

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.

THE LIMIT

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Formerly called Solway, and before that it was part of Cambridge Place. A home, a Café and a Taxi Service and in 2018 a Pharmacy. On the site of an old cottage there in 1848. Possibly used for tenants until 1910.



ABOVE The Limit in 2015.

RIGHT In February 2009.

The Limit has a gable roof parallel to the High Street. The chimney is on the northern end of the roof and is rendered but it has the shape of a rubble stone chimney. The house is semi-detached, joined to Nathaniel next door on the north. However though of the same height the position of the upper

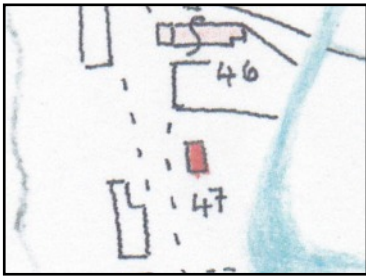


windows is different, perhaps suggesting these two houses were not built to the same design at the same time. The walls are rubble stone and rendered. There is a porch with a sloping roof above the front door supported on slender posts. On the back of the house is a two storey extension and there is a single storey extension on the south side whose windows match those of the house. This former café building has spread into the formerly empty

ground between itself and Pencarreg and there is still room for a wide drive on which their taxi could park. A low stone wall encloses front gardens for the house and the café.

The ditch that was once the brook is close to the house with rough ground beyond so there is little space for a garden. A garage stands on some of it.

The ground for this house is on the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming was still beach in 1829. It extended to a brook. The Crown manor owned the ground (National Archives LRRO 1/3060). 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.

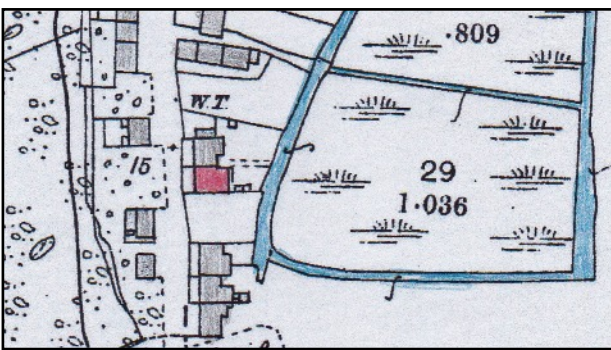


LEFT By 1848 there was a cottage and garden on this site, Tithe Map 47 of John Davies. His ground measured 1 rod - a quarter of an acre. The owner of the ground was John Benjamin, a carpenter from a family at Glanwern, at Ty Gwyn (formerly Cwm Cethin). The cottage was set back from the street, and opposite was the beach. It was the southernmost cottage on that side of the street and was approximately where Nathaniel and the Limit stand today (Detail copied from The Tithe

Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township on-line at CYNEFIN).

It may have been the home of John Davies, a master mariner with shares in ships, and the commander of ships. In the Census's of 1871 and 1861 and earlier it is not clear what happened to the old cottage or who lived there as addresses were not given and houses were not necessarily in order.

However it is likely that the present house was there by the 1881 Census. In the house, then part of 'Cambridge Place' was a young married woman, Margaret Davies aged 27 and born in Borth.



LEFT In 1886 the house marked in red was a different shape from Nathaniel next door but they shared a garden, and a footpath led to a brook at the end of it. One of the two tiny buildings in the garden might have been their Ty Bach - outside lavatory. The surveyor has drawn the two buildings in the same ownership and the curlicues across the water courses show that the two buildings owned the marshy pastures behind them (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published

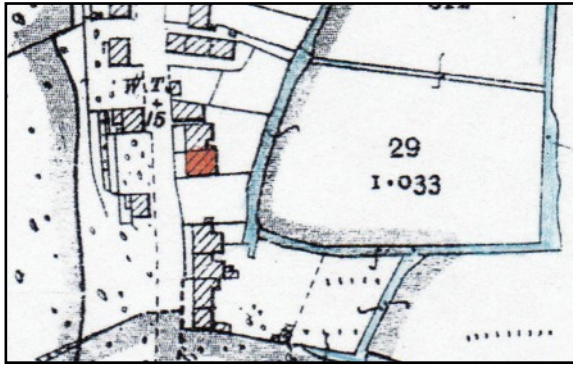
in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10).

The house was bigger than one of Borth's old cottages. Captain Thomas Davies, then a master mariner and ship's captain and the owner of schooners called Nathaniel and Pluvier was next door in Nathaniel. He retired from the sea and set up a bakery business and built a bakery alongside his house. It is possible he owned and possibly built both houses, replacing the very old cottage, and putting a tenant or member of his family in The Limit. Their address was Cambridge Place. On the south was empty ground.

At the Census of 1891 at Cambridge Place, then called No. 4, was a mariner, John Vaughan aged 26, born in Borth about 1865. Also there was his wife Catherine, aged 26, a son John J.

Vaughan aged 2 and a baby daughter Sarah L. Vaughan. This family spoke Welsh but not English.

At the Census of 1901, at Cambridge Place was 41 year old Thomas Butterworth, who worked as a skinner at a tanyard - there was one of these at Dol-y-bont. He was English, born in Bolton about 1860. He could have walked or cycled to work.



LEFT By 1904 the tiny buildings in the garden had gone. Once again the garden was shared with Nathaniel and its bakery (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire NW III.10).

In 1910, still called 'Cambridge Place' for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied this house was valued at £173, a bit more than Nathaniel next door at £153. There would have been £4.16s to pay, £6 gross. The owner was the Rev. J. D. Evans, and the occupier was John Vaughan. On the south was still empty ground.

In 1911 at the Census the house had a new name, 'Solway House' and in the house was the daughter of John Vaughan, called Sarah L. Vaughan. She was 20 years old, born in Borth about 1891, unmarried and working as a charwoman. Also there were her two brothers, Abraham D. Vaughan, 13 and Idris Vaughan, 11. The house had five main rooms.

In 1925 paying the Rates for Solway was Elizabeth Davies, who owned the house and was also the occupier. By then Solway had a garage and the owner and occupier of that was 'Foster' the Council did not have any more details about him or her.

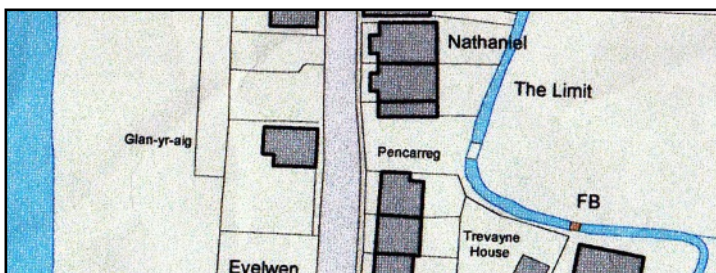
Elizabeth Davies no longer paid the rates in August 1938 S. E. Mee had become the owner and S.E. Mee had the house and F. A. Fellowes had a shop and café there. The name had changed to 'The Limit'.

By 1945 the place had its own garden separate from Nathaniel where the Captain's family were still living.

Joan B. Mee had a vote for The Limit in the General Election of 1945 and Stanford E. Mee paid the Rates for it in 1949. (Ceredigion Archives.) Advertised that year was full board accommodation, breakfasts, luncheons, teas, dinners and suppers. The proprietor of the café was Dorothy Fellowes, and she lived next door (now Pencarreg). In 1957 Miss Fellowes paid the rates for the café and premises. In 1968 the Café offered ices and minerals too.

In 1963 Miss Fellowes still had the café, but paying the rates for The Limit was Stanford E. Mee and he had a vote for the house (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

By 1975 the building had its porch and its ground plan matched that of Nathaniel. There was an extension all along the south side of the house (Historical Maps On-line).



LEFT This modern Council Map shows The Limit with the extension on the south side. The old ditch is quite close to the building limiting its yard at the back.

The Limit Page 4

The Limit Café spread on to the ground between itself and Pencarreg. It had outdoor picnic table seating for customers in its yard adjoining the café. The family there ran a taxi service too.

Behind The Limit is a garage parallel to the High Street.

In March 2015 the place had a fire in the kitchen and was no longer a café and became a private house.



ABOVE The rear of The Limit in 2019. The house has been considerably extended.



LEFT A drainage ditch approaches the house from alongside the village hall which joins the ditch of the 'brook' of 1829 which continues northwards. There is rough pasture beside this water.

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.

Beryl Lewis retains the copyright in her work and the histories are made available for private use and research only.



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council



Archifdy
Ceredigion
Archives