

# 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

*This work is for research and educational purposes only.*

# GWYNFRYN

## Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

A café and home on the east side of the High Street the the northern most of a terrace of four houses. Built after 1910 but about 1925. Later a Doctor's surgery and a home called Golden Grove.



*LEFT Gwynfryn in 2009 when a shop there was not trading.*

This is a tall building under a gable roof at right angles to the road which is built out of the gable roof parallel to the road shared by the other houses. Gwynfryn is a generous two storeys high, with a double windows in gables front back and sides of the roof to serve attic rooms. There is an entrance door set into the centre of the shop front which opens on to the street. The front door of the house is at the side. The walls are rendered and built of red brick and the way the windows can open is seen in the photograph. The building design matches its neighbours, the upper section matching The Lodge at the other end of the terrace, and suggesting they were built at the same time. As the plot of land on which the houses stand had just one owner in 1910 this is likely.

*BELOW The top of the shop front is quite decorative, with complicated brackets and panels with inlaid shapes.*







*LEFT and below LEFT The front door is on the north side of the building which has a drive beside it wide enough to take a car to garages and buildings on ground behind all four of the terrace of houses.*



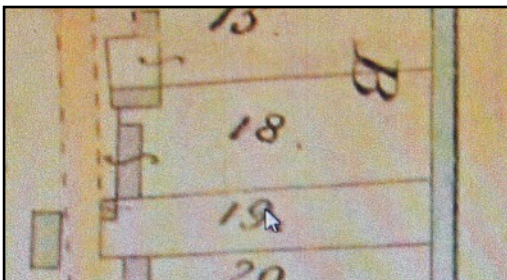
*LEFT The house is below a gable at right angles to the street served by a large chimney. This is the back facing east, and some of the original red brick walls are not rendered and there are further small brick outbuildings. Today the back extends to the ditch which was once*

*a brook - and has other buildings on it. These photographs were taken in 2013.*



*LEFT The roof has a considerable overhang. In the foreground over the hedge is some of the garden which is planted, and has a space for a table and benches for the café in the summer.*

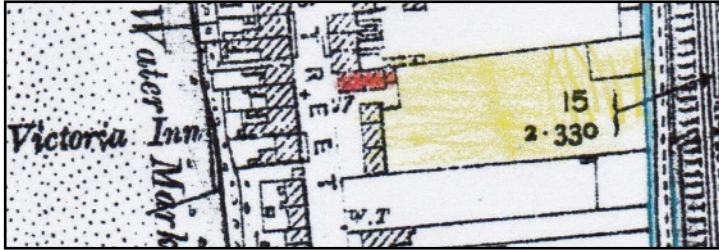
The land had been enclosed in 1824 from the pebble embankment 'waste' by Evan Hughes and a terrace of three cottages were built on it. It was over half an acre, 2 rods and 7 perches, and he rented it from the Crown who owned the manor. (Number 28. NA LRRO 1/3060) Evan Hughes was a master mariner, captain of the sloop Liverpool Trader in 1825, and owner of 46 of her 64 shares. He owned the sloop Providence in 1838 was the captain and was the owner of the sloop 'Friendship' in 1826. He had shares in other ships and traded shares, and raised mortgages on his ships. He was able to provide very well for his family.



*LEFT In 1848 there is the the block of old cottages set back from the street plus a new cottages sideways on to the street. All the cottages and ground had new owners, John Price and Mary Lewis were the owners, and the cottages and gardens were occupied by John Davies and others. All these cottages shared a 'garden' which extended to a brook of fresh water for the villagers. Mary Lewis was a widow, born in 1786 and she had a daughter Mary. John Davies was a mariner with a wife and children.*

In 1861 living in one of the cottages was John Pryse, a merchant seaman, born about 1811, and with a wife Laura from Aberdovey, and a daughter Anna born about 1852 in Borth. By

1871 Jane Price a widow of a mariner was there, born at Llynllwyd and elderly, aged 68, and the Census spelt her name Price. She had two unmarried sons, John aged 35 (born about 1836) and Thomas aged 34 (born about 1837). Her son John was still living in the cottage at the beginning of the twentieth century. He was a 'general labourer'. In 1891 John Pryse was still there aged 66 a 'farm labourer'. In 1901 he was a 'railway labourer' aged 77.



*LEFT In 1904 little had changed and all the cottages shared the large garden at the back suggesting there was one owner (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire NW III.10)*



*LEFT We can see his cottage in the foreground of an old postcard sent in 1909. The cottage was kept nicely whitewashed or rendered. It is clear from the picture that this was a rubble stone cottage - probably with rounded stones from the beach. Its stone chimney was on the beach side, and its window was not very large, but was a sash window with small panes of glass. John Pryse would still have been there (Postcard courtesy of Peter Fleming)*

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, John Pryse owned the whole plot with his cottage and what remained of the three old cottages.. He would have paid £2.8s, £3 gross for his cottage, but the value with his half acre of ground was £475 - the Council surveyor saw it as a potential building plot. In 1911 he was still there, aged 87. He was all by himself, he had not married. His cottage had three rooms - probably a main living room and kitchen, a central passageway and a main bedroom downstairs and a 'loft' above.

A clue to the date of the building of the block of four houses is that 'The Lodge House' was up and running and J. R. Evans was the owner and occupier and paid the rates in 1925.

In 1934 John S. Jones owned the house that is now Gwynfryn and Catherine Davies had a shop there. In June that year the rates were reduced from £19 to pay to £13, and £36 gross to £24. In 1938 her shop was called a 'Tuck Shop'.

Paying the Rates for the house and shop in 1949 was Dr Thomas J. Jones and he had a surgery there. By 1957 Dr Thomas J. Jackson had a surgery there with a private garage formerly of Doctor D. Lloyd Davies. They were tenants of Mrs Linda Jones. The 'house' section was called Golden Grove and paying the rates for it was Richard John Jones.

*NEXT PAGE: A glimpse of the shop at the end of the row of four houses pre-1945, and just visible in between the shop and Angorfa is John Pryse's cottage (Enlarged postcard courtesy of the Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum)*





*LEFT The shop in the 1950s was rendered in a pale colour. There was snow on the roof (Postcard courtesy of Peter Fleming)*

In 1963 Dr W. Lloyd Davies paid the rates for his surgery there, and Mrs Jones paid the rates for Golden Grove.

There was still a surgery there in the late sixties.

In 1975 John Pryse's Cottage was still there Gwynfryn fitting tightly up against it. Today it is gone allowing Gwynfryn room to have a drive and front door on the north side of the house. The other old cottages had gone and the new block of four houses fitted into John Pryse's ground, but they were not set back from the street. They shared the ground at the rear. (*Historical Maps on-line*)

Today the shop and house are together again.



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**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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