

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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GLAN YR AIG

On the site of an old cottage, and built by 1925.



Glan-yr-aig in 2016.

Glan-yr-aig is the first building on the beach side at the south of the High Street, and it opens directly on to the street. It is a single fronted detached house, a comfortable two storeys high, under a gable roof parallel to the street. A dormer window on the front roof lights an attic floor. The walls are rendered, and the most interesting feature is the north wall which has rubble stone which includes many rounded stones from the beach about the height of the ground floor and the full width of the house. It is possible this was the remains or stones of an

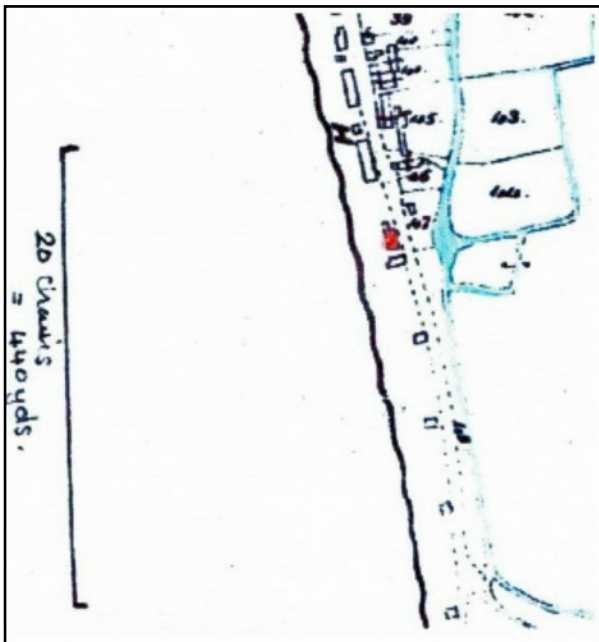
old cottage incorporated into the modern building. The front of this house has been carefully designed. Plaster of a paler colour frames the door and windows. The front door on the south side of the front is recessed and above it a rectangular light lights the hall. The doorway is topped by a prominent moulding. There is a string course in the paler colour on which the sills of the upper windows are sitting. The windows are modern, though the upper front pair have the pattern of sash windows. At the rear of the house is a wide two storey extension

Glan-yr-aig from the south in 2009.



facing the beach with a large upper window for sea views, and a back door. A lean to roof protects the door and the lower window at the back of the house. The woodwork has an attractive edging. The south wall of the house is completely plain, the north wall with the stones has a tiny window at the beach end. The house extends to the northern boundary of its plot. On the southern side is a grassy, open area, the beach is not far away and low stone walls edge the grass. The site of the house is on Borth's High Street. The road ran along the shingle bank beside the beach, and it was ancient, dating back to Norman times when it was a quick way to Aberdovey and North Wales via a ferry. It became a turnpike road in the 1770s. Borth fishermen built cottages on the shingle bank beside the road.

The ground for this house was enclosed by Richard Hughes in 1827, 1 rod and 10 perches, and he had a cottage on it. It was the first cottage along the street after three lime kilns and an area of beach of 1 rod 16 perches. This was ground belonging to the Crown Manor, their 'waste' as it was no good for farming. Richard Hughes paid 16s. rent for his ground and cottage. He had the option of buying it for £4. There was a brook of fresh water for cottagers on the other side of the street, the tailrace of the corn mill at Glanlerry plus a couple of little streams. (Map and schedule NA LRRO 1/3060).

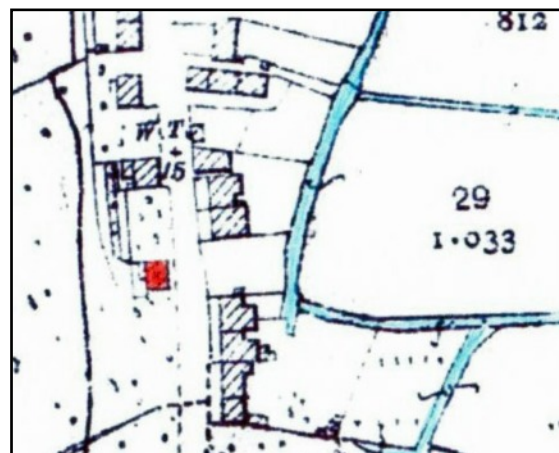
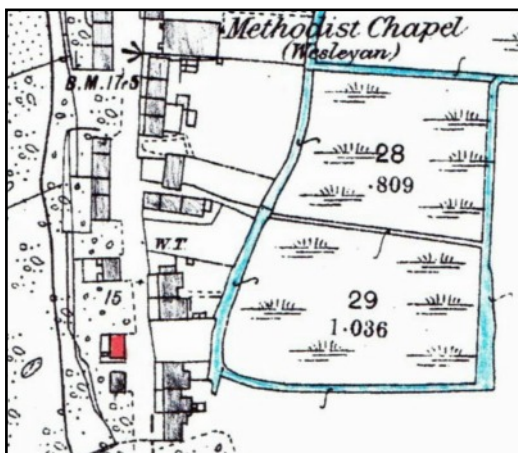


LEFT In 1845 the cottage was still there, it is marked in red, and another had been built to the south of it. We have no names of who lived there as Tithe was only paid by cottages with gardens. The limekilns are drawn as squares, there were four of them by 1845.

(Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at Cynefin)

On the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1888 surveyed in 1886, the cottage had a small backyard and was surrounded by rough ground. On the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 revised in 1904 the cottage has a porch at the back. The cottage to the south was gone, swept away by the sea.

BELOW LEFT The map of 1888. BELOW RIGHT The map of 1905. revised in 1904. Cardiganshire III.10



A Glan-yr-Graig appears in 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied. (Number 581). It was valued at £30 17s, the value of a Borth single storey cottage. Inman, also a cottage was £51, so the Glan-yr-graig was probably still the old cottage. The name in Welsh means 'Cliff Bank'. The owner was John Beynon (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18, and Map at the NLW). John Beynon was a carpenter and builder living at Efelwen (with a workshop attached) across the road. There was no 'occupier', and no amount to pay was given. The map with this at the National Library of Wales shows this building, clearly numbered as 581. It was not in the 1911 Census, possibly no one was there to fill in the form.

On this postcard dated 1916 of, 'The Beach Borth,' there is a piece of wall on the site now Glan-yr-aig.



There was no mention of a house of this name in the 1925 rates list. In 1934 paying the rates for Glan y aeg (sic), a house, were C. E. Vivian and N. Collins, and they were also

the occupiers. They paid £12, £20 gross. They were still there in 1949 when it was spelt Glangraig. The two storey house called The Anchorage across the road also paid £12 – so this Glangraig was probably the house we see today.



The stones in the north wall, many of them rounded stones from the beach. (2009)

In 1963 Doris Emily Collins had a vote for the house, and paying the rates that year was H. N. Collins.

Terry Davies writes that there was a clom (cob) walled cottage on the site of Glan yr Aig, and he reckons it is at the back of the photograph of 'Borth Captains'. This shows a building which appears to be lower down on the beach from the Captains who are up on the pebble embankment. Its gable roof was at right angles to the street and sea, and its roof sloped down a long way. It seems to have a roof of thin slates. There is no sign of windows and doors on the road side wall. The clom was showing as any whitewash had gone (Borth, A Seaborn Village. Number 53, page 92) This, if about 1900, does not tie in with the maps of 1888 and 1905 as the clom cottage is sideways on to the street and on the maps the pre-Glan-yr-aig cottage was not. Also the stone walling left on the north wall of Glan-yr-aig is taller than would be expected for a clom cottage where the walls did indeed begin with a stone section, but not one so tall, for example at Hendre - see the photograph in the author's article on it. *ABOVE This photograph of the beach side of the house was taken in 1925. There was a chimney and we can see what were probably the windows and decoration of the house when it was new. The upper windows would have fine views of the sea, but the lower back window is small, perhaps because of possible damage from stones thrown up by the sea during a bad storm (Ceredigion Archives ABR/H1/6/42)*



It is interesting that the present house continued with the name of its cottage predecessor.

Morfa Borth translates into the 'marsh harbour' having sea one side with a storm beach, and the great marsh area on the other bisected by the old road on the shingle embankment on which the High Street developed.

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yn cyflwyno / presents
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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