

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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MAYFIELD

Formerly the White Lion Inn, up and running by 1834. In 1871 it could take holiday visitors. In 1891 it was called White Lion House, by 1901 it had the name 'Mayfield'.



LEFT Mayfield in 2015, BELOW In 2009 Someone took great care with the decoration in the rendering on the front of this house.

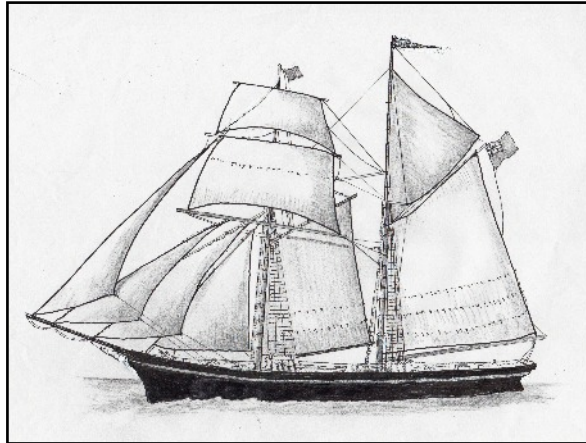
Mayfield stands on the east side of the High Street, and its garden at the back extends to a ditch beside the railway line. Mayfield is a two storey, semi-detached house, joined to Resolute next door on the south. It has a gable roof parallel to the street with large old stone chimneys either end of the roof, suggesting this is a stone built house. The walls are rendered. It is double fronted. The door has plaster work pilasters either side supporting brackets holding up a cornice. At either side of the front wall are bold quoin patterns in the plaster. Today



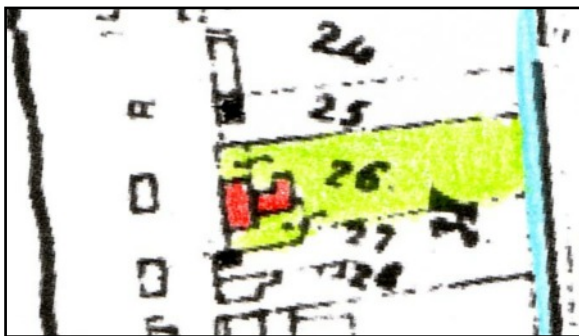
the windows are modern. Around them in the plaster is a frame in the rendering topped by a prominent keystone. Below the house is a cellar in which have been found some items to do with the White Lion Inn. In the 1911 Census Mayfield was listed with eight main rooms. There is a small front garden enclosed by a low stone wall with posts supporting it. This is a handsome front.

The ground on which the house was built is a pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and was called waste by the Crown Manor to whom it belonged because it was no use for farming. The road had been there for centuries and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry at Ynyclas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales. A map of 1829 shows nothing yet built on the ground that would become the site of Mayfield. At the rear of the ground was a brook which provided fresh drinking water for cottages and houses already built (Map National Archives LRRO 1/3060)

The first mention of the White Lion Inn was in 1834, in the parish register (then the parish of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn) when Richard and Margaret Jones of the White Lion had a baby David, baptised in 1834 on the 24th September. Margaret was the daughter of Enoch James, a master mariner who had built the Inn on ground he owned. Enoch was a prosperous man, owing shares in many wooden sailing ships in the coastal trade. He was the master of the sloop 'Aid', and owned a new schooner 'Resolute' with his son Richard in 1850



ABOVE A schooner.

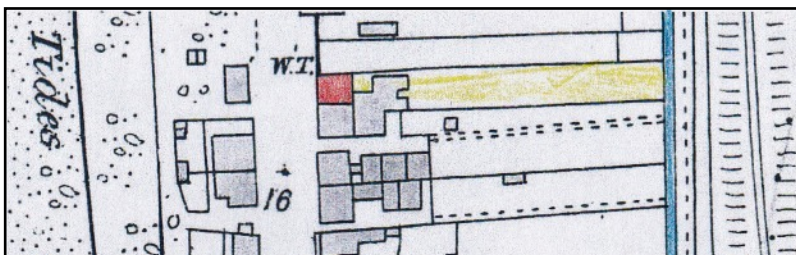


LEFT This was Enoch James's 'Public House premises and garden', in 1848, coloured in red, and its land, 1 rod and 27 perches, (nearly half an acre) is coloured in green. Coloured black are cottages already there in 1829, Number 27 was Evan Evans. Land for the White Lion was later purchased or inherited from him. (Detail from a photocopy of the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township on-line at CYNEFIN))

The building on the map was clearly divided into two. The Inn (the premises) was nearest the street, and there was a building behind it. It would have had stables, a brew house and a Ty Bach - an outside lavatory. Part was a home for another daughter and her husband. By 1835 the house now Resolute was built by Margaret Jones's husband Captain Richard Jones on Enoch's ground 'with his permission' joining to the south of the Inn and was also on this map. (Court Case, Richard James v. Margaret Jones, Aberystwyth Observer 5 October 1872). Inns at that time in Borth such as the Friendship were often only small cottages. After Enoch James's death in 1856 his widow Mary inherited the Inn and was the Innkeeper there in the 1861 Census. Also there was her son Richard, (1816 - 1894) a master mariner like his father who did not marry. Mary James died in 1866 and after her death the Inn closed. By 1868 in Slater's Directory there was no longer a Borth 'White Lion Inn'

By 1871 Richard James when he was not away at sea moved into Erwyd with his brother in law Richard Jenkins. The Cambrian News in 1871 called Erwyd 'White Lion Cottage' and it took in holiday visitors for four weeks that summer. Their landlord was Captain Jenkins from August to mid September. He had wed Enoch James's daughter Mary and was living in what we know as Erwyd (behind Resolute). Possibly Richard was away at sea? The paper called Richard Jenkins 'Captain', but the Census's listed him as a ship's carpenter. In September Captain Richard James, home from sea, was their landlord.

In the 1881 Census, the house was not named. Living there was Enoch James's third son John, also a master mariner, was aged 62 and a widower, captain and owner of the schooner Dovey Belle. There too was his sister Mrs Margaret Jones, another daughter of Enoch James, a widow aged 72. In 1884 John James died and bequeathed his house formerly called the White Lion Inn to Mrs Margaret Jones for her life, and afterwards to his son John.

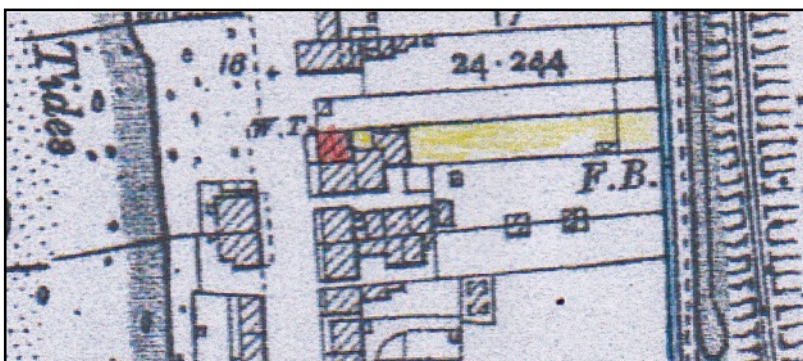


LEFT In 1886 'White Lion House' does not have a front garden, and at the back was a tiny yard. There was a building at the back belonging at that time with Erwyd House. However there was access to the garden that ran down to the

brook (A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map published in 1888 but surveyed in 1886, Cardiganshire NW III.10)

By the 1891 Census John's daughter Mary and her husband John Ellis, a shoemaker born in Machynlleth in 1852 had come to live in 'White Lion House', with their children; David 11, Anne James 9, Sarah Preece 6, and John Hayden 4. Also with them was his 81 year old aunt Margaret. This family moved away to Gloucester House (Caer Gwydno) by the 1891 Census.

At the 1901 Census in the house was John James's widow, Sarah James, born in Aberystwyth, about 1852 with her eleven year old son 'Hugh' and the house had its name 'Mayfield'.



LEFT In 1904 both Mayfield and Resolute had front gardens. Erwyd was a separate building, and there was a building behind Mayfield which would have belonged to it.. (A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map published in 1888 but surveyed in 1886, Cardiganshire NW III.10)

In the 1910 Valuation for a tax planned but not levied Mayfield was described as a 'house and garden' and valued at £183, with £8.10s rate to pay, gross £10. The long garden at the rear belonged with it. This valuation would be the building we see today (Ceredigion Archives, T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales).



LEFT The James's properties at the 1910 Valuation. Sarah James had Mayfield, Hugh James owned the White Lion cottages, Richard James had Beatrice. Erwyd was a Jenkins member of the family and it had the garden. Jane Jones was the owner and occupier of Resolute.

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At the 1911 Census John James's widow Sarah James was in Mayfield with her unmarried daughter Elizabeth, aged 26 and born in Borth. After her death the house was to go to her son John born in 1875. He moved away to Liverpool.

RIGHT This detail from an old postcard of the 'High Street Borth' was taken after 1905. Resolute and Mayfield are set back a little from the street, as was the White Lion Inn on the 1845 map.



In 1925 John James paid the Rates, and owned the house, but he did not live there. The occupier was Phillip Jenkins. (Ceredigion Archives ABR/TR/10 and 11) In 1932 John James died in Falmouth.

Paying the Rates for Mayfield in 1934 for a 'shop and a house' was Margaret J. Humphreys. (Ceredigion Archives) Miss Humphreys had a shoe shop there, and shoes were made there too until the 1960s. The shoes were put on display in the left hand front window.

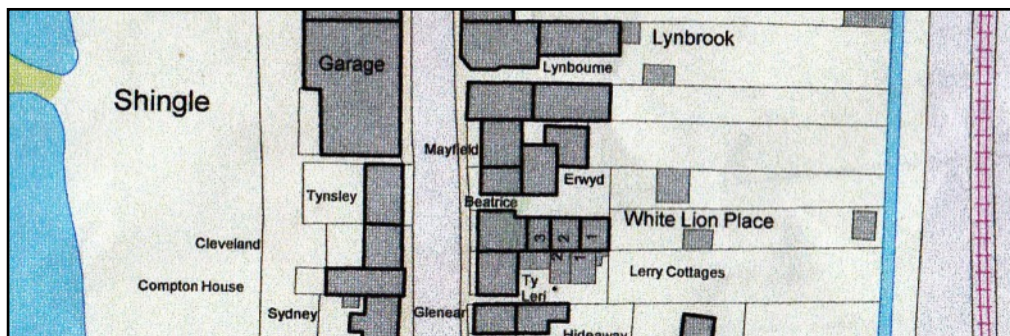
In 1962 Mrs Glenys Protheroe was advertising furnished accommodation for visitors of three bedrooms, two sitting rooms and a bathroom and kitchen, with hot and cold water. (Handbook and Guide to Borth. Private Collection). In 1963 Mr Protheroe paid the rates and Joseph B Protheroe, Norman Henry and Glenys votes for the house (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives)

In November 1984 Mrs Protheroe was still there celebrating her eightieth birthday. (Y Tincer)



LEFT A family photograph taken in 1972. Mayfield on the left still had sash windows (Courtesy of Mrs F. H. B. Renny)

BELOW The house on a detail from a modern Council Map (Courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it for research for a local event)





ABOVE On the left is Erwyd, beyond partly in Mayfield's garden and partly in Erwyd's is a single storey pink annexe which is suitable for holiday letting, with a studio flat with a kitchen and shower. There is an entry and car parking for it from the lane. The garden still extends to the ditch, the former brook.

Inside Mayfield today is a hall, and opening off it and looking out on to the road are a living room with a fireplace and a dining room. At the rear is a kitchen and utility room. There are two bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor, an attic room under the roof, and a cellar.

The author would like to thank Mr John Ellis for history of the Ellis and James families for this article.

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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-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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