

turn to Wales for two 3-year periods (1840–1843 and 1845–1848) during the time he was working as a journeyman surveyor. In later life, Wallace revisited Wales only on a few short occasions.

On this basis, I feel it is difficult to fairly consider Wallace a Welshman (though it is clear enough, as Evans and Lloyd suggest, that Wales figured importantly in several respects in his early life). Apparently, Wallace himself agreed: although on many occasions he drew attention to his ancestral connections with the Scots, to my knowledge he never once referred to himself as a Welshman, and indeed always gave his place of birth as Monmouthshire, not Gwent. Further, his contemporaries referred to him as an Englishman. Last, and not insignificantly, when early in the century the University of Wales voted to award him an honorary doctorate, he declined the offer (despite having previously accepted ones from Dublin and Cambridge): not exactly a ringing endorsement of a supposed national affinity.

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References and Notes

1. The site is at [www.wku.edu/~smithch/index1.htm](http://www.wku.edu/~smithch/index1.htm)

## The Nationality of a Naturalist

**THE LETTER FROM W. H. EVANS AND D. LLOYD** regarding the nationality of Alfred Russel Wallace as given on my Web site (*1*) is accurate as far as it goes, but



it does not go far enough (1 Feb., p. 797). Wallace's mother and father were of English and English-Scottish descent, respectively. They moved from St. Georges, Southwark, to Usk in southern Wales about 1820, probably for financial reasons. At that time Usk was part of the area

known as Monmouthshire, nominally an administrative division of England.

Wallace himself was born in Usk in 1823, but in 1828, a death in the extended family allowed Wallace's family to move again, this time to Hertford. They never returned to Wales as a family. Wallace did, however, re-

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