

The Palmer family : Drapers in High Street, Gatehouse

Maxwell Palmer

In 1881 Maxwell Palmer bought the property of 27 & 29 High Street, Gatehouse from James Campbell, draper. Maxwell was probably born in Twynholm in 1846, the son of Thomas Palmer (roadman) and Lydia Carson. He is recorded as being a roadman in the 1871 census and in 1872 he married Helen McDougal. By the 1881 census, he was a miller at Kirkandrews, Borgue, employing a man and a boy. By 1891 he was living with his wife and family at Blackloch Farm, Anwoth, and they were still living there in 1901.

James Palmer

1861 12th May, James Palmer, born at Anwoth

father Thomas Palmer (born 1839 at Twynholm - died 1900, buried at Kirkandrews, Borgue)

Thomas Palmer is almost certainly a son of Thomas and Lydia Palmer and a brother of Maxwell Palmer who bought the drapers shop. It seems that *Maxwell Palmer invested money in a draper's shop for his nephew James Palmer* in 1881.

mother Margaret Stewart (born 1841, Borgue - died 1827, buried at Kirkandrews).

1871 Anwoth census, Thomas Palmer, gardener on Cardoness estate, with wife Margaret and sons James (9) and Thomas (8m).

1881 Girthon census, James Palmer, draper journeyman, living with Irving family - his future in laws - on the other side of High Street, Gatehouse (probably at number 62). His future wife Annie Irving was a 22 year old dressmaker.

1890 James and Annie married.

1891 Girthon census, James and Annie were still living High Street, but were now above the draper's shop at 27 or 29 High Street, which had been bought by Maxwell Palmer. James, now aged 29, was a draper.

1901 Girthon census, James, aged 39, shopkeeper draper, and wife Annie lived in the same house in High Street. They had no children but Annie's mother Janet Irving (aged 79) was living with them, as was James' brother Louis C. Palmer, an 18 year old drapers assistant.

1911 Anwoth census. James and Annie were no longer living 'above the shop' but inhabited a large semi-detached house called 'Alderlea', at the end of Fleet Street. Annie's mother Janet (now aged 90) was still living with them.

1916 Janet Irving died at Alderlea (aged 95).