

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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THE GLANMOR HOTEL

Built after 1888 and just before 1901. Home of Captain Edward Jones, and his daughter. Used as apartments for holiday makers in 1911, later as the Glanmor Hotel with a car park and garden at the rear.



The Glanmor Hotel in 2018.

This is the centre house of a block of three stone built villas, three floors high, under a gable roof parallel with the street. It has canted bay windows on the ground and first floor looking out over the street to the beach. A bold string course moulding running beneath

the upper bay window unites all three houses in the terrace. They were not all built at the same time, there is an old postcard with just Carron but the same family - a Jones family with four steamship captain brothers built the houses for themselves and for tenants (the postcard was seen by the owner of the Glanmor Hotel). They matched the fronts. Bold moulding beneath the bay windows also adds character to the front of these villas. The front door is



recessed under an arch, and there are some decorative motifs in the plaster round the door and the window above it. There is a cellar which can be damp. Glanmor's front matches Glendower, but the windows of Carron's front are not in the same place.

LEFT Handsome coloured tiles begin in the doorway which is recessed and gives some protection from the weather. The tiles continue inside the hall.

BELOW The rear of the house has a wing on the north side back to back with the wing behind Carron. This is two storeys high at right angles to the main building, and has a lean to roof. The upper windows reach up to the eaves. It has two old chimneys and one smaller one, and a kitchen could be expected on the ground floor, and perhaps a heated room upstairs. There is a yard between the wings and it leads to a drive behind the three houses. Steps lead down into it from a back entrance to the hotel.





Beyond the yard is a garden which today is not very long as the Ty Olaf part of the Cae Gwylan Estate was built behind the villas in the later twentieth century.

LEFT The wing is now the home of the owner of the hotel. Steps down were needed because the old villas were up on the pebble embankment built up by the sea, but this was the rear of it, sloping down towards the reclaimed marsh.



The stairs are oak and may be original. The area of tiles ends with a border at the door on the right, and on the left of the hall.



LEFT The front ground floor room has a plaster ceiling divided into panels and it has a decorative border. This was painted in various colours at one time.



ABOVE The ceiling plasterwork of the front ground floor room.

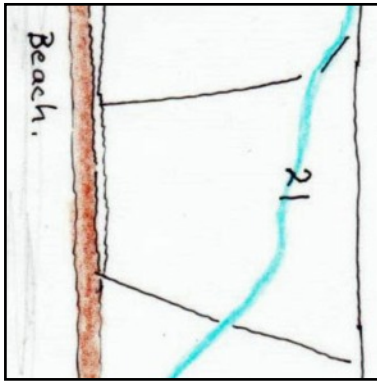
RIGHT and BELOW The fireplace in that room is marble.



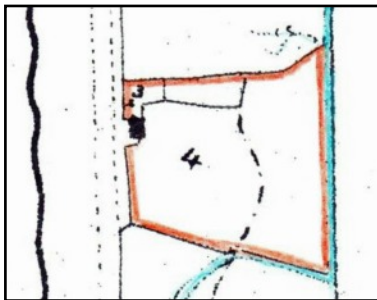


ABOVE and LEFT Details of the north face of the wing of Glendower showing the stone work edged by yellow bricks. All these villas may have begun with this kind of walling which was fashionable in Borth at the later part of the eighteenth century, as can be seen in the Gordon and Cleveland Villas on the beach side of the High Street dating from 1891. No traces of this walling with yellow brick edges survive on Glanmor.

The ground for this house was enclosed in 1826 by David Williams from the shingle bank thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming. The ground measured two acres and two rods (half an acre) and extended to a brook. On a map of 1829 it is shown as Number 21 with no cottages on it, and it stopped short of the roadside. A brook ran across it. Some of the field had been at the edge of the Cors Fochno marsh but by then was drained and was suitable for him to farm - at least to be pasture. A rent of £1.12s had to be paid every year to the Crown manor who owned the ground and there was the option to buy it for £8, and David Williams had bought it.



LEFT David William's ground in 1829, Number 21. Through it ran a watercourse previously the River Leri and used for the boundary between the townships of Cyfoeth y brenin and Henllys (A detail copied from an 1829 map, NationalArchive LRRO 1/3060)

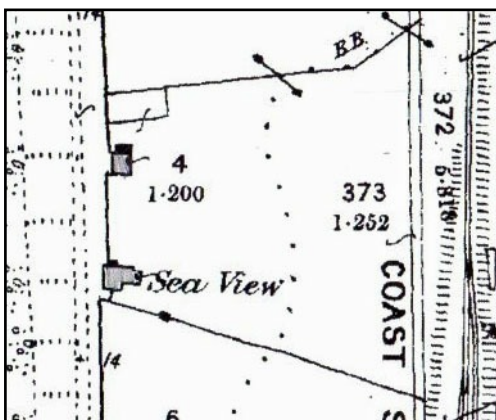


BELOW By 1848 a small cottage had been built in the northern corner of David William's field, where today the terrace of villas stand. It was close to, but not alongside the road. Interestingly the 'brook' had been diverted to run along the eastern boundary of the ground and dashed lines showed the township boundary between the Cyfoeth and Henllys townships. The field was Number 4 and the cottage with some enclosed garden beside it was Number 3. Edward Jones was the owner and occupier of the cottage, but David Williams owned the field.

(A detail after a photocopy of the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township on-line at Cynefin)

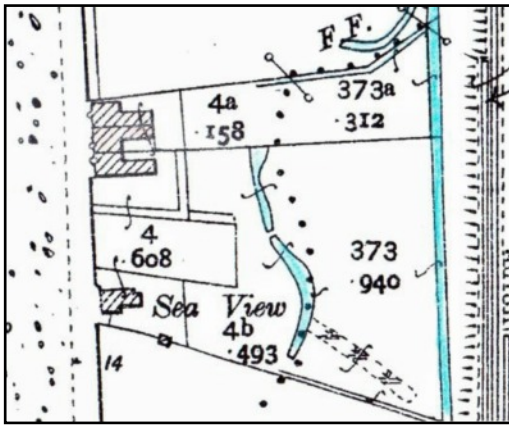
In the 1851 Census we learn that David Williams had been a farmer but had retired. He was 76 and had been born at Cerrigidifor in about 1775. At the Census he was lodging in Edward Jones's cottage. Edward Jones was a 50 year old labourer, born in Troed-y-rhiw about 1851. His wife Margaret was 48 and had been born in Ty Simnai (still alongside the road to Llandre). They had a family of daughters, Mary 18, Jane 13, Anne 11, Eliza 7 and Margaret 5. Only the eldest was not born in Borth - she was born in Penybont.

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. Fresh water for the cottages and houses came from the brook and for fuel villagers could dig peat on the far side of the River Leri near Ynys Fergi.



LEFT In 1886 the old cottage was still there, but Captain Edward Jones had built himself a new house then called Sea View but today called Maes Arfor (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888. Cardiganshire NW III.10).

Glanmor was built by 1901 when in the house at the Census was Mary Jones, aged 34 born in Borth about 1867, the wife of Captain Edward Jones, with a son Edward William aged 8, and a daughter Mary Annie aged 1. There was a 22 year old domestic servant in the house, Winifred Davies born about 1879 at Pontyfungaid. Mary spoke both Welsh and English.



LEFT In 1904 it is shown with a small yard or garden area, and a long garden area beyond. It shared these with Carron next door as the Captain owned both of them. He would have put a tenant in Carron. There was still some water on the old boundary watercourse. The house opened directly on to the street. The old cottage of Edward Jones had gone (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revied in 1904 and published in 1905. Cardiganshire NWIII.10).

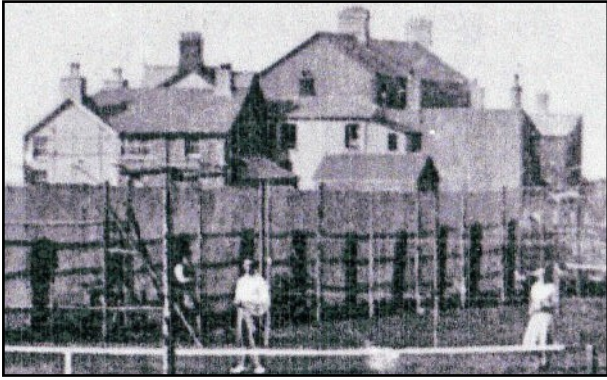
In the 1910 Assessment and Valuation for Rates, Glanmor House was valued at £448, and rated at £16.15s.6d, gross £19.15s. - a little more than Carron next door at £405. The owner and occupier Captain Edward Jones also had some 'land by Glanmor' rated at 4s.9d gross 5s.

In the 1911 Census Mary is still there aged 44, "keeping apartments" for holiday makers. She had had four children in all, one of whom died. Twelve main rooms were listed for the house. Her daughter Mary Annie was 11, (1900) her son David Kenneth was 9, (1902) and both were at school. There was a domestic servant Lizzie Edwards, a local unmarried woman of 30, born in Borth about 1881.

The Jones family continued in the house. In 1918 David Kenneth Jones, son of Captain Edward Jones, a deck boy aged about 16, died when the SS Heathpark was torpedoed. The Captain was Captain Hugh Jones of Surrey, his uncle. (*Ratcliffe News* 1993. Article p. 4)



ABOVE In this detail from an old postcard Maes Arfor is in the foreground, then Surrey when it was a private house, and then the terrace. This had some splendid chimneys - probably in yellow brick with red stripes. Glanmor shared a chimney with Glandower. Today both chimneys have gone. Across the road was the beach which allowed the ground floor rooms a good view of the sea. This has now gone since the concrete sea defence wall and walkway was built in 1956.



LEFT In the background the tall roof of the terrace can be seen. The further chimney was at the north end of Carron. The rear swings of the villas had two slender chimneys each. The tennis courts have gone and the Cae Gwylan Estate has been built on this land. (Detail from a Roberts postcard of the hard tennis courts the family had provided for the village and holiday visitors. Private collection).

After 1922 five bedrooms and three sitting rooms were advertised for holiday makers.

Paying the Rates in 1925 and 1938/9 was Mary Annie Jones, the daughter of Captain Edward Jones and his wife Mary. Mary Jones had a vote for the house in the General Election of 1945. In 1949 the owner and occupiers were Captain Edward Jones and Mary Jones.

Mary Annie Jones paid the rates in 1957.

Paying the Rates in 1963 was R. Jones (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

A flat was made in the top of the house which had been a boarding house.

The hotel was established about 24 years ago. The original staircase which is dark wood was kept, and a pump put in to keep the cellar dry. When it flooded it was fresh water and not sea water.



LEFT The three villas in 2008. None of the old chimneys on the front section remained and the Hotel had red blinds which did not stand up to the salt and wind from the sea and have had to be removed.

The author would like to thank the owner of the Glanmor Hotel for some useful information and help.

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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