

## The Welsh in Canada

During the early 70s Canada's Government commissioned people to collect information about various nationalities who lived in the country. For three months during 1974, Glenys James researched into the history of the Welsh who migrated to Canada from Patagonia. During this time, she travelled over 8,000 miles speaking and recording interviews with various families of Welsh descents.



The recordings are of historical value and gives us a perspective of life in Patagonia and Canada in the early twentieth century. By listening to the voices of the people themselves we can hear what they saw, and how they felt.

During this time there was a lot of movement within Canada from various nations, including people from Patagonia with roots in Wales.

In 1902, over 200 of the Welsh left Patagonia for their new life in Canada with over 5,000 migrating after the Revival of 1904-5. Many moved due to the difficult living conditions they encountered mainly constant flooding, and no land available to farm.

New communities were formed with many of the Welsh settling in the Saskatchewan area, since this

was a designated area chosen by the British Government under David Lloyd George. The new villages and towns were given Welsh place names, such as Bangor, Llewelyn and Glyndwr. Shops, buildings, schools and chapels were built and some of the Welsh traditions were kept, like the Eisteddfod.

The oral history collection was then put together by the Canadian History Museum, Ottawa where the original tapes are kept. Copies were sent to the National Library of Wales where they were stored in a controlled environment in order to protect the tapes for future use.



The Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project which is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and led by the British Library have now digitised and created metadata for these

interviews. The collection can now be heard for the first time since the 70s.

For more information about the Glenys James collection and how they were digitised, have a look at our video 'From Canada to the National Library of Wales' on our YouTube page.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/llyfrgen>





## Y Cymry yng Nghanada

Yn ystod y 70au cynnar comisiynodd Llywodraeth Canada bobl i gasglu gwybodaeth am amrywiol genhedloedd a oedd yn byw yn y wlad. Am dri mis yn ystod 1974, bu Glenys James yn ymchwilio i hanes y Cymry a ymfudodd i Ganada o Batagonia. Yn ystod yr amser hwn, teithiodd dros 8,000 o filltiroedd yn siarad a recordio cyfweiliadau âg amrywiol deuluoedd o ddisgynyddion Cymreig.



Mae'r recordiadau o werth hanesyddol ac yn rhoi persbectif i ni o fywyd ym Mhatagonia a Chanada ar ddechrau'r ugeinfed ganrif. Trwy wrando ar leisiau'r bobl eu hunain gallwn glywed yr hyn a welsant, a sut roeddent yn teimlo.

Yn ystod yr amser hwn bu llawer o symud o fewn Canada ymysg nifer o wahanol genhedloedd, gan gynnwys pobl o Batagonia â gwreiddiau yng Nghymru.

Yn 1902, gadawodd dros 200 o Gymry Batagonia am eu bywyd newydd yng Nghanada gyda dros 5,000 yn mudo ar ôl Adfywiad 1904-5. Symudodd llawer ohonynt oherwydd yr amodau byw anodd y daethant ar eu traws, yn bennaf llifogydd cyson, a dim tir ar gael i'w ffermio.

Ffurfiwyd cymunedau newydd gyda llawer o'r Cymry yn ymgartrefu yn ardal Saskatchewan, gan fod hon yn ardal ddynodedig a ddewiswyd gan Lywodraeth Prydain o dan David Lloyd George. Cafodd y pentrefi a'r trefi newydd enwau lleoedd Cymreig, megis Bangor, Llewelyn a Glyndwr. Codwyd siopau, adeiladau, ysgolion a chapeli a chadwyd rhai o'r traddodiadau Cymreig, megis yr Eisteddfod.

Casglwyd y casgliad hanes llafar gan Amgueddfa Hanes Canada, Ottawa lle cedwir y tapiau gwreiddiol. Anfonwyd copïau i Lyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru lle cawsant eu storio mewn amgylchedd rheoledig er mwyn amddiffyn y tapiau i'w defnyddio yn y dyfodol.



Mae'r prosiect Datgloi Ein Treftadaeth Sain sy'n cael ei ariannu gan Gronfa Treftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol, a'i arwain gan y Llyfrgell Brydeinig bellach wedi digido a chreu metadata ar gyfer

y cyfweiliadau hyn. Bellach gellir clywed y casgliad am y tro cyntaf ers y 70au.

I gael mwy o wybodaeth am gasgliad Glenys James a sut y cawsant eu digido, edrychwch ar ein fideo 'O Ganada i Lyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru' ar ein tudalen YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/llyfrgen>

