

My thanks again to Mr William Hartley who provided me with a copy of this article which his late mother, wrote about some of her memories as a child, living in Moorside. William's mother, Peggy, was born in 1913.

## **Transport**

The stables of the mill were behind Moorside House and came out on Turf Pitt Lane. Before motor cars were much in evidence all the family used the horses and vehicles kept in the stables. The Sunter family, father and 2 sons looked after the stables and then Nathan, not Jossy (Joseph) trained as a mechanic and drove the lorry – about 1920.

When I was about 7 years old and my sister was 5 and cousin Joan 6, we went to a little dames school in Oldham and we went by horse and trap driven by Jossy – who kept his 3 small charges quiet by saying we would frighten the 'oss. When it rained we went by brougham.

The trap had 2 seats – one for the driver at the front and one seat back to back with the front seat which just held 3 little girls our feet were on a slight ramp which folded up when the back seat wasn't used – hence the 'trap'.

The mill's finished products went down to the Manchester merchants by wagon and horses. The wagons were most skilfully backed into loading bays at the warehouses – unloaded and then picked up the raw cotton to bring back to the mills. It took a full day because the horses had to be fed and watered and rubbed down and harnessed and un-harnessed every journey. The carters were proud of the horses and keep the brasses on their harness well polished.

Trams ran up to Moorside and Grains Bar from Oldham and that was the way most people travelled to work to shop for items you couldn't get in Moorside. The village only boasted a bakers, a newsagent, a village Post Office, combined as a grocers, a butchers and a Co-op which had a butcher's shop and a grocery shop.

Milk was brought to the house by the farmer in a milk float. It was a cart drawn by one horse and had a small seat for the driver and held two or more big milk churns with taps at the bottom. The milk man filled a carrying churn and went to each house door and filled the milk jugs as required – milk was supposed to be much better for you if it was warm from the cow.

After about 1922 when my father acquired a 2<sup>nd</sup> hand Sunbeam – to see if he liked it – we used to be taken by car to school occasionally but we usually went by tram – first to Cross St, where we changed trams and went on the circular route to the top of Park Road. If it was fine and we were in time we could choose to walk and keep the tram fare.'

James and Thomas Mellodew, have been credited with founding the village of Moorside in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and James, was Peggy's grandfather. The huge contribution of the Mellodew family to Moorside is covered in the History section of the Church web site.

Geoff Arrowsmith