

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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TY HAF Morfa Borth

In the central part of Borth High Street, on the beach side. Formerly called Number 3 Maglona Terrace with a connection to the schooner Maglona. In 1911 called Bryn Ceris. For many years with the same owner as the other five houses in the terrace, and probably built either for a member of the family or to let. The house was there by 1876.

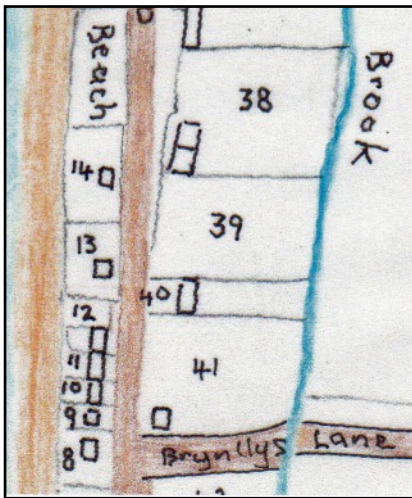


Ty Haf in 2015.

Ty Haf is a single fronted, two storey terrace house under a gable roof, which like the rest of the terrace is at a slight angle to the street. Dormer windows in the front and the back of the roof give light to an attic floor. The slab chimneys both sides of the roof are brick and shared with the neighbouring houses. The walls are random rubble stone including some rounded beach stones, and red bricks edge the upper windows and the front door. Exposed stone walls and bricks round the windows were fashionable in the second half of the nineteenth century, but yellow ones were used more often in Borth. Red ones are rare. On the ground floor is a square bay window. All the windows and the door are modern. The front garden is narrow and edged by a wall of stones probably from the beach. The row of houses were in the same ownership,

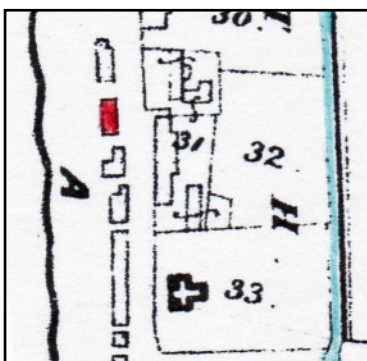
and the front dormer windows are the same on the the first three houses in the terrace. The bay window matches that of Craig-y-delyn, but in Ty Haf there is a modern and simplified frame with a large glass front panel. The plan of the houses however is not the same as Craig-y-delyn is narrower than its neighbours.

The main feature at the back of the house is the large balcony on top of a single storey extension which gives a fine view out to sea. The yard is the same depth as its two neighbours, and a fence of planks protect Ty Haf from the sea. In January 1876 the Cambrian News reported that folk at Ty Haf were very upset that during the recent storm all their windows were shattered and the sun lounge they had built was 'a wave lash away from destruction' (January 9th). At that time there was no back yard, just two fences between the terrace and the sea - probably rows of stakes driven into the stone bank.



The ground for this house was enclosed in 1825 by Moses Jones from the stone bank thrown up by the sea and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor Court who owned it as it was no use for farming. His ground measured 20 perches and a map of 1829 shows a cottage built on it, described as 'cottage and beach'. Moses Jones was a master mariner with a daughter born in 1818 (Parish Register Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Ceredigion Archives) 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 A detail copied from the map of 1829. Moses Jones's plot was Number 14 and he had plenty of ground around his cottage. (National Archives LRRO 1/3060) Today six cottages fit into his road frontage, Glasfôr to Golf Cottage..



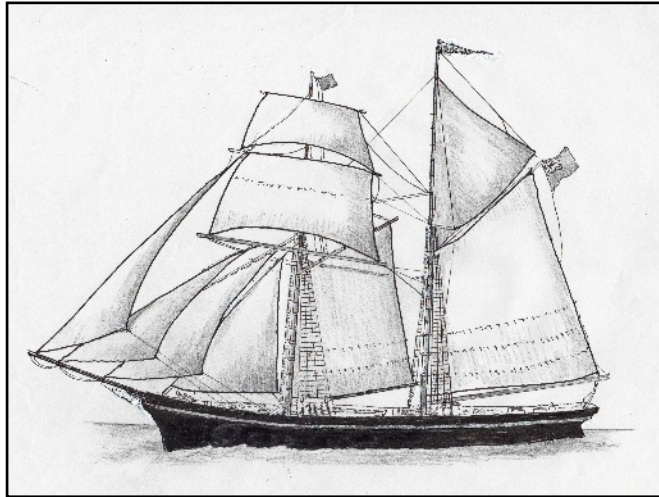
LEFT By 1848 more buildings, coloured in red, had been built on Moses Jones's ground. We have no details of these as they had no gardens and paid no tithe. (Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at CYNEFIN.)

Overlaying maps shows that three cottages were eventually on this ground, Ty Haf was the northernmost. It is not possible to find the families living in these in the earlier Census's as houses did not have names. Even by 1881 none of the homes had a name, they were simply one of the St David's Place cottages and these were on both sides of the High Street. St David's Diocese (the Vicar) had owned the plot marked on the 1829 map as Number 41, and a school would be built on it, tithe map Number 33 (replaced by our Meddygfa), and a row of cottages would be built adjoining it,

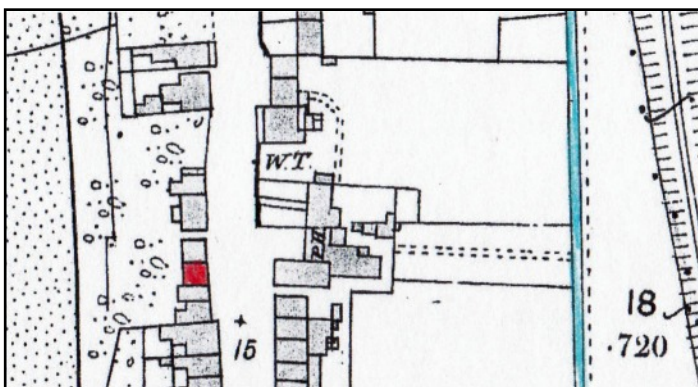
now on the other side of the street from Ty Haf. It is not known if the Church originally owned the plot they were built on. They would later belong with the Railway Inn.

In the 1891 and 1901 Census Ty Haf had an address, Number 3 Maglona Place and at home was a widow, Mary Locke. She was taking in washing in 1891 and was a charwoman in 1901. She was local, born in Borth in 1848.

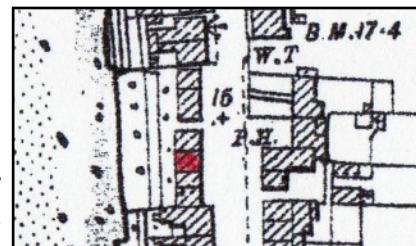
Maglona was a splendid schooner, brand new in April 1876, registered with 144 tonnes, and built at Aberdovey by Thomas Richards. She was commanded by Owen Williams, had two masts, and the full figure of a woman as her figure head. Her owners were Morgan Owens, an Aberystwyth ship owner with 52 shares and Richard Owens a timber merchant from Machynlleth with 12. Her shares were valuable, fetching £25 each when some were mortgaged in 1885. She was totally wrecked off Newfoundland in 1887 (Shipping Register,



Aberystwyth Ceredigion Archives). There are houses called Maglona in Aberystwyth, Aberaeron and New Quay where there were people who owned shares in her. The connection to Maglona Terrace in Borth was probably from her first master, Captain Owen Williams who wed a Borth girl Elizabeth Davies on 17th August 1859. She was the daughter of a Morfa Borth mariner David Davies and his wife Ann (Captain Owen Williams family tree on-line). It is likely that one of the six houses in the terrace was called Maglona - or Maglona House, and it gave its name to the terrace. The schooner was sailing between 1876 and 1887 and the name first appeared in the 1891 Census as Maglona Place. It is likely all the crew were drowned when she was lost. Who remembered the schooner with pride? Mariner's wife Jane Williams aged 50 in Number 4, (Bwythyn Bach), or mariner's widow Jane Davies aged 27 in Number 1? Number 1?



LEFT This is the house in 1886 marked in red. The houses in the terrace have no back gardens, just beach, and the surveyor has drawn them all in the same ownership.



RIGHT This detail from a map revised in 1904 and published in 1905 shows little change except for better sea defences at the back. There had been a seriously bad storm in 1896 when besides damage to the back at Ty Haf, a tenant in Number 1 (Glasfôr) had lost his life. The P.H. over the road was the Railway Inn, then in Brookfield.

(Cambrian News article, February 1899. The details from both these maps are from 25 inch Ordnance Survey Maps, one surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888 and this one published in 1905, Cardiganshire III.10).

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In 1910 for a planned tax, never levied, all the houses in the terrace were owned by Joseph Davies who did not live in Borth. Possibly he was a descendant of Elizabeth Mrs Captain Owen Williams, nee Davies? He did not live in Borth. A David Davies paid the rates for Maglona (now Moor House) in 1925.

In 1910 the house now Ty Haf was still Number 3 Maglona Terrace, and was valued at £95 with £2.8s to pay, £3 gross. It was less valuable than Craig-y-delyn and Glasfôr at £102. Occupying the house was Thomas J. Locke.

At the 1911 Census Ty Haf had a new name, Bryn Ceris and was listed with four main rooms. It was the home of a young postman, William Williams aged 23 and born in Anglesey. His wife Margaret age 24 was from Caernarfon. They had been married for less than a year. Also in the house was William's father, Owen Williams, a retired railway man aged 56 and born in Newborough (Anglesey), and William's sister in law Nelly Jones.

Paying the rates in 1925 was Ethel Mary Jones and she was the owner and occupier.

In 1934 and 1938 the house had its present name Ty Haf, and paying the rates was G. H. Liptrot. The name is Welsh and means a 'summer dwelling'.

In the 1940s it was the home of Albert Edward Susans and his wife Kate. Both were elderly, he died in May 1943 aged 68, and she died in December age 71 (Parish Register. St Matthew's Church Borth).

In 1949 and still in 1963 paying the rates was Grace Adams. With votes for the house were David Lloyd Williams and Irmgard Gerda Williams who were probably living there.

BELOW The first four houses in the terrace. If not Number 1, Number 4, Bwythyn Bach in the foreground might have been the house called Maglona that gave its name to the terrace. It is double fronted unlike the other three.





ABOVE The sun lounge overlooking the beach was destroyed by a storm on the 5th January 1976.

(Reported in the Cambrian News, Friday January 9th. copy Ceredigion Archives)

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.

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