

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

### **Interview with: Jim Dickinson (part 2)**

**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.**

How grandad (Fred) came to work for British Moss Litter Company  
Moorends Mill – burnt down 1924 & 1936. Description of the mill  
Some family history – connection with St Wilfrid's Church Moorends  
Description of the peat coming into the mill. Mill workers including Dutch workers  
Family connection with Bilborough & York Minster  
Kempens lived at Moorends before Dickinsons  
Mum shopping by bike  
Wildlife on the moor. Story of owl. Rabbits  
Introduction to William Bunting – payment to collect snakes.  
Father's dash to Doncaster Hospital with antidote when Bunting bitten by snake.  
Several snake stories.  
Bunting delivering snakes to London Zoo by push bike  
Visiting Bunting's house – escaped snakes.  
Dealing with snake at school  
Locusts at Bunting's house. Bunting's eviction.  
Bunting's knowledge of insects.