

# 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.*

## CLEVELAND Morfa Borth

On the beach side in the middle of Borth high Street. Home of an Enos mariner and his family and their 'Temperance House' lodging house. Also called Number 3 Brynmor Place. Built after 1860 but before 1871 on land enclosed by master mariner John Morgan in 1825 who was related in marriage to the Enos family and whose cottage was next door, now Tynsley. The Enos family were in Cleveland until 1943.

*Cleveland in 2016*



Cleveland is barely two storeys high, double fronted, and semidetached, under a gable roof at right angles to the street. The rendered chimney on the north end of the roof is shared with Tynsley, and its shape suggests it is rubble stone. Dormer windows, one in front and two in the back of the roof give light to an attic floor. The walls of the house are rubble stone, and rendered. At the front of the house the upper windows with modern frames are small, the

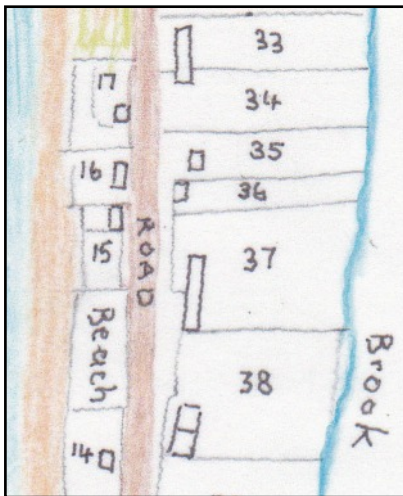


same size as in an old painting of the house. The lower windows are larger and are modern with a pattern of small panes suitable for an old cottage. There appears to be a blocked window immediately above the roof above the front door. Like Borth's old cottages the front door is not central, the house is wider on the north side where there would have been its living room with a hearth. The front door would have opened into a passage and the ground floor room on the other side would have been smaller. The roof over the front door which has plain timber

in-filling and plain barge boards ends with a finial and its ridge tiles are decorative. Rendering of a bold red outlines features on the front of the house and is matched by the rendering on the brick wall enclosing the front garden, which has a red gate.

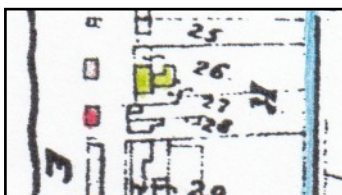


*LEFT Rubble stone shows through the rendering on the south side of the house. ABOVE The rear of the house from the beach in 2015. A two storey extension has a huge area of window with sea views. Alongside is a balcony with steps down to the yard, and below the balcony is another room. The south side of the yard is open back to the main house. A wall protects the yard from the sea, and the passage to the beach is walled, and planks block gateways.*



The ground for this house is the stone bank thrown up by the sea and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. It was enclosed in 1825 by John Morgan, and measured 13 perches. On a map of 1829 (LEFT) it is Number 16 and there was a cottage built on it. A rent of 14s a year had to be paid for the ground - and it could be bought for two years rent. John Morgan was a master mariner and ship owner with shares in other ships and he appears in the Aberystwyth Shipping Register from 1827. In 1845 he was giving shares to this son John. (Copy from a National Archives Map LRRO 1/3060) The road had been there for centuries, it was used in the twelfth century and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales.

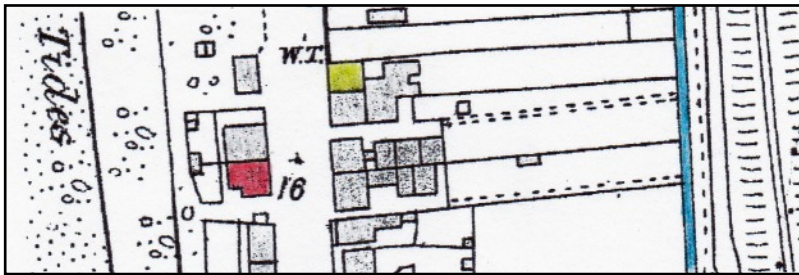
Fresh water for the cottages and houses came from a brook behind the buildings on the other side of the road.



*LEFT In 1848 there was no building where Cleveland stands today. John Morgan's cottage (now Tynsley) is marked in red. Marked in green over the road was the White Lion Inn (now Mayfield). (Tithe Apportionments Map Llangihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township - on line at CYNEFIN - National Library of Wales).*

In 1860 John Morgan's cottage and ground was sold by the Crown Manor to master mariner David Rees. In the Deeds is a plan of the place with just one cottage drawn in - Cleveland alongside was not yet there. (Deeds to Tynsley, privately owned).

However John Morgan the prosperous master mariner and ship owner's daughter Margaret had wed Thomas Enos on December 7<sup>th</sup>. 1855 (Parish Register, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Ceredigion Archives), and they would come to live in a cottage built alongside Tynsley. By 1871 it was set up as a lodging house. Visitors stayed there for nine weeks during the summer. They had come from as far away as London and Staffordshire. Many came from Wales, and it is likely they had come by train. Two families at the same time could be accommodated. Mr Enos was the proprietor. Thomas Enos was a mariner but not a Captain - he called himself Mr Enos) who was in the house at the 1871 Census. He was local, born in in Borth about 1834, son of a mariner, and his wife Margaret was a year younger. With them were their four children; John Enos 11, Mary (Anne) Enos 9, Thomas Enos 4 and David J. Enos 2. Also in the house was Mr Enos's mother in law, a widow, Anne Morgan aged 78 and born in the parish in 1793, she was the widow of John Morgan who enclosed the ground. Thomas and Margaret Enos were also in the house at the 1881 Census. Mary Anne then 19 a 'servant' was there and her brother Thomas. With them were three James children; David 12, Owen 9 and Margaret Jane 6. They were all born in Borth. In 1881 the Census takers did not give the houses individual names. Cleveland was 3 Brynmor Place. Brynmor House and five other homes were on both sides of the High Street. The Cambrian News only listed one holiday family staying there in 1880. Thomas Enos was the proprietor, and the house was called 'Temperance House'. A 'Temperance Society' had been founded in Borth on June 15<sup>th</sup> 1871, and calling their home 'Temperance House' probably attracted local people and holiday visitors to stay there. It was the only lodging house in Borth to call itself this. The Enos family were probably Calvinistic Methodists as the Borth Temperance Society had a banner carried by teachers and children of Calvinistic Sunday Schools when visiting Borth.



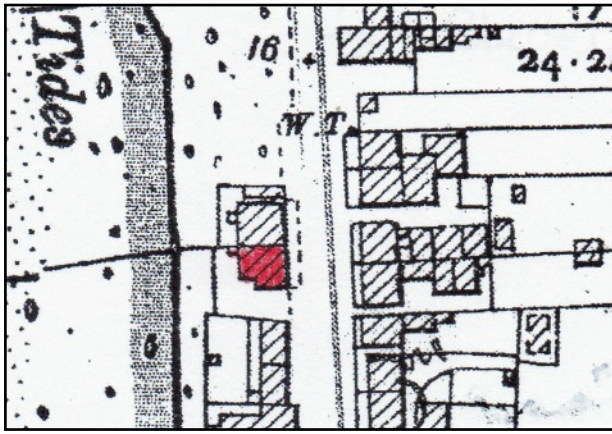
*In 1886 we can see how close the two houses were, the Enos house marked in red, and Tynsley next door. There was some open ground each side of them. The Enos house had a wide extension at the back, and*

*Tynsley had one right across its back. They are bigger when compared with the cottages on the map on either side of them. The small building in the yard probably had the Ty Bach, outdoor lavatory. They shared this with Tynsley but the surveyor has marked the two houses with individual owners. The south side of the house was open to both the street and the beach. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire III.10)*

In the house in 1891 Mrs Margaret Enos, then 56 was still running a lodging house. Also there were her two sons, Thomas Enos aged 24 who was a postman, and David J. Enos 22 who was a mariner. Her daughter Margaret Jane was listed as a 'domestic servant'. All were Welsh speakers.

In 1896 after a great storm the house was in 'an awful state' (article in the Cambrian News, 1898 October 9<sup>th</sup>) It would have been vulnerable as there was rough ground opening on to the beach on the south of it and the sea carrying stones could have rushed through.

By the Census of 1901 Mrs Margaret Enos was a widow and her son Thomas and daughter Margaret Jane were both in the house. Neither had married. This time they were listed as speaking both Welsh and English which would have helped with English visitors staying there.



In 1904 there was a small porch like extension at the back of the house. The yard had changed, it was open to the street on the south side only, the beach had been fenced off and the small buildings in the yard in 1886 had gone. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire III.10)

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied, the house was valued at £54. There would have been £2.8s to pay, £3 gross. The owners and occupiers were

David J James and Margaret James. They had been in the house at the 1881 Census when children (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales).



In this painting Temperance House is the far house of the pair on the right. It had a sign board over the front door and two chimneys, so there were some warm rooms for the lodgers. The date is after 1891 as Gordon Villa and Chesterton have been built

(From a poor photocopy of a coloured painting originally in the possession of Mrs Fielding and a coloured copy is in the People's Collection Wales, R C H M Wales)

The people in the house in the Census of 1911 described it as having four main rooms (back kitchens and sculleries and attic rooms would not count) and it was still called 'Temperance'. Member of the Enos family were still there, David Enos the mariner and his sister Margaret both still single.

Sometime after 1922 furnished holiday accommodation of three bedrooms and one sitting room were advertised in 'The Illustrated Borth Guide' (Abertstwyth Public Library). By 1925 the house had a new name, Cleveland House. Paying the rates was Margaret Jane Enos as owner

*Cleveland Page 5*

and occupier. She paid the rates in 1934 and 1938 too. Margaret J. Enos died in 1943 aged 68 (Parish Register St Matthew's Church).

In 1945 Ellen Davidson and Violet Rees had a vote for Cleveland at the General Election and Violet Rees paid the rates in 1949 and in 1963. She had a vote for the house that year as also did Mary Rees and Addice Rees.

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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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