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
2014
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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
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. Azariah
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.

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.
and having begun to speak, there was no end to the conversation. the first question from my mother was why I did 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 Hopkines 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.
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 Penrhwygwyn Dd 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).
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
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 Wm's 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
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
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 phw ydoedd ond Betsy oedd yn cadw ty George Jinkins 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 cyllchoedd buom yn nhy Richard Evans (Langors mewn [Tafarn?] y mae

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 Jinkins 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.
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

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

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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 Gwylym 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
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 and 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.
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 ymlaen
at y ty a gododd Jinkins
Watkin. wel maint oil
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
hywy 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

12/2/86

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.

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
past the Treharris mines
taxing 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
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
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
dacons’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.
after the sermon I had
the pleasure of shaking hands
with many old friends.
John Jinkins (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
Jinkins Ferndale was preaching
the gist of his sermon
was Christ’s readiness to forgive
sin. the singing was
yn ardderchog ni chlywais
well canu erioed
mae organ rhagorol
yna Flory William yn
chwareu yn splendid yn
wir mae cynulleidfa
ysblenydd yn Gapel y Porth
yr oedd cymundeb yma heno
cefais y fraint o gydgofio
am fy nghwareddwr a
fy hen gyfeilllon unwaith yn
rhagor da oedd genyw 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
parottai gyferbyn a Eisteddf- od y Porth gwelais amryw
yma etto o fy hen gyfeilllon
aethum a Henry adref
wedi treilio diwrnod llawn
gydan gilydd

12/6/86

yn y ty heddiw trwy y
dydd orherwydd ei bod yn
glawis 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

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.
wel cawsom lawer o
helyntion Tregolwyn a gorfu
i minau roi llawer o hanes
ein gwlad minau iddi hitau
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

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 ymmhub
man buom ar y Garreg
Siglo ac i gael golwg or
bontypridd ar cylchoedd mae
golwg ysbelynodd oddiar y Comyn
hwn. Or man hwn gallaf weld
gwaith Cilfynydd, Treforest
oll weithfeydd y Bont ac i
lan i gwn y Rhondda mor
uchel a gwaith Great Western
buom hefyd yn nhy R. Evans
(Langors) Welsh Harp
oddí 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

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
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  

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 wneud 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 ddydedion i fasnachwyr
i gofio am danynt
yr oedd ynt 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

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
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 Troedyrhiw 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
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.
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 and 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.
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 Pontycymmer 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
I went to the meeting in Pont[ypriidd] 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.
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
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

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 yngom ddifyrus iawn bum yma trwy y dydd ac yma cysgaí hefyd aeth Mr Owens a mi i weled y Capel Wesleyaidd capel hen ffasiwn ydyw mae ryweth ym henafol iawn ynddo ac yn edrych yn ardderchog gall 800 eistedd buom yn nhy Wm a Mrs Rees perthynas i Mr Owens

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 i 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 yngom ddifyrus iawn bum yma trwy y dydd ac yma cysgaí hefyd aeth Mr Owens a mi i weled y Capel Wesleyaidd capel hen ffasiwn ydyw mae ryweth ym henafol iawn ynddo ac yn edrych yn ardderchog gall 800 eistedd buom yn nhy Wm a Mrs Rees perthynas i Mr Owens
trall 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 brecwesta yr wyf yn
bwrıadu myned i dynu i Dowlaıs
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. adnybyddısant 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 aetham
i dy Wm Charles cefais yr hen wr
yn y ty yr hen wraig a dwy o merched
a rhai hyn y gwae hosana ai oll
egni Pan rhoddaıs y fï i wr y ty
daith gwen i wyneb pob un o
teulu ond yr hen wr Charles da
daith dagrau iïw lygaid ef a
methodd a siarad am ychydig amser
weddi iddo ddo iïw le mawr yr oedd
yn diolch am y rhod ac yr oedd
yn gwasgi arnaf am gofio

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 Dowlaıs
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 f1 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
Diolch i’w frawd yr arian
mæ ei olygon ef yn wael angh[...]
bu ar fyned yn ddall unwaith bu
yn yr Osipital yn Aberawe
 tua thri mis yn ol yn tori ryw
gen oedd yn tyfu ar ei llygaid 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
ddwwy ferch yn gweithio amgylch
y [furnaceluau?] 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 Gwylym 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 [__?]
holi cwestiynau am Bridgeport
y peth nesaf oedd Morgan ar
y tân ac i gael cwpanaid o de ar
y prydd daeth Packman i mewn
a dechreuodd yntau fy ŵli am America
a buom yn siarad am gym 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 Gwylym 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.
or gloch ac wedi ini gael chat
yn iawn a swperu daeth gyda
mi i dy Wm Llewelyn cnociails
wrth y drws daeth Mrs Llewelyn
at adnabyddodd fy llais ar unwaith
wedí imi ei estedd i lawr ag
atteeb gofiniadau arferol y gwragedd
dywedodd wrth bod raid imi
aeros gyda hwy heno felly y bu
daith Wm adref or Cwrd a mawr
bu y siglo y dwylaw mawr
mor falch oedd ef imi alw
gyda hwy mae ef yn grefyddol
ys [...] blyneddau ac yn wir
mae ganddo brofiad uchel iawn
cfaias ganddo iawn 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 el wyneb ac serchus iawn
iawn mae yn ddymuno cael boreu
sych er mwyn cael y pleser o deithio
traw Dowlaís arosodd Wm Llewelyn
allan or gwaith er mwyn cwmni
i mi wedi i ni frecwasta aethum
allan i edrych am Thomas Jinkins
Jinshop Howse cawsom ofal yn
y dau henwr yn Bár buont yn
daer iawn am i mi yfed glasiad
o ryw liqour 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

[28]
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
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 Hughes 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.
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).
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
dywedodd y bachgen fy mhod
yn dod o America oddiwth
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 chollí y fuwch mae hi wedi
bod yn cadw dwy fuwch ac
yn gwerthu y llaeth mae ei gwr
yn [foss?] a i yr odynau calch ac
yn ol phob ymddangosiad yn maint
mewn sefyllfa gysursys mae hi
yn debyg iawn i Mrs. Davies yn ei
gweddai dull mae y hynod o ffrith
ar ei thafod bu yn daer iawn
arnaf aros i gael ciniau
gwnes addewid y buaswn yn
galw etto felly aeth Mr Owens
a minau yn ol i Merthyr
erbyn hyn yr oedd y bryd
ciniau

[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
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 Penrhifwfer
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
Penrhifwfer 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
Ynysir 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
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
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 aros ar ochr yr heol
i lan i Drealaw yna
dychwelasom i gapel y Porth
y Côr yn canu dan arweiniad
David Farr. (un o fy hen disgyblion)
Parottoi gyferbyn a Nadolig
y maint sef Eisteddfod y Porth
heddyw y gwelais Arthur Williams
gyntaf a Ann Phillips ac eraill
wedî hyn aethum am dro
gyda Taliesyn Hopkin a
Henry J William R Edmunds
ac eraill cawsom amser
ddar testyn yr ymgom oedd canu
cyhraedd Henry a minau mewn
priodol Ddïwnod noble trwy
y dydd 12/20/86
Dyma ddydd llun braf ysgrifenais
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
yn ddif y dynghelais ac
aethum i dy Azariah. yr oeddwn
ynna am un or glock cefais
ymgom felus gyda Mrs Thomas
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 Taliesyn 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 on 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
menyw serchus anghyffredin
ydyw daeth Azariah 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
etto dipyn yn oer y
mae ond y mae n sych
bum yn y ty heddyw trwy
y dydd yn helpu y Butcher
i dorí y mochyn. ei bwysau
ydoedd 290lb maen fochyn
rhagorol ysgrifenais hefyd lythyr
i J.L Morris Esq. bum yn y post
a gelwais yn dy George wrth ddd yn ol
yr oedd fy mam dair iawn iawn
am i mi ddod gyda hi i gwrdd
adroddiol 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 ni oeddyn wedi dechreu
hyd yn hyn nid oedd Mr Thomas y Llwydd
wedí dod felly gorfu i minau fyned
yn llywydd y cyfarfod ond daeth
Mr Thomas yn fuan ond pallodd
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
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 gallw. felly aethom
yn mhaen a gwaith y cyfarfod
adroddodd y plant yn gamus
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 phshaw yn
edrych yn hapas a sirol ar dechreu
ir diwed. wedi myned trwy y
Programe. yr oedd y Bank i
gael ei rhanu. Maen arferiad
yn yr ysgolion Sabbbothol Cymru
er mwyn dysgu y plant i gadw
ei Ceiniogau. i gaslu pob sabboth
ac yma yn mhen y flywyddy o meler
arian pob un wedi ei dau 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 gynulu arian. wedi myned
trwy y gwaith hwn yr oedd pawb
yn hynod sirol ac mewn fforodd
i gael gywyddau erbyn nadolig. wedi pasio
pleidlais o ddiolchgarwch ir Llywydd
aeth pawb adref yn llawen
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
12/22/86
Dydd Marchnad Pontypridd a minau yn bwriadu myned. On d 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 ddod 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 trwyddyn 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 i Porth. aethum i lawr gyda hwy. Prynais iw baby Ddress Cape a frog lliw mirone grand anghyffredin a mawr mor falch oeddyn [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 cwrdad adroddiadol gan ysgol y Cymmer 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
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 today 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

felly aethum i mewn i wrando ar y plant cawsom gyfarfod rhagorol adroddiadau a chann da iawn gorfu i minau ufhudau i alwad y Llywydd ac i rohi 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 ffyddlawn or Band of Hope cefais dipyn o hanes yr eglwys gan ddyddorol mae ef yn byw yn un o dai Capel y Cymmer Cerdd yr holiwyd wedir nos wef wedi ciniawa aethum i lawr ir porth cefais lythyr heddiw oddiwrth mam Mrs Wrixon ac wedi mi gael Allan pa le oedd ym y 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
I went up to [Sal?] Richard’s house
I met Llewelyn on the way so both of us walked up to the Penrhywgwynt 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
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 cramped full and the Platform at Porth was too crowded there were not enough carriages to take the men down to Pontypridd
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
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 or 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

ni fum or ty y boreu hwn
daeth George ai wraig ar baby
i fynu erbyn ciniau Cawsom
y fraint heddyw o giniaw i gyd
gydan gilydd y dydd hwddyq
wedi ciniau 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 fynded allan aeth i lawr
ir Porth yr oeddwn yn meddwl
mynded i fynu ir Ynishir erbyn
swper ond cyfarfyyddais 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 fynded i fynu ag i dy
Lyssa erbyn fy mhyd yno yr
Oeddwn yn gorphen a bwyta
yna yr oedd Mrs Owens a mab
Azariah ai wraig a Miss Williams
merch Rev Williams Ynishir wel
wedi climio y bwrdd cawsom
brydnaun difyrus iawn yn
siarad am bob peth ac yn canu
ambell i hen dön. a Lysa yn deweyd
ambell waith wn i yn y byd beth
mai Margaret yn ei wneyd
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

a shwd mae i plant bach
gorfú 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 a ddorfyn medal aur
am ei phaintins aroddcurch yn[___]
 lle y gwelais y pecch a elwir
Screen sef Frame rywbeth yn dy
debyg i Horse Dillad trifflig 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
aroddychog ag yn un or pethaul
mwyaf ysbylenydd a welais erioed
mae y fath beth a hwn yn gronfa
o wybodaeth yn mho 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 10k
ac wedi llawer o siarad aethom
i adref yr oedd llawer o ddynion meddwi
ar y ffordd a rhai yn mesur
y street yn go da cyraiddais adref
erbyn tua 11k. weu dylasswn
dweyd hefyd bod dynion yn dyr
faoedd yn Eisteddfod y Porth

[44]

[44]
The Eisteddfod was successful
In every sense. Well that is how
I spent Christmas
in the old country

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
i mewn attom. treillasom
brydnawn tra ddifyrus efo n
gilyd mewn can ac ymddiddonion
a llawer iawn o hen adgofion
melus wel gorfu i ni aros
[ynaf?] i swper hefyd wel wedi
bwyta addawsom fyned i
dy Jonathan a Miriam am spell
felly bu aethom yno a mawr
mor groesawgar yr oeddyn 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
rhai 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 gwrandawiad 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 bwrw gwledd melyn
i wrando y Party yn canu aethum i lawr
mor belled a Ship y Cymmer a gorfu
i mi droi yn ol gan mor anffraid
o wlyb ydoedd. aethum i dy George yna
a bwyteais swper. Bwrw gwlaw o hyd

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

en 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
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[yridd] 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
after reaching Pontypridd
Henry and I went to see Jane Jones
she is staying with Mrs. Price
at the Pont[yp]y[pridd] 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.
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.
ar bechgyn y First Class
i fyned i fynu ir Porth yr
oedd yn tynu tua 2 o gloch
y boreu ar Henry a Tommy
yn dod adref ac mor wlybed
a physgwt nid oedd train
yn dod i fynu ar ol y Concert
er fod gwyr yr Eisteddfod wedi
cyhoedd hyn y gorfu i wyr
Treorky a rhai o Dreherbert
i gerdded yr oll fforodd a hithau
yn bwrw gwlaw yn dditrugared
ond ni chefas 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 oddiwrthgryn
ac yr oeddwn yn falch anghyffredin
ei gael aethum i fynu ir Ynshir
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 gwelaed 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 rywym hedyw a chafodd
dipyn mawr o boeni bum yma
y rhai fwyaf or dydd fwyteais
giniaw a swper gelwais yn dy
John ond nid wedi dod adref
or gwaith

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
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
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

yna aethum i dy Sara Ann
a Wm yr oedd ef newydd ddod or gwaith
bun yna 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 6½
pan oeddwn ar Drebanog pwy gyfarwyddais
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
trellio y dydd ac yna ymadawsum
pan aethum ir ty pwy oedd yn fy
arios ond Llewelyn a Idris Thomas
cawsom noswaith dedwydd efo n
glydd ac adgofion or hen amser
12/29/86

Dydd Mercher. mae heddyw yn foreu
braf iawn ysgrifenais lythyr
i fy Ewrth Lewis. bun yn y ty
y rhan fwyaf or boreu heddyw
wedî ciniaw lawr ir Porth cyfar-fyddais a Wm Thomas [with?] Dai [Owen?]
a gorfu a minau fyned i mewn
wedî siarad am lawer o amser
yr oedd yn raid i Margret ei ferch
wneyd Te felly y bu yr oedd raid
ei yfed hefyd wedî 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
fynu ar Trebanog cyfarfyddais
a fy mam myned ir Cwrd Gweddi
felly troais yn fy ol ac ir Cwrd
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 oedd yn y station ryw
pumb myned cyn ir train ddod
ond yr oedd ei tri wedi
chwysu y anghyffredin yr
oedd 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
arios ir train yr oeddyn yn credu y
buasom 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 oedd ernyn
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 gwraith tan a strip
yn awr

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

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
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
[scoold?] 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
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
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
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 arfyddais a R Edmunds daeth ef i fynu gyda mi mor belled a thy Gwylym Thomas. ar y street yn yr Ynishir yr oedd dwy fenyw yn casglu yr hyn a allant gael yr oedd ynt yn canu yr hen don Calfaria ai plant yn myned o amgylch y tai i geisio arian yr oedd golwg wael ia awn 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 Azeriah 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

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 Ynishir in Cymmer I met R. Edmunds he came up with me as far as Gwylym Thomas’s house. on the street in Ynishir 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 Azeriah 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
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 Ynyshir 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
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
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 Lanary 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
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
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

Bwrw eira neithiwr ac wedi rewí 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 mhlæn 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 Pryd none 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
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.
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 Colinston 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.
Well we had some singing tonight before retiring
got 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 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
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 Ynyshir 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 Ynyshir 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
fy mhod wedi addaw iddo wel i wneyd y dyffig hwn i fynn
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 oeddnt 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 hwyd 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 gyfnygder 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 swper cawsom amser difyr buont yn adrodd i mi hanes bywyd carriaethiol 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 gysyrus iw dylwyth. Ef eydwy 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 hwyd cyn i ni ymadael a thy Jonathan

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.
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”
except 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.
wedi ffraeo gydar offeliad 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

Boreu mawrth mae n 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 briod gan feddwl dychwelid yn union ar ol priodi ond mae y wraig yn awr yn pallu myned bu

John Price yn y ty heno mae John yn heneidiad blynedd ef ym briod yr ail waith ond nid wedi cael plant o honi. hen gariad iddo ydyw cyn iddo briodi Sara ei wraig gyntaf gydar nos stopiodd y gwlaw

yr oedd Henry a Tomeu yn segur heddie. 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
lawr gydar Tren 11Y i Bontypridd
buom trwy y Parchnad 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 llenfiban aethom dros
ochr y canal i fynu a phan
oeddem gerllaw i Ynysgudyw
Pits. cyfarfyddasom a Mr Rowlands
ai wraig ar ei ffordd i Bontypridd
felly trolosom 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 ciniau 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 gofic at fy
Ewrth laweroedd o weithiau mae ef
yn hen wr glan yr ollt ai wallt
yn wyn. gwelais hefyd Mr
Edmund Thomas Llwyncelyn
gynt a mawr mor serchus ydoedd
yr oedd am i mi ddod i lawr
i Benarth am iw gweled
hwy
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 Ynysgudyw
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 Llwyncelyn
Earlier and he was so amiable
he wanted me to come down
to Penarth to see
them
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
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*

*1887
yn gollwng danaf gan mor
gyflym oedd yn mynd ar waeld y Pwll mae yno le ardderchog o gyfleis. maer cyfian 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 waeld y Pwll maer ddrum lwn yn bwrwr ddrum 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 Ingine 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 afiechyd oddi yma etto at y Furnace maer outlet hon yn anghyffredin o faer 13ft o uchder wrth 13ft o led yn y gwaeld mae ganddynt ddarn o Sheet-Iron yn ongion wrth dop y Furnace ychydig tu fas ir grate [Bars?] er mwn taflu yr awyr yn nes ir tan ac y mae yn creu cyflymder mawr yr yr awyr oddi yma aethum yn y blaen ar hyd y gwaith

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.
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

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?] (Batry) 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 rbwio yn ei gilydd nid
oes gwhaniaeth yn mhle ar y
line y cyffyrdu ar y wire
maer Signal ar unwaith yn dy yr
Ingine yno mae cloch yn canu
dyfais rhagorol ydyw yn mhob
ystyr am y reswm gellir stopio
ar unwaith. y mae pob peth yn
atteb 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
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

heibio i bob gweithiwr y lle mor iach yn y fac ag ydyw ar yr heading trwy y weithiennod ydyw trwy
4ft yn lo glan wedi teithio trwy wahanol rhanau or gwaith dych welasom at i waelod y Pwll yr oedd erbyn hyn yn 3 o gloch y mae yn oer iawn ar waelod y Pwll gan gynnwys 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 mhosyn 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 amrywethau mewn cysylltiad or gwaith yn mlith pethai 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
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
to 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
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[?0] 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
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
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
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 Penrywynt 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 from Margaret tonight and one from Blaenavon from Mrs. Jenkins

Boreu 1/19/87 Mercher
maen Bwr gwlaw 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 lllythyr 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

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wasgu arno i anfon tua thre maint ynawyddus 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 dddod yn ol Henry Tom am 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 y Train 11. yr oedd yn angladd gryf iawn ag ystyrred yr amser or dydd tyrfa fawr yn ceisio talu y gyrnwyrnys olaif ir ffyddlon ar Duwiol Thomas Evans. fe fydd ei golli yn gollwed fawr i Eglwys y Porth. yr oedd yn cael ei gladdu yn Llangennych Shir Freicheiniog 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 Llangennych Breconshire
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 splendid 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.
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 hwyrf iawn yn codi
wedi cael brecwast aethum
am dro ir Pentre i edrych
am mam Mrs Wrixon wedi
oli ac ela llawer cefais afail
yn yr hen wraig aig y gwzw.
pan es i mewn yr oedd hi yn
golchu ar y prydd ac yntau
yn eistedd yn y gadair fawr
wrth y tan a Bandage ar ei
Lygaid mawr mor fodiavn
oedd yr hen wraig 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 hynwy wedi effeithio
yn fawr ar ei olygon nenwedig
ei lygaid chw’r bu rywbeth
yn tyfu ar hwn a bu yn
Bristol tua 6 wythnos ym

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
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
John fy mhrawd mae ef yn hoffi ei le yn fawr daeth Lysi a [?]
Case yn Bresont i Sara Jane. aethum i orphwys yn brydion heno 1/23/87
Boreu Sabbboth diwnnod Sych. mae Cwrdd sefydlu heddyw a foreu yn yr Ynishir yr wyf wedi addaw myned i fynu felly aethum i fynu erbyn 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 “Penygroses yn efeithiol iawn ei destyn Gwylia ar dy droed pan ddeych 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 i'r tri enwad B. T.C. ar A am ddau yr oedd Parch Williams Hafod ac Owen yn pregethu. Cawsom bregethu da. Owens ar i saith Canwyllhren ar Saith Seren welodd Ioan yr ynis Patmos. aethum at Sara Ann a William i de aeth Azeriah 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

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 “Penygroses” 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 Lysa’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.
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 sufferring
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
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.
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
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 ¾ 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
o dan y Steam Boilers maer gwaith
newydd ar stop (Tân) waith mae ganddo
dau dy da iawn wedi i Buildio
ac mewn sefyll da dda a chysurus
gelwais hefyd yn nhy Wm Jenkins
brawd Lewis Jenkins nid oedd ef yn y ty
gelly ni arosais yma aeth Jinkin
Edwards a minau i weled yr hen Batch
lle yr oedd ynt 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 mhoďryb erbyn
5½ or gloch cefais hwy oll yn iach
ac yn falch iawn cael gafael yn[w?]
tua naw or gloch daeth Tom Jinkins
i fynu er mwyn cael tipyn o hanes
Lewis ei frwd 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 mhoďryb
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
slaradais ychydig eiriau ag ef
tra yr oedd y train yn seflyll
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
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
ac wedi bod yn hynod o ofalus
ai mam ai merched yr un modd
yr wyf yn credu el 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 oeddyn 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 bwyta bwyd yma
yma cyrhaeddais adref tua 9 o gloch
cefais hwynt oll fel arfer
dynar daith trwy greigiau
a mynyddau a chymoedd cilion
ofnadwy.

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Train</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hock</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tei for Ly</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seph.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C[?]</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coat</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hat &amp; Tei</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Chorlale?]** Hopkin died May 1st 1841
Gwylmy 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

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.

[92]***

The remaining pages (92-96) mainly comprise lists of expenses, names and miscellaneous notes. Welsh to English translations are provided here only as needed.
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 Hughes
Deid mai 2. 1885 bu 2 flwydd
yn glaf. Cafodd amser a chystudd
hir a phoenus
Church 45 Pendaran
mae Mrs Hughes 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.

David Hughes
Died May 2, 1885 after 2 years of
sickness. His suffering was
long and painful
Church 45 Pendaran
Mrs Hughes 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.
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
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  
[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  
Pw11tice  
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  

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
Cwm y Rhondda
Capelau Llanwyno. 113
Lantrisant
Eglwysi 15

Wm Farr
Gwaen y Bara Bach
Ymladd y [__?]
nr Caerffili
[__?] 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
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 1\textsuperscript{st} 1841

Gwylym Hopkin died Dec 26\textsuperscript{th} 1855

Ann Hopkin [died] apr 28\textsuperscript{th} 1856 age 19

Father Wm Hopkin died aug 18\textsuperscript{th}/57 age 50

Mother S Hopkin Died May 26/82 age 73

Margaret’s father William Hopkin died Aug 18\textsuperscript{th} 1857 at age 50

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, Gwylym, and Ann may be siblings of Margaret.

Page 95
The Herbert family – author William Herbert and his family

Dd Herbert was born Dec 7\textsuperscript{th} 1817

Died April 17 1885

David Herbert, father of William

Jane Gibbon was born March 22\textsuperscript{nd} 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 3\textsuperscript{rd} 1848

Edward Herbert, brother of William

Wm Herbert Born Sept 23\textsuperscript{rd} 1850

William Herbert, the author of the diary

Eb\textsuperscript{1} Herbert Born Nov 12\textsuperscript{th} 1852

Elizabeth Herbert, sister of William, called Lysa in the diary

H Herbert Born July 18\textsuperscript{th} 1856

Henry Herbert, brother of William
C. Herbert Born Aug 10th 1860 died Dec 24th 1860

Thom Herbert Born July 18th 1862

John Herbert Born March 26th 1865

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

Ed Gibbon Born
Died Jan 26th 1858

Ely Gibbon Born June 1824

sibling of William, possibly Catherine

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

John Herbert, brother of William

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

Edward Gibbon, father of Jane (Gibbon) Herbert

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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