

Did a Welshman discover America?

Video transcript – Introduction

Legend has it that America was discovered by a Welsh prince centuries before Columbus reached its shores.

Whatever the truth of the legend, once the Welsh got to the New World, they couldn't wait to put their stamp on it.

A fifth of the Pilgrim Fathers of the United States were of Welsh descent, as were a third of those who signed the Declaration of Independence.

It was drafted by Thomas Jefferson, whose ancestors supposedly hailed from Llanberis in Snowdonia.

And that's not all!

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln canvassed Welsh settlers across America by printing 100,000 election pamphlets... in Welsh!

There are Welsh place names the length and breadth of America, and some of its most prestigious colleges – Yale, Johns Hopkins, Brown and Brynmawr - were all founded by Welshmen.

And it may all have started here in the small coastal town of Llandrillo-yn-Rhos in north Wales.