

Peter Thomas. *Strangers from a Secret Land: The Voyages of the Bark "Albion" and the Founding of the First Welsh Settlements in Canada.* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1986, reprinted 1990) xiii, 319 pp., \$7.10 paper.

This is quite a long book, with a misleading subtitle, about two quite small Welsh settlements in the Maritime Provinces. Even the author admits that the settlements at Cardigan and New Cambria "were insignificant by most of the measures historians commonly use." Nor can it be very highly recommended, even to ethnic students in Canada, because about half of the material is about Welsh maritime history and Canadian provincial politics.

Ethnically speaking, several ships, beginning in 1818-19, began transporting Welsh emigrants to Canada. While many settlers immediately went to the United States, some remained in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and, with government and some local aid—usually slow in coming and inadequate—managed to build houses, fell the pine trees, and set up agricultural operations. Some worked in the cities at various trades. Mostly Welsh speakers, they suffered educational and religious disadvantages, schooling being sporadic, as were visits by Welsh-speaking ministers. They also encountered difficulties procuring adequate roads and even official recognition of their land claims.

At their strongest there were about 400 and 130 people in the settlements respectively, although the fact that the only chapel established at the larger settlement never had more than 33 members makes me think that the numbers may be inflated. The two settlements remained intact, although they quickly became much smaller, until the twentieth century; a chapel still remains at Cardigan.

Of value is the account of the sea voyage—primarily based on two publications, one prose and one poetry, both possibly written by Llewelyn Davies, who served as captain during some of the voyages. Details are sparse concerning the settlements, the settlers, and their lives in anything but the most general terms. Full records simply don't exist.

Much of the book is rather tangential to the settlements themselves. Thomas starts with a discussion of why and how he researched and wrote the book. This is followed by a useful account about conditions in Wales in the early nineteenth century and very detailed material about the major Cardigan ship owners—most of whom were related by blood to Captain Davies. After the story of the sea voyage and the settlers' early difficulties, a whole chapter is devoted to the career of a civil servant who at first befriended the Welsh but later spurned them. His life is reported cradle to grave—much of it long before and long after his relations with the Welsh.

After more material about the settlements, there is a long digression on a Baptist clergyman who considered joining the group at Cardigan, but eventually didn't, as well as the later careers of the descendants of Captain Llewelyn Davies, which I have trouble accepting as "truly part of the long epilogue to the *Albion* story."

Finally, there is a rather sentimental account concerning the author's interviews with some of the few remaining Welsh at Cardigan, and a summary of known material about all the settlers, long-term and short-term, at the Canadian settlement.

In summary, there is considerable worthwhile ethnic history here, but there is so much nonessential information that separating the wheat from the chaff seems hardly worth the effort.

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Russell Thornton, with C. Matthew Snipp and Nancy Breen. *The Cherokees: A Population History*. Indians of the Southeast Series. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990) xvi, 237 pp., \$35.00.

A first glance at the title might wrongly suggest that Thornton's volume is best relegated to demography. This is, however, a wonderful reference for historians, ethnicists, and anthropologists, as well as an engaging work well suited for the general reader in Native American topics.

In the historic section, the author shows the relative parts played by European diseases and warfare in affecting Cherokee population. He also notes in detail the decimation of the "Principal People" during the Trail of Tears (1838-39). He addresses the still current controversy regarding estimates of how many died as a direct result of the Removal. Thornton hews to the estimate of two to four thousand out of a proposed total population of 13,000 who made the trek. Although speculation about the varying estimates seems reasonable for this work's purpose, the author's own projections on Cherokee population had the Removal never occurred (using two different formulae) seem inappropriate. He uses projections which include "nonbirths," figures for persons who hypothetically would have been born had the disaster been averted. While this might fit well in a book targeted solely at demographers, it appears to weaken an otherwise sound discussion of the controversy.

Thornton's chronology, with careful attention to social phenomena such as intermarriage and the Removal, provides an excellent baseline for the underlying theme. The most important theme in this book is the self-definition of ethnicity, sometimes entirely individual, sometimes the result of "community recognition." The author deals diplomatically with the Cherokee Grandmother Syndrome, the role of Cherokees of African-American ancestry, and the often arbitrary assigning of blood quanta by enrollment officers. His use of national and state census data provides an enlightening comparison of Cherokee characteristics from recognized groups (Eastern Band of Cherokees, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, United Keetowah Band), non-reservation population centers (i.e. California) and