

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.

BUSHBURY Glanwern Village, Borth.

Part of a terrace of three houses, rebuilt old cottages pre 1848. The present building was there by 1886. Home of a master mariner Captain David Davies.



ABOVE The Terrace in 2009. Bushbury is in the centre.



ABOVE The front of Bushbury in 2015. It is notable for its very smooth rendering.

Bushbury is a single fronted, two storey centre of terrace house, under a gable roof parallel with the road. The house name is English. Glanwern (Glan-y-wern) meant marsh bank. The roof is slate colour and there was a slab chimney on the east with two chimney pots in 2009 and the chimney was rendered. It has the shape expected for a brick chimney. Though today Bushbury's walls are rendered and smooth, Tree Cottage at the east end of the terrace of three clearly shows random rubble stone walls with some rounded stones that could have come from the beach, and it is likely that Bushbury too is a stone house.

Bushbury's front door is on the west side and today has a porch under a sloping lean to roof. It has a door to the street on the east of it – away from keen winds from the sea. The front windows are modern having the pattern of a sash window, and they match those of Haulfryn. There is a front garden which grows some plants, and this is enclosed by low rendered walls with in 2009 an iron gate with railings.

The rear of the house has an extension of two storeys reaching to the eaves of the main house, and with a gable roof at right angles to it. It is rendered, and has an upper window looking out over the garden. The upper window of the main house on the east side has the pattern of a sash window with twelve lights which looks comfortable in the rectangle of the window. The original windows may well have been like it - it is not clear if it is a modern

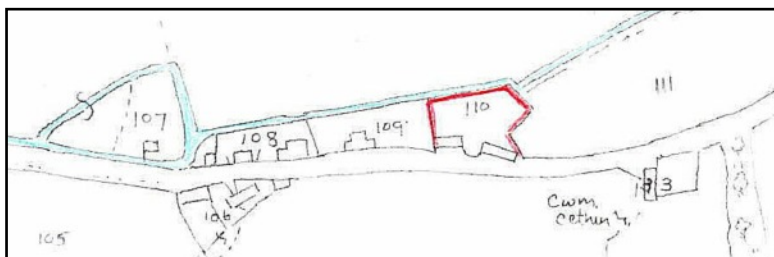


ABOVE The rear of Bushbury in 2015.

copy. The garden extends to the railway embankment, the tailrace stream is now piped underground, but has a right of way along it, for the Council workmen to maintain the leat which therefore has gates on both sides where it enters and leaves the garden.

The reason the small Glanwern Village grew up there was the presence of the tailrace from the Felinwern Mill close to Glanlerry Farm, which brought fresh water from the River Lerry. It was joined by a small stream down to Glanleri Farm and another down to Ty Gwyn (then Cwm Cethin). The watercourse also helped drain the marsh on the north of it. The old name for the marsh was Wern Leri and it was later used as common land. (1859 Crown Manor map National Archives LRRO 1/3060). 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. Though the western section of Glanwern Village was built on land considered 'waste' by the Crown Manor, maps of its 'waste' clearly shows that from the east end of the now Glanwern House and the terrace with Bushbury the ground was not considered 'waste' (National Archives LRRO 1/3060). However such a small strip of land between the road and the tailrace was awkward to farm and was a sensible place to build cottages on by the roadside. There were people living in the old cottages at Glanwern in 1806 when Elizabeth Davies said at the Census of 1861 that she was born there. 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 there would be four. 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 sand dune area at Ynyslas and then by ferry across the River Dovey to Aberdovey.



ABOVE A detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map of Llanfihangel Genau'r'Glyn, Cyfoeth-y-brenin township 1848, on-line at CYNEFIN)

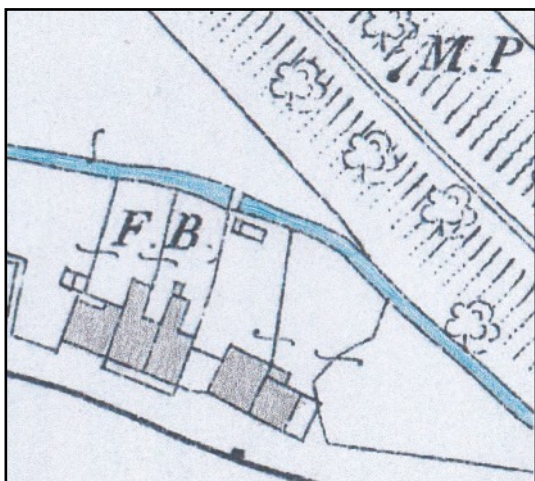
On a map of 1848 Bushbury's ground was part of plot 110 which had two terraces of cottages and gardens, and it was part of the terrace on the west. The cottages had several owners but only Richard Francis was mentioned. Richard Francis was a farm worker and lived in one of the cottages, born about 1801 in Borth and had a wife Jane.

Aged 83 in 1881 at the Census he was still living in Glanwern.

In another of the old cottages at the 1841 Census, later in Bushbury was a Davies family. The family had been in Glanwern since 1841 when at the Census was David Davies, an agricultural labourer, aged 35, born about 1804 in Aberystwyth, with his wife Elizabeth aged 38, born

about 1806, his daughter Mary aged 8 born about 1830 and his son David aged 2, born about 1839, both children born in Glanwern. By the 1861 Census David Davies had become a 'carrier'. His son David aged 22 was by then a mariner, and daughter Mary aged 30 had not married. David would end up as a master mariner living in Bushbury and owning both Bushbury and Haulfryn.

At the 1871 Census and 1881 Census's David Davies, by then a master mariner, was probably away at sea, as in the cottage or house was his mother Elizabeth Davies, by then a widow acting as a housekeeper, and with her was her daughter Mary.



LEFT In 1886 the present house is there, the centre of the terrace of three, and it had an extension on the back in the centre of its garden, and a narrow garden on the front. Haulfryn next door was the same. The 'S' shaped 'braces' on the map show that all the terrace belonged with Glanwern House next door – the home of Captain John Francis. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of Cardiganshire surveyed in 1886 published in 1888).

In the house at the 1891 Census was Mary Davies, 60 years old, unmarried and acting as a housekeeper. The house did not have a name. By the 1901 Census her brother Captain David Davies had retired from the sea with his 'own means'. He was 62, and his sister Mary 69 was still housekeeping for him. They were Welsh speakers.

In 1904 the house is much the same as it was on the 1888 Map. However the 's' shaped curves (braces) link the houses and gardens on that side of the road suggesting a common owner, with Glanwern House, which would be the Francis family, whose Glanwern House

was the best house in the village, and who also owned Tree Cottage in 1910.



LEFT On this old postcard the terrace is on the right. Bushbury looks very neat. Tree Cottage was exposed stone. Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum.

It is possible that Captain John Francis (who was old and died in 1911) built these houses to let and by

1910 Bushbury and Haulfryn were sold to Captain Davies.

On two old photographs of Glanwern, Bushbury had two storeys, rendered walls and a front garden or plants along its front wall.

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, the house was valued at £159, with £5.19s to pay, £7 gross, and the map with this shows that the Captain was living in Bushbury. He was both

the owner and occupier. That valuation is not a small cottage, but the house we see today though the place was still listed as a 'cottage and garden' as it may have been at one time. It did not have a name yet.

By the 1911 Census, Captain Davies was 72, and with him was his sister Mary aged 80. Neither had married. The house was listed with five main rooms.

In 1925 Captain Davies had died and his executors were to pay the Rates.

In 1932 the house had the name Bushbury and paying the Rates was Margaret Rees.

Paying the Rates in 1938/9 and 1949 was William M. Pritchard.

Mr Pritchard was Paying the Rates in 1963 valuation £22. In the late 60s Mrs Pritchard was offering bed and breakfast. She could take five persons. There was no telephone there yet.



ABOVE Today (2015) the terrace is leaning backwards owing to subsidence from drainage operations. This did not crack the shell of the house though the floors can seem uneven.

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.

Beryl Lewis retains the copyright in her work and the histories are made available for private use and research only.



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council



Archifdy
Ceredigion
Archives