



## Lodgings on New Street

Wallace's brother William died suddenly in 1845 forcing Wallace's return to Neath to finalise William's business affairs. Wallace continued with the business and he took lodgings with Thomas Sims the photographer on New Street. Sims was later to become Wallace's brother in law, marrying his sister Frances in 1849



## Surveying the Vale of Neath

During the period known as railway mania, Wallace was employed to survey the Neath valley up to Merthyr Tydfil for a proposed railway. The job was very well paid at two guineas a day plus expenses. Wallace spent the summer and autumn working on the railway line which was to carry coal from the collieries as far as Merthyr Tydfil to the main port in South Wales, in Swansea.



Melin Court Falls, one of the many features that entranced Wallace during his surveying work.

...this was, I think, about midsummer...and I enjoyed myself immensely. It took me up the south east side of the valley...and up one of the most picturesque little glens I have ever explored. Here we had to climb over huge rocks as big as houses, ascend cascades, and take cross levels up steep banks and precipices all densely wooded..



When the work was complete Wallace and the others which had been working on the Vale of Neath railway took there plans to London to present to parliament. The Vale of Neath Railway plan was passed by parliament in 1847.

