

## **Thorne and Hatfield Moors Oral History Project**

### **Interview with: Jim Dickinson (part 1)**

**Date: 15 November 2006**

**Interviewer: Lynne Fox**

### **Summary**

**Jim Dickinson lived at Moorends Mill, sometimes referred to locally as the 'Paraffin Mill'. His father worked as the joiner for British Moss Litter Company & his grandfather ran the mill until his death in 1936. Jim lived at the mill until he was 21. He earned pocket money by catching snakes for William Bunting.**

His birth in 1936 and the family move to the mill. Father (Reg)'s job as joiner for BMLC, Took over blacksmith's work when he died. Turned his hand to anything. made peat wagons, railway lines etc.

History & description of Moorends Mill. Aunt moved to live in the other half of the property. She worked as the cleaner in BMLC offices at the mill.

Water supply. No electricity. Lighting by Tilley lamp.

Nearest neighbours were the Verhees' 2 miles away and a single farm about 1 mile away. Access by track, moors workers used it for work.

Moors as a playground as a child. Shooting. Incident with Home Guard in WW2.

Mother used signalling system with railway guard's whistle when he was out on the moors.

Childhood memories. Contracted Rheumatic Fever. School.

Engineering Apprenticeship with Coal Board.

Details of subsequent career.