

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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GLEN ROSA Morfa Borth

On the beach side in the northern part of Borth High Street. Called 11 High Street in 1880 and Woodfield House in 1881. A master mariner's house that took in holiday visitors. Built after 1859 and by 1871. Home of master mariner Richard Davies and his daughters.

This was the smart end of Morfa Borth, not far from the Railway Station opened in 1863, and the Cambrian Terrace built by about 1870 and the great Cambrian Hotel (later Pantyfedwen, now gone). It was also not far from the place where the main street runs alongside the beach (now with a promenade) and old postcards show this area was popular with holiday visitors and had bathing huts.



LEFT Glen Rosa in 2016.

This is a single fronted, two storey house under a gable roof parallel to the street. It has its share of the chimney stack on the south side of the roof, with four chimney pots (flues). There is an attic floor with two roof lights on the front and rear of the roof. The side walls are rubble stone with rounded stones from the beach. The front windows are wooden sash windows. Low walls enclose a narrow front garden.

BELOW LEFT The rear of the house from the beach in 2016. The extension on the north side of the yard



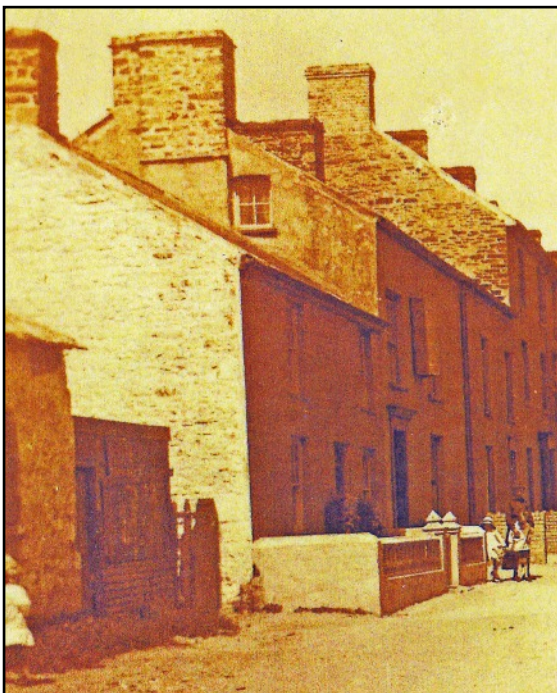
is two storey. In the detail from the old postcard below it was then a single storey extension with a chimney, probably for a kitchen, and it is behind the washing.





LEFT *The placing of the windows and height of the roof are like the tall section of the Victoria Inn next door, as if these were a pair of houses built at the same time. This photograph was taken in 2009.*

BELOW *This is the oldest view of it and in the foreground are the two parts of the Victoria Inn, the smaller Chester House - then not with the Inn, then the Inn, and then Glen Rosa, which had a very plain front which was open to the street, but protected by a wall at each end which is still there today. The big chimney was rubble stone. (Photograph from a postcard, courtesy of the Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum)*



The ground for the house is the stone bank thrown up by the sea and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. On a map of 1829 it was beach (National Archives LRRO 1/3060) The road had been there for centuries, it was used in the twelfth century 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 a brook behind the buildings on the other side of the road. By the time the house was built there was one tap with good spring water in the street outside the Cambrian Hotel.

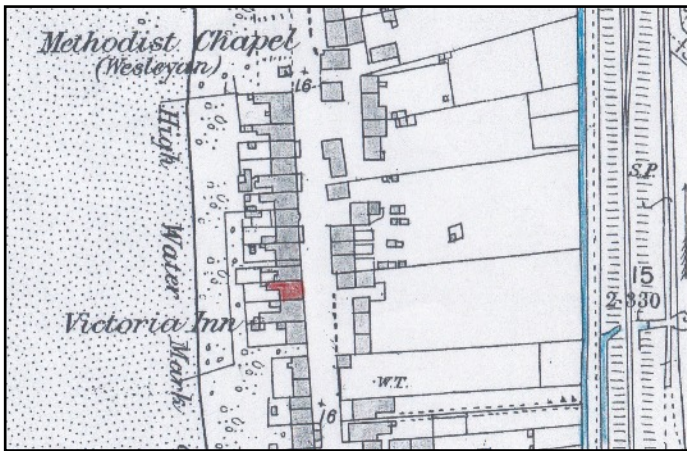
In 1848 the site was still not built upon. (Tithe Apportionments Map Llangihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township - on line at CYNEFIN - National Library of Wales). However on a map of

encroachments belonging to the Crown Manor in 1859 a plot (18j) was marked but no building was drawn on it, nor did it say 'sold'. To the north a large plot was marked as 'sold', it had no buildings on it, but is where today there is the long terrace (Map National Archives LRRO 1/3060)

The Victoria Inn was on the Census of 1871, and next door on the north side on the list was a shoemaker John Lloyd, a 58 year old widower, and his daughter Margaret aged 28, a dressmaker. They were local. However, the order of the families in cottages or houses is dodgy, so this is not certain to be Glen Rosa.

In 1880, called Number 11 High Street, the house had holiday visitors staying there for five weeks during the summer. They came from Welshpool, Newtown and Edgebaston in Birmingham. Two single men and a family could be put up at the same time. Their landlady was Mrs Davies (Cambrian News). In 1881 the house was on the Census as 'Woodfield House' Mary Davies, aged 36 and local was a master mariner's wife. In the house with her were her children, Margaretta 10, John 7, and Abraham 4. Probably they thought a house name 'Woodfield House' would make it easier for visitors to find them. At the 1901 Census the

family had two more children, Richard 6 and Elizabeth (Lizzie) 3 months. Also there was their daughter Margaret then 20 .By the 1901 Census in the house with Mrs Davies were Lizzie aged 10, Annie aged 2 , and Margareta who was 30.



LEFT The house in 1886 is marked in red. It had an extension on the back and the tiny end of this may have had its Ty Bach - outside lavatory. We know from the old postcard there was a chimney on the extension for a kitchen. (A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888. Cardiganshire III.10)



LEFT In 1904 the extension in the yard had grown longer, and there was an inner courtyard, and a double fence or wall protecting the rear. (A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905., Cardiganshire III.10)

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, the house was valued at £234. Richard Davies was the owner and occupier.

In the 1911 Census the master mariner Richard Davies was home from sea and had a new occupation as a 'local merchant'. The couple had wed in 1869 and the house had eight main rooms.

Sometime after 1922 in an 'Illustrated Guide to Borth' three bedrooms and two sitting rooms were advertised for holiday visitors (Aberystwyth Public Library).

Mrs Mary Davies paid the rates in 1925, and the name E. Davies had been added. Miss Mary and Miss Elizabeth Davies paid the rates in 1934 and 1938, 1949 and 1963. They had votes for the house in 1945 and 1963 and so were probably living there. (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

Terry Davies says that the house was named after a ship. The house had this name by the 1891 Census.

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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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