

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

This work is for research and educational purposes only.

GWYNDY

Formerly part of Wesleyan Place, called after the chapel across the High Street. It began as a cottage at the southern end of Morfa Borth, which was built by 1829 on ground enclosed in 1827. By 1910 it was a two storey house called Teifi.



Gwyndy in 2009

Gwyndy is a two storey, double fronted house under a gable roof at right angles to the street. It is very close to Anwylfan on the south side, leaving a narrow passage. The brick chimney is at the northern end of the roof, and has decorative strip of dark bricks. There is one chimney pot. The wall on the north side is rubble stone, and a builder working on the front in 2015 said that there are bricks in the front wall. The walls are rendered, and the front of the house is plain. The windows are all modern. The house opens on to the street with a pavement area of hard standing. The width of the front fills its plot - there is no access to the rear.



The front of the house in 2015



ABOVE The chimney in 2015. There is room for four chimney pots, though now only one.

The rear of the house has a two storey extension under a nearly flat roof on two thirds of the rear. A large picture window in the upper floor gives fine views of the sea. This opens on to a railed balcony with wooden stairs down into the

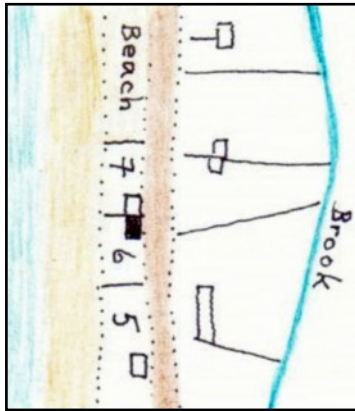
yard. The low wall of thick planks provided by the Council has another wooden fence above it as further protection from the sea during bad storms. It also provides some privacy for the yard.

So far we do not have a photograph of this house on old postcards. The name of the house is Welsh, gwyn being 'white' and dy (ty) being 'house'. Today it is indeed a 'white house' with its white rendering.



The rear of the house from the beach in 2015.

The ground for this house is an embankment of stones thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no good for farming. The road is centuries old and became a turnpike road in the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to reach North Wales. The ground for this house was enclosed in 1827 by David Jones who had built a cottage on it by 1829, and paid an annual rent of 16 shillings to the manor for it. The ground was not very large, just 19 perches, almost an eighth of an acre.



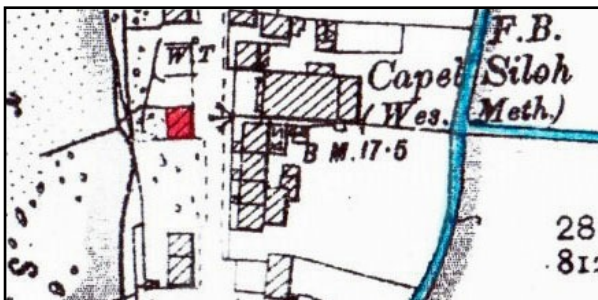
LEFT This detail is copied from a map of 1829. David Jones's ground was number 6 and his cottage is marked in black. It adjoined another one. There were not many cottages along the beach side at that time. On the north was still un-enclosed beach.

(National Archive, LRRO 1/3060)

David Jones was a master mariner, commander of the sloop Neptune in 1824. She was owned by John and Mary Jones, also of Morfa Borth, who had many ships and shares in ships. (Aberystwyth Register of Shipping, Ceredigion Archives). David Jones and his family were in the 1851 Census. By 1848 a third cottage had been added to the row. (Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at CYNEFIN, NLW) It is not possible to find the families in the cottage in the 1861 and 1871 Census's. However in the 1881 and 1891 this 'Wesleyan Place Cottage had a mariner and his family. He was not home (at sea?) But his wife Eliza Jenkins (nee Hughes) was. She was local, born in Borth about 1853, With her was her daughters, Mary (born 1879) and Elizabeth (born 1885) and son John D. Jenkins (born 1881). They were a monoglot Welsh speaking family.



LEFT Marked in red is the Jenkin's cottage in 1886. It had been part of a row of three cottages but the cottage on the north had gone. There was open ground on the south. Some fences had been built to protect the cottages from the sea. The Jenkin's cottage did not have an enclosed rear garden.



LEFT In 1904 the cottage had walls or fences either side of its back yard. Like today it opened directly on to the street. The W.T. was a Wireless Telegraph Station. Maps above details from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Maps of 1888 surveyed in 1886, and 1905, revised in 1904. Cardiganshire III.10

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, the cottage was called Teifi and valued at £200. There would have been £4 to pay. The owner was the mariner's son, John Jenkins, and living there was W. I. Smith. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and a NLW map). Most of Borth's old cottages were valued at £30 or £40. What they had then valued at £200 was the two storey house we see today. It was also put at the end of the list - as were newly built or altered buildings. But it still had the 'Poor Lewn' rate number of the old cottage. Teifi would have provided a decent rent for John Jenkins and his family.

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The house was not listed in the 1911 Census, possibly no one was there to fill in the form. In 1925 G. S. Sproule paid the rates as the owner and occupier.

In 1934 paying the rates was W. G. Baker, and G. S. Sproule was the occupier. The name Teifi was crossed out, and the name Gwyndy added. In 1938 paying the rates had been W. G. Baker, but was then Mrs E. V. Watkins.

In 1945 at the General Election Ernest V. Watkins and Mary E. Watkins had votes for the house.

Paying the rates in 1949 was Bertha Wakeham.

In 1962 three bedrooms and two sitting rooms, all furnished, were advertised to let by Mrs Tector of Terfyn (Glanwern). ('Handbook and Guide to Borth', private collection).

In 1963 paying the rates was W. J. Tector and with a vote for the house was Thelma Alice Strauch. (All Rates and Electoral Register Information from Ceredigion Archives).

In 1970 the Aberystwyth Rural District Council was 'improving the sleeper walls behind the house by putting a new row of vertical sleepers immediately seaward and nine inches lower than the existing sleeper wall.' (Private Collection)



This is a snapshot taken before 1925. In the foreground are Water's Edge and Llys Tadema, and beyond is the rear of Gwyndy. It had a chimneys each end of its roof, and some small extensions on the rear. Anwylfan is not there, not built yet.

Photograph by courtesy of Mrs F. H. B. Renny.

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Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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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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