

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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TERFYN

Glanwern Village, Borth.

End of terrace house built by 1886 probably by Hugh Williams blacksmith of Gwastad on ground his family had had a cottage on since 1848 and built for family or to let. Still in the ownership of the Williams family in 1925. Formerly called 'Wern Villa' and 'Pleasant View'.

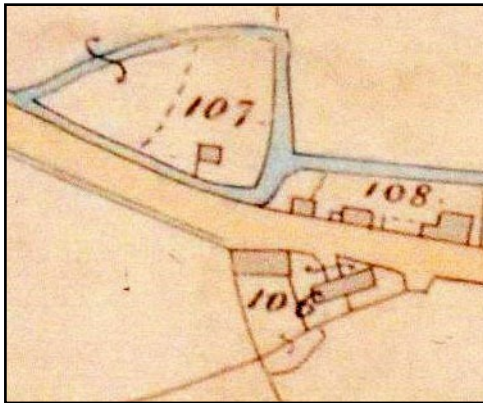


'Terfyn' means 'boundary' as indeed this house was, as it stood at the end of the terrace and next to Bryn Owen Farm's Ddol Ucha (upper meadow), now caravans. This house is the widest one in the terrace.

Terfyn is a single fronted house under a gable roof at an angle to the street. The roof is slate or slate coloured. There is a rubble stone slab chimney on the east end of its roof with two sets of three chimney pots which it probably shares with Llwynteg next door. The walls are rendered but likely to be rubble stone. The two upper windows of the house nearly reach the eaves and have shutters like those on French houses. The windows have 12 square lights. The end wall on the west has a small window high up under the gable which would light an attic room under the roof. At the rear is a single storey lean to extension which is rendered. There is a metal chimney pipe on the side wall. The ground floor at the front has a window on its east side matching the ones above. On the west side is a porch with a front door. The front garden is planted, and a hard standing drive leads to the house from the west end of its front hedge.

At the rear this house has more ground than the other three in the terrace, with room for a detached building on it, but its garden is at the front of the house.

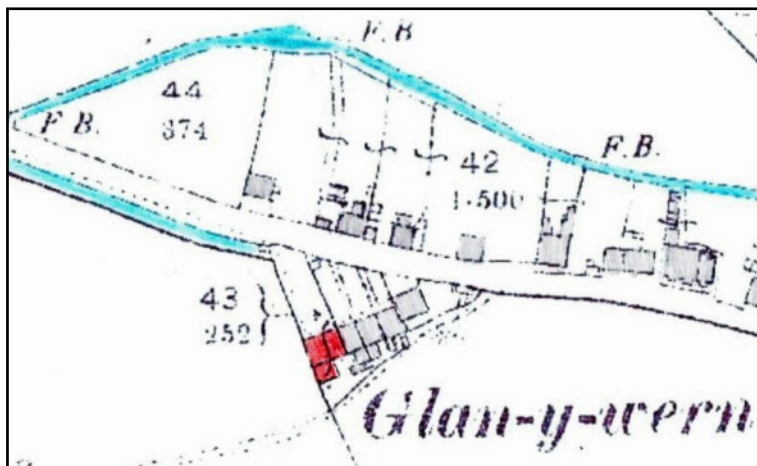
he reason a small settlement could grow up at Glanwern was the presence of the tailrace from the Felinwern Mill at Glanlerry, which was fresh water from the River Lerry. It was joined by a small stream down the valley behind Ty Gwyn too, and it also helped drain the marsh on the north. After passing 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 and high sand dune area at Ynyslas and then across the River Dovey on a ferry to Aberdovey.



LEFT In 1848 the ground on which the house stands, Number 106 was 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. There were two blocks of cottages and gardens on it and John Williams and others lived there and owned it or rented it from the Manor. The enclosures for gardens at the back of the buildings suggest three

families were there (A detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map of 1848 for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township on-line at CYNEFIN) John Williams was a shoemaker. John Williams was still there in 1871 at the Census, an elderly man. It is possible he was still living in his old cottage, and likely that the Williams family owned all the old ground.

The ground came into the ownership of Hugh Williams, a blacksmith at Gwastad (Borth) who rented his smithy from an estate. He was a renowned poacher. The Gogerddan gamekeepers were continually frustrated in attempts to catch him, he hid his gun and catch on neighbours' haystacks. (Terry Davies, Borth, A Seaborn Village, p. 83) At the 1881 Census there were three empty houses – and it is possible from where they appear in the list that he had recently built the terrace and was possibly waiting for tenants.

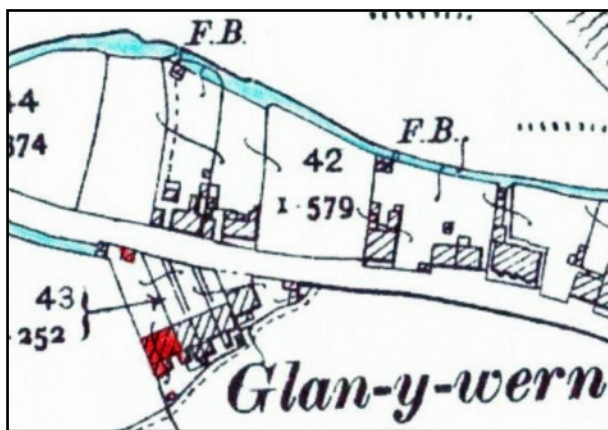


LEFT In 1886 the old cottages were gone except for Little Cot. In order to fit several houses into the space Hugh Williams was obliged to fit the terrace up against Little Cot, so they had to line up at the same angle. Terfyn is marked in red. It was the largest of the houses. Its west wall was against the boundary with Bryn Owen's field It had a sizeable extension

on the back. This house had more space at the back than the remainder of the houses in the terrace and the 'S' (brace) shows it shared this with Evelyn next door, which suggests they both had the same owner (A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map for NW Cardiganshire, surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888).

At the 1891 Census the census takers listed the houses in a random order, and there were two, with no names. It is not possible to be sure who was living in the house at the end of the terrace.

At the 1901 Census the house still did not have a name. Living there were William Jones, a carpenter (probably working on board ships), born at Aberdovey about 1853, and his wife Elizabeth who was born at Aberteifi about 1842. Also in the house was Dorothy Mary Jones, a Board School teacher (at Upper Borth), aged 17 and born in Taliesin about 1884, and John Llewellyn Jones also 17 and born in Taliesin.



LEFT In 1904 the house, marked in red had another small extension at the back. There is also a small building at the end of its front garden by the road. The 'S' (braces) indicate the same owner for all the buildings (A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 revised in 1904)

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied this house was valued at £130. There would have been £4.16s. to pay, £6 gross. The owner space was not filled in, but Hugh Williams owned the rest of the

terrace. The occupier was William Jones (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and a map at the National Library of Wales map).

At the 1911 Census the house was called 'Wern Villa'. In the house was Elizabeth Jones the wife of a mariner (the ship's carpenter William Jones who would have been away at sea). She only spoke Welsh and had been married for 30 years, but she had no children. The house had four main rooms.

She was the owner and occupier in 1925.

In 1938 the house was called 'Pleasant View' and paying the rates were E. Jones and S. Williams.

In 1944 the house, still called Pleasant View was up for sale and there was a sale of its furniture (Ceredigion Archives)

In 1949 the house was called 'Terfyn', and paying the Rates for the house was G. S. Sproule. (Ceredigion Archives)

In 1962 Mrs Tector was offering accommodation there. She also had Gwyndy (a cottage on the Beach side, southern High Street. (Guide to Borth, Private Collection)

The house is not apparent on the 1963 Rates list at present - had it changed its name again?

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yn cyflwyno / presents
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.

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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