

# THE BUILDINGS OF MOREFA BORTH

- the Marsh Harbour

Ceredigion



That part of Borth Village on a pebble bank with the sea on one side and the Cors Fochno marsh some reclaimed and the railway on the other. In the distance is the River Dyfi. Photograph Michael Lewis

Photographs and History by BERYL LEWIS

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## BWTHYN GWYN

### Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Formerly in Garden Street. Adjacent to today's Dôl Wen. Part still has the shape of Borth's oldest cottages. A carpenter from the Benjamin family of Glanwern and his descendants still owned it in 1910. It was let to tenants.



*LEFT Details of the south front of the cottage. Like its Welsh name, 'Whiie Cottage' its rendering is white.*

Bwthyn Gwyn is on the shingle bank at the southern end of Morfa Borth, the end cottage of a terrace of three cottages sideways on to the sea, alongside former 'Garden Street'. This ran down to a brook which was fresh water for the cottages brought from the River Leri, plus Glanwern's Ty Gwyn (formerly Cwm Cethin)'s stream, and Bryn Owen's stream, and there was a footbridge over it into a pasture enclosed by ditches. The cottage is built of rubble stone, with some rounded stones from the beach under a gable roof. It has a rendered chimney on the eastern end of its roof, probably of rubble stone. The roof is slate, and there are roof lights for its loft.

The south wall of the cottage has the front door which, like the windows reaches to the eaves. The cottage is double fronted with a square modern bay window. Its door opens on to a paved yard shared with the rest of the terrace. There is an extension at the rear. At the back is a detached chalet.

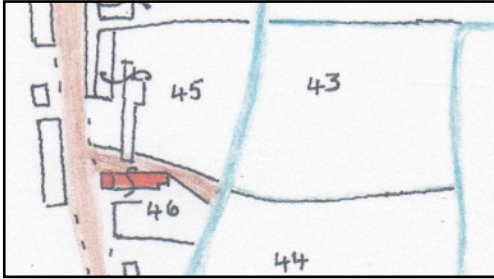


*LEFT The chalet in the back garden. On the right is the wall of Ty Carreg - leaving a narrow drive.*

The rear of the cottage facing Dôl Wen has one window and an extension on its eastern side Does this have a back door? There is a small garden, partly hard standing. There is also an extension on the east end of the cottage with a low pitch roof and a rubble stone

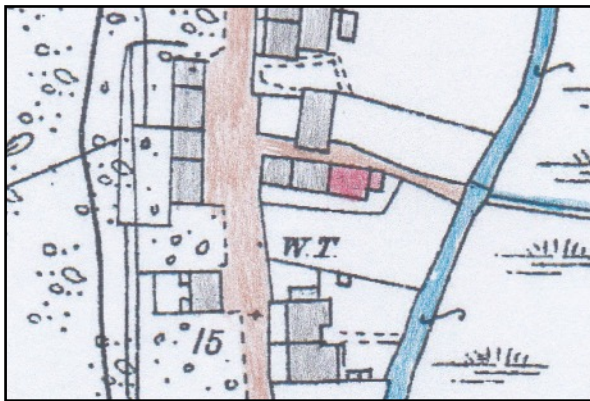
chimney. There was one there in 1886. The ground beyond shared with Ty Garreg and the Bakery Flats.

The ground for this cottage was still beach in 1829, part of the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming. The ground extended to a brook and was owned by a manor belonging to the Crown. The road had been there for centuries and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales.



*LEFT* By 1848 the terrace of cottages had been built. The owner was John Benjamin, and tenants of the cottages were John Evans and Margaret Davies. Benjamin a joiner by trade was probably a son of the carpenter and joiner John Benjamin at Cwmcethin/Ty Gwyn. We do not know which cottage each family lived in. Margaret was possibly the wife of a mariner with four children listed in the 1841 Census.

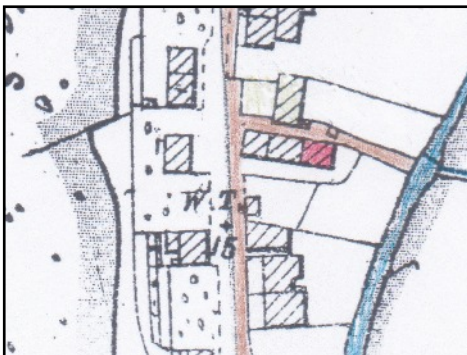
It is not possible to be sure who lived in the cottage in later Census's.



*LEFT* In 1886 the cottage had an extension on the eastern end. It shared a yard with the other cottages. It probably opened directly on to Garden Street - marked in brown. Across Garden Street was Osprey Cottage, now gone (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888. Cardiganshire NWIII.10)

At the Census of 1891 in the cottage were two elderly people, 74 year old retired mariner William Davies (born in Borth about 1817) and his wife Anne. Also there was a mariner's wife, Jane Jones, aged 43, (born in Borth about 1848.)

At the 1901 Census the cottage was unoccupied.



*LEFT* On the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 revised in 1904 little had changed. The garden ground had an enclosure with a wireless telegraph station on it, and Captain Thomas Davies at Nathaniel had built a bakery beside his house.

The cottage was not in the 1911 Census - nobody being there to fill in the form.

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied this cottage and garden was valued at £20 - the valuation for a humble stone built Borth cottage. There would have been £2.4s to pay, £2.15s gross. The owner was Elizabeth Lloyd and she was the occupier. We do not know if she lived there herself, or used it for tenants. She also owned Myfanwy. She was a descendant of John Benjamin who built the cottages. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales).

In 1925 the cottage did not have a name - just being called 'Garden Street'. .... Williams was the owner (the Council did not have his name) and Mrs Williams was living there.

In 1934 Douglas Wyn Williams paid the rates and the cottage had its name Bwthyn Gwyn.

With a vote for the cottage at the General Election of 1945 was Olive M. G. Williams. Douglas Williams paid the Rates in 1949.

Formerly paying the rates in 1957 had been F. Tinks on April 1<sup>st</sup>, and E. L. Preece, but paying the rates thereafter was F. W. Willoughby from March 1968.

Mrs Smith paid the rates in 1963, but there was a note that said 'tenanted' (Rates Ceredigion Archives).

In 1975 Garden Street still existed (Historical Maps On-line) The Dôl Wen was to be developed later.

Usually such cottages had a front door and a passage, opening into a kitchen/living room with the hearth at the chimney end of the cottage, and this was usually a larger room so the front door was not in the centre, and on the other side the passage opened into the best bedroom. A ladder or stairs would lead up to the loft where children slept often from a small room at the rear.

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gan/by Beryl Lewis  
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Mae **Tai'r Borth** yn cynnwys dros 350 hanes sy'n ymwneud ag adeiladau unigol ac mae'r hanesion wedi'u darlunio â chyfoeth o ffotograffau, mapiau a dogfennau. Mae'r ffeiliau ar gael ar ein gwefan: <https://www.archifdy-eredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php?lang=cy>

Hoffem ddiolch i Beryl am fod mor garedig â chaniatáu i ni rannu ei gwaith â'r gynulleidfa ehangaf bosibl.

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**Houses of Borth** consists of over 350 histories of individual buildings, lavishly illustrated with photographs, maps and documents. All the files are available from our website: <https://www.archifdy-eredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php>

We would like to thank Beryl for her kindness in letting us share her work with the widest possible audience.

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