

# 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

*This work is for research and educational purposes only.*

# VANGRE

## Morfa Borth, the Marsh Harbour.

In the northern part of the village, on the east side of a back lane, built by on ground reclaimed from the bog as pasture, later the pleasure garden of the Cambrian Hotel. Built by 1934 possibly by the Roberts family.

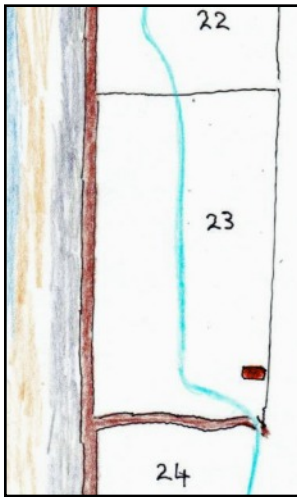


*ABOVE Vangre in February 2016.*

This bungalow is on the smallest site along the lane. It has a gable roof parallel to the lane and a chimney with one chimney pot, but with room for two. The walls and chimney are rendered. There is an extension reaching up to the eaves on the front with a window looking over the front yard. This matches the window in the main wall and they are modern. This end of the house has a wooden garage at right angles to the bungalow with a gable roof. The house name is on the top at the front. The garage opens on to the lane. There is paving but no fence or wall. A modern map shows that bungalow joins the garage which has windows looking out over the yard. Next door on the other side Coronwen overlaps the bungalow which has a narrow rendered wall separating them. The bungalow almost fills its plot, but there is narrow access to the rear on both sides of it.

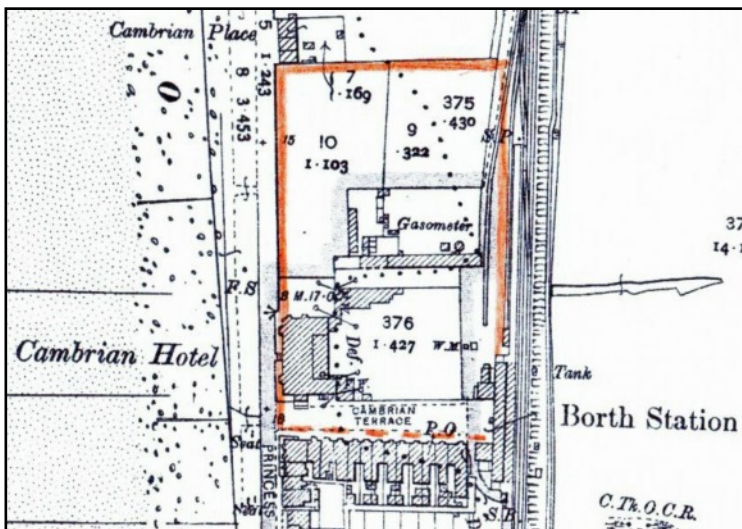
At the rear is an extension which is a glazed sunroom and a long narrow garden. There will be good views across the railway and the Cors Fochno to the hills.

The granddaughter of Captain Davies who built Maesteg remembers that the ground behind it was owned by Mary Roberts. She was one of the family who owned the Garibaldi Draper's shop (now the Premier Stores) and other properties in Morfa Borth. They were an enterprising family. By 1924 Howard Lloyd Roberts had set up six hard tennis courts on this land (Cambrian News, May 30<sup>th</sup>) and by 1934 the family had five bungalows along the back lane for themselves and for tenants including Vangre which was owned by a Miss (Mary) Roberts and it was her home (Rates, Ceredigion Archives). She also paid the rates for the tennis courts.



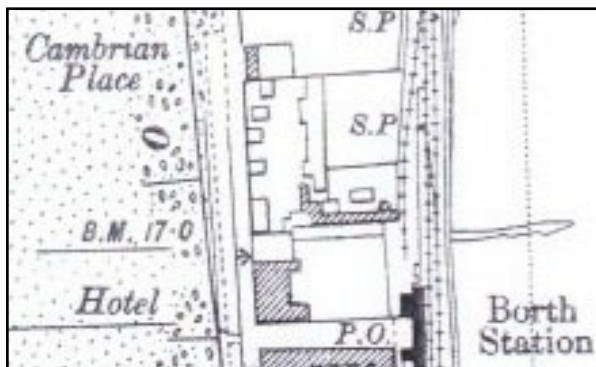
The ground for this house was enclosed in 1809 by a local lawyer called Big John (John Lewis) from the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming, and the marsh ground beside it (also called 'waste') was reclaimed for pasture with drainage ditches. It was a field of 4 acres, 3 rods and 20 perches, that is almost five acres, and across it ran a brook on the old course of the River Leri. John Lewis had a cottage on it called Terfynau (boundaries) – where the railway station is today. There were no other cottages. On a map of 1829 the ground was Number 23. A rent of £16 had to be paid every year to the Crown manor who owned the ground, but there was an option to buy for twice that, and a note with the map said that John Lewis had bought it at a Manor Court Leet in 1809. 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.

ABOVE A detail from the map of 1829. N.A. LRRO 1/3060



ABOVE A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905. John Lewis's former land is marked in red. The house in Cambrian Place nearest to the hotel is Bodlondeb.

John Lewis's land was sold to the developer Thomas Savin who brought the railway and built the Railway Station, the great Cambrian Hotel and Cambrian Terrace. The Hotel had large grounds (nearly two acres) for tennis, croquet, pleasure gardens, a bowling green, and possibly a walled garden. However, the Hotel did not do well, it had a hundred rooms, but often many were empty. It is likely that by the 1920s and 1930s it needed to raise money by either selling off its roadside land to build bungalows and houses. The owner of the then 'Grand Hotel' in 1930 were a Hotel and Land Development Company Ltd.



LEFT This detail from a six inch provisional map of 1948 shows the sites of road side houses and bungalows drawn in, though there is no lane marked or individual bungalows and gardens for the block at the back. S.P. marked a signal on the railway line. (Ceredigion Archives)

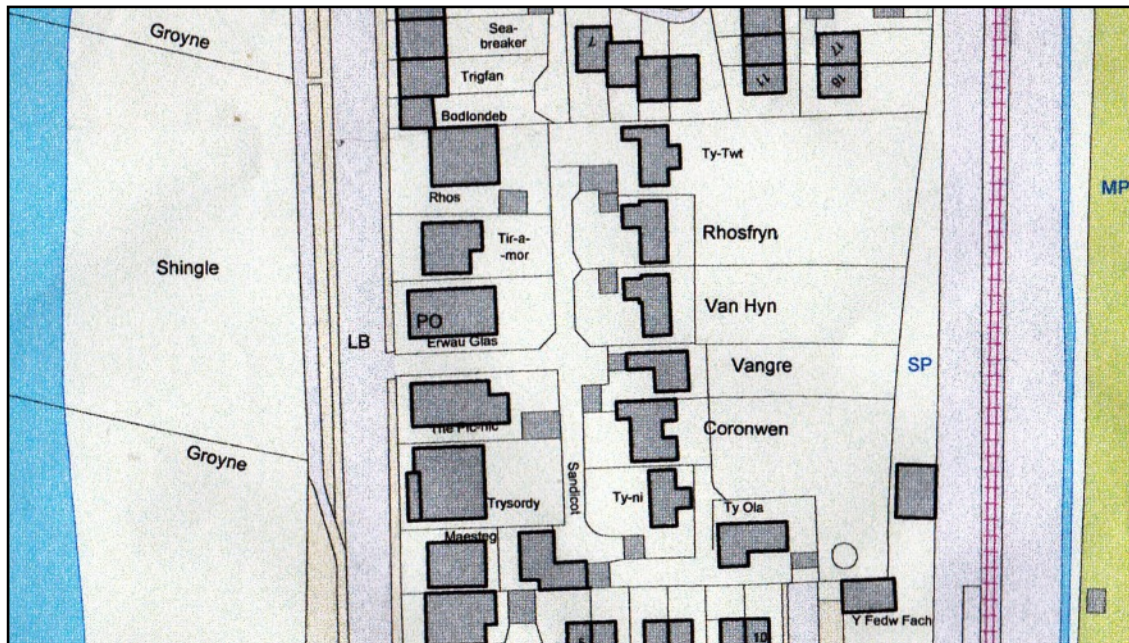
With a vote for the house in 1945 was Florence Jones who may have been a tenant. Paying the Rates for it in 1949 (it was valued at £5) was Mary Lloyd Roberts. She owned the tennis courts too. She paid the rates in 1957 too.

When the concrete sea wall and promenade was finished in 1956 the homes it protected were charged a special rate. Vangre was charged £20.

In 1963 Mrs Lewis paid the Rates which were £10.



*The rear of Vangre in 2016. It is in the foreground on the left and has a long narrow garden.*



*ABOVE A detail from a modern Council Map showing the bungalows (Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it for research for a village event).*

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[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.

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**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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