



Creunant

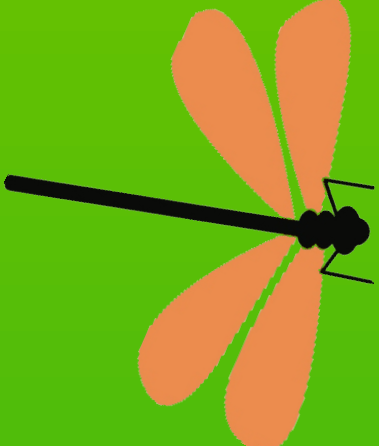
The surveying work took the Wallace brothers far and wide introducing them to the vast landscape and natural features throughout the Vale of Neath still evident today.

One of these expeditions took them on foot through the Dulais Valley to the county boundary at Pont Nedd Fechan. The Dulais Valley was undeveloped at this time, with an absence of heavy industry the community was made up of farms, brewers, mills, small scale collieries and an iron works.





The Red Lion, Creunant

Wallace stayed at a number of lodgings including what he describes as a small beer shop in the hamlet of Crynant, It is thought that the public house in question was the Red Lion, now a private residence but from 1841 it was run by widow and licensed victualler, Gwenllian Johnson.



The landlady here brewed her own beer in a very primitive fashion in a large iron pot...in the washhouse, and had it ready for sale in a few days – a rather thick and sweetish liquor, but very palatable...



In my bedroom there was a large oak chest, which I had not taken the trouble to look in, and one morning very early I heard my door open very slowly and quietly. I wondered what was coming. A man came in, cautiously looking to see if I was asleep. I wondered if he was a robber or a murderer, but lay quite still. He moved very slowly to the big chest, lifted the lid, put in his arm, groped about a little, and then drew out a large piece of hung beef! The chest contained a large quantity bedded in oatmeal. My mind was relieved, and I slept on till breakfast time.

