

Dear Mr Tomos,

I am in the early stages of research for a forthcoming living history television series for BBC Wales called 'Snowdonia Farmhouse'. This is really the next 'Coal House' where we're looking at taking two families back to 1890 to live and work as slate-quarrying smallholders. So in essence we'll be combining elements of farming life with quarrying life, home-life on a tyddyn, domestic service, and school in Gwynedd in the mid to late Victorian period.

I wondered if I might be able to make an appeal for memories and information from your society and members?

As I mentioned it's very early days at the moment, but the research process is crucial in terms of historical accuracy, planning day to day life and activities for our families, and of course as a legacy that will take the form of a website. I'm really looking for people who might have information on all aspects of life in late Victorian North Wales. It's the real everyday life that is so hard to tease out of many history books and that's where personal memories and primary sources can really fill in the blanks.

I'm looking for memories on themes like quarrying, life on a tyddyn, the role of women in 1890, leisure and entertainment, clothes, recipes, chapel services, Friendly Societies, household remedies, any anecdotes or stories As much rich material as possible! If people could call, write or email with their thoughts I'd be very appreciative.

In addition – or alternatively – have you published any articles along these lines? It would be very useful to get hold of copies if so? I note on your website there is a reference to a slate quarryman's memoir but I'm not sure which period this is.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With many thanks,
Sian

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