

# 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.*

# MYFANWY

## Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Formerly in Garden Street. Adjacent to today's Dôl Wen. It has the shape of Borth's oldest cottages and was built by 1848. A carpenter from the Benjamin family of Glanwern and his descendants still owned it in 1910. It was let to tenants. It had this name by 1925.



*ABOVE Myfanwy from Dôl Wen in 2009. It is the cottage on the right This would once have been the front of the cottage facing Garden Street.*

Myfanwy is on the shingle bank at the southern end of Morfa Borth, once the middle cottage of a terrace of three cottages sideways on to the sea, alongside former 'Garden Street'. This ran down to a brook which was fresh water for the cottages brought from the River Leri, plus Glanwern's Ty Gwyn (formerly Cwm Cethin)'s stream, and Bryn Owen's stream., and there was a footbridge there into a pasture enclosed by ditches. The rear of the cottages shared a cobbled yard, and this is access as it is today. Across the yard was a garden measuring 29 perches and shared by all the cottages. It is now gone, built upon, first for a bakery for Thomas Davies of Nathaniel, and later for Ty Cerrig.



The cottage is built of rubble stone, under a gable roof. This is steep enough to once have had reed thatch. The walls are rendered and have many rounded stones from the beach. It has a rubble stone chimney that is also rendered with one chimney pot. The chimney is in two sections and is slate.

*LEFT* The rear of the cottage has a porch and its windows which have modern frames reach up to the eaves. There is a small garden with a path leading to a gate.

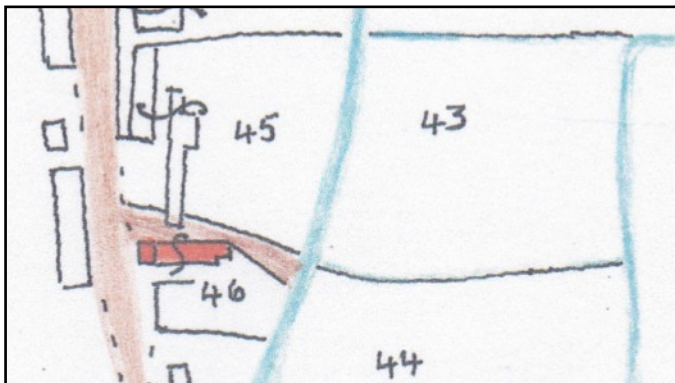


*LEFT* The south wall of the cottage in 2009. It has a front door with a porch whose roof is topped by a finial. There is a bay window of casement design and like the windows at the other side of the cottage both reach up to the eaves. In 2009 these were old wooden framed windows.

The cottage today has a large ground floor room with the fireplace on the east side, and on the west side are stairs to a loft.

The ground for this cottage was still 'beach' and 'unoccupied' in 1829, part of the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming. The ground extended to a brook and was owned by a manor

belonging to the Crown (Map National Archives LRRO 1/3060)



*LEFT* By 1848 a terrace of cottages marked in red had been built. Garden Street is marked in brown (Copied from a photocopy of the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth. On-line at CYNEFIN).

The owner of the cottages was John Benjamin, and tenants of the cottages were John Evans and Margaret Davies. A joiner by trade John Benjamin was probably a son of the carpenter and joiner

John Benjamin at Cwmcethin/Ty Gwyn. We do not know which cottage each family lived in. Margaret was possibly the wife of a mariner with four children (1841 Census).



It is likely that living in Myfanwy by 1861 was Elizabeth Jones, born in Borth about 1802.

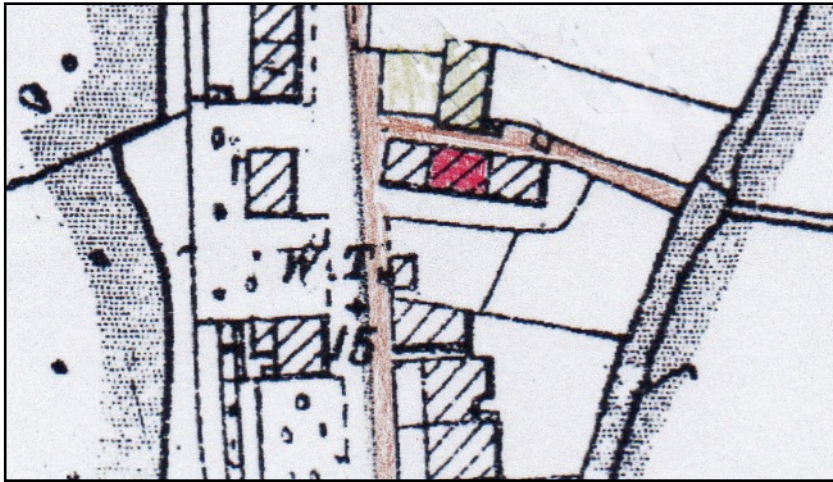
*LEFT* In 1886 Elizabeth Jones's cottage is marked in red. It opened on to Garden Street marked in brown

*and shared the back garden with its two neighbours, and is likely all three had the same owner. On the other side of the street was another cottage later called Osprey Cottage (now gone). (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1888, surveyed in 1886, Cardiganshire NW III.10)*

Elizabeth Jones was still there in 1881, a widow of 79, and blind. Her daughter, also a widow, lived there with her. She was Mary Lock, a laundress with two small children, Thomas aged 10 and Edward aged 8.

In 1891 living there was John Edwards, a retired sailor born about 1819, and his married daughter Margaret Edwards (1857) with her children Annie, Edward, John, Minnie and Nellie. They were all born in Borth and were a Welsh speaking family.

In 1901 At the Census the people in the cottage were out, or it was empty.



*LEFT On the map of 1905 the cottages and Garden Street remained the same.*

*(Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905. Cardiganshire NW III.10)*

In 1910 at a valuation for a tax planned but not levied the cottage was valued at £25, with a Rate of £2.4s, £2.15s gross. It was still listed as a cottage with a garden. The owner was

Elizabeth Lloyd of Cwmcethin/Ty Gwyn - a descendent of John Benjamin the owner in 1848. There was no occupier's name. Mrs Lloyd also owned Bwthyn Gwyn next door.

In the 1911 Census there is no mention of any of the terrace of cottages.

In 1925 the cottage had a new owner, Walter Burton, and he was the 'occupier' too. The Rate was £2.10s and £3. It had a name too, Myfanwy. He paid the rates in 1934.

In 1949 A. J. Cadwallader paid the rates.

F.A. Cadwallader paid the rates in 1957. In 1963 there was a change and Ronald T. Champion paid the rates (Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

A Map of 1975 shows the cottage and Garden Street unchanged (Historical Maps On-line)

Since then there has been the development of Dôl Wen to the north of the three cottages.

Usually a cottage such as Myfanwy front door and a passage, opening into a kitchen/living room with the hearth and chimney above on one side - this being a larger room, and on the other side was the best bedroom. Front doors were therefore not usually in the centre. There might be small rooms at the back and a place where a ladder or stairs would lead up to the loft where children slept. Myfanwy has kept its old rectangular shape and has not had extensions on the rear. Today the cottages open on to the ground behind and round Ty Cerrig and the former bakehouse by Nathaniel.

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-ceredigion.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-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.

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