

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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TARA Morfa Borth

One of a pair of houses on the beach side at the southern part of the High Street. A plaque on the house states that it was built in 1874. Formerly called Convoy House (by 1881). Home of a Lloyd family.



Tara in 2010.

Tara is a two storey, single fronted, rubble stone house with rendered walls, and is one of a pair with Break House. The house has a gable roof parallel with the street, with a brick chimney at the northern end. Facing the street is a dormer window for an attic floor. The windows and doors are modern, however the upper front windows keep the pattern of the former sash windows. On the ground floor there are two doors and no windows. A rendered brick wall encloses a narrow front garden. The section between Break House and Tara has railings on it.

At the back of the house there is a larger run of dormer windows in the roof for sea views for rooms in the attic. The main house wall has a window that matches the ones at the front of the house, also modern, but keeping the pattern of a former sash window. Below is a glazed door to access the yard. There is quite a wide extension, one and a half storeys high, under a gable roof at right angles to the main house. This has a slab chimney with two chimney pots at its apex, and this extension is shown on the old maps, and was once shared with Break House before its extension was enlarged and altered. Shared extensions with chimneys similar to this are found at the rear of Cambrian Terrace. The kitchen was often inside these. Tara's upper floor under the roof has a large window for a fine view of the beach. At the rear of the extension are some single storey

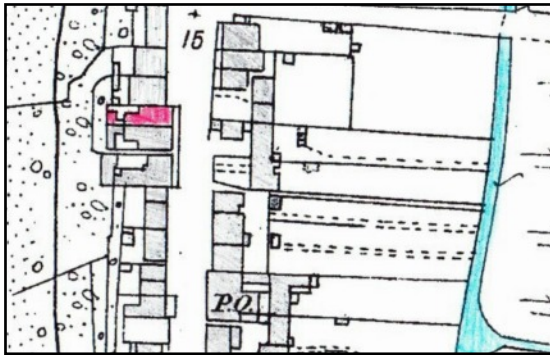


Tara from the beach in 2015.

units. The yard ends with a low wall of upright planks, a defensive wall against the sea in storms. There is a gate into the yard, blocked against the sea by planks.

The ground for this house, a bank of stones thrown up by the sea, was still open ground in 1829 and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming (National Archive Crown Manor Map LRRO 1/3060). When a villager enclosed this plot to build on he would have either paid a rent for it, or bought it. The road was centuries old 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. Fresh water for the cottages and houses came from a brook on the other side of the road - the tailrace from the Glanlerry Corn Mill (Felinwern) plus two small streams. Taps in the street with spring water had arrived by 1883 (Cambrian News 9th November). For fuel villagers had their own area to dig peat on the other side of the River Leri just north of Ynys Fergi (Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Henllys Township, on-line at CYNEFIN National Library of Wales).

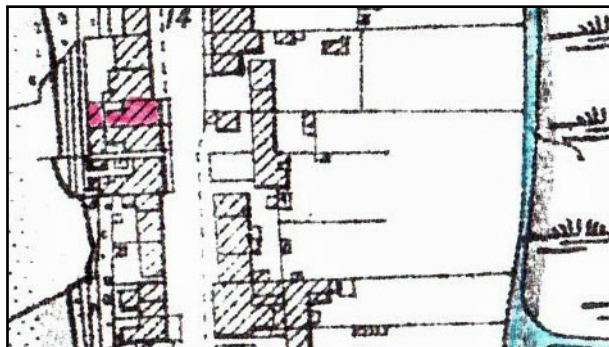
At the 1881 Census the house was built and was called 'Convoy House' and was the home of a master mariner. He was away, but his wife Anna Maria Lloyd aged 35 was there. She had been born in Dôlybont. With her was her small nephew Charles Watts aged 2 who had been born in Kington, Herefordshire. Mrs Lloyd employed a servant girl, Anne Jones aged 15 and from Borth. By 1891 Mrs Lloyd was a widow, with 'private means'. With her was her niece Mary Ann Lloyd aged 13, and born in Borth. (Census)



This was Mrs Lloyd's house in 1886. Both Convoy and Break House shared an extension in their back yards, and a fence by the beach. It enclosed ground that the surveyor drew stones in, so it was probably rough ground. There was a narrow front garden shared with Break House and Glasfryn House. There was another building in the yard near the house. It is likely there was a Ty Bach (outside lavatory) somewhere there.

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

Master mariner William David Jones was living in Convoy House in 1895 (Kelly's Directory). At the 1901 Census the house was empty.



In 1904 more of the yard was taken up by an enlarged outbuilding. There were at least four sea defensive fences, usually stakes driven into the stony bank. There had been a seriously bad storm in 1896 with damage and flooding. Each householder was responsible for these defences. (Cambrian News October 9th, and a detail from the 25 inch map revised in 1904 and published in 1905).

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, the house was valued at £250, the same as Break House. There would have been £10, 4s to pay, £12 gross. Anna Marie Lloyd was the owner, but had moved to Aberystwyth. (Captain) John Roberts was living in the house. He was away at the 1911 Census, and in the house was his wife Sarah, aged 38 and born at Elerch. With her was her daughter Margaret Jane Roberts who was 14. The Captain and his wife has been married for 17 years (since 1884) and had four children, two of whom had died. The house had nine main rooms, one more than Break House next door.

In May 1916 Margaret became a teacher at the National School (on the site of the Meddygfa) (Cambrian News). Her brother Elvet chose to go to sea like his father, and the Cambrian News reported him off to sea for the first time in May 1920 (May 28th). Sometime in the 1920s Mrs Roberts was offering furnished apartments to let of three bedrooms and two sitting rooms to holiday makers (The Illustrated Borth Guide, Aberystwyth Public Library). The Robert's were renting the house in 1925, as the owner was then Llewellyn Lloyd. There was a new owner in 1934, T. W. Powell, but the Roberts family still lived there. Mrs Roberts gave a recipe for Oatmeal Cakes for a booklet published by the Cambrian News in aid of St Matthew's Church (Ceredigion Archives). In 1938 Captain John Roberts paid the rates. Mrs Sarah Roberts was unlucky with her menfolk, both her husband and her son were lost at sea. By 1949 she was a widow, and paid the rates herself. Terry Davies remembered 'dear old Mrs Roberts living alone at Convoy House which was full of wonderful souvenirs from all corners of the globe ('Borth a Maritime History page 108.)

In 1963 the name of the house was still Convoy House and it was listed with a garden. Paying the rates was Dr Stewart. No one was on the Electoral Register for the house that year. By 1970 it had its name 'Tara' when the Aberystwyth Rural Council were improving the sea defences behind the houses (Description of the work, private collection, and rates and electoral registers, Ceredigion Archives).



Break House and Tara in 2010

ABOVE Break House and Tara (formerly Convoy) on this old postcard, 'South End of Borth'. They had exposed rubble stone walls the windows and doors edged with (probably) yellow bricks, and with a brick stripe at the eaves like London House across the street. This style was fashionable in the second half of the nineteenth century. The windows were sash windows, and the ground floor did not have a bay window. The low wall in front was stone and was topped by railings with iron gates to the street. We can see one of the brick chimneys, there was another at this end of the roof. (Postcard Ceredigion Archives)

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gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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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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