

Thorne and Hatfield Moors Oral History Project

Interview with: Trevor Sharpe (3 part 2)

Date: 31 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.

NB. This is a recording of an informal meeting to look at and scan photographs and collect associated information.

Peat stocks

Machine cutting process

Surface milling process

Consistency of peat meant that could feel vibrations over long distances

Experimenting with added nutrients. Introduction of plastic bags

Hatfield mill

Ancient burnt forest on Thorne Moor