

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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CAMDDWR Glanwern Village, Borth.

End house of a terrace built after 1848 but by 1886 probably by Hugh Williams, blacksmith of Gwastad for his family and to let. Formerly called 'Ivor House' and 'The Rest'. Replacing a shoemaker's cottage. Home of a master mariner. Still in the ownership of Hugh Williams in 1910.



ABOVE In the foreground in 2015 is The Little Cot. Next to it is Camddwr which is the end house of a terrace of four houses at the same angle from the road.

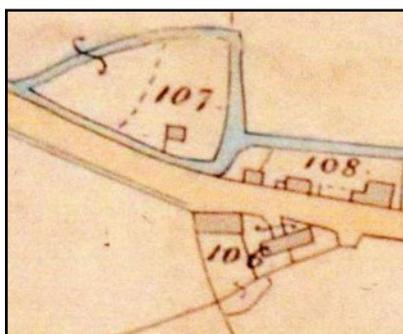
Camddwr is two storey, single fronted, and is under a gable roof of slate colour. There is one roof light on the west side of the front. On the east end of the roof is a red brick slab chimney with one chimney pot. The walls are rendered, but it is likely that they are stone. The upper windows are modern, the eastern is larger and in the style of a casement window. The other window is narrower. These windows are not at the same height as those of Tanybryn next door, but the roof matches. On the ground floor the front door is on the west side of the house. The garden is at the front, the rear has very little ground, just a small yard as it is very close

to a footpath to Brynowen. On the eastern side at the back of the house is an extension. Often in Morfa Borth houses this was where the kitchen had been often with a room above and this would once have had a chimney. This plan matches the neighbouring houses, Tan-y bryn and Lllwynteg.



LEFT Camddwr is on the far left and the photograph explains the areas of the front gardens.

The reason a small settlement could grow up at Glanwern was the presence of the tailrace from the Felinwern Mill at Glanlerry, which was fresh water from the River Lerry. It was joined by a small stream down the valley behind Ty Gwyn too, and it also helped drain the marsh on the north. After passing Glanwern the tailrace ran seawards then turned along behind Borth High Street, providing a brook' with fresh water for the houses and cottages there. This 'brook' is marked on a map of 1829. Today the water flows out to sea from a pipe near the Lifeboat House. To the north of Glanwern Village was the marsh whose old name was Wern Leri (1859 Crown Manor map National Archives LRRO 1/3060). There was already a settlement at



Glanwern by 1804 when John Williams, a shoemaker, said he was born there for the Census of 1851. The road was there too, it was shown on a map of 1829 and led down to three lime kilns beginning where the road opened on to the beach. Later another was built. Lime would be carried to farms inland and the road connected to an important road, as today, at Rhyd-y-pennau. The High Street road at Borth was very ancient as in Norman times it was a quick way to north Wales along the shingle bank to the high sand dune area at Ynyslas and then across the River Dovey by ferry to Aberdovey.

ABOVE In 1848 the ground on which the house stands was part of Number 106, ground of 34 perches, just short of a quarter of an acre enclosed from the 'waste' which was land not suitable for farming because it was a small area between the road and a steep hillside. When men enclosed and built cottages on it they had to pay a rent to the Crown Manor who owned it, and they had the option of buying it for two year's rent. This ground had two blocks of cottages and gardens on it and John Williams and others lived there and owned it or rented it from the Manor (A detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map of 1848 for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township on-line at CYNEFIN)

The enclosures for gardens at the back of the buildings suggest three families there. John Williams was a shoemaker and in the 1841 Census John Williams, a shoemaker, 1803 his wife Eleanor, 1804, daughter Mary 14, Catherine 12, Margaret 10. John 8, Anne 4, Eleanor (Ellen) had one of the cottages there. In the 1851 Census John Williams and his wife Eleanor and all six children were in their cottage. Parents and children were all born at Glanwern.

The family were there at the 1861 Census too and by the 1871 Census John Williams was aged 67. Was he still in his old cottage? By then he was a widower, and with him in the house were his children, John 37, a shoemaker like his father and Eleanor 22 was keeping house. With them were two grandsons, 17 year old John Thomas, a mariner and David Thomas, 12 still at school, and a grand daughter Mary A. Thomas aged 10.

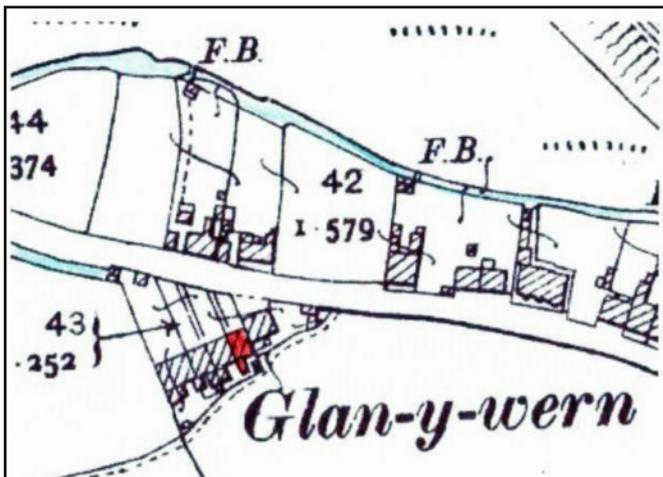
At the 1881 Census the shoemaker had gone, and in the house was the widow of a master mariner, Margaret Edwards. She was born about 1850 at Bow Street, and spoke both Welsh and English. With her were three sons, Richard 7, John 6, David 4, and Jane 3 and she had a maid servant. Richard and John had been born in Clarach. Was this a newly built terrace house (Camddwr)? Though the houses had no name the Edwards would later call it 'Ivor House', and Margaret's master mariner husband would be able to afford the rent of a new house.

ABOVR RIGHT In 1886 the house, marked in red, would have been the home of the mariner Edwards and his family, and the terrace had been built by the blacksmith Williams. The house had a drive leading to the road on the west of its front garden, and some extensions on the back which was very close to the footpath to Bryn Owen (A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of Cardiganshire surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888).



LEFT The house in 1886 marked in red.

At the 1891 and 1901 Census the house was called 'Ivor House,' and in the house was Margaret Edwards. In the house in 1891 with her were her children Richard, 17, John 16, David Thomas 14, and Margaret 11. The eldest children like their parents could speak English as well as Welsh.



LEFT In 1904 Camddwr, then Ivor House, is marked in red. There is another small building there which may have been its Ty Bach - outside lavatory. The 'S' (braces) indicate one owner for the houses, which we know was Hugh Williams the blacksmith (A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of Cardiganshire, revised in 1904 and published in 1905).

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied this house was valued at £45? There would have been

£6. 7s. 6d to pay, £7.10s. gross. The owner was Hugh Williams, the blacksmith at Gwasted Borth and living there was Evan Davies. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and a NLW map).

In 1911 at the Census the house had five main rooms. Evan Davies aged 70 was a sailor on steamships. He was born in Borth about 1841, son of John Davies, a mariner living at Morfa Borth and his wife Eliza (Baptised October 4th at St Michael's Llandre Church Register Ceredigion Archives). Also in the house was his wife Margaret aged 62, also born in Borth in 1849. Their daughter Jane Emily was a shop assistant and was aged 18 and not yet married. Staying in the house was a Wesleyan Minister, the Rev. Robert J. Roberts. He was 23 and from Denbyshire. Evan and his wife had been married 38 years and had four children still living.

In 1925 paying the Rates for 'Ivor' was Jane Morris, and she was the owner and occupier.

Paying the Rates in 1938 was D. Aubrey Davies. The house name had changed to 'The Rest.'

On Thursday 10th June 1943 furniture from the house was being sold at Borth's Central Garage (in the High Street). The reason was that Mrs Creswick Williams had died (Cambrian News cutting, Ceredigion Archives, ABY/B/16)

Paying the Rates in 1949 for the house still called 'The Rest' was J. B. White.

Paying the Rates in 1963 was John Williams, and the name of the house had changed to Camddwr. John Lloyd Williams and Marion Williams had votes for the house (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

Note. Hugh Williams the blacksmith of Gwastad was born about 1840, his wife Margaret

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

Ceidw Beryl Lewis yr hawlfraint yn ei gwaith ac mae'r hanesion yn cael eu rhannu at ddibenion preifat ac ymchwil yn unig.

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-ceredigion.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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