

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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HAULFRYN Glanwern, Borth

Home of a farm worker, and carrier and his seaman son. Censuses show this family back to 1841 – but the present terrace has replaced old cottages probably built by 1841 and marked on a map in 1848. Haulfryn was built after 1848 and before 1886.



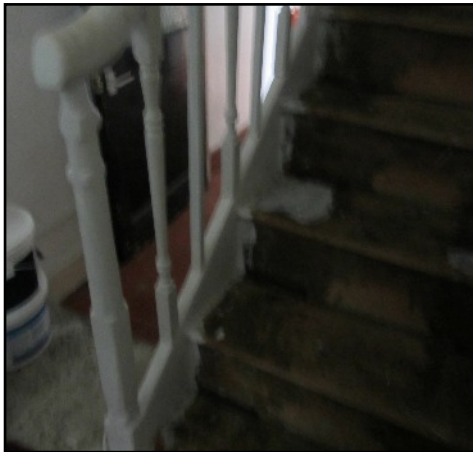
Haulfryn is a single fronted, two storey end of terrace house, under a gable roof parallel with the road. The house name in Welsh means sunny hill and Glanwern (Glan-y-wern) meant marsh bank. The roof is slate colour and there is a slab chimney on the east with two chimney pots. The chimney is rendered and is brick. Though today the walls are rendered and smooth, the main house is stone like Tree Cottage at the east end of the terrace which clearly shows random rubble stone walls with some rounded stones

that could have come from the beach. Haulfryn's front door is on the east side and today has a porch. It has a door to the street on the east of it. The windows have two sections and the upper two may be sash windows. There is no front garden, and the porch has a hard standing area alongside it.



At the back the house has a roof light for its attic. The two windows in the rear wall have simple smooth plaster frames. Bushbury's upper window next door shows the small panes that may once have been used. The extension is a full two floors high, and of brick, under a half gable roof, and with a chimney running

up the rear end. Today the upper floor has a bathroom, the lower floor a modern kitchen. Joined on to it is a small one storey building with a lean to roof and a window looking out into the garden which was the Ty Bach - outside lavatory. There is a small container with a lean to roof against the rear house wall. Today the stream, the leat from the Felinwern (now gone) has been piped underground and the garden extends to the railway embankment. Gates at either side are needed as the piped stream has a right of way. Nearer the house is the base of a building. Alongside the east wall of the house was once a garage. This has gone but there is a right of way through the ground there to the road.

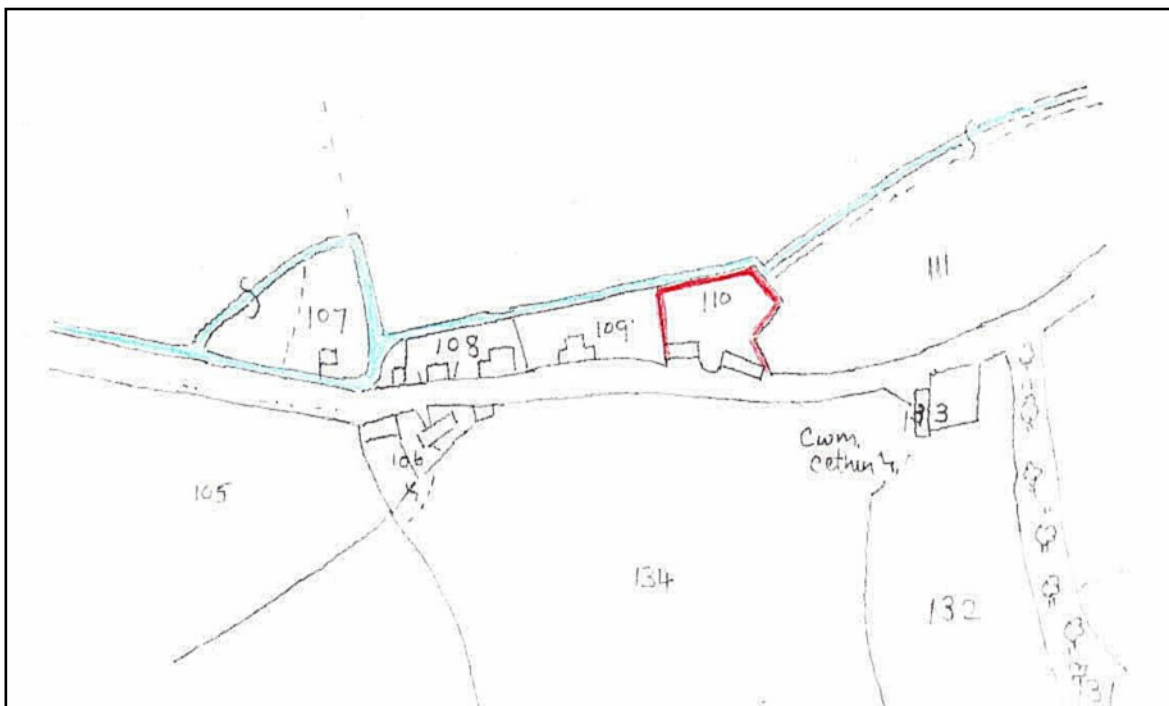


LEFT The staircase ending at the ground floor. The banisters on the second floor and up to the attic are the same.

There is a front and rear room downstairs, each with plastered walls and a reasonably high ceiling. The flooring is pine boards. Each room has a fireplace. Upstairs the rear room echoes the one below, but in the front are two smaller bedrooms. Once again the floor is pine boards. The attic opens up to the roof beams. A survey in the 1930s noticed that the houses were leaning towards the rear, and this was confirmed by a survey prepared by Barratt Associates in 2008. They suggested this happened as a result of the draining of the marsh in 1905 by the local government of the time, and lowering of the water table, but no distortion of the structure within the gable wall had resulted, though the floor was out of level. The report suggested there had been a single storey dwelling on the site built about 1866, and a second storey was added in 1888. The present rear extension was said to date from the 1950s. By the 1970s the open fire was no longer used and the chimney was capped.

You would perhaps expect the ground for this house was once roadside 'waste' between the leat from the corn mill 'Felinwern' (now gone) at Glanleri, whose water came from the River Lerry, and the road. After use by the mill the stream ran seawards then turned along behind Borth High Street, providing a 'brook' with fresh water for the houses and cottages there. This 'brook' is marked on a map of 1829. However, maps of the manor's 'waste' clearly show that the 'waste' ended at the boundary of Glanwern House, to the west of Haulfryn's terrace. At the back of the Glanwern settlement was the marsh whose old name was Wern Leri. (1859 Crown Manor map National Archives LRRO 1/3060). The reason a small settlement could grow up at Glanwern was the presence of this fresh water. Adding to it was a stream coming down the valley behind Ty Gwyn, once called Cwm Cethin. The settlement was already there in 1806 when Elizabeth Davies was born there, as she stated for the Census of 1851. The road was there too, it was shown on a map of 1829 and led down to four lime kilns beginning where the road opened on to the beach. Lime would be carried to farms inland and the road connected to an old and important road at Rhyd-y-pennau. The High Street road at Borth was very ancient as in Norman times it was used to reach Aberdovey using a ferry, a quick way to north Wales along the shingle bank and high sand dune area at Ynnyslas.

In 1848 on the Tithe Apportionments Map of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth-y-brenin township, the ground for the now terrace of houses was part of plot 110 which had cottage and gardens with several owners, only Richard Francis was mentioned. He was a farm worker.



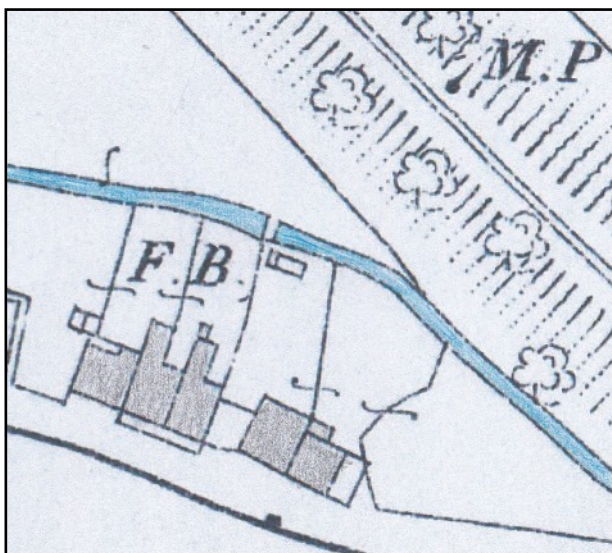
ABOVE This is a detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township. Marked in red is the ground on which Haulfryn would be built. On Number 110 were cottages and gardens in 1 rod and 7 perches of ground belonging to 'Richard Francis and others'. Overlaying this map with the 1888 25 inch, Haulfryn was not on the site of a cottage but would be very close to the row of cottages on the left hand side. However Haulfryn's terrace is much closer to the road.

In the 1841 Census in one of these cottages was David Davies, an agricultural labourer, aged 35, born about 1804, with his wife Elizabeth aged 38, born in Glanwern about 1806, his daughter Mary aged 8 and his son David aged 2, both born in Glanwern about 1830 and 1839. This family would end up owning Haulfryn.

At the 1851 Census in the house was David Davies and his wife Elizabeth. Their daughter Mary was 21 and son David was 12.

At the 1861 Census we find out that David Davies had become a 'carrier' and that he was born in Aberystwyth. His son David aged 22 was by then a mariner, and daughter Mary aged 30 had not married.

At the 1871 Census in 'Glanwern Village' Elizabeth Davies, then 65 had become a widow, and was acting as a housekeeper. With her was her daughter Mary aged 38.

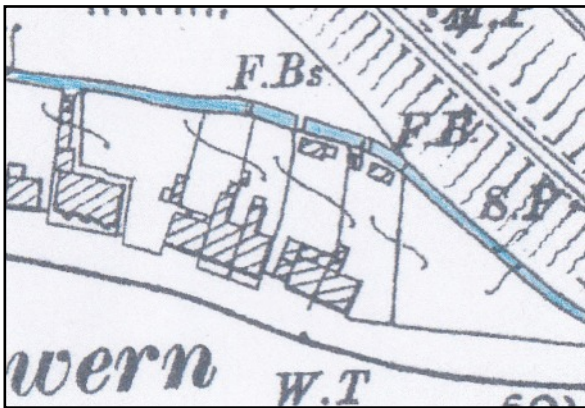


LEFT The terrace of three houses in 1806. Haulfryn is on the right of them and has a tiny rear section - possibly its outside lavatory. The 'S' (braces) shows that all three were owned with Glanwern House next door (A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map for Cardiganshire surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888)

On the 1888 map there is a house on the present site, part of a terrace of three houses. And it had an extension on the back in the centre of its garden, and a narrow garden on the front. Both Haulfryn and Bushbury next door had a front garden. Their back gardens ended at the stream.

At the 1881 Census Elizabeth Davies and her daughter Mary were in the house. At the 1891 Census Mary Davies was there on her own. The house did not have a name. At the 1901 Census in the house was David Davies, a retired morwr - a sailor in Welsh- with his own means. He was 62 and had not married. Living there too was his sister Mary aged then 69. They were Welsh speakers. Again the house had no name.

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, David Davies owned the 'cottage and garden' and also the garden next door. He had become Captain Davies, a master mariner, and he also owned Bushbury. That is where he was living, and he had put a tenant, Joseph Edwards in Haulfryn. There would have been £5.19s to pay, £7 gross. At the 1911 Census the house was listed with six main rooms which would include the then extension at the back In the house was Anne Edwards, probably a sailor's wife.



LEFT On this detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 revised in 1904 the house is the same as it was on the 1888 Map. However the 'S' shaped curves (braces) link the houses and gardens together as at that date all of the houses and cottages on that side of the road had the same owner.



ABOVE The terrace of three houses at Glanwern which match the map above. A photograph by John Thomas taken before 1905. National Library of Wales and also on line.

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Joseph's wife, aged 55 and born in Talybont about 1856. They had been married for 19 years and had no children. By the Rates of 1925, listed as a 'cottage and garden' the house had a new owner, Ety Potter and the occupier was Anne Edwards. Crossed out were the names of the former owner and tenant, David Davies and Joseph Edwards. There was £5.19s to pay, £7 gross. Ety Potter also owned the garden next door, 4s 6d to pay, 5s gross. Paying the Rates in 1938/9 was John Herbert, £5, and in 1949 E.A. and L. E. Herbert paid the rates. The Herbert family lived at Glasfryn.

With a vote for the house at the General Election of 1945 was Doris E. Owen, and she and Jenkin Owen were to continue living at Haulfryn. In 1963 Richard Owen paid the Rates for the house.

Was Captain David Davies able to afford to make the single storey house into the two storey house we see today? Rates lists show he owned Haulfryn and also owned Bushbury next door?



ABOVE An old postcard 'Glanywern, Borth'.

This shows the first house of the three in the terrace on the right was rubble stone so the other two are probably also rubble stone but had been rendered. The Wern Leri was beyond and also the embankment for the railway.

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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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