

The Diary of William Herbert, 1886-87

**An account of his visit to the Rhondda Valleys
and the Vale of Glamorgan in Wales.**



**Transcribed and translated from the Welsh by Robert Humphries,
with a foreword and genealogical notes by Catherine Reuther.**

**Spring Green, Wisconsin
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Cover photograph: William Herbert and Margaret Hopkins Herbert at the time of their wedding, 1875.

Foreword

Over 125 years ago, William Herbert, a resident of the United States, made a journey home to Wales. His diary of that visit home is both a window into a time and place in the coal mining area of Glamorgan, Wales, and also an important document of our family, particularly William's mother Jane (Gibbon) Herbert's family and his wife Margaret (Hopkins) Herbert's family.

William identifies many family members by relationship (aunt, for example) and first name, occasionally providing a last name. The accumulation of names has allowed me to identify Jane Gibbon's family and Margaret Hopkins' family; information that was not previously known.

Many family members are more fully identified in the index than William did in his diary. Researching our family history is always a continuing journey and other family members may be identified after this publication of William's diary transcription and translation. Concurrent to the translation process, Robert Humphries has also identified prominent and well known men that William mentions in his diary. Just like with family research, this is a process that may not be fully complete before publication.

I would like to thank both Junith (Smitherman) Koon (my cousin and William's great-granddaughter) for preserving and sharing William's diary, and, most especially, Robert Humphries for taking on this project to translate William's sometimes difficult to read handwriting, and for going the extra mile to locate additional information on William published in Welsh and to identify the prominent men William mentions.

I am very excited to be able to share this important document with the National Library of Wales and the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project (Wymore, Nebraska), with our family, and with everyone interested in the history of Wales.

Catherine Reuther
Great-great granddaughter of William Herbert

William Herbert (1850-1933)

William Herbert wrote this diary from November 1886 through January 1887 while on a trip back to Wales from his home in the United States. William was born 23 September 1850 in Colwinston, Glamorgan, Wales, to David Herbert and his wife Jane Gibbon. William likely grew up in Cymmer, and began working there as a coal miner, probably by the time he was 13 years old.

In 1875 William married Margaret Hopkins. They had two children before they immigrated to America in April 1880. They came to Bridgeport, Belmont County, Ohio, where William was a coal miner.

When William made the trip back to Wales in 1886, his father David Herbert had died the year before in April 1885. Brother Edward may also have immigrated to America and perhaps died between 1884 and 1885.

William made the trip alone, leaving wife Margaret in Ohio with their four young children aged 2 to 10 years. William was already a manager at the coal mine. As a manager, William would have had the status with the owners of the mine to both allow him to take a leave of two to three months to make the trip back to Wales, and for Margaret and the children to continue to live in their company housing while he was gone. If William had been a typical coal miner he would not have been able to take a leave of absence like that, nor would his family have been allowed to continue to live in company housing without a family member working in the mine.

As a manager, William was also able to tour a coal mine operation in Wales while on the trip. The tour of the mine was arranged by his friend, and wife Margaret's nephew, Azariah Thomas.

From the diary we know that William was acquainted with several prominent men in Wales at that time; men such as the coal mine owner James "Siamps" Thomas and the labor leader and Member of Parliament, William Abraham.

Between 1887 and 1889 William and his family moved to Alabama. In 1889 Azariah Thomas and his wife Maggie immigrated to America, coming to Birmingham, Alabama, where William and Margaret were living. (See Appendix II for more information on Azariah Thomas.)

William worked at several mines in the central part of Alabama in Bibb and Jefferson counties (Birmingham and surrounding areas). He is also known to have traveled to and worked at coal mines in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky. William's family may have remained in Birmingham when he made these journeys.

William had great hopes for his children to have an advanced education, which they did achieve. He may have been a poet, and was instrumental in organizing an Eisteddfod (Welsh festival of poetry and music) in Birmingham.

About 1904 they settled permanently in Bessemer, Jefferson County, Alabama.

Margaret died on 4 March 1928, and William followed her a few years later, dying in Bessemer on 26 February 1933 at age 82. His obituary called him one of the industrial leaders of the Bessemer area.

A Note on the Translation

When William Herbert wrote this diary for himself and his wife, Margaret, I am quite certain he never expected that it would be translated into English more than 125 years later. Although they prove a challenge for the reader today, his penmanship and spelling were perfectly sufficient for the task at hand.

As much as possible, I have tried to make sure the translation corresponds line for line with the original, except where the differences between Welsh and English syntax would make it difficult to understand or a lack of space has forced me to push a word or two onto the next line. I have also maintained William's limited punctuation and idiosyncratic capitalization, although I have capitalized all proper nouns in the translation.

For the most part, I have maintained William's spelling of personal names, although I have corrected "Azeriah" to "Azariah." I have also translated a few place names, such as Abertawe (Swansea) and Tregolwyn (Colwinston), although most of the place names in the Rhondda valleys do not have English equivalents. The Welsh word "ciniaw" is translated here as "lunch" rather than "dinner." In South Wales, "dinner" is the midday meal, however "lunch" is understood more universally as such. It should be noted that each "page" of the diary presented here actually represents two open pages, the lines of text running parallel to the spine.

In addition to the transcription and translation, I have inserted a number of explanatory footnotes and identified several individuals well known in Wales or at least in the Rhondda. William Abraham ("Mabon") and Joseph Parry were world-famous Welshmen. For the identification of other local businessmen and community leaders, such as Idris Williams "Bryn Glas" or James "Siamps" Thomas, I am indebted to Richard Griffith's excellent study, *The Entrepreneurial Society of the Rhondda Valleys 1840-1920: Power and influence in the Porth-Pontypridd region* (Cardiff, University of Wales Press: 2010).

I should add that I am grateful to Martha Davies, of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, for requesting my assistance with this task and eventually handing it off to me. I have made only slight changes to her initial translation of the diary's first five pages.

Catherine Reuther has been very helpful in providing background information about her family. I have greatly enjoyed assisting her not only by translating her great-great-grandfather's diary, but also in delving further into the history behind it. As a researcher with a special interest in 19th century Welsh immigration and settlement in the United States, I believe William Herbert's diary affords an intimate glimpse of one man's transatlantic experience as well as a vivid portrait of Victorian Wales. Thoughtful, poignant and at times gently humorous, this document is an invaluable record of what it meant for an immigrant to return to his homeland even as he realized his heart now resided thousands of miles away.

Robert Humphries

[1]

Hanes Taith Wm Herbert
yn nghymru.

Wm Herbert
Bridgeport
Belmont Co
Ohio

Fy nhaith yn nghymru
Gyraiddais dy fy mam
Nov. 28th 1886 am 10 or gloch PM
daith llu o fy hen gyfeillion
i fynu gyda mi i Trebanog
y rhai a ddaethant im cyfarfod
at y train Henry George Tommy
a John Herbert fy mrodyr. Rachie
Morgan chwaer Margret. Azeriah
Thomas. R. Edmund John Jones
John gwr Mair, Ann Thomas Tom
gwr Sara Ann Sam Trefaldwyn
Johnny Williams ac amryw eraill
ru luosog iw enwi Amser
sober a difrifol ydoedd pan
aethum ir ty ni fu dim
siarad am lawer o amser.

[1]

Journey of Wm. Herbert
in Wales.

Wm. Herbert
Bridgeport
Belmont County
Ohio

My journey in Wales.
I reached my mother's house on
Nov. 28 1886 at 10 PM
many of my old friends
went up with me to Trebanog
those who came to meet
the train: Henry, George, Tommy
and John Herbert (my brothers) Rachie
Morgan (Margaret's sister). Azariah
Thomas. R. Edmund, John Jones,
John (Mair's husband), Ann Thomas, Tom
(Sara Ann's husband), Sam Trefaldwyn*,
Johnny Williams and others
too numerous to name it was a
sober and serious time
when we came to the house nobody
spoke for a long time.

* "Trefaldwyn" is the Welsh name for the
town of Montgomery, in the modern county
of Powys in mid-Wales. A number of
individuals in William's diary are
identified with places following their
names. It is reasonable to suggest that
"Sam Trefaldwyn" was originally from
Montgomeryshire.

[2]

ac wedi dechreu siarad
nid oedd diwedd ir siarad ir
or cwestiynau cyntaf a gefais
gan fy mam ydoedd paham na
fuaswn yn dod a gwylym
gyda fi yr oeddynt oll yn
credu ei fod ef gyda fi wedi
i mi egluro y gofyniad yr
oedd fy mam yn deweyd y
dylaswn ddod a gwylym
er mwyn iddi hi gael golwg
arna am unwaith. wel wedi
llawer o siarad aithum i orphwys
tuar boreu. Tach 28. 1886
Hwyr iawn yn codi y cyntaf
daith ir ty ydoedd Llewelyn
William yna daeth John Jones
a John Hopkins bu John Hopkin
gyda mi trwy y dydd ni fum
or ty nes ar ol ciniaw. bu
John Hopkin gyda mi ar giniaw
yna aethum i lawr tuar Porth bum yn hir
amser cyn gallu cyraedd y Porth
y gyntaf gyfarifyddais oedd Hanna
Breese. yna Pegi Langana. Lydia
merch Wm Rosser E Rees Jonathan
a Miriam wel maint yn rhy
luosog iw enwi bum yn agos
i awr a haner ar y ffordd i lawr
ir Porth yr oedd crwdd mawr yn
Gapel Anibynol y Porth
Parch Evans Geunewydd yn
pregethu wedi'r cyfarfod
daith llu om hen ffryndiau

[2]

and having begun to speak,
there was no end to the conversation.
the first question from
my mother was why I
did I not bring Gwylym
with me they all
believed he was with me after
I explained
my mother said
I should have brought Gwylym
so she could have a look
at him one time. well, after
much talking I went to rest
toward the morning. Nov. 28, 1886.
I arose quite late. The first
to come to the house was Llewelyn
William then John Jones
and John Hopkins John Hopkin[s?] was
with me throughout the day we didn't
leave the house until after diner.
John Hopkin[s?] was with me at lunch
then we went down to Porth it took us a
long time to reach Porth
the first person I met was Hanna
Breese. then Pegi Langana. Lydia
the daughter of Wm. Rosser E. Rees
Jonathan and Miriam well, there were
too many of them to name it took close
an hour and a half [to get] down to
Porth there was a large gathering in
Porth Congregational Chapel
the Rev. Evans from New Quay* was
preaching after the service
many of my old friends came

*Cei Newydd/New Quay is a town on the
coast of Cardiganshire in West Wales.

[3]

ffryndiau yn mhlain attaf
yn ei plith ac yn llawn cynes
rwydd Mr a Mrs William a Flory
a Mary. William Bryn glas a
Thomas Evans, y crydd, Thomas
Evan Penrhywgwynt Dd Jenkins
Sara Ann merch Wm Jones
John Williams y [maswn?]
Packer. Mathias ai gwragiad
Mr Jinkins a Mrs Jinkins a llu
ereill a phawb yn oli am
Margaret ar plant- wel wedi
bod o flaen y Capel am lawr
o amser aethum i fynu gyda
gyda John a Rachel Gelwais
yn nhy Dafydd ni welais ef
dim ond Mary am oddi yno
i dy Rachel nid oedd William
yn y ty yna i dy Richard
yr oedd ef ar y gwely ond
cododd yn fuan nid oedd Betsy
yn y ty yna aethum i ymolchi
aeth John a mi i dy Seth a
Lysa pan es i mewn yw y
oedd Azeriah ar wraig gweinidog yr
Anibynwyr ar deulu. Ni allaf
ddeweyd pa fodd yr oedd Lysa
yn teimlo yr oedd wedi cael
ei gorchfygu gan ei theimladau
ni fu ryw lawer o siarad
am lawer o amser am nad
oeddem yn gwybod pa le i ddechrau
ond shwd mae Margat

[3]

friends came up to me
in the midst and full of warmth
Mr. and Mrs. William and Flory
and Mary. William Bryn Glas* and
Thomas Evans [the cobbler?] Thomas
Evan Penrhywgwynt David Jenkins,
Sara Ann (daughter of Wm. Jones)
John Williams the [mason?]
Packer, Mathias and their wives**
Mr. Jenkins and Mrs. Jenkins and
throng of others Everyone asked about
Margaret and the children. Well, after
being in front of the Chapel for a long
time we went up with
John and Rachel I called
in at Dafydd's house I did not see him
only Mary, because he [had gone]
to Rachel's house William was not
at home then we went to Richard's house
he was in bed but
got up right away Betsy was not
at home then I went to bathe
John took me to Seth and Lysa's
house when I went in
there was Azariah
and the Congregational minister's wife
and the family. I cannot say how Lysa was
feeling she was overcome
by her emotions
there wasn't much conversation
for a long while because
we did not know where to begin except for
asking, "How are Margaret

* This is most likely Idris Williams
"Bryn Glas" (1834-1894), prominent Porth
landowner and active member of the Porth
Congregational Chapel. Bryn Glas was the
name of his home.

** Richard Packer and William Henry
Mathias (1845-1922) were both successful
businessmen and sons-in-law of local mine
owner James "Siamps" Thomas (see note, p.
84).

[4]

ar plant - ac yna y dagrau
yn redig fel res dros y
gruddiau wel wedi i mi
gael swpper ac ychydig siarad
aeth Seth a fi i dy John
a Sara Ann. yr oedd Sara
Ann yn falch anghyffredin
i gael golwg arnaf erbyn
hyn yr oedd yr amser cwrdd
aethum gyda hwy i gapel
newydd Ynyshir yr oedd William
ei gweinidog newydd yn pregethu
am y tro cyntaf yma y
canfyddais amryw yr oeddwn
yn adnabod arosais yn y
gyfaillach. Cawsom gan
y Band of Hope canasant
yn ardderchog yr oeddwn yn
deimlo yr canu yn felus
daeth Henry ir lan im
cyfarfod a rai eraill om cyfeillion
Galwasom yn nhy
Rachel a William yr oedd
yn raid i ni gymeryd profo
lasiad o Elderberry wine
yr oedd yn yfed yn splendid
wedi tipyn o Siarad am Margaret
ar plant aeth Henry a minau
adref dyna'r modd y treilias
y Sabboth cyntaf yn yr hen
wlad y menyg gwynion

[4]

and the children?" Then the tears
ran in courses down their
cheeks well, after I
had supper and a little chat
Seth and I went to John and
Sara Ann's house. Sara was
especially happy
to see me
by now it was meeting time
we went with them to the new chapel
at Ynyshir William
their new minister was preaching
for the first time here
several I knew were
staying for the
Fellowship meeting. We had
the Band of Hope*
they sang excellently
the singing made me feel good
Henry came to meet me
and several others of my friends.
We called by the home of
Rachel and William where we
had to take a sample taste
of a glass of Elderberry wine.
It was splendid.
after a little talk about Margaret
and the children, Henry and I went
home that is the way I spent
the first Sunday in the old
country of the white gloves

*Youth fellowship

[5]

11/29/86

Dydd llun bum yn y ty y rhan
fwyaf or dydd hwyw bu J Jones
a R Edmund ac eraill o wyr
Trebanog yn y dy heddyw wedi
ciniaw a aeth R Edmunds a
minau i lawr ir Gymmer
gelwais gyda llawer om hen
gyffeillion bum yn nhy Wm
Hugh Cathrin Roberts R Edmund
ac amryw eraill cyraiddais
ty George fy mrawd erbyn
amser swper bum yma
nes i Henry ddod i alw
am danaf yna aethwm
ein dau i Capel A. y Porth
i wrandaw a y Parch
Evan Ceunewydd yn traddodi
Darlith a "Bod yn distaw"
darlith oedd ysgiadol a digrifol
iawn dyn galluog ydyw
Evans wel wedi y darlith
cefais y fraint o gyfarfod a llawer
or hen gyffeillion a [phan__?]
a fuaswn yn siarad a hwy
yn holi yn gynnes am
Margret ar plant yr oedd
yn hwyr iawn pan gyraeddasm
adref ddeudeg or gloch
myned ir gwely.

11/30/86 gwlawiodd

Henry yn segur cychwyn-
asom wedi brechwast i lawr
tuar ar Porth gwelais heddyw

[5]

11/29/86

Monday I was at home for
most of the day J. Jones
and R. Edmund and other men
of Trebanog came to the house today after
lunch and R. Edmunds and
I went down to Cymmer
I saw many of my old
friends I was in Wms house
Hugh, Cathrin Roberts, R. Edmund
and several others I arrived
at the home of George, my brother, by
supper time I was here
until Henry came to call
for me then we both went
to the Porth Independent [Congregational]
Chapel to hear the Rev.
Evan New Quay presenting
a Lecture "Being Silent"
a lecture that was quite stimulating and
serious an able man
is Evans well, after the lecture,
we met many
old friends and [when__?]
talking to them and they
asked warmly about
Margaret and the children it was quite
late when we arrived
home midnight
went to bed.

11/30/86 rain

Henry idle we started out
after breakfast down
to Porth today I saw

[6]

na welais or blaen buom
mewn amryw fanau cyfarfyddais
a Mr Thomas Griffiths a mawr
mor serchus ydoedd i mi
gwahodd fi i fynu iw
dy pan y bydd yn gyfleus i
mi. Aethum I weled Mr a Mrs
Griffith Porth mai Mrs Griffiths
yn wael i iechyd ond
yn well nag y mai wedi
bod yno [__?] y cyfarfyddais a
a Mr a Mrs James Abertawe
dyn serchus anghyffredin
yw Mr James ac un mewn
parch mawr yn y lle hwn
Aethum oddi yma i dy
Thomas a Margaret Tad
a mam Llewelyn yma
y buom ar giniaw wedi
mwynhau ein hunain
Aethum am tro trwy y Porth
Aethum i lawr i Cross St.
Gwelais Sara merch Esther
mae hi yn edrych yn
ardderchog a llawn y ty
o blant ond y mae
Morgan yn heneiddio yn
Anghyffredin mae ei wallt
a farf yn gwynu yn gyflym
mae Rachel wedi chladdu tua
tair wythnos cyn imi ddod
bu farw yn sydyn iawn
ar nos Sul pan oedd yn paratoi
i fyned i Cwrdd syrthiodd yn

[6]

I had never seen before I was
in several places I met
with Thomas Griffiths and
he was very kind to me
he invited me to his
house when it is convenient for
me. I went to see Mr. and Mrs.
Griffith [in] Porth Mrs. Griffiths
is in poor health but
is better than she has
been there [__?] I met with
Mr. and Mrs. James, Swansea
an exceptionally kind man
is Mr. James and one held in
great respect in this place
I went from here to the house
of Thomas and Margaret, father
and mother of Llewelyn here
I stayed for lunch after
enjoying ourselves
I went for a walk through Porth
I went down to Cross St.
I saw Sara, Esther's daughter
she is looking
excellent and the house is full
of children but
Morgan is aging
Terribly his hair
and beard are turning white quickly
Rachel had been buried about
three weeks before I came
she died very suddenly
on Sunday night while preparing
to go to Meeting she dropped

[7]

farw cafodd gladdidigaeth
anrydeddus. pan oeddem yn
mynd ir lawr i street mi
glywais ryw un yn galw
ar fy ol a throais fy
wyneb i edrych pwy ydoedd
a phwy ydoedd ond Betsy oedd
yn cadw ty George Jenkins
maint wedi gladdu Annie mae
Tommy a Henry yn aros
gyda hi yn awr ac y maint
wedi tyfu yn ddynion
mae Betsy yn edrych yn
dda iawn carasai yn fawr
weled Margaret ar plant
wedi teithio trwy y strydoedd
y Porth a chyfarfod ag

Rhag 6 1886

Ni fum or ty heddyw o
herwydd ei body n gwlawio
trwy y dydd daeth fy modryb
Sue i fynu [i] Dregolwyn
ac aros dros y nos. Cawsom
amser ddedwydd heno wrth fynd
dros hen adgofion

Rhag 7 1886

Heddyw bum yn Bontypridd
trwy y dydd gyda fy modryb
Sue buom ar garreg siglo
a thros gomin y Bont er
mwyn cael golwg ar y dre
ai cylchoedd buom yn nhy
Richard Evans (Langors
mewn [Tafarn?] y mae

[7]

dead and was buried
honorably. when we were
going down the street I
heard someone call
after me and I turned
my face to see who it was
and who was it but Betsy who was
keeping house for George Jenkins
they have buried Annie
Tommy and Henry are staying
with her now and have
grown into men
Betsy is looking
very good she would have loved
seeing Margaret and the children
traveled through the streets
of Porth and met with*

December 6 1886**

I did not leave the house today
because it was raining
all day my aunt
Sue came up [from?] Colwinston
and stayed overnight. We had
a pleasant time tonight
reminiscing

December 7 1886

Today I was in Pontypridd
through the day with my aunt
Sue we were on the Rocking Stone****
and on the common in
order to get a view of the town
and its surroundings we were in the house
of Richard Evans (Langors
in [a tavern?] he is

*The text stops here abruptly.

**The following two dates, December 6 and
7 are out of sequence and revised entries
appear later in the diary.

***Colwinston is a village near Bridgend,
Glamorgan. Quite some distance from the
Rhondda Valley.

****This natural landmark is a nine-and-a-
half-ton sandstone boulder on the common
overlooking Pontypridd.

[8]

mawr mor awyddus oeddynt
am fy nghweled bum yn
nhy Kitty Rees ar supper
daethum adref gydar tren
pedwar buom gyda George
yn y hwyr gorfu i mi
fwyta gydag ef. Gwelais
amryw heddyw o fy hen
adnabyddion

amryw oeddwn yn ei adnabod
Aeth Henry a minau i
Brynglass i swper wel
nid oes eisiau i ddeweyd
ein bod wedi cael pop Groesaw
cawsom amser ddedwydd bu
y merched yn chwareu llu
o ddarnau yn ardderchog ar y
piano a mawr oeddynt yn
siarad am Margret a plant
mae tipyn o gynewidiad
yn y lle hwn mae pob
peth fel pe buasai yn edrych
yn fwy ardderchog a mwy o
style iw weled ym mhob
man y dodrefn yn costfawr

[8]

they were so eager
to see me I was in the house
of Kitty Rees for supper
I came home with the
four o'clock train I was with George
in the evening I was obliged
to eat with him. I saw
today several of my old
acquaintances

[large space on the page]

several of them I knew
Henry and I went to
Brynglas for supper well
there is no need to say
we received every welcome
we had a lovely time
the women played many
a few pieces excellently on the
piano and were speaking
about Margaret and the children
there has been quite a bit of change
in this place it is
as if everything looks
much better and there is more
style to be seen everywhere
the furniture is expensive

[9]

a llawer o gynewidiadau
o amgylch ir ty aethum
adref yn brydlawn

11/31/86

Dydd mercher. Aethum i fynu
gydar train 11½ o'r gloch i'r
ystrad yr oedd gwraig Azeriah
yn cyfarfod a mi wrth [Depot?]
menyw serchus anghyffredin
ydyw ac yn foneddigaidd iawn
yn ei dull wedi fyned
or ty ag eistedd i lawr
y path cyntaf oedd cael
cwpanaid o de felly y bu
buom yn siarad am wahanol
bethau hyd nesi Azeriah ddod
adref or gwaith wedi iddo
ef ddod mawr y buy n
fy oli am drefyniadau gwlad
Americ ac am y teulu holi
Llawer am Margret ac am
Gwylm a Sara Jane. Yr oeddwn
dod i lawr gydar train diweddaf
ond gorfu I mi aros i fynu
wel wedi imi fodloni i hynny
Gymerodd Azeriah fi am
amgylch i ty wrth oleu y
lamb i ddangos im yr oll
dy maer ty yn gynwysedig
a bump Room skyllery a Pantry
maer dwr yn gyfleis iawn
ac y mae ol studio dyfod
ar oll waith sydd yn y ty.
Plan Azeriah ydyw

[9]

and many changes
around the house I went
home punctually

11/31/86

Wednesday. I went up
with the 11:30 train to
Ystrad Azariah's wife
met me [at the Depot?]
an exceptionally kind woman
and very noble
in her way then I went out
of the house and sat down
first we had
a cup of tea, so that was it
we talked about different
things until Azariah came
home from work after he
came he asked many questions
about current affairs
in America and about the family he asked
much about Margaret
and Gwylm and Sara Jane. I was going
to take the last train
but I had to stay up there
well after I was happy with that
Azariah took me
around the house by
lamplight to show me the whole
house the house is suitable
with five rooms, a scullery and Pantry
the water is very convenient
and everything in the house
shows evidence of constant attention
Azariah's Plan is

[10]

daith 12/1/86

daithum lawr boreu heddyw
gydar tren 11 or gloch.
daith Mrs. Thomas at y tren
gyda mi erbyn i mi gyraidd
y Porth rywfod neu gilydd
gwelais fod fy mhans wedi mysqu
rhwng y coesau a gorfu
myned i fynu i Trebanwg
i newyd y Pans wedi
imi ciniawa aethum i fynu
ir Ynishir a threuliais
y gweddill ir dydd gyda tylaeu
Margaret yr wyf wedi
cael Sara Ann a William
mewn sefyllfa gysurus
mae ganddynt merch a
bachgen braf a glan a phob
peth o amgylch y ty yn edrych
yn lan ac yn drefnus mae
John a Margret yn byw y
drws nesaf ond un Sara
Ann. Mae r plant wedi tyfu
yn anghyffredin mae Sara
Ann yn ferch ieuanc hardd
iawn ac yn gwnio allan
braidd bob dydd. Mae Gwilym
a John yn agos ymant eu
tad. Wel aethum i lawr
i Gymmer i dy George
oddiyno i dy Ifor Morgan
yr oeddynt oll yn wen o
glust i glust pan aethum
i mewn mae Ifor yn

[10]

travel 12/1/86

I came down this morning
with the 11 o'clock train
Mrs. Thomas met me at the train
when I arrived
at Porth somehow or other
I saw my trousers had ripped
between the legs and I had to
go up to Trebanog
to change my trousers after
I had lunch I went up to
Ynyshir a spent
the rest of the day with
Margaret's family I saw
Sara Ann and William
are doing comfortably
they have a daughter
and a son both fine and fair and everything
around the house looks
clean and orderly
John and Margaret live
next door but one to Sara
Ann. The children have grown up
so much Sara
Ann is a beautiful young woman
and is sewing out*
almost every day. Gwilym and
John are close in size to their
father. Well, I came down
to Cymmer and went to George's house
from there to Ifor Morgan's
they were all smiling
from ear to ear when I went
in Ifor is

*i.e. working as a seamstress.

[11]

yn cadw yn dda iawn
yn ei wedd mae Mary wedi
gwynnu yn anghyffredin
ond yn edych yn dda yn
gwyneb maer blant sef y
pedair merch gymaint a'i
Mam yr un hon a ohonynt
yn myned ir colleg dechreu
y flwyddyn y tair araill
yn dysgu gwnio ni maint
hwy yn byw ar bwys y
Colliers ams ar gai Bedw
Mai Ioan griffith wedi codi
dau dy newydd ac Ifor yn
byw yn un ohonynt.
Mair streit newydd.
yn myned oddwrth yr hen
Benpound yn mlaen wrth
gefn y Colliers Arms yumlaen
at y ty a gododd Jinkins
Watkin. wel maint oll
yn oli am Margret ar plant
Aethum adref yr oed diferyn
yn ddiweddar.

12/2/86

Nid oedd Henry na George
yn gweithio heddyw a thrwy
hyny cefais eu cwmni
ac aethum gydan gilydd
i fynu i Llanfabon i dy
Tad a Mam John D. Rowland
aethum gydar tren i Quackers
yad yna aethom

[11]

keeping very well
Mary has gone
quite white
but her face looks good
the children namely
the four girls are as tall as
their mother one of them is
going to college at the start
of the year the other three
are learning to sew they
live near
the Colliers Arms at [Cae Bedw?]
Ioan Griffith has built
two new houses and Ifor is
living in one of them
the new street
goes off the old
[Pen Pound?] straight behind
the Colliers Arms straight
towards the house Jenkins
[Watkin?] built. well everyone
is asking about Margaret and the
children I went home there was a drop of
rain late.

12/2/86

Neither George nor Henry were
working today and due to this
I had their company
and together we went
up to Llanfabon to the house
of John D. Rowland's parents
we took the train to Quaker's
Yard then we went

[12]

heibio pyllau Treharris.
lle mawr ydyw hun tua
mylltyr o Fynwent y Quackers
mae peth y canoedd o dau
newyddion yu y lle hwn
wel cyrhaeddasom dy C. H. Rowe
ond erbyn deuddeg or gloch.
Pan aethum yno nid oedd yr
hen bobl yn y ty ar y pryd
dim ond y ferch hena ond
yn fuan iawn daeth yr hen
bobol ir ty ac wedi ddeall
fy mhod yn dyfod oddiwrth
eu plant ac i minau ddechreu
deweyd am danynt yr oed
y dagrau yn dechreu treiglo
dros eu gruddiau pitw or
or hen wr ni allasai
siarad an ychydig amser
Pan oeddem mewn ffordd i
ddechreu siarad yr oedd pryd
o fwyd yn barod ond gorfu
ir hen ddynion ffitio y slippers
cyn dechreu bwyta wel mi
gawson ymgom yno ddyd.
yn nghylch rhagoriaethau
y ddwy wlad mae yr hen wr
yn ddyn yddysg yn hanes y dwy
wlad hen bobol garedig
ydynt yn mhob ond gorfu
i ni adael yr hen bobol
darfu i ni gerdded i Bont
y Pridd heibio i byllau
newydd Cilfynydd

[12]

past the Treharris mines
this is a big place about
a mile from the Quaker cemetery
the hundreds of new houses
here are something
well, we reached C. H. Rowe's house
but about twelve o'clock
when we went there the
old people were not in the house then
only the oldest daughter but
soon the old people came
to the house and understood
from their children that I was coming and
when I started
talking to them
the tears began to trickle
down their little cheeks
and the old man could not
speak for quite some time
when we where ready
to start speaking a meal
was ready but the old men had to [put
their slippers on?]
before starting to eat well,
we had very interesting conversation
about the excellent qualities
of our two countries the old man
is educated in the history of both
kind old people
are they all but we had
to leave the old people
I happened to walk to Pontypridd
past new mines
at Cilfynydd

[13]

ugeiniau o dai newyddion
wedi cael ei adeiladu a llu
yn cael ei adeiladu cyraeddassom
Pontypridd erbyn 5 or gloch
aethom i fymu i Langana
i Dy John a Kitty Rees i
swper daethom adref
gydar tren wyth

12/4/86

Aethum i fynu Ynishir
yn y boreu yr oedd Mr. Owens
yno nos Wener ac yr oeddwn
yn [meddwl?] cael ei weled ond erbyn
fy mhod i fynu yn yr
Ynishir yr oedd Mr. Owens
wedi myned adref gydar
tren cyntaf a thrwy
cefais fy siomi yn fy
amcan a chan i fethu
ei weled arosais yno.
Gwelais Mary Herbert heddyw
a mawr y bu yn fy oli am
Margaret ar plant cefais
orchymyn i ddod i fynu i
dy ei thad ai mam Gwelais
hefyd Margret Ann merch
Richard Evan Langors a
phlentyn yn ei braich mai
hi yn byw yn yr Ynishir
gwelais Thomas Herbert hefyd
daethum i lawr gydar train
saith yn y Porth cyfarfyddais a
fy Ewrth Richard gwr fy modryb
Ellen. Mae ef yn edrych

[13]

dozens (lit. "twenties") of new houses
have been built and many
are being built we reached
Pontypridd about 5 o'clock
we went up to Llanganna
to the house of John and Kitty Rees
for supper we came home
with the eight o'clock train

12/4/86

I went up to Ynyshir
in the morning Mr. Owens was there
Friday night and we
thought we would get to see him but by
the time I got up to
Ynyshir Mr. Owens had
already gone home on
the first train and [through?]
I was disappointed
and because I missed
him I stayed there.
I saw Mary Herbert today
and she asked me a lot about
Margaret and the children
I was requested to come up to
her parents' house I also saw
Margaret Ann the daughter of
Richard Evans Llangors with
a child in her arms she
is living in Ynyshir
I also saw Thomas Herbert
I came back with the seven o'clock train
in Porth I met
my uncle Richard, my aunt
Ellen's husband. He looks

[14]

rhagorol mae ef yn dod
i fynu ir cwm hwn i werthu
dillad ac i gymeryd order
ond raid oedd i mi ffarwelio
ag ef aethum allan or depot
ir street dyma le bywiog
maer street yn llawn o
ddynion a chabs a Brakes
yn redeg yn wyllt dros y str
maen beryglus i gerdded yr
heol. Wedi I mi gerdded ychyd[ig]
gyda Henry cyfarfyddais a
Wm Rees a gorfu i mi fyned
adref a Wm gyda mi wel
cawsom ymgom ddifyris
wrth dros yr hen amser
bu Wm gyda mi nes
bu i 11 or gloch
daith y bechgyn adref
rhwng 11 a 12 aethum
ir gwely ryw amser yn
y boreu 12/5/86
Boreu Sabbath
aethum i Gapel y Cymmer
yn y boreu Mr. Thomas yn
pregethu. Yr oedd y gynulleidfa
yn fach iawn at y peth y
gwelais i or blaen. Maer
sit fawr iw gweled yn wag
iawn. Cawsom bregeth addysg
iadol ar y Cwmwl Tystion
nid yw Mr. Thomas yn edrych
agos cystal ag oedd mae ef
wedi tori yn anghyffredin

[14]

splendid he is coming
up to this valley to sell
clothes and take an order
but I had to bid him farewell
and I went out of the depot
into the street here's a lively place
the street is full of
people and cabs and Brakes*
running wildly all over the [street?]
it is dangerous to walk on the
street. after I walked a little
with Henry I met
Wm. Rees and I had to go
home with Wm. well,
we had interesting conversation
about the old times
Wm. was with me until
11 o'clock
the boys came home
between 11 and 12
I went to bed some time
in the morning 12/5/86
Sabbath Morning
I went to the Cymmer Chapel
in the morning Mr. Thomas
preaching. the congregation
is very small [compared to what]
I had seen before. the
deacons' chairs were very empty.
We had an educational sermon
about the Cloud of Witnesses
Mr. Thomas does not look
as well as he used to and
has broken down quite a lot

*A type of carriage.

[15]

wedi y Bregeth cefais
y pleser o siglo llaw
a llu o hen ffryndiau. Daeth
John Jenkins (Brawd Morris
mewn brys yr oddwn yn credu
na fuasai yn gollwng
fy llaw nid diwedd ar ei
lawenydd. yma y gwelais Wm.
a Sal Hopkins a llu eraill
oddi yma aethum at Rachel
a Wm I giniaw wel wel
maer plant wedi tyfu
yn ddynion mae Wm yn
fachgen glan a smart
ar bechgyn eraill yr
un modd cefais giniaw Gwydd
rhagorol aethum ir ysgol
sul daeth Wm gyda fi
cefais ysgol ddiddorol aethum
gyda Henry i dy Jane
chwaer Llewelyn yn wir
mae ty cysurus ganddynt
pob peth yn edrych yn rhagorol
mai ganddynt ferch fach
brydferth iawn ac yn llawn
tafod yr oedd Llewelyn ar
swper gyda ni cawsom
ymgom ddyddorus ar yr
hen amser gynt aethum
i gwrdd y Porth yn y nos
yr oedd Jenkins Ferndale
yn pregethu swn ei bregeth
oedd paradrwydd Crist i faddau
pechod. Yr oedd y canu

[15]

after the sermon I had
the pleasure of shaking hands
with many old friends.
John Jenkins (Morris's brother
came hurriedly I believed
he wasn't going to drop
my hand there was no end to his
joy. here I saw Wm.
and Sal Hopkins and many others
from here I went to Rachel
and Wm. for lunch well, well
the children have grown up
into adults Wm. is
a fair and smart boy
and the other boys are
the same I had a lunch of excellent Goose
I went to the
Sunday school William came with me
I had an interesting lesson went
with Henry to Jane's house
Llewelyn's sister
truly they have a comfortable house
everything looks splendid
they have a very lovely little girl
[who talks a lot?]
Llewelyn had
supper with us we had interesting
conversation about the
old times I went
to the Porth meeting in the evening
Jenkins Ferndale was preaching
the gist of his sermon
was Christ's readiness to forgive
sin. the singing was

[16]

yn ardderchog ni chlywais
well canu erioed
mae organ rhagorol
yna a Flory William yn
chwareu yn splendid yn
wir mae cynulleidfa
ysblynydd yn Gapel y Porth
yr oedd cymundeb yma heno
cefais y fraint o gydgoffio
am fy nghwaredwr a
fy hen gyfeillion unwaith yn
rhagor da oedd genyf gael
y fraint hon arosais yn
y gyfeillach a gorfu i mi
ddeweyd gair. Aethum or
capel ir ysgol gân canu
ardderchog Wm Farr
yn arweinydd maint yn
parottoi gyferbyn a Eisteddfod
od y Porth gwelais amryw
yma etto o fy hen gyfeillion
aethum a Henry adref
wedi treilio diwrnod llawn
gydan gilydd

12/6/86

yn y ty heddiw trwy y
dydd orherwydd ei bod yn
gwlawis wir trwm tuag
amser ciniaw pwy daeth
i mewn ond fy modryb
Sew o Dregolwyn i fy ngweld
yr oedd yn ofni y buaswn yn
dychwelyd adref heb ddod i lawr
iw gweled

[16]

excellent I have never
heard better singing
the organ is excellent
and Flory William
plays splendidly indeed
there is a splendid congregation
at the Porth Chapel
there was communion here tonight
I had the honor of remembering
my savior and
my old friends at the same time
it was very good for me
to have this honor
I stayed at the meeting and was required to
say a word. I went from
the chapel to the singing school
excellent singing Wm. Farr
leading they are
getting ready for the Porth Eisteddfod
I saw several
of my old friends
again I went home with Henry
after spending a full day
together

12/6/86

in the house today all
day because it has was
raining heavily
through lunch time who came
to see me but my aunt
Sew [Sue] from Colwinston*
who feared I would
return home without coming down
to see her

* This village is located between Cowbridge
and Bridgend in the Vale of Glamorgan,
about 15 miles southwest of Porth.

[17]

wel cawsom lawer o
helyntion Tregolwyn a gorfu
i minau roi llawer o hanes
ein gwlad ninau iddi hithau
mae fy modryb yn edrych
yn rhagorol llawer gwell na
gwelais hi erioed or blaen
wel wedi i ni siarad nes i ni
blino arosodd fy modryb i
fynu gyda ni heno. Cawsom
amser ddyfyris

12/7/86

aethum heddyw gyda fy
modryb a Lysa fy chwaer
i lawr i Bontypridd buom
yn teithio trwy y lle ymmhob
man buom ar y Garreg
Siglo ac i gael golwg or
bontypridd ar cylchoedd mae
golwg ysblenydd oddiar y Comyn
hwn. Or man hwn gallaf weld
gwaith Celfynydd, Treforest
oll weithfeydd y Bont ac i
lan i gwm y Rhondda mor
uchel a gwaith Great Western
buom hefyd yn nhy R. Evans
(Langors) Welsh Harp
oddi yma ir lan i Langana
i dy John Rees cawsom
swper erbyn yr oedd yn amser
train aeth fy modryb adref
gyda'r tren 4 pm. Cefais
orchymyn i gofio ddod i lawr

[17]

well we got lots of
news about Colwinston and I had to
share lots of news
about our own country with her
my aunt looks
excellent much better than
I have ever seen her
well after we spoke until we
grew tired my aunt stayed
up with us tonight. we had
a pleasant time

12/7/86

today I went with my
aunt and my sister Lysa
down to Pontypridd we went
traveled around it everywhere
we went on the
Rocking Stone to get a view
of Pontypridd and the district the view
from the common is splendid.
from here I can see
the Cilfynydd Works, Treforest
all the Pont works and
up the Rhondda valley
as far as the Great Western works
I was also in the house of R. Evans
(Llangorse) Welsh Harp
from here up to Llanganna
to John Rees's house
we had supper until it was time
to catch the train my aunt went home
on the 4 PM train.
I was ordered to remember to come down

[18]

i dreulio ychydig ddyddiau
ac aeth Lysa a minau adref
aethum i dy George i swper
cyraeddais Trebanog rwng 9
10 or gloch

12/8/86

wel dyma ddiwrnod ir Brenin
etto gwlawio trwy y dydd
yn ystormus anghyffredin
methu myned or ty a minau
mor awyddus am deithio ond
gorfod aros yn y ty heb
ddim i wneyd aeth tua
18 tuag America or lle hwn
heddyw ac yn ei phlith Wm
mab Mary gwraig Dd. Jenkins
a Lewis or Cottage.
yr oll ohonynt yn myned
ac yn gadael swm mawr
o ddyledion i fasnachwyr
i gofio am danynt
yr oeddynt yn rhifo 43 yn
cyfarfod ai gilydd yn PPridd
ac yn oll yn myned Nanticoke
Pa 12/9/86

cawsom noswaith stormus
iawn y neithiwr nid ydyw
y gwlawio heddyw maer dywydd
y gallaf fyned allan wel
cychwynais am 10 or gloch
tuag Ynyshir yn gyntaf oll
troais i mewn i dy Dd a
Mary Jenkins Mary yn

[18]

and spend a few days
and Lysa and I went home
I went to George's house for supper
and reached Trebanog between 9
and 10 o'clock

12/8/86

well here's an idle day
rain again all day
quite stormy
I didn't leave the house and I
was very eager to go out but
I had to stay in the house without
anything to do
around 18 left for America from this place
today and among them William,
the son of Mary, wife of David Jenkins
and Lewis of the Cottage.
they all went
and left a great sum
of debts for the merchants
to remember them by
they numbered 43
who met each other in Pontypridd
and all going to Nanticoke
Pennsylvania 12/9/86

we had a very stormy night
last night but it is not
raining today the weather
I can go out
well I started about 10 o'clock
to Ynyshir first of all
I turned in to the house of David
and Mary Jenkins Mary is

[19]

gofyd mawr am fod William
wedi myned tuag America
yna at Margaret Rees y
nesaf Mrs Jones mam Thomas
Lanaran pan ddaeth yr hen
wraig i siglo llaw dechreuodd
golli dagrau wrth feddwl am
Dafydd ei gwr yr hwn sydd
wedi marw er ys dwy flynedd
teimlodd yr hen wrraig er byw
a gorchmynodd i mi gofio
galw gyda hi y nesaf
oedd Mrs. Trueman yr oedd raid
i mi fyned ir ty aethum i mewn
ar peth cyntaf ddaeth dan
sylw oedd marwolaeth e
mab Gwilym yr hwn
a foddodd wrth groesi y Cape
Horn yr oedd ef yn sailors ys beth
blynyddau mai hi yn teimlon ddrwg
ar ol ei mab Gwelais ddarlun ar y
wal a dynodd fy sylw yn fawr
sef darlun pump cenedlaeth ar oll
yn fyw sef Tadeu Mrs Trueman
Parch Wm Evans Tonyrefail ei fab
Dd Evans Caerdydd ai ferch yntau
Mrs Trueman a Iwan Dewi
mab Mrs Trueman ai fab yntau
yna llwydais i fynd i Troedrhiw
heb gael fy attal gelwais heibio
dy Dafydd yna i dy Rachel
cefais bregeth faith a dyddorol
ganddi ar ban e yr arian

[19]

very worried because William
has gone to America
then to Margaret Rees
next Mrs. Jones the mother of Thomas
[Llanaran?] when the old woman came
to shake my hand she began
to weep thinking of
Dafydd her husband who
died two years ago
the old woman felt [__?]
and requested I remember
to call in with her the next
was Mrs. Trueman I had to
go into the house
and the first thing that came to my
attention was the death of
her son Gwilym who
drowned while crossing Cape
Horn he was a sailor for some
years she is grieving
for her son I saw a picture on the
wall that really caught my attention
a picture of five generations all
living namely the parents of Mrs.
Trueman Rev. Wm. Evans Tonyrefail her
son David Evans Cardiff and his
daughter Mrs. Trueman and Ivan Dewi
Mrs. Trueman's son and his own son then
I succeeded in going to Troedrhiw
without being delayed I called by
Dafydd's house then to Rachel's house
I got a lengthy and interesting sermon
from her about the money

[20]

sydd yn dod i William sef
£300.000 Cefais hanes yr
oll drafodaeth or dechreu
pa rai sydd rhy faith i mi iw
nodi yn y lle hwn araf iawn
mae pethau yn mynd yn y blaen
ond y maent yn credo yn
ddiysgog mai hwy yw perchen
yr etifeddiaeth fawr maent
yn geisio ei gael sef lle mae
ty Crawsay Gyfartha yn
byw wel wedi fyned trwy
y cyfan a dod at yr Amen
aethum i dy Richard heddyw
y gwelais Betsy gyntaf
gwnaeth gwpanaid o de right
away imi ac yr oedd yn
hynod o serchus wedi i mi
dreilio ychydig amser yno aethum
i fynu i Ynishir i dy Jeff a
Lysa wedi i ni gael tipyn or
helynt ac hanes Siams ai
g[___?]. ar modd y darfu iddo ymdd-
wyn tuag Seth. Cawsom swper
ac yna aethum ir gyfeillach
i gapel Anibynol y lle
yr oedd golwg ardderchog ar yr eglwys
cawsom gyfeillach rhagorol wedi
y gyfeillach aethum i a Seth i dy
John ag i dy Sara Ann a William
a dychwelasom ein dau buom
yn [syn?] ynghylch popeth nes bo
hi yn hwy iawn aethum i orphwys
or diwedd gwely ardderchog a gefais

[20]

which is coming to William namely
£300,000 I got the complete history
of the transaction from the beginning
which is too much
to note here
things are moving forward very slowly
but they believe
stubbornly that they own
the great inheritance they are
trying to get namely the place
where the Crawshay Cyfarthfa* house
lives well after going through
it all and coming to the Amen
I went to Richard's house today
I saw Betsy first
she made a cup of tea right
away for me and was
extremely kind after I
spent a little time there I went
up to Ynyshir to Jeff and
Lysa's house after we heard a bit of
the story about Siams and his
g[___?] and how he behaved
toward Seth. we had supper
and then I went to a meeting
at the local Congregational chapel
the church looked excellent
we had a splendid meeting after
the meeting I went [with?] Seth to
John's and to Sara Ann and William's
and we both returned I was
[amazed by?] everything until
it was very late I went to sleep
finally an excellent bed

* The Crawshay family dominated Iron
production in South Wales through the
19th century. The family's mansion at
Merthyr Tydfil is called Cyfarthfa
Castle. This discussion refers to the
aftermath of the death of Robert
Thompson Crawshay in 1879.

[21]

12/9/86

Codais heddyw am wyth o'r gloch
wedi i Lysa a mi frecwasta
daith Sara Ann merch John
i mewn yn deweyd bod ei thad
yn y ty yn aros i mi ddod yna
felly es yno a chefais John yn y ty
arosais yno i giniaw wedi mi
giniawa aethom am tro i lan
i Gwm Rhondda Fach mor bell a
Phenderus mawr ydyw y cyfnewidiadau
yn y cwm hwn mae yna ganoedd
lawer o dai newyddion mai un
restr yn Pontygwaith a thua 60
o dai ynddi mae'r Cwtch yn le mawr
iawn hefyd maint yn gweithio
tua 1000 tons o lo y dydd yn y
lle hwn. mae yn yr Ynishir
ganoedd lawer o dai newyddion
ac wedi cael eu trefnu yn streetoedd
rhagorol mae yma saith o
addoldai ac un tafarndy [hotel ?]
mae yna bob math o shiopau
maer station ar bwys hen fermdy
yr Ynishir Aethum i dy S.A.
a Wm i swper wedi swperu
aeth John a minau i lawr tuar
Porth yn y Porth cyfarfyddais
Gruffydd Roberts a John Williams
oedd yn byw yn y dyffryn mae
John wedi bod yn America
dair blynedd daeth yn ol yn mis
rhagfyr diweddaf gan feddwl dychw
elyd eilwaith priodoedd yn

[21]

12/9/86

I rose at eight today
after Lysa and I had breakfast
Sara Ann, John's daughter,
came by to say her father was
at home waiting for me to go there
therefore I went to see John
stayed there for lunch after
dining we went for a walk up
the Rhondda Fach as far as
Penderys huge changes
in this valley there are hundreds
of new houses, one
row in Pontygwaith has about 60
houses in it the Cwtch* is very big
too producing
about 1000 tons of coal every day
in this place. in Ynyshir there are
hundreds more new houses
laid out in excellent streets
there are seven houses of worship
and one tavern [hotel ?]
there is every kind of shop
the station is near the old farmhouse
in Ynyshir I went to S.A.
and William's house for supper
afterwards John and I went down
towards Porth I met
Gruffydd Roberts and John Williams who
used to live in the valley
John has been in America
for three years came back in December
thinking about returning again he
married

* The "Cwtch" was a local name for
the National Colliery at Wattstown.
The name was derived from the village
that originally stood there, Pont Rhyd
y Cwch.

[22]

tair wythnos ond rywfodd neu
gilydd dylanwadodd y wraig arno
i aros cyfarfyddais hefyd a
Kitty Maxen a gofynodd i mi a
oeddwn yn gwybod rhywbeth am
Thomas Maxen ei mab a
dymunodd arnaf oli am dano
a dychwelyd adref bum
ymadawodd John Hopkins a minau
ar Bontycymmer gelwais yn
nhy George wrth fyned adref
rhaid ydyw i mi yfed cwpanad
o de bob tro y deufaf ir ty
Aethum i Trebanog Cefais hwy
oll yn iach yr wyf wedi
darllen heno hanes y storm
dydd a nos Fercher mae r
hanes yn galonrhygol mae
ugeiniau o fywydau wedi i colli
ar y Channel a hefyd llu
mawr wedi cael eu lladd ar y
tir a llawer o feddian[?] wedi eu
distrwyio

12/10/86

Bwrw gwlaw heddyw etto yn y
ty trwy y boreu a thrwy y
dydd aethum i lawr ir Porth
wedi swper ni fum yn hir
yno gorfu i ni ddychwelyd adref
gan y gwlaw mae hwn yn
dywydd anumunol iawn iawn

12/11/86

Mae heddyw yn dipyn bach yn
well na ddoe ond wedi i mae
cymylau yn bygwth

[22]

three weeks ago but somehow or
other the wife has pressured him
to stay I also met
Kitty Maxen who asked if
I knew anything about
Thomas Maxen her son and
wanted me to ask around for him
and tell him to come home I was
John Hopkins and I left
for Pontycymer and I called at
George's house on the way home
I have to drink a cup
of tea every time I come to the house
I went to Trebanog Found all of them
in good health and have
read tonight about the storm
Wednesday day and night the
story is heartbreaking
dozens of lives lost
in the Channel and also
a great many killed
on the land and much [property?]
destroyed

12/10/86

Rained today again in the
house through the morning and through the
day I went down to Porth
after supper I was not long
there I had to return home
because of the rain this is
very very unpleasant weather

12/11/86

Today is a little bit
better than yesterday but after
the clouds threatened

[23]

gwlaw aethum y gwrdd y
Pont yn y boreu i wrando
Doctor Pan Jones ei gwestiwn
oedd anfodlonrwydd y Phareseaid
i pregethau Crist. pregeth
rhyfedd a dull rhyffedd a
bregethu a phethau rhyffedd
oedd yn cyfansoddi y bregeth.
Aethum i Bryn Glass i giniaw
Henry gyda mi aeth George a
minau ir Maindy i weled
Thomas Jones buom yno
nes i mi gael f nghalw
i fynu i r Ynishir i weled
tad John Farr yr hwn a ddaeth
Gaerffili i fy nghweled
er mwyn cael lythyr
ei fab John nid ydyw
wedi cael llythyr oddiwrth er
ys dwy flynedd a dymuniad
arnaf os buaswn yn ei weled
ar ol i mi ddychwelyd ei gyng-
ori i anfon gair adref ac hefyd
i gofio am ei blant sef bachgen
a merch pa rhai sydd yn aros
gyda thad a mam y wraig maen
yn cadw ty i ryw ddyn yn Rhymni
nid oes ryw air da iawn iddi
gorfu arnaf swperu yn y ty
hwn wedi i ni fwyta aethom
i dy Seth a Lysa oddi yma
aethum i gwrdd y Porth i wran-
aw Dr. Pan Jones ei destyn heno
oedd "Chwi yw Goleuni y Byd"

[23]

rain I went to the meeting
in Pont[ypridd] in the morning to hear
Dr. Pan Jones* his question was the
discontent of the Pharisees with Christ's
teachings.
a fantastic sermon preached in a
remarkable style and the sermon
was wonderfully composed
I went to Bryn Glas for lunch.
Henry with me, George and
I went to the Maindy to see
Thomas Jones I was there
until called
up to Ynyshir to see
John Farr's father who came
from Caerphilly to see me
in order to get a letter
to his son John
from whom he has not
received a letter
for two years and wanted me
if I saw him [John]
after returning [to the US] to advise
him to send word back home and also
to remember his children, namely a boy
and girl who are staying
with his father and mother the wife
is keeping house for a man in Rhymney
and she does not have a good reputation
I had to eat supper here
after we ate we went
to Seth and Lysa's house from
which we went to the Porth meeting to
hear Dr. Pan Jones his subject tonight
was "You are the Light of the World"

* Dr. Evan Pan Jones (1834-1922) was a well-known Congregationalist minister, author and social reformer.

[24]

mae pethau da iawn yn
y pregeth hon ond wir nid
oeddwn yn hoffi ei ddull o gwbl
ychydig iawn ddywedodd ar ei
destyn ryw bethau eraill oedd
ganddo nad oeddynt yn perthyn
ir testyn o gwbl yn ol
fel oeddwn i yn deall y testyn
wrth fyned adref galwodd
Henry yn dy Isaac yr [hiciwr?]
(Isaac William) yma y cyfarfyddais
Mr Johns ysgolfeistr yr Ynishir
a chawsom ymgom ddifyrus
iawn am tuag awr. yna
aethum adref O ie heddyw
cefais lythyr oddi Margaret
ar plant bwrw glaw etto

12/12/86

Bwrw gwlaw heddyw etto
ysgrifenu adref yn y boreu
wedi ciniawa aethum ar
llithyron ir Post wedi yn[i?]
i dy Mr Saints cefais ganddo
ef ei hanes pan bu ar ymweliad
ag America. treiliodd ef ei amser
yn Alabama yn exploru
o dan gwmpeini cyfoethog iawn
pa rhai sydd yn berchen rhailffyrdd
a thiroedd lawer cafodd ef y
Typhoid Fever bu n gorwedd
am bedwar mis ac yn agos
iawn i angau nid ydyw
yn hoffi y wlad o gwbl maer
tywydd yn rhy aethafol

[24]

there were very good things
in the sermon but in truth
I did not like his style at all
a few times he mentioned
on his subject some other things
that were not relevant
to the topic at all
as I understood the subject
on the way home Henry called
at the home of Isaac the [?]
(Isaac William) here I met
Mr. Johns the schoolmaster at Ynyshir
and we had a very interesting
conversation for about an hour. then I
went home Oh yes today I received a
letter from Margaret and the children
raining again

12/12/86

Raining again today
stayed home to write in the morning
after lunch I took
the letters to the post office afterwards
[we went?] to Mr. Saint's house he told
me the story of his visit to America. he
spent his time
in Alabama exploring
for a very wealthy company
which owns railways
and much land he caught
the Typhoid Fever and lay in bed
for four months and very near
to death he does not
like the country at all
the weather is too extreme

[25]

Aethum o dy Saint ag at
Evans & Co ir stor wedi
imi dreulio ychydig amser
gyda hwy aethum i fynnu
i dy Thomas a Margret i
swpera aethum oddiyma
ir Cwrdd gweddi yn y Porth
cawsom gyfarfod rhagorol
oddi yno gartref daith
R Edmunds gyda mi

12/13/86

Gwlawio yn drwm iawn
etto a minau eisiau mynd
i fynu i Mertha Dowlais
ond penderfynais trwy y
gwlaw a phopeth aethum
gyda'r tren 11 [_?] yr oeddwn
yn Merthyr tua chwarter
i ddeuddeg yr oedd Mr Owens
yn fy aros ar y Platform
ac ar y street cyfarfyddais
a Mrs Owens a Zephaniah
bach yr oedd yn ddymunol imi
gael cyfarfod a f hen ffryndiau
Cawsom ymgom ddifyrus iawn
bum yma trwy y dydd ac yma
cysgais hefyd aeth Mr Owens
a mi i weled y Capel Wesleyaidd
capel hen ffasiwn ydyw
mae rywbeth yn henafol
iawn ynddo ac yn edrych
yn ardderchog gall 800 eistedd
buom yn nhy Wm a Mrs Rees
perthynas i Mr Owens

[25]

Went from Saint's to
Evans & Co. to the store after
I spent some time
with them I went up
to Thomas and Margaret's house
for supper I went from here
to the prayer Meeting in Porth
we had an excellent meeting
from there to home
R. Edmunds came with me

12/13/86

Raining very heavily
again and I want to go
up to Merthyr [and] Dowlais
but decided because of the
rain and everything to take
the 11 o'clock train I was
in Merthyr about quarter
to twelve Mr Owens
was waiting for me on the platform
and on the street I met
Mrs Owens and little Zephaniah
it was wonderful for me
to meet with my old friends
We had very interesting conversation
I was there through the day and
slept here as well Mr. Owens
and I went to see the Wesleyan Chapel
it is an old-fashioned chapel
there is something very ancient
in it and looks
excellent and can seat 800
I was at William and Mrs Rees's house
relatives of Mr Owens

[26]

trail y dydd 2/6
yr oedd wedi deuddeg or gloch
pan aethom i orphwys cysgais
yn [noble?] 12/14/86 merthyr
dydd mercher. Bwrw gwlaw etto
wel wel dyma le am wlaw
ar ol brewesta yr wyf yn
bwriadu myned i fynu i Dowlais
cyraeddais dy Miss[es?] Howell er
deuddeg or gloch cefais hwy fel yr oedd yn
7 mlynedd ar ol Mary yn wael
iawn a Miss L. Howells yn aethaf
iach. adnabyddsant fi ar
unwaith felly i gael ein hunan
i hwyl i siarad wedi i mi roddi dipyn
o hanes y tylwyth bum ar y lloft gyda
Mary Howells mae ei phrofiad crefyddol
yn aeddfedu i farw mae hi
yn dymuno am gael marw fel
y gellai ei chwaer Lysa gael ei
rhyddhau fel y gallo hi mwynheu
ei bywyd yn lle gail ei caethiwo
fel y mae er ys blynyddau gorfi i
mi aros yma i geiniaw. wedyn aethum
i dy Wm Charles cefais yr hen wr
yn y ty yr hen wraig a dwy o merched
a rhai hyny yn gwae hosana ai oll
egni Pan rhoddais y £1 i wr y ty
daeth gwen i wyneb pob un or
teulu ond yr hen wr Charles da
daith dagrau iw lygaid ef a
methodd a siarad am ychydig amser
wedi iddo ddo iw le mawr yr oedd
yn diolch am y rhod ac yr oedd
yn gwasgi arnaf am gofio

[26]

the day's expenses 2/6
it was after midnight
when we rested I slept
[well?] 12/14/86 Merthyr
Wednesday. Raining again
well, well, this is a place for rain
after breakfast I
intend to go up to Dowlais
I reached [Mrs.?] Howell's house
about twelve o'clock they were just
as they were 7 years ago Mary is
very sick and Miss L. Howells
extremely healthy. they recognized
me instantly so [we enjoyed
talking?] after I told them a little
about the family I was upstairs with
Mary Howells her religious
experience is maturing towards death
she wishes to have a death like
her sister Lysa be
released so she can enjoy
her life instead of being enslaved
as it was years ago I had to
stay for lunch. afterwards I went
to Wm Charles's house I saw the old
man there, the old woman and two
daughters and some cried "hosanna"
with all their energy when I gave
the £1 to the man of the house
expect for good old Charles everyone
in the family smiled except tears
came to his eyes and he could not
speak for a while after he came
around he was very grateful for the
gift and was pressing me to remember

[27]

Diolch i'w frawd yr arian
mae ei olygon ef yn wael angh[...]
bu ar fyned yn ddall unwaith bu
yn yr Ospital yn Abertawe
tua thri mis yn ol yn tori ryw
gen oedd yn tyfu ar ei lygaid maer
llygaid hwnw yn gwella yn rhagorol
yn awr y mae raid iddo ef fyned
etto [or?] ir Ospital i dori cên
sydd yn tyfu ar y llygad arall mae
dwy ferch a bachgen yn briod a
dwy ferch yn dre a bachgen maer
ddwy ferch yn gweithio amgylch
y [furnaceiau?] mae un yn enill S10
ar llall [__?] S15 [ir?] Punt dywedodd
yr hen wraig wrth y buasai un or
merched yn cael gwae par o
Osanau i Gwylm fy mab wedi
imi gael shat iawn aethum
ir Gae Harris i weled Jonah Griffiths
ai wraig pan ddaethum ir ty cafodd
Mrs Griffiths ei tharaw a syndod [__?]
[__?] ddod iw lle y peth cyntaf oedd
holi cwestiynau am Bridgeport
y peth nesaf oedd gosod Morgan ar
y tân ac i gael cwpanaid o de ar
y pryd daeth Packman i mewn
a dechreuodd yntau fy oli am America
a buom yn siarad am grym amser
rhododd ei address i mi er mwyn i mi
gael galw gydag ef a dywedodd
os gwnawn alw y cawn lasiad o
Scocht wysgi goreu oedd iw gael
daeth Jonah adref tua chwech

[27]

to thank his brother for the money
his eyesight is [terribly?] bad
he was going blind once he was
in the Hospital in Swansea
about three months ago to have
a film growing on his eye cut out
that eye is much better
now and he must go
again to the hospital to have the
film growing on the other eye removed
the two daughters and boy are married
and the two daughters in the town and
the boy the two daughters are working
around the [furnaces?] one earns S10*
and the other [__?] S15 [to the?] pound
the old woman said to me one of the
girls would knit a pair of socks for my
son Gwylm after
I had a good chat I went
to Cae Harris to see Jonah Griffiths
and his wife when I came to the house
Mrs Griffiths was shocked [__?]
[__?] when she gathered herself first
she asked questions about Bridgeport
the next thing was to put the kettle**
on and have a cup of tea right then a
Packman came in and
began asking me about America
and we spoke for quite a while
he gave me his address so I could stop
by and he said
if I made a call we would have a glass
of the best Scotch whisky to be had
Jonah came home around six

*I believe the "S" stands for
"shillings."

**"Morgan" appears to have been a
colloquial name for a tea kettle.

[28]

or gloch ac wedi ini gael chat
yn iawn a swperu daeth gyda
mi i dy Wm Llewelyn cnociais
wrth y drws daeth Mrs Llewelyn
at adnabyddodd fy llais ar unwaith
wedi imi eistedd i lawr ag
atdeb gofyniadau arferol y gwragedd
dywedodd wrth bod raid imi
aros gyda hwy heno felly y bu
daith Wm adref or Cwrdd a mawr
bu y siglo y dwylaw mawr
mor falch oedd ef imi alw
gyda hwy mae ef yn grefyddol
ys [...] blynyddau ac yn wir
mae ganddo brofiad uchel iawn
cefais ganddo lawn o newyddion
am ei frodyr a llawer iawn o
newyddion eraill nid oedd diwedd ar
y siarad yr oedd yn wedi un or gloch
yn y boreu pan aethum i orphwys
[_____] y dydd

12/15/86

Dydd Iau Boreu noble yr haul yn
dangos ei wyneb ac serchus iawn
iawn mae yn ddymunol cael boreu
sych er mwyn cael y pleser o deithio
trwy Dowlais arosodd Wm Llewelyn
allan or gwaith er mwyn cwmni
i mi wedi i ni frechwasta aethum
allan i edrych am Thomas Jinkins
Jinshop Howse cawsom ofal yn
y dau henwr yn Bâr buont yn
daer iawn am i mi yfed glasiad
o ryw liquor maint yn edrych
yn dda iawn ac sefyllfa

[28]

o'clock and we had a good chat
and supper he came with
me to William Llewelyn's I knocked
at the door Mrs Llewelyn
recognized my voice at once
after I sat down
and answer the usual women's questions
she said I had to
stay with them tonight so it was
William came home from the meeting and
there was much hand shaking
so glad was he that I called
on them he has been religious
for [...] years and truly
has great experience
he gave me all the news
about his brother and a lot of
other news there was no end
to the conversation it was after one
in the morning when we went to bed
[_____]the day

12/15/86

Thursday a [fine?] morning the sun
showing its face and very pleasant
it is desirable to have a dry morning
to have the pleasure of traveling
through Dowlais William Llewelyn
came out of work to accompany me
after we had breakfast we went
out to see Thomas Jinkins
[Gin Shop House?] the two old men
took care of us in the bar they were
very eager for me to drink a glass of
some liquor they look
very good and the situation

[29]

rhagorol ond yr oeddynt yn deweyd
gyda dagrau y maint wedi claddu
y plant maint gladdu merch ond y mae
ganddynt blyntyn ir ferch yn fyw
ai gwr yn aros gyda hwy maint am
i mi ei cofio yna gynnes at R Henry
a Mrs Davies ac yn falch iawn
o glywed gair o hanes oddiyma
aeth Wm a mi i lawr i dy
Mrs Hughs Church St 45 Pen[daran?]
cawsom yr hen wraig yn y ty
wrthi ei hun mae hi wedi claddu
ei gwr ys tua blwyddyn yn ol
ac y y mae hithau wedi ei gadael
yn ei unigrwydd heb neb i ofalu
amdanu ond er hyny y mae
y cadw stor i werthu menyn
a ryw bethau man eraill
ac hefyd mae yr hen wraig druan
wedi cael ei disfigro yn fawr
ma y cancer wedi bwyta ei thrwyn
i ffwrdd ai anadl yn fyr iawn
mawr y carasai weled Mrs Davies mae
i mi roi ei chofiogwresocaf i
R. Harris ar tylwyth i gyd oddi
yma aeth Wm a mi yn oli giniaw
ac wedi ciniawa aeth Wm a
Mrs Llewelyn gydar tren ir cefn
i edrych am Mrs Lewis mam
y Parch Wm Lewis Aetnavill a
chawsom afael ynnddi hi ai merch
maer hen wraig yn 74 years oed
mae yn edrych yn dda ag ystyried
ei oedran mae hi yn byw

[29]

excellent but they told
in tears they have buried
the children they are burying a girl
but they have a child of the daughter
living and her husband lives with them
they want me to remember him warmly to
R. Henry and Mrs Davies and very happy
to hear a word from here William and I
went down to the house of
Mrs Hughs Church St 45 [Penydarren?]
we saw the old woman at home
alone she buried
her husband about a year ago
and she is left
in her loneliness with no one to care
for her but in spite of this
she keeps a store selling butter
and a few other small things and the
poor old woman was also
badly disfigured
cancer has eaten her nose away her
breath is short
she greatly loved seeing Mrs Davies she
wanted me to send her warmest regards
to R.Harris and the family from here
William and I went to look for lunch
and after eating William and Mrs
Llewelyn caught the train to the Cefn
to see Mrs Lewis mother
of the Rev. William Lewis Aetnaville*
and we got hold of her and her daughter
the old woman is 74 years old she looks
good and considering
her age she lives

*Aetnaville is a section of Bridgeport,
Ohio.

[30]

mewn ty ar ben ei hun ond y mae
gerllaw iw phlant maer dau
or bechgyn yn byw yn agos iawn iddi
ar ferch hefyd mawr yr oedd yn
deweyd y carasai weled ei mab
Mr Lewis [rhodd?] i mi dipyn o
hanes marwolaeth ei gwr bu yn
nychu am lawer o amser ond
un noswaith cwmpodd mewn
ffit parinad oedd neb yn y ty ond
ef ei hun yr oedd yr hen wr [wedi__?]
allan ir shop a phan daith
yn ol yr oedd yr hen wr wedi
syrthio ai gefn yn erbyn y tan
ni siaradodd yr un gair hyd nes iddo
farw dydd mawrth canlynol wedi
imi fod yma am ychydig
yr oedd yn daer iawn am imi
yfaid cwpanaid o de. ond nid
oedd amser genym felly aethom
[__?] i lawr tua Merthyr
Wm Llewelyn ai wraig ddodi
mewn i dy Mr a Mrs Owens
pan aethum yr oeddynt yn bwyta
swper felly gorfu i minau wneyd
yr un peth am saith or gloch yr
oedd Mr Owens yn darlithio yn
Gapel y Wesleyaid ei destyn
oedd Billy Bray cawsom
ddarlith rhagorol llawn
tân ag addysgiadau buddiol
traddodi yn felus iawn aethum
i orphwys tuar boreu
trail y dydd yn 2/1

[30]

alone in her house but
near to her children two
of her sons live nearby
and the daughter as well she said
she would have loved seeing her son
Mr. Lewis [she gave?] me some of
the story of her husband's death he
languished for a long time but
one evening fell into
a paranoid fit no one was at home
except for him the old man [__?]
went out into the shop and when [__?]
came back the old man had fallen with
his back to the fire
he never spoke a word until he died
the following Tuesday after
I was here a while
I urgently needed to drink a cup of
tea. but there
was no time so we went
[__?] down towards Merthyr
William Llewelyn and his wife
came to Mr. and Mrs. Owens's house
when I went they were eating
supper so I had to do the same thing
at seven o'clock
Mr. Owens lectured
in the Wesleyan Chapel his subject was
Billy Bray* we had
an excellent lecture filled
with fire and beneficial teachings
pleasantly delivered we went
to bed towards the morning
the day's expenses 2/1

* I believe this refers to the
Methodist preacher Billy Bray (1794-
1868).

[31]

12/17/86

Codais heddyw am 8½ mae
heddyw yn ddiwrnod rhagorol etto
wedi brechwasta aeth Mr Owens
a minau i edrych am dylwyth
Mr John B Davis y lle cyntaf [oedd...]
oedd i dy D Jones Johns St 91
Georgetown. wedi ini oli ac
ela a llu o wragedd ddod allan
ai tai i edrych ar ein ol fel
pe buasai [gyrnau?] ar ein penau
Cawsom afael yn y ty aethum
i mewn ac wedi i mi egluro
fy hun cefais [__ddeal?] fy mhod
yn y ty iawn ond onid oedd
Mrs Jones i mewn yr oedd yn
[__?] ond ni fu yn
bachgen yn hir cyn cael gafael
ynnddi daeth i mewn gan edrych
llawen a Mis Mai gofynodd i mi
y gofyniadau arferol ac atebais
mawr y bu yn gofyn am ei chwaer
Mrs. Davies ac hefyd Ellen ei
merch bu yn daer iawn i ni
aros i giniawa mae ei gwr yn
halio ceffyl a chart maint
yn edrych mewn [amgylchiadau?]
cysurys mae Mrs Jones yn
edrych yn dda iawn mae ganddynt
ddau o blant yn dre sef mab a
merch wedi ini aros am dipyn
ynna aethom at y Mrs Jones
arall daeth y mab gyda ni a cawsom
hi yn ei dillad gwaith pan

[31]

12/17/86

I rose at 8:30 this morning
today is another fine day
after breakfast Mr. Owens
and I went to see the family of
Mr. John B. Davis the first place [?]
was to D. Jones's house 91 John St.
Georgetown. after we asked
a group of women came out
of their houses to look at us
as if we had [horns?] on our heads
We got to the house went in
and after I explained
myself I [understood?] that I was
in the right house but
Mrs. Jones was not there she was
[__?] but the boy
was not long before getting
hold of her [she?] came in looking
happy as the month of May asking me
the usual questions and I answered
she inquired much about her sister
Mrs. Davies and also Ellen her
Daughter she implored us
to stay for lunch
her husband drives a horse and cart
they appear to be in a
comfortable situation Mrs. Jones
looks very well they have
two children a son and
daughter after we stayed a while
there we went to see the other
Mrs. Jones the son came with us
and she was in her work clothes

[32]

dywedodd y bachgen fy mhod
yn dod o America oddiwrth
Sara ei chwaer Cododd ei dwylaw
i fynu wel wel meddai dynna
fel y mae pan wyf yn y shop
weitha dyna pan mae dynion
dieithr yn dod i fy nghweled
ac i mewn ir ty a hi a ninau
ar ei ol yr oedd yn llawn gofid
i gyd am nad oedd y ty yn ddigon
trefnus wrth ei bodd. dywedwch
wrth Sara meddai mai ffedog
ganvas sydd o fy mhlain a fy
mhod heb godi y llian. a fy
mhod yn byw ar yn un hen stepyn
drws a phan oedd hi yma newydd
brodi yr wyf hefyd newydd
golli buwch bu farw ddoe
buasai yn llawn cystal i fi
i daflu £20 dros bont y [__?]
a cholli y fuwch mae hi wedi
bod yn cadw dwy fuwch ac
yn gwerthu y llaeth mae ei gwr
yn [foss?] ai yr odynau calch ac
yn ol phob ymddangosiad yn maint
mewn sefyllfa gysurys mae hi
yn debyg iawn i Mrs. Davies yn ei
gweddai dull mae y hynod o ffraith
ar ei thafod bu yn daer iawn
arnaf aros i gael ciniaw
gwnes addewid y buaswn yn
galw etto felly aeth Mr Owens
a minau yn ol i Merthyr
erbyn hyn yr oedd y bryd
ciniaw

[32]

the boy said I that I had
come from America from
Sara her sister She raised her hands
up well well she said that's
how it is when I'm in the shop
sometimes when strange men
come in to see me
and into the house she went and us
following she was quite aggrieved
the house was not as
tidy as she would have liked. tell
Sara she said a canvas apron
is in front of me and I
had not pulled up the linens. and me
living on the same old doorstep
as when she was here newly
married I also just
lost a cow that died yesterday
it was like
throwing £20 off the [__?] bridge
and losing the cow she has
been keeping two cows
and sells the milk her husband
is [boss?] in the lime kilns
by all appearances they are
in a comfortable situation
like Mrs. Davies in her
manner and very
witty she implored us
to stay for lunch
I promised we would
call again Mr. Owens
and I went back to Merthyr
then it was time for
lunch

[33]

gydar tren 4. es ir lawr
gelwais yn dy George yno
gorfu i mi fwyta swper yna
aethum i fynu i Trebanog
wedi cael diwrnod braf trwy
y dydd. 12/18/86
Dydd Sadwrn. Yr oedd Henry a
Tommy yn segur heddyw felly
daethant gyda fi Benrhiwfer
i weled fy modryb Mary nid
oeddwn wedi ei gweli or blaen
Cefais hwy yn serchus iawn
ni welais fy Ewrth Wil. wrth
ddod o Benrhiwfer gelwais yn
Dy Dafydd a Hannah Evans ar
graig y Ddinas a mawr
mor serchus ydoedd hi wel
wedi dipyn o siarad aethom
yn ol i Drebanog erbyn
ciniaw wedi ciniawa aeth
Henry a minau i fynu tuar
Ynishir i dy Seth a Lysa
yma y buom yn swpera cawsom
ymgom go da daeth Seth i
lawr gyda ni i Droedyrhiw
heddyw roddais llun fy Ewrth
i John Jones bum yn y Porth
hyd yn hwyr daeth i Lysa fy
chwaer i lawr aethum adref
gyda hi 12/19/86
Boreu Sabboth boreu noble
wedi rewi dipyn yn y nos
Daeth fy mam gyda mi yn y bore
i gapel y Gymmer. Mr Thomas

[33]

with the 4 pm train. I went down
to call at George's house there
I had to eat supper then
I went up to Trebanog
had a fine time
all day. 12/18/86
Saturday. Henry
and Tommy were off work today so
they came with me to Penrhiwfer
to see my aunt Mary we
had not seen her before
I had a very pleasant time with them
I did not see my Uncle Wil. Leaving
Penrhiwfer I called at
Dafydd and Hannah Evans' house at
Graig y Ddinas and
she was very affectionate well
after a little chat we went
back to Trebanog by
lunch time after lunch
Henry and I went up to
Ynyshir to Seth and Lysa's house
here we had supper and
good conversation Seth came
down with me to Troedyrhiw
today I gave a picture of my Uncle
to John Jones I was in Porth
until late Lysa my sister
came down I went home
with her 12/19/86
Sunday Morning a fine morning
after it froze a little in the night
In the morning my mother and I went
to the Cymmer chapel. Mr. Thomas

[34]

yn pregethu cawsom bregeth
ei destyn oedd "Gan ddiolch i tad
yr hwn an gwnaeth i ni yn
gymwys i gael rhan o Etifeddiaeth
y Saint yn y Goleuni" yr
oedd yn pregethu yn ddymunol
Aethum a Evan Rees a Margat
mae Evan mor dawel ag erioed
a Margat llawn mor ag ydoedd
pan yn ieuanc. aethum ir
Porth ir ysgol nid oedd ryw
lawer yn yr ysgol heddyw gorfu
i mi fyned yn athraw aethum
i dy Danial ac Ann Jones i
swper yn y Dyffryn mae dau
o blant ganddynt bum yn nhy
Griffith Roberts yr oedd Mrs
Roberts yn dost gan gur
yn y Pen. buont yn adrodd
hanes marwolaeth y ferch hynaf
yr hon a fu farw tua wyth mis yn
ol or scarlet fever yr oedd tua
12. oed mae ganddynt 4 o blant
yn awr tair merch a bachgen
aethum i gwrdd y Porth yn yr hwyr
yr oedd myfyriwr o Aberhonddu
or enw Williams yn pregethu
ag yn casglu at y Colleg ei
destyn oedd "Milwr da i Iesu
Grist" dyn smart iawn ar
ol y cwrdd aeth Henry, R Edmunds
J Williams a minau am walk
mor bell ar Cemetery mae
heol rhagorol yn myned i fynu

[34]

was preaching we had a sermon
his subject was "Giving thanks to
the father for making us
worthy to share in the Inheritance
of the Saints in the Light"* The
preaching was good
I went with Evan Rees and Margaret
Evan is as quiet as ever
and Margaret as full as she was
when young. I went to
the Porth school today there were
many at school today I needed
to go to see the teacher I went
to Daniel and Ann Jones's house
for supper in the Dyffryn they have
two children I was in
Griffith Roberts's home Mrs.
Roberts was ill with a
headache. they told me about the death
of their eldest daughter
who died about eight months ago
from scarlet fever she was about
12 years old they have 4 children
now three girls and a boy
I went to the Porth meeting in the
evening a student from Brecon
named Williams was preaching
and collecting for the college his
subject was "A good soldier for Jesus
Christ" a very smart man after
the meeting Henry, R. Edmunds
J Williams and I walked
as far as the cemetery
an excellent road goes up

*Colossians 1: 12

[35]

at y Fonwent heol newydd
spon oddiwrth y Tynewydd
yn mlaen at yr hen dy ffarm
Berthwynydd. Mae hon yn strait
ac hefyd mae yma Sidewalk
rhagorol agos ar ochr yr heol
i lan i Drealaw yna
dychwelasm i gapel y Porth
y Côr yn canu dan arweiniad
David Farr. (un o fy hen ddisgyblion)
Parottoi gyferbyn a Nadolig
y maint sef Eisteddfod y Porth
heddyw y gwelais Arthur Williams
gyntaf a Ann Phillips ac eraill
wedi hyn aethum am dro
gyda Taliesyn Hopkin a
Henry J William R Edmunds
ac eraill cawsom amser
ddar testyn yr ymgom oedd canu
Cyrhaedd Henry a minau mewn
priodol Ddiwrnod noble trwy
y dydd 12/20/86
Dyma ddydd llun braf ysgrifenaais
adref heddyw. Cefais Papurau o
dre yn y boreu yr oeddwn yn disg-
wyl am air o dre ond fe m siom-
wyd yn fawr. Gydar tren 12 y
aethum i fynu i Pentre i
edrych am fam Mrs Wrixon
ond methais a chail gafail
ynndi felly dychwelais ac
aethum i dy Azariah. yr oeddwn
ynna am un or glock cefais
ymgom felus gyda Mrs Thomas

[35]

to the cemetery a brand new street
from Tynewydd
up to the old farm house
at Brithweunydd. This one is straight
and also has an excellent Sidewalk
close to the side of the road
up to Trealaw then
we returned to the Porth chapel
the Choir was singing under
David Farr. (one of my old students)
They are preparing for Christmas
namely the Porth Eisteddfod
today I saw Arthur Williams
first and Ann Phillips and others
after this I went for a walk
with Taliesin Hopkin and
Henry J. William R. Edmunds
and others we had a good time
we discussed singing
Henry and I arrived
in good time a good day through
the day 12/20/86
A fine Monday I wrote
home today. I had papers from
the town in the morning I expected
a word or two but I was greatly
disappointed. With the 12 o'clock
train I went up to Pentre to
look in ont Mrs. Wrixon
but failed to get hold of her
so I returned and
went to Azariah's house. I was
there until one o'clock I had
a good conversation with Mrs. Thomas

[36]

menyw serchus anghyffredin
ydyw daeth Azeriah adref tua
3 or gloch un digri iawn
ydyw ef yn para nid oedd diwedd
ar ei siarad am America.
maint yn hynod o roesawgar
i mi bob amser buont
yn daer iawn am i mi
aros gyda hwy heno ond
yr oedd yn well genyf fyned i
lawr aethum adref gydar trem
diweddaf 12/21/86
Dydd mawrth mae hwn yn dydd
noble etto dipyn yn oer y
mae ond y mae n sych
bum yn y ty heddyw trwy
y dydd yn helpu y Butcher
i dori y mochyn. ei bwysau
ydoedd 290lb maen fochyn
rhagorol ysgrifenais hefyd lythyr
i JL Morris Esq. bum yn y post
a gelwais yn dy George wrth ddod yn ol
yr oedd fy mam dair iawn iawn
am i mi ddod gyda hi i gwrdd
adroddiadol oedd gan ysgol Trebanog
felly gorfu i mi fyned gyda hi
yr oedd y cwrdd i ddechreu am chwech
or gloch ond ni es i nes i bod tua
chwarter i saith aeth Tommy a monau
i mewn ond nid oeddynt wedi dechreu
hyd yn hyn nid oedd Mr Thomas y Llywydd
wedi dod felly gorfu i minau fyned
yn llywydd y cyfarfod ond daeth
Mr Thomas yn fuan ond pallodd

[36]

she is an exceptionally kind woman
Azariah came home about
3 o'clock he is still a funny one
there was no end
to his talking about America.
they are very welcoming
to me all the time they were
very eager for me
to stay with them tonight but
I preferred to go
down I went home with the
last train 12/21/86
Tuesday this is a fine day
again it is rather cold
but it is dry
I stayed in the house all
day helping the Butcher
cut up the pig. it weighed
290 lbs it is an
excellent pig I also wrote a letter
to J.L. Morris Esq. I was in the post
office and called at George's on the
way back my mother wanted me very much
to go with her to the recitation
meeting at the Trebanog school so I
had to go with her
the meeting began at six o'clock
but I did not go until about
quarter to seven Tommy and I went in
but they had not started
yet Mr. Thomas the President
had not arrived therefore I had to
serve as president of the meeting but
Mr. Thomas came soon but refused

[37]

ef a chymeryd y cadair buasai
yn well genyf iddo ef i ymgymeryd
ar gwaith ond gan ei fod yn gwrthod
nid oedd genyf dim ond myned yn y
blaen goreu y gallwn. felly aethom
yn mhlaen a gwaith y cyfarfod
adroddodd y plant yn gampus
ond gormod o darnau Seisnig oedd
yn cael eu adrodd yma canodd Joan [__?]
Hopkin daur gwaith yn rhagorol iawn
mae ganddi lais swynol dros ben
a hefyd mae hi meistrolgar arno
cawsom anerchiad gan Mr Thomas
a Wm Hopkin. yn wir yr oedd yn gyfarfod
dyddorol trwyddo draw. a phawb yn
edrych yn hapus a siriol or dechreu
ir diwedd. wedi myned trwy y
Programe. yr oedd y Bank i
gael ei rhanu. Maen arferiad
yn yr ysgolion Sabbothol Cymru
er mwyn dysgu y plant i gadw
ei Ceiniogau. i gaslu pob sabboth
ac yma yn mhen y flwyddyn maer
arian pob un wedi ei dalu yn
cael eu dychwelyd yn ol iddo yr oedd
rhai yn cael allan gymaint £8. a
rhai mor isel a 5/0 ond yr oedd pob
un yn cael yr hyn oedd wedi ei dalu
i mewn. mae hwn yn gynllun rhagorol
i gynulo arian. wel wedi myned
trwy y gwaith hwn yr oedd pawb
yn hynod siriol ac mewn ffordd
i gael gwyddau erbyn nadolig. wedi pasio
pleidlais o ddiolchgarwch ir Llywydd
aeth pawb adref yn llawen

[37]

to take the chair I would have
preferred it if he had undertaken
the role but because he refused
I had no choice but to proceed
as best as I could. so I went
ahead with the meeting's business
the children's report was excellent
but there was too much use of English
in their report then Joan [__?]
Hopkin sang beautifully twice
she has a very charming voice
and is also a masterful singer
Mr. Thomas and Wm. Hopkin gave an
address. it was truly an interesting
meeting throughout. and everyone
looked happy and cheerful from start
to finish. [we] went through the
Program. the Bank was to have its
turn. It is a custom
in the Welsh Sunday Schools
to teach the children to save their
Pennies. to collect every sabbath
and here at the end of the year
the money everybody has paid
is returned to them
some received as much as £8. and
some as little as 5/0 but everyone
received what they paid
in. this is an excellent plan
to save money. well after going
through this everyone was quite
cheerful and in a way to have a goose
for christmas. after passing a vote of
thanks to the President
everyone went home happy

[38]

12/22/86

Dydd Marchnad Pontypridd a minau
yn bwriadu myned. ond mae yn
bwrw gwlaw yn anghyffredin
os na ddaw yn well nag y mae y
boreu yma mae n debyg y bydd raid
i mi aros yn y ty trwy y dydd
stopiodd y gwlaw tua dau or
gloch. aeth i lawr Pypridd
gyda un or Breaks bum trwy
y [farnach?] yr oedd dynion anghyffl[?]
ir yma yr oedd yn anhawdd i wthio
trwyddynt ni fum yn hir yma
yr oedd Pentwr o gig a bob math
iw weled y gwysau twrcis a
chickins o math ac yn gwerthu
10 ceiniog y pwys gelwais
yn dy R Evans gwelais
ef am y tro cyntaf mae ef
yn edrych rhagorol ni fum
yn hir yma. aethum i fynu
gydar Break gelwais yn dy
George gorfu i mi fwyta swper
yma yr oed George a Mary yn
myned i lawr ir Porth. aethum
i lawr gyda hwy. Prynais iw
baby Ddress Cape a frog lliw
mirone grand anghyffredin a
mawr mor falch oeddynt [ill?]
dau ar y present gwerth 10/-
daeth y gwlaw a gorfu i ni fyned
adref yn fuan pan oeddwn yn myned
trwy i Gymer cofiais fod cwrdd
adroddiadol gan ysgol y Cymmer

[38]

12/22/86

Market Day in Pontypridd and I
intend to go. but it is
raining terribly
if it does not improve this
morning I will likely have
to stay at home all day
the rain stopped about two
o'clock. went down to Pontypridd
in one of the Brakes I went through
the [__?] there were [__?] men
here it was difficult to push
though them I was not here long
there was a lot of meat and all kinds
to be seen goose turkeys and
some kind of chickens and selling for
10 pence a pound I called on
R. Evans I saw
him for the first time he
looks excellent I was not
long here. I went up
with the Brake and called at
George's house I had to eat supper
Here George and Mary were
going down to Porth. I went
down with them. I bought for
their baby a Dress Cape and a big
very grand [maroon?] colored dress
they were [both?] so happy
with the present worth 10/-
the rain came and we had to go
home soon as I was going through
Cymmer I remembered the recitation
meeting at the Cymmer School

[39]

felly aethum i mewn i wrando
ar y plant cawsom gyfarfod
rhagorol adroddiadau a chann
da iawn gorfu i minau
ufhudhau i alwad y Llywydd
ac i rhoi anerchiad a mawr
mor fodlon yr oeddynt aeth
pawb adref wedi i bodloni yn
fawr Gwelais amryw heddyw
na welais or blaen o'n hen
gymodogion 12/23/86
Dydd Iau diwrnod da iawn heddyw
etto ar ol y gwlaw y ddoe bu
un John Lewis or Cymmer yn
y ty heddyw cawsom ymgom faith
a dyddorol mae ef yn byw yn
un o dai Capel y Cymmer
man lle yr oedd Eb Salathiel
yn arferol o fyw mae ef yn aelod
ffyddlawm or Band of Hope cefais
dipyn o hanes yr eglwys ganddo
efe. ydyw y Gas Lighter district
y Cymmer mae lamb yn awr
i Dop Trebanog ac y mae yn
rhoi goleuni noble mae n bleser
cerdded yr holydd wedir nos
wel wedi ciniawa aethum i
lawr ir porth cefais lythyr
heddiw oddiwrth mam Mrs Wrixon
ac wedi mi gael allan pa le oeddynt
yn byw anfonais y £1 iddynt
gyda return of Post nid yr un
man y maint yn byw yn awr a
phan gefais yr adress gan Mrs Wrixon

[39]

therefore I went to listen
to the children we had an excellent
meeting very good recitation and
singing I had to
obey the President's call
to give an address and they
were very happy
everyone went home greatly
satisfied I saw todays quite a few
I had not seen before of the old
friends 12/23/86
Thursday a very good day today
again after the rain yesterday
one John Lewis from Cymmer was
in the house today we had a long and
interesting conversation he lives in
one of the Cymmer Chapel houses
where Eb Salathiel
used to live he is a
faithful member of the Band of Hope
I got some of the church's history
from him. he is the district Gas
Lighter in Cymmer there is a lamp now
at the Top of Trebanog and it gives
excellent light it is a pleasure
to walk the streets at night
well after lunch I went
down to Porth I received a letter
today from Mrs. Wrixon's mother
and after I worked out where
they live I sent the £1 to them
with return postage they do not
live in the same place now as when
I got the address from Mrs. Wrixon

[40]

aethum i fynu i dy [Sal?] Richard
cyfarfyddais a Llewelyn ar y
ffordd felly aethom ein dau am dro
ir lan i heol Penrhywgynt wrth
ddychwelyd gelwais yn dy Mr Richard
pan aethum i mewn yr oeddynt
papuro. y dwy ferch ai fam
a mawr mor serchus yr
oeddynt nid ydynt yn fedrus
iawn i bapuro Margaret dyna
lledwith yr awn yn ei gweled
hwy nid oedd shap arno o
gwbbbl. Wel ni fum yn hir
iawn am y reswm fy mhod
am fyned i gyfarod a tren 5
i gyfarod a Mrs Owen ai mab
felly daith aethum yn groes
ir bont at dren Ferndale
gyda hwy gyda addewid i fyned
ir lan y fory. Mae Mr Owens
wedi fynd ir north i bregethu
a darlithio bum yn gyfeillach
yn y Porth heddyw nid oedd y
Cynulliad yn luosog iawn ond
yr oedd cyfeillach ddymunol iawn
yno gorfu i mi fyned i fynu
i Bryn Glas gyda Mr Williams
a yma y bum nes yr oedd
yn hwyr heddyw prynais
Tei sidan wen gwerth 2/6
yn anrheg i Lysi fy chwaer
a mawr mor ddiolchgar yr oedd
am dani hi ydyw yr unig
chwaer sydd genyf

[40]

I went up to [Sal?] Richard's house
I met Llewelyn on the
way so both of us walked
up to the Penrhywgynt road
returning I called at Mr. Richard's
when I entered they were
[wall?]papering. the two girls and
their mother and they were very kind
they are not very skilled
at papering. Margaret there's
[an awkward thing for me to see?]
there was no shape to it
at all. Well I was not there
very long because I wanted
to catch the 5 pm train
to meet Mrs. Owen and her son
so I crossed
the bridge to the Ferndale train
with them promising to go
up tomorrow. Mr. Owens
has gone to the north to preach
and lecture I was at communion
in Porth today the congregation was
not very large but
it was a very good communion
then I had to go up
to Bryn Glas with Mr. Williams
and was there until
late today I bought
a white silk Tie worth 2/6
as a present for my sister Lysi
and she was very grateful
for it she is the only
sister I have

[41]

12/24/86

Boreu dydd Gwener bwrw gwlaw heddyw etto. Yr wyf wedi addaw myned i fynu ir Ynis hir felly wedi ciniaw aethum i lawr ir Porth wedi llithro tipyn trwy Hannah Street i weled y rhyfeddodau erbyn Nadolig o ba rhai mae y shiopau wedi cael ei addurno a hwy. mae Hannah Street yn shopau o un pen ir llall a chystal defnyddiau ynddynt a welir yn un o bentrefu Cymru ac yn ratach na mewn llawer o fanau wae rhai yn deweyd y ceir pethau ratach yn y Porth nag yn Bontypridd maer street yma yn llawn o ymwelwyr ar braeks yn dylifo i mewn o bob cyfeiriad P.Pridd Dinas Ynshir a manau eraill aethum i fynu ir Ynshir gydar tren dau Cefais bob un yn iach a chysuris y mae Mises Owens ai mab yn edrych noble bum yma hyd y tren saith mawr y bu Lysa yn pregethu am ymddigiad [S[i]ams?] ai dylwyth at Seth mae n worth i glywed hanes y tylwyth hyn. daith Seth a wm gwr Sara Ann ir lawr ir Porth gydar tren saith yr oedd y train wedi i gramio y fynu ac ar Blatform y Porth yr oedd y lle yn orlawn nid oedd digon o gars iw cael i fyned a dynion i lawr i BontyPridd

[41]

12/24/86

Friday morning raining again today. I have promised to go up to Ynyshir so after lunch I went down to Porth slipped briefly into Hannah Street to see the Christmas marvels with which the shops were decorated. Hannah Street has shops from end to end and the goods are comparable to any seen in a Welsh village and cheaper than in many places some say you can get things cheaper in Porth than in Pontypridd the street here is full of visitors and brakes pour in from all directions Pontypridd City Ynyshir and other places I went up to Ynyshir on the 2 pm train Everyone was healthy and kind Mrs. Owens and her son look very fine I was here until the 7 pm train Lysa was preaching about the behavior of [Siams?]and his family towards Seth it is worth hearing the story of that family. Seth and William Sara Ann's husband came down to Porth on the 7 pm train the train was crammed full and the Platform at Porth was too crowded there were not enough carriages to take the men down to Pontypridd

[42]

ac wedi myned allan i strudoedd
y Porth yr oedd pob man yn llawn
ond wedi cwbl nid oedd yn bleseris
iawn i gerdded am fod yr helo
mor anghyffredin o wlyb
aeth Seth a Wm yn ol gydar
tren wyth aethum innau
i wrandaw y Party dan Arweiniad
S Hopkin nid oedd y Party i gyd
yn bresenol ond yr oeddynt yn
canu yn ardderchog wedi gorphen
aethom allan cefais gwmni
Jonathan Morgan addawais myned
atto ef i De ddydd sul. mawr o
ganu sydd iw glywed heno yn
mhob cyferiad gan leisiau a
Bands o wahanol fathau
yr oedd John allan oi le heno
[gac?] o dan effeithiau na ddylasai
fod. Cafodd Thomas Howell ysg-
rifenydd Eisteddfod y Porth Anaf
tost iawn torodd ei goes mewn
dau fan tro tost oedd hon
ar Eisteddfod i fod y fory
yr oedd yn hwyr iawn pan aethum
i orphwys ond yr oedd dynion
yn cerdded yr heol fel pe buasai
yn ganol dydd. Trail 2/-

12/25/86

Boreu Nadolig. dyma foreu
rhagorol yn mhb ystyr mae
wedi rewi ychydig neithiwr ag
mai r Awyr yn glir ar Haul
yn gwenu arnom y boreu hwn
etto

[42]

and going out into the streets
in Porth everywhere was crowded
but ultimately it was not very
pleasant to walk because the street
was awfully wet
Seth and William went back on
the 8 pm train I went myself
to listen to the Party directed by
S. Hopkin the entire Party was not
present but they
sang excellently afterward
we went out I had the company of
Jonathan Morgan I promised to join
him for tea on Sunday. much singing
to be heard tonight in every direction
from voices and
Bands of different kinds
John was out of sorts tonight
[__?] under effects that should not
have happened. Thomas Howell secretary
of the Porth Eisteddfod was
badly injured broke his leg in
two places an ill turn with
the Eisteddfod tomorrow
it was very late when I went
to bed but men
were walking the streets as if
it were midday. Spent 2/-

12/25/86

Christmas Morning. a fine morning
in every sense it
froze a little last night and
the Air is clear and the Sun
is shining on us this morning
again

[43]

ni fum or ty y boreu hwn
daeth George ai wraig ar baby
i fynu erbyn ciniaw Cawsom
y fraint heddyw o giniawa i gyd
gydan gilydd y dydd hwddyq
wedi ciniawa daith Roberts Evans
(Robert or Ringoed) ai deulu i fynu
i fy ngweled mae ganddo ef chwech
o blant cryfion ac iachus. Un ferch
mae Robert yn flew dros ei wyneb
mae Cathrin yn edrych yn henaid
iawn ai golwg yn agos mor
hyned ai mam maint yn parhau
i gadw shop ac yn Buchera ac
hefyd yn gwerthu llaith wedi edrych
hwy fyned allan aeth i lawr
ir Porth yr oeddwn yn meddwl
myned i fynu ir Ynishir erbyn
swper ond cyfarfyddais ag [amryw?]
oeddwn yn ei adnabod ac felly
yr oedd raid stopio i siarad
a phawb. gelwais yn nhy Rachel
a gorfu i mi fwyta swper yno
wedi i mi fyned i fynu ag i dy
Lysa erbyn fy mhod yno yr
Oeddynt yn gorphen a bwyta
yna yr opedd Mrs Owens a mab
Azariah ai wraig a Miss Williams
merch Rev Williams Ynishir wel
wedi clirio y bwrdd cawsom
brydnawn difyrus iawn yn
siarad am bob peth ac yn canu
ambell i hen dôn. a Lysa yn deweyd
ambell waith wn i yn y byd beth
mai Margaret yn ei wneyd

[43]

I stayed in the house this morning
George and his wife and baby came
up for lunch We had
the honor today of dining all
together this day
after lunch Roberts Evans
(Robert from Ringoed) and family came
up to see me they have six strong and
healthy children. One daughter
Robert has a hairy face
Cathrin looks very old
and her face looks as old as her
mother's they still
keep a shop and Butcher and
also sell milk after seeing
them out went down
to Porth I was thinking
of going up to Ynyshir for
supper but I met [several?]
I knew and so
I had to stop and talk
to everyone. I called at Rachel's
and had to eat supper there
after I went up and to Lysa's house
when I got there
they had finished eating [present
were:] Mrs. Owens and her son
Azariah and his wife and Miss Williams
daughter of Rev. Williams Ynyshir well
after clearing the table we had a very
entertaining afternoon
talking about everything and singing
some old tunes. and Lysa said
several times to me "what in the world
is Margaret doing

[44]

a shwd mae i plant bach
gorfu i ni gyd fyned i dy y
Parch William gweinidog yr Anibyn
wyr erbyn i ni fyned yno yr
oedd y ty yn agos yn llawn yno
yr oedd Mrs a Mr Davis Storekeeper
yn Ynishir wel cawsom amser
ddoniol iawn llawer iawn o storion
digru dan gosod Mrs William oil
Paintins y ferch hynaf yr hon
sydd newydd dderbyn medal aur
am ei phaintins ardderchog yn[___?]
lle y gwelais y peth a elwir
Screen sef Frame rywbeth yn dy
debyg i Horse Dillad trifflog a phob
plyg yn mesur 5½ x 22 in a hwnio
wedi ei guddio a gwahanol fathau
o scraps a darluniau o bob math
yn wir y mae hwn yn beth
ardderchog ag yn un or pethau
mwyaf ysblenydd a welais erioed
mae y fath beth a hwn yn gronfa
o wybodaeth yn mhob ty wedi
ini fod yma am dibyn o amser
a chael pob croesaw aethom yn
ol gyda n gilydd i dy Lysa a Seth
ac wedi ni gael swper tua 10½
ac wedi llawer o siarad aethum
i adref yr oedd llawer o ddynion meddwi
ar y ffordd a rhai yn mesur
y street yn go da cyraiddais adref
erbyn tua 11½. wel dylaswn
dweyd hefyd bod dynion yn dyr
faoedd yn Eisteddfod y Porth

[44]

and how are the little children?"
we had to go together to the house
of Rev. William Congregationalist
Minister when we arrived
the house was almost full
Mrs. and Mr. Davis Storekeeper
in Ynyshir were there well we had
a very fun time with many humorous
stories while hanging Mrs. William's
oil paintings the oldest daughter
recently won a gold medal
for her excellent paintings [___?]
[where?] I saw a thing here called
a Screen or Frame something
like a triple Clothes Horse
with each fold measuring 5½ x 22 in
hidden by scraps
and all sorts of pictures
in truth thus is an excellent thing
one of the most splendid things
I have ever seen
this sort of thing is a reservoir
of information in every house after we
were here for a while
and received every welcome we went
back together to Lysa and Seth's house
and after supper at 10:30
and after a lot of talking I went
home there were many drunk men
on the road and some measuring
the street very well I arrived home
about 11:30. well I should have also
said there were crowds of men at the
Porth Eisteddfod

[45]

Cafwyd Eisteddfod lwyddianus yn
Mhob ystor. Wel dyma y modd
yr wyf wedi treilio y Nadolig
yn yr hen wlad

12/26/86

Boreu Sabboth dyma foreu gwylyb
iawn etto aethum i gapel y Cymmer
yn y boreu i wrando Llewelyn
Williams yn pregethu Cymerodd
ei destyn yn Luc. 2. 15.16 adnoddau
yr oeddwn yn edrych ar Llewelyn
yn y Pwlpud fel dyn llanw
ei le ai lle yn ei ateb yntau
pregethodd yn ardderchog ni chefais
fy modloni yn well erioed
mewn cyfansoddiad yr oedd fel
cadwyn auraidd yn llawn
o feddlychau pa rhai sydd
yn disgleirio fel aur [__?] yr
unig fai wyf yn ei deimlo yn Llewelyn
ydyw os bai hefyd nad ydyw ei
lais yn ddigon gryf. ne welais
neb erioed yn fwy cartrefol
yn y Pwlpud nag ydyw ef wel
aeth Llewelyn a minau i dy
Richard Edmunds i giniaw yr
ef wedi parottoi ar ein cyfer
yr oedd wedi pryno twrcu gyferbyn
ar ymgylchiad wel gwnaethom
gyfiawnder a [turci?] trwy fwyta
gymaint o hono ag oedd yn
angen ar bob un o honom
Fi oedd y Carver. wedi ciniaw
Daith Jonathan Morgan a Wm
ei frawd

[45]

The Eisteddfod was successful
In every sense. Well that is how
I spent Christmas
in the old country

12/26/86

Sunday morning a very wet morning
again I went to the Cymmer chapel
in the morning to hear Llewelyn
Williams preaching He took
his subject from Luke 2:15-16
I saw Llewelyn
in the Pulpit as a man fulfilling
his role in his own way
he preached excellently I was
never more satisfied
with a composition it was like
a golden chain full
of thoughts which
shine like gold [__?] the
only fault I feel Llewelyn has
if it is a fault is that his
voice is rather weak. I never
saw anyone more at home
in the Pulpit as he well
Llewelyn and I went to
Richard Edmunds' house for a lunch
he had prepared for us
he bought a turkey for
the [occasion?] well we did
justice to the turkey by eating
as much of it as
we needed
I was the Carver. After lunch
Jonathan Morgan and William
his brother came

[46]

i mewn attom. treiliasom
brydnawn tra ddifyrus efo n
gilydd mewn can ac ymddiddonion
a llawer iawn o hen adgofion
melus wel gorfu i ni aros
[yna?] i swper hefyd wel wedi
bwyta addawsom fyned i
dy Jonathan a Miriam am spell
felly bu aethom yno a mawr
mor groesawgar yr oeddynt eu
dau Cawsom hanes eu taith ir
America ag yn ol yn ddoniol
iawn gan Miriam gorfu i Llew
a minau addaw dod atynt i be
rhaid or sabothau nesaf wel yr
oedd yn bryd myned ir cwrdd erbyn
hyn. Cymerodd Llewelyn ei destyn
yn Luc "un peth sydd angenrheidiol"
a Mair a ddewisodd y rhan dda yr hon
ni ddygir oddiarno." yr wyf wedi
clywed llawer o bregethu ar y testyn
uchod ond nid wyf wedi clywed un
bregeth etto mor rhagorol a hon
yr oedd y gwrandawriad astud oedd yn cael ei
roi ir bregeth yn profi i fi fod yna
dyddordeb mawr yn cael ei deimlo yn
y matterion yr oedd y pregethwr yn ei
drafod arosais ar ol yn gyfeillach
a datganodd yr Eglwys ei dymuniad
da i mi. yr oeddwn yn bwriadu myned
i wrando y Party yn canu aethum i lawr
mor belled a Ship y Cymmer a gorfu
i mi droi yn ol gan mor anghyffredin
o wlyb ydoedd. aethum i dy George yna
a bwyteais swper. Bwrw gwlaw o hyd

[46]

in with us. we spent
a quite enjoyable afternoon
together singing and conversing
and [sharing] many old sweet memories
well we had to stay
[there?] for supper as well after
eating we promised to go to
Jonathan and Miriam's for a spell
so we went there and
how very welcoming they
both were We heard about their trip to
America and back amusingly
[told] by Miriam Llew
and I had to promise to come back
for one of the coming Sundays well it
was time to go to the meeting by
then. Llewelyn took his subject
from Luke "one thing is needed, and
Mary has chosen that good part, which
will not be taken from her"* I have
heard much preaching on the subject
above but I have never heard
a sermon as excellent as this one
the diligent attention which was being
given the sermon proves to me
that great interest was felt
about the matters the preacher was
discussing I stayed for communion
and the Church declared its good
wishes to me. I intended to go to
listen to the Party singing I went
down as far as the Ship in Cymmer
and had to turn around because
it was awfully wet. went to George's
and ate supper. Still raining

* Luke 10:42

[47]

Digwyddodd damwain tra anunmunol
boreu heddyw i Mrs Thomas (Lysa)
chwaer Margaret pan oedd yn myned
at y train i anfon Azeriah ai wraig
yr oeddyn yn myned i dre y wraig
yr oedd yn bwrw gwlaw ac yn rewi
yr oedd yr heol yn un dalp o rew
a ryw fod neu gilydd collodd ei
throed a chwympodd mor ddisymwyth
nes iddi dori ei braich. ddeheu yn yr
arddwrn cafodd boen boen mawr ond
mae wedi cael ei doddi yn ei lle
ond y mae mewn poenau mawr o hyd
mae wedi bod o un llewyg ir llall
trwy y dydd ond y mae wedi
dod iddo ei hun erbyn
amser gorphwys

12/28/86

Dyma foreu dydd Llun mae heddyw
Etto yn ddiwrnod sych a thipyn
mawr o rew ar yr heol mae
Eisteddfod fawr yn y Bont heddyw
Mae Party or lle hwn yn myned
I gystadlu dan areiniad S.
Hopkin wel aeth Henry a minau
gydan gilydd i lawr ir Station
erbyn fy mhod yno yr oedd
Llewelyn R Edmunds B Thomas
Watkin Thomas ac eraill yn
fy aros yr oedd lle wedi ei
growdio nid oedd modd myned i
mewn ir station ond trwy
benelu a gwthio cawsom ein
hunain ar y Platform

[47]

An unfortunate accident happened
this morning to Mrs. Thomas (Lysa)
Margaret's sister while going to the
train to send off Azariah and his wife
they were going to the wife's town it
was raining and freezing
the street was one sheet of ice
and somehow or other she lost her
footing and fell so crookedly
she broke her arm. right in the
wrist she was in great pain but
was put in place
but is still in great pain
she was fainting
throughout the day
but came to by
bedtime

12/28/86

Monday morning today
Again a dry day with a quite
a lot of ice on the street the
big Pont[ypridd] Eisteddfod is today
The Party from here is going
to compete under the direction of S.
Hopkin well Henry and I went
together down to the Station
while I was there
Llewelyn R Edmunds B Thomas
Watkin Thomas and others
were waiting for me it was
crowded there was no way to
get into the station but by
elbowing and pushing we
got to the Platform

[48]

wedi cyraidd Pontypridd aeth
Henry a minau i weled Jane Jones
mae hi yn aros gyda Mrs Price
yn station y Bont yn wir
nid ydyw Miss Jones yn edrych
agos cystal yn awr a phan
gwelais hi or blaen mae hi
yn deneuach o lawer nag ydoedd
ac hefyd yn edrych yn lawer
fwy digalon nag y gwelais
hi erioed or blaen yr oedd yn oli
dipyn am wyr Aetnavill [__?]
Miss Maggie & matter Howells ac
eraill. Wedi i Henry a minau
gael shat da aethom i lawr
ir dre cawsom afail yn
y bechgyn aethom efon
gilydd i dy R. Evans
i glywed y Party yn canu ar
ol gwrando aethom an gwynebaw
tuar Eisteddfod yr hon a gynelir
yn y Market Hall (Ty Farchnad)
y Llywydd Wm Abram (Mabon)
A.S. Beirniad y Canu Dr. Parry
Abertawe Dechreuwyd ar waith
Yr Eisteddfod tua 12 or gloch
collodd Party y Porth. Cor
Treorkey aeth ar prif ddarn
£30. "Rise up arise" yr oedd
Cynulliad yn anarferol o
Fawr nid oedd modd cael
tistawrwydd i fyned yn mhlaen
gyda gwaith y dydd gan gymaint
oedd wedi gramio i mewn

[48]

after reaching Pontypridd
Henry and I went to see Jane Jones
she is staying with Mrs. Price
at the Pont[ypridd] station truly
Miss Jones does not look
as well now as when
I saw her before she is
much thinner than she used to be
and also looks
more depressed than I have
ever seen her she was asking some
about the Aetnaville people [__?]
Miss Maggie & Master Howells and
others. After Henry and I
had a good chat we went down
to the town [and] got hold
of the boys we went
together to R. Evans's house
to hear the Party singing
after listening we took our faces
to the Eisteddfod being held
in the Market Hall (Ty Farchnad)
Wm. Abram (Mabon) MP was President*
the singing was judged by Dr. Parry of
Swansea** The proceedings of the
Eisteddfod began about 12 o'clock
the Porth Party lost.
The Treorchy Choir won the top prize
of £30. [for singing] "Rise up arise"
Attendance was exceptionally
large it was impossible to have
silence to go ahead
with the day's proceedings with so
many crammed inside

*William Abraham (1842-1922) was the
leader of the South Wales Miners
Federation and was also elected a as a
Member of Parliament.

**Joseph Parry (1841-1903) was born in
Wales but spent part of his early life
in Pennsylvania. He returned to his
native country to become the leading
Welsh composer of his time.

[49]

wel cafwyd canu ardderchog
aethom i edrych am le i gael
bwyd ond yr oedd pob lle wedi
ei lanw gorfu i ni aros
tua awr o amser cyn cael
tamaid iw fwyta ac wedi
i ni ei gael gwaithom ein ol
arno. A dychwelasom yn
ol ir Hall i glywed y coriau
yn canu. yr oeddynt yn canu
yn ardderchog. Pwy ddaeth i fynu
i Gairdydd i fy ngweled heddyw
ond Mary Ann merch fy
Ewrth Henry dyma y tro
cyntaf i mi ei gweled mae
hi yn smart anghyffredin
a mae bychan ydyw
mewn corpholaeth. wedir
cyfan mae hi yn un fach
hardd a thlws ac o gymeriad
rhagorol yn mhob ystyr yn
gwasanaethu y mae ac y mae
yn cael lleoedd rhagorol ac y
mae yn aros yn hir yn mhob
lle nid ydyw hi yn gwybod
fawr o hanes y chwaer arall
mae Harry a Jonny yn
gaerdydd Jonny yn saer a Harry
yn Drimer maint eich dau
yn gweithio ei ffordd yn dda
aeth yn ei gydar tren 8. ac
aethum innau adref nid oedd
modd cael digon o gars y fyned
adynion adref cefais [__?]

[49]

well the singing was excellent
we went to look for a place to
eat but everywhere was
full we had to wait nearly
an hour before getting
a bite to eat and after
we had it [we all worked
on it?]. And we returned
to the Hall to hear the choral
singing. they sang
excellently. Who came up
[from?] Cardiff to see me today
but Mary Ann daughter of my
Uncle Henry this is the
first time I have seen here she
is exceptionally smart
and is small
in build. all in all
she is small,
pretty and cute and of excellent
character in every sense
she is in [domestic] service
and has excellent places staying
long in them all
she does not know
much about the other sister
Harry and Jonny are in
Cardiff Jonny is a carpenter and Harry
a Trimmer* they are both
working [and doing well?]
she went [back?] on the 8 pm train.
and I went home there
were not enough cars to take
the men home I had [__?]

* A coal trimmer, responsible for
loading and leveling coal in a ship's
hold.

[50]

ar bechgyn y First Class
i fyned i fynu ir Porth yr
oedd yn tynu tua 2 or gloch
y boreu ar Henry a Tommy
yn dod adref ac mor wlybed
a physgot nid oedd train
yn dod i fynu ar ol y Concert
er fod gwyr yr Eisteddfod wedi
cyhoeddi hyny gorfu i wyr
Treorky a rhai o Dreherbert
i gerdded yr oll ffordd a hithau
yn bwrw gwlaw yn dditrugaredd
ond ni chefais i fy nghwylchau
am ddod adref mewn amser
priodol 12/28/26
Dydd mawrth. mae yn bwrw gwlaw
y boreu hwn etto anfonais
lythyr tua thre i Margret ar plant
cefais lythyr y ddai oddiwrthynt
ac yr oeddwn yn falch anghyffredin
ei gael aethum i fynu ir Ynishir
gydar tren 12. ac i dy Lysa
aethum rhag blaen er mwyn
cael golwg arni pan es i
mewn y pethe cyntaf welais
oedd ei gweled hi ai braich yn
y Swing mae hi yn teimlo yn
wan am ei bod wedi cael cymaint
o lewygion bu Dr Davis yn eu
ail rwy mo heddyw a chafodd
dipyn mawr o boeni bum yma
y rhan fwyaf or dydd fwyteais
giniaw a swper gelwais yn dy
John ond nid wedi dod adref
or gwaith

[50]

with the boys in First Class
to go down to Porth
it was close to 2 o'clock
in the morning when Henry and Tommy
got home and as wet
as a fish there was no train
coming up after the Concert
even though the Eisteddfod organizers
publicized it
Treorchy men and some from Treherbert
had to walk the whole way and it
was raining mercilessly
but I did not get soaked
because I came home in
good time 12/28/86
Tuesday. it is raining
again this morning I sent a letter
to town for Margaret and the children
I had a letter from them
and was extremely happy
to receive it I went up to Ynyshir
on the 12 PM train. and to Lysa's
I went at once to
see her when I went
in the first thing I saw
was her arm in
a Sling she feels
weak since she had been
fainting frequently Dr. Davis
rebound it today and she had
quite a lot of pain I was here
most of the day and I ate
lunch and supper I called at
John's house but he was not home
from work

[51]

yna aethum i dy Sara Ann
a Wm yr oedd ef newydd ddod or gwaith
bum yma news yr oedd yn amser
train nid ydyw y plentyn ieuangaf
yn eithaf heno cafodd anwyd y ddoe
wrth fyned ef mor belled ar Porth
aethum adref gydar train 6 ½
pan oeddwn ar Drebanog pwy gyfarfyddais
ond Rachel ai ferch yr oedd wedi
bod yn nhy fy mam ac yn dy
Mary richard. rhoddodd Rachel
dipyn o hanes pa fod yr oedd wedi
treilio y dydd ac yna ymadawsom
pan aethum ir ty pwy oedd yn fy
aros ond Llewelyn a Idris Thomas
cawsom noswaith dedwydd efo n
gilydd ac adgofion or hen amser

12/29/86

Dydd Mercher. mae heddyw yn foreu
braf iawn ysgrifenis lythyr
i fy Ewrth Lewis. bum yn y ty
y rhan fwyaf or boreu heddyw
wedi ciniaw lawr ir Porth cyfar-
fyddais a Wm Thomas [with?] Dai [Owen?]
a gorfu a minau fyned i mewn
wedi siarad am lawer o amser
yr oedd yn raid i Margret ei ferch
wneyd Te felly y bu yr oedd raid
ei yfed hefyd wedi ei wneyd
wel aethum i lawr i Porth
wrth y Post Office cyfarfyddais
a David brawd Margret wrth
ddod gelwais yn dy George
pan oeddwn yn myned i

[51]

then I went to Sara Ann's house
William had just come home from work
I was there until it was time for
the train the youngest son is not
at his best tonight he caught cold
yesterday going as far as Porth
I took the 6:30 train home
when I got to Trebanog who did I meet
but Rachel and her daughter who had
been in my mother's house and at
Mary Richard's. Rachel gave
an account of how she
spent the day and then we left
when I got home who was awaiting me
but Llewelyn and Idris Thomas
we had a pleasant evening
together remembering the old times
12/29/86

Wednesday. today is a
very fine morning I wrote a letter
to my Uncle Lewis. I was at home
most of the morning today
after lunch down to Porth I met
Wm. Thomas [with?] Dai [Owen?]
and I had to go inside
after talking for a long time
it was time for his daughter Margaret
to make Tea so I had to
drink it as well after it was made
well I went down to Porth
at the Post Office I met
Margaret's brother David
coming back I called at George's
when I went

[52]

fynu ar Trebanog cyfarfyddais
a fy mam myned ir Cwrdd Gweddi
felly troais yn fy ol ac ir Cwrdd
cawsom gyfarfod rhagorol
yna adref

12/30/86

Dydd Iau. boreu braf wedi rewi
ychydig wel yr oedd Henry a Tommy
yn segir a phenderfynasom
fyned am dro i Maesteg i weled
fy modryb Elvira. cychwynas-
om or ty tua 9 or gloch i gyfarfod
ar train 10 yn Hendraforgan
yr oeddem yn y station ryw
pumb myned cyn ir train ddod
ond yr oeddem ein tri wedi
chwysu y anghyffredin yr
oeddem yn Tondu 25 i 11. felly
yr oedd genym 2 awr i aros cyn
cael train i Maesteg ond darfu
i ni benderfynu cerdded yn lle
aros ir train yr oeddem yn credu y
buasem yn gallu cyraidd y lle
erbyn tua deuddeg o gloch darfu
i ni gerdded a cherdded yn galed
iawn hefyd ac yr oedd yn un
or gloch cyn i ni gyraidd ty
modryb ac yr oeddem erbyn
hyn yn berwi o wys lle
ryfedd ydyw maesteg nid wyf
yn canfod un harddwch yn
lle hwn o gwbl mae n llawn
o hen dips rwbish a cinders
maen gwaith tan a strip
yn awr

[52]

up to Trebanog I met
my mother going to the Prayer Meeting
so I turned around and went to the
meeting we had an excellent meeting
then home

12/30/86

Thursday. a fine morning a little
icy well Henry and Tommy were
idle and we decided
to go for a walk to Maesteg to see
my aunt Elvira. we started out from
the house about 9 o'clock to meet
the 10 AM train at Hendreforgan
we arrived at the station some
five minutes before the train came
but we three were
tremendously sweaty
we were at Tondu at 25 to 11. so
we had 2 hours to wait
before the Maesteg train but
we decided to walk instead
of waiting for the train we believed
we could reach the place
by twelve o'clock
we walked and walked
very hard as well and it was one
o'clock before we reached
my aunt's house and we were
boiling with sweat by then
Maesteg is a remarkable place I
cannot find any beauty in
this place at all it is full
of old rubbish tips and cinders
it is a [fire and stripping?] works
now

[53]

nid oes dim yma yn awr
ond ychydig o weythfeydd glo
ar gwaith Tin bychan mawr
y mae gwaithwyr yn achwyn ar
y gwaith a dim tâl a dim gwaith
oeddem yn ei glywed wel pan aethom
ir ty tarawwyd fy mhodryb
a syndod pan y gwelodd ni yn
dod i mewn a dechreuodd ein
[cymedu?] am na fuasem yn
anfon o'n blaen i ddeweyd ein
bod yn dod. wedi iddi dod att
ei hun dywedodd bod yn raid ini
aros gyda hi heno. ond dywedasom
bod yn raid i ni ddychwelyd ond
gorfu i mi addaw ddod iw
gweled etto cyn fy mhod
yn myned yn ol tua thre
cychwynasom o Maisteg gydar
train 20 mynud wedi pedwar
cyrhaeddasom adref erbyn 7 ½
a phob un o honom ar newynu
a gwaithom ein ol ar y bwyd
wedi i gael on blaen. y mae
gan fy mhodryb, 8, o blant ond
y mae 2 ohonynt yn Dregolwyn
gyda modryb Sue dau o fech-
gyn yw rhai hynaf ac y maint
yn tori glo gerllaw ir ty
mae fy Ewrth yn tori glo hefyd
ac yn gweithio yn y Cape
ryw bedair mylltyr o Maisteg
unwaith yr wythnos y mae
ef yn dod adref

[53]

there is nothing here now
except a few coal mines
and the small tinworks
the workers complain greatly for work
there is no pay and no work
we heard well when we went
to the house my aunt was struck
with shock when she saw us
come in and began to
[scold?]us that we should have
sent ahead to say we
were coming. after she came to
her senses she said we needed
to stay with her tonight. but we said
we needed to return but I
had to promise to come to
see her again before
I go back to town
we started from Maesteg with
the 4:20 PM train
arrived home by 7:30 PM
and every one of us hungry
and we all worked on the food
left for us.
my aunt has 8 children but
2 of them are in Colwinston
with aunt Sue two of the boys
the oldest ones who are
cutting coal near the house
my Uncle also cuts coal
and works at the Cape*
about four miles from Maesteg
once a week
he comes home

* This appears to refer to the Cape
Copper works at Briton Ferry, actually
seven miles form Maesteg

[54]

12/31/86

Dydd Gwener yr oedd fy mam yn
deweyd wrthyf fod i safron
melyn a bara wedi ei ferwi
trwy ei gilydd yn rhagorol at
fronau clwyfus neu i yn magu
a rhoi yn bwltice ar y fron
yr wyf yn teimlo yn flin ang-
yffredin heddyw mae fy morddwtydd
yn dost o herwydd cerdded cymaint
y ddoe nid wyf am gael yr un daith
etto am lawer o amser
wel daeth fy modryb Ann i
fynu heddyw a bum innau yn
y ty trwy y dydd yn rhoi tipyn
o hanes America iddi ac hefyd
tipyn o hanes Mary Jane
mae fy mhodryb mewn gofid
mawr o herywdd ymddigiadau
Mary Jane y oedd yn dewyd
wrthyf y buasau yn falch iawn
glywed ei bod wedi ei chladdu
dywedodd wrthyf am ddweyd
wrth fy mhodryb Lysa "ei bod
hi yn dra diolchgar iddi am yr
hyn oll a wnaeth dros ei merch
ond bod ddrwg iawn ganddi
ei bod hi wedi troi allan
fel y gwnaeth mor Anufudd
a diystyrllyd o gyngorion ei
modryb a hithau wedi bod
mor dda iddi yn mhob ystyr
aeth fy mhodryb Ann adref
gydar tren saith. Talais

[54]

12/31/86

Friday my mother
said to me that
yellow saffron and bread boiled
together are excellent for
sick chests [or for nursing?]
and to put in a poultice on the chest
I am feeling very bad
today my thighs
hurt from so much walking
yesterday I will not make the same trip
again for a long time
well my aunt Ann came up
today and I was at
home with her through the day telling
her a bit about America and also
a little about Mary Jane
my aunt is greatly troubled
because of Mary Jane's behavior
she told
me she would be very pleased
to hear she was buried
she said to me to tell
my aunt Lysa "she
is very grateful to her for
everything she has done for her
but she is very sorry
that she has turned out
as she has so Disobedient
and inconsiderate of
her aunt's counsel and she
being so good to her in every sense
my aunt Ann went home
on the 7 PM train. I paid

[55]

i Lantrisant. mae hi yn
edrych yn dda iawn ac yn cael
iechyd rhagorol. Wel dyma
y nos ddiweddfaf yn y flwyddyn
mae tipyn o ganu ar hyd yr heolydd
Clywais y Brass Band yn chwarae
Hyderfield ag Abertawe yn
effiethiol iawn heno yr wyf
yn ysgrifenu y llinellau hyn
ar fin deuddeg ar gloch ar ddiwedd
y flwyddyn 1886 "Dysg i mi
gyfryf fy nhyddiau fel y dygaf
fy nghalon i ddoethineb"
maddeu i mi o Dduw fy meiau
lluosg y flwyddyn hon O Arglwydd
dysg fi ac arwain fi y flwyddyn
dyfodol i bywer dy Ogoniant
ath glod. mae ychydig
eiliadau dros ddeuddeg or gloch
Farwell i ti y flwyddyn ti fuost
yn ffyddlaw iawn u mi trwy dy
oes ffarwell nith welaf byth
mhwy yn dy ddydd buost ffyddlaw
iawn i dynoliaeth yn mhob
rhan or byd cefais i y fraint
o groesi y mor ddiogel
yn dy gol priodol ydyw
gair Duw trwy yr Apostol
"gan brynu yr amser oblegid
y dyddiau sydd ddrwg
ffarwell hen gyfeilles

Good bey
1886

[55]

[for her to go to] Llantrisant. she
is looking very good and is in
excellent health. well this is
the last night of the year
there is some singing in the streets
I heard the Brass Band playing
Huddersfield and Abertawe*
very effectively tonight I am
writing these lines
at midnight at the end
of the year 1886 "Teach me
to count my days so I can fill
my heart with wisdom"***
forgive me o God my
many sins this year O Lord
teach me and lead me in the
new year to the power of your Glory
and your praise. it is a few'
moments after twelve o'clock
Farewell to you year you were
very faithful to me through your
life farewell I will never see you
again in your day you were very
faithful to humanity in every
part of the world I had the honor
of crossing the sea safely
in your bosom apropos is the
word of God through the Apostle:
"buying time because
the days are evil"***
farewell old companion

Goodbye
1886

*These are hymn tunes.
** Psalm 90:12-14
*** Ephesians 5:16-17

[56]

1/1/87

Boreu dydd Sadwrn y dydd cyntaf
or flwyddyn mae heddyw yn ddiwrnod
rhagorol yr haul yn disgleirio
ond bod y ddaear wedi ei chloi i
fynu gan Rew. bu fy Ewrth
Richard i fynu heddyw bu yma
am dipyn o amser. wedi i mi
Giniawa gyd fy mam aethum
i Ynishir yn y Cymmer cyf-
arfyddais a R Edmunds daeth ef
i fynu gyda mi mor belled a thy
Gwylm Thomas. ar y street
yn yr Ynishir yr oedd dwy fenyw
yn casglu yr hyn a allant gael
yr oeddynt yn canu yr hen don
Calfaria ai plant yn myned
o amgylch y tai i geisio arian
yr oedd golwg wael iawn arnynt
pan es i dy Lysa maint yn teimlo
yn dda iawn heddyw maer fraich [ychydig?]
yn well. mae Sara Ann merch
John yn aros gyda hi yn awr
yr oedd Seth yn y gwely pan aethum
i mewn ond cododd yn fuan yr
oedd wedi codi yn fawr iawn
yfais de yna wedi hyny
daith John arosais yma dipyn
wedi te a phwy ddaeth i mewn
ond Azeraiah yr oedd yn raid
i mi aros bellach hyd nes y
buasai ef yn dod i lawr i gyfarfod
y tren diweddaf pan daeth yr amser
aethom efon gilydd cefais orchymyn

[56]

1/1/87

Saturday morning the first day
of the year today is an
excellent day the sun is shining
but the ground is
frozen. my Uncle
Richard was up today here
for some time. after I ate
lunch with my mother I went
to Ynyshir in Cymmer
I met R. Edmunds he came
up with me as far as
Gwylm Thomas's house. on the street
in Ynyshir two women
were collecting what they could
they were singing the old tune
Calfaria and the children were going
around the houses asking for money
they looked very ill
when I got to Lysa's house they felt
very good the arm is [a little?]
better. Sara Ann
John's daughter is staying with her
Seth was in bed when I came
in but rose quickly he has
grown very tall
I drank tea there after this
John came I waited some
after tea time and who came in
but Azeraiah I had
to stay longer until
he could come down to meet
the last train when the time came
we went together I was ordered

[57]

fy dod i aros wythnos gyda hwy
cyn fy mhod yn dychwelyd
dywedodd wrthyf ei fod wedi ysgrifenu
llythyr i Margret yn y Porth
cyfarfyddais a Jonny Williams
a Henry wedi cymeryd walk
aethom adref. y mae John fy mrawd
wedi ymadael ar gwaith oedd ganddo
yn yr Ynysir gof ydyw

1/2/87

y Sabboth. yn hwyr iawn yn
codi heddyw gorfod gwneyd brys
heddyw i fyned mewn amser ir Cwrdd
daeth dwy ferch Kitty Rees i fynu
or Bont. aethum i gwrdd y Porth
yr oedd Parch Jones maister
yn pregethu. 11 Cor. 15. 2-3
nid oeddwn yn ei hoffi o gwbl
pentyru gormod or un pethau
yn ei bregeth. dywedodd un frawddeg
hollol anmhriodol sef am y
Cristion Duwiol Dychrynlllyd
aethum i dy Wm Hopkin i giniaw
yr oeddynt am gael tipyn o hanes
Gomer Lewis ag Edwin Lewis y
mae Gomer yn frawd i ddiweddar wraig
Wm Hopkin mae Taliesyn yn
wylt am fyned ir America y
mae Cathrin a Johana yn dre
o hyd y maint yn gantoresau ar-
dderchog. y maint yn cael llawer
iawn o ingagements. wedi ciniaw
aethum i ysgol y Porth yr oedd y
7 ben or Actau yn cail ei holi

[57]

to come and stay a week with them
before I return
he told me he had written
a letter to Margaret in Porth
I met Jonny Williams
and Henry took a walk
we went home. my brother John
has left the work he had
in Ynysir he is a blacksmith
1/2/87
the Sabbath. I got up very late
today had to hurry
today to get to the Meeting in time
Kitty Rees's two daughters came up
from Pontypridd. I went to the Porth
meeting Rev. Jones [MA?]
was preaching. 11 Cor. 15. 2-3
I did not like it at all
he heaped together too much of the
same thing in his sermon. one sentence
was completely inappropriate
namely about Fearful Godly Christians
I went to Wm. Hopkin's for lunch
They wanted to hear a bit about
Gomer Lewis and Edwin Lewis
Gomer is the brother of
Wm. Hopkin's late wife Taliesin
is crazy about going to America
Cathrin and Johana are still in town
they are excellent
singers. they have many
engagements. after lunch
I went to the Porth school the 7th
chapter of Acts was examined

[58]

a bum agos a sythu wrth eistedd
i wrandaw yr oedd yn oer iawn
yr wyf wedi cael tipyn o anwyd
rywfodd neu gilydd bum yn y
Brynglas ar De. heddyw y gwelais
Josuha Williams gyntaf mae ef
yn edrych yn rhagorol ai wyneb
yn llawn barf mae ef yn yr ysgol
yn Llundain yn parottoi o hyd i
fod yn Ddrygist mae ef yn awr tua
24 oed. yr oedd Jones yn pregethu
yn y Porth heno etto nid ydyw
yn fawr Pregethwr yr oedd Cymundeb
yma heno. wedi cwrdd bum yn
dy Richard Edmunds ar swper gorch-
mynodd Mary Jenkins i mi ofalu ddod
i giniaw ati hi dydd Sul nesaf
yr oedd yr heol mor slip a gwydr
heno nid oedd modd cerdded gan mor
slip oedd cafodd llawer un godwm
tost 1/3/87

Boreu dydd Llun mae hwn yn
foreu sych bum yn y ty
trwy y Boreu ysgrifenaais lythyr
i Margret yr oeddwn yn disgwyl
cael llythyr oddiwrthu heddyw ond
ni chefais yr un wedi i mi
ciniawa gyda fy mam aethum
i lawr ir Cymmer gelwaus yn nhy
Dd Jenkins ac oddiyno i dy George
bum ar De yno a phan ddaeth
yr amser aethum I gwrdd gweddi
y Porth cawsom gwrdd da iawn
yr oedd yn bwrw gwllaw anghyffredin

[58]

and I was nearly stiff from sitting
to listen it was very cold
I have had a bit of a cold
Somehow or other I was in
Brynglas for Tea. today I saw
Joshua Williams first he
looks excellent and a
beard fills his face he is in school
in London preparing to
become a Druggist he is now about
24 years old. Jones preached
in Porth tonight again he is not
a great Preacher there was Communion
here tonight. after the meeting I was
at Richard Edmunds' house for supper
Mary Jenkins ordered me to take care
to come for lunch next Sunday
the street was [slippery?] as glass
tonight there was no way to walk
it was so slippery but many had bad
falls 1/3/87

Monday morning this is a
dry morning I was in the house
through the Morning I wrote a letter
to Margaret I was expecting
a letter from her today but
I did not receive it after
lunch I went with my mother I went
down to Cymmer I called on
David Jenkins and from there to
George's I was there for tea and when
the time came for the Porth prayer
meeting we had a very good meeting
it was raining terribly

[59]

1/4/87

Dydd Mawrth. Heddyw y mae fy mam
a minau yn myned i lawr
i Dregolwyn aethom i lawr
gydar tren 11. yr oedd yn oer
iawn yn tren. Pan oeddem yn
Llanary death fy modryb Ann
i mewn yr oedd hi am ddod i Bont
faen gyda ni yr oeddem yno erbyn
12½ aethom i dy Sue merch
Ann i giniaw mae hi yn byw
gerllaw ir station mae n yn
briod ys tair blynedd a chanddi ddau
o blant merch a bachgen. oedd
ddau efaill bu farw un or ddau
wedi i ni giniawa yma aethom
i dy modryb Ellyn. Cefais fy
modryb ar plant yn rhagorol
mewn iechyd. Mae hi yn edrych
yn splendid [__?] hi yn llawn
cystal ei golwg yn awr ag yr oedd
10 mlynedd yn ol mae r bachgen
ieuangaf ai nerves yn wan iawn
nes y mae hyny wedi effeithio
dipyn mar ar ei synwyr ac
hefyd ar ei barabli. mae ganddynt
5 o blant 3 bachgen a 2 ferch
maent yn byw mewn ty maenor
gerllaw ir Westgate mae ganddo ef
yn cadw teilwriaid ac yn cael llawer
iawn o waith o gwm y Rhondda
wel wedi siarad tipyn yr oedd yn
raid cael cwpanaid o de
ar peth nesaf oedd pwy gyfleisterau

[59]

1/4/87

Tuesday. Today my mother
and I are going down
to Colwinston we went down
on the 11 AM train. it was very cold
on the train. When we were in
Llanary my aunt Ann
came she wanted to go to Cowbridge
with us we were there
by 12:30 PM at the home of Sue
Ann's daughter for lunch she lives
near the station [she has been]
married for three years and has two
children a girl [and] a boy.
there were two twins one of them died
after we had lunch I went
to aunt Ellyn's house.
My aunt and her children are in
excellent health. She looks
splendid [__?] she looks
exactly the same now as she did
10 years ago the youngest
boy has very weak nerves
to the extent it has affected
his sense and
also his speech. they have
5 children 3 boys and 2 girls
they live in the manor house
near the Westgate
and keep tailors and have much
work from the Rhondda Valley
well after talking a little it was
necessary to get a cup of tea and the
next thing was [what?] opportunity

[60]

buaswn yn ei gael i fyned
i Dregolwyn wedi oli ac ela
cawsom frake am 4. go allt
yn wir ond doedd dim iw wneyd
cychwynasom tua 4 or gloch cyrhaeddasom
Dregolwyn erbyn 5 or gloch i dy modryb
Cathrin aethum gyntaf wel mae hi
yn edrych yn dda iawn ond llawn
mor ysmala yn ei ffordd ag erioed
mae un ferch yn dre gydai mam
sef Ann mae hi 30 oed mae un
or merched yn briod y rhai eraill
yn gwasanaethu oddi yma aethom
i lawr i dy fy modryb Sue a
John Edwards cawsom hwy i gyd
Yn iach mae dwy o ferched modryb
Elvira sef Mary Ann y ferch
hynaf a Olive y ferch ieuangaf
ond un. daith Danial Thomas
sef mab yr hen Danial yma a bu
gyda ni nes boi 11 or gloch maer
tylwyth hyn wedi myned yn ol yn
yn anghyffredin yn y byd buont mewn
sefyllfa rhagorol unwaith ond yn awr
wedi myned yn ol yn fawr iawn yn
ddiweddar maen yn agos wedi myned
ir dim bu Sale ar yr oll stock
ai celfi maent yn deweyd fod
Cate mor anghyffredin o wastraffus
mae Tregolwyn rywbeth yn debyg
fel yr oedd ryw ugain mlynedd yn ol
ond yn unig fod y dynion wedi
cyfnewid yn fawr nid oes yma neb
braidd ag wyf yn ei adnabod

[60]

I would get to go
to Colwinston after asking we took a
brake at 4 [it was very hilly?]
but there was nothing we could do
we started about 4 and reached
Colwinston about 5 to aunt
Cathrin's first well she
looks very good but more full
of her own kind of humor than ever
one daughter lives with her mother
Ann she is 30 one of the
girls is married and the others
are in service from here we went
down to my the house of my aunt Sue
and John Edwards found them all
healthy aunt Elvira has two daughters
namely Mary Ann the
eldest and Olive the next to
youngest. Daniel Thomas
old Daniel's son came here and was
with us until close to 11 o'clock
this family has fallen terribly
in the world they were once in an
excellent situation but now
have have fallen terribly
of late close to losing it all
there was a Sale of all their stock
and tools they say that
Cate is terribly wasteful
Colwinston is something like
it was about twenty years ago
except that the people have
changed a lot there is almost
nobody here I recognize

[61]

1/5/87

Bwrw eira neithiwr ac wedi rewi
ar dop hwnw yr oedd Olive fach yn cysgu
gyda mi neithiwr mae hi yn un
fach anwyl iawn yr oedd ai dwy fraich
fach am fy nghwddf trwy y nos
yr oedd hyn yn codi hiraeth ynof
am y plant sydd genyf adref yr oedd
mor naturiol i mi wedi i mi
Brecwasta aeth fy mam a minau
i fynu i weled fy mhodryb Kitty
pan aethum ir ty adnabyddodd
fy mhodryb fu ar unwaith a
gwaidd gyda llaw "Or un [glan?] wyt
ti "wyt yr un peth o hyd a e felly
mhlaen a mawr mor groesawgar
yr oedd hi a fy Ewrth y mae Cathrin
wedi priodi oddiar nadolig crydd
ydyw ei gwr yn byw yn Bryncethin
mae hi yn edrych yn rhagorol
ac o yn foesgar iawn yn ei dull
mae fy ewrth yn gwneyd masnach
dda ac yn cadw gweithiwr bum yn
siop y cryddion tuag y Prydnawn
lle y ceir oll glecs y wlad mae
fwy o alw yma nag mewn ty
yn Pentref gorfu ini fwyta
dair gwaith yma dychwelasom
i Bersondy tua chwech or gloch
a minau yn canu tipyn aethom
i orphwys yua 11 or gloch
Olive fach ai braich am
fy ngwddf heno etto

[61]

1/5/87

It snowed last night and froze
on top little Olive slept
with me last night she is
a dear little one her little arms
were around my neck all night
naturally it made me feel homesick
for my children at home
after I had
Breakfast my mother and I went
up to see my aunt Kitty
when I went to the house
my aunt recognized me at once and
[shouted and waved?] "You are [__?]
"you are still the same" and so on
and she and my Uncle were very
welcoming Cathrin
married around Christmas her husband
is a cobbler they live in Bryncethin
she looks very well
and is very polite in her manners
my uncle is doing a good business
and employs a labourer I was in
the cobblers' shop in the afternoon
where they hear all the talk of the
country there is more visiting here
than in a house in the Village we had
to eat three times here we returned
to the Parsonage around six o'clock
and I sang a little we went
to bed around 11 o'clock
little Olive with her arms around
my neck again tonight

[62]

1/6/87

Boreu noble heddyw etto bum
am walk trwy y wlad am
dipyn mae hen Eglwys Tregolwyn
yn union yr un yn awr ag ydoedd
ryw 12 mhlynedd yn ol bum yn y
fonwent heddyw gwelais feddau fy
nhadcu a mamgu ac amryw o
fy hen berthynasau nid oes
ryw lawer iawn o gladdu yma mae
pob peth yn edrych yn henafol
iawn o amgylch yr hen Eglwys
ar fonwent nid wyf yn gweld
nythau brain fel arfer ar
y coed. dangosodd fy modryb
llawer iawn hen lestri sydd
ganddi hi wedi cael mewn
gwahanol fanau y mae
ganddi (Fasin) Bedyddio dros
dri chant o flynyddau oed ac
hefyd y mae ganddi darnau o
hen gwchanau a gafwyd gerllaw
ir twmpath pan oeddynt yn chwilio
am hen arfau. oedd yr hen dwmpath-
au oedd o amgylch ffermdy y Twmpath
Cawsant amryw grochanau [pridd?]
ac esgyrn dynol ynddynt y mae
yr hen pethau hyn yn awr yn Bwllyr-
ach. ac y mae rywbeth yn hynod
ynddynt yn eu golwg. wel wedi bwyta
ciniaw yn dy modryb Sue aethum
fy mam a minau i fynu i dy
modryb Cathrin yr oedd hi a Ann
y ferch yn y ty mae Ann tua

[62]

1/6/87

Another fine morning today went
for a walk in the countryside for
a bit the old Colwinston Church
is the same as it was
about 12 years ago I was in the
graveyard today and saw my
grandparents' grave and those of my old
relatives there is not
much burying going on here
everything looks very ancient
around the old Church
and the graveyard I do not see
the usual crows' nests in the
trees. my aunt showed me
many of her old dishes
she got in
different places she has
a Baptismal (Basin) more than
three hundred years old and
also she has pieces
of old pots found near the
burial mound when they were looking
for old weapons. the old mounds were
around the Twmpath farmhouse
they found some [earthenware?] pots
with human bones in them these
old things are now in Pwll-y-Wrach*
and they were very strange
to look at. well after eating
lunch at my aunt Sue's house my
mother and I went up to
aunt Cathrin's she was there with Ann
her daughter Ann is about

*Pwll-y-Wrach is a manor house near
Colwinston.

[63]

30 oed nid oes [dima?] sydd yn
smart ynnddi mae mor hen fasiwn
mae modryb yn byw yn gysurus
ac yn cael digon i fwyta a
gwisgo yn dda. maer ferch hynaf
yn briod ac yn byw yn Benybont
wedi cael te dychwelasom
yn ein olau i Bersondy. Cawsom
Brydnawn difyr yn canu rhai hen
donau aethom i orphwys tua lly

1/7/87

Bwrw gwlaw yn anghyffredin heddyw
a ninau yn meddwl dychwelyd adref
aethum lan i dy fy modryb Kitty
gan feddwl buasai y gwlaw yn stopio
tuag amser ciniaw cefais llawer
o hanesion Tregolwyn gan [fy?]
o herwydd i shop y cryddion y mae
newyddion y wlad iw clywed
bwyteais giniaw ac yn disgwyl
yn bryderis am ir gwlaw fyned
heibio ond ofer fi fy oll ddisgwyliad
bu yn gwlawis yn ddiball nes boi
yn ry i mi i feddwl am fyned
adref rhyfedd mor ddistaw y mae
yma nid oes dim iw glywed O y
faith dawelwch nid oes dim iw
glywed ond swn y (Gwter fawr)
y ma yn y pellder mae ryw
4 neu 5 mylltir oddi yma ir mor
ond clywir ef yn rollo ar draws
y creigiau o flaen gwlaw. Pan glyw
y bobl y mor yn cadw stwr dywedant
yn union yr ydym sicr o gael
gwlaw yn fuan

[63]

30 years old [there is nothing
smart about her?] she is so old
fashioned auntie lives comfortably and
gets plenty to eat
and dresses well. the oldest daughter
is married and lives in Bridgend
after tea we returned
to the Parsonage. We had
an entertaining afternoon singing
some old tunes went to bet about 11

1/7/87

Rained a lot today
and we thought about returning home
I went up to my aunt Kitty's house
thinking the rain would stop
by lunch time I heard a lot about
Colwinston from [my?]
because the news of the country
can be heard in the shoemakers' shop
I ate lunch and cautiously expected
the rain to pass
but despite my expectations
it rained ceaselessly until
it was too much to think about going
home it is remarkable how quiet it is
here there is nothing to hear O the
silence there is nothing to hear
but the sound of the (big Gutter)
here in the distance the sea is about
4 or 5 miles away
but it can be heard rolling over the
rocks before it rains.* When the
people hear the sea they all say
we are sure to have
rain soon

* The "Gwter Fawr" or "Big Gutter" is
the place where the Nash Brook empties
into the sea over the cliffs of the
Glamorgan coast.

[64]

Wel cawsom dipyn o ganu
heno etto cyn myned i orphwyso
myned tuar gwely am 11y

1/8/87

Boreu noble uwch ben ond
ei bod yn slip anghyffredin
dan draid. wedi rewi yn ystod
y nos ar y gwybanaeth roesom
ffarwel i Dregolwyn tua 11½
cawsom roesaw mawr yn ystod
ein arosiad yma cefais gan fy
mhodryb Sue pobo lyfr ir plant
a photo or beddau i fy modryb
yr oeddem yn dy fy modryb Ellen
erbyn 12½ amser ciniaw yr oeddwn
yn meddwl myned i Mount Pleasant
i weled tad a mam Lewis Jenkins
ond yr oedd ffordd mor gas iw
theithio yr oeddwn yn barnu ei
fod yn well i mi beidio myned
y tro hwn yr oeddwn yn barnu
ei fod yn well i mi fyned y tro
mae gan fy modryb Ann 8 o blant
mae Sue yn briod a dau o blant
ganddi mae dwy ferch ieuangaf yn
dre mae arall ar dau fachgen
ar ei gwasanaeth a thrwy y cwbl
mae hi yn cael bywoliaeth
gysurus mae gan fy mhodryb Ellen
5 o blant 3 bachgen a dwy ferch
mae i hynaf yn Deilwr fel eu dad
ar llall yn shopwr mae bachgen
ieuangaf yn dre fel y dywedais
or blaen plant nice iawn

[64]

Well we had some singing
tonight before retiring
went to bed at 11

1/8/87

A fine morning overhead but
unusually slippery
underfoot. it froze during
the night [?] we bade
farewell to Colwinston about 11:30
we received a warm welcome during
our stay here I received from my
aunt Sue a book for each child
and a photo of the graves for my aunt
we were in my aunt Ellen's house
by 12:30 lunch time I was
thinking of going to Mount Pleasant
to see Lewis Jenkins's parents
but the road was so treacherous
I judged it
better not to go
this time I judged it would
be better to go the time
my aunt Ann has 8 children
Sue is married with two children
at home the two oldest daughters
are in town the other and two sons
are in service and from it all
she has a comfortable
living my aunt Ellen has
5 children 3 boys and two girls the
oldest is a Tailor like their father
and the other is a shopkeeper
the youngest son is in the town as I
said before very nice children

[65]

Cyrhaiddasom y Porth am 5
yr oedd y lle yn llawn eira yr oedd
George yn ein aros wrth y train
yr oedd yn hanawdd cerdded gan yr
eira a bu fy mam a minau
amser maith cyn cyraidd tre
yr oedd hi yn gorfod dod fy [mhraich?]
bob cam or ffordd wedi imi gael
cwpanaid o de aethum i fynu
i fynu i Ynshir Cefais hwy
oll yn dda iawn Lysa yn gwella
bum yma nes boi tua 10½ daeth
Seth i lawr i Droedyrhiw gyda mi
Cyfarfyddais a Wm Butler ai wraig
mawr y bu yn deweyd wrthyf am
Margret ag nad oedd yn cael i
wneyd dillad iddi hi fel Margret
mawr mor aml mae y Brakes
yn trafeilu or Porth ir Ynshir
mae n beryglus i ddyn gerdded yr heol
gyrhaeddais Trebanog tua 11½

1/9/87

Boreu Sabboth. Boreu braf yr haul
yn tywynu n ysblenydd. Ond bod
y ddaear yn orchuddiedig ag eira
yn y boreu bum yn Gwrdd y Porth
yr oedd Mr Jacob o Dreorky yn
pregethu dyn ieuanc ydyw yn dechreu
pregethu fe all ddod yn bregethwr da
tyw amser. Bum gydag Dd Jenkins
ar giniaw ac y mae yn debyg fy
mhod wedi addaw myned at
Jonathan Morgan a Ll. Williams
gyda mi ond yr oeddwn wedi

anghoffio

[65]

We arrived in Porth at 5
the place was covered in snow
George was waiting for us at the train
it was difficult to walk due
to the snow and my mother and I
took a long time to reach the town
she had to [take my arm?]
every step of the way after I had
a cup of tea I went up
to Ynshir They were
all very well Lysa is getting better
I was there until about 10:30
Seth came down to Troedyrhiw with me
I met Wm Butler and his wife
they spoke with me at length about
Margaret as she had not
made clothes for her as Margaret
the Brakes so frequently travel from
Porth to Ynshir it is dangerous for a
man to walk the street
I reached Trebanog around 11:30

1/9/87

Sunday morning. A fine morning the sun
shining splendidly. But
the earth is hidden by snow this
morning I went to the Porth Meeting
Mr Jacob from Treorchy was
preaching a young man beginning
to preach he could be a good preacher
over time. I was with David Jenkins
for lunch and it is likely
I promised to take
Jonathan Morgan and Ll. Williams
with me but I
forgot

[66]

fy mhod wedi addaw iddo wel i
wneyd y dyffig hwn i fynnu
aethum i ysgol y Cymmer ac wedi
hyny at Jonathan i de ond nid
oedd Llewelyn un yr ysgol ag felly
ni ddaeth ef i de gyda mi mawr
mor roesawgar yr oeddynt digon
o bobeth maint yn byw yn
gysyrus ac yn siarad am ddod i
America etto wel aethum gyda
hwy a gapel y Cymmer yn yr
hwyr yr oedd yn ben mis a Mr
Thomas yn pregethu nid ydyw
ef mor alluog i draddodu yn
awr a phan glywais ef or blaen
mae yna gyfyngder yn y frest
ond wedir cwbl yr oedd yn
pregethu yn felus nid oedd
y capel yn llawn er bod yma
gynulleidfa fawr wedi Cwrdd aeth
Llew Williams a minau ag eraill
i dy Jonathan i swpper cawsom
amser difyr buont yn adrodd i mi
hanes bywyd carwriaethiol R
Edmunds byddai llyfr o hanes ei
garu yn ddigrifol dros ben
mae Richard ar ei ben ei hun yn mhob
peth nid oes modd ei efylychu
mae yn cadw tre gysurus iw
dylwyth. Efe ydyw eu Tad ac yn
dad da iawn iddynt hefyd mae ef
yn methu a charu fel y dylai un
garu wrth feddwl caru am wraig
aeth yn hwyr cyn i ni ymadael a
thy Jonathan

[66]

that I had promised him wel to
make up for this mistake
I went to the Cymmer school and after
that to Jonathan's for tea but
Llewelyn was not at the school and so
he did not come to tea with me
they were very welcoming plenty
of everything they live
comfortably and are talking about
coming to America again well I went
with them to the Cymmer chapel in the
evening it was the "pen mis"* and Mr
Thomas was preaching he is not
so able to deliver sermons
now as when I heard him before
there is a tightness in his chest
but nevertheless the
preaching was sweet the chapel was not
full even though the congregation was
large after the Meeting
Llew Williams and I went with others
to Jonathan's house for supper we had
an enjoyable time they were telling me
the story of R Edmunds's love life
a book about his
romances would be very amusing
Richard is unique
and cannot be imitated
he keeps a comfortable home for his
family. He is their Father and is a
very good father to them also he
fails to love as one should love when
thinking of loving a wife
it was late before we left
Jonathan's house

* The "pen mis" was a monthly
communion service.

[67]

Boreu Llun 1/10/87
mae wedi dipyn yn ystod
y nos bum yn y ty trwy y
boreu ysgrifenaais lythyr at Margret
ai Bostio wedi bwyta ciniaw
aethum i lawr ir Porth cyfarfyddais
a Jonnu Williams aethom am
dro trwy r ystrydoedd yr oedd
yn gas iawn i gerdded aethum
i i lan ir Ynishir i dy Lysa
cefais hwy oll yn all right
oddigerth braich Lysa ond y
mae hi yn gwella yn rhaddol
daeth John a Dafydd Hopkin
i mewn hefyd mae John wedi
anwyd trwm mae Dafydd
yn segur ystua bethewnos
cafodd anhap ar ei fys
ond y mae yn gwella yn
Rhaddol wedi i mi gael
Te yma a thipyn o siarad
es i dy Sara Ann a Wm a gorfu
yfed te yma etto mae Sara Ann
mor dewed ag all ei chroen ei dal
aethum i lawr gydar train diweddaf
am ei bod mor gas i gerdded
gelwais yn nhy George a Mary
yr oeddynt ei dau yn yr Eglwys
y nhw sydd wedi arfer glan hau
yr Eglwys ond y mae offeiriad
a hwythau yn methu cydfynd ai
gilydd pan ddaithant ir ty yr oedd
Grain Mary yn deweyd fod
rywbeth allan o le yr oeddynt

[67]

Monday morning 1/10/87
It a little* during
the night I was in the house all
morning I wrote a letter to Margaret
and posted it after eating lunch
I went down to Porth and met
Jonny Williams we went for
a walk through the streets it was
very difficult to walk I went
down to Ynyshir to Lysa's house
I found everyone "all right"
apart from Lysa's arm but
she is slowly getting better
John and Dafydd Hopkin came
in as well John has had a
bad cold Dafydd
has been off work for about two weeks
he injured his finger in an accident
but is gradually
recovering after I had
tea and some conversation here
I went to Sara Ann and Williams
and had to have tea again Sara Ann
is as fat as her skin can hold
I went down on the last train
because it was so nasty to walk
I called at George and Mary's house
they were both in the Church
they used to clean
the Church but they
no longer agree with the priest
when they came to the house
Mary's sadness told me
something was wrong

* A word or two appear to be missing.

[68]

wedi ffraeo gydar offeiriad ac
wedi roi y gwaith o lanhau i
fynu. yr oedd mary mewn nwydau
anghyffredin. aethum adref
yr oedd heol Trebanog yn gas
iawn gan y rew ar eira i gerdded

1/11/87

Boreu mawrth maen bwrw
gwlaw heddyw etto gorfod aros
yn y ty trwy y dydd gan
mor wlyb y mae daeth
John Williams (Y Saer) ai
wraig i fynu heno mae hi
ai felon yn ei llaw yn ddrwg
anghyffredin mae John wedi
bod yn America dair blynedd
daeth adref i briodi gan
feddwl dychwelid yn union
ar ol priodi ond mae y wrraig
yn awr yn pallu myned bu
John Price yn y ty heno
mae John yn heneiddio mae ef
yn briod yr ail waith ond nid
wedi cael plant o honi. hen
gariad iddo ydyw cyn iddo briodi
Sara ei wrraig gyntaf
gydar nos stopiodd y gwlaw
1/12/87

yr oedd Henry a Tomeu yn segur
heddyw. ac yr oedd yn foreu braf
ac yr oeddem am fyned i rywle
am walk felly Penderfynais
am fyned i Llanfabon i weled
Ch. Rowlands aethum i

[68]

they had argued with the priest
and given the cleaning work
up. Mary was awfully upset.
I went home
Trebanog street was treacherous
due to the ice and snow.

1/11/87

Tuesday morning it is
raining today again I had to stay
in the house all day because
it was so wet
John Williams (the carpenter) and his
wife came up tonight she has
very bad [jaundice?] in her hand
John has
been in America three times
he came come to marry
thinking of returning
after the wedding but his wife
is now less keen to go
John Price was in the house tonight
John is aging he has
married a second time but has
not had children from [this marriage]
[she?] is an old friend from before
he married Sara his first wife
the rain stopped overnight

1/12/87

Henry and Tommy are off work
today. and it was a fine morning
we wanted to go for a
walk somewhere so I decided
to go to Llanfabon to see
Ch. Rowlands I went

[69]

lawr gydar Tren 11Y i Bontypridd
buom trwy y Farchnad gwelais
Miss Jenkin merch Mount Pleasant
bum yn siarad tipyn a hi am
Lewis ar deulu addewais y buaswm
yn myned a pharcel bychan i lewis
gwelais amryw eraill o hen
adnabyddion wedi hyn cychwynasom
i fynu tua llanfaban aethom dros
ochr y canal i fynu a phan
oeddem gerllaw i Ynisgudywg
Pits. cyfarfyddasom a Mr Rowlands
ai wraig ar ei ffordd i Bontypridd
felly troisom yn ein olau gyda
hwy. ac yna cawsom ymgom
yn iawn yr oedd yr hen wraig yn
teimlo yn ddrwg ein bod yn
digwydd dod i fynu a hwythau
yn myned i Bontypridd aeth ef
a mi i gael ciniaw a thalodd am
dani yr oedd gydag ef hen wr
ag sydd eithaf cyfarwydd a fy Ewrth
Lewis Jones wedi cael ei cyd godi
a mawr mor awyddus oedd am
gael hanes fy Ewrth dyn or
enw David Edwards (Welsh Jew)
ac yr oedd am i mi ei gofio at fy
Ewrth laweroedd o weithiau mae ef
yn hen wr glan yr olwg ai wallt
yn wyn. gwelais hefyd Mr
Edmund Thomas Llwynceilyn
gynt a mawr mor serchus ydoedd
yr oedd am i mi ddod i lawr
i Benarth am iw gweled
hwy

[69]

down to Pontypridd on the 11 AM train
went through the Market I saw
Miss Jenkin Mount Pleasant's daughter
I spoke with her a little about
Lewis and the family I promised I
would take a small parcel to Lewis
I saw a few other old
acquaintances after this we started
for Llanfabon we went alongside the
canal and up and when
we were near Ynisgudywg
Pits. we met Mr. Rowlands and
his wife on their way to Pontypridd
so we turned back with
them. and then we had a good
conversation the old woman
felt bad that we
happened to be coming up and they
were going to Pontypridd he took
me to have lunch and paid for
it he had with him an old man
who is a very good acquaintance of my
Uncle Lewis Jones they were raised
together and he was very eager
to hear about my Uncle a man
named David Edwards (Welsh Jew)
and he wanted me to remember me to my
Uncle many times he is
an old man with a clean appearance and
white hair I also saw Mr
Edmund Thomas Llwynceilyn
Earlier and he was so amiable
he wanted me to come down
to Penarth to see
them

[70]

Bu John fy mhrawd i lawr
yn Aseilam Penybont heddyw
yn edrych am le i fod yn Keeper
a chafodd ei apointio mae ef
i ddechreu ar ei waith dydd gwener
nesaf bum yn dy George
ar de heno
Dydd Iau 1/13/87
myned i fynu heddyw ir Ton
ystrad at Azereiah ai wraig
gydar train 11½ yr oedd Mrs
Thomas wrth y train yn fy aros
cefais hwy ei dau yn iach a
chysuris daeth gwr y ty adref
tua 4 or gloch a chawsom
chat yn iawn mae ef yn hoff
o siarad ar unrhyw gwestiwn
tua 10½ pwy ddaeth i mewn
ond brawd hynaf Mrs Thomas
Dealer ydyw ef mewn cyffylau
bachgen braf ydyw yn mhob
ystyr dyn serchus iawn
buom yn siarad a n gilydd nes
ei bod yn tynu tuar boreu
yr oedd yn ddiwrnod braf trwy
y dydd 1/14/87
Boreu Gwener. Bwrw gwlaw
Bum yn y ty trwy y boreu
yn darllen llyfrau mechanyddol
ac yn ymgomio a Mrs Thomas
wedi ciniawa aethom i lawr
ir Pentre am dro aethum i
office Mrs Williams Brynglas
sef adeilad gwych ydyw

[70]

My brother John was down
at the Bridgend Asylum today
looking for a position as a Keeper
and was appointed he
starts work next Friday
I was at George's house
for tea this evening
Thursday 1/13/87
went up to Ton Ystrad today
to Azeriah and his wife
on the 11:30 train Mrs
Thomas was waiting for me
both of them were healthy and
comfortable the man of the house came
home about 4 o'clock and we had a
good chat he likes to
talk about any subject
about 10:30 who came in
but Mrs. Thomas's oldest brother
he is a horse Dealer
a fine lad in every
sense a pleasant man
we talked with each other until
it was close to morning
it was a fine day all
day 1/14/87
Friday Morning. Rain
I was in the house all morning
reading books about mechanics
and talking with Mrs. Thomas
after lunch we went down
to Pentre for a walk we went to the
office of Mrs. Williams Brynglas
a fine building

[71]

sydd wedi ei godi gan y Board
of Health iw swyddogion. mae
hwn ar bwys capel yr Anybynwyr
y Pentre Building ardderchog
ydyw yn mhob ystyr ac yn
eang iawn o ei dylaswn
ddeweyd fod Mrs Thomas
gyda mi. oddi yno dychwel
asom adref erbyn hyn yr oedd
Azariah wedi dod adref or gwaeth
wedi imi gael Te aethom
i dy Mr a Mrs Thomas Bazaar
buom yma nes yr oedd yn
hwyr iawn a buom ar swper
dynion caredig iawn ydynt
shop fawr y maint yn ei
gadw o Ddrapery
aethom i orphwys tuar boreu
1/15/86

Boreu Sadwrn yr oeddwn wedi
gwneyd arrangement a Az_
i fyned i lawr i bwll y Ton
heddyw felly tua naw or gloch yr
oeddwn yn barod aeth ef a minau
i fynu at y Pwll cefais introduction
i [?] Mr Ray y Manager Penaf
ac amryw eraill wedi i mi
gael lamp a chap lledar yr oeddwn
yn barod i fyned i lawr ir Pwll
wedi i ni weled y shopau y
Pwysdai ar Tippils. a phob peth
arall ar ben y Pwll aethum i lawr
ir wythien ddwy a naw. Pan ar
y Cage yn y Pwll yr oeddwn yn
teimlo y Cage fel fel pe buasai

[71]

which was built by the Board
of Health for its officials.
this is near the Congregational
chapel the Pentre Building is
excellent in every sense and
is very broad [of its?] I should
say Mrs. Thomas was
with me. from there we
returned home by then
Azariah had come home from work
after we had Tea we went to the house
of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bazaar
we were there until it was
very late and we had supper
they are very kind people
they keep a large
Drapery shop
we went to bed close to the morning
1/15/86*

Saturday Morning I had
made arrangements with Az[ariah]
to go down the Ton pit
today so around nine o'clock
I was ready he took me
up to the Pit I was introduced
to [?] Mr. Ray the Head Manager
and various others after I
got a lamp and leather cap I was
ready to go down the Pit
after we saw the shops the
Weigh-house and Tip piles. and
everything else above ground we went
down to veins two and nine. While in
the Cage in the Pit I
felt it was as if the Cage would

*1887

[72]

yn gollwng danaf gan mor
gyflym oedd yn mynd ar waelod
y Pwll mae yno le ardderchog
o gyfleis. maer cyfan wedi ei
archio o gerrig a digon o uchder
a lled mhob man tua 12ft or
uchder mor gynted ag mae y
cage yn disgyn ar waelod y Pwll
maer ddram lawn yn bwrwr ddram
wag off ar cyfan yn cael ei
wneyd mewn ychydig eiliadau
ni welais beth yn cael ei wneyd
yn fwy cyflym erioed mae dram
yn cael ei chodi pob 35 o eiliadau
trwy y dydd oddiwrth y
Pwll aethom tuag yn mhlaen[___?]
yn mhellach y cyntaf aethom
iddo oedd tyr Engine lle eang
iawn ydyw lawn etto. Peirianau
rhagorol oddi yma ir stablau
y mae rhai hyn yn cael ei cadw
yn lan ag yn iachus digon o awyr
i gadwr lle yn bur oddiwrth pob afiech
yd oddi yma etto at y Furnace
maer outlet hon yn anghyffredin
o fawr 13ft o uchder wrth 13ft o led
yn y gwaelod mae ganddynt ddarn
o Sheet-Iron yn ongion wrth dop
y Furnace ychydig tu fas ir
grate [Bars?] er mwyn taflu yr
awyr yn nes ir tan ac y mae
yn creu cyflymder mawr yn
yr awyr oddi yma aethum yn
y blaen ar hyd y gwaith

[72]

Drop underneath me because it
was going so quickly to the bottom
of the Pit it is a very convenient
place. it is all
arched in stone with plenty of head
room and wide everywhere about 12 ft
high as soon as the
cage dropped to the bottom of the Pit
the full tram knocked the empty
tram off and it was all done
in a few seconds
I never saw [the] thing done
quicker a tram
is brought up every 35 seconds
through the day [_____] * from the
Pit we went on[___?]
further the first we went
into was the Engine house a big place
full again. Excellent machines
from here to the stables
the [ponies] kept here
are clean and healthy plenty of air
to keep the place free from
diseases from here to the Furnace
this outlet is exceptionally
big 13 ft high by 13 ft wide
at the bottom they have a piece
of Sheet Iron hanging at the top
of the Furnace a little outside
the grate [Bars?] to divert the
air closer to the fire and
to create great speed in
the air from here I went
ahead all over the works

* A faint drawing is inserted here.

[73]

mae water work yn perthyn
ir gwaith hwn er mwyn cael
dwfr ir stablau ac hefyd i
watero heolydd y gwaith nid
oes dim llwch (dust) yn codi
i ymgymysgu ar awyr. Fel y mae
yn pleserus i gerdded trwy y gwaith
maer drams yn cael ei tynu
braidd o bob rhan or gwaith
gan (Tail Rope System) mae
lle i gadw or tri ir pedwar cant o
dram llawn yn stock ar hyd yr
heolydd dwbl mae un heol
ddwbl ganddynt yn cyraidd am tua
1000yd o hyd ar uchder yn
13ft ar lled yn y gwaelod yn
13ft ar fyd y ffordd hon y mae [wires?]
(Batory) Electricity. dwy wire
ir lle pellaf y mae y rhaffau yn
gweithio a phan ydy[?] am wneyd
ryw [___?] y mae y dwy wire yn
cael eu rwbio yn ei gilydd nid
oes gwahaniaeth yn mhle ar y
line y cyffyrdu ar y wire
maer Signal ar unwaith yn dy yr
Engine yno mae cloch yn canu
dyfais rhagorol ydyw yn mhob
ystyr am y reswm gellir stopio
ar unwaith. y mae pob peth yn
atted iw gilydd yn mhob rhan or
gwaith. oddi ar y main Road aethom
ar faces y talcenon. y mae
glo ardderchog yma a shop da
iawn ac awyr yn chwybanu

[73]

this place has a waterworks
in order to supply
water to the stables and also
to water the roads there is
no dust rising
to mix in the air. So it is
pleasant to walk through the works
the trams are pulled
from all over the works
by a (Tail Rope System) there
is room to keep 300-400
full trams in stock along the
double roads they have one
double road reaching about
1000 yd in length and
13ft wide at the bottom
13ft along this way are wires
for(Battery) Electricity. two wires
to the furthest place the ropes
work and when [?]make
some kind of [___?] the two wires
rub against each other it makes
no difference where on the
line they meet on the wire
there is an immediate Signal
in the Engine house a bell rings
an excellent device in every
sense because it can stop
at once. everything works well
together in every part of
the works. from the main Road we
went to the coal face. the coal
is excellent here and the shop
is very good and air whistles

[74]

heibio i bob gweithiwr y lle mor
iach yn y fac ag ydyw ar yr heading
trwch y weithien ydyw gtua
4ft yn lo glan wedi teithio trwy
wahanol rhanau or gwaith dych
welasom at i waelod y Pwll yr
oedd erbyn hyn yn 3 or gloch y mae
yn oer iawn ar waelod y Pwll
gan gymaint o awyr sydd yn
arllwys i mewn aethom i lodge
yn waelod y Pwll lle yr oedd y
firemen ar overman yn cwrdd
ai gilydd wel aethom at y Pwll
er mwyn myned i fynu pan
yn myned i fynu gallaswn feddwl
fy mhod yn colli fy nghafael
ar y cage nid oeddwn yn teimlo
fy hun ar y cage gan mor
gyflym yr oedd yn myned
ar ben y Pwll bum yn gwilio
ei symudiadau yn codi y glo
mor gynted ag oedd y cage yn disgyn
ar y [__?] yr oedd y ddram wag
i mewn ac yntau i lawr ar unw
aith fel carreg yn disgyn oddiyma
i Office cyfarfyddasom a Mr Ray
yma cawsom ymgom ddyddorol iawn
dangosodd i mi amryw bethau
mewn cysylltiad or gwaith yn
mhlith pethau eraill dangosodd
i mi eu Report book yr oedd
swm yr awyr yn y gwaith yn
178 800ft y maent yn cadw
recort or gwynt temperdure

[74]

past every worker it is as healthy
at the face as at the pithead
the face is about
4ft thick here fine coal after
seeing various parts of the works
we returned to the bottom of the Pit
it was getting on for 3 pm it is
very cold at the bottom of the Pit
because so much air
pours in we went to the lodge
at the Pit bottom where
the firemen and [overmen?] meet
well we went to the Pit
in order to go back up
while going up I thought
I might lose my grip
on the cage I could not feel
myself in the cage because
it was going so fast
at the top of the Pit I watched
its movements lifting the coal
as soon as the cage dropped
to the [__?] the empty tram
went in and down at
once like a stone from here
to the Office we met Mr. Ray
here had a very interesting chat
he showed me several things
related to the works
amongst other things he showed
me their Report book
the total air [volume] in the works
is 178 800 ft they keep
record of the wind, temperature

[75]

pressure a phob manylion
eraill pan aethom yn ol ir ty
yr 4½ or gloch daith Henry i
fynu heno gydar tren pump aros
odd hyd y train diweddaf wel
dyma fi treilio un sadwrn yn
yr ystrad ac wedi fy mhoddhau
yn fawr yn yr oll betheu wyf
wedi ei weled
Boreu Sabboth 1/16/87
mae heddyw yn ddydd noble wedi
rewi ychydig yn y nos fel
y mae yn bleseris heddyw yn
y boreu aeth Azeriah a minau
i wrando Dr Cynddylan Jones
gydar Methodistiaid seisnig
ei [destyn__?] Dat 17. 15-16
pregeth gampus yn wir
mwynhauais ef yn rhagorol
wedi ciniawa aethom am dro
ein tri i lawr mor belled a
Bodringallt a dychwelyd yn
ol trwy y gelli yna adref i De
yn y nos oeddom [__?] gapel
yr Anybynwyr nid wyf yn
gwybod pwy oedd y pregethwr ond
dyn euianc ydoedd a phregethwr
gwael iawn ydoedd hefyd
arosais yn y gyfeillach mae
Eglwys gryf iawn yn y ton
ac yn edrych yn llewyrchus iawn
or cwrdd adref ir gwely tua
11[__?] or gloch

[75]

pressure and all the other details
when we went back to the house
[it was] 4:30 Henry came up
tonight on the 5 pm train he stayed
until the last train well here's
[how] I spent a Saturday in Ystrad
and was greatly pleased
by everything
I have seen
Saturday Morning 1/16/87
today is a fine day
a little freezing overnight
it is pleasant today in the
morning Azariah and I went
to hear Dr. Cynddylan Jones with
the English[-speaking] Methodists
his [subject?] Rev. 17. 15-16
a very lively sermon
I greatly enjoyed it
after lunch the three of us
went for a walk down as far as
Bodringallt and returned
through the woods then home for tea
in the night we were at the [?]
Congregational Chapel I do not
know the preacher
but he was a young man and a
very poor preacher as well
I stayed for communion the
Church is very strong in Ton
and appears very prosperous
from the meeting home to bed about
11[__?] o'clock

[76]

1/17/87

Boreu Llun Boreu rewlllyd
yr wyf wedi ysgrifenu llythyr
i Margret [?] J W Morris Esq
tua chanol dydd dechreuodd yr
eira ddisgyn wedi ciniawa aeth
Azeriah a minau i fynu i Dreherbert
ac oddi yno i Blaen y Cwm i
edrych am Daniel Davis Ewrth Dd
Davis Martins Ferry Ohio. methasom
ai gael yn flaen y cwm yr oedd
wedi symud i lawr ir Huts gerllaw
gwaith Joseph. wel aethom i edrych
am yr Huts cawsom afaill ar y ty
wedi cerdded dipyn yr oedd ef yn
y ty ai wraig mae golwg wael
arnynt yn wir maer hen wr
wedi colli ei iechyd ys peth blynyddau
mae ef yn segir ys 11[___?] mis yn [___?]
wneyd dim yr unig ffordd y mae
ef ai wraig yn cael bywioliaeth ydyw
trwy fod y ddau fachgen hynaf yn gweithio
ond bychan yw yr arian wedir cwbl
mae pobpeth yn deweyd ei bod mewn
tylodi mawr yr oedd ef yn falch iawn
fy mhod wedi dod iw weled ai
fod yn dymuno arnaf ddeweyd wrth
Dd Davis fel ag oeddwn wedi i gael ai
fod yn anfon eo gofion mwyaf cynes
iddo ef ai deulu laweroedd o weithiau
oddiyma aethom yn ein olau ond yr
oedd yr eira wedo troi yn wlaw trwm
a chawsom ein wlychu yn dda
cyn ein bod yn Dreherbert erbyn
cyraidd yma yr oedd tua 4 or gloch

[76]

1/17/87

Monday Morning an icy morning
I wrote a letter
to Margaret [?] J.W. Morris, Esq.
toward midday it began
to snow after lunch
Azariah and I went up to Treherbert
and from there to Blaen y Cwm
to see Daniel Davis Uncle of David
Davis [of] Martin's Ferry Ohio.
we failed to find him at Blae y Cwm
he had moved down to the Huts near
the Joseph works. well we went to look
around the Huts and found the
house after walking a bit he was in
the house with his wife they do not
look very well the old man
lost his health some years ago he has
been out of work 11[___?] months [___?]
doing nothing the only way
he and his wife make a living is
through the two oldest sons' work
but there is little money after all
everybody says they are
very poor he was very happy
I had come to see him and
wished for me to tell
David Davis as I was going to
that he sends his warmest greetings
to him and his family many times
from here we went back but the
snow had turned to heavy rain
and we were soaked before
we were in Trehebert by the time we
arrived it was about 4 o'clock

[77]

nid oedd cyfle i fyned i lawr cyn
y train 6 1/2. felly aeth Azeriah
a fi i dy un Mr Morris teulu
gymodogion iw fam ac hefyd teulu
o Threfynwy oeddynt ac mawr mor
serchus yr oeddynt maint yn nabod
Margaret wel wedi i ni gael te
yma a siarad tipyn daeth yn
amser i ni gychwyn at y train
yr oedd yn parhau i wlawio o hyd
cymerasom y train ir Ystrad
a chawsom ein gwlychu yn dda cyn
i ni graidd y ty erbyn ein bod i
mewn cawsom arddeall fod Sara Ann
a Rachel wedi bod yma. mae
Becca merch Mary yn aros i
fynu yn y Ton yma ac yr
oeddynt am gael gweld pwy fath
o le oedd ganddi a thyna y reswm
iddynt ddod i fynu. a chawsant amser
dda iawn yma maen debyg mae
Rachel yn gallu areithio yn dda iawn
aethant adref gydar tren saith
ni fum allan or ty heno am ei
bod mor wlyb myned i orphwyso
tua 11½. 1/18/87. Boreu Mawrth
maen sych heddyw wedi ciniawa aethum
i fynu i Bwll y Ton yr oeddwn wedi addaw
myned gydag Azeriah i lawr i weled
y Wich ar ben y Pwll gwelais
Dd Davis fun Lodges gyda ni yn y Porth
mae ef yn checkweighman. yn edrych
yn dda iawn. gyda hyn daeth Azeriah i
fynu aethom i lawr yn union
Ventilations of Ton Pit Jan 18/87 178.870

[77]

we could not go down before
the 6:30 train. so Azariah
and I went to Mr. Morris's house
neighbors to his mother and also
a family from Monmouth and they
were very kind they know
Margaret well after we had tea
here and chatted a bit it was
time to start for the train
it was still raining
we took the train to Ystrad
and were soaked before
we reached the house when we
got in we understood that Sara Ann
and Rachel were here.
Becca, Mary's daughter is staying
up at Ton here they
were getting a look at what
kind of place they had and that
was the reason they came up. and they
probably had a good time here
Rachel is very well spoken
they went home with the 7 pm train
I did not leave the house tonight
because it was so wet went to bed
about 11:30. 1/18/87. Tuesday morning
it is dry today after lunch I went
up to the Ton Pit I had promised
to go with Azariah down to see
the [winch?] at the pithead I saw
David Davis was in the Lodges with me
in Porth he is a checkweighman. He
looks very good. then Azariah came up
and we went down together
Ventilations of Ton Pit Jan 18/87
178.870]

[78]

bum yn cerdded am tua Phedair awr
o amser bum trwy y gwaith y rhan
fwyaf mae glo rhagorol yma nid
yn weithien hon ar gwaith yn camu
cystal ir golwg ag ydyw y ddwy a naw
maer top yn llawer iawn gwaeth
gwelais dyllau wedi cwmpo mor
uchel a 40ft a 60ft ond wedi i diog-
elu yn dda gan goed Dwbl a Stages
mae yma hefyd lu o [__?] nes y mae
hyn yn taflu y glo ir lan ag i lawr
yn anghyffredin [] gwelais
yn peth yma na welais or blaen
sef Incline ar Wheel. ar brakes
yn y canol yn y modd hwn
[] y mae hon yn
gweithio yn rhagorol mae lle
mawr o droion ynnddi ond etto
yn gweithio yn dda iawn
dychwelasom gydar return aethom
hyd at y Furnace wel ni welais
y fath rym o awyr erioed [?]
yn mesur yr awyr heddyw yr
oedd y swm yn 178.870 ft yn y return
oddiyma aethom at y Pwll ac i fynu
erbyn ein bod ar y wyneb yr oedd
gwlawio yn drwm pan aethom
ir ty yr oedd Lysa a Mrs Evans
wedi dod i fynu wedi i mi
gael Bath dda. aethum ir dining
Room at y Ladies daeth un araiil
i mewn Mrs Williams gwraig G.
Williams cawsom de gydan gilydd
ac aethom i lawr gydar train
diweddaf

[78]

I walked for about four hours
I went through most of the works
the coal here is excellent this vein
being worked does not appear to twist
as much as the two and nine
the top is much worse
I saw holes that fell as
far as 40 or 60 ft but made safe
with double wood and stages
there are also many [__?] here
these throw the coal up and down
[]* I saw one thing
I had not seen before namely
a Wheel Incline. and the brakes
in the middle like this
[]* this
works very well the place has [has
many ?] in it but again
it works very well
we went back with the return we went
as far as the Furnace well I never saw
a strong air current before [?]
measured the airflow today the total
was 178.870 ft in the return
from here we went to the Pit and up
by the time we reached the surface
it was raining heavily when we got
to the house Lysa and Mrs. Evans
had come up after I
had a good Bath. I went to the dining
Room to see the Ladies another came in
Mrs. Williams the wife of G. Williams
we had tea together
and we went down on the
last train

* Small drawings inserted in text in
these two places

[79]

daeth Azeriah gyda ni at y Train
pan ddaethum i Drebanog cefais
hwy yn weddol iawn oddigerth
fy mam ma hi yn lled wael
mae hi yn hiraethu tipyn ar ol
John am ei fod wedi myned oddi
gartref y newydd cyntaf a gefais
oedd fod Thomas Evans Penrygw-
ynt wedi marw er boreu dydd Sul
yr oedd yn y gyfeillach nos Iau
mor iach ag arfer cafododd ei
daraw dydd gwener or inflamation
er mae byr oedd ei gystudd cafodd
ef yn galed iawn mae ef yn cael
ei gladdu y foreu yn Shir Frycheiniog
Cefais Lythyr oddiwrth Margret heno
ac un o Blaenavon oddiwrth Mrs
Jenkins

Boreu 1/19/87 Mercher
maen Bwrw gwllaw heddyw
etto yn anghyffredin daeth
Thomas Jenkins Mt Pleasant
ai ferch Tad a chwaer Lewis
Jenkins daithant i fynu gydar
Tren 2 or gloch a buont yma
hyd y train saith yr oedd yn
awyddus am gael tipyn o hanes
Lewis ei fab. felly y buom
yn siarad am amser maith
nid ydyw ef wedi cael llythyr
oddi wrth Lewis ys amser
maeth ac y mae yn methu
yn deg a deall paham
na fyddai yn ysgrifennu
adref mae ef am i mi

[79]

Azariah came with us to the Train
when we reached Trebanog I found
them quite well except for
my mother she was rather ill
she is pining for
John because he has left
home the first news I received
was that Thomas Evans Penrwygw-
ynt had died Sunday morning
the service was Thursday evening
healthy as always he was
struck with inflammation Friday
although his suffering was short
it hit him hard he will be
buried in the morning in Breconshire
I received a letter form Margaret
tonight and one from Blaenavon from
Mrs. Jenkins

Morning 1/19/87 Wednesday
it is Raining a lot
today again
Thomas Jenkins Mt. Pleasant came
with his girl Lewis Jenkins's
father and sister came up on the
2 o'clock train they were here
until the 7 pm train they were
eager to hear about
his son Lewis. so we
talked for a long time
he has not received a letter
from Lewis for a long time
and does not
understand why
he [Lewis] would not write
home he wants me

[80]

wasgu arno i anfon tua
thre maint yn awyddus iawn
am gael ei hanes. mae ei dad
yn heneiddio yr olwg arno er
ei fod yn gryf iawn yr olwg
arno etto arwyddion henaint
sydd iw ganfod. mae y ferch
yn edrych yn rhagorol un
fach bert iawn ydyw
aethum i lawr ir Station gyda
hwy yr oedd yn gwlawio yn
ofnadwy iawn yr oedd yn diferu
erbyn ein bod yn y Porth
galwason yn dy George wrth
ddod yn ol Henry Tom a minau
maint oll yn iach mae Mary
wedi twco y ferch

1/20/87

mae'n ddiwrnod sych heddyw
heddyw mae angladd Thomas
Evans Penrywgwynt aeth
Henry a minau ir angladd cyn
ein bod wedi cyraidd y ffarm
yr oedd yr angladd yn cychwyn
yr oedd yn myned i gyfarfod
y Train 11. yr oedd yn angladd
gryf iawn ag ystyried yr
amser or dydd tyrfa fawr
yn ceisio talu y gymwynas
olaf ir ffyddlon ar Duwiol
Thomas Evans. fe fydd ei golli
yn gollod fawr i Eglwys y
Porth. yr oedd yn cael ei gladdu
yn Llangennyh Shir Freicheiniog

[80]

pressure on him to send him
to town they are very eager
to hear about him. his father
looks much older even though
he still looks very strong
his appearance is older there are
signs of old age. the daughter
looks very good
she is a pretty little one
I went down to the Station with
them it was raining
terribly it was dripping
by the time we got to Porth
we called at George's house
on the way back Henry Tom and I
they are all well Mary
has [tucked?] the daughter

1/20/87

it is dry today
today is the funeral of Thomas
Evans Penrywgwynt
Henry and I went to the funeral
before we reached the farm
the funeral had begun
and was going to meet
the 11 am Train. it was a very well
attended funeral considering
the time of day a large crowd
trying to pay its final respects
to the faithful and Godly
Thomas Evans. losing him will
be a great loss to the
Porth Church. he was being buried
in Llangennyh Breconshire

[81]

dychwelais adref or Porth ac
aethum i fynu ir Ystrad gydar
train 4. yr oedd Mabon M.P.
yn dyfod i fynu gydar train
ac yn Station yr ystrad cymerais
yr [__?] i siarad ef mae ef
yn anfon ei gofio at Thomas
John ac hefyd ei fod yn bwriadu
dyfod i America yr haf nesaf
ryw amser wedi hyn aethum
i dy Azeriah Cefais hwy yn iach
ac yn serchus iawn wel yn
mhen ychydig amser daeth
dau frawd Mrs Thomas i mewn
Horse delars ydynt hwy ac
yn fechgyn splendid yn mhob
ystyr. ac heno mae y concert
mawr yn Drill Hall y Pentre
yr oedd raid myned yno of Cowrs
felly aethom oll gydan gilydd
a chawsom wledd o ganu
Mr Ben Davis James Sauvauge
Misses Price Ra. m + James Ra m
Oll o Llundain ac yn ganwyr
mwyaf ardderchog a glywais erioed
ac hefyd yr oedd yma Harpist
sef Mr Lewis dyn Ieuianc tua 15
oed ac yn chwareuwr ben y gamp
yr oedd yma gynulliad anghyffredin
o fawr yr oedd dynion blaenau cwm
yma ac o bob rhan or cwm
yma y gwelais plant Mr Thomas
Meundy Hall ac amryw eraill
Wel yr oedd yn hwyr iawn terfynu

[81]

I returned home from Porth and
went up to Ystrad on the
4 pm train. Mabon M.P. was
coming up on the train
and at the Ystrad Station I took
the [__?] to speak to him he
sends his regards to Thomas
John and also intends
to come to America next summer
some time after this I went to
Azariah's house I found them healthy
and very kind well
after a short time
Mrs. Thomas's two brothers came in
they are Horse dealers and
splended men in every
sense. and tonight is the big
concert at the Pentre Drill Hall
we had to go of Course
so we all went together
and had a feast of song
Mr. Ben Davis, James Sauvauge
Misses Price RAM* + James RAM
all from London and the most
excellent singers I ever heard
and there was also a Harpist here
namely Mr. Lewis a young man about 15
years old and a superb performer
there was an unusually large audience
and people from the Heads of the
Valleys here from all over the valley
here I saw the children of Mr. Thomas
Maendy Hall** and several others
Well it ended very late

* Royal Academy of Music

** This would appear to be a reference
to local coal mine owner, Edmund
Thomas, known as "Thomas Llwyncelyn,"
who lived at Maendy Hall, Pentre.

[82]

Gwelais Fred Thomas heno
Mr Thomas Llwyncelyn. [__?]
ond ni fum yn siarad a hwy
wel pan aethom adref yr oedd
yn tynu tua 12y. daeth dau
frawd Mrs Thomas yn eu olau
a chysgasom dri yn yr un
gwely ond ni chysgais ryw
lawer iawn. 1/21/87
Boreu gwener diwrnod braf
iawn. yn hwyr iawn yn codi
wedi cael brechwast aethum
am dro ir Pentre i edrych
am mam Mrs Wrixon wedi
oli ac ela llawer cefais afail
yn yr hen wraig ai gwr. pan
es i mewn yr oedd hi yn
golchu ar y pryd ac yntau
yn eistedd yn y gadair fawr
wrth y tan a Bandage ar ei
Lygaid mawr mor fodlawn
oedd yr hen wriag fy nghweled
a chael clywed tipyn o hanes
ei merch ai plant a llawer
gwaith y dywedodd y dymunai
ei gweled hwy ar plant. Maint
yn ymddangos i mi yn byw
yn gysurus. Cafodd yr henwr
anaf yn y gwaith ar ei gefn
ac y mae hyny wedi effeithio
yn fawr ar ei olygon nenwedig
ei lygaid chwith bu rywbeth
yn tyfu ar hwn a bu yn
Bristol tua 6 wythnos yn

[82]

I saw Fred Thomas tonight
Mr. Thomas Llwyncelyn. [__?]
but I did not speak to them
well when we got home it was
getting close to midnight.
Mrs. Thomas's two brothers came back
and we slept three in the same
bed but I did not sleep
very much. 1/21/87
Friday morning a very fine day.
got up very late
after breakfast I went
for a walk to Pentre to look
in on Mrs. Wrixon's mother after
much asking and searching I got hold
of the old woman and her husband. when
I went in she was
washing at the time and he
was sitting in the big chair
by the fire with a Bandage on his
Eyes the old woman was
so happy to see me
and hear a little about
her daughter and [grand?]children and
said many times she wished she could
see them and the children. They
look to me to be living
comfortably. The old man's
back was injured at work
and this has greatly affected
his eyesight especially
his left eye something was
growing on it and he was in
Bristol about 6 weeks

[83]

dan operation yr oedd yn
agos yn ddall pan aeth yno ond
erbyn hyn y mae yn gallu gweled
yn dda iawn ac yn teimlo ei
fod yn cryfhau mae ef yn
eithaf iach yn ei gorph mae ef
yn segir er ys 10 mis mai
hi yn fenyw gadarn yr olwg
arni wedi bod yma am ychydig
amser dychwelais yn fy ol. cyfarf[ydd]-
ais a Dan Thomas mab E Thomas
yn serchus iawn yr oedd 3½ pan aethum
yn ol. Cefais cwpanaid o de
right of yn fuan daeth Azeriah
adref cawsom ymgom dda iawn
dychwelais adref gydar Train
diweddaf Cefais hwy fel arfer
Sadwrn 1/22/87
Boreu braf heddyw yn y ty trwy
y boreu cefais fy ysgydiau wedi
ei tapio heddyw wedi ciniaw
aethum i lawr ir Porth gydar bwriad
i fyned i Ynyshir cyrhaeddais yr
Ynishir ond yr oedd dipyn yn hwyr
yr oedd Mrs Owens ai mab wedi dod
i lawr a mawr mor falch oeddynt
gael gafael ynwyf bum yn dy
Sara Ann a William. mae Lysa
dipyn bach yn well. gwelais hefyd
Margret a John Rachel a William
Wrth ddod or Ynishir gelwais yn dy
George cefais hwy fel arfer bu
Lysa fy chwaer i lawr yn
Benybont heddyw yn gweled

[83]

for an operation he was
almost blind when he went there but
now he can see
very well and feels he
is getting stronger he is
extremely healthy physically he has
been out of work for 10 months
she looks like a tough woman
after being here for a little time I
went back. I had a warm meeting with
Dan Thomas the son of E Thomas
it was 3:30 when I got
back. I had a cup of tea
right away shortly Azariah came
home we had a very good conversation
I went back on the
last train I found them as usual
Saturday 1/22/87
A fine morning today in the house
through the morning I had my shoes
[repaired?] today after lunch
I went down to Porth intending
to go to Ynyshir I reached
Ynyshir but it was rather late
Mrs. Owens and her son had come
down and were very pleased
to get hold of me I was in
Sara Ann and William's house. Lysa
Is a little better. I also saw
Margaret and John Rachel and William
Coming from Ynyshir I called at
George's house found them as usual
Lysa my sister was down in
Bridgend today to see

[84]

John fy mhrawd mae ef yn hoffi
ei le yn fawr daeth Lysi a [?]
Case yn Bresent i Sara Jane. aethum
i orphwys yn brydlon heno 1/23/87
Boreu Sabboth diwrnod Sych. mae
Cwrdd sefydlu heddyw a foreu yn yr
Ynishir yr wyf wedi addaw myned i
fynu felly aethum i fynu erbyn
y cwrdd boreu daeth George ir lan
yr un amser a mi yr oedd yn myned
ir Eglwys yn Ynishir. wel erbyn i mi
fyned i dy Lysa yr oedd Az. ai wraig
wedi dod aethom ir cwrdd Pregethodd
Owens "Penygroes yn efeithiol iawn
ei destyn Gwylia ar dy droed pan
ddech i dy Dduw [etc.?" ei benau
"Paham a phafod" yn alluog
iawn llawer o bethau digru ond
etto yn addysgiadol anghyffredin
i dy L a Seth i giniaw. mae
Siams Thomas wedi cyfranu £20
yr un ir tri enwad B. T.C. ar A
am ddau yr oedd Parch Williams Hafod
ac Owen yn pregethu. Cawsom
bregethau da. Owens ar i saith
Canwyllbren ar Saith Seren welodd
Ioan yr ynis Patmos. aethum
at Sara Ann a William i de aeth
Azariah yn ol. gydar tren 5 or gloch
aeth Mrs Owens a minau i lawr
ir Porth i wrando Ll Williams
yn pregethu cawsom ein boddhau yn
fawr ei destyn yn Actau 24.16. cydwy
-bod oedd ei brif bwnc. aethom yn ol gyda
Mrs Owens ir Ynishir

[84]

my brother John he really likes
his job Lysi brought a [?]
Case as a Present for Sara Jane. I
went to sleep early tonight 1/23/87
Sunday morning a Dry day.
Meeting today and tomorrow in
Ynyshir I have already promised to
go up so I went up for
the morning meeting George came
at the same time and was going
to the Church in Ynyshir. well when I
got to Lysa's house Az. and his wife
had come we went to the meeting Owens
preached "Penygroes" very effectively
his subject "look at your feet when
you come to God's house[etc.]" his
[chief points?] "Why and how" very
capable lots of funny elements but
also very educational
to L[ysa's] and Seth's for lunch
James Thomas contributed £20 to each
of the three denominations*
at two the Rev. Williams Hafod and
Owen preached. We had
good sermons. Owens on the seven
Candlesticks and Seven Stars John
Saw on the Island of Patmos. I went
to Sara Ann and William's for tea
Azariah came back. on the 5 pm train
Mrs. Owens and I went down
to Porth to hear Ll Williams
preaching we were very pleased
with his subject Acts 24:16 his
subject was conscience. we went back
to Ynyshir with Mrs. Owens

* James "Siamps" Thomas (1817-1901)
was a very wealthy local mine owner
and benefactor to area chapels. Born
at Mynyddislwyn, he may have been the
uncle of Azariah Thomas.

[85]

dychwelais or Ynishir ir Porth
cyfarfyddais a Henry ac aethum
adref gydan gilydd yn myned i
orphwys yn weddol gynar
1/24/87. Boreu dydd Llun
Cwrdd mawr heddyw etto yn Ynishir
aethum ir lan erbyn y Cwrdd
dau or gloch yr oedd Azeriah ai
wraig yno hefyd yr oedd Parch
Thomas Cymmer a Richards
Caerffili yn pregethu cawsom
Bregethau da iawn a chynulliad
gweddol yn yr hwyr pregethodd
Rev Morris Ton a Morris
Pontypridd da iawn yn wir
bu cnifter i Margret i fynu
yma heddyw mae hi wedi
priodi a gweinidog Methodistiaid
or enw Rees. ei enw hi cyn
iddi briod oedd Mrs Lewis or Bargoed
mae hi yn edrych yn fenyw fine
iawn ac yn anfon ei chofion mwyaf
gynes at y teulu bu Llewelyn
Williams i fynu yn y cyrddau ac
aethom adref efo'n gilydd a daethom
hefyd ar draws R Edmunds mae
ef yn ei ofid mawr mae Pegi ei chwaer
yn ei adael mae hi a Nichlas
a hithau wedi priodi ai gilydd etto
ac y maint yn myned i fyw ir Bont
ac y mae raid R gael menyw arall
i gadw ei dy 1/25/87
Dydd mawrth boreu sych. yn y ty
trwy y boreu wedi ciniaw

[85]

I returned from Ynyshir to Porth
I met Henry and we went
Home together went to
bed fairly early
1/24/87. Monday morning
another big Meeting today in Ynyshir
I went up to the Meeting
at two o'clock Azariah
and his wife were there too Rev.
Thomas Cymmer and Richards
Caerphilly were preaching we had
very good sermons and a fair
congregation in the afternoon
Rev. Morris Ton and Morris
Pontypridd preached very well
Margaret's cousin was up
here today she has
married a Methodist minister
named Rees. her name before
marriage was Mrs. Lewis from Bargoed
she looks like a very fine woman
and sends her warmest wishes
to the family Llewelyn
Williams was up for the meetings
and we went home together and also
came across R. Edmunds he is suffering
greatly Pegi his sister is leaving she
and Nicholas
are now married and they
are going to live in Pontypridd
and R will have to get another woman
to keep his house 1/25/87
Tuesday a dry morning. in the house
all morning after lunch

[86]

Henry a minau am dro buom
yn y fonwent yn mhlith y beddai
gwelais fedd anwyl Dad mae
headstone wedi ei roi ar y bedd
ac y mae yn edrych yn dda iawn
caraswn yn fawr cael photo o
honi er coffadwriaeth am yr
hwn fu mor dyner wrthyf
gwelais hefyd fedd Henry Powell
a bedd John Phillips mae y ddau
hyn yn debyg iawn iw gilydd
box o gerrig plain or [__?]
sydd arnynt ar garreg sydd yn y
pen ar fedd Henry mae tair llythyren
H.Po. ond nid oed dim ar fedd
John Phillips mae hwn yn edrych
yn bare iawn dim i nodi bedd
pwy ydyw oddi yna aethom
am dro ir Porth oddi yma i lawr
i dy Evan Thomas (Evan y Tipper
i edrych shwd y mae John mae
ef yn dost er ys tro mis gan
ddiffyg anadl. mae ef yn teimlo
yn llawer yn well nag ydoedd
buom yma ar de wrth ddod yn
ol gelwais yn nhy George cefais
hwy fel arfer y baby ddim un
dda iawn maint wedi dodir
frech arni ac y mae hyn
wedi effeithio tipyn arni

1/26/87

Bum yn y ty trwy y boreu
diwrnod sych. wedi ciniaw
bum un dy John a Mary Palmer

[86]

Henry and I went for a walk we were
in the cemetery among the graves
I saw dear Father's grave a
headstone has been placed on the grave
and it looks very good
I would love to have a photo of
It for a keepsake because
he was so gentle to me
I also saw the graves of Henry Powell
and John Phillips these two
very much alike
a box of plain stone from [__?] is on
each and on the stone on top of
Henry's grave are three letters
H.Po. but nothing on
John Phillips's grave it looks
very bare nothing to note whose
grave it is from here we went
for a walk to Porth from here down
to Evan Thomas's (Evan the Tipper)
to see how John is doing he has
been ill for about a month with
shortness of breath. he feels
much better than he did
we were here for tea coming back
we called at George's house I found
them as usual the baby is not well
they have given
her the vaccination and this
has affected her some

1/26/87

I was in the house all morning
a dry day. after lunch
I was at John and Mary Palmer's

[87]

oddi yma i Droedyrhiw ar y
ffordd cyfarfyddais a Mrs Jones gweddw
Twm or Porth a mawr mor falch
oedd gan gafael ynwyf ac yn anfon
ei chofion filoedd o weithiau i Margret
ar plant cyfarfyddais hefyd a Mrs Thomas
oedd yn arfer byw drws nesaf i ni yn
yn y Porth yn anfon ei chofion at
Margret ar plant laweroedd o weithau
cyfarfyddais a Dd Hopkin aethom i
fynu gydan gilydd aethum i dy
Rachel a William bum yma ar
de cefais hanes cystudd mam
Margret cawsant lawer iawn
o droubl o gofia tra y bu ar
ei chlaf wely oddiyma aethum
ir cwrdd yr oedd Jones Harlech
yn pregeth cawsom pregeth
dda iawn gelwais yn dy George
wrth fyned adref 1/27/87
Boreu Iau. yn sych. yn y ty trwy
y boreu Henry a Tom yn segir ar
ol ciniaw aethum i lawr tua Porth ond
gelwais yn y Cymmer yn dy George
yn gyntaf yna i dy Ifor Morgan
wedi cael shat a Mary aethum ir
ty nesaf sef i Joan Griffiths
gorfu i mi yfed te yma er nad oedd
angwn bwyd gorfu i mi yfed gyda hi
bum yma hyd nes i Joan ddod or gwaith
mawr y buont yn fy oli am Margret ar
plant ac yn anfon ei chofion mwyaf [?]
[?] oddi yma aethum ir Porth. lle yr
oedd Te Party gan y Côr ac yr oeddwn

[87]

from here to Troedyrhiw on the
way I met Mrs. Jones the widow of
Twm from Porth and she was so happy
to get hold of me and sends her
best wishes to Margaret and the
children I also met Mrs. Thomas
who used to live next door to us in
Porth and sends many regards
to Margaret and the Children
I met David Hopkin we went up
together I went to
Rachel and William's house I was here
for tea we heard about Margaret's
mother's illness they had much
difficulty remembering when she was on
her sickbed from here I went
to the meeting Jones of Harlech
was preaching we had a very good
sermon I called at George's house
on the way home 1/27/87
Thursday morning. dry. in the house
all morning Henry and Tom not working
after lunch I went down toward Porth
but I called at George's in Cymmer
first then to Ifor Morgan's house
after a chat with Mary I went next
door to Joan Griffiths'
I had to drink tea here although I
did not need food I had to drink
I was here until Joan came home from
work they all asked about Margaret and
the children and send their most [__?]
wishes from here to Porth. where there
was a Tea Party with the Choir and I

[88]

wedi cael gorchymyn caeth i ofalu
ddod i lawr ir Tea felly cefais de yma
etto wedi y te cawsom gwrdd ad-
loniadol o ganu areithio adrodd [?]
yn mhlith y llu gorfu u minau
rhoi anerchiad a mawr mor roes-
awgar oedd y bobl. Cawsom gyfarfod
rhagorol Mr Williams yn Llywydd
Dydd Gwener. 28/1/87. Bwrw gwlaw
myned i Maesteg heddyw a Jenkin Edward
gyda mi cychwynasom i Endraforgan
pan ar Ben Trebanog cyfarfyddasom
a Brake yn myned heibio i Endra-
forgan felly cawsom lift. yr oeddem
yno ryw $\frac{3}{4}$ awr yn ry gynar yr oeddwn
y Ton du erbyn 10 $\frac{1}{2}$. yr oedd genym
ddwy awr i aros felly aethum
i weled John fy mrawd i lawr
ir Aseilam gwaith $\frac{1}{2}$ awr o gerdded
aethum i mewn wedi oli ac ela
cawsom y fan right iw weled
wedi aros ychydig amser daeth ir
golwg a mawr mor falch oedd gael fy
ngweled mae ef yn hoffi ei le ac yn
edrych yn ardderchog maer lle hwn
yn hardd anghyffredin ac yn le eang
iawn a phobpeth yn edrych mor rhagorol
dychwelasom i Dondu erbyn amser
Train. yr oeddem yn Maesteg erbyn
un or gloch. yn gyntaf oll aethum
i dy James Edwards brawd Thos Edwards
mae ef ai deulu yn dda iawn ond eu
bod yn heneiddio fe garai yn fawr
weled ei frawd. Tanio mae ef yn awr

[88]

had been given strict orders to
come to Tea so I had tea here again
after tea we had an enjoyable meeting
with singing, speeches, reports [?]
among the many I had
to address and the people were very
welcoming. We had an excellent
meeting Mr. Williams presiding
Friday. 28/1/87. Raining
went to Maesteg today with Jenkin
Edward we started to Hendreforgan
at the top of Trebanog we met
a Brake going past to Hendreforgan
so we had a lift. we were
there $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour early we were at
Tondu by 10:30. we had
two hours so I went
to see my brother John down
to the Asylum a half-hour walk
I went in asked and searched
we found the place right to see
after waiting a while he came into
view and was so pleased to
see me he likes his job and
looks outstanding this place is
exceptionally beautiful and is very
big and everything looks excellent
we returned to Tondu before the
Train came. we were in Maesteg by
one o'clock. first of all I went to
James Edwards' Thos. Edwards' brother
he and the family are very well
but they are getting older he would
love to see his brother. He now fires

[89]

o dan y Steam Boilers maer gwaith
newydd ar stop (Tân) waith mae ganddo
ddau dy da iawn wedi i Buildio
ac mewn sefyllda dda a chysurus
gelwais hefyd yn nhy Wm Jenkins
brawd Lewis Jenkins nid oedd ef yn y ty
felly ni arosais yma aeth Jinkin
Edwards a minau i weled yr hen Batch
lle yr oeddynt yn cael glo a mwyn at
y gwaith [__?]. mae cyfoeth mawr
yn yr hen fynyddau yma er ei bod yn agas
eu golwg wedir cyfan maint yn gyfoethog
tu fewn. mae golwg dadfeiliedig
iawn ar y gwaith Tân rhwd ar y cyfan
cyrhaiddais dy fy mhodryb erbyn
5½ or gloch cefais hwy oll yn iach
ac yn falch iawn cael gafael yn[wyf?]
tua naw or gloch daeth Tom Jinkins
i fynu er mwyn cael tipyn o hanes
Lewis ei frawd buom yn siarad nes
ei bod tua 11 or gloch aethum i orphwys
1/29/87. Boreu sych. daeth fy modryb
i mewn ir Bedroom attaf y boreu
i fy nhyhuno codais tua 8 or gloch
yr oeddwn yn disgwyl y buasai fy Ewrth
adref ond nid yw. cefais gan fy mhodryb
bâr o osanau i Maggie wedi ei
gwau gan Ellen ei merch 11 oed
ffarwelais a modryb mewn dagrau
aethum i gwrdd ar Train 9½ i fyned
i fynu ir Cymmer. ac yma cygarfyddais
a fy Ewrth yn dod i lawr or Cape
siaradais ychydig eiriau ag ef
tra yr oedd y train yn sefyll

[89]

the Steam Boilers the work
just stopped (due to a fire) he has
two very good houses Built
and is in a comfortable situation
I also called on William Jenkins
the brother of Lewis Jenkins he was
not at home so we did not stay Jinkin
Edwards and I went to the old Patch
where they used to keep coal and ore
at the works [__?]. there are great
riches in the mountains here even
though they are ugly after all they
are rich inside. the Fire works look
very run down it is all rough
I reached my aunt's house by
5:30 and found them all healthy
and very happy to catch me
about nine o'clock Tom Jinkins
came up to hear a little about
Lewis and his brother we talked
until about 11 o'clock went to bed
1/29/87. Dry morning. my aunt came
into my Bedroom this morning
to wake me up I rose about 8
I was expecting my Uncle
home but he was not there. my aunt
gave me socks for Maggie knitted by
Ellen her 11 year-old daughter
I tearfully bid my aunt farewell
I went to catch the 9:30 train to go
up to Cymmer. and here I met
my Uncle coming down from the Cape
I had a few words with him
while the train was standing

[90]

oddiyma aethum i lawr gydar
Swansea Bay R. i Bort Talbot
8 M Cefais afael yn Evan rodrick
sef tylwyth Thomas John chwaer
Mrs Johns. mawr mor serchus
a chroesawgar oedd cwpanaid
o de y peth cyntaf ac wrth
wneyd y te oli am Johns ar teulu
mawr y mae hi yn beio hwy am nad ydy[nt?]
yn ysgrifenu adref yr oedd hi yn credu
ei bod wedi mynd ar goll ond yr
odd yn dda ganddi eu ar dir y byw
mae ganddynt dy newydd rhagorol
5 room oddiyma i dy Lewis William
brawd Mrs. John yr oedd ef yn barod
i fyned ir gwaith bu yn daer iawn
arnaf i fwyta. nid oedd eisiau arnaf
dyn serchus iawn ac yn teimlo
yn ddiolchgar am alw gydag ef
mae ef wedi uno a chrefydd. Oddiyma
i dy Mrs. Jones mam Joseph Jones
sydd yn Boardo gyda Mrs Davis y
drws nesaf O mor foddllawn oedd yr
hen wraig gael siarad ag un oedd yn
adnabod ei mab Joseph nid ydyw
wedi clywed oddi wrtho ys blynyddau
lawer mae edrych yn rhagorol
ond yn hen mae hi newydd gladdu
ei brawd digon iddi hi eu chadw
yn gysuris weddil ei dyddiau mae
a phlant mewn sefyllfa gysuris

[90]

from here I took the
Swansea Bay Railway to Port Talbot
8 [miles?] I got hold of Evan Rodrick
namely the family of Thomas John
Mrs. Johns. they were so kind and
welcoming a cup
of tea was the first thing and while
making tea asked about Johns and
the family she blames them for not
writing home she believed
they had gone missing but
they were alive and well
they have an excellent new house with
5 rooms from here to Lewis William
Mrs. John's brother he was preparing
to go to work and was eager for me to
eat. I did not want to
a kind man and [I] felt grateful
for visiting him
he has found religion. From here
to Mrs. Jones' Joseph Jones' mother
who is boarding with Mrs. Davis
next door Oh the old woman
was so happy to talk to someone who
knew her son Joseph she has not
heard from him for many years
she looks very well
but old she just buried her
brother she is staying comfortable
enough for the rest of her days
her children are doing comfortably

[91]

ac wedi bod yn hynod o ofalus
ai mam ai merched yr un modd
yr wyf yn credu ei bod yn wraig
Dduwiol iawn mae hi dymuno
ar ei mab Joseph i feddwl am y
dyfodol. ac hefyd anfon llythyr
iw fam oedranus mawr mor
ddiolgar yr oedd am i mi alw oddiyma
i dy Thomas Williams brawd hynaf
Mrs John cefais ef ai deulu yn iach
a dedwydd mae yn gwerthu glo ac
hefyd yn cadw shop ysgidiau
bwyta bwyd yma
mae ef yn anfon ei gofio attynt
oll. oddiyma yn ol i dy E Roderick
mor gynted ag es i mewn oedd
y bwyd ar y ford nes oedd genym
ddim llawer o amser ffarwelais
a hwy yr oeddynt yn dra diolchgar
am i mi alw cyraeddais Llan-
trisant erbyn chwech or gloch
yr oeddwn yn y Porth gydar tren
8 gelwais yn dy George cefais
hwy yn iach bwyteais swper
yma cyrhaeddais adref tua 9 or gloch
cefais hwynt oll fel arfer
dynar daith trwy greigiau
a mynyddau a chymoedd cilion
ofnadwy.

[91]

and have been taking great care [of]
the mother and her daughters alike
I believe she is
a Godly woman she wants
her son Joseph to think about the
future. and also send a letter
to his elderly mother she was very
grateful I called from here
to Thomas Williams' Mrs. John's oldest
brother I found him and his family
healthy and happy selling coal
and also keeping a shoe shop
ate a meal here
he sends his greetings to them
all. from here back to E. Roderick's
as soon as I went in
the food was on the table because we
had little time I bade them farewell
they were quite grateful
I called I arrived at Llantrisant
by six o'clock
I was in Porth on the 8 pm train
I called at George's I found
Them healthy I ate supper here
I arrived at home about 9 o'clock
I found them all as usual
that is the journey through rocks
and mountains and
awfully narrow valleys.

[92]

[92]***

[Train	13	8
Baby	10	0
Hock	15	0
Tei for Ly	2	6
Seph.	1	0
C[?]	2	0
Figs	1	0
Coat	2	6 0
Hat & Tei	9	0
Collection	4	0]*

[Chorlale?]** Hopkin died May 1st 1841
 Gwylm Hopkin Deid Deid Dec 26th 1857 [?]
 Ann Hopkin apr 28th 1856. age 19
 Father Wm Hopkin deid aug 18th/57 age 50
 Mother S. Hopkin Deid may 26/82 age 73
 Capel Hengoed adeil 1710
 ailad. 1829

Hengoed Chapel built 1710
 renovated. 1829

Am Over Coat	2	6	0
Hat a They		8	
Osanau		1	
Dress i [B]aby George			
Train		12	

[1 8
 4 2
 3 8
 3 2
 1

 13.8

 8 10
 5 4.2

 8 14]*

* These columns listing expenses are written transversely across the page.
 ** This name is probably meant to be Charlotte.

***The remaining pages (92-96) mainly comprise lists of expenses, names and miscellaneous notes. Welsh to English translations are provided here only as needed.

[93]

Mrs Thomas
34 Balaclava Road
Dowlais

[2 5 0
10
1 15
4
14

9
4.18

13.18

5 5
.15
5
1 10

7.15

10 15. 9
14 6
7 11
10 11

2.9.37]*

David Hughs
Deid mai 2. 1885 bu 2 flwydd
yn glaf. Cafodd amser a chystudd
hir a phoenus
Church 45 Pendaran
mae Mrs Hughs am gael llythyr oddi
wrth Rees Harris
Jenkins Jenkins
82 Hugh St
Blaenavon. Mon

Lewis Williams
Wedi troi at grefydd
Tai bach

Isaac Jones foreman. yn y Hafod
Phillips Jones yn bregethwr yn
Fishguard Shir Benvro
Tylwyth i Joseph Jones drws nesaf

* Written transversely across the page.

[93]

David Hughs
Died May 2, 1885 after 2 years of
sickness. His suffering was
long and painful
Church 45 Pendaran
Mrs Hughs wants a letter
from Rees Harris
Jenkins Jenkins
82 Hugh St
Blaenavon. Mon

Lewis Williams
Has turned to religion
Tai bach**

Isaac Jones foreman. at Hafod
Phillips Jones a preacher in
Fishguard Pembrokeshire
Family of Joseph Jones next door

** Lit. "Small Houses". "This may be
an address.

[94]

Thomas Jinkins wedi claddu
y plant i gyd. Oddigerth
eu Ben ac y mae y ferch wedi
marw ys blwyddyn ond y mae
plentyn yn fyw

Th. Williams

James R. Machen[___?]
Pendaran Cottage

John Morgan
Ystrad Road 81
Chwaer i Mrs Davies. Aetnavill

Bu Jonah Howells Dad
Wm Howells farw Rhag 30in/1873
Claddwyd ef Jan. 3 1874. gwasanaethau
y Parch W. J. Richards Penywern ei
Destyn John 5.26 Claddwyd ef yn
Fonwent Tabor. Cefncoed y Cymer
Traddodwyd ei bregeth gan y
Parch D Thomas Gwernllwyn
Bu farw Mrs. Howells Mai 15 1859
Gwein Parch J. Hughes Cl. yn
Cefncoed y Cymer
Mae Miss Mary Howell yn glaf
er ys 14 o flynyddoedd yn y gwely ys
pedair blynedd

[94]

Thomas Jinkins has buried
all the children. Except
their Ben and the girl
died a year ago but the
child is living

John Morgan
Ystrad Road 81
Sister to Mrs Davies. Aetnaville

Jonah Howells Father of
Wm. Howells died December 30, 1873
Buried Jan. 3 1874. services
Rev. W. J. Richards Penywern his
Subject John 5.26 He was buried in
Tabor Cemetery. Cefncoed y Cymer
The sermon was given by
Rev. D. Thomas Gwernllwyn
Mrs. Howells died May 15, 1859
Minister Rev. J. Hughes Cl. at
Cefncoed y Cymer
Mae Miss Mary Howell has been ill
for 14 years in bed
four years

[95]

Dd Herbert was born Dec 7th 1817
 Deid Epril 17 1885
 Jane Gibbon was born March 22nd 1820
 George Herbert Born June 2th 1847
 Edward Herbert Born Sept 3rd 1848
 Wm Herbert Born Sept 23d 1850
 [Eb?] Herbert Born Nov 12th 1852
 H Herbert Born July 18th 1856
 [Died 60
 C. Herbert Born Aug 10th 1860 Dec 24th
 /60]

Thom Herbert Born July 18th 1862
 John Herbert Born March 26th 1865
 Plaster fy mam [un
 Cwyr. Rosyn a Lard yr un faint o bob
 Pwlltice
 2 oz cwyr gwen ir 2 oz o fel 2 oz [__?]
 Cig gwedder 2 oz Linseid oil 2 oz oflawd
 one pint o hufen llath
 Ely Morgan was Born aug 26th
 1795 in Bowenstone
 Deid Epril 1st 1826
 Ed Gibbon Born
 Deid Jan 26th 1858
 Ely Gibbon Born June 1824

[?] 2. 25. 16
 [?] 10 -- 42

Mr Jinkin Jinkins
 82 High St
 Blaenavon
 Mon

89
 13

 76

[95]

My mother's plaster
 Wax. Rosin and Lard in equal amounts
 Poultice
 2 oz white wax 2 oz honey 2 oz [__?]
 Mutton 2 oz linseed oil 3 oz flour
 one pint of milk cream

[96]

Cwm y Rhondda
Capelau Llanwyno. 113
Lantrisant
Eglwysi 15

Wm Farr
Gwaen y Bara Bach
Ymladd y [__?]
nr Caeffili
[__?] John [__?]

Jonah Griffith
Point Street
Mr. Hood Abovale wedi
marw. July. 1886
W Howells

Wm Jenkins
87 Comercial St Ironmonger
Maesteg

Rev. O Owens
Thomas St
Merthyr
Wesleyan Minister

Rev J. Owens
45 Thomas Street
Merthyr Tydvil

W Llewelyn
No 16 Spring Street
Dowlais

[96]

Rhondda Valley
Llanwyno Chapels. 113
Lantrisant
Churches 15

Wm Farr
[__?] of Bara Bach
Fight the [__?]
near Caerphilly
[__?] John [__?]

Jonah Griffith
Point Street
Mr. Hood Abovale has
died. July. 1886
W Howells



William Herbert (right), probably at a coal mine in Alabama, c. 1920.

Appendix I
The family history (names and dates) on pages 92 and 95

Page 92

The Hopkin family – William’s wife Margaret’s family

Chorlale Hopkin died May 1st 1841

Gwylm Hopkin died Dec 26th /55 ?? Gwylm Hopkin died Dec 26th 1855
(possibly at age 7 weeks)

Ann Hopkin [died] apr 28th 1856 age 19

Father Wm Hopkin died aug 18th/57 age 50 Margaret’s father William Hopkin died
Aug 18th 1857 at age 50

Mother S Hopkin Died May 26/82 age 73 Margaret’s mother Sarah Hopkin died May
26 1882 at age 73. Sarah re-married after
William died, and at death her name was
Sarah Llewelyn.

Chorlale, Gwylm, and Ann may be siblings of Margaret.

Page 95

The Herbert family – author William Herbert and his family

Dd Herbert was born Dec 7th 1817 David Herbert, father of William
Died April 17 1885

Jane Gibbon was born March 22nd 1820 Jane (Gibbon) Herbert, wife of David,
mother of William

George Herbert Born Jun 2th 1847 George Herbert, brother of William

Edward Herbert Born Sept 3rd 1848 Edward Herbert, brother of William

Wm Herbert Born Sept 23rd 1850 William Herbert, the author of the diary

Eb^t Herbert Born Nov 12th 1852 Elizabeth Herbert, sister of William, called
Lysa in the diary

H Herbert Born July 18th 1856 Henry Herbert, brother of William

C. Herbert Born Aug 10th 1860 died Dec 24th 1860

sibling of William, possibly Catherine

Thom Herbert Born July 18th 1862

Thomas Herbert, brother of William, called Tommy and Tom in the diary

John Herbert Born March 26th 1865

John Herbert, brother of William

Ely^t Morgan was Born aug 26th 1795 in Bowenstone
Died April 1st 1826

Elizabeth (Morgan) Gibbon, 1st wife of Edward Gibbon, mother of Jane (Gibbon) Herbert

Ed Gibbon Born
Died Jan 26th 1858

Edward Gibbon, father of Jane (Gibbon) Herbert

Ely^t Gibbon Born June 1824

Elizabeth Gibbon, sister of Jane (Gibbon) Herbert, daughter of Edward & Elizabeth (Morgan) Gibbon

Appendix II

Azariah Thomas (1855-1943)

Azariah Thomas is mentioned in William's journal on 18 pages. His inclusion is exceeded only by William's brothers George and Henry, who are each mentioned on 24 pages.

Azariah and William seemed to be very close friends and Azariah deserves special mention. Azariah was the son of William's wife Margaret's sister Elizabeth "Lysa" Hopkins and Zephaniah Thomas. He was born in 1855, so was close in age to William and Margaret. It is likely that Azariah's father Zephaniah was one of the younger brothers of James "Siamps" Thomas, a successful coal mine owner and businessman and one of the pillars of the Porth community. Research to confirm this is ongoing.

Azariah was a mining engineer. During William's visit to Wales, Azariah arranged for William to tour a local coal mining operation.

In 1889 Azariah Thomas and his wife Maggie (Margaret Lewis) left Wales for the United States. In 1890 they are in Birmingham, Alabama, where William and Margaret also made their home. Azariah was superintendent at Blocton coal mines. By 1893 Azariah must have heard about the promising coal fields in Australia, and he and Maggie left Alabama for East Maitland, New South Wales, Australia.

Azariah became manager of the colliery for the East Greta Coal Mining Company developing the South Maitland Coalfield. Azariah introduced well-known methods for mining the inclined and steep coal seam. He may also have participated in the development of a railway from the colliery to Great Northern railway at East Greta Junction.

In 1895 Azariah's wife Maggie died, and in 1898 Azariah married Deborah Rees. They had three children.

Azariah had a successful career with the East Greta Coal Mining Company, and appeared to be financially well off. In 1903 he built a large and very grand home in West Maitland called "Bryn Glas", or Green Hills.

Azariah and William appear to have remained close even though they were an ocean and a continent apart. Stories in William's family referring to William's brother Thomas in Australia are more likely to refer to Azariah. He was included in William's obituary (misidentified as William's brother Thomas of Australia). In 1933, while on a grand trip around the world, William's daughter Annie May (Herbert) Moore and granddaughter Mary Elizabeth Moore visited Azariah Thomas and his family in Australia.

Azariah Thomas died in West Maitland in 1943.

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