

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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CRAIG-Y-DELYN Morfa Borth

In a terrace in the central part of Borth High Street, on the beach side. Formerly Number 2 Maglona Place or Maglona Terrace. Probably named after the Harp Craig a feature of the cliffs to the south of Borth.



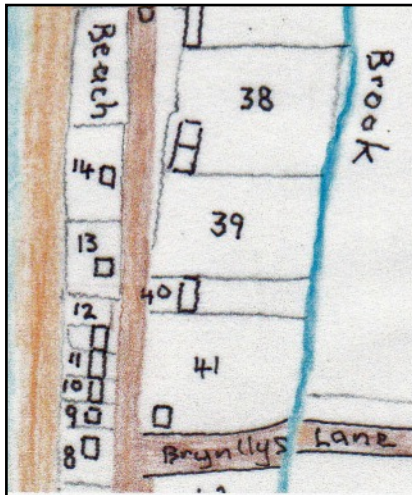
Craig-y-delyn in 2105.

Craig-y-delyn is a two storey single fronted terrace house under a gable roof almost parallel to the street. On the south side a brick chimney is shared with Glasfôr. A dormer window in the front lights an attic. The walls are rubble stone including rounded stones from the beach. They are rendered, and a smooth frame has been made round the upper windows. These have the pattern of the old sash windows. The square bay window on the ground floor has a nearly flat roof, and the front door is modern with a small light above it. A rendered wall encloses the narrow front garden. A plan of the house shows it is narrower than its neighbours.

At the back one upper window matches that of Glasfôr, and though modern has the style of a sash window. There is a single storey extension with a sloping roof, whose window has a good view of the beach. It is interesting that these houses have deeper roofs than many Victorian houses. It would be possible to have reed thatch on them. The yard is protected from the sea by a fence of vertical sleepers. There is a gateway to the beach that can be blocked by planks. Its yard is the same depth as that of its neighbours. *The house from the beach in 2015.*

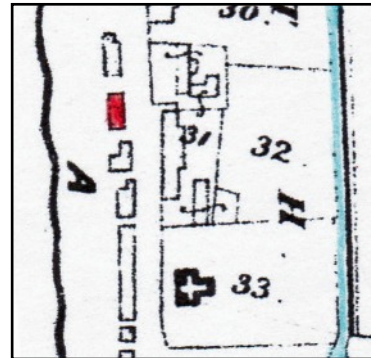


The ground for this house was enclosed in 1825 by Moses Jones from the stone bank thrown up by the sea and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor Court who owned it as it was no use for farming. His ground measured 20 perches and a map of 1829 shows a cottage built on it, described as 'cottage and beach'. Moses Jones was a master mariner with a daughter born in 1818 (Parish Register Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Ceredigion Archives) The road had been there for centuries 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.

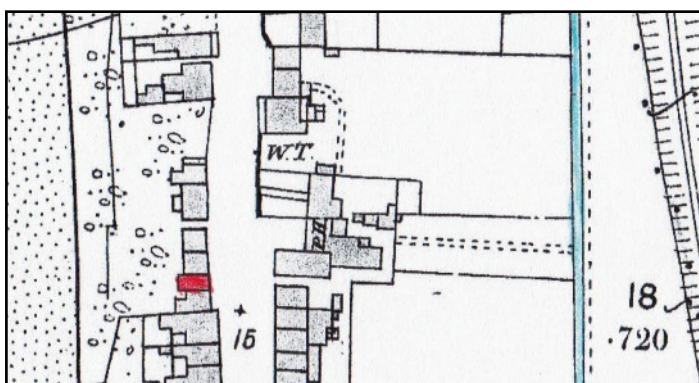


LEFT A detail copied from the map of 1829. Moses Jones's plot was Number 14 and he had plenty of ground around his cottage. (National Archives LRRO 1/3060) Today six cottages fit into his road frontage, Glasfôr to Golf Cottage..

RIGHT By 1848 more buildings, coloured in red, had been built on Moses Jones's ground. We have no details of these as they had no gardens and paid no tithe. (Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at CYNEFIN.)



Overlaying maps shows that three cottages were eventually on this ground, Glasfôr was the southernmost. It is not possible to find the families living in these in the earlier Census's as houses did not have names. Even by the 1881 Census none of the homes had a name, they were simply one of the St David's Place cottages and these were on both sides of the High Street. St David's Diocese (the Vicar) had owned the plot marked on the 1829 map above as Number 41, and the National School would be built on it (replaced by our Meddygfa), and a row of cottages would be built adjoining it, number 31 on the Tithe Map. It is not known if the Church originally owned the plot they were built on. They later belonged with the Railway Inn.

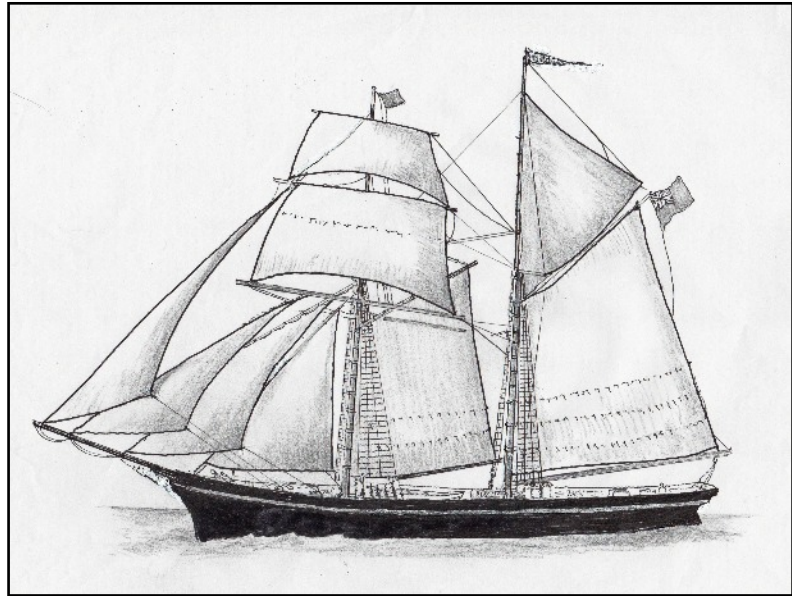


LEFT This was the house in 1886, marked in red. It was narrower than its neighbours, but extended further back. They had no gardens and at the back opened on to the beach. They were probably all owned by the same person. There were two fences to protect this area from the sea, probably rows of stakes driven into the stone bank - the small dots represent the sand. The 'PH' over

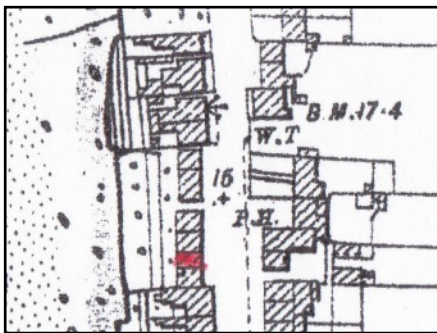
the road was the Railway Inn - then in Brookfield. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888. Cardiganshire III.10)

At the 1891 Census the house had an address, 2 Maglona Place. In the house was a mariner's family. He was away, but his wife Sarah A. Rees, aged 30 and born in Ludlow, was there with their children; Archibald 4 and Elizabeth 2. She was born in Borth but Archibald was born in Ludlow, so the family may not have lived in the house for long.

Maglona was a splendid schooner, brand new in April 1876, registered with 144 tonnes, and built at Aberdovey by Thomas Richards. She was commanded by Owen Williams and had two masts, and a figure head of a woman. Her owners were Morgan Owens, an Aberystwyth ship owner with 52 shares and Richard Owens a timber merchant from Machynlleth with 12. She was totally wrecked off Newfoundland in 1887 (Shipping Register, Aberystwyth Ceredigion Archives). There are houses called Maglona in Aberystwyth, Aberaeron and New Quay.



The Maglona Schooner based on a painting made when David Richards of Aberdovey was her captain.



In the 1901 Census the house was either empty or the occupants were away.

In 1904 the house was the same. It still shared its back with all the other cottages. There were new sea defences as there was a bad storm in 1896 and a tenant living in Glasfôr next door lost his life (Cambrian News February 1899). There was still rough ground with stones at the back. (Detail from the 25 inch map of 1905, revised in 1904. Cardiganshire III.10)

In 1910 for a tax planned, but not levied, the house, still called Number 2 Maglona Terrace was valued at £102. There would have been £3.4s to pay, £4 gross. The owner was Joseph Davies, who owned all six houses in the terrace. The Council did not have a name for the 'occupier', Mr Davies would have been letting it. No-one was there to fill in the form for the 1911 Census, so it was not included.

By 1925 the house had its name 'Craig-y-delyn. Paying the rates was John Charles C. Grant, as the owner and occupier. By this time the houses had individual owners. Mr Grant was still the owner in 1949. No one was on the list with a vote for the house. By 1963 Dr R. S. Rihan was paying the rates, Again, no-one was on the electoral register for the house (Rates and Electoral Registers, Ceredigion Archives).

The connection of Maglona Terrace in Morfa Borth to the schooner was probably from her first master, Captain Owen Williams who wed a Borth girl Elizabeth Davies on 17th August 1859. She was the daughter of a Morfa Borth mariner David Davies and his wife Ann who are in the 1841 Census for Morfa Borth. The Captain and his wife lived in Aberdovey (Captain Owen Williams family tree, on-line). It is likely that one of the six houses in the terrace was called Maglona - probably Maglona House, and it gave its name to the terrace. The schooner was sailing between 1876 and 1887 and the name first appeared in the 1891 Census as Maglona Place. It is likely all the crew were drowned when she was lost. Who remembered the

Craig-y-Delyn Page 4

schooner with pride? Mariner's wife Jane Williams aged 50 in Number 4, (Bwythyn Bach), or mariner's widow Jane Davies aged 27 in Number 1, (Glasfôr).

A Joseph Davies owned all six houses in the terrace in 1910 though he did not live in Borth (Valuation for a tax, Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 - and map at the National Library of Wales).

BELOW The six houses in the terrace share a front line not parallel with the High Street, Glasfôr and Craig-y-delyn in the foreground being furthest away.



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.

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