

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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GOLF COTTAGE

The house is on the beach side in the middle of Borth High Street. Also called Trafalgar House, Birmingham House and Number 6 Maglona Terrace.



TOP Golf Cottage in 2015.

Golf Cottage is a two storey, single fronted detached house under a gable roof parallel to the street. The roof has curved tiles and there is a slab, rendered chimney on the southern side shared with Moor House. Its shape suggests it is stone. On the other end of the roof is a more slender rendered chimney which could be brick. The walls are probably random rubble stone, including round stones from the beach. They have a pebble dash rendering with no decoration. Two of the front windows which are large and the front door are modern. The remaining upper window is the shape of the old windows and matches the upper windows of Moor House next door. Golf Cottage and Moor House are a pair, each have a passage to the beach alongside them. However Golf Cottage is not as wide. Its narrow front garden is enclosed by a low wall topped with railings and with a gate.



ABOVE Golf Cottage and Moor House in 2009. A new front door and new windows have since replaced the ones in this photograph. The new windows have a pattern of small panes which suits the 'cottage' size of this building. It is barely two storeys when compared with the height of Chesterton on the far right which is also a two storey house. That was built much later, about 1891 by a wealthy master mariner Captain John Hughes. Golf Cottage and Moor House are older, and were probably built by and for less affluent people.



Golf Cottage in 2015 from the beach.

The back of the house has a long two storey extension on the north side of its yard to give extra rooms, and even on the earliest map in 1886 it had an extension though not as long. Today the upper floor ends with a sun room with doors leading out on to a balcony with a fine view of the sea. Fencing

with planks protects the yard from the sea and there is a doorway from the passage beside the house to give access to the yard.

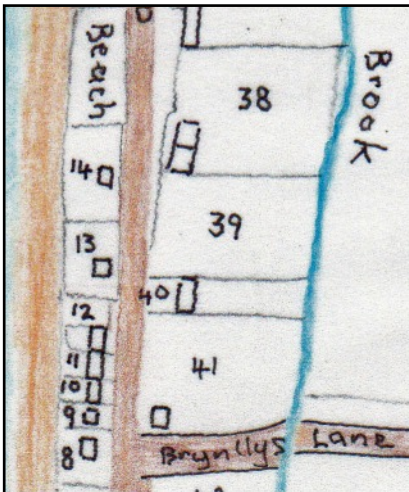


There is a gate to the beach in the rear fence.

LEFT A better look at the side of the extension where there is a back door into the yard. The front below the balcony has no windows, possibly as a protection against the sea. The windows at the rear of the main house are modern.

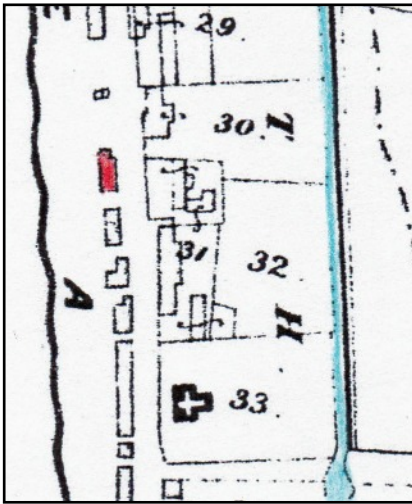
The ground for this house was enclosed in 1825 by Moses Jones

from the stone bank thrown up by the sea and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor Court who owned it as it was no use for farming. His ground measured 20 perches and a map of 1829 shows a cottage built on it, described as 'cottage and beach'. Moses Jones was a master mariner already in Borth when his daughter was born in 1818 (Parish Register Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Ceredigion Archives) 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.



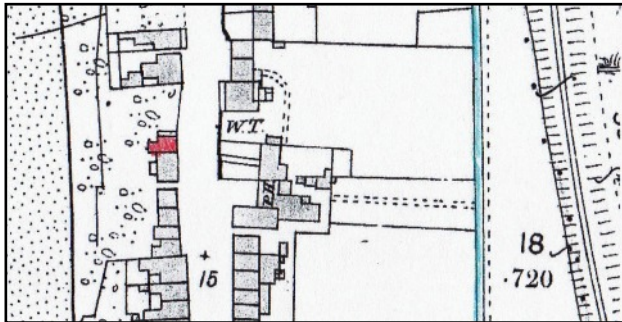
LEFT A detail copied from the map of 1829. Moses Jones's plot was Number 14 and he had plenty of ground around his cottage. (National Archives LRRO 1/3060) Six houses would eventually be fitted into his road frontage, Glasfôr to Golf Cottage.

By 1848 more buildings had been built on Moses Jones's ground. We have no details of these buildings as they had no gardens and paid no tithes. (*Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at CYNEFIN.*)



LEFT A detail from the 1848 Map. *Marked in red are where Moor House and Golf Cottage stand on that site today. We do not know exactly what these buildings were, and whether they were taken down when Moor House and Golf Cottage were built or whether some of the walls were incorporated into the present houses.*

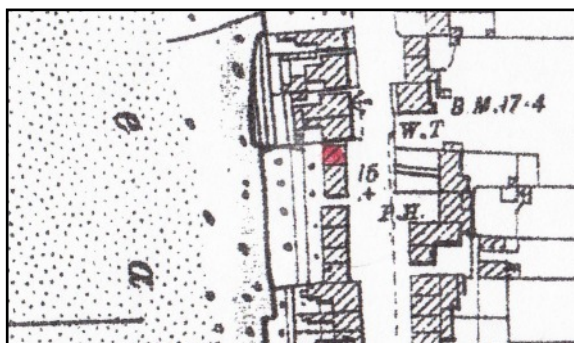
It is not possible to find the families living in the house in the earlier Census's as houses did not have names. Even by the 1881 Census this house was among nine other St David's Place cottages and they were on both sides of the High Street. St David's Diocese (the Vicar) had owned the plot marked on the 1829 map as Number 41, and 33 on the Tithe Map when a National School had been built on it (replaced by our Meddygfa). A row of cottages would be built adjoining it, number 31 on the Tithe Map. It is not known at present if the Church originally owned that ground too. They later belonged with the Railway Inn - P.H. on the map below in 1886 when the inn was then in Brookfield.



In 1886 Golf Cottage was there and is marked in red. It had an extension at the back and at the front opened directly on to the street. It had a tiny yard on the north side. Surrounding it was beach with one fence to protect all the houses from the sea. The surveyor has marked them all with the same owner. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map, surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire III.10)

In the 1891 Census the house was called Trafalgar House, and in the house was an 80 year old widow, Annie Evans. She was Scottish, born in Greenock.

In the 1901 Census the house had another name, Birmingham House. It was either empty or there was no-one there when the Census takers called.



LEFT The house had lost its rear extension by 1904. There had been a seriously bad storm in 1896 and much damage was done. A tenant in Glasfôr lost his life. This detail from the map revised in 1904 and published in 1905 shows two new fences at the rear of the terrace. Once again all of the houses had the same owner. (Cardiganshire III.10, and the Cambrian News of February 1899)

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, the house was valued at £72. They would be £3.10s to pay, £4.7s 6d gross. The Council called it Number 6 Maglenn (Maglona) Terrace. The owner was Joseph Davies who owned all the six houses in the terrace. The occupier was Richard Humphreys, This house being small, was the least valuable of the six. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and a map at the National Library of Wales).

By the 1911 Census the house had another name, Sandy Cottage and it had six main rooms.

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In the house were Louis Albert Wick and his wife Mollie. Mr Wick was a 22 year old English cabinet maker born in Camden Town, London. His 21 year old wife was born in Warwickshire. They had been married for less than a year. Also in the house was Mollie's sister Sylvia Callaby who was only six years old.

In 1925 the house was still called Sandy Cottage, and the owner and occupier was Martin Lewis Lancaster. The rate had increased from £4.7s.6d to £7 which suggests some improvement had been made.

In 1934 and 1938 the owner was Cockle, and the occupier M. Lewis Lancaster.

In 1949 paying the rates was D. L. Cockle.

In 1963 Geoffrey Bates paid the rates and had a vote for the house that year, and the name of the house had changed to Golf Cottage. Did Mr Bates come to Borth to enjoy the golf?

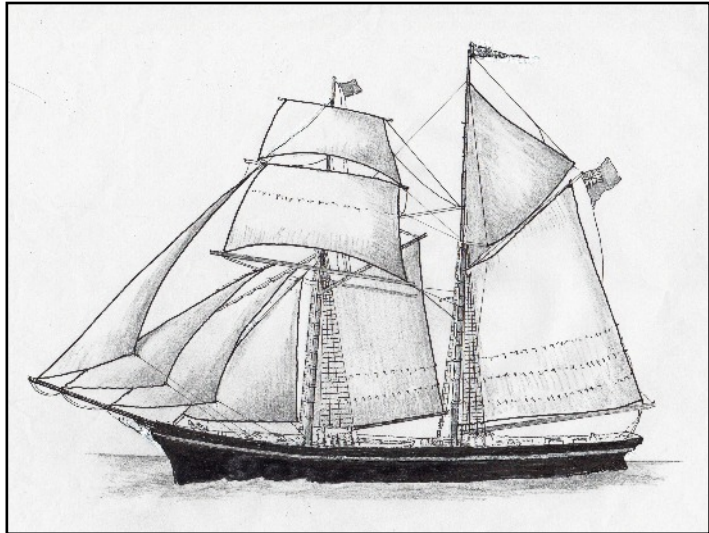


ABOVE On this photograph dated 1914 Moor House and Golf Cottage are on the far left. Golf Cottage appears to have a shop front - so who was advertising his wares? Probably the young cabinet maker. The upper windows match those of Moor House, though on the narrower building they were much closer together. Both houses were open to the street and a rendered wall protected the front of Golf Cottage from the footpath to the beach as it does today. The rubble stones of the walls can be seen through the rendering, and the fronts look like exposed stone. On the far right the tall building is the Railway Inn.

Photograph courtesy of Mrs F. H. B. Renny)

The terrace with the six houses was named after Maglona, a splendid schooner, brand new in April 1876, registered with 144 tonnes, and built at Aberdovey by Thomas Richards. She was commanded by Owen Williams and had two masts, and a figure head of a woman. Her owners were Morgan Owens, an Aberystwyth ship owner, he had 52 shares and Richard Owens a timber merchant from Machynlleth who had 12. She was totally wrecked off Newfoundland in 1887 (Shipping Register, Aberystwyth Ceredigion Archives). Besides Aberystwyth, people in Aberaeron and New Quay eventually had shares in the schooner, and all these have

houses called Maglona. The connection of Maglona Terrace in Morfa Borth to the ship was probably from her first master Captain Owen Williams who wed a Borth girl Elizabeth Davies on 17th August 1859. She was the daughter of a Morfa Borth mariner David Davies and his wife Anne who are in the 1841 Census for Morfa Borth. The Captain and his wife lived in Aberdovey (Captain Owen Williams family tree, on-line). The shipping register suggests that he and the rest of his crew were drowned when she was lost in 1887.



Who remembered the schooner with pride in this Morfa Borth terrace? At the 1891 Census the name of four of the houses was Maglona Place though this house had become Trafalgar House and Moor House was Woodville. The map showed that all the houses had the same owner in 1886. In 1910 it was a member of a Davies family, Joseph Davies. There were some Davies living in the terrace in the 1891 Census. Was there a connection to Elizabeth Davies who married the Captain and to her parents David and Anne Davies of Morfa Borth? Was the blind mariner in Woodville (Moor House) Elizabeth's brother John? David and Anne Davies had a son John who was born about 1836 said the 1841 Census, and the blind mariner John Davies who was in Woodville (Moor House) in the 1891 Census was said to be born about 1832, and he had called his son David. There is a four year difference but the Census's can be wrong with their dates. There was also a mariner's widow Jane Davies aged 27 in Number 1, (Glasfôr).

We would need Deeds to see if the Davies family were behind the building of the cottages, and were using some of them for family and some to provide rents.

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-eredigion.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-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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