

## Bryncoch Farm

On their arrival at Neath in 1841 the brothers took lodgings at Bryncoch Farm with farmer David Rees to survey the Cadoxton Parish from Neath to Pontneddfechan at the top of the Neath Valley.

Their stay at Bryncoch Farm was very comfortable and Wallace became very fond of the cheese made by Mrs Rees made from a combination of sheep and cows milk.

It was during this time at the farm that Wallace's fascination of nature and the classification of plants began. Finding there was not always enough work for both brothers, Alfred had much spare time that he used to explore the fields and countryside of the area.



...what occupied me chiefly and became more and more the solace and delight of my lonely rambles among the moors and mountains, was my first introduction to the variety, the beauty, and the mystery of nature as manifested in the vegetable kingdom.



Pool at the River Clydach near Bryncoch Farm

## River Clydach

Having nearly drowned as a young boy, Wallace had a fear of water but the crystal waters of the River Clydach that ran below the farm proved too much temptation for Wallace and it was here that he taught himself to swim.

A little rocky stream bordered by trees and bushes ran through the farm, and was one of my favourite haunts. There was one little sequestered pool about twenty feet long into which the water fell over a ledge about a foot high...and thus formed a delightful bathing-place.

