

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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SUNNY HILL Glanwern Village, Borth.

Formerly called Ivy Cottage and then Fronhaul. Developed from a cottage on the site in 1848.



ABOVE TOP Sunny Hill in 2009.

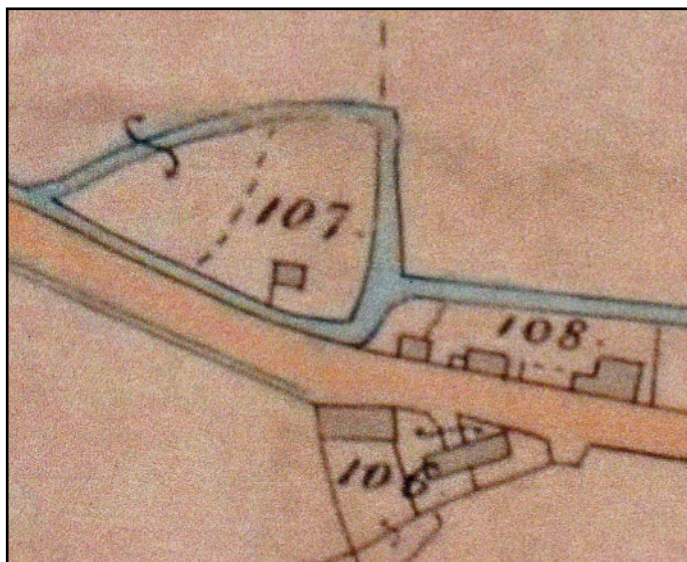
BELOW The east side of the house ends at its boundary. The drive and garage belong to Rose Cottage. Taken in 2015.

Sunny Hill is a one and a half storey house, double fronted, under a gable roof parallel to the road. There is one chimney on the east end, and it is red brick. The roof is slate coloured and the walls are rendered with a rough surface. The tall rectangular windows with modern frames in the style of sash windows give good light to the upper floor of the house. The lower windows are squarer, in two sections in the style of casement windows. The front door is modern. There is a porch and the door opens on to a red tiled path to the gate. The narrow front garden is enclosed by low walls of artificial stone blocks topped by slate or dark coloured stone. The east wall of the house is on its boundary with Rose Cottage. There is a two floor extension on the rear of the house under a gently sloping lean to roof. Beyond is a further one storey extension. Access to the rear is on the west side of the house which has a tall, and shaped wooden fence

to enclose the garden. In front is pebble hard standing. There is a comfortable gap with green planting between Sunny Hill and Penhale to the west. At the back the garden ends at the tailrace stream. There is common land beyond.

The reason a small settlement could grow up at Glanwern was the presence of the tailrace from the Felinwern Mill at Glanlerry, which was fresh water from the River Lerry. It was joined by small streams behind Ty Gwyn and Bryn Owen Farm too, and the watercourse also helped drain the marsh. After passing Glanwern the tailrace ran seawards and then turned along behind the High Street providing a 'brook' with fresh water that was already there on a map of 1829. Today the water flows out to sea from a pipe near the Lifeboat House. To the north of Glanwern was the marsh whose old name was Wern Leri. (1859 map, National Archives LRRO 1/3060). There was already a settlement at Glanwern by 1806 when Elizabeth Davies

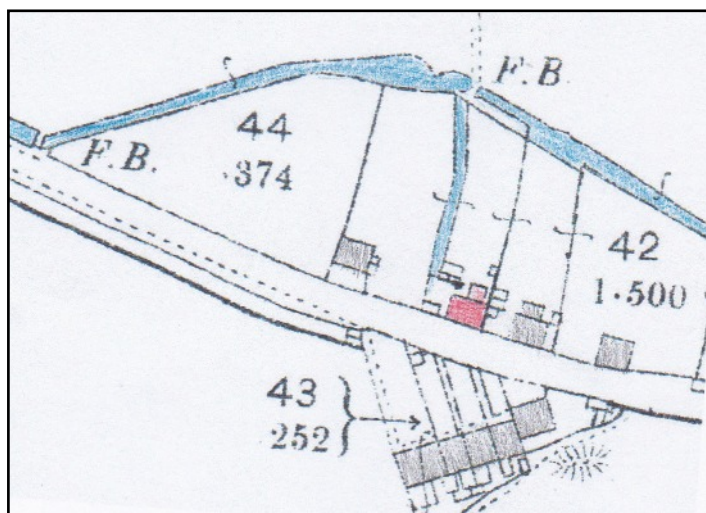
said she was born there for the Census of 1851. The road was there too and led down to three lime kilns, later four, beginning where the road met the beach. Lime would be carried to farms inland, and the road connected to an important road, as today, at Rhyd-y-pennau. The High Street road at Borth was also very ancient as in Norman times it was a quick way to north Wales along the shingle bank and high sand dune area at Ynyslas and then across the River Dovey to Aberdovey.



LEFT In 1848 there was a cottage on the site in Number 108 now Sunny Hill. It is on the left and had an area of garden fenced off from the other cottages now Rose Cottage and the Glasfryn Villa. Enoch Williams and Richard Davies had cottages there (A detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map of 1848 for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township on-line at CYNEFIN).

The ground for 108 was an enclosure from 'waste' ground between the road and the tailrace from the Felinwern Mill and a rent would have had to be paid to the Crown Manor

when it was enclosed. There was the option to buy the ground too. We do not have the names of the person living in the cottage on the boundary between them. Enoch Williams and Richard Davies are in the 1851 Census and were labourers. It is not possible to find the occupants in Census lists thereafter until 1891 as cottages were not always visited in the order they stood along the street and they usually did not have names.



LEFT In 1886 Sunny Hill was a good cottage, it is marked in red. The tailrace stream had been moved northwards to give the cottages decent sized gardens. The ground beyond was common land (or waste) so available. There had been a watercourse along the western boundary of Sunny Hill, but it had become a track leading to a footbridge over the tailrace stream. Probably this cottage had rights to put some animals on the common. The cottage had an extension at the back and tiny

buildings nearby. In one of those was probably its Ty Bach - outside lavatory. Another looks like a pig sty. At the front the cottage opened directly on to the road (A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10).

We can identify the people from the Census in the cottage next door, now Rose Cottage - a Davies family - which leaves Enoch Williams in what is now Sunny Hill.

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At the Census of 1891 this was probably Ivy Cottage, living there was George Meddins, a platelayer born in Newtown in 1826. He was already 65 years old. Also in the house was his wife Jane, aged 67, she was local, born in Borth about 1824. With them was their daughter Jane who was 23 years old and unmarried. She had been born in Borth about 1868.



ABOVE On a photograph taken by John Thomas before 1900, on the furthest left can just be made out a cottage at the other side of Rose Cottage. It is hiding behind a chimney from the terrace of houses across the road. It was only a single storey old cottage – not yet the two storey house we see today National Library of Wales On-line)

At the Census of 1901 the house had no name. In the house was Jane Bywater, nee Meddins, a 33 year old married woman, born at Glanwern about 1868. George Meddins was her father in law. With her were three small children, Thomas Haydn Bywater aged 4, Jane Gertrude Bywater aged 3 and George Gwilyn Bywater aged 1. They had a servant too, Annie Catherine Jones, aged 22 and born in Aberdovey. Jane and her servant spoke Welsh and English, the children spoke Welsh. I suggest that the old cottage had been made into the present two storey house for this family. Father in law plus her husband perhaps could have afforded to up grade the cottage? It was just like Rose Cottage in John Thomas's photograph.

On the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 revised in 1904 the place is much the same.

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied this house was valued at £156. That was the valuation not of a small cottage, but of a decent house of two storeys. There would have been £4.16s to pay, £6 gross. The owner was Jane Bywater and the occupier was Richard Lewis. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and a NLW map). Mr Lewis owned Bel Air in Borth High Street, then called Rodney House. He had put a tenant in Rodney House and retired to Glanwern.

At the 1911 Census the house had six rooms like Rose Cottage next door. Richard Lewis was a 61 year old former 'shipmaster'. He was local, born in Borth about 1850. His wife Elizabeth was 58 also born in Borth about 1853. They had been married for 38 years and had two children, one of whom had died.

In 1925, for the Rates, the house was called Fronhaul and the owner was John Jones, and the occupier was Catherine Jones. The Rate was £6 and £4.16s.

Paying the Rates in 1932, 1949 and 1963 was Sidney Evans, and the house was called 'Sunny Hill' (Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

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yn cyflwyno / presents
Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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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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