

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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GLENDOWER Morfa Borth, Borth Marsh

At the northern end of the village with the beach across the road. On the site of an old cottage of a labourer Edward Jones, the ground later owned and developed by Captain David Jones of SeaView now Maes Arfor and his four steamship captain sons. Glendower was built between 1888 and 1901 for Captain Morgan Jones.



Glendower in 2018



Glendower is the southernmost of a block of three villas three storeys high, built of rubble stone and under gable roof parallel to the road. The roof is slate coloured and there are no chimneys. It is a single fronted end of terrace house and the wall is rendered. The front looks out over the street to the beach. It has a recessed front door under an arch and the house opens on to the street. On the ground and first floor are canted bay windows, the upper one giving a good view of the sea. A bold string course (line of moulding) below the upper bay window links the villa with its two neighbours. The windowsills of the bay windows are also strong decorative lines.

LEFT and BELOW There are decorative details in the rendering around the front door arch and the window above it. There is a keystone, and a moulded arch with stops.

Carron was probably built first, but the spacing of windows on



Glendower's front matches the front of Glanmor, and they shared a chimney suggesting that these two were built at the same time. The walls of the front, side and the east face of the wing on the rear are rendered.

RIGHT the wing at the back of the house is a two storeys high of rubble stone and with a lean-to roof. On it are two slender, rendered chimneys (probably brick) each with one chimney pot. The kitchen of Captain Morgan Jones's house was probably within it on the ground floor. On the east end is a modern back door.



There are four windows in the north side of the wing which looks out over a yard shared with Glanmor and some of the original rubble stone walling can be seen.



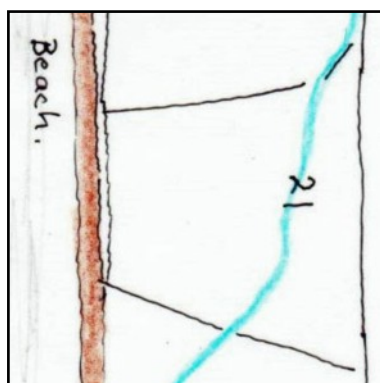
Walling like this was fashionable at the latter part of the twentieth century, for example in the Chesterton and Gordon Villas of 1891 on beach side of the High Street. Even though the stones are many sizes they were coursed and this would cost more. There is an absence of rounded stones taken off the beach as in old Borth cottages.

The villa was named after a steamship S.S. Glendower, and built after Captain Morgan Jones had retired. It was unoccupied at the 1901 Census as was Carron.

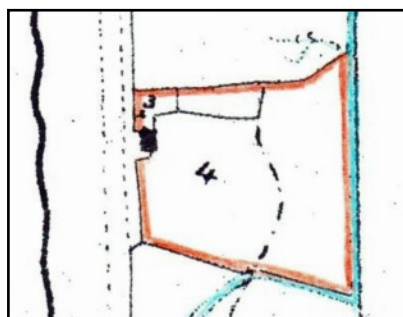


LEFT There is an access roadway along the back, with the garden beyond. It used to run down to the old ditch and the railway but is not as long today as Ty Olaf, and the Llys y Gwynt bungalow of the Cae Gwylan Estate in the background of the photograph were built in the later twentieth century on part of the former Glanmor and Glendower's ground.

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).



LEFT 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. This land at the edge of the Cors Fochno marsh by then was drained and was suitable for him to farm. 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 which he did. (A detail after the map of 1829 National Archive LRRO 1/3060)

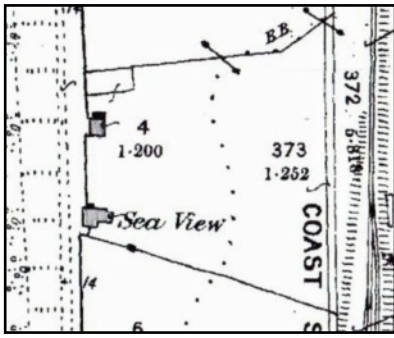


LEFT By 1848 a small cottage had been built near the street on the north of the ground. The field was Number 4 and the cottage with some enclosed garden beside it was Number 3. Edward Jones was the owner and occupier of the cottage, and he was a tenant of the field, which was still owned by David Williams. Interestingly the 'brook' had been diverted to run along the eastern boundary of the ground. Its route is marked on maps with dashed lines as this was the old course of the River Leri and was used

as the boundary between the Cyfoeth and Henllys townships (A detail after a photocopy of the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township on-line at CYNEFIN)

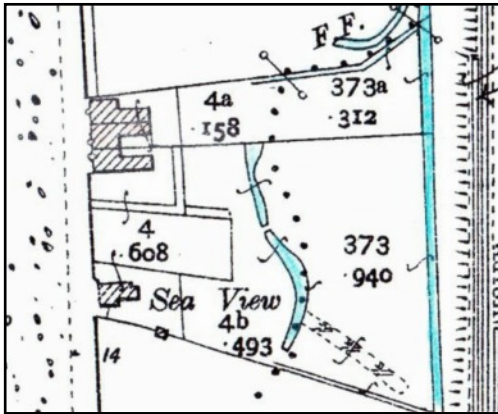
In the 1851 Census we learn that David Williams had been a farmer but had retired. He was 76 and had been born at Cerrigdifor in about 1775. At the Census he was lodging in Edward Jones's cottage. Edward Jones was a 50 year old labourer, born in Troed-y-rhiw about 1851. His wife Margaret was 48 and had 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. This detail is from the Ordnance Survey twenty five inch map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888 but an enclosure has been made where the three villas would be built. Captain David Jones, master mariner who had built Maes Arfor, Sea View House for himself and his steamship captain sons owned the land.

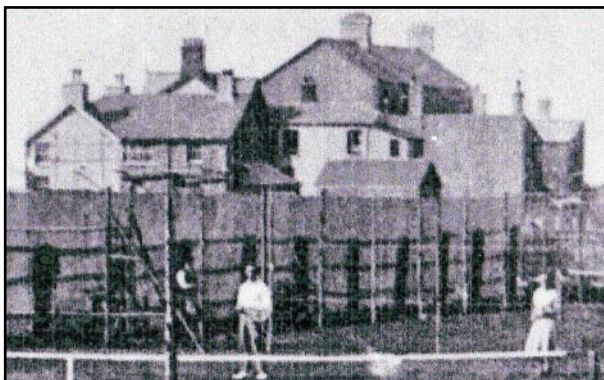
The house was built but unoccupied at the 1901 Census.



LEFT On the 1905 map we can see the house with its own yard or garden. It is the southernmost of the three villas with a track at the back of it. This track also gave access to a fenced off area which would have Surrey built on it. There is a ditch or water course shown crossing the field at the rear on the old Cyfoeth township boundary.

The first family to live in Glendower was their son Captain Morgan H. Jones - a steamship captain. In the 1911 Census he was away, but in the house were Margaretta his wife, aged 40, born in Borth c.

1871 and married for 15 years. She had two children, daughters Audrey Jones aged 12 born Borth in c.1899, and Mary Denis Jones, born in Borth in c. 1908. One other child had died. The villa had 12 rooms, not counting any scullery or bathroom.



LEFT On an old Roberts postcard we can see Sea View (Maes Arfor) in the foreground, then Surrey - a private house, then the villas. There were two chimneys for the three villas, Glanmor and Glendower shared one. Glendower's back wing with the two slender chimneys was the same as it is now.

In the 1910 Assessment and Valuation for a tax that was planned but not levied, the villa was valued at £456, and rated at £15.19s.3d gross £18.15s, and its land at 4s.9d, gross 5s. It was considered the most valuable of the three villas, Carron House was £405, Glanmor was £448. Captain Morgan Jones was the owner and occupier.

The Jones family were still there in 1918 when Miss Annie Jones left to take up duties in the Aberystwyth Red Cross Hospital (Cambrian News, January 25th.). She was there again in 1949 to be a Quiz master for the Red Cross. (Borth Review, National Library of Wales.) Mrs Jones was a cousin of J. James Morgan and was at his funeral in May 1924. (Cambrian News.)



LEFT On this detail from a postcard the tallest buildings are the villas. Glendower is this end. They had handsome brick chimneys. – probably of yellow brick with red stripes. There were four or five chimney pots. The fronts opened directly on to the beach across the road, the concrete sea defensive wall was not built until 1956.

After 1922 five bedrooms and three sitting rooms were advertised for holiday visitors in, 'The Illustrated Borth Guide'.(Aberystwyth Public Library)

Margaretta Jones paid the Rates in 1938 and 1949.

Staying or living in the house in 1949 was Captain J. Davies, a Deacon of Borth's Soar Chapel. (Borth Review, National Library of Wales.)

In 1963 R. Jones paid the Rates.

Like its neighbours, the generous amount of rooms built in this villa enabled it to earn money by providing lodging for both its owners and holiday visitors.

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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-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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