

'Happy Families' - A Stroll through Moore

Milner Institute



Nathaniel Dennis Milner (1801 to 1878) of Moore married his cousin Ann, heiress to all the Acton estates. Several of their children died in childhood, but Mary (1831 to 1916) & Sarah Ann continued to live in Moore House after the death of their parents. Mary survived her sisters.

She was a devout churchwoman who worshipped at Daresbury Church all her life. In 1907 she presented the village of Moore with the Milner Church Institute in memory of her mother & father. There is also a stained glass window in the Church dedicated to them.

Mary died on 17th September 1916 & is buried in the Milner family vault in the churchyard.

Daresbury Station



This was a GWR & BR joint country station. From its opening until the start of the Great War there were at least twelve stationmasters who originated both locally and from other parts of the country, these included Wigan, Buckinghamshire, Leominster and a number from Cheshire. Edward Thomas 1911 to 1914 had two daughters and two sons, Oswald and James, who are listed on our website as they both served their country in WW1. From the censuses this appears to have been

one of the larger families to reside in the station house. Some stationmasters were resident at other stations on the line while looking after Daresbury, Halton for instance in the case of William Bennion.

The Willows



Mr W Clarke, a preacher from Stockton Heath, said he had heard some of the old local preachers remark that they had stood and preached at the Town Pit in Moore (the village pond by Town Pit House, now the site of The Willows).

We do not have an exact date for the building of The Willows, but it was probably about 1795, for William Byrom. He gave some of his land measuring 12yds by 20yds, for the building of the first methodist chapel, which opened in 1813.

There was another Byrom family in Moore at the time and also one in Lower Walton. The names William and Henry crop up several times, so it is difficult to be sure who was who. But there is an interesting story about Henry and his daughter Mary. In 1784 Deborah

Ellam worked as a servant in their house and was clearly tempted by the fine clothes of the family. She stole a gown from Mary and a bolt of cloth from a friend, Elizabeth Jackson. Deborah was convicted of theft at Chester and transported to 'parts beyond the seas for seven years'. She was on the first fleet of convict ships that left England for Australia and as such, is celebrated in Australia.

Moore House



Little is known of the history of Moore House, other than what is recorded on the censuses. It was built before 1840, when the railway took part of its drive, as can be deduced from the lone gatepost adjacent to the railway bridge. The Gough family lived there for many years during the first part of the 20th century. Cyril Gough bred chickens and at the time of the 1941 farm survey, he had 2706 chickens and 471 ducks. These were mostly transported and sold as day old chicks via the railway, into the cities.

His son, Philip, studied at Liverpool School of Art and then Chelsea School of Art. Originally a stage designer, he went on to become a book illustrator and around 1940, illustrated a copy of 'Alice in Wonderland'.

The Lodge



Censuses and local directories for this period record that the Sumner family ran the post office at various times. It was probably situated in 'The Lodge' on Runcorn Road. The Ordnance Survey map of 1870-1875 appears to show that there was a post box in the garden wall. We think a photograph of this exists, but we do not have a copy.

Mail was first sorted on a moving train in January 1838, in a converted horse-box, on England's Grand Junction Railway. This railway ran through the village and it is possible that Moore was one of the very early post offices to have mail delivered and collected by rail.

John Sumner was recorded as being a tailor and postmaster, his wife Rebecca a laundress and post office keeper and their daughter, Phoebe, a seamstress and post office keeper - all at various times during the 1850's and 1860's.

The Grange



William and Mary Monks had two sons Gilbert and William. William snr. had a grocer's shop in Sankey Street, Warrington, specialising in fine teas and coffee. The family lived above the shop before moving to The Grange.

Gilbert studied at Jesus College, Cambridge before

enlisting into the Royal Scots regiment in WW1.

William enlisted into the 6th Dragoons. He went into the family business and after his father died in 1929, it can be assumed that William took over the business. Whether the shop was still in Sankey Street is unknown, but by 1939, he had his own grocer's shop in Moore, at 121 Runcorn Road, where he lived. In 1940, William married Sarah Ellen Priestner, from Canal Side Farm, Moore. They had no children.

There is no record of Gilbert after the war, but he had travelled widely, so may well have lived abroad.

The Chapelkeeper's House

The caretaker's duties were listed as follows:



- 1.To light and heat the premises as required
- 2.To keep the premises clean and scrub through at least twice a year.
- 3.To prepare for and be in early attendance whenever possible at each service or meeting and assist the minister and stewards prior to the service.
- 4.To prepare the schoolroom for Sunday school and weekday meetings.
- 5.To prepare for and clear away after any meetings.
- 6.To prepare for and clear away after any meetings where tea or refreshments are served.
- 7.To distribute and collect the books.

In return, the chapel keeper occupied the chapelhouse rent and rates free and received one pound each month. He was required to provide his own cleaning materials and utensils.

From 1880 - 1914, James Banner, plumber and glazier, his wife Martha and sons James and John occupied the house. His grandson, Horace, became a missionary to the Indians of Brazil and his stories of life among the Xingu tribes of the Amazon kept a generation of Sunday School children enthralled. The 1891 and 1901 censuses record that James was also the coal dealer. By 1911, his wife had died and James was recorded as being a 'carrier'.

Canalside Farm

Canalside was farmed by John Dale in the first half of the 19th century. The Tithe map of 1840 shows that John was farming at Canalside, although no name is shown for the farm. Part of his land was an orchard and we have been told that he grew pears. Apparently it was quite common to grow pears at that time. They were used in the tanning industry. This has not yet been verified. In the 1851 census, the farm was called 'Green Bank Lodge'. John was married to Sarah, but it was not known if they had any children.

Moore Hall



Arthur Reginald Trevithick lived here after 1901, at this time the family were living in Monks Coppull but before 1916 when Arthur moved the family to Wolverton to take up a new post. He had moved jobs from Crewe works to Earlestown in 1910. Whilst in Moore, he had been working as a Wagon Superintendent at Earlestown. He is the grandson of Richard Trevithick who refined the steam locomotive to use high pressure steam and hence increase its power and performance. This was shown with great success at Pen-y-daren on the tram road pulling 10

tons of iron, 5 wagons and 70 men at an average speed of 2.4mph. Richard's great grandson Richard Ewart Trevithick was yet another engineer, working for a company called Dewrance after serving his country in the Great War, and hence is another of our soldiers. The founder of this company worked at Edge Hill for the Liverpool and Manchester railway before setting up the business with a partner so he could well have met the Stephenson's there. It is thought that Dewrance actually did the building of Stephenson's Rocket for the Rainhill Trials.

95 Runcorn Road

In the mid 20th century, the post office was sited at 95 Runcorn Road. Maria Gotts was probably the first postwoman there, followed by Mr Bullough and Jim Wood.

Mr Bullough was postmaster during WW2 and he and his wife had the unenviable task of having to take a telegram to the Frodsham family at the Beeches, telling them that their son, Sub Lieutenant Neville Frodsham had been lost on board HMS Hood when it was sunk on 24 May 1941.

Mr & Mrs Wood ran the shop and post office after the Bulloughs. Unfortunately, in the 1960's, there was a theft and the business had to close, with the post office moving to 121 Runcorn Road.

Old Hall Farm



The last tenant of Old Hall Farm was George Duckworth. When the Moore Hall estate was sold in 1950, the farm commanded a rent of £72 pa and was 51 acres. The farmhouse had 2 reception rooms, a kitchen, larder and dairy, 3 double bedrooms, a bathroom and 5 attic rooms. There was also a cottage - No 1 Post Office Row, attached to the farm, plus a cottage to the rear of the farmhouse. There were extensive barns and shippons. Rent of £1 10s was payable to the tenant by Runcorn Rural District Council, for the rights to tip 'ash pit refuse' into the pit hole at the end of the accommodation road off Moss Lane.

George Duckworth was a wicket keeper for Lancashire Cricket Club. He held the club record for the most dismissals - 925. He played 24 test matches for England.

Moore Station



This, like Daresbury, was a country station but the stationmasters stayed in post for far longer as there were only 3 different occupants of the post, namely, William Keenan, Thomas Johnson and George Tanner between 1851 and 1914. They did have larger families, 5, 7 and 5 children respectively with them coming from Ireland, Newton and Gloucestershire. The son of the last stationmaster, Harry Antrobus, still lives in the Station House.

The Red Lion



The building dates from 1768 and is thought to be the oldest public house in Halton.

In 1863, Henry Middleton was the licensee and the pub was the venue for the dinner after Daresbury Farmer's Club Show. It took place in a spacious tent at the rear of the Red Lion Inn, in an 'unpleasantly close proximity to the stables'.

The longest serving landlord was John Longshaw Jones (from 1878–1919). He had previously been licensee of two Runcorn pubs – The Navigation Inn and The Commercial Hotel.

John was both licensee and farmer. The 1881, 1901 and 1911 censuses all record him as having two occupations. In 1901 he was farming Old Hall and in 1911, Manor Farm.

The Red Lion had four bedrooms to let and an area for up to 25 people, where 'refreshments' could be served. The stables at the rear of the building had been built to accommodate horses pulling barges along the Bridgewater Canal. There were five stables and 12 stalls. It is not known when these were last used, but they were certainly used for at least part of the time that John Jones was the landlord.