

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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ROSE COTTAGE Glanwern Village, Borth.

Home of Richard Davies a farm worker in 1848, and later of another Davies farm worker and his family until the middle of the twentieth century.



*LEFT and
BELOW Rose
Cottage in 2009.*

Rose Cottage is barely two storeys, and to allow for two large windows for its upstairs front rooms its roof has been raised a little above them. Otherwise it is a gable roof at right angles to the road. The third upstairs window is smaller. All are modern.



There is one chimney on the eastern end of the roof which is rendered and has one chimneypot. The two ground floor windows at the western side of the front are large. The third window, on the east, is narrower.

Access to the rear is on the west side of the house with a drive to its garage. The west wall of the house has one window on the ground floor, and a porch with the front

door. This has a gently sloping lean to roof and a modern front door. Based on the photograph of it in about 1900 or just before, and the 1905 Map, I suggest that the house was rebuilt by 1904 further back from the road, and extended all the way to its western boundary.

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 streams down the valley from behind Ty Gwyn and from Bryn Owen, and it 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 NA LRRO 1/3060). There was already a settlement at Glanwern by 1806 when Elizabeth Davies said she 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 and high sand dune area at Ynyslas and then across the River Dovey on a ferry to Aberdovey.

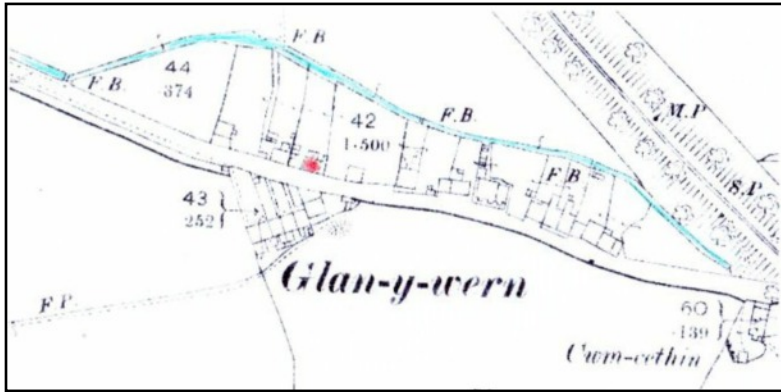


LEFT On a map of 1848 the ground for Rose Cottage was part of Number 108 which is marked in red, and had cottages on it. Enoch Williams and Richard Davies had cottages and gardens there. The ground measured 33 perches, nearly a rod (a rod was 40 perches, a quarter of an acre) (Detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn)

This would have been an enclosure from 'waste' ground between the road and the tailrace from the Felinwern Mill and a rent would have had to be paid to the Crown Manor when it was enclosed. There was the option to buy the ground too. Two buildings are shown on the map and the westernmost today has become Rose Cottage.

At the 1851 Census Richard Davies and Enoch Williams were both farm labourers. Richard Davies was born in 1816 in Llanilar, Ceredigion, and he would have been 22 in 1848. His wife Jane was local, born in Borth about 1823. They had a son David, born in 1847 and daughter Elizabeth born in 1851. By the 1861 Census Jane was a widow. In the house with her was a nine year old daughter Eleanor born at Glanwern, and a son John aged 7 born at Cauberllan, Borth.

I cannot find the families in the cottage in the 1871 or 1881 Census. It is possible that Richard's brother David born in Aberaeron about 1819 was there with wife at the 1881 Census. He too was a farm worker. As he was 62 his children had left home.



LEFT By 1886 the tailrace stream had been moved northwards so the cottages had bigger gardens. Rose Cottage is marked in red and opened on to the road. At the side and back there were extensions. There was an enclosed garden, with two little buildings in it - one of which was probably its Ty

Bach outside lavatory (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1888, surveyed in 1886, Cardiganshire NW).

At the 1891 and 1901 Census the cottage had its name 'Rose Cottage'. In the cottage were John Davies born about 1842 in Ysbyty (Aberteifi/Cardigan)), a general worker on a farm, with his wife Hannah born about 1839 in Cilcennin. There were two daughters at home, Annie born about 1870 who was the cook for a family, she was unmarried, Elizabeth, Lizzie born about 1883 was a dressmaker. Their son David born about 1879 was a leather dresser -there was a tannery at Dolybont. At that time the family was Welsh speaking only.



LEFT In 1904 Rose Cottage was wider, now one house all the way to its eastern boundary. Unlike the cottage there in 1886 it was set back a little from the road and had a narrow front garden. There was a small building beside the front on the western side too. The 'S' braces on the

1905 map suggested a right of access to the garden alongside, and the garden of Sunny Hill which had a track to a footbridge over the tailrace stream (A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905, revised in 1904, Cardiganshire NW).



ABOVE Rose Cottage is on the far left in this photograph taken by John Thomas in about 1900 or just before. There was a garden between it and Glasfryn. Rose Cottage was two storeys, and had a central front door, and a chimney at each end of the roof (On-line National Library of Wales).

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In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied the 'house and garden' (by then a two storey house) was valued at £138. There would have been £4 to pay, £5 gross. John Davies was both the owner and the occupier. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and a NLW map).

At the 1911 Census Rose Cottage had 6 rooms and in the house was John Davies then aged 73 who earned a living as a Golf Attendant or Greensman. in 1838. His wife Hannah was 75 Their son David who had not married was then a miner – a collier worker. Their daughter Anne was 42, unmarried and with 'private means'. She had been born in Clarach. The couple had been married for 47 years and had five children all of whom were still living. The family, by then, spoke both Welsh and English. John Davies died age 81 in 1919, his wife Hannah aged 80 in 1918. (They were buried at Llandre).

In 1925 and 1932 Anne Davies was paying the Rates, as the owner and occupier of Rose Cottage. Anne died in 1935 aged 67.

Paying the Rates in 1938 and 1949 was David Davies, £5.

The Davies family had gone by 1963 when the Rates were paid by George Richard Lakin, the house being valued at £29 (based on a likely rent for a year), and he had a vote for the house (Electoral Registers and Rates Ceredigion Archives).

Archifdy Ceredigion Archives
yn cyflwyno / presents
Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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-ceredigion.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.

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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