

Sir William Vaughan
Cabot Martin and Tor Fosnaes
October 2, 2012

William Vaughan is usually referred to as “a Welsh writer” and it is his published works that define him in our time. With some works re-published long after his death, he was both prolific and influential.

His writings used a wealth of classical Latin and Greek literature and references and were, by modern standards, tedious; but at the time were considered revelatory and were well received by the legal fraternity, the Royal Court, and intellectual society of 17th century England. (NOTE on Reading and Writing)

He was deemed a visionary, especially in his single-minded, lifelong efforts to improve the lot of Welshmen at home and in his “plantation” scheme to colonize Newfoundland, which trade and products he expected would bring Wales a new wealth. Some have called his scheme impractical, and certainly there is some validity that it was more idealistic than realistic, and, perhaps, overall, mis-managed.

After the first attempt he finally contracted with Richard Whitbourne to establish New Cambriol in Trepassey Bay. More about that effort and its eventual outcomes will be covered by Cabot Martin in his presentation.

Vaughan, the second son of Walter Vaughan of Golden Grove (*Gelli Aur*, in Welsh), stood no chance of family inheritance and was, therefore, on his own. Sent away to school in London (probably Gray’s or Lincoln’s Inn) at a young age, excelled and matriculated; he then entered Jesus College, Oxford, at 14; within 9 years he achieved a B.A., an M.A., and a Bachelor of Common Law and published his first book at 23.

The Golden Grove moralised, in three Bookes: a Work very necessary for all such as would know how to governe themselves, their houses, or their countrey, was published in London, 1600, and an enlarged second edition was released in 1608. It is perhaps the most interesting of Vaughan's works as it describes the manners and diversions of the age, which, as a rule, he severely criticizes. It was the fourth of his books, the other three being Latin treatises on philosophical and religious matters published between 1597 and 1598.

Naturall and Artificiall Directions for Health derived from the best Philosophers, as well Moderne as Ancient, a medical book, dedicated to Sir Francis Bacon, included medical writings by other doctors of the time and was re-printed six times, the last being in 1633.

The Newfound Politicke, in 1626, was an indirect warning against concluding any alliance with Spain, and is dedicated to the King, who was at the time (through intermediaries) wooing a Spanish princess. It was based on his translation to English of an earlier book by an Italian author, Traiano Boccalini (1556 to 1613).

The Newlanders Cure, in 1630, presumably written during his Newfoundland stay, is a medical work, treating of the complaints most prevalent in Newfoundland, with an autobiographical dedication to his brother. He is often referred to as a *doctor*, rather than lawyer, based on this and his previous medical work.

The Church Militant, 1640, and *The Soules Exercise in the Daily Contemplation of our Saviours Birth, Life, Passion, and Resurrection*, 1641, are large books, written in verse, the latter being dedicated to both the king and queen.

In 1611 he published *The Spirit of Detraction coniured and contacted in Seven Circles: a Work both Divine and Morall, fit to be perused by the Libertines of this Age, who endeavour by their detracting and derogatory Speeches to embezell the Glory of God and the Credit of their Neighbours*. This was reissued in 1630 as the *The Arraignment of Slander, Periury, Blasphemy, and other Malicious Sinnes*. This near-mystical work resulted from his spiritual awakening resulting from the death of Elsbeth when the house was struck by lightning. While most of his subsequent work bears evidence of strong religious feeling, he printed this to refute *Disgracefull libelles* that were *dispersed farre and nigh* about his wife's death.

She was an heiress struck down mysteriously, shortly after the death of their only child; he was the impecunious second son married into money; no doubt there were *scandalous libels* going about.

In 1626 he published *The Golden Fleece*. It is one of a series of *discourses* prevalent in the period that sought to rationalize and promote North American colonization. Vaughan was a contemporary, possible business partner and close friend, of many of the colonizing leaders of the time who were promoting the settlement of Virginia, New Scotland, Bermuda and Guyana, and, in our interest, Newfoundland.

The Golden Fleece extols Newfoundland's climate and natural resources as a way for Wales and the Welsh to re-establish national pride and status. He based his scheme on cod (which he called Neptune's sheep), and lays at their exploitation the basis for immeasurable wealth. He was not fixated on fish, but saw lumber, food, furs, and minerals as supplemental to a successful colony. The book is still considered the greatest of the *discourses*, even given its somewhat convoluted imagery and elliptical writing style, typical of them all.

Tracing Vaughan's court records in Carmarthenshire it is interesting to see that he was active through the period 1610 to about 1620, with many cases found for and against him, usually involving land squabbles with local landowners and tenant farmers as part of his *inherited* Tor Coed estate. Then there is a legal lacuna and he doesn't appear in the records until the late 1620's, presumably after his years spent in Newfoundland. Scholars have argued for and against his presence in Newfoundland. Here again, you'll hear more from Cabot Martin on this aspect of Vaughan's life and career.

Vaughan married Anne Christmas, from Colchester, on England's east coast, about as far away from Wales as you can get in England, in 1616, eight years after the untimely death of Elsbeth. Anne was a rich woman in her own right, the only child of a wealthy Colchester merchant. She obviously had her own wealth and is noted as being a supporter of the local church. Her estate showed she was owed well over 1000 pounds, a notable amount for the times, in loans and investments. She died at 84, a notable age for the times, in 1672, 31 years after William.

Anne gave birth to six children, five girls and one son, Edward, who was an important figure in Wales in his own right. Educated in law like William, he was part of the Welsh team which negotiated the terms of surrender to the English Parliament in 1645. He was knighted in Oxford in 1643; married Jemima Bacon; their great-great-grandson, John, was the last Vaughan to own Golden Grove and on his death he willed it to his friend John Campbell, the first Baron Cawdor.

Year	Event	Age
1577	William Vaughan born at Golden Grove; variant birth 1575	
1592	Vaughan matriculates from Jesus College, Oxford	14
1595	Vaughan achieves B.A.	17
1597	Vaughan achieves M.A.	20
1600	Vaughan achieves B.C.L.; travels; publishes Golden Grove	23
1605	Vaughan achieves L.L.B.; marries Elsbeth, heiress of Torcoed	28
1608	Elsbeth Vaughan struck by lightning and killed	31
1611	Vaughan publishes against <i>slandorous libels</i> about wife's death	34
1616	Vaughan marries Anne Christmas of Colchester	39
1617	Vaughan is Sherriff in Carmarthenshire; son Edward born	40
1623	Edward admitted to Gray's Inn (?)	46
1626	Vaughan publishes The Golden Fleece (with Mason's map)	49
1630	Vaughan publishes Newlanders Cure	53
1638	Vaughan knighted	61
1641	Vaughan's death	64

William Vaughan timeline – life and family

1588	Spanish Armada defeated; Bible translated into Welsh	11
1596	Sir Francis Drake dies	19
1600	East India Company founded	23
1603	Elizabeth I dies without issue; Crown reverts to Stuart James I	26
1605	Cervantes publishes Don Quixote	28
1606	Treaty of Windsor unites Wales and England; John Milton born	29
1610	Bermuda, Virginia and Londonderry companies founded	33
1611	King James Authorized Bible	34
1614	New Netherland Company (furs) founded in Amsterdam	37
1616	Shakespeare dies	39
1619	Beginning of Wales-Europe trade boom	42
1620	Whitbourne's and Mason's discourses published	43
1625	James I dies; ascension of Charles I	48
1626	Sir Francis Bacon dies	49
1632	Christopher Wren is born; death of Gustavus II Adolphus of Sweden	55
1640	Portugal gains independence from Spain	63
1642	Start of English Civil War	

William Vaughan timeline – England and Europe

Gruffydd Fychan married Katherine, daughter of Maredudd ap Tudur (executed 1461)

Hugh Fychan of Carmarthenshire married Jane, daughter of Morris ab Owen from Cwrt Bryn Y Beirdd, near Carreg Cennen

John Vaughan (d. 1574) of Golden Grove married Katherine Morgan of Muddlescombe, Kidwelly

Walter Vaughan (d. 1597) of Golden Grove married Mary Rice of Dinefwr then Lettice Laugharne

John 1575-1634 Golden Grove 1 st Earl Carberry	William 1577-1641 Torycoed, Llangydeirne	Richard Derllys, Merthyr Carmarthenshire	Henry 1587-1660 Derwydd, Llandybie	Elinor m. John Prothero Hawksbrook, Llangynog Carmarthenshire
Richard 1600-1686 Golden Grove 2 nd Earl Carberry	Edward 1617-1658 Torycoed, Llangydeirne and Essex	John (c.1624-1684) Derllys, Carmarthenshire	m. Rachel Derwydd	Elizabeth m. William Walter Roch Castle, Pembrokeshire
John 1640-1703 Golden Grove and Chelsea 3 rd Earl Carberry	Richard 1648-1728 Torycoed and Shenfield Place, Essex	John 1663-1772 Derllys Court, Carmarthen		Lucy 1630-1658 Mistress of Charles I
Anne d. 1751 m. Charles Poulet, Duke of Bolton, no issue	John 1693-1765 Shenfield Place, Essex and Lincoln's Inn Fields, London	Bridget 1698-1779 m. Arthur Bevan of Laugharne		James 1649-1685 Duke of Monmouth m. Anne Scott
	Richard 1726-1781 Received Golden Grove from third cousin once removed, Anne Bolton			
	John 1757-1804 Last Vaughan to live at Golden Grove			

Walter Vaughan's descendants, showing Golden Grove's owners; the switch from brother John's line to William's took place when Anne Bolton, John's great-grand-daughter, left it to Richard, William's great-great-grand-son; Richard's son John died without issue; he left it to his friend John Campbell, the first Baron Cawdor.

Walter's daughter Elinor's grand-daughter was mistress to Charles I and mother of James, first Duke of Monmouth, showing the close connections between the Vaughans and the Royal family.

Vaughan (originally Ffychan, meaning "little") is a common Welsh name adopted during the transition period from patronyms (Willam married Elsbeth ap Daffyd) to surnames. Many Vaughan emigres to North America and Australia hailed from other Welsh counties, notably Pembroke and Glamorgan.

Golden Grove

The estate of Gelli Aur (Golden Grove) has its foundations in the 16th Century when it became the home of the Vaughan (originally Fychan) family. Through the next three centuries they were to become the principal Carmarthenshire family, the estate of Gelli Aur at one time comprising over 50,000 acres with 27 extensive manors and lordships and six castles. The last Vaughan to live at Gelli Aur died without immediate heirs and the estate passed in 1804 to his close friend, John Campbell later Lord Cawdor, of Stackpole Court, Pembrokeshire.

The original house at Gelli Aur was built around 1565 and was situated to the north of the present Mansion. It was of considerable size and comfort, as witnessed by the window tax on 104 windows paid in 1785.

The foundations of the new Mansion were laid in 1827, the former residence being pulled down. Sir Jeffrey Wyattville was commissioned to produce the design, his most celebrated work being the transformation of Windsor Castle for King George IV. The house was completed in 1832 and externally is little changed from that date. A Grade II Listed Building, its interior ground plan reveals much of the lifestyle and aspirations of the 19th Century gentry. The main block consisted of only 5 reception rooms and 6 bedrooms/dressing rooms, a relatively small residence for its period. The servants quarters and stables in contrast were extensive and reflect the wealth and grandeur of the Cawdors' lifestyle.

THE GOLDEN FLEECE

Diuided into three Parts,

Under which are discovered the Errours of Religion, the Vices and Decayes of the Kingdome, and lastly the wayes to get wealth, and to restore Trading so much complained of.

TRANSPORTED FROM Cambrioll C. Iobos, out of the Southermost Part of the Iland, commonly called the NEWFOUNDLAND,

By Orphens Iunior,

For the generall and perpetuall Good of Great BRITAIN.

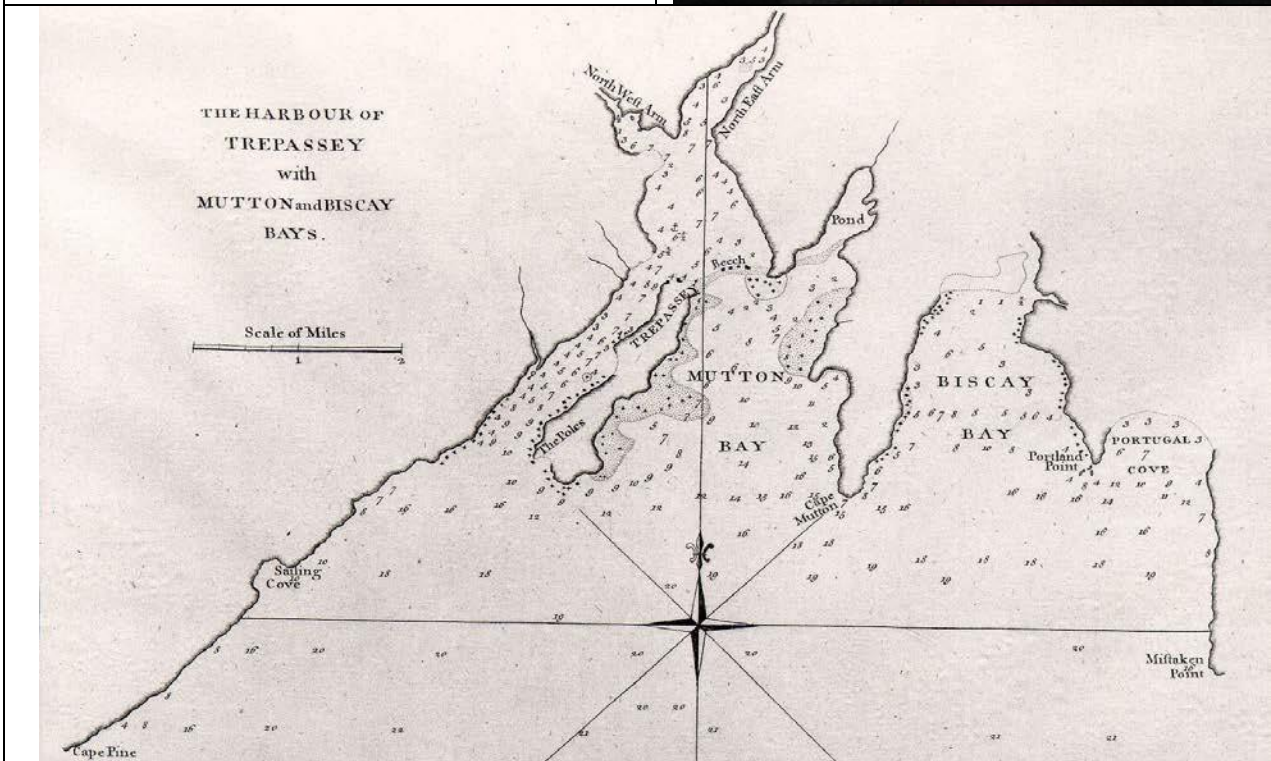
LONDON,

Printed for Francis Williams, and are to bee sold at his Shop at the signe of the Globe, ouer against the Royall Exchange, 1626.



Top left – Plaque at Golden Grove, Vaughan's birthplace
Bottom left – Map of Wales

Top right – Title page of *The Golden Grove*
Bottom right – Vaughan's plaque in St. Cyndern's Church where he lies in an unmarked grave



Top left – View of Golden Grove’s Arboretum; the Vaughan’s ancestral seat was most recently an agricultural college and regional community park

Top right – Interior of St. Cynderns

Bottom – Chart of Trepassey Bay made a century and a half after Vaughan