

# of the country's founding peoples



*Cambriol, shown on John Mason's map of Newfoundland in 1625.*

joined by nearly 200 other Welsh settlers.

Two other groups went out at about the same time. In 1818, a brig, the *Fanny*, sailed from Carmarthen, taking 112 emigrants from the surrounding area; they founded the settlement of New Cambria in Nova Scotia. The following year another brig, the *Albion*, sailed from Cardigan with 183 emigrants, who founded Cardigan Settlement in New Brunswick.

The *Albion* belonged to the Davies family, whose members were important ship-owners in Cardigan; they would, perhaps, have brought further emigrants — a remarkable ballad, 'Hanes Ail Fordaith y Brig Albion' ('The Story of the Voyage of the Brig *Albion*'), was composed with a clear propaganda message — but their ship was lost off Ireland later that year.

Although they no longer conveyed emigrants, the Davies continue to have important shipping connections with Canada. Welsh slate went there, and timber came back to Britain. In addition, Welsh ship-owners began to buy ships built in Quebec and the Maritimes. And ships built in Prince Edward Island were used to bring copper ore to South Wales round the notorious Cape Horn from Chile.

During the period of mid-Victorian prosperity, fewer Welsh emigrants went to Canada, although 'pauper children' were shipped out from the Merthyr Tydfil workhouse. Towards the end of the 19th

century, however, the picture changed again. Britain was suffering from another depression while the Canadian government wanted immigrants to open up the prairie provinces.

In 1897, W L Griffiths, a Welsh-speaking Welshman who had emigrated to Canada as a boy in 1881, was appointed 'Welsh Agent' to organise the emigration. Exhibitions were mounted throughout Wales, especially at agricultural shows. Individuals undoubtedly emigrated as a result, but, rather ironically, the only two organised Welsh communities that were established in Canada during this period had their roots elsewhere. One group came from Patagonia to settle in Saskatchewan, and the other came from the United States to set up the Wood River settlement in Alberta.

Nevertheless, the future British Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, was drawn into Griffiths' campaign; he toured Canada in 1899, and paid a return visit in 1923. At that time, he told an audience in Montreal, 'I have just come from your great neighbours (the United States) where they have a different problem from yours; it is to weld all the races that comprise it into one common pattern.'

He compared the US to 'a great concrete mixer', and begged Canadians not to attempt the same approach. Oddly enough, his fellow-countrymen, the Welsh, have been among the slowest to heed his advice. ♣

## Canadian Studies in Britain



*The Canadian High Commissioner, H.E. Roy McMurtry, unveiling a plaque at the opening of the Canada Room, Queen's University, Belfast. Looking on are the former Vice-Chancellor Sir Peter Froggatt and Mr Nicholas Scott, former Education Minister for Northern Ireland.*

The study of the Welsh in Canada (see accompanying article) is an offshoot of the work carried out by the Canadian Studies in Wales Group (CSWG), which in turn is part of the overall Canadian Studies Programme that exists throughout the United Kingdom.

CSWG is a consortium of academics from various disciplines in different higher-education institutions

in Wales. The Group's main activities involve appointing a visiting Canadian Studies Fellow; holding day schools and conferences; producing occasional publications; and funding Canadian Studies speakers in Wales from other parts of Britain.

Similar groups exist in London (the London Conference for Canadian Studies) and in the south west of England (the South West Canadian Studies Group). In addition, a number of universities throughout Britain are recognised as Canadian Studies Centres. These include Edinburgh, Queen's Belfast, Leeds and Birmingham.

Each of the universities has its own programme of Canadian studies activities. Also, each researches and teaches various Canadian subjects, and has important Canadian books and papers in its library.

The various groups and universities are linked at the national level by the British Association for Canadian Studies (BACS). It publishes the *British Journal of Canadian Studies*; arranges an annual conference; produces a newsletter; and supports a number of special subjects groups that encourage the development of a Canadian dimension in libraries and resource centres throughout the United Kingdom.

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