

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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RESOLUTE

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Built in 1835 alongside the White Lion Inn, for master mariner Richard Jones and his wife Margaret née James. Called Resolute House in 1891. It became a shop by 1925. It is now a private house again.



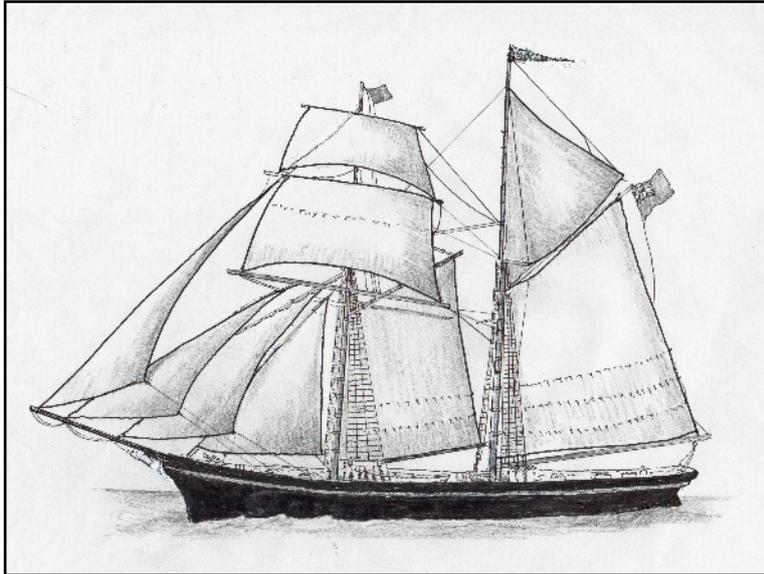
ABOVE On the right is Resolute in 2013. It is a 'pair' with Mayfield on the left.

Resolute is a two storey semi-detached house on the east side of the High Street and it backs on to Erwyd in White Lion Lane. It shares a slate coloured gable roof parallel with the street with Mayfield. The house is not as wide as Mayfield as it is single fronted with its front door on the northern side. The door is sunk into the thickness of the wall. It has a prominent dormer window in the front roof with windows for an attic floor. The windows, with modern frames have a small upper light with a pattern of diamond mock leading. The walls are rendered with mock quoins drawn in the plaster on the right hand side, and with otherwise plain walls. It is likely that these are rubble stone like Erwyd which has round beach stones for its rear wall.



LEFT There is a modern front door and overall a very satisfactory compromise between a 'modern' front and the mock quoins pattern in the rendering which can be seen in the photograph above.

This is one of the seven houses eventually built on ground owned by Enoch James born in 1787, a master mariner, White Lion innkeeper and ship owner. The Inn stood beside a turnpike road leading to the ferry at Ynyslas to Aberdovey. The house's name comes from a schooner called the 'Resolute' built at Lerry Bridge in 1850. She could carry 67 tonnes. She was a James family vessel. Richard James, Enoch's second son was then her captain, and he owned 28 of her 64 shares, Enoch had 36. On 8th August 1854 John James, another of Enoch's sons was her captain. She sailed until 10th March 1891 when she 'foundered' and all the crew were lost. Owing so many of her 64 shares and being the managing owners who arranged the cargoes and the routes sailed, the family would have earned a good income from the Resolute.



A Schooner

The ground for this house was enclosed by 1820 and 1822 on a pebble embankment built up by the sea and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor which owned it. It was nearly three quarters of an acre. Two cottages were built on it. (NA LRRO 1/3060).

In the Will of Enoch James of the White Lion written in 1856 he describes a house for his daughter Margaret and her husband (master mariner) Richard Jones as 'by his house', and as the Inn had a pine end (gable end) facing north because land alongside was 'between it (the Inn) and Aberdovey' bequeathed to Enoch James's son Richard, both homes faced the street. (National Library of Wales on-line).



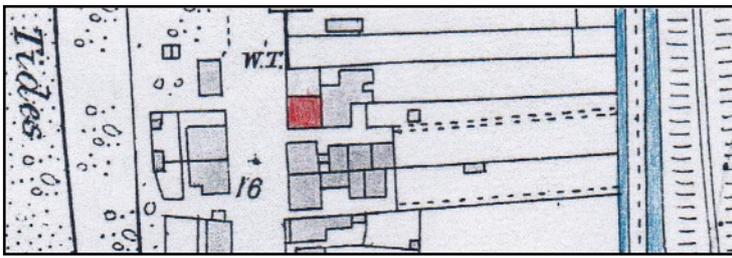
LEFT In 1848 a map shows the Inn building as quite large enough for two dwellings alongside the street (Detail from a photocopy of the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfighangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township on-line at CYNEFIN)

The house was bequeathed to Richard and Margaret Jones and their descendents. Evidence for a Court Case of 1872 said that Margaret Jones and her husband Richard Jones after their

marriage, built a house on land of her father Enoch James, with his permission and they occupied the house for eleven years, till the husband's death in 1846. They went across the ground at the back of their house and Enoch James's house (the Inn -White Lion House and then Mayfield)) to collect fresh water from the brook on the boundary. (Aberystwyth Observer 5th. October 1872). This makes the date of building of the house 1835. Richard Jones was a master mariner with shares in some of the wooden vessels in the Coastal Trade. (Shipping Register, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion Archives)

Their son David was to become a master mariner like his father and the family were listed in the 1871 Census at next door to White Lion House (Mayfield). He was born in 1834 and he and his wife Jane had sons Richard (1862), John James (1865) and daughter Mary Jane

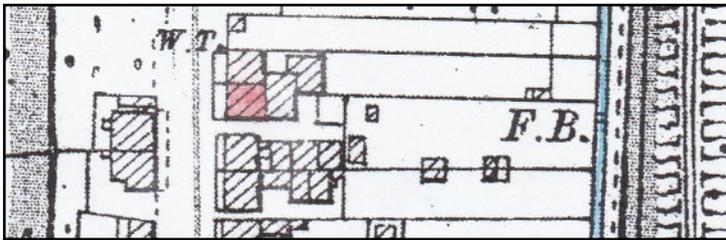
(1868). Captain Jones and his son John James Jones lost their lives at sea on March 11th. 1881. He was 56, his son was 26. (Llandre Churchyard Gravestone)



LEFT In 1886 the house was shown alongside White Lion House (now) Mayfield, and both opened on to the street. The garden was probably shared and extended to a brook of fresh water. There was a footpath to the brook over a stile in a wall (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map

surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888 Cardiganshire NW III.10).

Their son Richard Jones was a mariner by the 1891 Census, and their daughter Mary had wed a coal minerPhillips, with children Jane Adeline Phillips (1889) and Richard A Phillips (1890). In the 1901 Census his widow Jane was still living in the house with her daughter and grandchildren, John (1894) and Mary Bronwen (1898).



LEFT In 1904 both Mayfield and Resolute had a front garden (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905 Cardiganshire as above)

RIGHT This early twentieth century photograph of 'Borth High Street' for a postcard taken after 1905 shows Resolute and Mayfield are further back from the road than Beatrice in the right foreground where the White Lion Inn was on the 1848 map. Resolute had the same decoration in the rendering and over the door as Mayfield does today.



The Jones family had inherited the house, because in 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied, Jane Jones was both the owner and the occupier. Resolute was valued at £85, the same as Erwyd behind it, and was listed as a 'House and Garden'. Rates to pay were £3.8s. and gross £4.5s. (Ceredigion Archives and map at the National Library of Wales). The 'garden' was a small strip in front of the house. Resolute was not listed in the 1911 Census, so was probably unoccupied then. Jane Jones was buried on January 2 1917 aged 79. (Gravestone, Llandre Churchyard).



Sometime after 1922 the house gave furnished accommodation to holiday visitors (The Illustrated Borth Guide, price 6d, Aberystwyth Public Library)

LEFT By 1925 it had become a shop (Family photograph 1977 courtesy of Mrs F. H. B. Renny)

The Rate was unchanged in 1925, except it was then a house and shop and no garden is mentioned. It was owned and occupied by Richard

Jones, Jane's son. In August 1934 Mr and Mrs R. Jones of Resolute House gave a recipe for Gooseberry Charlotte for St Matthew's Church (Cambrian News).

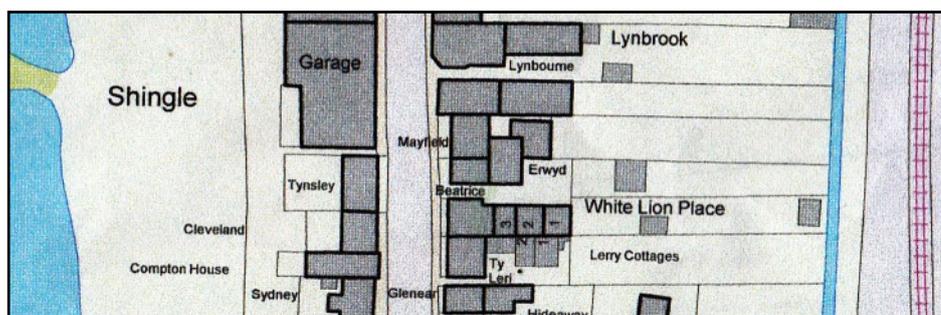
With a vote for the house in 1945 were Richard J. O. Jones and his wife Clara M. Jones, and Mr Jones was paying the Rates for it in 1949. Mrs Jones was on the Parish Council (Borth Review National Library of Wales) The shop sold sweets and tobacco. (Borth Guide Book, 1950, Aberystwyth Public Library).

In 1950 the Jones family owned Erwyd too and Mrs Jones organised holiday visitors or tenants for it.

Richard Jones paid the rates in 1957 for Erwyd and for the house and shop at Resolute.

In 1963 there was an alteration in the name for the Electoral Register to 'Resolution House' and with votes for it were Stanley Wallace Walker, Kathleen Mary Walker and Susan Elizabeth Walker. Kathleen Walker paid the rates, she had Erwyd too, and Resolution house had a garage (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

In 1977 when it was a shop MATTHEWS was the name over the door. Modern windows had been fitted upstairs, and the dormer windows are just visible.



ABOVE This detail from a modern Council Map does not name Resolute, but it is the small rectangle south of Mayfield and in front of Erwyd (Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it for research for a village event).

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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-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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