

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

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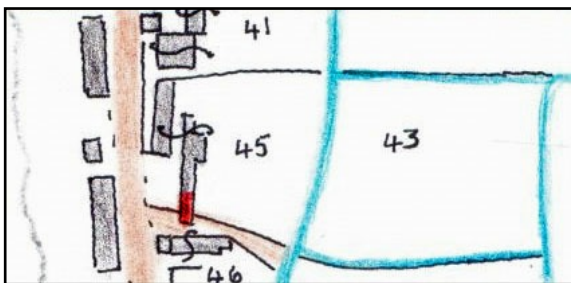
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DÔL WEN

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

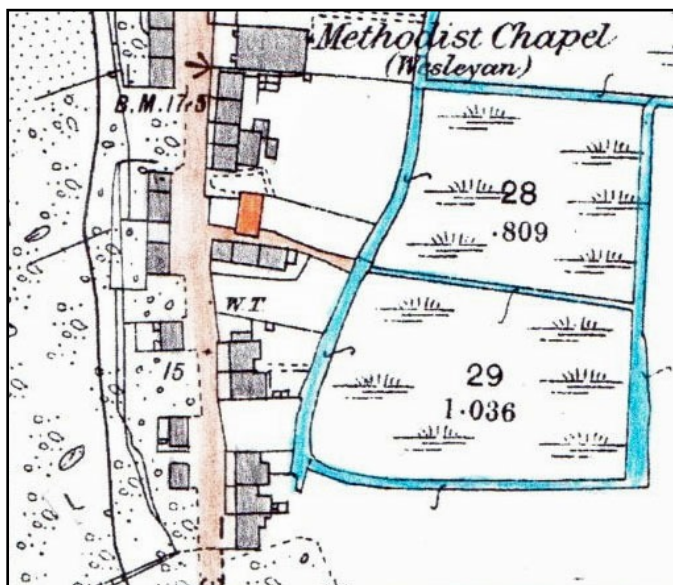
This modern Close is on the site of Garden Street and the former Osprey Cottage and its garden which was still there in 1975 but probably uninhabited, but is now gone. It was the home of a mariner and his family.

Dôl Wen is on part of ground enclosed in 1809 by John Jones from the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming. The ground measured 2 rods and 4 perches, that is about half an acre, and extended to a brook. A rent of £3 had to be paid every year to the Crown manor who owned the ground. On a map of 1829 it had a terrace of cottages. This was the southernmost enclosure on the east side of Morfa Borth with cottages before a gap and then three lime kilns. (National Archives LRRO 1/3060) The High Street was centuries old being a quick way to North Wales via a ferry to Aberdovey. It was a turnpike road by the 1770s.



LEFT In 1848 John Jones's land was Number 45. The 1829 cottages were still there and some more had been added beside the High Street. We can see Garden Street leading down to the brook, getting wider as it went, and going towards the next Enclosure. Number 43 belonged to John Jones. There were two owners of the Number 45 ground and cottages; John Jones, and John Benjamin a carpenter from Glanwern, 's Ty Gwyn

(then called Cwm Cethin). Over the brook John Jones's enclosures were probably pasture. His son William became a sailor. The family were to live at Carregwen. Living in the some of the cottages in 1848 were John Evans and Margaret Davies (Map from a photocopy of a detail of the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township On-line at CYNEFIN)).



LEFT On the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1888, surveyed in 1886 a section of John Jones's ground had been enclosed and Osprey cottage marked in red was where an 1848 cottage had been at the end of the terrace which just spilled over the south fence of its garden. It looks quite a big building, and had both a front garden and a back garden which extended to the brook. Garden Street is marked in brown.

It was unchanged on the map of 1905 revised in 1904 and in 1975 (Cardiganshire III.10 and Historical Maps On-line)).

In the 1851 Census John Jones had been an agricultural worker and was then a carrier and elderly, aged 75. Born about 1776 he would have been an enterprising young man of 23 when he enclosed his pieces of ground. His wife was Catherine, and he had children Margaret 21 born about 1820,

Jane aged 18, born about 1823 and William aged 16. It is not clear who was in the cottage in the 1851 Census.

In the cottage at the 1861 Census were a wife, Ann Davies, a mariner's wife born in Efal Fach, Cardiganshire in about 1823 with her mother in law, widow Anne Jones, aged 63, born at Brynowen in 1798.

Ann's three children were in the cottage at the 1871 Census, Catherine Davies 18, Anne Jane Davies 9, and John Davies 6.

At the 1881 Census the 63 year old mariner, William Davies (born about 1815) was at home with his wife Anne and their son John then aged 15.

The cottage was called Number 3 Garden Street in 1891. William Davies, then 74 who had retired from the sea was there with his wife Ann, and a mariner's wife, Jane Jones born about 1848.

In 1901 the cottage had a name, Osprey Cottage and Anne Davies was living there. William had died and she was then 72 years old and a Welsh speaker.

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied the cottage and garden were valued at £32. There would have been £1.16s to pay, £2.5s gross. That was the value of a cottage like Carreg Wen and Y Gragen - so quite a humble cottage, despite the size it is drawn on the maps. The owner was Anne Williams, the widow of Captain John Williams of Auckland House and living there was Owen Roberts. He had the front garden with the cottage, but the owner Anne Williams had the back garden. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales). Owen Roberts was a middle aged builder's labourer, born in Anglesey in 1858. His wife was local, Sarah Anne Roberts aged 49, and they were married in 1904. They had a six year old adopted daughter Katie Roberts, aged 6 and born in Aberystwyth. (1911 Census)

Richard Edward Jones was living in the cottage in 1925 and it still paid the rate for a humble cottage. In 1949, still called "Osprey Cottage" the rates were paid by Annie G. Davies of Auckland House - the daughter of Captain John Williams. The Council did not know who was living in Osprey cottage (Ceredigion Archives) Osprey was a sloop and possibly gave its name to a Borth Osprey House and to the Osprey Garage. Could Captain John Williams of Auckland House have given it the name perhaps? The sloop was sailing from 1836 when it was built to 12 September 1871 when it foundered off Milford Haven. Two of the crew were saved. Its masters were members of the Jenkins and Hughes families. (Ceredigion Archives, Shipping Register for the port of Aberystwyth). By 1975 it was quite an old cottage, and it is no surprise that it was pulled down to make the present Dōl Wen. Auckland House gave away almost all its land to build the new lane and the new houses.



Today three homes stand there, Ynys Afallon, Am-y-tro and Glynetta. They were built between 1975 and 1984 (Evidence from Historical Maps On-line - they were not there yet, but they appear on the Ordnance Survey 6 inch Map 1984).

YNYS AFALLON

This began as a single storey bungalow, but work on re-roofing has allowed another floor in the roof lit by a generous amount of roof lights and a dormer window. This is the south gable end of the house in

2016. The west side of the house will have fine views across Borth Common to the hills. The house name Ynys Afallon is Welsh and translates as the Isle of Avalon. Below is the west front of the house, with a lean-to roof over the main entrance. The ditch - formerly a brook has been made to run underneath the back garden.



A M - Y - T R O
formerly Bella
Vista.

The name is Welsh and can translate as 'for the time being'. I suggest it may mean 'on the turn' as it is in the corner of Döl Wen.

There is an entrance into its garden on the west side with a porch, and a main entrance with a porch on the south. On the far side is a conservatory. It too has the old ditch hidden beneath its garden.

GLYNETTA

This bungalow has a small garden especially at the rear as behind is the old cottage Bwythn Gwyn. It is the smallest of the buildings in Dôl Wen. The photograph was taken in 2016.



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Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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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-eredigion.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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