

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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PANT GWYN COTTAGE

Morfa Borth

Set back from the road in Princess Street. One of Borth's oldest cottages built by 1829 by a master mariner David Morgan. Later under a Jenkins family it took in some holiday visitors and a dress-making business was there too.



Pant Gwyn in 2013.

This cottage is set back from the street and towered over and hemmed in by its taller and later neighbours so on a map it looks uncomfortable on its site. Interestingly the cottage is at a slight angle to the street unlike its neighbours and the angle of the cottage does not match the angle of its garden at the rear either. The cottage has a gable roof with chimneys at both ends and has had an upper floor added with a sizeable dormer window facing the street so there will be a view of the sea. The ground floor windows have been enlarged and have modern frames. A porch hides the front door. The walls are rendered with a colour so there is no glimpse of the stonework beneath. It is likely there were rounded stones from the beach



in the walls as in Borth's other old cottages. The street front opens on to hard standing with some cobbles.

LEFT The rear of the cottage in 2018. The old cottage was extended with a one and a half storey high wing which has a modern kitchen/breakfast room on the ground floor. The back door opens into a porch on the south side.



LEFT There is a range of buildings along the south boundary of the cottage.



LEFT Next to the back door is the Ty Bach - outside lavatory - now modernized. A stone lined pit for sewage at the back of the building was found as it had not been satisfactorily filled in.



ABOVE LEFT Adjacent to the south wall of the cottage is a brick cellar with a window.

RIGHT The doorway to the cellar which is stone lined with a red tiled floor and does not get damp. Below it is the embankment of stones thrown up by the sea.



LEFT One fire place on the ground floor is still open. However the surround may not be old.

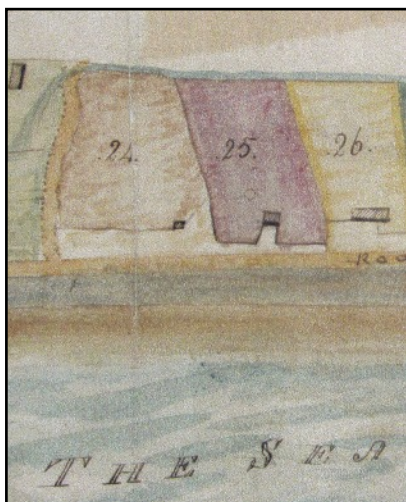


ABOVE A section of old stone wall remains leading from the north gable end of the cottage. This is topped with brick shaped stones.

LEFT The base of an interesting old wall survives at the front of the cottage, this is said to have edged a drive to stables for the imposing Bay View House next door built for Captain John Arter between 1910 and 1911.



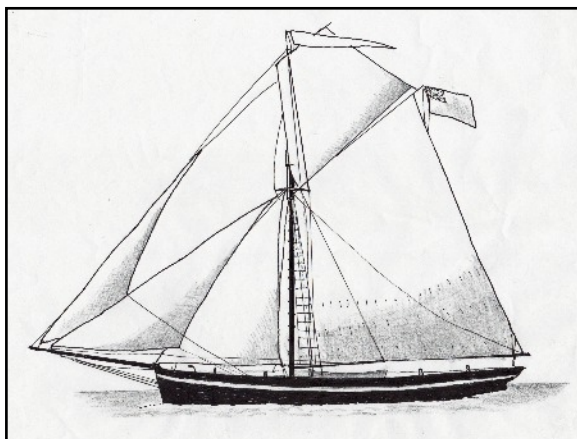
LEFT The garden of the cottage in 2018 then a wild flower meadow. It reached down to the ditch the former brook.



The ground on which the cottage stands is part of David Morgan's enclosure of one and a quarter acres of the pebble bank which the Crown Manor who owned it called 'waste' as it was no good for farming.

LEFT David Morgan's ground in 1829, number 25. He had a cottage on it - where Pant Gwyn stands today. A later map stated that David bought the ground in February 1825 and it cost him £10 (Detail from Crown Manor Maps National Archives LRRO 1/3060). He was the commander of the Eleanor and Betsy and had eight and then ten shares in her. She was a smack, a small wooden sailing vessel built at Aberystwyth in 1831 and could carry 55 tonnes. He was her commander in 1831 when she was new. By 1845 he had died and his widow Margaret gave eight shares in the Eleanor and Betsy

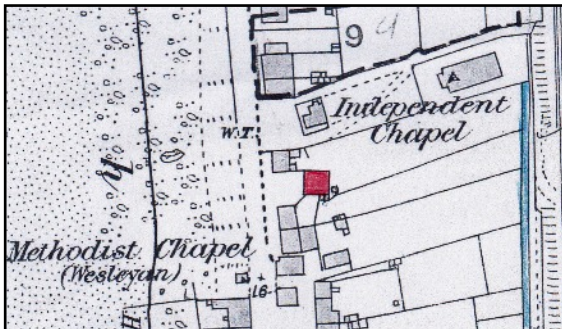
plus shares the family also had in the Frances (a 30 ton sloop built at Derwenlas in 1828) to Ann Morgans (Aberystwyth Register of Ships Ceredigion Archives).



LEFT A smack had one mast but plenty of sails. ABOVE RIGHT We can see the widow Margaret's cottage and garden on a map of 1848 It is coloured in red and was Number 10 and stood on about a quarter of an acre - 1 rod and 22 perches. David's widow Margaret born about 1804 owned Number 11 too which was a large garden behind it, and there was another cottage on the southern corner of her land on the site of our Mor Awel. She had been a Benjamin, from the carpenter's family at Cwm Cethin, Glanwern, now called Ty Gwyn (Detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at CYNEFIN - surveyed possibly earlier than 1848).

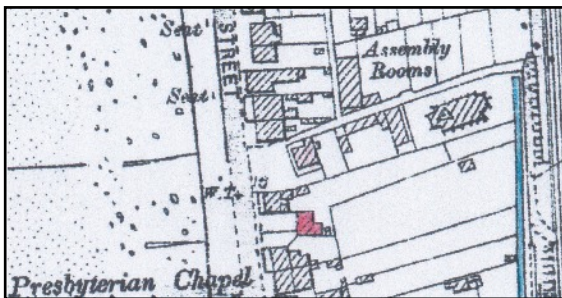
A widow in July 1848 she married a widower and mariner Evan Evans also from Morfa Borth. He already had children David and Mary from his first marriage, and there was a Margaret born to him in 1849 after this marriage.

Margaret Morgan then Evans probably moved away to his house as by the Census of 1851 another mariner's family called Jenkins were in the cottage, and the family can be followed right through to 1911. Eleanor Jenkins was already a widow at the age of 36 with sons David, Evan and John and a daughter Margaret. In 1871 Mrs Jenkins was taking in holiday visitors She could fit two visitors into the cottage then called Number 1 Princess Street (Cambrian News) Mrs Ann Jenkins was the landlady in 1880 (Cambrian News). Eleanor's son John became a mariner. His sister Margaret was to run a dressmaking business from the cottage by 1881 and till 1901.



LEFT In 1886 the Jenkins cottage had a square shape, and it shared a largish garden with the Murmur y môr cottage next door and they both had the same owner. The cottage now Mor Awel had taken a share of the big back garden.

(Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888. Cardiganshire NW III.10)



LEFT By 1904 the back garden was smaller, but still shared. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905. Cardiganshire NW III.10)

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied the cottage was valued at £54. 1s. and there was £3.8s to pay, £4. 5s. gross. Its was called simply 'Princess Street'. Margaret Jenkins had inherited the cottage and lived there. In 1911 the Census listed four main rooms for the cottage and Margaret Jenkins described herself as a 'housekeeper'.

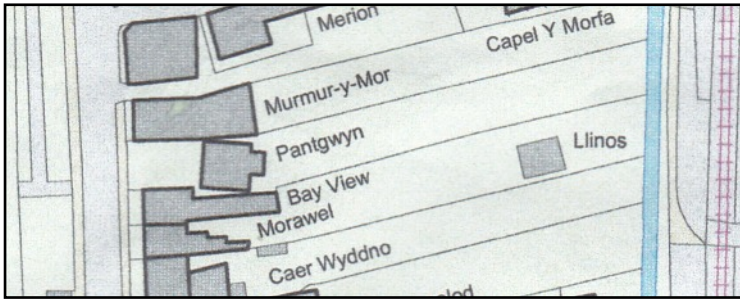
By 1925 there had been a change of ownership. Ann Arter who lived next door in Bay View owned the cottage but the Council did not know who lived there. The rates were the same, so improvements had not happened.

In the 1950s the cottage had its name Pant Gwyn and letting two bedrooms and a sitting room was Mrs Davies, and the cottage had a bathroom (Guide to Borth, Aberystwyth Public Library) The Welsh name may mean Gwyn's valley.

Paying the rates by 1938 and still in 1957 was Thomas Davies.

Tommy Davies was a ship's cook (his story is in Terry Davies, 'Borth Maritime History') and he was the Vice Chairman of the Borth Football Club in 1949 (Borth Review National library of Wales).

In 1963 paying the rates for the cottage had been Mrs Davies of Everton but she had since died. With a vote for the cottage was Sybil V. Ault (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives)



LEFT On this modern map Bay View was squeezed in between Pant Gwyn and Morawel (Detail from a 25 inch map of the Council, courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant when assisting research for a local event).

In 2014 Pant Gwyn is a holiday cottage.

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Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
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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-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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