

# 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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## CRAIGMORE Glanwern Village Borth.

Formerly a cottage, but rebuilt taller between 1904 and 1910. Then home of a retired artist, a painter, Samuel Morris.



*ABOVE AND RIGHT Craigmore in 2015.*

The house is just two storeys high, its eastern two upper windows reaching up to the eaves. It has a gable roof at right angles to the road, with a yellow brick chimney with a red decorative band on the east end. There is one chimney pot. The walls are rendered. On the west of the ground floor is a porch with the front door on the east side. The ground floor window is quite large. The narrow front garden is enclosed by a low rendered wall with a wooden front gate. A taller wall encloses the east side of the front. On the east



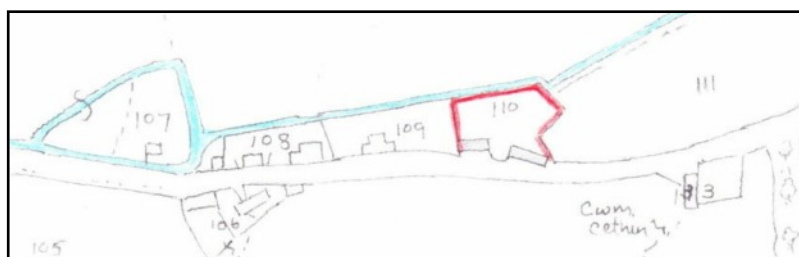
side of the house is a detached chalet of one storey under a gently sloping lean to roof. Access to it is from the east side, and two of its windows look out that way. There is a stone wall enclosing a narrow front garden with shrubs and it has a

*LEFT The Chalet in the garden on the east of Craigmore in 2015.*

garden separate from Craigmore's which ends at the tailrace. Craigmore's garden at the rear extends to the railway embankment.

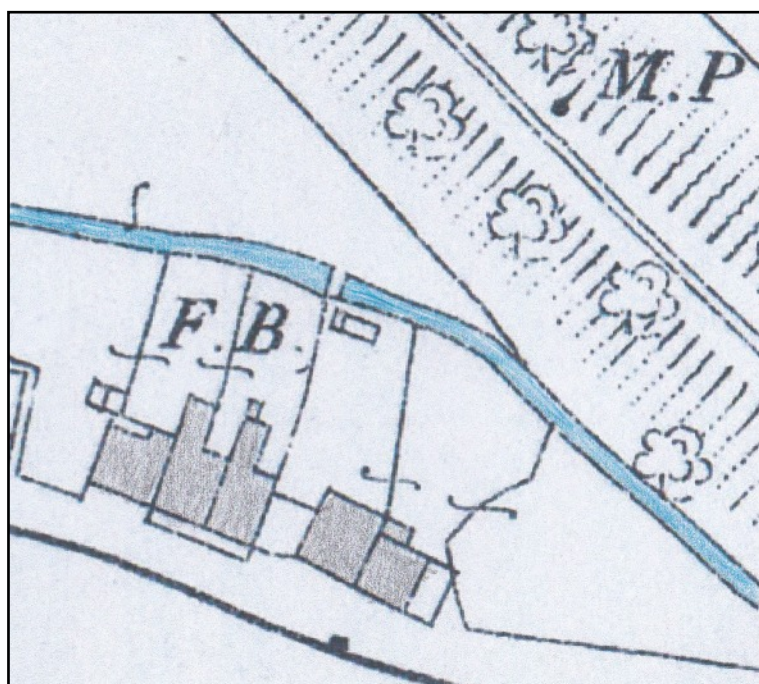
The reason a small village could grow up at Glanwern was the presence of fresh water. the tailrace of the Felinwern at Glanleri. Adding to it was a stream coming down the valley behind Ty Gwyn, once called Cwm Cethin. The settlement was already there in 1806 when Elizabeth Davies was born there, as she said she was for the Census of 1851. The road was there too, it was shown on a map of 1829 and led down to four lime kilns beginning where the road opened on to the beach. Lime would be carried to farms inland and the road connected to an old and important road at Rhyd-y-pennau. The High Street road at Borth was very ancient as in Norman times it was used to reach Aberdovey using a ferry, a quick way to north Wales along the shingle bank and high sand dune area at Ynyslas. At the back of the Glanwern settlement was the marsh whose old name was Wern Leri. (1859 Crown Manor map National Archives LRRO 1/3060).

You would perhaps expect the ground for this house was once roadside 'waste' between the leat from the corn mill 'Felinwern' (now gone) at Glanleri, whose water came from the River Lerry, and the road. After use by the mill the stream 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. However, maps of the manor's 'waste' clearly show that the 'waste' ended at the boundary of Glanwern House to the west (National Archives LRRO 1/3060)



LEFT In 1848 the ground for Caigmore was part of plot 110, marked in red, which had cottages and gardens. Richard Francis had one of them, and he was a farm worker. We do not know the names of the other

cottagers. There was a block of cottages at the east end of this plot, one of which survived to be rebuilt as Craigmore (*A detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth-y-brenin township, on-line at CYNEFIN*)



LEFT In 1886 the railway had arrived, and on the left is the terrace of three cottages, and on the right two cottages are left from the other 1848 block. The 'S' (braces) indicate the same owner for all the cottages and also for the ground along to the railway. There was a small building next to the stream at the bottom of the garden. The F. B. was a footbridge allowing access to the common land beyond (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map for Cardiganshire surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888)

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At the 1901 Census and earlier Census's it is not possible to find the people living in these cottages as they did not have house names.



ABOVE On a photograph taken by John Thomas before 1905 sometime after 1885 we can see two cottages on the far right. The cottage on the right would be rebuilt as Craigmore.

By 1910 Craigmore had been built as for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied the house was valued at £196. There would have been £4 to pay, £5 gross. Samuel Morris was the owner and occupier. Mr Morris was a retired artist, a painter. This value is that of the good house we see now as Craigmore, though it was described as a cottage and garden, and it did not then have the name Craigmore. Mr Morris owned a cottage next door too, a very humble one valued at only £33 and the occupier was John Francis. He was a retired and elderly sea Captain living at Glanwern House and would have put tenants in the cottage. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and a NLW map).



ABOVE On a Judges postcard we can see the single cottage had become the two storey Craigmore but the rising hillside in the foreground hides the lower part of the house.

At the Census of 1911 nobody was in the house or the cottage next door to fill in the form and they were not visited and listed by the Census takers.

Mr Morris paid the Rates in 1925 and 1932. Next door was a garden occupied by Eddy Potter who lived at Haulfryn.

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On Monday December 6th 1943 the house, stone built and with a roof of slates, was up for sale as a detached freehold residence. There were three bedrooms, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, a scullery, and an outside lavatory and coal house. There was a good garden with a small greenhouse and a shed of 17 feet 9 inches by 13 feet 6 inches. The plot of land adjoining the house was held under a 90 year lease from 25th December 1936 with a ground rent of £3.10s per annum. An ideal site for a bungalow said the advertisement (Cambrian News December 6<sup>th</sup>. 1943)

On Thursday December 9<sup>th</sup> there was to be a sale of the furniture on the premises and we have a glimpse of the inside. Upstairs the bedroom suites were oak, two of them with double and single oak beds, chest of drawers, feather beds, pillows and bolsters and three pairs of blankets. Downstairs was a Grandmother's Clock with Westminster chimes, a filing cabinet, a piano by Strad and a piano stool, a five valve wireless set, all mains so this house had electricity, a carved oak sideboard, a small antique table, six oak dining chairs and two carvers, copper coal vases, a bureau, an oak desk, several clocks, a carved oak deed box, E.P. silverware, cutlery, two baths, an oil drum, a ladder, garden tools and hose pipe, and oils stoves etc. there was no mention of a bathroom so the two baths may have been portable hip baths. It is not clear at present if this had been Mr Samuel Morris the painter's house.

In 1949 the house had its name Craigmore, and paying the Rates , £4, was F. Fowkes. He paid the Rates again in 1963, when his house was valued at £26, more than Marshbank at £24, and less than Tree Cottage at £27. With votes for the house in 1963 were Brian and Ruth Evelyn Moloney (Electoral Registers and Rates Ceredigion Archives)

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**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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