

THE BUILDINGS OF MORFA 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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THE BAKERY FLATS

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

The first bakery on this site was built by Captain Thomas Davies of Nathaniel by 1892. It is now two flats.



LEFT The Bakery Flats in 2015. The entrance to the top flat is up the staircase and dormer windows light the entry.

This is a one and a half storey building under a gable roof at right angles to the road. It is single fronted with its front door on the north side. The walls are brick and rendered, but a pattern of quoins of exposed bricks decorate the edges of the building. The four windows match and are modern. The red brick chimney is an integral part of the design. There is a wide passage on the north with access and a parking area.



LEFT On the right is Nathaniel, the home of Captain Thomas Davies who built the bakery. It had to fit on his own ground and therefore is very close to the house.

Above the lower windows is a beam left from the time when the front was the baker's shop for Clifford Jones's Bakery. The Captain did not sell his

bread there but in 1910 had a breadshop at the top of the village (today near Manchester House), a stable for his horse at Y Bwythn, and a coach house across the road.

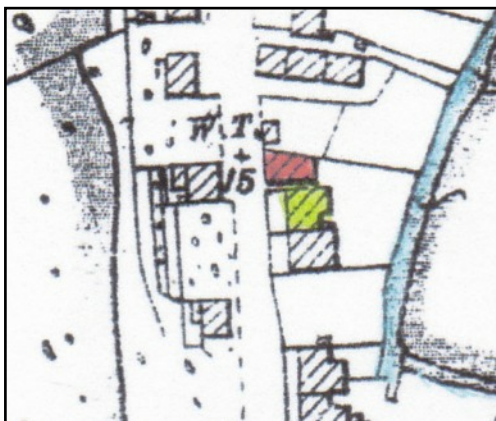


LEFT The rear of the house, with a different shaped roof from the front section, and with a single storey lean to extension as well. There will be a good view from the upper window across the railway and pastures to the hills. The garden belongs with the lower flat. It faces east and it becomes long and narrow extending to the ditch which was once a brook with fresh water for the old cottages.

The ground for this house is the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea and it was still open unenclosed 'beach' in 1829. The Crown Manor who owned it called it 'waste' as it was no use to farmers (National Archive map LRRO 1/3060). The road had been there for centuries and was a quick way to North Wales via a ferry to Aberdovey. It was a turnpike road by the 1770s. By 1848 there was nothing on this ground, just one cottage somewhere where Nathaniel stands today (Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at CYNEFIN).



LEFT By 1886 Nathaniel, marked in red was built on this patch of ground which had a sloping boundary on the north and ended at a brook which was then fresh water for the cottages. It was the tail race from the corn mill at Glanlerry - water from the River Lerry plus two small streams. The surveyor has drawn both Nathaniel and the house next door with the same owner and with a path to the brook as the wet pasture beyond also belonged to them. There was a small building by Nathaniel but the bakery had not been built yet (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10. W. T. was a Wireless Telegraph)



LEFT By 1904 the Bakery was built fitting up against the boundary on the patch of ground. It is marked in red and Nathaniel in green (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire NW III.10. W. T. was Wireless Telegraph)

The bakery was built by an enterprising master mariner, Captain Thomas Davies. He was baptised on February 2nd 1849 and was the son of a Borth mariner so he was middle aged, about 55 in 1904. He had bought the schooner 'Nathaniel' in 1879 and it was a good size and could carry 110 tons. He

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was also the owner and captain of the schooner 'Pluvier', and these would have earned him a good living. And he named his house after his schooner 'Nathaniel' (Shipping Register, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion Archives). In 1907 he was listed as a 'baker and confectioner'. He would have retired from the sea, though Terry Davies has said that he was still sailing a small dinghy up and down the bay in his eighties (Borth; A Seaborn Village page 77 and there is a photograph of Pluvier on page 52).

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, Nathaniel plus the bakery plus the coach house and stable and shop were valued at £270. There would have been £6.16s to pay, £8 gross. His bakery did not have a shop as part of the building and he delivered his bread with a pony and trap (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales).

The next baker to have the bakery was John Morris Evans. He was paying the rates for it in 1925, Captain Davies still owned it. Mr Evans had a tin roofed barn over the road next to Inman for his horse drawn 'van'(Salt Winds is there today).

By 1934 F. E. Wheeler owned the bakery, and Clifford Jones had taken over the bakery from John Morris Evans and called it 'Cliff's Bakery'. He had been working for Mr Evans. Clifford Jones was from a Borth family of bakers, his father and grandfather had a flourishing bakery where the Pine Centre stands today. Clifford Jones had both a shop and a flat for his family in the building. There were three bedrooms, the big one for him and his wife looked east over the Cors Fochno to the hills beyond. They had three small children, two of them had a bedroom on the south side, and the eldest a bedroom overlooking the street. The ovens were downstairs at the back. The bakery van delivered bread to Llandre and Bow Street and was in competition with the Jones family's 'Bakery' at the other end of the High Street. As the caravans increased in numbers in the 1960s there were plenty of customers for Clifford Jones's fresh bread. Clifford Jones was also a good fisherman and would catch lobsters, crabs and prawns for his family. They had a garden with vegetables at the back of the house and the Miss Davies of Nathaniel would let them use some of that garden too.



ABOVE LEFT The oldest photograph of the shop, CENTRE Clifford Evans rebuilt the front and moved the doorway to the north side of the shop window. RIGHT His three daughters in the back garden. LEFT Clifford Jones and his wife in their shop. The tins and packets suggest he sold groceries too.

(Photographs courtesy of Mrs Gwyneth Dickinson)

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In 1949 John Morris Evans was paying the rates.

Clifford Jones paid the rates until 18th January 1958 and then Herbert John Draycot paid the rates and he was still paying for the bakery, shop and garden in 1963. He and Irene Draycott had votes for the place (Electoral Registers and Rates Ceredigion Archives).

A Crown 25 inch map of 1975 shows there was a small passage in between The Bakery Flats and Nathaniel, and The Bakery Flats had its own garden.

BELOW The rear of the Bakery Flats in 2019. It has a chimney, and also a single storey extension on the rear with a tall stove pipe. The building and garden get narrower to fit the site so the garden is not very wide when it ends at the ditch once the old brook.



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gan/by Beryl Lewis

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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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