

Where were Wangby and Bonlondeb?



Names of farms and houses sometimes change over time, which can make it difficult to identify them and locate where they are in the village. Boncoft, formerly Bond Croft, the farm on the hillside above Emsay Kirk, was also called Wangby, Wanbye, and Whengby in the mid-19th century. On the first Ordnance Survey map surveyed in 1849 it is called Wangby Hall. The name first occurs when Christopher Horseman farmed there in the 1840s and 1850s, and it is still called Wangby in the 1870s and 1880s when the farm was occupied by William Lister Whitaker. By the 1890s it had reverted to Bond Croft.

Likewise, Primrose Cottage on Pasture Road has undergone several name changes. Until recently it was known as The Garth, but the east end of the house has now reverted to Primrose Cottage. Originally built above Primrose Mill and owned by the Dewhurst family, it was later occupied by the Reverend Edward Jones, the Swedenborgian Minister of the New Jerusalem Church on Pasture Road, (now the Children's Centre).

Illustration: The Revd. Edward Jones in the doorway of 'Bodlondeb' in 1906.



The Revd Jones and his wife Margaret moved to Primrose Cottage in about 1898 and lived there until Margaret's death in 1926. The Revd Jones died in 1915. During this period of almost 30 years the house was known as 'Bodlondeb'.

Edward Jones was born in 1842 at Holywell, Flintshire in North Wales. The Welsh word 'Bodlondeb' translates into English as 'contentedness', an ideal name for the house where they chose to retire. There is also a farm called 'Bodlondeb' less than a mile from Holywell, which may be where Edward Jones was born. However, his father was not a farmer but the Relieving Officer for Holywell who administered the poor relief, so it may just be that Edward Jones had a fondness for the word and for his Welsh origins.

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