

# *This is A Few Forgotten Women Story*



*This story was written, in November 2024, as one of a series resulting from the 'A Few Forgotten Women Friday' collaborative research project, investigating the lives of women who were found residing or working in various homes for Fallen Women in the census returns.*

## **Lily Mayo's Story**

Lily Mayo was born in Devon in 1883 and we first find her in the 1901 Census in the Exeter Home For Fallen Women<sup>1</sup>, 44, Bartholomew Street West, Exeter, Devon, England.

Lily was found in a baptism register<sup>2</sup> in 1887 at St Marychurch, Torquay to William and Louisa. William's occupation is given as Mason and another three of their children were baptised in this church on the same day.

The next record that I found Lily on was a school admission register.<sup>3</sup> It gives her birthday as 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1883 and the family lived at Model Lodging House. She enrolled at school on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1893 and left on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1895.

Lily appears to have been in trouble with the police on a number of occasions and appears in Court documents as well as newspaper reports.

She appears in The Western Morning News on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November in 1898.

"Lily Mayo, 15, domestic servant, daughter of Upton Mason, pleaded guilty to obtaining a pair of shoes under false pretences from the Benefit Boot Company last public Monday." She said the shoes were for Mrs Wotton's of Lucas Street.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) 1901 Census The Exeter Home for Fallen Women, 44 Bartholomew Street, Exeter, Devon 1901 RG13 2044 folio 75

<sup>2</sup> [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) Baptism register, St Marychurch, Torquay Devon Baptisms

<sup>3</sup> [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) National School Admission Registers & Log-Books 1870-1914 3675C/EFA1

According to the newspaper report she borrowed 4 pairs of shoes and took back three. "She told her father she had bought the shoes for 5d." Dismissed under the First Offenders Act" <sup>4</sup>

She was then up before the court again in June 1899 and appeared once again in The Western Times Newspaper<sup>5</sup> accused of stealing shoes from Messrs W Bailey & Sons who were based in Torwood Street. The shoes were worth 15s 6d and she apparently obtained them under false pretences. She again pretended to borrow the shoes for someone else and then never brought them back. It states in the article that the trial would be at the Quarter Sessions. Sadly it says at the end of the report that her father did not want anything more to do with her. It states in a later edition of the newspaper it states she was awarded a nominal sentence but that she would have to go to the Home. <sup>6</sup> It does not state which Home this was though.

Lily Mayo was the daughter of William Mayo a Mason and his wife Louisa nee Milman

The family were found on the 1891 Census<sup>7</sup> in Tomohan, Torquay, Devon. William was the head of the household whose occupation was listed as a plasterer born in Chard, Somerset. His wife is Louisa who was born in Torquay, Devon. Lily is listed with her 7 brothers and sisters.

In 1901 census<sup>8</sup> the family without Lily were living at 16 Prospect Place, Tormohan, Devon and William's occupation was listed as Mason. William and Louisa were living with 5 of their children.

Lily appeared in the newspaper again in 1907 in Penhriwceiber, Wales for shouting indecent language in the street to Mary Lewis and was called her child names. This was mentioned in the Aberdare Leader newspaper.<sup>9</sup>

It would appear that Lily Mayo<sup>10</sup> married Matthew Richards in 1907 and the marriage was registered in the Pontypridd district.

She appears on the 1911 Census with Matthew and with a daughter and was living in the High Street, Pontycymmer By 1911 census<sup>11</sup> her parents William and Louisa and their family were living in Penrhwiwceiber, Glamorgan. William was still working as a Mason and their three boys were working as Colliery Labourers.

It says that they had 14 children of which 8 had sadly died and 6 were still alive.

On the Pontypridd Observer newspaper in 1919<sup>12</sup> there is an article saying that Lizzie Mayo (sic) is asking for money from Matthew Lewis Richards as he had left her. The address is

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<sup>4</sup> [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) The Western Times, Exeter. British Newspaper Archives 25 November 1898

<sup>5</sup> [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) The Western Times, Exeter, British Newspaper Archives 16 June 1899

<sup>6</sup> [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) The Western Times, Exeter, British Newspaper Archives 24 June 1899

<sup>7</sup> [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) 1891 Census Tormohan, Newton Abbot RG12/1792 Pg 47 Folio 89

<sup>8</sup> [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) 1901 Census 16 Prospect Place, Upton RG13/2059 Page 31 Folio 87

<sup>9</sup> [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) The Aberdare Leader, 4<sup>th</sup> May 1907 British Newspaper Archive

<sup>10</sup> [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk) Lily Mayo and Matthew Richards 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 1907 Pontypridd Vol 11a Pg 989

<sup>11</sup> [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) 1911 Census 8 Rheolia Street, Penrhwiwceiber RG14/ PN 32275 RG78 PN1851

<sup>12</sup> [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) Pontypridd Observer 19<sup>th</sup> July 1919 British Newspaper Archive

given as Kingsland Terrace, Treforest which was the address given on the 1921 census so think it is Lily not Lizzie as stated. Matthew was ordered to pay her 30s a week. On the 1921 census<sup>13</sup> Lily was living in Treforest in Wales with her 3 children but as a widow and it would suggest that Matthew had sadly died. However with the court case in 1919 this may not be correct.

It is likely Lily died in 1968 in Pontypridd, Wales but I am not entirely sure.

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<sup>13</sup> [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) 1921 Census 62 Kingsland Terrace, Treforest RG15/26678 SN438 RD589 RS3 ED36