

DANIEL JAMES

CALON LÂN

DANIEL JAMES – HIS EARLY YEARS

- ▶ Daniel James was born on 23rd January, 1848, in Lisbon cottage in Llangyfelach Road, Treboeth, near Morriston, Swansea
- ▶ His parents, Daniel and Mary, were both confirmed chapel-goers and, as a young boy, Daniel would attend chapel at Mynyddbach, Treboeth
- ▶ His formal schooling was minimal; he did attend a nearby ‘dame’ school (J. H. Vivian’s Hafod Copperworks school) until this was cut short by the death of his father, and he had to become the family bread winner

DANIEL JAMES – HIS EARLY YEARS

- ▶ John Vivian moved his family from Cornwall to Swansea when he became a partner in a copper works
- ▶ Although copper ore was mined in Cornwall the geography of South Wales and the location of the rivers made it possible to deliver the ore to the works for smelting
- ▶ The refined metal was transported to the Midlands where factories were in need of a constant supply. South Wales was conveniently located between the two areas

Mynyddbach Chapel, Treboeth



DANIEL JAMES

Blue Plaque at Capel Mynyddbach

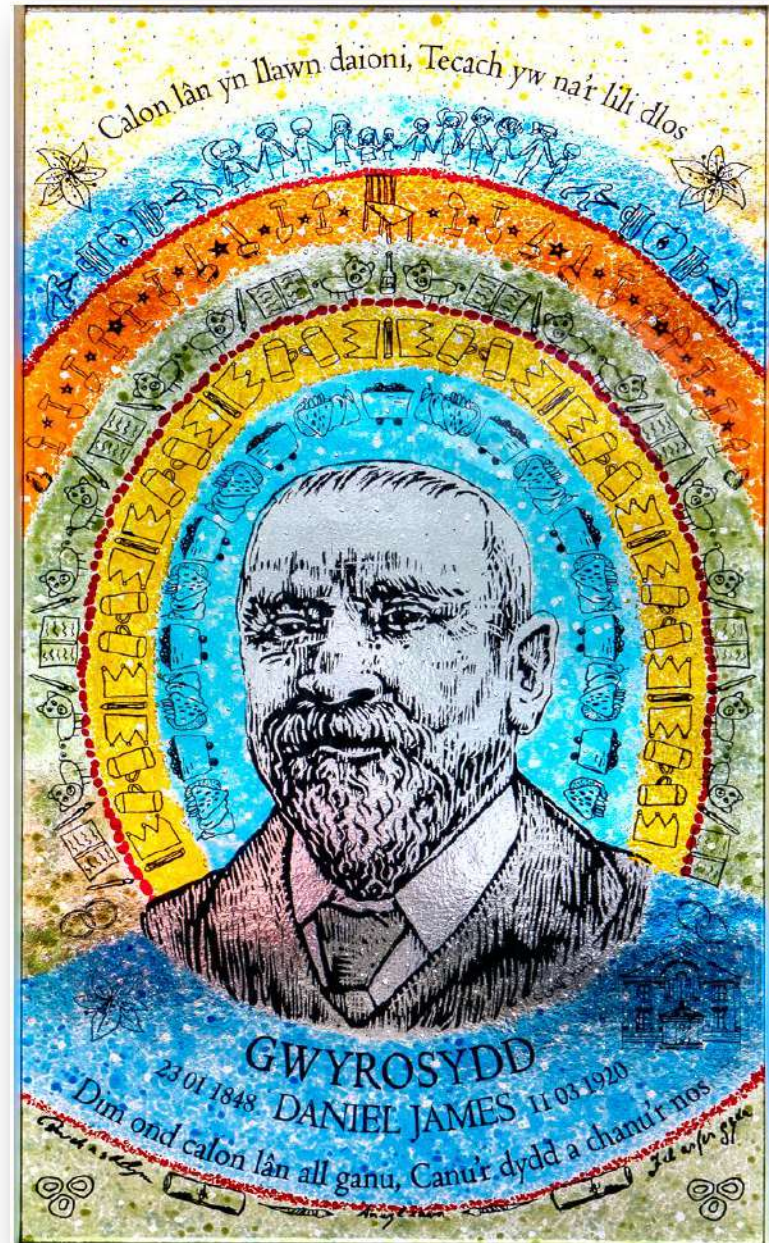




Inside Mynyddbach Chapel, Treboeth

DANIEL JAMES

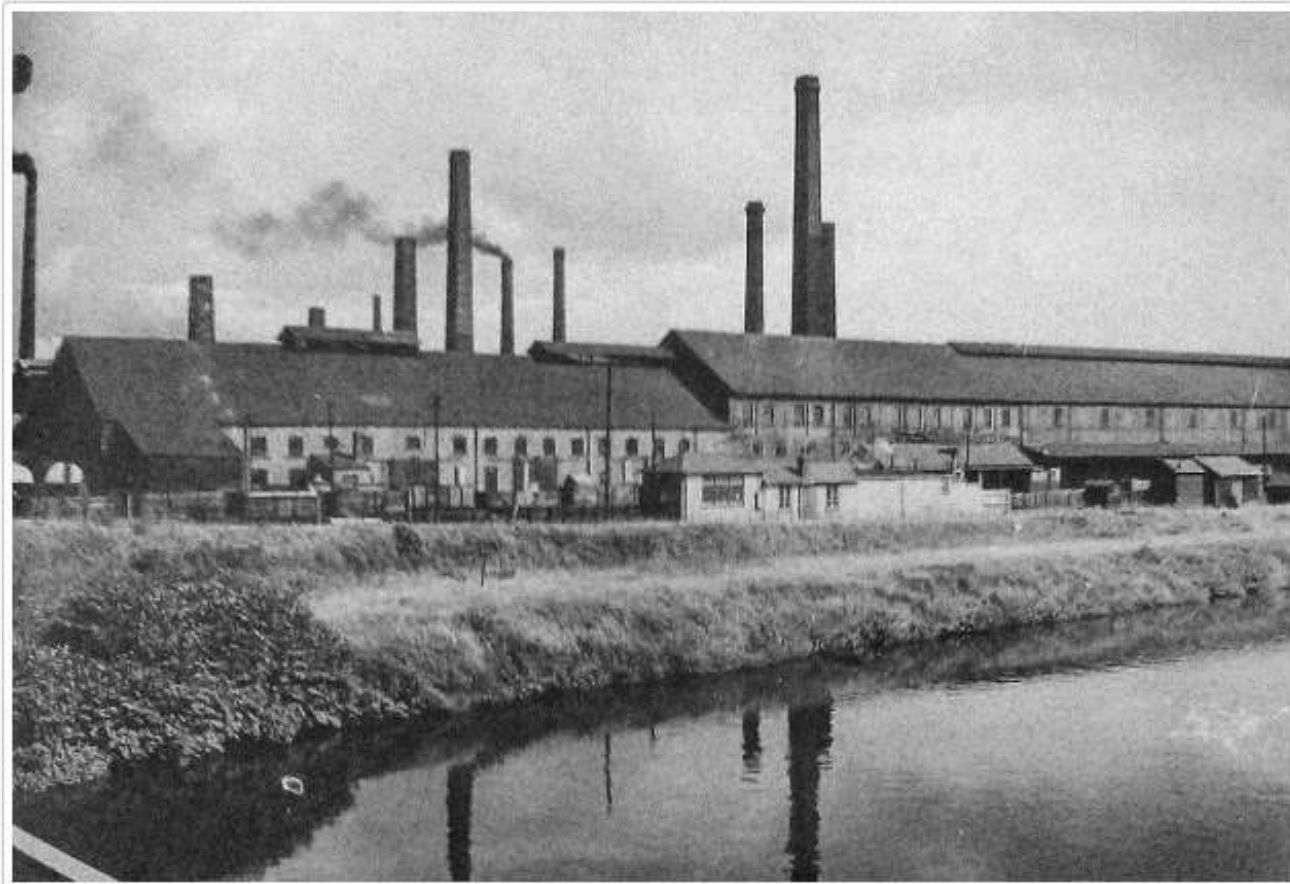
Stained Glass window
in the foyer of Capel
Mynyddbach



DANIEL JAMES – A CHILD WORKER

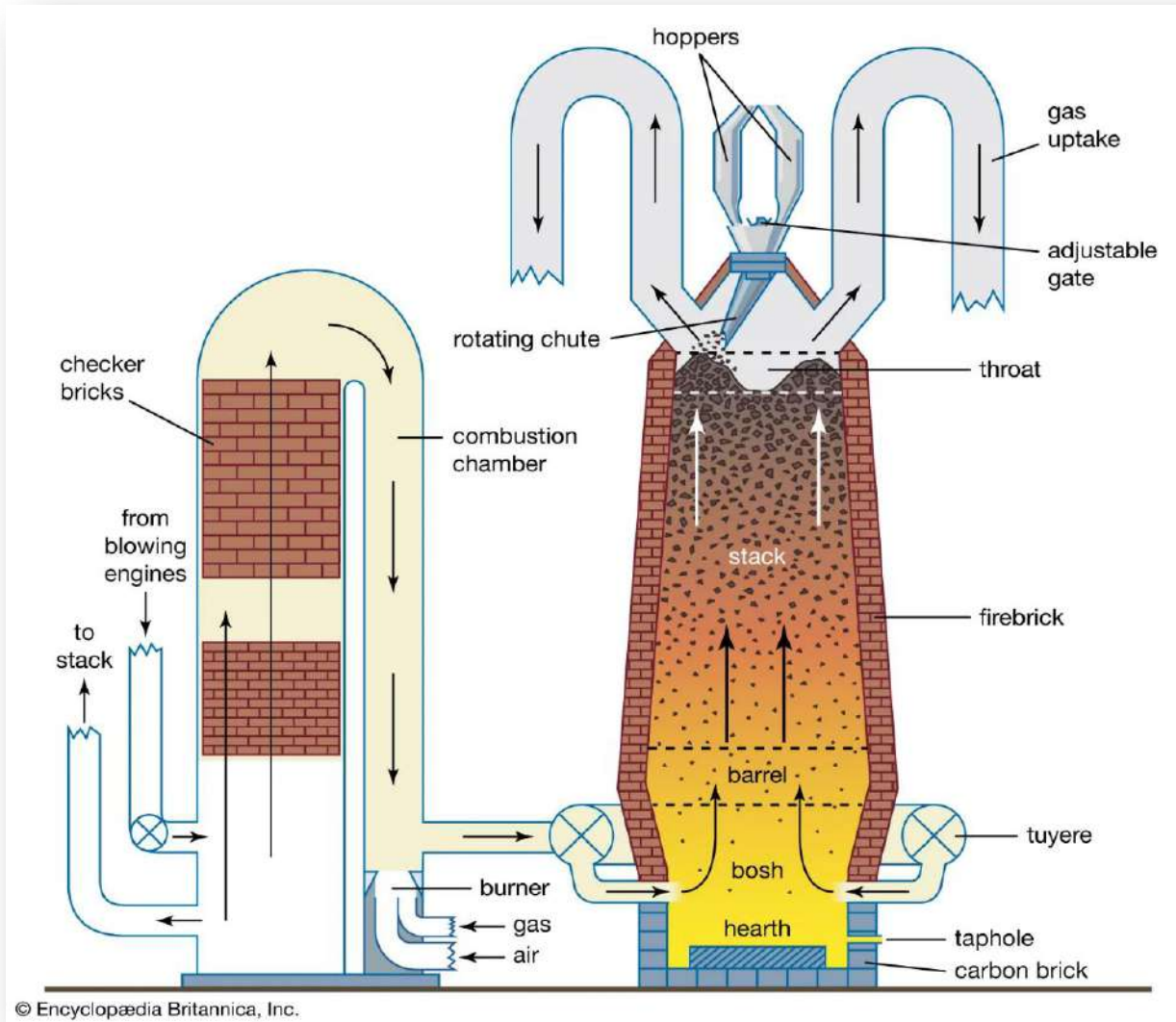
- ▶ In 1861, at the age of 13, he started full time work as a manual worker at **Morrison Ironworks**
- ▶ He built up his strength and skills to become a ‘puddler’ whose job entailed estimating how much carbon went into the mix to make the iron
- ▶ The wages for this job were reasonable, but Daniel took a job at **Llandore Tinplate works** to make ends meet and to enable him to continue looking after his family

DANIEL JAMES - MORRISTON IRONWORKS



1950 Dyffryn Plasmarl Morriston, river Tawe in foreground

How Iron is Made



Young iron puddler

Leaning on his long tongs, this young iron puddler helper posed for a photograph in the early 1860s

Puddling is a process which entails converting pig iron into wrought iron



How Iron is made from Iron Ore

- ▶ The ingredients to make useable iron were limestone, ironstone, coke and air. The coke is the fuel and the ironstone provides the iron ore. Ironstone is first roasted in calcining kilns, located next to the blast furnaces, to remove impurities. The air, or blast, was blown into the blast furnace by powerful steam engines. (They used cold air until 1828 when it was discovered that hot blast produced better quality iron)
- ▶ Air is required to keep the mixture burning inside the furnace. Limestone is added because it combines with the impurities in the iron ore and acts as a flux. This mixture of limestone and impurities is called slag – this was not wanted and was removed from the blast furnaces by opening a tap from which the slag would flow once it had floated to the top of the mixture

DANIEL JAMES LANDORE TINPLATE WORKS

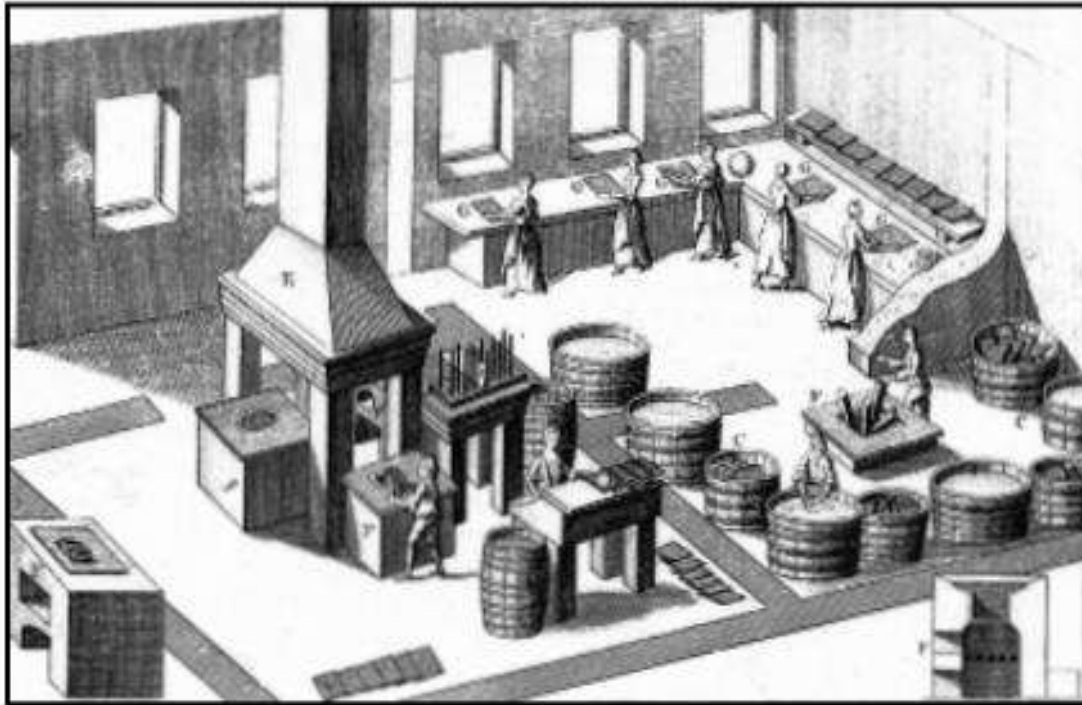


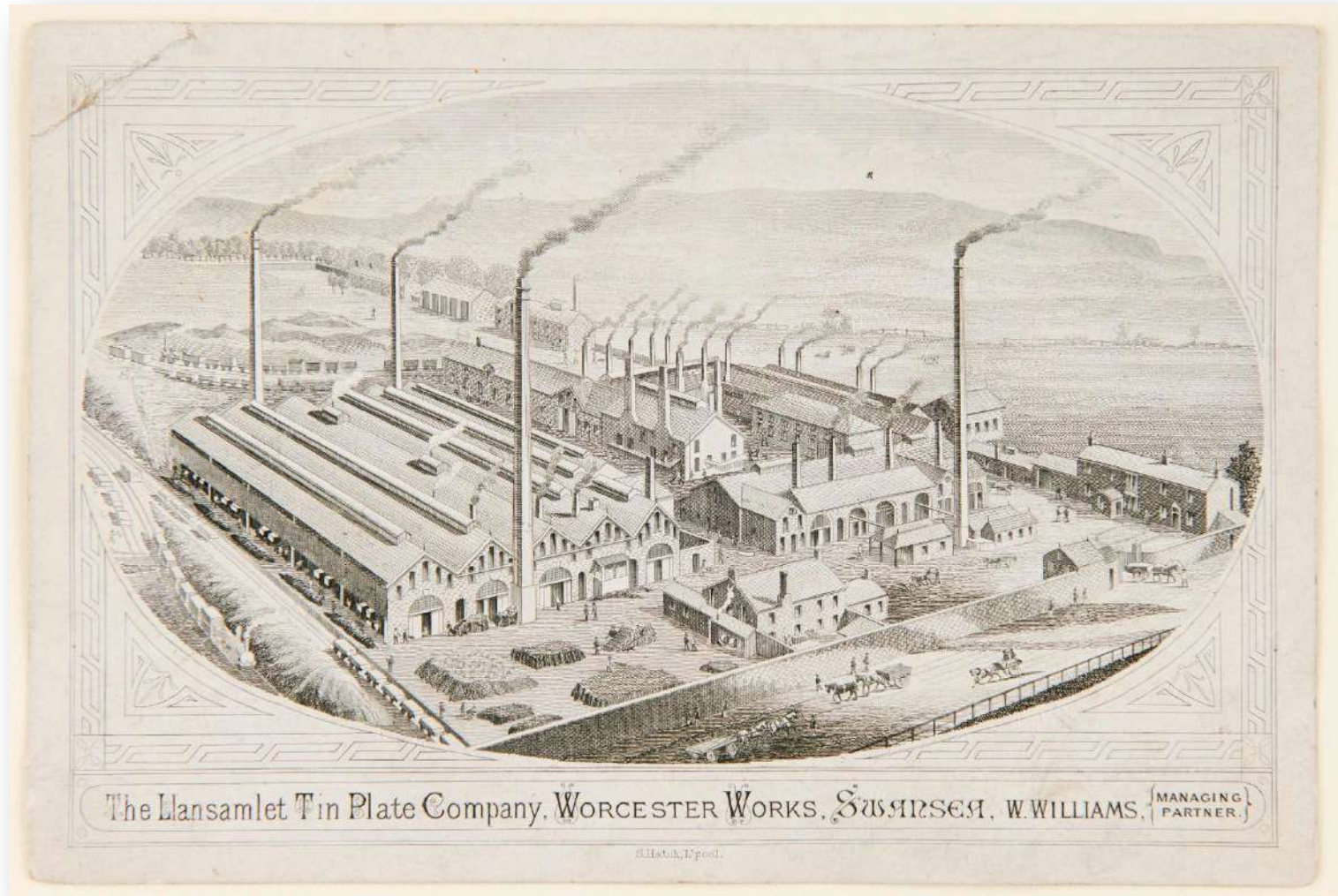
Figure 1
One of the earliest tinplate manufacturing plants.

Tinplate is a very important outlet for tin since it represents about 30% of total tin consumption. Today there are many alternative materials in the packaging market, particularly aluminium and PET. There has been a trend towards the use of thinner tin coatings and lighter yet equally strong steel substrates.

How Tin Plate is Made

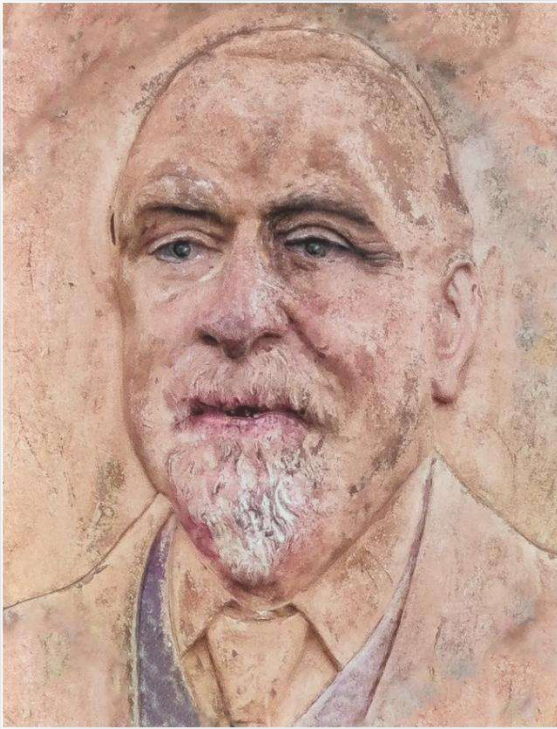
- ▶ Tinplate is made by rolling the steel (or formerly iron) in a rolling mill, removing any mill scale by pickling it in acid, and then coating it with a thin layer of tin. Plates were at one time produced individually (or in small groups) in what became known as a pack mill

Llansamlet Tin Plate Works



DANIEL JAMES – A STUDENT TOO

- ▶ At the tinsplate works Daniel met John Hughes, a part-time composer of hymns, and Precentor (choir leader) of Philadelphia chapel
- ▶ At Hughes' request, Daniel joined the chapel and it was there he was encouraged to improve his education. He found within himself a talent for rhyming while studying the intricacies of Welsh poetry
- ▶ After submitting some of his works in local Eisteddfods he took on the Bardic name, 'Daniel Mynyddbach'



DANIEL JAMES

CALON LÂN

DANIEL JAMES – HIS ADULT LIFE

- ▶ In 1871 Daniel, at the age of 23, married Ann Hopkin, 21, and they set up home in Treboeth
- ▶ He had gained promotion at the tinplate works and was now a **'hammerman'** – a job requiring a lot of physical strength
- ▶ Together they had five children – Mary Hannah (1873), Margaret (Marged) Ann (1873), Catherine Mary (1878), William Hopkin (1882) and Olwen (1886)

LANDORE TINPLATE WORKS – HAMMERMAN

Hammerman otherwise known as a **Shingler** –

- ▶ A job in the malleable ironworks, shaping hot iron with large mechanical hammers
- ▶ In the early days these were usually water-powered 'tilt hammers' but by the mid-1800s the hammers were steam powered



DANIEL JAMES – HIS ADULT LIFE

- ▶ Daniel worked hard to support his family. He enjoyed a drink with friends and was a frequent visitor in local pubs and hotels. However, this behaviour was frowned upon by the chapel deacons
- ▶ It was said by some that **‘He would sell his soul for a pint of beer’**. Even so he was always a keen chapel-goer

DANIEL JAMES – HIS SOCIAL LIFE

- ▶ One of Daniel's favourite haunts was the King's Head, Treboeth, where he could be found more often or not seated on a high chair at the bar and composing poems for drinks
- ▶ If you had a young lady that you wanted to woo with sweet words Daniel was the man to see. Given a little information about the 'sweetheart', he would scribble a poem so personal and heartfelt it would straight away have the desired effect

DANIEL JAMES – HIS SOCIAL LIFE



DANIEL JAMES – THE POET

- ▶ Daniel was known as a ‘character’, always smiling and with a ready sense of humour
- ▶ This, coupled with a love of nature and a strong sense of faith, made his poems strike a chord with all who read them
- ▶ Verses were often given away in the pub

DANIEL JAMES – THE POET AND LOVEABLE ROGUE?

- ▶ One story goes that he was given money to buy butter whilst on his way home from work. Instead, he stopped off at the King's Head and spent the money on beer
- ▶ Bemoaning this fact, and afraid to go home, he called on a friend and borrowed the cash. The next day the helpful friend got his money back and a beautifully composed poem of thanks
- ▶ Daniel was resourceful when it came to getting beer. One of his ruses was to sneak into a wedding party pretending to be a cousin of either family. This way he could often drink unnoticed all day and for free

DANIEL JAMES – THE CHARMER

- ▶ If he was discovered to be a fraud he would ask a few pertinent questions about the bride and groom and then get up on a table and recite a bawdy (and often near-the-knuckle) ballad about what was likely to happen on the forthcoming honeymoon, much to the embarrassment of the couple

DANIEL JAMES – HIS FAMILY

- ▶ On Christmas Eve 1887 Ann died, aged 38. With five young children to care for Daniel remarried in 1888
- ▶ Gwenllian Parry had five children of her own and she and Daniel went on to have another three children – Myfyr (1890), Gwenfron (1891) and Tawe (1895)

1881

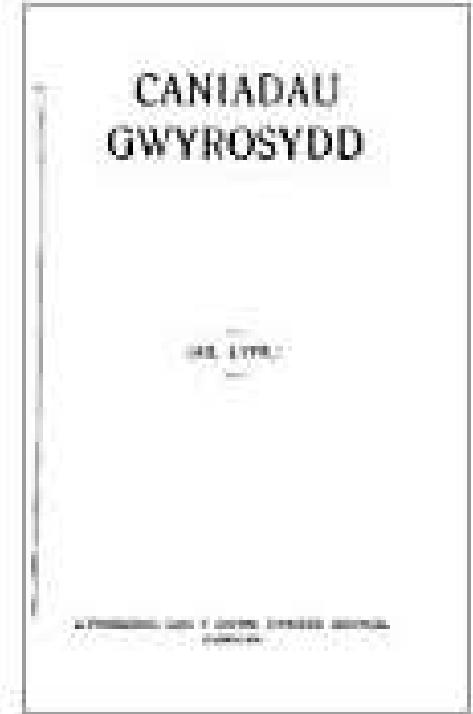
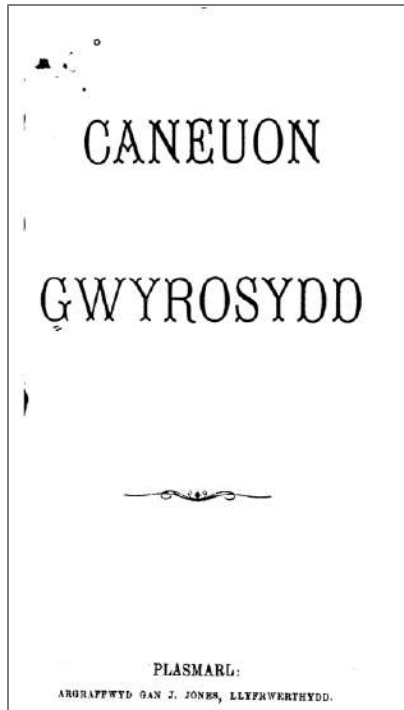
England, Wales and Scotland Census

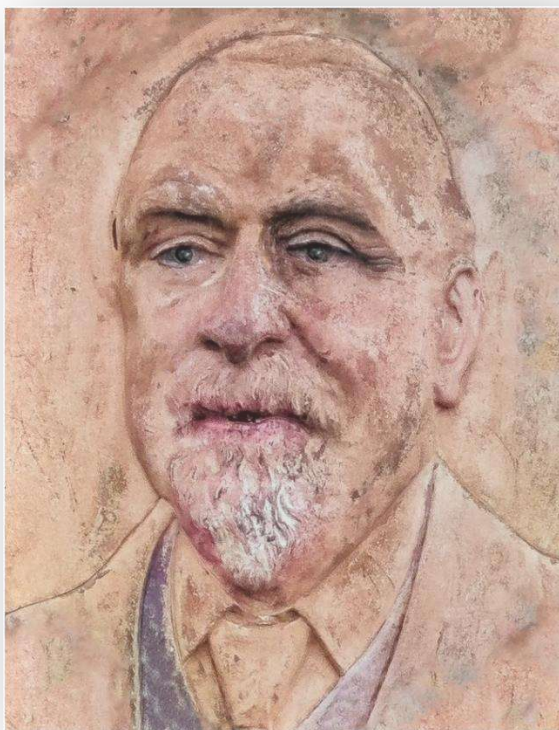
First name(s)	Last name	Birth year	Age	Birth county	Parish	Registration district	County
Ann	James	1850	31	Glamorganshire	Clase	Swansea	Glamorganshire
Daniel	James	1848	33	Glamorganshire	Clase	Swansea	Glamorganshire
Margaret	James	1874	7	Glamorganshire	Clase	Swansea	Glamorganshire
Mary	James	1878	3	Glamorganshire	Clase	Swansea	Glamorganshire

DANIEL JAMES – THE AUTHOR

- ▶ Between 1885 and 1898 Daniel James had three books of his works published. Caneuon Cymru (1885), Caniadau Gwyrosydd (1892) – in which Calon Lân appears in poem form – and Aeron Awen Gwyrosydd (1895)
- ▶ Due to the virtual collapse of the Welsh tinsplate industry, by 1890 Daniel had become redundant at Llandore and like so many others became an economic migrant and had to travel from place to place searching for work

Daniel James Published Works





DANIEL JAMES

CALON LÂN

Daniel James (Gwyrosydd)

Author of Calon Lan

Calon Lan

Nid wy'n gofyn bywyd moethus,
Aur y byd na'i berlau man:
Gofyn wyf am galon hapus,
Calon onest. calon lan.

Chorus

Calon lan yn llawn daioni,
Tecach yw na'r lili dlos:
Dim ond calon lan all ganu
Canu'r dydd a chanu'r nos.

Pe dymunwn olud bydol,
Hedyn buan ganddo sydd:
Golud calon lan, rinweddol,
Yn dwyn bythol elw fydd.

Hwyr a bore fy nymuniad
Gwyd i'r nef ar adain can
Ar i Dduw, er mwyn fy Ngheidwad,
Roddi i mi galon lan.



1848 - 1920

A Pure Heart

I don't ask for a luxurious life,
the world's gold or it's fine pearls.

I ask for a happy heart,
an honest heart, a pure heart.

Chorus

A pure heart full of goodness,
It is more beautiful than the lovely lily,
None but a pure heart can sing,
Sing in the day, sing in the night.

If I asked for worldly wealth,
It would swiftly go to seed;
The riches of a virtuous, pure heart
Will bear eternal profit.

Evening and morning, my wish
Rising to heaven on the wing of song
To God, for the sake of my saviour,
Give me a pure heart.

DANIEL JAMES – THE ECONOMIC MIGRANT

- ▶ Daniel managed to find work as a coal-weigher at the Ocean Coal Company Colliery in the village of Blaengarw situated in the Garw Valley. Occasionally he would distract himself by chalking humorous verses on the side of the coal drams

Here I am under the ground
Pushing it, shoving it,
Beaten down by some old dram
Well, damn it, damn it!

DANIEL JAMES – ‘GWYROSYDD’

- ▶ By 1893 the James family had moved again. They set up home in 8 Herbert Street and Daniel started work as a labourer. Daniel and Gwenllian’s last child, Tawe, was born in 1895. Just two years later Gwenllian died
- ▶ Daniel had quickly established himself in the village institutions and joined the Bethania Chapel. It was Daniel James who first proposed a Literary Society
- ▶ It was there, in the Garw Valley, that James changed his Bardic name to ‘Gwyrosydd’.

DANIEL JAMES – ‘GWYROSYDD’

- ▶ Although a new home and job did not deter him from his drinking habits. One story told of how he came home gloriously drunk. His wife Gwenllian, disgusted by his state, refused to allow him in the house and told him to sleep with the pig. He did as he was told and went round the back, turfed the pig out and slept there for the night
- ▶ The following morning Daniel woke and could hear the sound of singing coming from Bethania chapel a few doors away. As he came to his senses the hymn ended – but without the usual Amen
- ▶ Scrambling to his feet he dashed into the house and demanded pen and paper from his wife. He then sat and penned the poem ‘Where is the Amen’ – ‘Pa le’r aeth yr Amen’

8 HERBERT
STREET,
BLAENGARW



Blaengarw school where Daniel's daughters would have been taught in the 1890's



DANIEL JAMES – THE CALON LÂN STORY

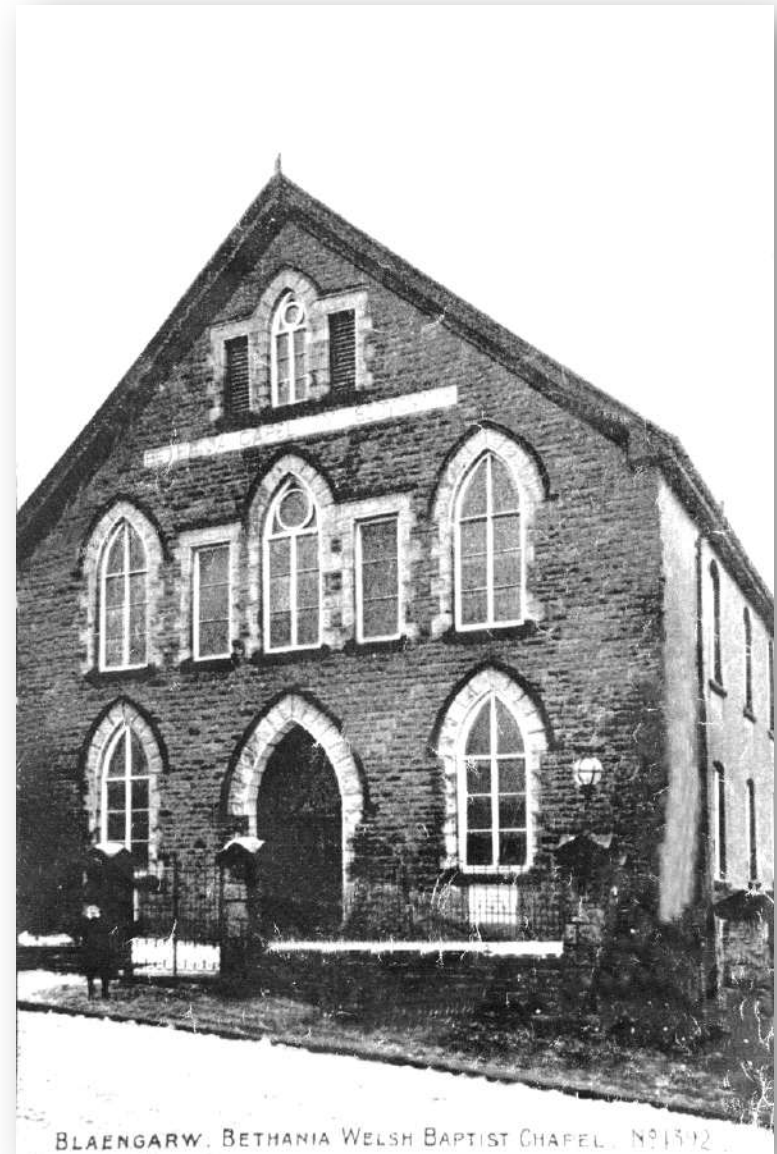
- ▶ One night Daniel James was smoking a cigarette on the doorstep of No. 8 Herbert Street when he could see Tom Bedford–Richards, the organist of Bethania chapel coming down the hill
- ▶ Greeting each other Daniel asked Mr Bedford–Richards if he would care to put some music to a poem for him

TOM BEDFORD-RICHARDS



BETHANIA CHAPEL

The chapel attended by Daniel James and where Tom Bedford-Richards was the organist



DANIEL JAMES – THE CALON LÂN STORY

- ▶ The story goes that Daniel gave the organist the words to Calon Lân scribbled on the sleeve of a cigarette packet
- ▶ Bedford–Richards went home but returned later. Knocking on the door, Daniel was handed a sheet of music that the organist had composed
- ▶ Later, Daniel went across the road to the Blaengarw Hotel where he knew there was a piano. It was here that Calon Lân was first played in public

THE BLAENGARW HOTEL



Circa 1900s

THE BLAENGARW HOTEL



The Hotel is still in use today

DANIEL JAMES – THE CALON LÂN MUSIC

- ▶ The music originally composed by **Tom Bedford-Richards** is however not the tune that we are familiar with
- ▶ That which is presently associated with Calon Lân was written by an old friend of Daniel James. **John Hughes** probably wrote the music much later and it is likely that Calon Lân was first sung to this new tune at the Bethania Chapel, Mountain Ash where James was living at that time

JOHN HUGHES – CALON LÂN

John Hughes, composer of the Calon Lân music. He was born on 13th February 1872 in a small cottage at Penybryn, Pembrokeshire. In 1874 he and his parents moved to Landore in Swansea

At the age of 12 he was employed as an office boy at the Dyffryn Steel and Tinsplate Works which were based in Morryston. He would walk to work every day from his home at 3 Stockwell Villas, Mount Pleasant



JOHN HUGHES

- ▶ In 1895 John Hughes married Mary Ann Rees. They had three daughters Elizabeth, May and Margaret. John Hughes became the commercial manager of Dyffryn Steel Works and later he served as the precentor at Philadelphia Chapel, Hafod
- ▶ He composed many hymn tunes and anthems which were regularly sung at music festivals in England and Wales. Some of his songs are even sung today. He also composed his own accompanying music to the words of Calon Lân. Very quickly his tune swept into favour and became the predominant tune associated with the song

JOHN HUGHES

- ▶ On Monday 15th June 1914 an incident at the works changed his routine. Instead of walking home at the end of the day he drove a wounded employee to the Swansea General hospital, to help them safely remove a piece of steel lodged in the man's hand
- ▶ Arriving home later he rapidly became ill and died aged forty two at 6:45am on Tuesday 16th. The cause of death was recorded as a cerebral haemorrhage
- ▶ He was buried in the Cemetery of Caesalem Newydd Welsh Baptist Chapel in Treboeth Swansea



The birthplace of John
Hughes
Composer of the music
Calon Lân

The plaque above the door reads
'In this house was born John Hughes
Composer of the song Calon Lân'



YN Y Tŷ HWN
Y GANWYD
JOHN HUGHES
AWDUR Y DŌN
"CALON LÂN"
1872-1914.

DANIEL JAMES - CALON LÂN

Calon Lân

Gwyrsoydd, 1847-1920 John Hughes, 1873-1932



1. Nid wy'n go - fyn by-wyd moe - thus, Aur y byd na'i ber-lau mân:
2. Pe dym - u - nwn o - lud by - dol, He - dym bu - an gan-ddo sydd;
3. Hwyr a bor - e fy ny - mun - iad Gwyd i'r nef ar a - dain cân

Go - lyn wyf am ga - lon ha - pus, Ca - lon on - est, ca - lon lân.
Go - lud ca - lon lân, rin - we - ddol, Yn dwyn by - thol el - w fydd.
Ar i Dduw, er mwyn fy Nghei - dwad, Ro - ddi i mi ga - lon lân.

Cytgan

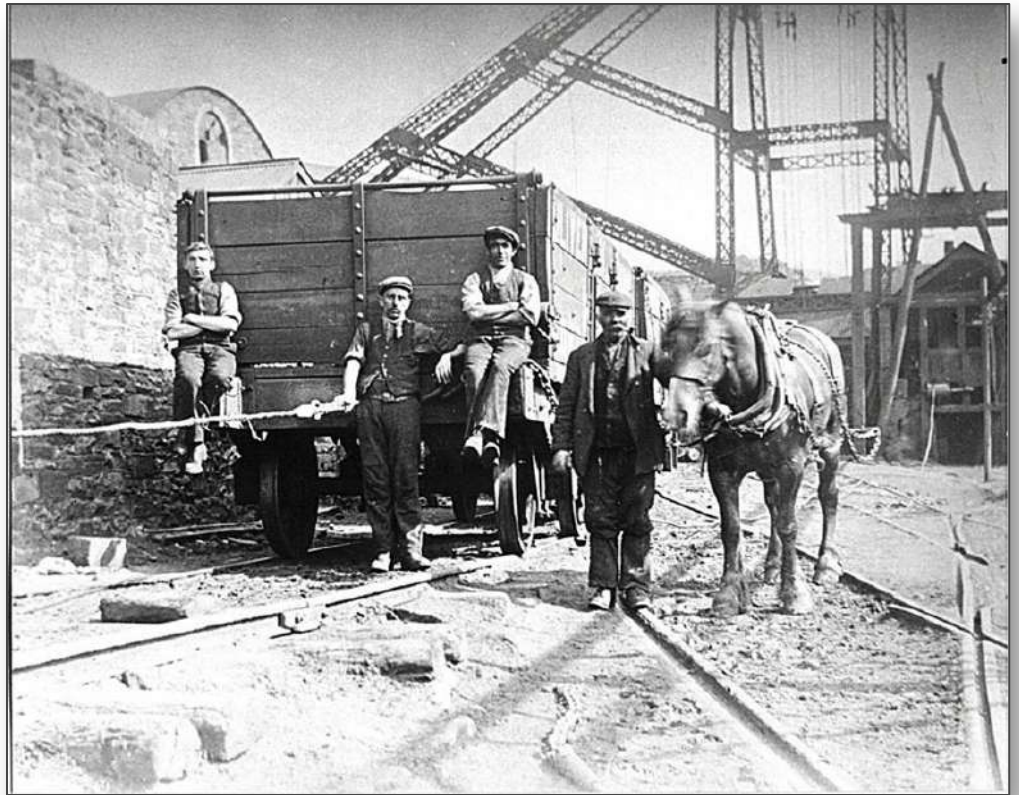
Ca - lon lân yn llawn dai - o - ni, Te - cach yw na'r li - li dlos:

Dim ond ca - lon lân all ga - nu Ca - nu'r dydd a cha - nu'r nos.



DANIEL JAMES – HIS LATER YEARS

- ▶ Sadly, in 1903, tragedy struck the James family when Daniel's son by his first marriage suffered an accident underground at the International (Carn) Colliery, Blaengarw
- ▶ William Hopkin James died from blood poisoning five days after he caught his foot on a haulage rope that was contaminated with horse manure



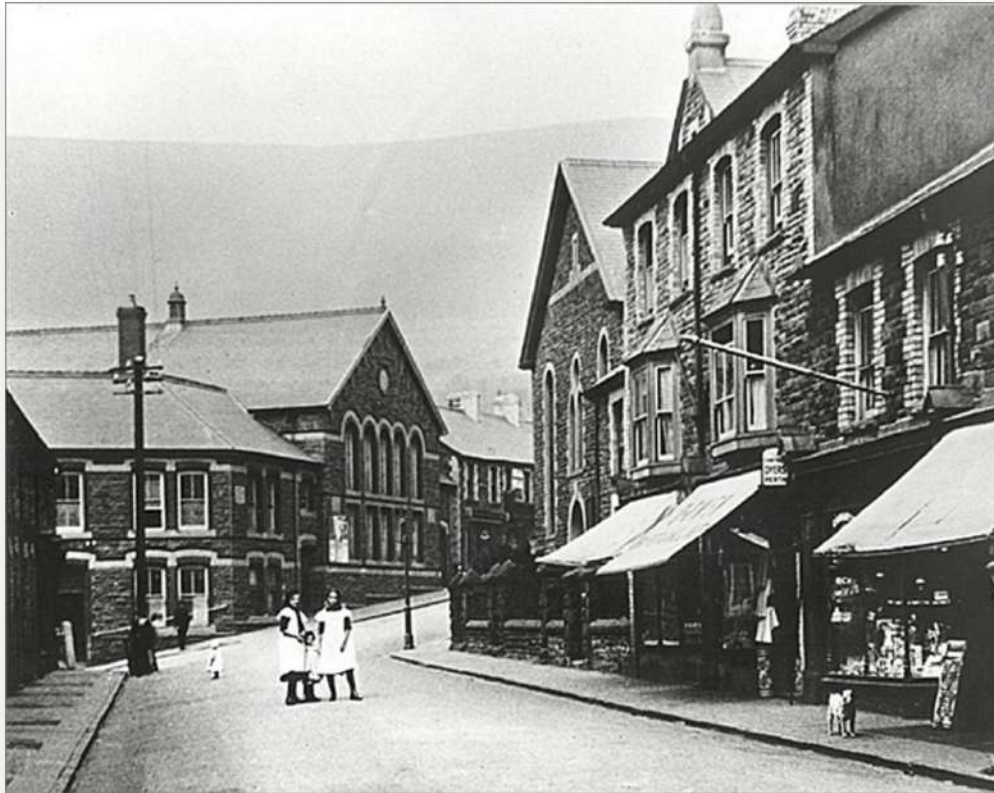
CARN COLLIERY, BLAENGARW



CARN COLLIERY, BLAENGARW



BLAENGARW WORKMEN'S HALL



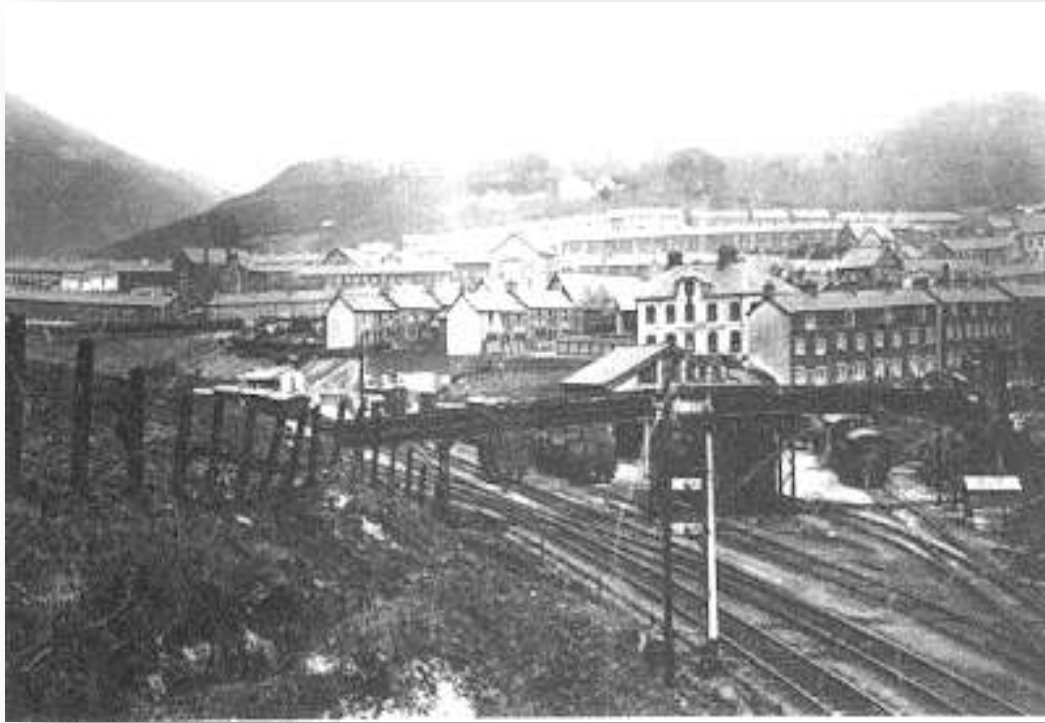
The subsequent inquest held at Blaengarw Workmens Hall (pictured in the background) returned a verdict of accidental death

His body was taken by special train to Mynyddbach Chapel to be buried alongside his mother

DANIEL JAMES – PARC CALON LÂN

- ▶ In 2008 Parc Calon Lân was opened on the former washery site of the International Colliery, Blaengarw. This was part of a project to rejuvenate the area and to emphasise the heritage of Daniel James' former home
- ▶ The park includes a terracotta sculpture by Rebecca Buck, an American sculptor who lives in the area. It was created to commemorate the writing of Calon Lân

DANIEL JAMES – PARC CALON LÂN



Calon Lân Parc area used to be a Colliery Washery site and shunting yard

The Dunraven Hotel can be seen in the middle, the tracks and coal trucks leading to the left is where Parc Calon Lân is now and has been transformed into a tranquil area for reflection and memories

Parc Calon Lân Monument



Former Dunraven Hotel overlooking Parc Calon Lân

Circa 1900



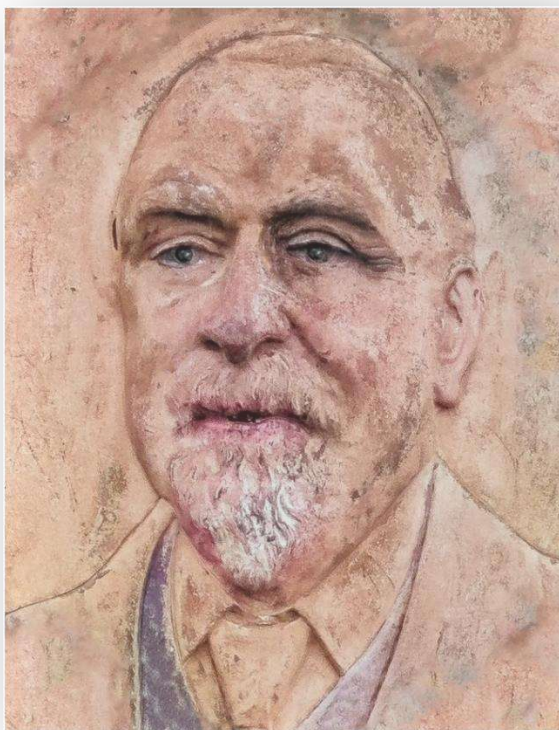
Former Dunraven Hotel overlooking Parc Calon Lân

Circa 2020



Blaengarw Station (opposite the Dunraven Hotel)
where the body of Daniel's eldest son, William Hopkin
James was sent by train for burial in Swansea, over
100 years ago





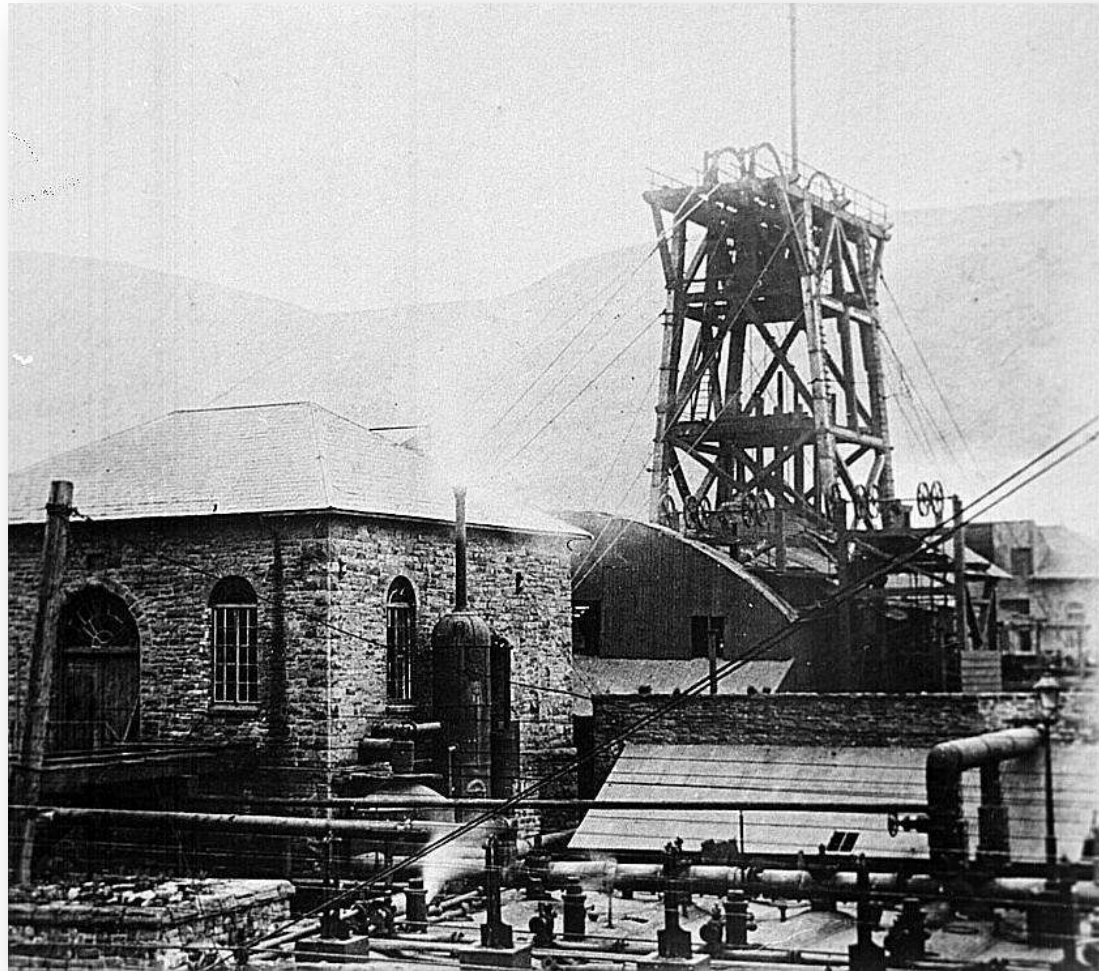
DANIEL JAMES

CALON LÂN

DANIEL JAMES – HIS LATER YEARS

- ▶ Although Daniel continued to live in Blaengarw after his wife's death in 1895, by the time of the 1901 census Daniel James is registered in a Mountain Ash boarding house
- ▶ At that time he had found work at Nixon's Colliery (Deep Dyffryn) where he remained for the next fifteen years

NIXON'S NAVIGATION COLLIERY MOUNTAIN ASH



DANIEL JAMES – HIS LATER YEARS

- ▶ Daniel had secured the job at Nixon's with the help of **Thomas Glyndwr Richards**, who was a member of Bethania Chapel, Mountain Ash
- ▶ **Thomas Richards** was a well-known conductor of Mountain Ash Choir. The choir enjoyed considerable success at home and abroad, including a three-month tour of the USA which culminated in a performance for President Theodore Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor at the White House

BETHANIA CHAPEL, MOUNTAIN ASH



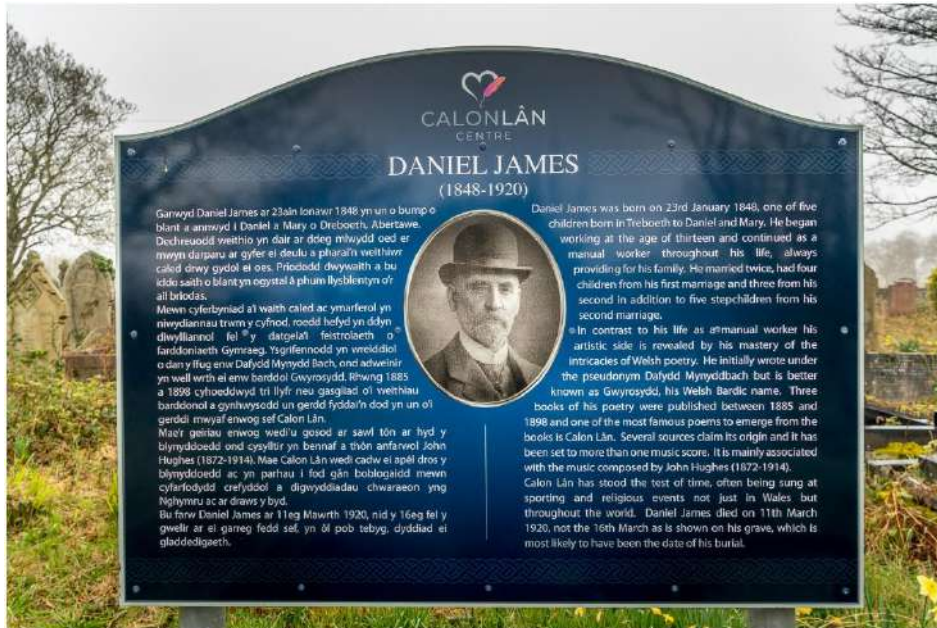
DANIEL JAMES – HIS LATER YEARS

- ▶ Aged 68 Daniel left the colliery and, for the last two years of his working life, he was employed as a caretaker/gravedigger at Mountain Ash until he was 70. He was then living at Richmond Road, not far from the Aberffrwd burial ground
- ▶ After this he went to live with his youngest daughter, Olwen, at 17 Tan y Lan Cottages, Morriston where he died aged 72

ABERFFRWD BURIAL GROUND MOUNTAIN ASH



DANIEL JAMES – FAMILY GRAVESTONE



DANIEL JAMES – FAMILY GRAVESTONE – TRANSLATION

- ▶ In memory of Ann, beloved wife of Daniel James, Treboeth, who died on December 24th, 1887, 38 yrs old. See the grave of a Dear one who was pure sunshine, undefiled to her family
- ▶ Also William James, his son 20 yrs old
- ▶ Also the above Daniel James (Gwyrosydd) who died March 16 1920 73 years old. Pure heart so full of goodness
- ▶ Also daughter of the above, Mary, who died June 28 1941, 68 yrs old. Come ye blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you

WILLIAM PENFRO ROWLANDS – BLAENWERN

- ▶ In 1905 during the Revival, yet another tune was written with a connection to ‘Calon Lân’, as much as with other great hymns (eg: ‘Love Divine All Loves Excelling’)
- ▶ While the tune was composed during the 1904–5 Revival, it was not published until its use with Henry Jones’ **‘Can a Moliant’** in 1915



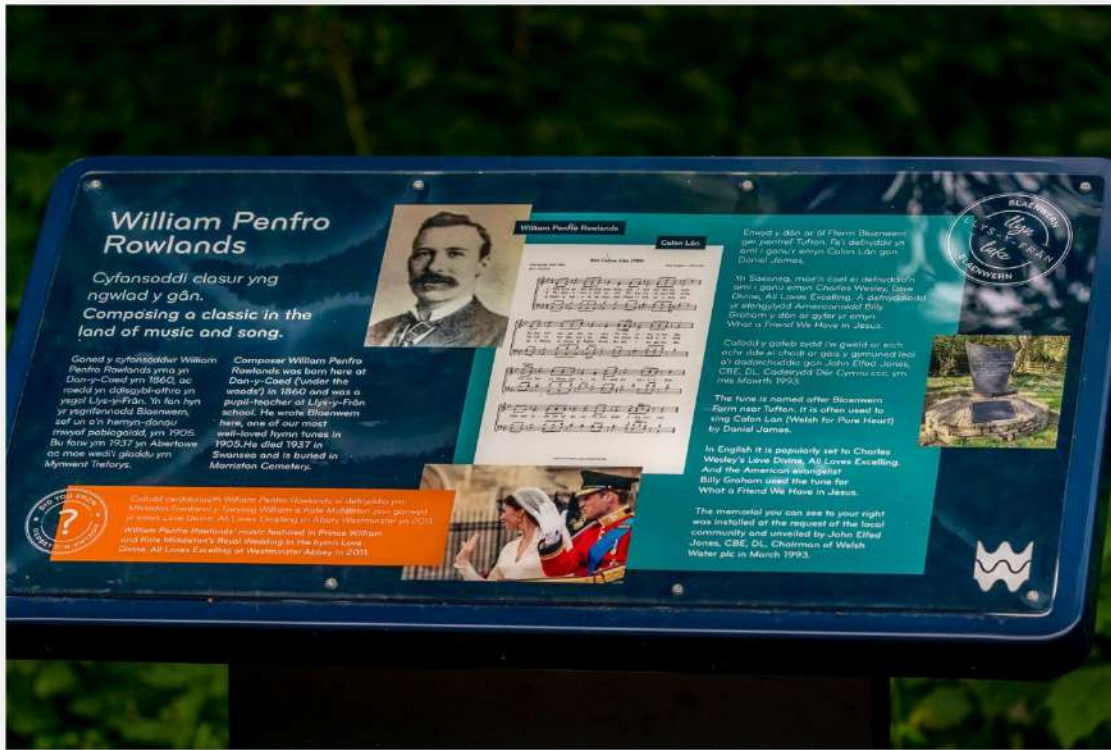
WILLIAM PENFRO ROWLANDS – BLAENWERN

- ▶ **William Penfro Rowlands** was born at Llys y Fran, in the parish of Maenchlochog in the Preseli Mountain district of North Pembrokeshire on 19th April 1860
- ▶ His parents were William and Anne Rowlands who were tenants of a small 23 acre farm called Dan-y-Coed, and members of Siloh Congregational Chapel at Henry's Moat

WILLIAM PENFRO ROWLANDS – BLAENWERN

- ▶ Rowlands gave this tune the name ‘**Blaenwern**’ in honour of a farm at Henry’s Moat near his former home at Lys y Fran, where he was once sent to convalesce after a serious illness in his late childhood. In 1861 this farm was tenanted by Margaret Edwards, and by 1871 the farm was occupied by Jonathan Perkins, son of Rev. Reese Perkins, who was the local congregational minister. One of these must have cared for the young Rowlands
- ▶ The tune ‘**Blaenwern**’ seems not only to express William’s gratefulness to God for his recovery but communicates the passion and power of the Revival during which it was written

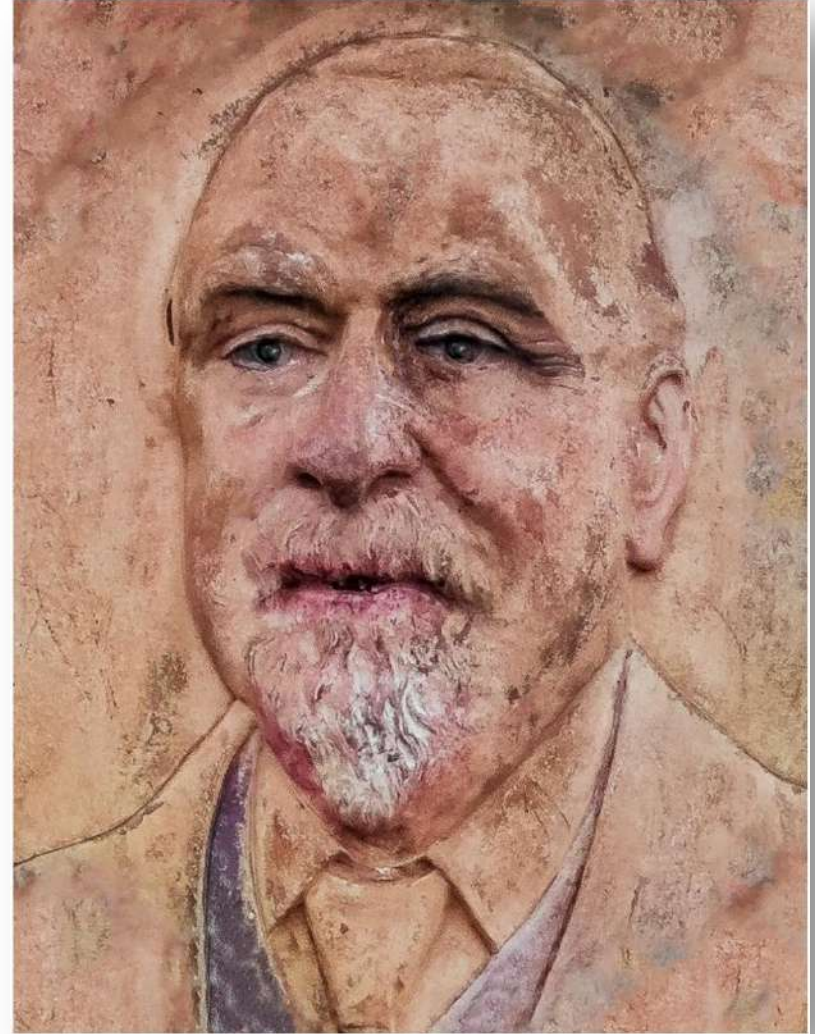
WILLIAM PENFRO ROWLANDS - BLAENWERN



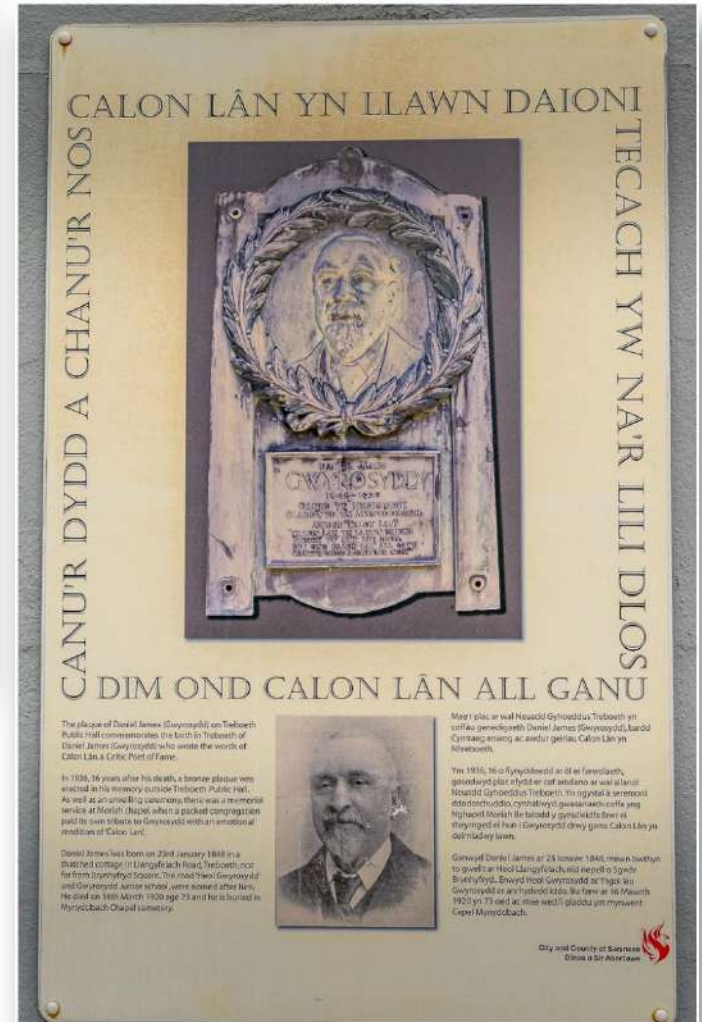
History Panel at Llys y Fran



Colourised image of Daniel James from the Bronze Plaque



Treboeth Public Hall with History Panel



DANIEL JAMES

Following the Revival, 'Calon Lân' seems to have grown in popularity, becoming established as one of the most cherished hymns of 21st century Wales

In 1936 a bronze memorial plaque to Daniel James was set up on the wall of the then Treboeth Public Hall, now a Community Centre, on Llangyfelach Road

In 1953 Gwyrosydd Primary School was opened to accommodate 520 infant and junior pupils

