Introduction

'... May 28 [1865], the anchor was raised and we bade farewell to the land of our birth.' Thomas Jones, Glan Camwy

Tasks and learning objectives

1. First emigrants' places of origin
2. Reasons for emigrating
3. The voyage and it's difficulties
4. Write a script - The Migration
5. Landing on the beaches
6. Skills to establish a settlement
7. Richard Ellis's Journal
8. The first months in Patagonia

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The voyage of the 'Mimosa', 1865

'T ... May 28 [1865], the anchor was raised and we bade farewell to the land of our birth.'
Thomas Jones, Glan Camwy

On 28 May 1865, the first group of Welsh emigrants began its long journey from Liverpool to Patagonia. Although many of the 150 passengers aboard the 'Mimosa' would probably have been anxious about the voyage ahead, they would also have been relieved that the waiting was over and that they were starting on their journey to South America.

Many of the passengers had spent over four weeks in Liverpool. The original intention had been for the 'Halton Castle' to set sail on 25 April 1865. However, at the last minute, the organisers were informed that the 'Halton Castle' had not returned from its previous voyage, and that it would not be ready to depart for Patagonia on the arranged date. Upon hearing this news, many of the passengers withdrew from the venture. Several families who waited for alternative arrangements to be made could not afford to stay in Liverpool, and they borrowed money from Michael D. Jones and his wife Anne in order to pay for food and lodging. In the meantime, the Emigration Committee hired the 'Mimosa', a small tea-clipper, to make the journey to Patagonia.

On 24 May 1865, the passengers were granted permission to board the ship. Many of them hailed from the industrial areas of Mountain Ash and Aberdare, and only a minority came from agricultural communities. As well as a number of coal miners and quarrymen, the first contingent included a schoolmaster, preachers, a builder and a doctor. Before leaving, a Council (‘Cyngor y Wladychfa’) was elected to govern the Settlement. The Council consisted of twelve members, and a president, secretary, treasurer and auditor were also elected. On 25 May, the captain of the 'Mimosa', a 25-year-old man named George Pepperrell, announced that the anchor was about to be lifted. Hundreds of people, including Michael D. Jones and his wife Anne, gathered on the dock to bid farewell to the passengers.
The Welsh banner was raised, and the passengers sung an anthem composed especially for the occasion, to the tune of 'God Save the Queen'. However, after leaving the docks, the 'Mimosa' remained on the River Mersey for three days until the wind was favourable. Finally, at four o'clock in the afternoon on 28 May, the anchor was raised and the 'Mimosa' began its voyage to Patagonia.

The passengers had an eventful start to their voyage - strong winds and huge waves came crashing down on the ship soon after it left the River Mersey. The weather remained relatively calm while they crossed the Atlantic Ocean and until they reached the shores of Brazil, where the ship was caught in another storm. In addition to the bad weather, the passengers had to cope with the humdrum of life at sea, as well as the poor standard of food and accommodation. Trouble brewed on one occasion after the captain ordered that the females should all have their hair washed and shaved. Little is known of the conditions aboard the ship, but several passengers were struck ill and four children died before reaching Patagonia.
Occasionally, there would also be a cause for celebration on the 'Mimosa'.

On 11 June, Mary Jones, the wife of John Jones of Mountain Ash, gave birth to a son named John. On 15 June, a few days after the death of their 2-year-old son James, Aaron and Rachel Jenkins had a baby daughter named Rachel. Also on the voyage, William and Anne Lewis of Abergynolwyn were married in a ceremony officiated by the Rev. Lewis Humphreys.

Some entertainment and games were also to be had aboard the 'Mimosa'. The passengers would often share stories and sing.

As the ship crossed the equator on 28 June, many of them watched members of the crew as they celebrated this important milestone. John Seth Jones wrote an account of this event in his diary: 'Two sailors wore long fake beards, made from bits of rope; fireworks were thrown in the air; the sailors threw buckets of water over each other, &c. This practice took place tonight. Water was poured over almost all the emigrants, apart from the women and children. I had some three bucketfuls over my head as well as some water splashed here and there. I went down before they finished, this all took place before nine. I waited until dawn before going to bed, and I then stayed in bed throughout the morning. After they had thrown water, they sent rockets up in the air, and many were sent up. Then many of the more respectable members went to have drinks with the captain in the cabin, and it is said that many of them were rather drunk, but none of those whose names appear in this book.' [Translated from Welsh]

On 26 July, after almost two months at sea, a member of the crew announced that land was in sight. The ship arrived at New Bay that night and the passengers climbed to the deck to catch their first glimpse of land in the morning. The following day, another ship called 'Juno' was seen nearby, and the captain and Watkin P. Williams took a small boat to meet it. They returned to the 'Mimosa' before long, accompanied by Lewis Jones. He was immediately called upon to address the passengers, and there was much celebration. He later returned to his ship, and the 'Mimosa' sailed on before dropping anchor in the bay. A small crew of men went ashore that evening, but the remainder of the passengers waited another day for an opportunity to set foot on Patagonian soil.

Sources

R. Bryn Williams, Y Wladfa (Caerydd, 1962)

E. MacDonald, Dyddiadur Mimosa (Llanrwst, 2002)
The voyage of the 'Mimosa', 1865

Task 1. First emigrants' places of origin
Place small flags on a map of Wales to show the first emigrants' places of origin. Do you see a pattern? Try to explain.

Complete the worksheet - The First Emigrants

Task 2. Reasons for emigrating
Choose two individuals from the photograph. Write captions to explain their reasons for emigrating.

Complete the worksheet - Emigration

Task 3. The voyage and it's difficulties
What difficulties would the travellers have faced during their voyage to Patagonia?

Task 4. Write a script - The Migration
Use the fruit of your research to write a script entitled 'The Migration'.

Complete the worksheet - Script - The Migration

Task 5. Landing on the beaches
Imagine being on the first voyage to Patagonia and landing on the beaches of New Bay on the 28th July 1865. What would be your first priorities when you arrived?

Complete the worksheet - 'The Old Fort', 28 July 1890
**Task 6. Skills to establish a settlement**

What skills would the emigrants need in order to establish a settlement in Patagonia?

*Complete the worksheet - 28 July 1865*

**Task 7. Richard Ellis's Journal**

Read the selected entries from Richard Ellis's Journal 1865 - 1867.

*Read - Richard Ellis's Journal (part 1)*

**Task 8. The first months in Patagonia**

Suggest how they might have clothed and fed themselves during their first months in Patagonia.

*Read - Richard Ellis's Journal (part 2)*
The First Emigrants
Choose two individuals from the picture. Write captions to explain their reasons for emigrating.
Script – The Migration

**Locations** (where the different scenes will take place)

**Characters** (name, age and reason for migrating)

**Main Incidents** (accidents, illness, difficulties)

**Conclusion**
Some members of the first group of emigrants near ‘The Old Fort’, 28 July 1890

Mrs W. Austin
Llanuwchllyn
The wife of the youngest settler to sign the settlement document of establishment

Mrs Joshua Jones
Bangor
The wife of Joshua Jones, Cwmaman

Hugh Hughes ‘Cadfan Gwynedd’
66 years of age
A carpenter from Rhostryfan. One of the leaders of the settlement movement

Mrs Ann Davydd
Cardigan

J Huws, jun. Rhosllannerchrugog
27 years old
Settled on Glyn Lliôn farm

G Huws, jun.
31 years of age
Son of G Huws Llanuwchllyn

Rhys Williams, Nantyglo
Emigrated to Brazil at the beginning of the 1850s. Joined the Welsh in Patagonia in 1867

Griff Huws, Llanuwchllyn

W T Rees
Mountain Ash

J Moelwyn Roberts, Ffestiniog
45 years of age
Married Elizabeth Roberts, Bangor

L Davies, Aberystwyth
49 years of age
Brother of Thomas Davies, Aberystwyth, who emigrated later and who was of prime importance in establishing the Madryn-Trelew railroad

Your priorities:

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28 July 1865

What skills would a group need to establish a settlement in Patagonia?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills</th>
<th>For what?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Richard Ellis’s Journal

Richard Ellis kept this journal for 51 years, from 1865 to 1916. Though the diary contains very few details, Ellis’s entries offer a glimpse of the daily life of the Welsh settlers. Some important events in the history of the Settlement are mentioned, such as the landing of the ‘Mimosa’ on 28 July 1865, the first visit by the indigenous people in April 1866, and the constant struggle to raise crops.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13th April</td>
<td>Got married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th May</td>
<td>Left River Mersey for Patagonia for per Bark [sic] Mimosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th July</td>
<td>Dropped anchor [Dropped anchor] New Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th July</td>
<td>Landed in Patagonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th Aug</td>
<td>First journey for Chubut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th Aug</td>
<td>Came across [sic] sandstone at top of lower valley. On 14th reached the fort. Returned on the 16th aug.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th Aug</td>
<td>Reached the fort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th Aug</td>
<td>Aug returned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th Aug</td>
<td>Reached New Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th Sept</td>
<td>Mrs Ellis and Hannah arrived at Chubut by Captain Woods schooner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Nov</td>
<td>Managed to get one cow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th Nov</td>
<td>Churned the first time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th Nov</td>
<td>Mr Wm Davies started for B. Aires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>Mr Wm Davies returned from B.A. with small schooner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>Received a nice present of a daughter Mary Anne. Baptised April 1st by Rev Abraham Matthews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th April</td>
<td>First visit by two Indians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th April</td>
<td>the family encamped by Has Heddych</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd, 3rd, 4th March</td>
<td>planted seals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th March</td>
<td>brother J. and self killed a puma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th Aug</td>
<td>First tribe of Indians on south side of river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th Aug</td>
<td>Second tribe of Indians came down north side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th October</td>
<td>J Ellis and others going on an exploring expedition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st October</td>
<td>The frost scorching the potatoes [sic], little trees and pumpkins [pumpkins]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th Dec</td>
<td>A Frenchman came to the colony over camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Mrs Ellis and self left New bay by small schooner for Patagonia. Reached there on 11th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>