

**Report of visit to Carmarthen on SWVP business
by Cabot Martin, SWVP Chair, February 2013**

On February 29, 2013, Cabot Martin, while in the United Kingdom on business, took the opportunity to visit Carmarthen, Wales, accompanied by my friend Adrian Cottrill, an English offshore petroleum journalist.

Our guide was Mr. Lynn Hughes, a well-known Carmarthen local historian and newspaper columnist who had arranged a tour of key sites related to Sir William Vaughan.

The Board of Directors of The Sir William Vaughan Trust is pleased to announce that Mr. Hughes has accepted their invitation to become a Director of the Trust. The addition of Mr. Hughes to our team marks a significant step in the creation of a true Newfoundland / Welsh partnership in the exploration of the extent and significance of the Early Modern Newfoundland – Welsh connection. Lynn is very knowledgeable about Early Modern Wales and its historical characters; he has written about the Vaughan's of Golden Grove and their involvement with Welsh forestry development and exploitation.

Before starting our tour, we met with Mrs. Betty Davies, a genealogical researcher accredited to the Carmarthen County Archives which houses the Vaughan Family Papers. This is a voluminous collection in which we have high hopes of unearthing previously unrevealed materials relating to Sir William Vaughan's activities in Newfoundland. Mrs. Davies is under contract to the Sir Williams Vaughan Trust to investigate the Carmarthen Archives and other relevant local sources.

She is presently focusing on papers relating to Lady Anne Vaughan, Sir William's second wife, who was a prominent Carmarthen citizen in her own right. Lady Anne was buried in choir of St Peter's Church, Carmarthen on August 19, 1672, and her resting place is marked by an elaborate statute and laudatory plaque. This formidable lady is perhaps our best hope that Sir William's papers were preserved, at least in the first instance.

Next we visited Torcoed, Sir William Vaughan's home near the village of Llangyderyn, not far from Carmarthen, where we were joined by Lynn's friend, Mr. Thomas Lloyd OBE (Herald Extraordinary for Wales and Chairman of the Welsh Historic Buildings Council). Mr. Lloyd took time to join us and his warm encouragement in the work of the Sir William Vaughan Trust is greatly appreciated.



Mr. Thomas Lloyd OBE, Herald Extraordinary for Wales and Chairman of the Welsh Historic Buildings Council (second from right), leads a discussion about the architecture of Torcoed

We were welcomed at Torcoed by Helen and Ian Lloyd who now own Torcoed. Helen was born at Torcoed and she and Ian are determined to preserve it and the Sir William Vaughan and Newfoundland connection.

Helen and Ian are working hard, and at great expense, to preserve Torcoed by extensive but sensitive renovations, particularly of some of the outbuildings, so that they can operate a guest house and vacation retreat; they will be ready for business in the summer of 2014.

Imagine my delight, then, to see, inscribed in glass, the word **CAMBRIOL** – Sir William Vaughan's Latin name for his lands in the southern part of the Avalon peninsula - over the main door of the complex of outbuildings they are renovating.

Apart from some alterations to the roof line, the footprint and exterior of the main house are probably more or less as they were in Sir William's time. Inside, many of the main 17th century features from Sir William's time can still be seen.



Torcoed farm house overlooking the Gwendraeth Fach Valley (left). This stone barn (right) dates to the 17th century



The section of Torcoed outbuildings restored by Helen and Ian Lloyd to date (left); Mr. Martin and Mrs. Lloyd outside *Cambriol*.

Outside, some of the original rock walls mark where Sir William grew grapes and had his orchard. The location, picked by the family of Sir William's first wife, has sweeping views of his lands and the Gwendraeth Fach Valley – an area of great beauty and where in 1963 local villagers successfully defeated a proposal to build a dam that would have flooded much farmland and parts of the Village of Llangydeyn – with Muskrat Falls on the go, I felt very much at home!



Mr. Martin standing an original 17th century section of stone wall forming Torcoed's orchard garden (left); Mr. Lloyd explains the wall structure to his guests.

It will be a site that no Newfoundlander visiting Wales should miss; the charm of your hosts alone will be worth the visit.

Next stop was St Peter's Church in Carmarthen where we paid our respects to Lady Anne Vaughan. Photos of Lady Anne's statute kneeling in prayer have previously been carried in the SWVP Bulletin thanks to a Christmas 2012 visit by Port aux Basques native and SWVP supporter Carol Osmond.

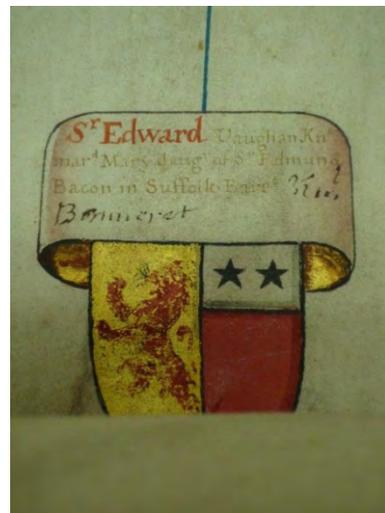
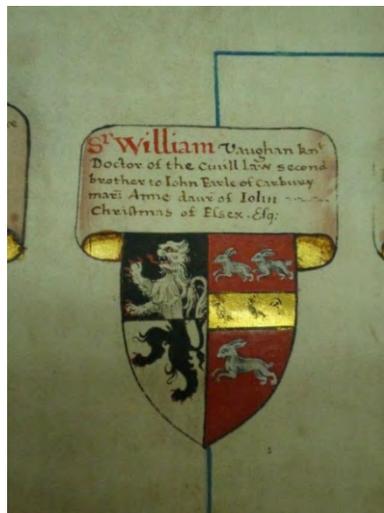
Noted in St Peters on this trip was a plaque to the memory of a member of the Meyrick family, relations of the Vaughans. William Vaughan's brother John married Margaret, daughter of Sir Gelli Meyrick.



Meyrick crypt marker at St. Peter's Church Carmarthen

Next on the tour in Carmarthen was a very special treat; thanks to Lynn, Keepers of the Carmarthen Archives had brought the amazingly long (and very heavy) Vaughan Family heraldry scroll out of the vaults for our viewing. This illustrated record of the Vaughan family *pedigree* is a national Welsh treasure and stretches back to very ancient time; Sir William, his sons and grandsons to the late 17th century all are marked by their individual shields.

Particular thanks are due to the Keepers of the Archive and the Carmarthen Archives for arranging this viewing as, due to its size, in spite of its extraordinary beauty, it is unfortunately not usually on public display except when used to anchor special exhibits.



Mr. Martin, Mr. Hughes and a Keeper of the Archives (center) view the Vaughan family heraldry scroll. William and his son Edward are represented on the scroll with their individual coats of arms.

Our next meeting was with Mr. Ken Murphy, archeologist and CEO of the Dyfed Archeological Trust which is one of only four Welsh Archeological Trusts and responsible for all of South West Wales including Carmarthenshire. The Dyfed Archeological Trust is headquartered in Llandelio, 20 miles from Carmarthen, and just upriver from Golden Grove, the family seat of the Vaughans and where Sir William Vaughan was born. Mr. Murphy reconfirmed his personal interest in our work and his Trust's interest in becoming directly involved in our first Sir William Vaughan archaeology research project in the summer of 2013.

We next repaired to the White Horse Inn in Llandeilo, where we encountered a number of Lynn's friends, including Elinor Jones a prominent Welsh TV hostess / presenter and Lynn Davies, her Professor of Music husband; the interest in the work of the Sir William Vaughan Trust and Newfoundland was immediate and keen – given the prominent role of Carmarthenshire in Welsh culture and politics.

The visit officially ended with a superb mixed grill at the Cottage Inn on the A40 between Llandeilo and Carmarthen and admonitions from Lynn that future visits must be longer – and they will.

A final note of thanks must go to Lynn and Adrian for the very late night driving marathon to retrieve my passport that allowed me to get to St. John's for St. David's Day celebrations.

Hwyl Fawr !