

**THE WELCH INDIANS, OR, A  
COLLECTION OF PAPERS RESPECTING A  
PEOPLE WHOSE ANCESTORS  
EMIGRATED FROM WALES TO AMERICA,  
IN THE YEAR 1170, WITH PRINCE  
MADOC, PP. 75-112**

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The Welch Indians, or, A collection of papers respecting a people whose ancestors emigrated from Wales to America, in the year 1170, with Prince Madoc, pp. 75-112 by George Burder

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**GEORGE BURDER**

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THE  
WELCH INDIANS

OR

A COLLECTION OF PAPERS

RESPECTING A PEOPLE WHOSE ANCESTORS EMIGRATED  
FROM WALES TO AMERICA, IN THE YEAR 1170,

WITH

*PRINCE MADOC*

(THREE HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE THE FIRST VOYAGE  
OF COLUMBUS),

And who are said now to inhabit a beautiful Country on the  
West Side of the MISSISSIPPI.

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DEDICATED  
TO THE  
*MISSIONARY SOCIETY*  
BY  
GEORGE BURDER

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TO THE  
DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
*MISSIONARY SOCIETY*

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GENTLEMEN,

YOU are engaged in the most honourable of all pursuits, the diffusion of evangelical knowledge among the benighted heathen. With unexampled liberality you have dispatched a number of Missionaries to Otaheite, and other islands of the Pacific Ocean. You have now in contemplation the benevolent plan of Christianizing the poor oppressed Africans. May the Almighty Saviour succeed your philanthropic labours!

Permit me to introduce to your compassionate notice a numerous and long-neglected race of men, originally Britons, and still retaining the ancient British language, but separated by the vast Atlantic from this illumined isle for more than six hundred years.

If we may credit the most respectable testimonies, they preserve among them, with religious veneration, a manuscript volume which is, with the greatest probability, supposed to be *THE BIBLE*, that blessed book which is able to make us wise to salvation. They cannot read it, yet long to know its contents; they have wept when strangers have visited them, unable like themselves to peruse it. Tradition has taught them to expect that some messenger of God will one day come among them, and unlock the sacred cabinet. I indulge the hope that this honour is reserved for the English Missionary Society. Thrice happy shall that man be esteemed who, standing up among them and holding the Bible in his hands, shall cry in the British tongue, "I am come from Madoc's country to read and explain to you this holy book of God, and to preach among you the unsearchable riches of Christ."

Gentlemen, the following pages contain historical relations of the emigration of Prince Madoc from Wales, with a numerous train of his followers in the year 1170; together with a variety of remarkable circumstances reported by travellers, and corroborating proofs from writers of different nations, all uniting to confirm the fact of their existence on the banks of the Missouri.

If this publication should draw forth further and still more satisfactory information concerning them, and especially if it should induce you to extend your generous and compassionate regards to their distant abode, it will afford the most cordial joy to,

Gentlemen,

Your humble Servant,

GEORGE BURDER

*Coventry,*  
*March 10, 1797.*



THE  
WELCH INDIANS

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No. I.

*The Discovery of America by the Welch, from the Universal History,*  
Vol. xlv. p. 3.

WE must not omit that the *Welch* claim a more ancient discovery than any yet produced; asserting that Prince Madoc, son of Owen Guineth, was cast on the coast of Florida as early as 1170 or 1190. Though indeed some look on this relation as fabulous, it has a great many corroborating circumstances that make it appear not improbable; for Meredith ap Rheise, who gives us the account, was prior to Columbus, and died in the year 1477, which is fifteen years before Columbus began his expedition. To this we may add the affinity between the language of the Welch, and of some of the settlements in those parts, which receives some weight from the evidence of Mr. Davies, who tells us he met with a whole settlement that spoke the Welch language in its uttermost purity; and from the tradition of some of the inhabitants, who assert that their ancestors came from a country beyond the great waters, nearly about the same time, from the same point of the compass, or from the rising of the sun.

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No. II.

*The following was found among the Papers of the late Lady Fraser, of Cresey House, in Lincolnshire\*.*

COLUMBUS'S DISCOVERY OF AMERICA QUESTIONED

THE chief thing that induced me to look into some authors here mentioned, was my reading a small book in octavo, lent me by a French gentleman to peruse about twenty-five years ago; it was translated into English, and gave an account of a great nation of Indians within-land from Cape Florida that actually speak Welch.

\* Gentleman's Magazine, 1789, Vol. ii. p. 1067.

1. Please to look into James Howell's Letters, vol. ii. p 71. concerning the ancient Brittaines, and you will find that Maddoc ap Owen, a Prince of Wales, made two voyages from Wales to America, the first in the year 1170, which is three hundred and sixteen years before Columbus saw it. He died at Mexico, and this following epitaph was found engraven on his tomb in the Welch language:

"Madoc wismio ydie wedd,  
Jawn ycnan Owen Gwynedd,  
Ni sennum dvisig enriddoedd,  
Ni dy mawr ondy mervedd."

ENGLISHED

"Madoc ap Owen was I call'd,  
Strong, tall, and comely, not enthrall'd  
With home-bred pleasures; but for fame,  
Through land and sea I sought the same."

2. See third volume of the Voyages of the English Nation, by Richard Hackluyt, Student of Christ Church, in Oxford, p. 1.

3. See Pagett's Christianography, p. 47.

4. See the third and last volume of the Turkish Spy, p 202.

5. See Purchas's Pilgrimage, book viii. p. 899.

6. See Broughton, who affirms that the faith of Christ was preached in America by some of our first planters that preached in Britain.

7. See George Abbot, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury's History of the World, p. 255, 56, and 57, who informs us, that King Arthur had some knowledge of America, and that a prince of Wales first found it out.

8. See the Welch Cambria, wrote by David Powell, and Sir John Price, Knt., translated into English by Humphry Lloyd, Gent.; there you will see the reasons that induced the Prince Madoc ap Owen Gwynedd to travel.

9. See Sir Walter Raleigh's History of the World, and the words the natives used when they talked together. They say these and the like words: *gwrundo*, which is hearken, or listen, in Welch; a bird with a white head, they call *pengwyn*; the white rock, *caregwen*; a river, *gwndwr*; and there is a promontory; not far from Mexico, called Cape Breton, all which are British words; and many more words of like nature; which does manifestly shew that it was that country the Prince Madoc's people inhabited.

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No. III.

*The following Account of MADOC and his Family, taken from Welch Historians and Poets, appeared in the Monthly Magazine for December, 1796, signed MEIRON.*

OWAIN, Prince of *Gwynnez*, who died in the year 1169, had nineteen children; the names of the sons were, *Rhodri*, *Cynoric*, *Riryd*, *Meredyz*, *Edwal*, *Cynan*, *Rien*, *Maelgon*, *Lywelyn*, *Iorwerth*, *Davyz*, *Cadwallon*, *Hywell*, *Cadell*, *Madoc*, *Einion*, and *Phylip*: of these, *Rhodri*, *Hywell*, *Davyz*, and *Madoc* were the most distinguished. *Hywell* was a fine poet, as appears by his compositions, of which eight are preserved. His mother was a native of Ireland; and though not born in wedlock, he was the first who aspired to the crown after the death of *Owain*, which event no sooner took place but his brother *Davyz* became his competitor, under the sanction of a legitimate birth. The consequence was that the country became embroiled in a civil war.

Influenced by disgust at the unnatural dissensions among his brothers, *Madoc*, who is represented of a very mild disposition, resolved upon the matchless enterprize of exploring the ocean westward, in search of more tranquil scenes. The event was, according to various old documents, the discovering of a new world, from which he effected his return, to inform his country of his good fortune. The consequence of which was the fitting-out of a second expedition; and *Madoc*, with his brother *Riryd*, Lord of *Clocran*, in Ireland, prevailed upon so