William worked as a carpenter/joiner in town. In the mid-1860's he sold 200 acres of his land on the Royal Road and in 1877 he sold the plot on King Street for a considerable sum.

Mary died in 1878 at the age of 86 and William in William died in April 1881. They were both buried in the Old Burial Ground in Fredericton.

William left his property in Fredericton to his three surviving children. The 600 acres on the Royal Road were left to his son William and his daughter Annie Hartt. As William and Annie both lived in New York State, they soon sold their share of the city land. The land in Hamtown was sold in the early 1900's. Son John raised his family in Fredericton where his descendants can still be found.

BLWYDDYN NEWYDD



DDA

2021

Did you know that your first visitor of the new year can change your luck? In Wales, it was believed that a dark-haired man should be the first person to cross your threshold in the new year. He would give you salt for seasoning, silver for wealth, coal for warmth, a match for

kindling and bread for sustenance, and bring you good luck all year. If the first visitor to cross your threshold in the new year was a woman or a red-haired man, you would have bad luck all year. The Welsh also believed that all debts should be repaid before the new year commenced, and that it was bad luck to loan anyone any money on New Year's Day. And, a person's behaviour on the first day of the new year was an indication of how they would behave for the remainder of the year!



OUR STORIES

Do you have a family story to share with others in our newsletter? If so, send it to bwheal@nb.sympatico.ca or to Janet Thomas, 100 Epworth Circle, Fredericton, NB E3A 2M6



AND IN 2020



God was spotted walking in the Welsh Mountains yesterday. A passerby asked him what he was doing. God answered "Working from home!"