

Thorne and Hatfield Moors Oral History Project

Interview with: Trevor Sharpe (1 part 1) (including Barry Sharpe)

Date: 10 August 2006

Interviewer: Lynne Fox

Summary

Trevor and Barry Sharpe lived in Moorends but spent most of their time at their grandfather's house at Bell's (Sharpe's) Pond on Thorne Moors. The two houses at the Pond belonged to the Pit owners and were occupied by the Sharpes and the Bell family. About a quarter of a mile away were the two houses at Whaley Balk occupied by the Verhees family and the Smits. These houses belonged to British Moss Litter Company. Trevor and Barry both worked in the peat industry. Barry drove a Hy-Mac loading peat wagons. Trevor drove locos but eventually became factory foreman at Hatfield Mill.

Family background & connection to moors. Origins of house & location

Great Grandad moved there from Crowle for work. Father attended Fox & Duck School

Details of great grandad. Had horse & cart which he used to make a living in various ways including funerals. Retrieved coal from tip for sale.

Family connection to William booth, founder of Salvation Army

Accidental drowning of child resulted in gt grandma's suicide by drowning in Bell's Pond.

Irish workers sent to fell trees around Bell's Pond

Their childhood on the moors

Description of house. Growing food. Horses – disused brickwork kilns converted to stables.

Mother is a Bell, parents grew up as neighbours. Large families – rough living