

# SYMUD YMLAEN MOVING ON

“Grandfather was a Copper Smelter - furnaceman - much in demand in America. He and his family left Perth Amboy (New Jersey) for Washington...the journey on the train took a whole week! Auntie Gert remembered Indians getting on the train at intervals and bring ice for their use... Apparently there were many Norwegians working at the foundry as well...[Returning to Wales in 1909] Auntie Gert went to live with Grandpa Ackland and his daughter at the Copperworks Manager's House in Landore.”

Anturiaeth William John Ackland yng Ngogledd America, tua 1899. Gan Enid M. Ponsford, ei wyres, yn seiliedig ar atgofion merch William Ackland, Gertrude.

William John Ackland's adventure in North America, about 1899. By Enid M. Ponsford, his grand-daughter, based on the memories of William Ackland's daughter Gertrude.

Erbyn y 1890au roedd gwledydd oedd yn cynhyrchu copr fel yr Unol Daleithiau ac Awstralia wedi sefydlu diwydiannau mwyndoddi, coethi a chynhyrchu integredig gerllaw eu mwyngloddiau eu hunain. Roeddent wedi mabwysiadu Proses Bessemer o gynhyrchu copr erbyn y 1880au ond roedd yn well gan y rhan fwyaf o weithfeydd Cymru barhau i ddefnyddio'r Broses Gymreig.

Erbyn rhan olaf y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, roedd lefel cynhyrchu mwyn copr ym mwyngloddiau Cymru a Chernyw wedi lleihau'n sylweddol. Erbyn 1901 roedd yr unig gopr oedd yn cael ei allforio o Sir Fôn yn dod o byllau dyddodi.

Ond roedd galw dramor o hyd am sgiliau gweithwyr a mwyngloddwyr copr o Gymru. Dydyn ni ddim yn gwybod yn union faint ohonynt a ymfudodd, ond fe aeth llawer. Dychwelodd rhai i Gymru, ond ymfudodd eraill am byth.

Llwyddodd rhai o weithfeydd copr de Cymru i barhau i wneud elw drwy amrywio eu gweithgareddau. Bu'r Graig Wen yn cynhyrchu arian a phlwm o 1871 ymlaen. Yorkshire Imperial Metals oedd perchennog olaf gwaith copr yn Abertawe, a gaeodd ym 1981. Gwaith copr Llanelli, a gychwynnodd ym 1805, oedd gwaith mwyaf hirhoedlog Cymru. Fe gaeodd yn 2009, erbyn hynny, Draka, cwmni o'r Iseldiroedd, oedd y perchennog.

By the 1890s copper-producing countries like the USA and Australia had established integrated smelting, refining and manufacturing industries near their own mines. They had adopted the Bessemer Process of producing copper by the 1880s but most Welsh works preferred to continue with the Welsh Process.

Copper ore production from Welsh and Cornish mines was significantly reduced by the later nineteenth century. By 1901 the only copper exported from Anglesey came from precipitation ponds.

However the skills of Welsh copper workers and miners continued to be in demand abroad. We do not know the exact numbers of those that moved away but many did. Some returned to Wales, some emigrated forever.

Some of the south Welsh copperworks remained profitable by diversifying their activities. White Rock produced silver and lead from 1871. Yorkshire Imperial Metals was the last proprietor of a Swansea copperworks, which closed in 1981. The Llanelli copperworks, started in 1805, was Wales's longest lasting works. It closed in 2009, by which time it was owned by the Dutch company Draka.

Mwynglawdd Copr Burra, De Awstralia, tua 1870  
Burra Copper Mine, South Australia, about 1870



State Library of South Australia SL3A-B4117

Adennill copr o byllau dyddodi Mwynglawdd Mona a Parys, Sir Fôn  
Copper salvage from precipitation pits, Mona and Parys Mine, Anglesey



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