

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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TYNSLEY Morfa Borth

On the beach side in the middle of Borth High Street. A cottage built on an enclosure from the waste in 1825 by a master mariner John Morgan. Later the home of a tanner and two other master mariners. Formerly called Lorne House when the family of the daughter of Captain John Hughes of Lorne Villa (Chesterton) lived there. It became a grocery shop and then a private home with various owners. Today there are alterations.



Tynsley in 2014.

This cottage is one and a half storeys high under a gable roof parallel to the street. Dormer windows at the front and back light the upper floor. There are two chimneys, the south one is shared with Cleveland next door and is rendered stone. The other chimney is slender with one chimney pot. The cottage has rendered rubble stone walls which include round stones from the beach. The original cottage has been extended on the north with a garage which continues as a full height two storey building. All the windows are modern. The front door is not in the centre, it once opened into a passage with a larger room on the north side, this had a slate floor and a hearth with a bread oven which is still there. The floor was worn away because of the traffic of feet over it when there was a grocery shop there. It is now replaced by a modern floor.



The north side of the cottage showing the garage with its rear section ending in a sun room on the upper floor. It only has tiny high windows because until recently the tall outer wall of a garage was next to it - with only a passageway between.



The front door opens into one room. This is the north side of it in 2014 with the then fireplace. It had a lining of grey stone and a new wooden beam suspended above it. The stairs to the upper floor are in the north west corner of the room and close by is the door to the rear section of the house.



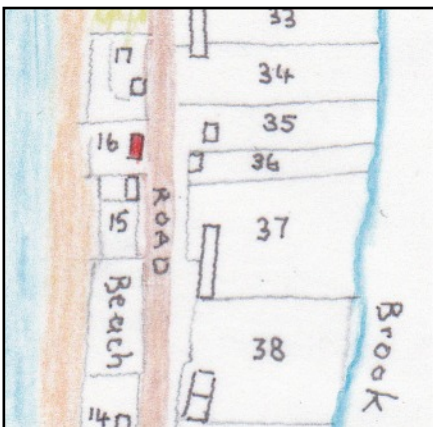
ABOVE The south side of the living room also had a hearth which is not used today. The ceiling is low and there were marks on the beams to show there had been a passage inside the front door.



In 2015 the fireplace had been opened up and we can see it is quite wide. The bread oven is iron, and set into the stone wall.



The rear of the cottage in 2015. The old house is on the right and has large windows and a decking platform in the yard to enjoy views of the beach. On the left is the two storey extension behind the garage. The upper floor is a sunroom opening on to a railed balcony. Below, lit by a tall window, is a workshop at the far end of the garage. All the windows are modern. There is a further single storey extension tucked into the corner of the yard. A fence of planks encloses the yard.

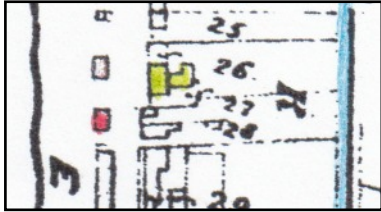


The ground for this house is the stone bank thrown up by the sea and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. It was enclosed in 1825 by John Morgan, and measured 13 perches.

LEFT On a map of 1829 it is Number 16 and there was a cottage built on it which today is Tynsley (Copy of a detail, National Archives LRRO 1/3060)

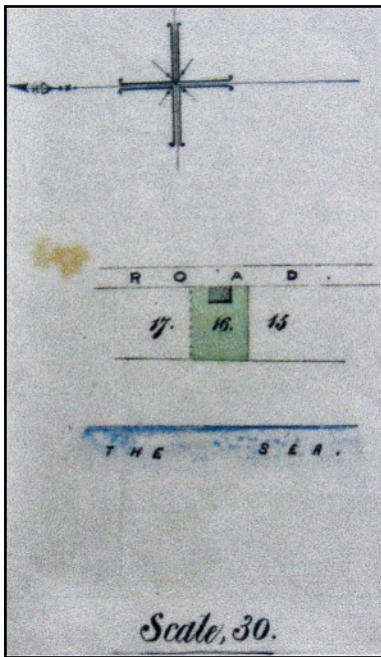
A rent of 14s a year had to be paid for the ground - and it could be bought for two years rent. John Morgan was a master mariner and ship owner with shares in other ships

and he appears in the Aberystwyth Shipping Register from 1827. In 1845 he was giving shares to this son John. (Copy from a National Archives Map LRRO 1/3060) The road had been there for centuries, it was used in the twelfth century and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynnylas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales. Fresh water for John Morgan's cottage came from a brook behind the buildings on the other side of the road.



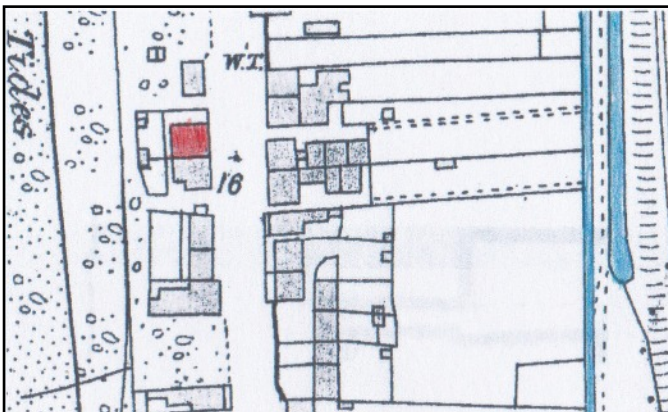
LEFT In 1848 John Morgan's cottage (now Tynsley) is marked in red. (Tithe Apportionments Map Llangihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township - on line at CYNEFIN - National Library of Wales).

In 1860 master mariner Captain David Rees bought the cottage and ground from the Crown Manor.



LEFT This is the drawing from the Deed of Sale, and shows the cottage and its 13 perches of land. Cleveland the cottage now adjacent was not yet built but would be there by 1871.

In January 1875 David Rees needed to raise some money and took out a mortgage from Edward Jones for £450 with interest of £5.10s per annum. This is a far bigger amount than the value of the cottage - but we do not know why. In 1879 the mortgage was assigned to Mary Jane Davies for the same amount. She married Joseph Davies of Aberystwyth on the 23 December 1884. At that time living in Tynsley was Isaac Lloyd. In the 1881 Census he was a 50 year old tanner and a widower, born in Alltgochfach, Cardiganshire. The nearest tannery at that time was at Dolybont. He had a servant, a local girl, fifteen years old Margaret Jane Edwards.



LEFT David Rees's cottage in 1886 is marked in red on this map. It opened directly into the street and the yard was fenced from the beach and in two sections. The small buildings at the back of the yard probably contained its Ty Bach, outside lavatory. Cleveland (then Temperance House) had been built alongside. One fence, shared with neighbours protected the cottages from the sea.. On the map the 'Ordinary

Tides' line is marked with a bolder black line. The small dots were the sand.

In 1888 on November 7th Mary Davies sold the cottage to Captain John Hughes then living in Welfare House for £90. The Captain, a Borth man born about 1835 was then living at Welfare House further south along the High Street with his wife Catherine, and was the commander and eventual owner of the schooner 'Lorne' of 66 tonnes. (A Real Little Seaport, Aberdyfi' by Lewis Lloyd, Vol. 2, p 200.) He was successful enough to be able to build two new houses over the road from 'Welfare', now Chesterton and Gordon Villa. He lived in Chesterton and called it Lorne Villa. He and Catherine had two daughters, Margaret E. Hughes born about 1876 and Catherine born c. 1863. Catherine married a master mariner, William

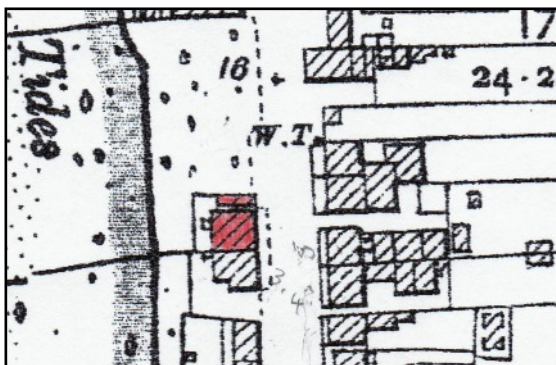
Williams, and they rented Tynsley from her father, and called it 'Lorne House'. At the 1891 Census she was a young wife of 28 with two small daughters; Jane Alice Williams and Mary Margaret Williams and a son, John Lewis Williams. They all spoke Welsh.

In 1889 an article in the Cambrian News called 'The Inroads of the Sea at Borth', (October 26 1889) reported that Lorne House had been badly damaged in the bad storm of 1886 and was 'in an awful state'. The cottage then on the north was probably destroyed. It had been the grocer's shop of an elderly widow, Eliza Davies. She was related to Margaret Hughes's husband by marriage and her grocery business moved into Lorne House.

At the 1901 Census Lorne House was selling groceries and 25 year old Margaret E. Hughes the Captain's daughter was the shopkeeper. Also in the house was her niece twelve years old Jane Williams. The cottage had a new name, 'Tynsley House', and the household spoke both Welsh and English.



In this painting of the High Street Tynsley is on the far right with a sign for its shop, and Cleveland beside it had a sign too as it was a lodging house called Temperance House. They both had small windows for a second floor, and we can see a single storey lean to extension at the back of Tynsley which explains why it was wider than an old cottage on the map of 1886.



This was Tynsley in 1904, marked in red. The small buildings at the back of the yard had gone, the house just had a small porch like extension at the back. A narrow front garden area is marked, though there was no fence or wall round it. To the north was still open unfenced ground beside the beach. Eliza Davies cottage had gone - probably destroyed in that storm. Evan Davies of Glanwern her eldest son owned the land which would later become a garage.

When Captain Hughes died in 1910 the freehold Tynsley House went to his grandson, John Lewis Williams. Mrs Catherine Williams was to have the furniture, except for an oak hanging press for his grand daughter Jane Alice Williams, a mahogany chest of drawers for her sister Mary Margaret Williams, and a dresser and clock in the kitchen for their brother John Lewis Williams.

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, the cottage was valued at £50 and the site at £18 there would have been £2.8s to pay, £3 gross (Ceredigion Archives, T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales). The 1911 Census listed the cottage with four main rooms - but this would not include a back kitchen and scullery. The grocery business had continued, Captain Hughes's wife Catherine was running the business with help from her daughter Margaret. John Lewis Williams, also in the house, had become a sailor like his father.

In 1919 Mary Margaret Williams then aged 28 had left Tynsley to live at Lorne Villa and she married a private accountant, Charles George Albert Reading, the representative of a northern firm. They wed at St Paul's Wesleyan Methodist Church in Aberystwyth.

By 1925 Catherine Hughes had died and her executors owned the cottage. There was a tenant there, Margaretta E. Jones who owned Gordon Villa next to Lorne Villa. The rates to pay were like those of other good quality Borth stone cottages.

In 1934 paying the rates as owners and occupiers were Rogers and Yorke. There was then a garage too and as a result from August 22nd 1938 the rates were increased from £4 to £5 to pay, £7 to £8 gross.

Charles and Mary Margaret Redding moved away to Middlesex, Mary Margaret owned Tynsley House. She raised a mortgage on it with the Middlesex Council of £56. 15s. 4d. and died two years later in 1845 (16th April).

Paying the rates for Tynsley House in 1938 and 1949 was Alfred Wright. He lived there, and his wife was on the Parish Council (Borth Review, National Library of Wales).

In 1952 Mary Margaret's son Bernard John Redding, a schoolmaster in Nottinghamshire, who had inherited Tynsley House from his mother, sold it for £810 to a leather merchant's wife, Lilian Hilda Rogers of Castle Bromwich, Warwickshire (4th September). In 1963 Alfred Rogers had a vote for the house, he had paid the rates but this was crossed out on the list and replaced by Mrs L. H. Rogers.

Mrs Rogers had the cottage for thirteen years before selling it to Mrs Patricia Moore of Crossgates, 2 Powys Lane, Southgate, London for £3,500. In 1968 Mrs Moore was living locally at Dôl-y-bont when she sold the cottage for £3,400 to Mr Hubert John Barlow who lived at Upper Borth in 'Perton', Francis Road. She had married him, and on the Deed the cottage was called Lorne House once again. It is said that Mr Barlow bought Tynsley from his wife for his housekeeper.



LEFT This is the rear of Tynsley photographed in the 1960s. There was a single storey lean-to along part of the back with a window partly in the roof, and a further stone walled small extension on the north side. The roof has since been rebuilt and the two dormer windows have become one large window and the lean-to section rebuilt altogether. The wooden building alongside is the first garage.

In the 1960s the front room on the south side had pine floor boards. Supporting the floor were rounded rough timbers laid on the stones below. This room would have been comfortably heated with its own fireplace. The other front room still had its slate floor, and upstairs were two bedrooms.



This was the front of the cottage in 1970 with that first garage. It had lost the small upper windows seen in the old painting and the sign board for the grocery shop had gone. Mr Barlow of Upper Borth owned it at that time. The passage alongside to the beach is in the foreground.



LEFT Tynsley is very much a pair with Cleveland next door which still has the small upper windows for its upper floor and on the 1886 map the plan of both is the same. The 1825 John Morgan cottage would have probably been single storey, and

perhaps when Cleveland was added to it the old cottage was rebuilt taller to match. Cleveland was already there in 1871 with room for taking in lodgers which suggests it was built with a decent upper floor.

This account was able to use information from Deeds to the cottage and the old photographs by courtesy of the present owners.

(Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives. The old painting was coloured and a poor black and white photocopy belonging to the present owners had to be used for this account. The painting was originally in the possession of Mrs Fielding, and the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments Wales has a coloured copy or photograph of it).

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.

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