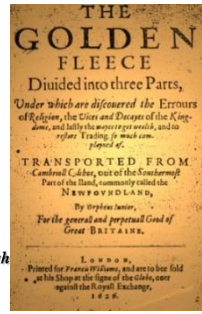


# THE SIR WILLIAM VAUGHAN TRUST INCORPORATED BULLETIN



01 May 2015 - Vol 3. No. 2

***This is the ninth Bulletin issued by The Sir William Vaughan Trust Incorporated.  
These Bulletins are meant to update you on The Trust's activities and plans.***



## **The Sir William Vaughan Trust Incorporated Project Activities**

01 March 2015 – Annual General Meeting and Election of Directors to the Board

15 March – The Trust Twitter and Facebook sites established

Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/swvtrust/>

Twitter



<https://twitter.com/SirWmVaughan> or username @SirWmVaughan

15 and 22 March, 2015 – Board meetings – orient new members and appoint Executive and committee members



22 March Directors' meeting around R. Lewis's table; Steve Millan off screen left;  
l-r: Con Obrien, Carol Osmond, Ryan Lewis, Pat Curran, Jim Hodder  
and Tor Fosnæs taken by C. Martin

06 April 2015 – Community Engagement Meeting in Trepassey – presentation of activities to date, introduce new board members and presentation of Archaeological Research findings – see story below



## International Virtual Symposium on Early Modern Wales and Newfoundland 2012

IVS EMWN 2012 remains available for new postings and comments.

*Berry census of 1675 Renews to St. John's; a Welsh perspective* was updated in March 2015 and a new paper, *Researches of Interest arising from a letter thought to be written by Richard Whitbourne and ancillary extracts on Whitbourne and other subjects* (which includes an investigative report on *ballast dumping*) was posted.

Recent Readings entries collected from all Bulletins are now available on the web site; access it through the Bulletins link or by going to [www.swvp.ca/Bibliography.pdf](http://www.swvp.ca/Bibliography.pdf).

Send papers or other material as .PDF files to [papers@swvp.ca](mailto:papers@swvp.ca).

Send comments or discussion about IVS submissions to [comments@swvp.ca](mailto:comments@swvp.ca).



### Reports



Robyn Fleming's report of the 2014 field testing program is posted to the website under the *News and Bulletins* link. Excerpts were included in the 01 May Bulletin. The Board is currently planning an expanded 2015 field research project. The oldest artifacts unearthed in 2014 were from Jackson's/Perriman's plantation area. Robyn describes them as

*North Devon Sgraffito sherds*

*Production Date Range: 1635-1710*

*Place of Origin: England*

*Vessel Forms: Plates and Jugs*



### Membership

An important goal for The Trust is to build membership. Membership fees are required to defray administrative costs, the preparation of the Bulletin, to maintain the website, and to build The Trust's coffers to support its research and field work. Aggregate membership fees are used to lever cost shared programs wherever possible. Simply email [tor@swvp.ca](mailto:tor@swvp.ca) or call 709-682-0739 to complete an application and arrange for the transfer of the fee. Donations from Community or Sustaining Partners, are welcome. A receipt and membership certificate will be e-mailed to you.

Currently there are 62 members with nine serving as Directors (see website under *Board of Directors* link).



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members gathered at O'Reilly's Irish Pub on George Street on Sunday 01 March, St. David's Day for The Trust's Annual General Meeting and Election of Directors. Reports were presented by Chair Cabot Martin and Treasurer Tor Fosnæs along with the usual agenda items. Robyn Fleming presented a brief report on her 2014 archaeological field testing efforts (see website under *Reports and Bulletins* link). Four new Board members were elected to serve with the five existing members who were re-elected. The Board's nine members are: Cabot Martin, Pat Curran, Ryan Lewis, Tor Fosnæs, Lynn Hughes, Con O'Brien, Carol Osmond, Steve Millan, and Jim Hodder.

The meeting concluded with a hearty bowl of stew prepared by the O'Reilly's kitchen and an evening of entertainment featuring SWVT members Con O'Brien and Ronnie Power and some of their musical friends. Fourteen new memberships were sold and another \$250 was raised at the door during the entertainment.

At the first Board meeting (two days 16 March and 23 March) the executive Committee was selected (Mr. Martin, Chair, Mr. Curran, Secretary, and Mr. Fosnæs, Treasurer); four members (Mr. Fosnæs, Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Osmond and Mr. Lewis) now act as a Communications Committee; Mr. O'Brien and Ms. Osmond have set up Twitter and Facebook accounts on behalf of The Trust and member Ronnie Power is updating the website. Mr. Hodder is chair of a Fundraising Committee.

The Board is preparing for a strategic planning meeting for Trepassey in early May at which community partners and residents will participate with a view to accessing community resources and opportunities to promote Sir William Vaughan and The Trust.



AGM attendees at O'Reilley's on St. David's Day; photos by R. Power and C. Osmond





06 April saw six Board members in Trepassey at a successful Community Engagement Meeting. About 30 people attended to hear an update on activities of The Trust delivered by Chair Cabot Martin. Robyn Fleming presented the 2014 field testing results and took questions including future plans, how to get the artifacts on display in Trepassey and general questions about funding plans. All three community partners were present at the new conference room of the Southern Avalon Development Association in the Trepassey Opportunities Complex. A Town of Trepassey representative attended and brought commitment for increased support to The Trust, the Town also provided refreshments.

The meeting and The Trust was featured in the Irish Loop Post of 08 April.

# IRISH LOOP POST

Vol 8 #7 The Community Newspaper of the Goulds, the Southern Shore & St. Mary's Bay April 8, 2015

## Trepassey gets update on its Welsh past

About 30 local residents turned out at the Trepassey Opportunities Center on Easter Monday night to hear the latest news about the Sir William Vaughan Trust research efforts in the Lower Coast area of Trepassey.

Cabot Martin, Chairman of the Trust, started the meeting by thanking the Trust's three community partners – the

Southern Avalon Development Association, Trepassey Lions Club and the Trepassey Development Corporation, as well as the Town of Trepassey. Martin said without the early support of those groups the Trust could not have achieved its present positive position.

Martin said that as a result of two good years of research, the key word for 2015

is "expansion."

He stressed the Trust's commitment to working with its community partners through the next stages of investigation and to support them in any local development activities relating to the Colony of Cambriol.

Next year will mark the 400th anniversary of Welshman William Vaughan obtaining ownership of

Cambriol from the Guy Colony. His portion of territory consisted of all land on the Avalon peninsula south of a line drawn from Calvert straight across to Placentia Bay.

After an initial attempt to establish his colony in the Renew area in 1617 to 1619, Vaughan sold Renew and all lands to the north to Lords

See "Lower" page 2

## Lower Coast focus of exploration

Continued from page 1

Carey and Calvert in 1620.

Vaughan henceforth focused on Trepassey as the center of his enterprise and plantation until his claim was expropriated by the King in 1637.

Martin said the Trust is focused for the time being on the Lower Coast in Trepassey, particularly in the area of the 17th century Perriman's Plantation.

The Trust now has an expanded board of directors, including Con O'Brien, Jim Hodder, Carol Osmond and Steve Millan, who join the old board of Martin, Pat Curran, Ryan Lewis, Lynn Hughes and Tor Fosnaes. Martin said the nine-person board is able to take on more activities, including a membership drive and a fund raising effort.

Robyn Fleming, who conducted archaeological testing on the Lower Coast in 2013 and 2014, gave a report and indicated that in an area known as Jackson's Plantation, some of the oldest artifacts can be dated to the



Trepassey's wind swept and wave battered Lower Coast, which is joined by an isthmus to the mainland. The area is the focus of archaeological work on the Sir William Vaughan Colony of the early 1600s.

mid-17th century.

Coincidentally, Ryan Lewis at Memorial University's Queen Elizabeth II Library, has uncovered records pertaining to an 1840's land sale including holdings making up Jackson's Plantation and indicating the location next door of the 17th century Perriman's Plantation, which had been owned by the Perriman family since at least 1680 and re-granted in 1699 by King William for 999 years.

The reports were followed by a question and answer

session. Some questions were raised about future plans and how the community could access the artifacts for public display. The Trust plans a strategic planning session in Trepassey within a month at

which time specific community partners and Trust members will discuss how to proceed in documenting and promoting the history and culture of Trepassey Harbour dating from four centuries



## Recent Readings

*History of Carmarthenshire*, edited by Sir John E. Lloyd, History Society of Carmarthenshire, Volumes I and II, London 1935 and 1938.

Printed on handmade paper these massive tomes cover 10,000 years of archaeology and geology. Vaughan references are few and far between. Sir William is noted as decrying the state of the peasantry, impoverished and abused in his times and being happy and productive under the age of the Welsh Princes and monastic overrule from 1200 to 1500. Vaughan's motives for colonization can be read between the lines. The Norman conquest of Wales and the subsequent development of Cambro-Norman society is interesting and sets up many post-Reformation developments.

*History of Wales*, John Davies, Penguin, London. 1994

Davies shows how Wales was the western end of a great Briton (Celt) culture that included most of southern England and most northern parts of France. It survived, by absorption, the Roman conquests of the first century, adapted and modified Roman culture through the next 400 years, and descended into legend and myth through the next 600 years, struggling against the Teutonic (Dane, Angle, Saxon) invasions, until the Norman conquests of 1100 to 1200. The Teutons, like the Romans, ran into a near impassible border in the north and south giving rise to the great Briton kings Alfred and Arthur whose line was mixed with the Teutons and eventually defeated by the Normans.

Of interest are his explanations of how prehistoric Celtic invasions came from the west, a practice followed later and found more effective than coming overland. The Tudor ascendancy of Henry VI, and the subsequent shattering of the Plantagenet Richard III at Bosworth Field, was achieved by coming from the west, through Wales.

Little mention of Vaughans is made and the description of William's colonization scheme calls him Robert!

Both Lloyd and Davies accounts of the post-Roman period up to the 15<sup>th</sup> century are well worth a read; many events and personalities leading up to the time of the Vaughans helps understand where once they stood and why.

*The Reformation – a narrative history related by contemporary observers and participants*, Hans J. Hillebrand, Baker Bookhouse, Grand Rapids, 1972 (reprinted 1978; ninth printing 1992)

Wales, Scotland and England are lumped together with a concentration on the Scottish reformation; the use of contemporary documents provides insight into the political and social times that gave rise to families like the Vaughans as they rose to the top.

*The Love Letters of Henry Eighth to Anne Boleyn*, Henry VIII, edited and arranged by J.O. Halliwell Phillips, Forgotten Books, London 2014, Original copyright by John W. Luce, as printed by D. B. Updike, The Merrymount Press, Boston, 1906.

A fascinating look into the mind and times of the uxorious Henry. Written between 1526 and 1528 during Anne's banishment from Court. Some letters speak of him killing a hart for her, the Royal deer motif was obviously a sign of great commitment, and several letters have small rebus devices in the signature. Henry was 36 at the time (although his ardor is like a teen), on the throne for 17 years with five wives and 20 years to go.

Among other impediments to the correspondence was a period of a sweating plague in 1527. The plague was quickly fatal and raged throughout England and continental Europe between the 1480's and 1550's. Now thought to be a variant of hantavirus it disappeared as mysteriously as it appeared.

*Between Two Worlds: How the English Became Americans*, Malcolm Gaskill, New York: Basic Books, 2014.

Gaskill's book takes the reader from 17<sup>th</sup> Century England to Newfoundland, New England, Virginia, and the Caribbean. Many of the early migrants who crossed the Atlantic wanted to create a new world that reflected aspects of the old, including feudal estates, small-holdings, and the early church. But their high idealism was shaped and transformed by the harsh realities of life in the wilderness, as well as by the real world disputes and social problems that they invariably brought with them.

**History of Wales** from [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Wales) and **Wales and the Normans: 1067–1283** from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Wales#Wales\\_and\\_the\\_Normans:\\_1067.E2.80.931283](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Wales#Wales_and_the_Normans:_1067.E2.80.931283)

A great rundown of Welsh history; see also [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Anglo-Welsh\\_Wars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Anglo-Welsh_Wars) covering nearly the millenium from the post-Roman era up to the early 1400's.



### The Vaughans in Lloyd's *A History of Carmarthenshire*

After much searching The Trust was able to get a copy of the Sir John E. Lloyd edited two volume history; large, beautiful books printed on handmade paper, on loan from the University of Guelph through the efforts of SWVT member Ryan Lewis and the inter-library loan service of MUN's QEII Library. A special thanks to all concerned.

Reprints of the prehistory section and the 1236-1538 political history were bought and read before the Lloyd books showed up and were made available to Board members.

The Vaughan references below were written by G. Dyfnallt Owen in his contribution on Agriculture. On pp. 268-269, he starts with a direct quote of William Vaughan:

"But nowadays, yeomanry is decayed, hospitalite gone to wracke and husnbandrie almost quite fallen," wrote William Vaughan of Golden Grove in 1608, and he goes on to adduce his reasons for indulging in such a pessimistic generalization on the deplorable state of agriculture and the retrogression of rural communal life in Wales at the beginning of the 17th century. The reason is that landlords, "not content with such revenewes as their presdecessours received nor yet satisfied that they live like swinish epicures quietly at their ease, doing no good to the Commonwealth and do leave no ground for tillage, but do enclose for pasture many thousand acres of ground within one hedge, and husbandmen are thrust out of their owne, or else by deceit constrained to sell all they have. As so by hook or by crook they must needs depart away, poor seely soules, men, women and children. – *The Golden Grove, moralised in Three Books*: 1608-book iii, chapter 23."

"As a member of the Carmarthenshire gentry, Vaughan was too much of an idealist for his conception of the reciprocal obligations and duties of tenant and landlord to be accepted and practised by his contemporaries. But, he realised that the source of the countryside's wealth, and the true foundation of its material advancement lay in the preservation of a contented tenantry and in the maintenance of a progressive system of agriculture. To him, that system consisted of a well-balanced distribution of arable and pastoral farming; any cessation in the cultivation of the soil, or on the other hand, any substantial decrease in the number of live stock he considered to be detrimental to the true interests of the rural inhabitants. And there is little doubt that a real apprehension of a possible decline in agriculture, coupled with despair and indignation, lies in this terse indictment of rural condition in Wales in 1608.

For the causes of this apparent decay in rural operations in Carmarthenshire one must turn to the history of the shire under the Tudor regime, and here it is interesting to note that Vaughan refers to certain events of primary importance shown latterly to have contributed towards the transformation which overtook rural life and habits during the 16th century. The first, as he remarks, was the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the appropriation of their lands by the Crown, and the resultant exploitation and impoverishment of the tenants by the alien landlords who purchased or leased them."

Owen explains that the traditional relationship between monks and tenants was based on mutual understanding of the individual roles and a genuine interest in agricultural methods and balances. The advent of alien lay landlords destroyed the old intimacy which had existed on monastic lands, and substituted a more rigorous discipline and materialistic outlook for the human and paternal attitude of the monks.

Later, Owen writes on p. 275,

"Thus the Carmarthenshire tenantry was subjected on all sides to the active hostility and subterfuge of landlords and land speculators alike, and as Vaughan points out, the law did not help them very much to defend their interests. On the contrary, it aggravated their financial difficulties, and it was this aspect of litigation that incensed him. Not only did he rebuke the disputatious element amongst the tenantry, but he remonstrated against the tyranny of the courts of law at large and the rapacious methods of their officials."

And, in a footnote, he again quotes Vaughan:

- Vaughan, *The GOLDEN FLEECE*, PART II, C. 6, "Nowadayes we reare up two legged Asses which doe nothing by wrangle in Law the one with the other, By this meanes we consume our precious time not to be redeemed. By this ungracious brood we become impoverished."

Owen goes on to explain how the situation was counterproductive throughout the 16<sup>th</sup> and well into the 17<sup>th</sup> century. No mention is made of the fact that the Vaughans were indeed part of the very landowners who took over monastic lands, not the least of which was Golden Grove itself. William's brothers were all part of the very system he decried and the system which gave him his opportunities.

For the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Owen opens with an explanation of the new social life (pp. 285-286); the Vaughan family were used as exemplars.

"The class of gentry was already separated from the yeomen and less important farmers, and formed an order apart. They possessed prejudices, privileges, and notions that tended to make them more and more exclusive, and enabled them to assume social importance in the same way as they had obtained the political power of the older aristocracy. They had long shown that they were favourably impressed by the materialistic conception of their superior position in rural society which had percolated over the border into Carmarthenshire, and had not hesitated to put precept into practice. Now, they began to assimilate or subordinate their old culture to that which prevailed in contemporary England. They studied at the older English universities, participated in court life and functions, imbibe those ideas which were alien to the mental outlook of their countrymen, and in time became so completely anglicised in language and thought that they could find no sympathy for the aspirations and ideals of the lower rural classes, which essentially remained Welsh in spirit and tongue. The disappearance of mutual understanding and respect between the landlord and his native dependents sometimes took a violent form, as in the case of the second Lord Carberry of Golden Grove, who on one occasion, maltreated his tenants in a particularly inhuman fashion, by cropping their ears, cutting out their tongues, and dispossessing them of their land."

Owen points out that William was the antithesis of this new lordly behaviour and such was his affection and concern for the tenantry that he proposed colonization to the New World as a solution.

*Agriculture* by G. Dyfnallt Owen, in *Economic and Social Life*, Chapter IV, Section i. of *A History of Carmarthenshire*, edited for the London Carmarthenshire Society by Sir John E. Lloyd, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A., *From the Act of Union (1536 to 1900)* Vol. II. The London Carmarthenshire Society. Cardiff. 1939.

## Postscript

A.G. Prys-Jones 1950's *The Story of Carmarthenshire* in two volumes is on order; Prys-Jones states emphatically that William Vaughan spent time in Newfoundland; Board member Lynn Hughes has tracked down Prys-Jones papers and will attempt to find the source for Prys-Jones assertion.

Here is the extract of Prys-Jones as found on an online books repository:

### New Camhriol

In 1616 Sir William (Vaughan) obtained a sub-grant of land from the 'Company of Adventurers to Newfoundland'. This was a commercial enterprise headed by Sir Francis Bacon, to whom James I had granted authority to colonise the island. Vaughan's territory lay on the south coast of the curiously-shaped eastern part of Newfoundland. It included Cape Race.

Naming this area Cambriol as a compliment to his native land, he felt certain that here was the new country 'reserved by God for us Britons'. John Guy of Bristol, himself a Newfoundland pioneer, had hailed the venture in verse:

New Cambriol's planter, sprung from Golden Grove,  
Old Cambria's soil up to the skies doth raise  
For which let Fame crown him with sacred bays

In 1617 Sir William sent a number of Welsh colonists of both sexes to Cambriol, at his own expense, He had intended to sail with them to settle permanently there. But ill-health prevented him from leaving Wales. During 1617 he met Sir Richard Whitbourne, a man of considerable experience in colonisation, and offered him the governorship of Cambriol, Whitbourne accepted, and in 1618 he departed to Newfoundland with another group of emigrants. Two ships undertook the voyage, one carrying the settlers, the other engaged on a fishing expedition, but also conveying stores and equipment needed by the colonists. Unfortunately the fishing vessel was waylaid by one of Raleigh's captains who had turned pirate. The loss of this ship and its cargo was a severe blow.

When Sir Richard and his newcomers arrived, they found that the original settlers had made very poor progress. Little had been achieved in any direction. The new Governor, in fact, decided that the earlier emigrants had been thoroughly lazy and shown much lack of pioneering initiative. So he sent all but six of them home again. This loss of manpower compelled Vaughan to hand over the northern part of Cambriol to Lords Falkland and Baltimore, two other pioneers who agreed to look after it until things improved.

In 1622 Vaughan himself sailed to the colony with more settlers and supplies. During the three or four years he stayed there it appears that he spent more time in writing *The Golden Fleece* and other works than in galvanising his colonists into hard work, He returned to England to arrange for the publication of these books, and went back again to Cambriol in 1628. In fairness to the colonists, it must be said that they had to face persistent enemies who wantonly destroyed much of their property, and so wrecked their chances of prosperity. These were pirates, corsairs and privateers who preyed on the islanders. Perhaps worst of all were the ruthless French and other fishermen of the Grand Banks, who hated the settlers because of their encroachment upon their waters. Canada was in the hands of the French, Crops and buildings were set on fire, trees mutilated, havens blocked and fish-drying sheds broken up.

In 1626 Sir William reported that the damage done in pillage and destruction amounted to £40,000 and that, in addition, his colonists had lost a hundred pieces of cannon. A further blow was the Arctic winter of 1628, though the Cambriol people did not suffer as severely from cold and scurvy as Lord Baltimore's settlers further north. But Sir William was still undaunted. He returned to England in 1630 to settle his own financial affairs. He wrote, that for all he could see, he would have to rely upon his own resources to support Cambriol until the colony 'be better strengthened'.

At the same time he made great efforts to persuade his brother-in-law, Sir Henry Salusbury of Denbigh, with "some gentlemen of North Wales" to join him in Newfoundland where, he said, they would be greeted with open arms. But though he made them grants of land there, not one Squire responded to his call.

A further instance of Sir William's far-sightedness is to be found in the medical handbook which he published in 1630. This was entitled *Newlander's Cure*. It contained information and advice designed for colonists on the preservation of health, with curious prescriptions for sea-sickness, scurvy and numerous other ailments. This book makes him a pioneer also in the adaptation of medical knowledge, such as it was then, to the special needs of emigrants.



The Welsh atmosphere of Cambriol is clearly indicated in its title, together with other place names like Vaughan's Cove, Golden Grove, Cardiff, Pembroke, Cardigan, Carmarthen and Brecon. These names appear on John Mason's map of Newfoundland published about 1622. It is uncertain whether Sir William returned to the colony after 1630. In view of the persistent depredations of pirates and the fierce antagonism of the men of the French fishing fleets, it was becoming more and more difficult to establish Cambriol as a self supporting concern. The founder's resources no doubt were becoming severely strained, and he appears to have had no financial backing from any of his fellow countrymen. Finally, the gallant pioneer, now approaching sixty years of age, had to abandon his cherished dream of a prosperous New Wales some time between 1630 and 1637.

In 1637 the Privy Council was officially informed that the efforts of pioneers like Sir William, Lord Baltimore and other "men, ingenious and of excellent parts", had failed. A new monopoly over the whole island was granted to another Newfoundland adventurer, Sir David Kirke, though trouble with the fishermen and the pirates continued throughout the 17th century.

It would be difficult to find a nobler tribute to Sir William Vaughan than that written by Dr E. Roland Williams: "Whatever Vaughan's shortcomings - and they were many - at least the crime of the unlit lamp and the ungirt loin is not to be laid to his charge. He spared no pains or sacrifices in his attempt to realise his ambition, and his devotion to his ideal burns with a clear light through the mists and fumes of those eccentricities and absurdities which were also part of his character ..."

Before Vaughan had been laid to rest in the little church in the valley of Llangyndeyrn August, 1641, the silent,prymaeval wilderness was already erasing, slowly, but relentlessly, all the signs of his strivings and sacrifices. On the island itself, the Welsh place-names have long disappeared, and apart from the name "Newfoundland", which, some years ago, at any rate, denoted a farm or two in the mid Tywi Valley, there is no memorial left of this courageous pioneer. He was a man whom Carmarthenshire should be proud to honour.

A.G. Prys- Jones, *The Story of Carmarthenshire*