

## Harriet Anne Edmondess

Harriet was born 24 October 1804 daughter of Reverend William Williams schoolmaster of Cowbridge and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Williams also of Cowbridge. They lived at the Free School. Harriet had a brother Charles and three other siblings.

Elizabeth's sister Jane married Francis Taynton and lived in Cowbridge, but I have no evidence as to where they lived. Colonel William Taynton (1779-1857), the artist, was Francis' brother and evidently lived or spent much time with the Cowbridge Tayntons. He was unmarried.

Harriet married Reverend Rees Howell on 2 November 1829. They lived at his house St. Quintins in Llanblethian. He died on 29 August 1830 and Harriet's second marriage to Thomas Edmondess took place on 27 Feb 1838.

Their son Charles Gresford Edmondess was born on 8 December 1838 at St. Quintins but lived thereafter at Old Hall Cowbridge which had belonged to the Edmondess family since the mid- 1700s. He married Emma Irving in Canada , grand-daughter of Sir Jeremiah Homfray, and their descendants include Richard Picton-Turbervill, John Edmondess and Lawrie Williams. Cousins are the Homfray, Boothby, Clay, and Prichard families

John Edmondess had Harriet's diaries for the years 1828, 1829, 1830 and 1831 which provide an interesting picture of life at that time.

### 1828

During this year she went on an outing to Bath in March and on an extended trip to London and elsewhere between August and December. Some entries:

"11 Jan The Edmondess Tayntons Mr Llewellyn Mr Jenkins Rev Howell and Mr T Williams to tea

15 Jan I went to Duffryn. 12 Jan We went to a ball in Cardiff. 16 Jan I returned from Duffryn

23 Jan I dined at Penlline. 7 Feb I went to Nash. 11 Feb I went to St.Hilary. 13 Feb We dined at Pwlllywrach. 20 Feb I called at St.Hilary Aberthin and W.St.Donats. R.H. to tea

16 March Church at Bathhampton. 20 March I returned to Bath dined with Miss Ashman(?) and went to a party . 21 March I went to a concert. 27 March We went to the Ball 10 April Tea at Belvedere House and the Public Ball. 11 April We left Bath and came to Mr. Sykes's. 12 April We came home

6 May I called at Pwlllywrach. 7 May I called at Coedriglan. 8 May Tea at my aunt's. 13 May I rode to Tresilian and dined at Dimlands. 21 May I called at St Hilary and slept there. 22 May I called with Louisa Traherne on Mrs.Pointer (?)at Tresilian. 25 May Whit Sunday, Church and Sacrament, Rees to tea. 5 June Rees' birthday. We dined at St Hilary.

6 July We went to Llantwit Church. Rees to dinner

11 August I left home and got to Gloucester. 12 August I came to Ealing.

22 Sept I came to Bromley and called upon Caroline. 27 Sept We came to Westerham. 30 Sept Harriet and I called at Chevening. 3 Oct. We went to see Knole. 11 Oct I came to Bromley. 14 Oct I returned to Ealing. 25 Oct We went to Hammersmith. 11 Nov We went to London.

26 December I left Ealing and slept at the Belle Tavern (?). 27 December We came to Bath.  
29 December We left Bristol and came home

Blessed be thy name O Lord that I have been permitted to reach the close of so happy a year"

### 1829

The diary is shorter for this year but still recalls visits to St.Hilary, where her friend Louisa Traherne lived, and to Coedriglan, W.St.Donats, Margam, Fonmon, Tresilian and Pwlllywrach, and frequent teas and dinner with the Tayntons , and to meetings with Rees

The entry for Monday 2 November reads "We were married today – May God bless us!

20 Dec Church twice. Charles was ordained"

### 1830

This year records the decline and death of her newly-wed husband and the birth of a son Robert.

"9 Jan Rees was bled and blistered. 9 February Rees had leeches to his side.

15 March The dining room table came. Rees was bled.

29 March We called at Nash, Pwlllywrach and Crossways. 30 March We rode to Penlline

1 April Rees spat blood and was bled. 7 April Rees got up to have his bed made.

1 May Rees came down stairs. Mr LL.Traherne called here . 31 May Rees had leeches to his side.

6 July Rees had leeches to his chest. 8 July Rees went to Swansea. Charles came here.

27 July Little Robert was born at 7p.m. 30 July My dearest Rees returned. He baptised little Robert

3 August Rees and the child very poorly.

6 August My breast began to gather. 16 August Mr Smith came over and lanced my breast

27 August My dearest love very ill. 29 August My dearest husband was taken from this world. The little boy came down.

2 Sept My dearest Rees was buried. My father came. Charles went home with him

6 Sept Mary, the little boy and I went to the Mumbles. 22 Sept I returned to St. Quintins

(several blank pages after this)

30 Nov Robert poorly with a cold. 3 Dec The measles and mumps out on Robert"

### 1831

The diary continues with calls and visits to St. Hilary, Nash, Llandough, Tresilian, Pwllwyrach and other houses, and dining frequently at St. Hilary and at the Free School, but is blank from the end of June until October

" 2 Jan Charles came home. 24 Jan Charles left for Oxford 25 Jan My aunt T and the Colonel to tea

29 Jan Robert and I went to Cowbridge. I dined with my father

20 Feb Church twice. Robert was vaccinated and had his ..... ..(?)

1 April Good Friday. Church twice. Charles and Thomas Edmondess to dinner.

19 April Little Alexander\* died

5 Oct The kitchen, back kitchen and dining room chimneys were swept

26 Nov My tooth was pulled out

26 Dec Robert and I spent the day at the Free School. Charles and I called at St. Hilary

\*No clue as to who Little Alexander was.

