

# THE SIR WILLIAM VAUGHAN TRUST INCORPORATED BULLETIN



03 March 2014 - Vol 2. No.1

## **Message from the Chair**

This is the fifth Bulletin issued by The Sir William Vaughan Trust Incorporated. These Bulletins are meant to update you on The Trust's activities and plans. Thank you to everyone who made the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual St. David's Day Event at O'Reilly's such a great success and welcome to those who became new members of The Trust.



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

### **Lower Coast Archaeological Testing Project**

The Trust is pleased to announce an extension to the Department of Innovation, Business and Rural Development project which will allow a second season of archaeological testing in 2014.

Art Clausnitzer, a doctoral student at Memorial University, plans to research early 17<sup>th</sup> century fishing settlements in Maine and Newfoundland, in particular, in Trepassey. In a Mutual Cooperation agreement with Mr. Clausnitzer, The Trust will support his efforts, provide whatever assistance it can in the Trepassey area, and share in his archaeological findings; and The Trust's testing program findings will be shared with him. It is anticipated this mutually beneficial arrangement will become the sound basis for a long-term archaeological program in the Trepassey area. The Board wishes Mr. Clausnitzer every success in his studies.

### **Dr. Roberta Buchanan and Sir William Vaughan**

The Trust has been given access to the private papers and document collections of Dr. Roberta Buchanan, retired professor of English and Women's Studies at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Dr. Buchanan turned her first sabbatical, after completing her Ph.D. in early modern poetry in the early 1980's, to researching Sir William Vaughan. She transcribed original documents held in Wales and in California and amassed a lengthy Vaughan bibliography. The collection is now in the hands of Ryan Lewis, Board member and employee of MUN's Queen Elizabeth II Library, pending cataloguing, preserving and eventual disposition according to Dr. Buchanan's wishes.

### **Presenting archaeological findings to Trepassey residents**

03 December 2013, The Trust Board members met with residents of the Lower Coast and other Trepassey residents to present the 2013 test findings. Mr. Martin spoke generally about The Trust's aims and objectives; Mr. Fosnaes presented a brief of the results; the Vallis topographic map was a topic of great interest and conversation.

Lower Coast residents were very supportive of the 2014 field program and had some questions about its long-term implications. One suggested Trepassey might find benefit from "twinning" with a town in Wales; Mr. Martin, offered his advice and counsel should the Trepassey residents wish to pursue this idea, particularly in helping to choose a suitable "twin".



## **Provincial Historic Commemorations Program**

Ms. Anita Best, a member of the Provincial Commemorations Board, wrote The Trust suggesting Sir William Vaughan might be a worthy nominee for historical commemoration. The nomination forms are downloaded and The Trust Board will prepare a nomination for the June 2014 deadline. See program details at [www.seethesites.ca/commemorations](http://www.seethesites.ca/commemorations).

## **Greetings from Carmarthen**

Just before St. David's Day, the Carmarthen Town Council and The Trust exchanged greetings and well wishes. Cabot Martin will be visiting Wales in March and plans a visit with the Mayor and Council with the intention of strengthening the ties between Newfoundland and Wales. The Carmarthen Council is extremely interested in The Trust's efforts to promote Vaughan and will continue to support The Trust's efforts over there, including access to archival and other materials that may come into view.

## **St. David's Day event 2014**

About 35 people attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual St. David's Day event at O'Reilly's Pub on George Street on 02 March 2014 (see page 6 for photos of the event and the stew!). A hearty thank you to O'Reilly's for use of their space and for the excellent services and help by their staff. The event was organized and hosted by The Trust member Con O'Brien who entertained the assembly with some Welsh favourites and who provided a huge pot of lamb stew made with local Bay Bulls lamb and leeks.

Several Welsh people now living in St. John's attended and many expressed interest in furthering their association with The Trust. One lady was born near and played on the grounds of Golden Grove as a child. Special guests Mayor Con Finlay and Councillor Ken Molloy, with their spouses, made it down the shore from Trepassey; they were introduced to several of The Trust members and to Arthur Clausnitzer who plans archaeological research work in Trepassey in 2014.

The assembly was welcomed by Cabot Martin who spoke briefly about Sir William Vaughan and Tor Fosnaes who gave a brief of The Trust's 2013 activities; an appeal for membership resulted in 23 new members.

## **Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers**

An annual general meeting was held before the St. David's Day event. Agenda items included adoption of The Trust by-laws, after some discussion on some clauses they passed and are now posted to the website. A motion that The Trust executive be maintained for 2014 was made and carried with Mr. Martin, Mr. Curran and Mr. Fosnaes retaining the chair, secretary and treasurer positions.

A motion to proceed with an application to the Provincial Commemorations Board to commemorate Sir William Vaughan was passed and the application will be reviewed by several new members who have experience in these matters.



## **Research Program**

At a Trust Board meeting in January 2014 the research program goals were reviewed, revised and adopted. Preliminary meetings with Archaeologist Robyn Fleming indicate field research activities could be done in early July. Art Clausnitzer's field activities are as yet unscheduled but will be coordinated with those of The Trust.

The discovery of a heretofore unknown letter (or copy) thought to be written by Sir Richard Whitbourne in 1620 triggered great interest in The Trust Board and associates. See the article at the end of this Bulletin for more details. The letter, while not directly related to Vaughan or Trepassey, does support planting in Newfoundland at the time and contributes greatly to our understanding of the times.

Dr. Roberta Buchanan's papers on Vaughan are being catalogued and readied for exploration. Her bibliography is a comprehensive listing of Vaughan references, many of which are not commonly known and along with copies of court records involving Vaughan will go a long way toward informing us about the man and his times. Her research work will also point the way for further in-depth research activities by The Trust's English and Welsh academic research associates.

Dr. Buchanan is very busy with her current researches and writing, but in conversation, she agreed to consider taking another look at Vaughan. She was very helpful in getting a the transcription of "the letter" completed for which the Board thanks her and looks forward to a future IVS contribution by Dr. Buchanan on a topic of her choice.



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

IVS EMWN 2012 remains available for new postings and comments. A pending addition is *In the yeere 1615: Sir Richard Whitbourne's letter* by Tor Fosnæs and Ryan Lewis now in preparation.

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).



### **Recent Readings**

*A Glossary of Tudor and Stuart Words especially from the dramatists collected by Walter W. Skeat, Erlington and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon in the University of Cambridge, 1878-1912* edited with additions by A.L. Mayhew, M.A., Wadham College, Oxford. Oxford at the Clarendon Press, Oxford University Press, London, 1914.

This compendium of Tudor English was of great benefit in transcribing "the letter" providing words such as *leefsome* and *entermete*. The period was active with many new words, hundreds used by William Shakespeare.

*Environmental Archaeology and Landscape Transformation at the Seventeenth-Century Ferryland Site, Newfoundland* by Allison Bain and Marie-Annick Prévost in *Historical Archaeology*, 2010, 44(3):21–35.

Archaeology of the Cod Fishery: Damariscove Island by Alaric Faulkner in *Historical Archaeology, Archaeology of the Cod Fishery*, Volume 19(2):57-86.

A comparison between Maine (Damariscove Island) and Newfoundland (from the literature) 17<sup>th</sup> century fishing enterprises. An excellent explanation of how the sedentary vs. the seasonal fisheries and their remains differ.

*The Faunal Connections between Europe and North America* by Carl H. Lindroth, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1957. Details how more than 500 European origin plants and animals found their way here in ships' ballast

Asylum for Wayward Immigrants: Historic Ports and Colonial Settlements in Northeast North America by Allison Bain and Gary King, *Journal of the North Atlantic*, Special Volume 1 (2009–11).

*A History of Newfoundland from the English, Colonial and Foreign Records* by D. W. Prowse, Q.C., LL.D. Judge of the Central District Court of Newfoundland with numerous illustrations and maps, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1896. Pp. 51-133.

Prowse's chapters four and five cover the reigns of Edward VI to James I, he relies heavily on Whitbourne for his Newfoundland facts and stories; admiring Whitbourne for his abilities and pitying him for being ignored by the Court in his valiant efforts to get Newfoundland settled and organized.

*John Guy of Bristol and Newfoundland: his life, times and legacy*. Alan F. Williams, edited by W. Gordon Handcock and Chesley W. Sanger, St. John's, Flanker Press, 2010.

A biography of John Guy (d. 1628), a merchant adventurer, early governor of Cupids, Mayor of Bristol and MP.

## Sir Richard Whitbourne's letter



The top of page 1 of "the letter" (transcription of this section stops at the first line of paragraph two starting, "What pains ...". The handwriting is in "secretary hand" the most common writing style of the time.

The letter is part of a collection of manuscripts, MSS 183 and 184, preserved in the library of Christ Church, Oxford, once the property of the Salusbury family of Lleweni, Denbighshire.

The Salusburies were one of North Wales' wealthiest families in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Sir John Salusbury (1566-1612) was a poet of some renown, and he and his wife Ursula were said to be the subject of a lyric poem by William Shakespeare, "The Phoenix and the Turtle." Salusbury was knighted in 1601 by Elizabeth I in recognition of his loyalty to the Crown during the Essex Rebellion.

MSS 183 and 184 contain several hundred folio pages of letters on various subjects, Welsh verse, composed in honour of the Salusbury family, and English poems. Some of these poems are also preserved in the National Library of Wales, MS 5390D. The two locations house the best known collections of Salusbury records.

The phrases used are similar to those in Whitbourne's "Discourse" and the reference to "last summer" can only be the first and only judicial inquiry conducted in Newfoundland by Whitbourne in 1615. Why the letter appears in the Salusbury papers is a mystery. John's son, Sir Henry, who was married into the Vaughan family, bought a tract of land in Fermeuse, once owned by Vaughan but it is unknown if he actually attempted to plant or use the property.

### The letter (transcribed in modern language)

To the right honourable Charles Earle of Nottingham Baron Howard of Effingham Knight of the noble order of the garter one of his Majesty's most honourable Privy Council Lord High Admiral of England. x x x x

My honourable good Lord

It pleased you out of noble disposition upon some favourable reports above my deserving, made of me by some righteous persons to employ my poor service in a voyage this last summer to Newfoundland for the reformation of abuses committed in that Country & upon the coasts thereof, by some people there trading for fish & others of our nation, to effectuate more readily which I had my honorable Commission, giving a large & full Authority in so weighty a matter as by the commission proposed; to this short discourse more plainly of Newfoundland.

What pains I Tooke there; & what course I held to bring the people to a conformity & good conclusion, is here summarily in second presentments of Juries by which those impaneled set down at the [blank] of the relation of the voyages upon mine own purse went the charges which hath been very dear to me as it may be well understood; & all the account I advanced unto Your Lordship of my travel, is that which Harbors after long & [1. leefsome or leesome = pleasant] voyages when they [2. enterime or entermete = to concern or occupy oneself with something] themselves, present unto Your Majesty being nothing else but a bundle of papers to no great purpose.

My passing of this compendious relation Your Lordship shall not only find what I have herein done, but from hence may a supposition or reflection be made so what further in so high & material a business may be done to the general good of the whole Kingdome, if by the King's Royall Authority leave may be given not only nobly to set forward; but also resolutely to go through with it.

Strange it is in my poor judgment that men should recoil in a work so good for it is known that divers worthy Gentlemen, & others that have seen the Country have all at their coming home bestowed Praise & Worthy Commendations upon it, yet none other than it deserves, & those hearty wishes that it might be so inhabited & a plantation there settled, which yet notwithstanding to the great grief of

many goes by but slowly forward: What should [we] therein [fear]? If honor & profit be the principal master at every end in this world for temporal blessings [shoot]; why then do we bend our whole endeavor and aim thence towards this Newfoundland where are both to be had; What is there in most Countries for any man's use which there is not to be gotten? What is there wanting in that place which man can do? Shall I speak one of wisest praisers of the Country & in that shut up all the rest? Give me then leave to say this much to your Lordships that the Newfoundland is environed round with the sea, a climate so wholesome for mans' health that I think few parts of the world are comparable to it, the quality [thereof] is an instance, that last year when there lay 250 English ships 5000 [deletion] Persons at least in them, besides many sails both of French & Portuguese, who all came thither to employ their ships & their fishers in fishing, And that I sailed to be free amongst them about 150 leagues, yet could I not see nor heard of any man or boy in either of these nations that died during the whole voyage nor not so much as anyone to go sick. How excellent a plantation were this therefore my good Lord to be inhabited by Christians, as to whence goes the plantation as it now stands, If I may, with your Lordship's pardon, freely deliver mine opinion I think it had no sound nor settled foundation, neither as it is, can it subsist or grow without more & more substantial props to be added to support it.

Many honorable & worthy persons who at first were hot in pursuit of so noble & honorable a business, it is to be doubted unless they be worthily seconded by others that they will both repent them of their charge already laid out & also wax could & weary in disbursing more; & so may the country by the remissness of our nation be left or taken from them & lost to the spoil or usurpation of some other Prince, whose subjects will reap the harvest of our labour. Therefore by your honourable personage upon so weighty an importance to his Majesty. Your Lordship would be pleased to make known to His Highness the honour benefit & enlargement of this dominion; by exchanges [custom] by mariners & shipping etc. besides infinite commodities to his people which all arise out of this Country it is no question to be made but for so general a good his wisdom would both allow of so necessary a work & it might be by your Lordship's assistance & Authority be moved & go forward, But if neither the King's Majesty will hearken after a project of this nature; & that Yr. Lordship be carried in opinion from it, yet I beseech yet I beseech [sic] his highness to pardon this my presumption which out of my soul's devotion & service to my sovereign & my Country I tender on my knees & most humbly entreat Your Lordship to call my boldness an honest zeal for I have desired rather to bear the burthen of poverty then of the rich.

## The abuses

Whitbourne listed 10 abuses which he said were all agreed by the 170 captains from whom he took sworn testimony.

1. First, they did all acknowledge, that there is but little difference of days observed amongst the Fishermen; some men presuming to go to Sea, and to fish with hook and line, upon the Sabbath day, as usually as upon the week days.
2. Secondly, that divers of our Nation doe take into their ships very great stones, to press their dry fish withal; which work being done, they cast those stones into the Harbors where their ships use to ride at anchor
3. There are many men yearly, who unlawfully convey away other men's fishing boats, from the Harbour and place where they were left the year before in that Country; and some cut out the marks of them; and some others rip and carry away the pieces of them
4. There are some men, who arriving there first into a Harbour, do rip and pull down Stages, that were left standing for the splitting and salting of fish the year before; and other Stages some men have set on fire
5. There are also some, who arriving first in Harbor, take away other men's Salt that they had left there the year before, and also rip and spoil the [Vats] wherein they make their Train oil, and some tear down Flakes,
6. Some men likewise steal away the bait out of other men's Nets by night, and also out of their fishing boats by their ships side, whereby their fishing, from whom it is so taken, is overthrown for the next day.
7. They did acknowledge, that some men take up more room then they need, or is fitting to dry their fish on,
8. They also found, that divers of your Majesty's subjects have come to that Coast, in fishing voyages in ships not appertaining to any of your Majesty's subjects, which they conceived worthy of punishment, and reformation.
9. They did acknowledge, that some men rip, and take away Timber and Rails from Stages, and other necessary rooms, that are fastened with nails, Spike or Trey nails; and some men take away the Rinds & Turf wherewith divers necessary rooms are fitly covered from ground with Rails on them, whereupon men use to dry their fish; and that some set the standing Woods in the Country on fire, which have in little time burned many thousand acres; and that there are some which yearly take away other men's Train oil there by night
10. They found, that divers idle persons, which were hired for those voyages, when they come thither, notwithstanding that they were still in health, would not work, and were so lazy and idle, that their work was to little purpose: which was worthy of punishment.

**St. David's Day 2014 – photographs (part 1)** photos by Con O'Brien (1); Genevieve Gallant (2-4); Carol Osmond (5); Deirdre MacLaughlin (6)



The cawl underway at Con's house



Con O'Brien (left) and Patrick Moran



Young Andrew O'Brien enjoying Dad's music



Cabot Martin giving the welcoming remarks



Part of the assembled crowd



Guests enjoying the festivities



## **Membership**

An important goal for The Trust in 2014 is to build its 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.

An application form, which explains membership benefits, is on the website for the convenience of those not already members or for members wishing to include friends and relatives, and is below. 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.

**I would like to become a member of THE SIR WILLIAM VAUGHAN TRUST INCORPORATED.**

**I understand membership allows me to receive The Trust Bulletin (published four times a year); allows me to attend an Annual Membership or General Meeting when called by The Trust Board of Directors; and gives me a 15% reduction in admission to The Trust events and purchases of The Trust merchandise. Membership in perpetuity costs \$20.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_