

Thorne and Hatfield Moors Oral History Project

Interview with: Jim Dickinson (part 3)

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.

Childhood memory – shooting cricket in the house
Moors foreman's regular visits – story of bike breakdown
Kempens at Medge Hall, Jack Oughtibridge at Swinefleet Mill
Jim's dad adapted an Austin Ruby to use as run about on moors railway
Dutch workers. Horses on the moor.
How Aunt Bessie came to live at Moorends & work for BMLC
'Arthur Chapman' loco
Dad removing worker's tooth

Description of blacksmith's shop. How it worked when Jim was a child. What was made there.
Leaving the moor – the end of dad's career.
Dad's development of lawnmower
Working for Mr Harry Birtwhistle – security against poachers. Encountering poachers
Shooting foxes with John Birtwhistle
Some thoughts as to why Moorends Mill is known as the 'paraffin mill'