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752 East 2nd
North Vancouver, BC Can V7L 1E4

Hydref i Tachwedd
1997

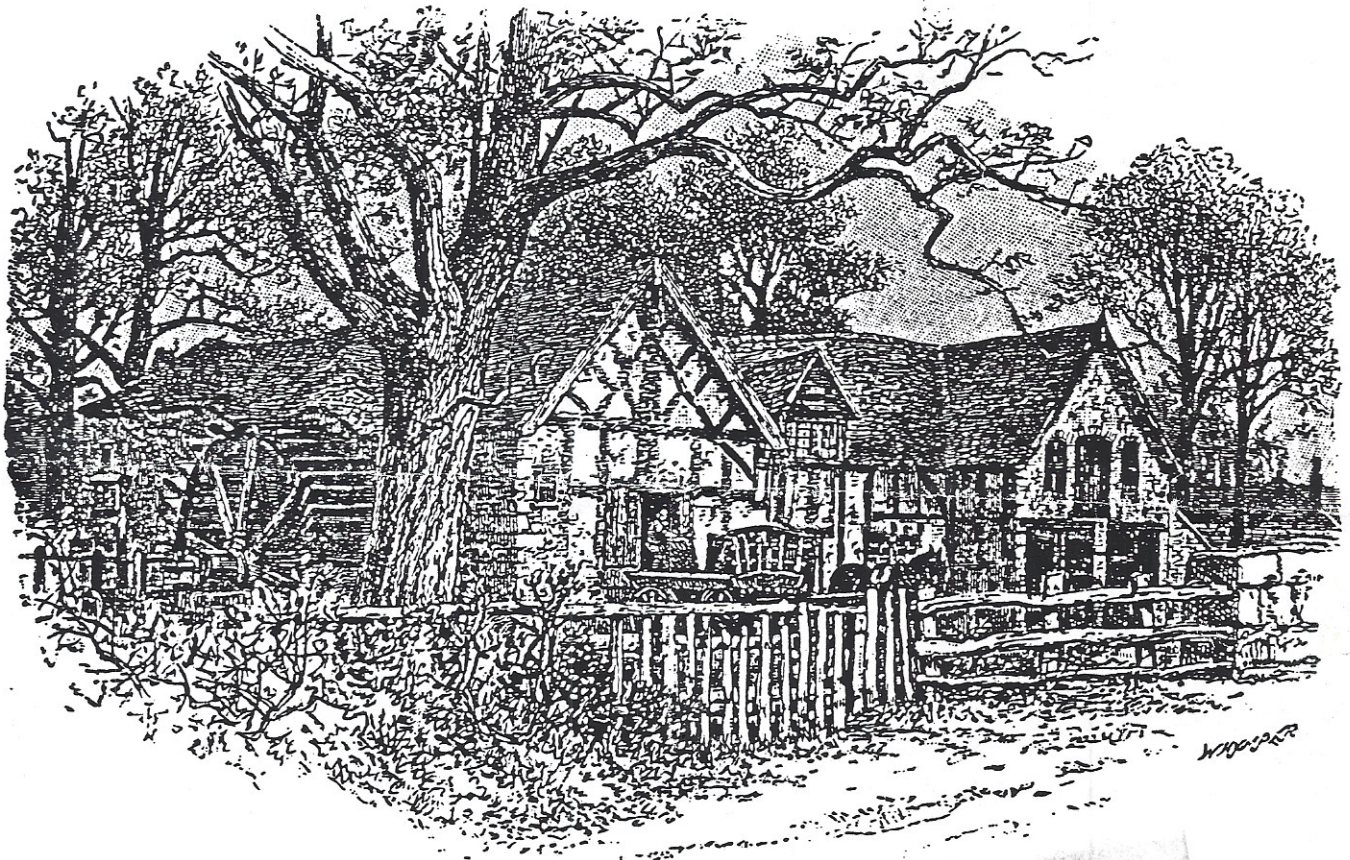


October to November
1997

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



ROSSETT MILLS.

Photocopied by permission of the CLWYD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Source: From Welsh Pictures ed by Richard Lovett

Capt. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones

Capt. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones, one of the Society's past presidents was recently honoured by the Company of Master Mariners of Canada. The Company is a Branch of the London based Honourable Company of Master Mariners.

Captain Jones who holds a Foreign Going Masters Certificate of the British Department of Transport was honoured for being a member for over 25 years. His association with the sea goes back much further. He is the great-grandson, grandson and son of ocean going masters. His grandfather, Capt. Charles Lampshire, lost his life when his ship the "Cape Wrath" went down in a severe storm in 1904 at the mouth of the Columbia River in Astoria, Oregon. Ieuan joined the sea going fraternity at the age of 16 in December 1939 and attained his Master Certificate at the early age of 27 in 1950.

For many years he commanded ships that saw him sailing all over the globe. When he left the sea in 1969 he was the Senior Captain for World Wide Shipping out of Hong Kong. World Wide Shipping is one of the largest shipping companies in the world with a fleet of 142 ships.

During the war he saw action in all the theaters of war -- Normandy, North Africa, Italy, Burma and the Korean conflict.

Since 1969 he has lived in the Vancouver area and worked as an International Marine Surveyor. He describes himself as the "disinterested party between the buyer and seller" of bulk cargo. It is during this time he has become known in the shipping world as an expert in bulk cargo loading, his advice being sought by many companies and countries. His expertise as a Marine Surveyor is highly thought of by Lloyds of London. When the Polaris Mine was opened up on Little Cornwallis Island in the Canadian High Arctic it was Capt. Jones who was asked to go up by Cominco to meet and set up procedures for loading the first ship -- M.V. Arctic. He also attended ships for Cominco at the Black Angel Mine in Greenland. On behalf of Canadian Exporters he travelled to China and Brazil to advise on loading and unloading of ships.

During his career as a Marine Surveyor he has been responsible for over 12 million tons of export and import cargoes with some valued at \$340 a ton. This is a world record for a surveyor.

Our Anniversary Dinner, 1997

The Anniversary Dinner of the Welsh Society of Vancouver was yet another wonderful evening— like the Annual Picnic — where one would think that the Welsh have an ‘in’ with the Good Lord as the rain stopped around mid-day, thus allowing those who were fortunate enough to have procured their tickets, and or booked them, to attend the dinner. Approximately sixty hungry members and friends sat down for the scrumptious, delectable, mouth-watering fare, so beautifully laid out in smorgasbord fashion on three sixfoot tables arranged end to end in the centre of the lower Hall.

There was lasagnia, green salad, fried chicken, mixed vegetables, roast spuds, roast beef, buns and butter, and brown Welsh-style gravy. The dessert was fruit salad (about 8 different kinds of fruit) and/or delicious baked cream tarts with tea and coffee. Some attendees were seen to return to the table for seconds, thirds and even fourth helpings!! But who cares!

Our regular caterers, Jordans of Richmond, were also celebrating an anniversary — it was their 10th year of service to the Welsh Society of Vancouver, and they were at their best. Acknowledgement of their services was duly recognised by all present with prolonged applause.

Lorraine of Jordan's Caterers acknowledged our applause by serving us with roast beef to order: outside cut, well-done cut, regular centre cut, and for the “odd” person, pink. Lorraine has, over the years, come to know what we Welsh like best, and caters the **best for us.**

Once the main meal was over, and the tables cleared to one side, we were treated to yet another of our President's entertainment ideas, a video-taped recording of the 10,000 Male Voice Choir conducted by Arwel Hughes, held at Cardiff Arms Park, with supporting Welsh artists such as Shirley Bassey and others who were unknown to me. (I shall inform you in the next letter who they were.) It was entertainment of the highest quality— my hair stood on end, and my goose pimples had goose pimples!! PHEW! WHAT A SHOW! MAGNIFICENT! Hopefully we can all see the same show again and again.

The President thanked everyone for coming, especially those involved in making the evening the success it was.

Darts were played by some of the “pro's” whilst others chatted and enjoyed the piano-playing of Capt. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

THANKS AGAIN GAYNOR AND JEFF FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

Submitted by Ellis Griffiths

Membership Report

As we near the end of our membership year there are a few members who have not yet renewed their membership and hopefully this is just an oversight. There are great events ahead as you can see by the calendar. We hope to see you at some or all of them. We would like to welcome three new members:-

- Anrwen Rowe-Evans, Vancouver
- Gareth Eckley, "
- Susan Dyer, "

Welcome to the Society.

W. A. Report

The first fall meeting saw eight enthusiasts sit down to their "cuppa" and brown bag lunch. It was nice to see one another after the summer break.

Veronica Gilder chaired the business meeting. Tegwen Shirlaw presented us with an illuminated picture of a Christmas tree, which was donated by her sister, Ann Rankin. We were very pleased to receive it and will be raffling it off at the Children's Christmas Party Dec. 14.

A preview of it was displayed at the Oct. 4 Anniversary Dinner and was much admired. Tickets are 50c ea or 3 for a \$1.00. Thank you Ann Rankin. The money received will go towards needed items for the hall as well as contributions to the Children's Party and to charity.

We plan to make Christmas decorations at our meetings in the next few months, proceeds from which will add to our fund also.

Hostesses for the next meeting are Gwen Tonach and Gladys Evans.

Beverly Thomas, Sec.

Overheard at the fruit store : " I am of the age I don't buy green bananas any more! "

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Coming Events at the Camb. Hall :

Mulled Wine Evening and Carol Singing on Saturday, Nov. 29th at 8pm at the Cambrian Hall.

Xmas Dinner Dance & Draw Saturday Dec. 6th. Ticket prices are : \$27 for members and \$30 for guests. For further information please call Gaynor Owen at 946 - 4956 or Gwen Tonack at 738 - 3377.

Children's Christmas Party to be held on Sunday, Dec. 14th at 2pm. For further information please call Gaynor Owen before Oct. 31st at 946 - 4856.

Life is so uncertain ; eat your dessert first!!

If you have trouble going to sleep at night, lie at the very edge of the bed.....you'll soon drop off.

People go on vacations to forget things , and when they open their bags, they find out they did.

Vancouver Welsh Folk Dancers

The dance group met for their first rehearsal of the season on Thursday, September 25 with twelve dancers in attendance. It was a delight to have Jack and Bertha Smith, visiting from Nelson, join us for the evening and participate in the dancing. The evening was most enjoyable, with lots of dancing and much laughter! The evening was concluded with the usual socializing over tea and cookies.

The dance group meets on Thursdays at the Cambrian hall at 7.30pm. New members and/or visitors are very welcome. Please phone Gaynor Evans at 271-3134 if you are thinking of attending, as rehearsals are sometimes cancelled if numbers are low.

Submitted by Gaynor Evans



VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Box 2978, Main Post Office, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3X4

The WMC's fall activities got off to a strong start with more than 80 men attending a two-day retreat at Manning Park Lodge on Sept 19-21 to work on the new material for our Christmas concert series, followed by a benefit concert for the Cascade Christian Counselling Association at First Christian Reformed Church in Langley on Oct 4. In Ladner's Genesis Theatre on Saturday Oct 18 we will, as part of the program, perform Handel's Hallelujah Chorus with the Richmond Singers in British Telecom's Voices for Hospices series. This will be the most westerly of several hundred hospice fund-raising concerts taking place around the world at 7.30 p.m. local time on Oct 18, all of which will include the Hallelujah Chorus. Nov 8 and 9 will find us performing with the Gloria Dei Choir and the massed pipe bands in Remembrance Ceremonies at the Open House at the Seaforth Armouries, 1650 Burrard Street, Vancouver.

Submitted by Mr. Des Harris(VWMC)

Readers will recall an article written, by Mr. Dave Davies of Kamloops, in last month's newsletter making reference to a now defunct water-mill near his boyhood home in Pontfadog. Regrettably, the enclosed leaflet was not available for inclusion at the time of publication of the last newsletter, as they had not arrived from Wales. Congratulations are extended to Mr. Davies for getting his work published.

George and Wilf

by Clive Rodgers

George

George Thomas, the Viscount Tonypandy, who spent most of his life in the Rhondda and Cardiff has just died at the age of 88. Famous as the much respected Speaker of the House of Commons in Britain from 1976 to 1983, he has well-earned the lengthy obituary devoted to his memory in the Electronic Telegraph.

"It was during his time as Speaker, in 1978, that the Commons' proceedings were first broadcast live on the radio, he achieved nationwide fame for his splendidly vibrant call of "Ordah.....Ordah!"; his Rhondda cadences and ready wit delighted listeners and won the affection of MPs of all parties." Thomas George Thomas ("We're short on names in Wales," he once explained) was born at Port Talbot and raised in Tonypandy and taught school in London where he listened to debates in the Commons and soaked up its atmosphere.

He sat as a Labour MP for Cardiff from 1945 until he retired in 1983. During this time he held various posts in government and that of the office of Secretary for Wales for two years.

According to the obituary: "In 1983, Mrs. Thatcher, for whom he had a high private regard, created him Viscount Tonypandy. Thomas's reverence for tradition had always sat easily with his mild socialism...and (he) took enormous satisfaction at his elevation to the Upper House."

The Viscount Tonypandy published his memoirs in 1985, criticised by some for his disclosure of confidential talks with them as Speaker. I haven't read his memoirs, but understand that it is worth reading for the quotes alone. E.H. Robertson wrote a fascinating well-rounded and very readable biography of Viscount Tonypandy, published in 1992, entitled (What else?) George.

At his passing, the Viscountcy of Tonypandy became extinct.

Wilf

When I was at school in Cardiff, we invited Wilf Wooller to give a talk on cricket. He was our number one choice, being captain of the Glamorgan side that won the county cricket championship in 1948, but he could have been invited to talk as a famous Welsh rugby player and about other sports in which he excelled. I didn't realize all this until his death was reported at the age of 84, earlier this year.

The Daily Telegraph's Howard Marshall wrote of his rugby prowess: "his tremendous pace and his

siege-gun kicking, and his ability to win a game on his own by some gargantuan thrust. Wooller was tall and strongly built, and when he was in full flight for the line, seemed to eat up the earth as if he were covering it with seven league boots." He would play for Wales 18 times and captained the side in 1938-39.

As a cricketer, Wilfred Wooller was described as a "fast-medium bowler, robust hitter and intrepid close fielder. But it was as a captain that he excelled. He first led the Glamorgan side in 1947 and the next year inspired them to wholly unexpected triumph in the county championship." Success was credited to the leadership by his son of Colwyn Bay of a team of predominantly Welsh-born players with their aggressive fielding. I'm sure that if he had been alive in September he would have celebrated Glamorgan's year of triumph as this year's county champions, also under a formidable captain, with all the other Welsh cricket enthusiasts.

David Foot, cricket writer and journalist in The Guardian should have the last word:

Wilf Wooller was the voice (fearsome and endearing), the conscience and the embodiment of Welsh sport. In turn, he could be intimidating, dogmatic, withering, tetchy and soft-hearted. Like a good Welshman, his emotions were emblazoned for all to see. He was never without a strong viewpoint and in the Press Box could monopolise the conversation. Everyone remembers him as "that bloody Wilf Wooller" and it is said with complete affection. When his combative nature was stripped away, he could be immensely generous, kindhearted and charming... His influence on Welsh sport has been considerable and a great many, not just on the other side of the Severn Bridge, are going to miss him.

Footnote:

The title "George and Wilf" may appear presumptuous for two such eminent Welshmen, but I would point out that to my generation "Wilf" Wooller and Glamorgan cricket were synonymous, whilst Lord Tonypandy insisted, "Call me George"!

The V.W.Society Officers

President — Jeff Owen (604) 946-4956

Im.P.Pres. — Ann Roberts(604) 925-4662

Secretary — Mary Slaney(604) 888-6563

Treasurer — John Morris (604) 536-9556

Mem. Sec. — Beverly Thomas(604) 738-0680

Editor — Gwilym Evans(604) 274-3794

A Snippet of Welsh History.....The Rebecca Riots

Between 1801 and 1841 the population of many parishes in the counties of Carmarthen, Cardigan and Pembroke experienced a population surge of almost 50%. The standard of living fell dramatically as resources failed to meet demand leaving many labourers in a state of deprivation. But the small farmers were the most strongly threatened, particularly those eking out a living on formerly common land, which was of poor quality, with resultant marginal profits.

Unlike France, Britain at the time did not consider the road system a government responsibility, and consequently they were undeveloped and in very poor condition. Improvements to them were made sporadically depending on local demands and initiative. Turnpike companies were set up in profusion and they set up tollgates on most roads manned by rigorous, inflexible individuals. A farmer whose route to market traversed different areas belonging to different companies was subjected to multiple tolls. In addition, the farmers were beset by rent, rates and tithes. The distress of the small farmer was intensified by a weak legal system (magistrate negligence and high court fees), and the arrogance of the landed gentry who were insulated from the farmers by religion and language.

Against this background of stark injustice a vigilante group instigated riots known as the Rebecca Riots. The members were men dressed in women's clothes and were known as Rebecca and her daughters. This was probably a biblical reference to Genesis 24,60 a verse which claims that the seed of Rebecca shall inherit the gates of those that hate her.

Tollgates were the prime targets of the rioters, and the first to be attacked was on the 13 May, 1839; but a deep sense of deprivation also fuelled attacks against an occasional workhouse. By 1843, Rebecca's activities were not confined to buildings but included tithe receivers, weir builders, greedy landowners, and tenants who leased more than one farm. Many private wrongs were avenged under the cover of the riots. Only one fatality was attributable to the Rebecca Rioters - the keeper of a tollgate near Pontarddulais, in Sept. 1843.

In response to the riots, the government despatched an able soldier, Colonel Love, with 1800 soldiers to quell the riots. But the rioters were difficult to apprehend; however, the few that were caught were sent to Van Diemen's Land (later known as Tasmania).

As the riots intensified farm labourers were caught up in the wave of enthusiasm and demanded higher wages; an occasional hayrick arson backed up their demands. The ardour of the farmers themselves then declined and by Oct. 1843 the riots had ceased in south-west Wales. A certain Frankland Lewis, an observer of the day, remarked that 'The Rebecca Riots were organized with much skill.....and, the instant that their purpose seemed likely to be attained, they came to an end.'

The Conservative government of the day reacted constructively and an act was passed to appoint Road Boards in each county of south-west Wales. These took over the turnpike roads. Also experienced surveyors were appointed to advise the Boards and as a consequence the roads of the area were of a higher standard than anywhere else in the kingdom by the 1850s.

A creditable portion of Welsh history had ended.

A highbrow is a person who can listen to the
"William Tell Overture" without thinking of the
Lone Ranger!

Orpheus Choir Concert Dates
 Oct 25 - Anglican Ch. N. Van
 Nov 8 - "U" Ch. South Surrey

October 1997

Mis Hydref 1997

Cymdeithas Cymraeg Puncouer Welsh Society
 Cambrian Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Vancouver, B.C.

Saturday

Friday

Thursday

Wednesday

Tuesday

Monday

Sunday

12	11:00 a.m. Church Service and te bach.	13	Thanksgiving	14		15	W.A. (Noon) Meeting Cambrian Circle Singers	16	Welsh Folk Dancing Welsh Speaking Night	17		18	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
19		20	7:30 p.m. Welsh Lessons	21		22	Cambrian Circle Singers rehearsal	23	7:30 p.m. Welsh Folk Dancing	24		25	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
26		27	"	28		29		30	Welsh Folk Dancing	31			

1	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p. m.	Dec. 6 Christmas Dinner Dance		7		8	Dylan Thomas Circle Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.						
2	11:00 a.m. Church Service and te bach. Gymanfa Canu	3	7:30 p.m. Welsh Lessons	4		5	7:30 p.m. Exec. Mtg	6	Welsh Folk Dancing	7		8	Dylan Thomas Circle Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
9	12 Noon Sat / Sun Welsh Mens Choir Concert/Pipe Bands Seaforth Armouries Open Hse 1st/Burrard	10	"	11	Remembrance Songs	12	7:30 p.m. General Mtg	13		14	Cambrian Circle Singers	15	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p. m.

November 1997

Mis Tachwedd 1997

Nov. 29 Milled Wine
and Caroling