

## The Dillwyn Collection

The Journals of Lewis Llewelyn Dillwyn (b.1814 d.1892)

Transcribed by Richard Morris

©Richard Morris and the family of Lewis Llewelyn Dillwyn

The unpublished journals of Lewis Llewelyn Dillwyn from 1833 to 1892 have been transcribed by Richard Morris and are made available for academic and research use. Copyright in the diaries remains with the family and requests for other use or further publication should be made to the address below.

Note: This is a working edition of the journals that have been transcribed over a number of years by Richard Morris. This edition includes inconsistencies in presentation and orthography – in part due to inconsistencies in the originals. This work is presented to aid research into the Dillwyn family and related topics. It is part of an ongoing project that aims in the future to bring together a number of diaries and to convert them to modern, marked-up formats that will allow more powerful features and searching.

For further information on this and other collections please visit:

[www.swansea.ac.uk/lis/historicalcollections](http://www.swansea.ac.uk/lis/historicalcollections)

### Contact Information:

Archives  
Library and Information Services  
Swansea University  
Singleton Park  
Swansea  
SA2 8PP

[archives@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:archives@swansea.ac.uk)

*D4 Wales Tour 1838*

*Written by Bessie Dillwyn & Lewis Llewelyn Dillwyn*

Journal of our tour in North Wales in the Autumn of 1838

Llandilo. August 21.

We left Penllergare at about half past one o'clock this afternoon and came on here by the Cross hands. We walked down & made sketches near the Bridge –

Aberistwith. August 22<sup>nd</sup>

We left Llandilo this morning at ½ [?] past 9 & arrived at this town about 6 o'clock after passing through Lampeter & Aberaron on our road. The prettiest view we have seen today was one nearly half way between Llandilo & Lampeter. It was a small tho' very pretty lake surrounded by wooded hills, & on our side arose a ruin either of an Abbey or old Castle. quite unaltered [?] with ivy. Both Lewis & myself were rather wishing to make a sketch of the whole scene, but unfortunately for us the ground had been soaked by recent heavy rains & the day was moreover both cold & stormy.

Dolgelly 23<sup>rd</sup> 1838

We started from Aberistwith this morning about 11 o'clock amid showers of rain & a very high wind. The first part of our road was far from uninteresting & we might have caught a fine view of Plynlimon had not some envious clouds totally obscured its summit leaving us nothing but imaginations as to what it might be like under more favourable auspices. About half way to Machynlleth we burst on some beautiful scenery with fine wild mountains on the background. The sun too, now broke out from amid the clouds gilding the middle distance & lighting up the foreground, whilst the high mountains beyond continued of the darkest grey with mists still hovering over & clinging to their loftiest peaks. Thus style of view continued nearly the whole way to Machynlleth where we changed horses. Our road then wound along the side of a steep valley with mountains rising on either side of it and a little roaring mountain torrent foaming & splashing beneath fed as it was by almost innumerable little streams rushing down from all sides among the wood & rock dashing about in continued cascades.

The pass beneath Cader Idris is most beautiful, & would quite shame any description I could attempt of it. Lewis made two or three very pretty sketches on our way, one more particularly so, looking back on the Lake of Taly Llyn. We arrived at Dolgelly about 7 o'clock

*[next part written by Lewis Llewelyn Dillwyn]*

Dolgelly August 24.

This morning the weather was cloudy & unpromising - about midday however our guide (Ric<sup>d</sup> Pugh Jun<sup>r</sup>) seeing the clouds begin to lift foretold that it would be a fine day, and we accordingly started for Cader Idris, Bessie on a poney and I on foot – from our inn to the summit of the mountain it is about 6 miles. On our way to the ascent we passed the quarries of which the greater part of the town is built – the stone app-ears to be a kind of greenish granite and is very hard – the mountain in general seems to be composed of a sort of slate – as our Guide had predicted the day turned out very fine, and those clouds that occasionally drifted

by & surrounded, or kept boiling & eddying in the in the *[sic]* mountain lakes below us, when we were on the summit, only added beauty to the scene, by the splendid effect of light and shadow they afforded – We got back to our quarters here about 5 o'clock, very well satisfied with our expedition and intent upon ascending the mountain once more - we made several sketches which will give us some hours occupation in making out. About a quarter of the way up the mountain I found a patch of *[sic]* what I should have taken to be sand Roses – the Guide said that they had pink flowers & that there were not many of them –

Dolgelly. August 25.

The Weather was bad so we staid at home all day and made out our sketches – Bessie had a bad headache all afternoon, so that I was glad we had not started for an expedition among the mountains, as we had purposed to do, had the day been fine –

Dolgelly. August 26.

This morning being fine we took a walk up the valley leading to Bala for about a couple of miles, as we went up we kept to the high road, but on our return we varied our route by following a little lane that kept on the high ground above the road – the views looking up and down the valley are very beautiful, and we intend should tomorrow be clear, to employ ourselves in making some sketches of them – In the afternoon we went to church where there is an English service --

Dolgelly. August 27

Though there has been little or no rain al day, the clouds have kept so low that it was impossible to see any of the mountain views in the neighbourhood – at about twelve o'clock however we went to see a torrent in the grounds of Mr Richards situated between two and three miles from this town – it is hardly to be called a Waterfall as it consists of several small falls and rapids – nevertheless it is far better worth seeing than many regular waterfalls that I have visited, the clearness of the water and the ruggedness of the Rocks among which it dashes and frets, rendering it very beautiful; while we were viewing it we met a gentleman of the neighbourhood of the name of Edwards, who very good naturedly shewed us the best points to see it from, & also gave us a good deal of information as to what was to be seen in the vicinity – When we had seen this Bessie returned to the Inn and I tried the river with my fishing rod for a couple of hours but had very little sport –

Taly,Llyn. August 28.

The sun shone out brightly this morning and we thought that we should have a fine day and accordingly at about 12 o'clock we left Dolgelly for this Bessie on horseback and I on foot, before we arrived at the beginning of the scent to Cader Idris however the rain came on with such violence that we were soon wet through – in spite of this we persevered and before we got to the saddle of the Mountain as it is called, the rain had ceased although the mountains continued to be enveloped in clouds, this however did not much matter to us as we had seen all the distant views on the 24<sup>th</sup> and the scenery of the mountain itself was rendered more grand that it would have been on a fine day, by the clouds partially clearing away and showing the black precipices around us with their

summits & bases, lost in other clouds: when we stood on the edge of the Craig y Caa this effect was particularly fine – our route when we left the Saddle was over the Craig y Caa and Mynydd Pen Coed down the side of which we descended, & it certainly was the steepest descent I ever came down; the Guide led the poney & Bessie walked or rather crept down – we accomplished it however in safety, & Pugh told us that Bessie was the first Lady that ever came down that way – We soon afterwards arrived here which is a small inn – little better than a public house but beautifully situated –

*[Written by Bessie]*

Taly Llyn. August 29.

The early part of the day was rather showery & Lewis set off for a fishing expedition on the Lake. the clouds however cleared away about 12 o'clock & the sun shone out most brightly so that we determined on walking around Taly Llyn in search of the picturesque & fully were we rewarded by the most beautiful views we saw & sketched. On our return to the Inn we procured a boat & again went out fishing – but the Trout were not in a complacent mood & resolutely refused the choicest & apparently most tempting flies that were offered them –

Taly Llyn. August 30<sup>th</sup>

A glorious day we have had for our visit to Llyn Caa! – Bright & sunny with just enough of chillness in the air to make one prize warm sunshine the more from the knowledge of how short a time it will longer last to gladden us – We rowed up from our Inn to the head of the Taly Llyn where we left the boat & commenced ascending the pass to Llyn Caa. The first part of the path wound up a well wooded gorge, watered by a little foaming torrent that rushed in innumerable cascades among the large blocks of rock, & was overhung by many noble old trees.

The scenery as we advanced became wilder & more Mountainous & we very soon left behind us all traces of vegetation excepting the turf & heather & some few other hardy dwarf plants that dare [?] the inclemency of a winter on Cader Idris – Both Lewis & myself were delighted with Llyn Caa. The mountains rise precipitously on all sides of it but the most beautiful of them is the Craig y Caa which is seen to such advantage from the summit of Cader Idris. After having passed a pleasant half hour or so in admiring this splendid scenery, we again descended into the valley & reached our Inn about ½ past 5 o'clock, much pleased with our days excursion. Lewis caught 20 trout today among the mountain streams we passed.

*{written by Lewis}*

Dolgellau. August 31.

We left Tal y Llyn between 11 and 12 o'clock this morning Bessie on a poney and I on foot, we came along the lake and then up the pass under Cader Idris on the Machynlleth road – about 4 miles from this, Bessie sent the poney on with the Guide, and accompanied me down a little stream, which I tried for fish – after fishing down for about ½ a mile as the trout did not rise, we came on here, where we arrived about ½ past 4 o'clock, the whole distance from TalyLlyn is about 9 miles

Dolgellau. September 1

The weather this morning was doubtful and we remained at home till nearly 2 o'clock in hopes it might clear, at that time however we set out to see the Waterfalls of Rhaider Ddu and Pistill Cain – we had not got far on our way when the rain set in very heavily but we persevered and got to the nearest (the Rhaider Ddu) about 6½ miles from this place – it is worth seeing though not by any means a large or fine fall – after we had seen this it rained so determinedly that we were obliged to turn our steps homewards without seeing the Pistill Cain – Dolgellau. September 2

This afternoon We took a walk up towards Nannau park by some pleasant lanes commanding a very fine view of Cader Idris and the neighbouring mountains

Dolgelly. September 3.

As we intend to leave this place tomorrow Bessie & I took a walk above the town to make a sketch of the range of Cader Idris and the Bala valley which we did and then returned here and were busily employed in making out sketches –

*[Written by Bessie]*

Harlech September 4<sup>th</sup>

A charming day we have had for travelling along a charming road, winding by the banks of a beautiful estuary to Barmouth & afterwards continuing within sight of the sea to Harlech, which is the most beautifully situated place I ever visited. Before dinner we explored the ruins of the old castle which rise majestically above the plain continuing to the Sea. It is built on a steep & lofty rock & must have been quite inaccessible excepting from the side nearest the village. The view it commands is most extensive of Snowdon & a fine range of high mountains stretching far out to sea & nothing can be finer than the outline they present. Both Lewis & myself made some sketches before we returned to the Inn to dinner.

*[Written by Lewis]*

Harlech. September 5<sup>th</sup>

The morning being fine we set off at about 11 o'clock to see Cwm Bychan – the distance to the farther end of the lake which is situated there is about 6 miles as near as I could guess – when we had proceeded about a third of the way a succession of showers annoyed us for nearly an hour after which the weather cleared up and we had the rest of the day without any rain to speak of – the valley leading up to the Cwm is very prettily wooded with a rocky and rapid stream brawling down it – As we had expected a great deal from it we were somewhat disappointed with Cwm Bychan as it certainly is not to compare with some of the scenery about Cader Idris, nevertheless we were much pleased with it on the whole and were not at all sorry that we had made the expedition. The lake must be about a third of a mile long and we were told is very deep in some parts – on one side of it a very fine & high mountain rises abruptly and at about ½ or ¾ of a mile from the farther end of it some other mountains of the same description shew themselves to great advantage – I took my fishing rod and caught ½ a dozen fish, one of which I took out of the lake. it was about a ¼ of a pound & was the strongest fish of his size I ever took –

*[Written by Bessie]*

Beddgelart September 6<sup>th</sup>

Lewis was far from well this morning & suffered from a very bad headache. We consequently deferred our departure from Harlech until about ½ past 12 or 1 o'clock when we started for Ian y Bwleh on our way hither. the whole line of the road is extremely beautiful & we much admired it notwithstanding the heavy rain, which continued to fall nearly the whole afternoon. The pass of the Pont Aber Glaslyn is exceedingly fine & only a mile & a half from our excellent Hotel so that we promise ourselves many good sketches of its beauties. Indeed I think there is scarcely any part of the road between Beddgelart & Dolgelley passing round Barmouth, Harlech & Ian y bwleh that would not make a study for a painter. The sun shone out towards evening & Lewis & I took a pleasant walk up the valley continuing from the village. We saw many evident signs of mining operations [*sic*] in the rubbish heaps thrown out from the sides of the mountains and alas & alas for the picturesque if they turn this into a mining country.

The Naaids of the Glaslyn will soon have to sing dirges over the clear waters of their beautiful river & lament the cool shades they have so long delighted in – In good earnest however it does seem a sad pity to destroy such charming scenery but I suppose one must console oneself by believing it all for the beautiful interest of the community at large –

Beddgelart September 7<sup>th</sup>.

It rained a good deal until about 1 o'clock in the afternoon & indeed did not then quite clear up. Lewis & I however sallied forth for a walk & wended our way along the pass of Pont Aberglaslyn.

In the evening we employed ourselves Lewis in reading & I in working. He sadly wants me to admire Milton as much as he does himself but despite of all my endeavours I have as yet been unable to rouse much of my enthusiasm in favor of the poet.

Beddgelart Sept<sup>r</sup>. 8<sup>th</sup>.

After passing our morning in a most artist like manner busily occupied with drawing papers & pencils, We accompanied Mr Byers to his pet copper mine in the Lygun [?] mountain about a mile & a half or 3 quarters from the village. He there showed us all he had done & told us what he intended to do. He pointed out the run of the Lode & tested some curious brownish looking copper ore, with nitric acid & water in a gold spoon. he then produced what he termed a galvanic action with a zinc plate and the copper deposited [?] itself on the gold separating [*sic*] itself from the nitric acid. It was a very pretty experiment but I could not quite comprehend the why & wherefore all this happened, & feel rather curious to find out. We passed some time in scrambling about seeing the different borings &c. & returned to our Hotel laden with various specimens for further examination..

Mr Byers afterwards dined with us & in the evening we had a learned & metaphysical argument on the teachability or non teachability of taste. We both like Mr B very much, he is a clever amusing little man, tho' certainly somewhat conceited.

Beddgelart Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>.

Before church we took a short turn on the Caernarvon road & after church we walked with Mr Byers to the Pontaberglaslyn.  
Afterwards drank tea with us –

Beddgelart Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

Nothing could be finer than the weather we have had today for our expedition to the Summit of Snowdon. We started about 10 in the morning, I on a poney & Lewis walking. The first three miles of our way continued along the high road to Caernarvon & we afterwards turned off into a path through some fields before commencing the steeper part of the ascent which proved to me exceedingly hard work tho' Lewis seemed to treat it as a mere nothing & stalked on as if it were all level ground. From the highest peak of Snowdon we had a most magnificent panoramic view. Mountains on mountains arose beneath us and afar off spread out as an immense tract of country as on a map. Our guide told us that in very clear weather the coast of Ireland, isle of Man, & Cumberland Mountains are distinctly visible. We however saw nothing of them today for altho' the sun shone bright & warm there was a slight haze in the very farthest distance. The North Welsh guide book at our Hotel has just given me to understand that we must have had a view of no less that twenty five Lakes, large & small from our exalted position. We certainly saw a great number, but as I did not count them, I dont know whether this statement is quite a correct one. After resting some time beneath the flagstaff while Lewis was hammering out terebratulæ from the side of a precipice. We set off again, on our return to Beddgelert by the same path by which we had previously ascended the mountain. Lewis fished a few pools of the Colwyn on his way &, tho' in a great hurry caught some very nice trout which we afterwards had for dinner.

*[Written by Lewis]*

Beddgelert. Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>

After breakfast this morning Bessie & I took a sketching walk down to Pont Aberglaslyn – when we got there Bessie did not feel very well, and we returned here as soon as we had taken a sketch a piece – in the afternoon I walked to a lake about 5 miles from here on the Caernarvon road, and tried for trout in it but did not take any – on my way back I fished a few pools in the Colwen stream and took 9 trout –

Llanberis. Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>

At about 12 oclock to day we left Beddgelart – all the morning there was a great deal of rain **[Bessie starts writing here]** which however cleared off a little in the beginning of the afternoon tho' never sufficiently for the sun to shine out which was a great pity for had the day been fine & the mountains clear we should have been able to make some very pretty sketches of the beautiful scenery we were passing through. About a mile & a half or two miles from Beddgelart we wound along the shores of the pretty lake of Llyn Dinas we afterwards passed Llyn Gwinant. The Pass of Llanberis must be an exceeding fine one altho' the tops of the mountains were so entirely enveloped in clouds that we could only guess at what its appearance would be under more favourable circumstances.

We arrived at our Hotel about ½ past 4 Lewis having walked & I ridden from Beddgelart. The carriage & servants had been sent on before us.

Llanberis September 13<sup>th</sup>

This morning we passed in reading & drawing & about 12 o'clock we walked about for a mile up a picturesque little valley to see a very fine Waterfall. We heard that there was another farther up the same stream, but it rained so heavily that I returned to the Inn while Lewis went to explore it. he afterwards came back wet through.

*[Written by Lewis]*

Bangor. Friday. Sept 14<sup>th</sup> –

The weather this morning looked so heavy that we gave up all idea of being able to make a sketch of the pass of Llanberis, and we accordingly left the Victoria Hotel at about 10 or 11 o'clock and drove to Carnarvon where we only stopped long enough to enable us to go to the Post Office and do one or two jobs of shopping. We then came on here, having come a little out of our way to see the Menai Bridge, with which splendid work of art Bessie was delighted – here we are at the Penryn Arms in very good apartments commanding a fine view of Penmaenmawr and Penryn Castle the seat of Mr Pennant –

*[Written by Bessie]*

Liverpool. Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>.

We left Bangor this morning about ½ past 9 or 10 o'clock in the St Mungo Steamer – for Liverpool. the day was *[written by Lewis]* perfectly calm and the whole way the water was as still as a millpond – For the first part of the way there is a fine view of Penrhyn Castle, and the North Welsh Mountains – The distance from Bangor here is 68 miles and it took us rather more than 7 hours to accomplish it – We are here very comfortably lodged at the Waterloo Hotel, which appears to be an excellent house.

Liverpool. Sunday

Sept<sup>r</sup>. 16 –

At 11 o'clock this morning we attended Divine service at the Church of the Blind Asylum and altogether I do not ever remember to have heard a service with which I was so much struck – the chaunting and singing was beautiful, and the only performers were the blind people of the Asylum; one anthem which they sung particularly struck me as being the finest thing I ever heard – After church we took a walk to the Cemetery & St James's Walk which commands a fine view of the town – We dined at ½ past 4 o'clock and at ½ past 6 again went to the church of the Blind Asylum and were again delighted with the service –

*[Written by Bessie]*

Liverpool September 17<sup>th</sup>.

We proceeded at eleven o'clock this morning to the rail way station which is a very handsome building & admirably arranged & adapted *[sic]* in every way for the purpose for which it is intended. All the trains were under cover from the rain &c, & the comfort of passengers and – safe conveyance of Cattle & good seemed to be most thoroughly consulted in all the various accommodations provided for them.



At 11 o'clock precisely [*sic*] we started in our train, which was a first class one for passengers only – I wish I had remembered to count how many coaches there were in the same train – their must have been a great many of them by their length. For the first mile & a quarter we were pulled up a long tunnel cut through the rock & on our emerging again to daylight we were fastened on to a Locomotive steam Engine & whisked along at an almost incredible rate reaching Manchester at a little before 12.0 o'clock, having come at the amazing speed of 30 miles in rather less than an hour from our first starting from Liverpool & this time included a stopping that we made half way to take in a fresh supply of water for the engine. After our arrival at Manchester we set off on a voyage of discovery among the streets searching for something worth looking at but with the exception of one church we saw nothing but rows of smoking brick houses & great warehouses made apparently of the same material but every thing we saw in the whole town, including almost all the men women & Children was so coated with dirt that it was very difficult to find out what their original colour had been –

Indeed it was a shocking sight to see so many squalid [*sic*] unhealthy looking people coming & going from the different manufactories their generally untidy & slatternly appearance more yet more striking by the attempts at finery displayed by the women & girls in sticking long Gilt earrings [*sic*] into their ears & gaily coloured glass beads around their necks – There was but little temptation for us to continue longer than we could possible help in this dismal place & we were glad enough when two o'clock came that we might again take our seats in the return train to Liverpool where we arrived about an hour afterwards & I do not know that I as ever more pleased with a days excursion & sight seeing. Before dinner we went down to see the docks with which I ws very much struck, & we then shopped a little before our return to our Hotel.

*[Written by Lewis]*

Liverpool September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Tuesday

As soon as we had finished breakfast this morning we walked up to the Zoological gardens which are about 1 mile &  $\frac{3}{4}$  from our Hotel – We stayed there for some time and were much pleased with the collection, which is much improved since I was here 4 or 5 years ago; After we satisfied our curiosity respecting various Beasts & Birds located there we returned to the lower part of the town, and among other things went to a curiosity shop where Bessie got a Parroquet for a pet, and I bought several foreign birds for presents, & one very fine specimen of the Pine Cross beak, which was shot in Staffordshire –

Bangor September 19.

Wednesday

We left Liverpool at 10 oclock this morning by the Snowdon Steam packet and had a very fine passage – we arrived here at about a quarter to 5 this afternoon – I forgot to mention in the yesterdays journal that the Curiosity shop (kept by Mr Johnson, Clayton square) was the same one where Papa and John bought the Birds & Shells they brought home from Liverpool when they were there at the meeting of the British Association –

Bangor. September 20

Thursday –

The Penrhyn slate quarries and Llyn Ogwen were our this day Lions- the former of these is about 6 miles form here and the latter 4 miles farther on, along the Capel Curig road – We were very much interested with the slate quarries which are carried on on an immense scale – the man who shewed us round them informed us that at the present time there are 2000 men employed there at about the rate of 25/- per week each man – and that 350 tons of Slate are daily sent down to the shipping place at Port Penrhyn in this place – I observed in the slate several of what looked like Dykes, and one in particular which till it was quarried through formed a regular wall across the Quarry – they are not however of igneous origin & have the same component parts as the surrounding slate their appearance is that of a very hard rock colored with Clorite and interspersed with layers of Quartz – From the slate quarries we proceeded to Llyn Ogwen the pass up to which is very fine – We made some sketches of the Lake and mountains around and then returned to our Hotel here – as soon as we got back I went down to Mr Wyatts Office about specimens of Slate for the Museum of Economic Geology in London – he is Mr Pennants chief Agent and was very civil and said that he would gladly present the specimens required – he also informed me that there is a trap Dyke running through the slate Quarry in one place which I had not observed.

Bangor. Sept<sup>r</sup> 21.

Friday –

As Bessie has got a bad cold we remained here today & employed ourselves in making out Sketches &c –

Bangor. Sept<sup>r</sup>. 22

Saturday

Bessies cold still continuing heavy we made up our minds to remain here till Monday – We did not go out much, but our time was chiefly occupied with our old employment viz. Completing our sketches –

Bangor Sept<sup>r</sup> 23.

Sunday

Bessies cold much better – it rained very heavily this morning & did not leave off till quite the afternoon – I attended the morning service at the Cathedral, where the Bishop preached – at about 5 oclock Bessie and I took a walk in the Garden here which commands a very fine view and is very well laid out –

Capel Curig – Sept<sup>r</sup>. 24.

Monday

The morning was fine and we accordingly took the road over Penmaenmawr to Conway from Bangor – the distance is 14 miles and altogether it is a very pretty drive, although Penmaenmawr fell short of what I had expected – from Conway we came on here through Llanrwst but were not able to see much of the scenery around us, as it began to rain very heavily as we left Conway, and continued to do so all the evening –

*[Written by Bessie]*

Capel Curig Sept<sup>r</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday

Before breakfast this morning Lewis made a very pretty sketch of the 2 Lakes ...?? beneath our Hotel garden & when he had afterwards finished making it ??? we set out for a walk to a fine Waterfall that there is on the Holy Head road about a Mile from Capel Curig. We then explored a woody Land and found in our ramble some exceedingly beautiful plants in flower of the [*a blank here*] some seeds of which we were fortunate enough to find ripe. On our returning to our Hotel Lewis set off to walk round the Lakes which he did, & made some nice sketches on his way. I being rather tired did not accompany him but stayed in doors making out a sketch – The weather has been all day very gloomy with occasional showers –

Dolgellen Sep<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday

We have had a charming drive today from Capel Curig the weather having been exceedingly fine and altho' a great part of the road we passed along was previously known to us, by Beddgelert & Fan y Bwlch yet never had we seen it before under the favourable auspices of a warm bright sunshine & we admired it all the more in proportion to the advantage it deserved from the beautiful effects of brilliant lights & soft dark shadows. From Fan y Bwlch to Dolgelley the scenery was almost like new to us & very pretty. We came a few miles from hence to the same Waterfall of the Rhaider Dhu which we had visited with Pugh, the Guide, some time ago – It is certainly a very fine Fall –

On our arrival here we were kept for some while in great trepidation sitting in the carriage awaiting Mrs Walkers decisions whether there was or was not some room in her Hotel for us to sleep in. She however (luckily for us) finally came to a conclusion that something might somehow be managed which was a fortunate circumstance for us since it was late enough to be almost dark & our only alternative had the Inn been quite full would have been a drive on 17 miles farther to Machynlleth – We however soon comforted ourselves with a good dinner & tea - & shall doubtless soon be fast asleep in bed.

Dolgelley Sep<sup>r</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>

Thursday

*[Written by Lewis]*

This morning the weather being very favorable I set off with R Pugh for an expedition round Cader Idris - Bessie was not quite well and remained home making out sketches &c – Our route lay by Llyn Aran a very pretty lake situated among the precipices on this side of the mountain – we got up them by rather a steep way called Bwlch Llyn Aran and then crossed the back of the mountain to Llyn Cau – this way of approaching it is much the best as the first view you get of it is I think the finest there is of this most beautiful Lake – Altogether I do not ever remember to have seen a place which struck me so much for the wildness and grandeur of the scenery – At the end of the lake, we got up on one side of the Craig y Cau; we then crossed to the saddle, down which we made our way to Lyn Cader & Llyn Gafr, (from both of

which the views are extremely fine) & then returned here by Llyn Gwernan – the descent from the saddle is by no means easy, & it would not do for any body to attempt it who was at all disposed to be giddy – As I went along I fished the streams from Llyn Cau & Llyn Gafr, & soon took 18 trout – We left this at 9 o'clock & returned at 4 –

Llanidloes. Sept<sup>r</sup> 28.

Friday

We left Dolgelly soon after breakfast this morning & came on here through Machynlleth – from Machynlleth here it is one stage of 20 miles with an execrably hilly & bad road for the whole distance – from one of the hills near Plymlumon there is a very fine view of the North Welsh Mountains

Brecon. Sept<sup>r</sup> 29

Saturday

Our road to day lay through Rhaider and Builth – for a great part of the way we came down the valley of the Wye which is very pretty in that part –

Brecon. Sept<sup>r</sup> 30

Sunday

As we are in comfortable quarters here, we thought it would be our best plan to remain here today, and to get on to Merthyr early tomorrow – Though the weather is very fine some clouds have been hanging about the point of the Vans of Brecon all day, so that we have not been able to get a view of them –

*[Written by Bessie]*

Sketty Hall October 1<sup>st</sup>

Monday

This morning we started very early from Brecon in order that we might leave plenty of time to see the Iron Works at Merthyr before proceeding on our journey onwards to Neath. We arrived at the former place in excellent time and having left the carriage at the Inn walked down to Mr Crossier's works where found Mr W.C. who good naturedly showed us all the different processes the Iron underwent before casting & I was much struck with the ingenious method they have of making different sized Iron bars with rollers. We afterwards waited to see a furnace tapped & most extraordinary it was to see the red liquid metal running along into the various ... *[unreadable word]* molds prepared for its reception. We were both much interested in the beautiful machinery made us eof in these works & I must say, for my own part I could willingly have remained a much longer time to examine their modes of working A new water wheel that had just been completed was lager than any I had ever before seen in Cornwall.

At about ½ past one we again set forward on our journey & greatly did we admire the beautiful Neath Valley – We were detained some time at Neath awaiting horses to take us to Swansea but we were at length started & had proceeded as far as Morris town when to our astonishment who should drive past us but Mrs & Mrs Dillwyn and Mary, on their way to meet us at the Lamb & Flag preparatory to an expedition – they had planned to visit the Neath Waterfalls. This mistake in time had been occasioned by our having originally proposed to return to Sketty tomorrow (Tuesday) instead of this evening – We were both instead rejoiced to see them all again & their horses heads were soon turned homewards where we assembled merrily around the drawing room fire & a general recounting of Adventures took place –

*[end]*

## INDEX – 1836 (D4) Tour of Wales

- , Mr & Mrs L W, 13  
Aberaron, 2  
Aberistwith, 2  
Bala, 3, 5  
Bangor, 8, 9, 10  
Bangor Cathedral, 10  
Barmouth, 5, 6  
Beddgelart, 6, 7  
Beddgelert, 7, 11  
Brecon, 12  
Brecon., 12  
Builth, 12  
Bwlch Llyn Aran, 11  
Byers, Mr, 6, 7  
Cader Idris, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11  
Caernarvon, 7  
Capel Curig, 10, 11  
Carnarvon, 8  
Colwyn river, 7  
Conway, 10  
Craig y Caa, 4  
Craig y Cau, 11  
Cross hands, 2  
Crossier, Mr W  
    iron works owner, 12  
Curiosity shop  
    Clayton Square, 9  
Cwm Bychan, 5  
Dillwyn, Bessie, 2  
Dillwyn, Mary, 13  
Dolgellau, 4, 5  
Dolgellen, 11  
Dolgelley, 6, 11  
Dolgelly, 2, 3, 5, 12  
Edwards, Mr, 3  
Fan y Bwlch, 11  
Glaslyn, 6  
Harlech, 5, 6  
Holy Head, 11  
Ian y bwlch, 6  
Ian y Bwleh, 6  
Johnson, Mr  
    keeper of Curiosity shop, 9  
Lamb & Flag, 13  
Lampeter, 2  
Liverpool, 8, 9  
Liverpool Blind Asylum  
    church, 8  
Liverpool Zoological Gardens, 9  
Llanberis, 7, 8  
Llandilo, 2  
Llandilo., 2  
Llanidloes, 12  
Llanrwst, 10  
Llyn Aran, 11  
Llyn Caa, 4  
Llyn Cau, 11  
Llyn Dinas, 7  
Llyn Gafr, 11  
Llyn Gwernan, 12  
Llyn Gwinant, 7  
Llyn Ogwen, 10  
Lyn Cader, 11  
Machynlleth, 2, 4, 11, 12  
Manchester, 9  
Menai Bridge, 8  
Merthyr, 12  
Morris, 13  
Mynydd Pen Coed, 4  
Nauids of the Glaslyn, 6  
Nannau park, 5  
Neath, 12  
Neath Waterfalls, 13  
North Wales  
    tour, 2  
North Welsh Mountains, 8  
Penllergare, 2  
Penmaenmawr, 8, 10  
Pennant, Mr, 10  
    of Penryn Castle, 8  
Penrhyn Castle, 8  
Penrhyn slate quarries, 10  
Penryn Arms, 8  
Penryn Castle, 8  
Pistill Cain  
    waterfalls, 5  
Plymlumon, 12  
Plynlumon, 2  
Pont Aber Glaslyn, 6  
Pont Aberglaslyn, 6, 7  
Pontaberglaslyn, 7  
Pugh, Mr  
    a guide, 11  
    guide?, 4  
Rhaider, 5, 11, 12  
Rhaider Ddu  
    waterfalls, 5  
Rhaider Dhu  
    waterfall, 11

Ric<sup>d</sup> Pugh, 2  
Richards, Mr, 3  
Sketty Hall, 12  
Snowdon, 5, 7, 9  
St Mungo Steamer, 8  
Taly Llyn, 3, 4

Taly Llyn lake, 2  
Waterloo Hotel, 8  
Wyatt, Mr  
specimanes of slate for Museum of  
Economic Geology. Mr Pennant's chief  
agent, 10