

South Ella Part 7

Thomas Burns Moyes

Introduction

Thomas Burns Moyes lived at South Ella Hall for only six years and he and his family were its final residents before the house, sadly, fell into neglect and eventual ruin. However, his story, which begins in the late nineteenth century, takes us on a worldwide journey. It begins in India and, then, to Scotland and to Turkey, before Thomas Moyes finally arrived in Hull in the early 1920s. His parents, James and Margaret Moyes, were from Scotland and his mother came from an established trading family, dealing in textiles, tea and other commodities in Bengal, India. Thomas Moyes, who trained as a doctor, lived through times of seismic change, not only in Great Britain but also in the world as a whole. His life spanned the final years of Queen Victoria's reign, the Edwardian period, the drama and upheaval of the First World War and the economic difficulties that came as its result. Nevertheless, he came through it all and prospered, eventually purchasing South Ella Hall in 1927. However, in 1933, he died at the age of 40, and it was his death that precipitated the decline of South Ella Hall.

Bengal, India

Our story begins in 1891 in the sombre surroundings of Kurseong Cemetery in Bengal, India. There, on 10th May, James and Margaret Moyes were grieving the loss of their infant son, Blake, whose brief life had lasted a mere six months.

At the time of their son's death, James Moyes had been in India for only a few years. He had accepted a post with Gladstone, Wylie & Company of Calcutta and Rangoon¹, a company operating as merchants, shippers, insurance agents and managing agents in the cotton and jute trade. James was listed in a local directory of 1894 as a "jute arbitrator". He is also reported to have had an administrative job in the Indian Civil Service.

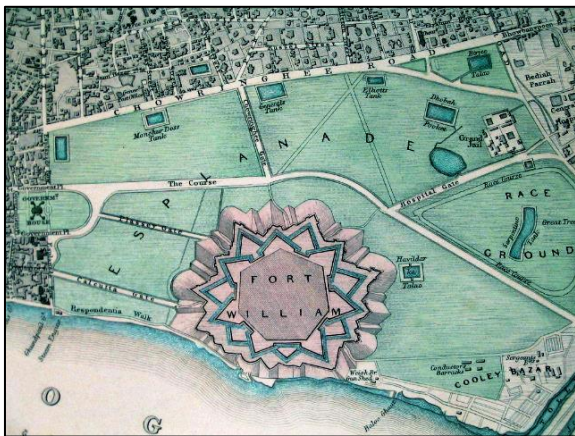
Although James Andrew Moyes, had been born in Edinburgh on 2nd July 1857, his parents moved to Glasgow shortly afterwards, where they settled in the

¹ Gladstone Wylie & Co. was a trading firm of Calcutta Merchants. The senior partner, until he died in 1875, was Robertson Gladstone, brother of Prime Minister William Gladstone. The Calcutta offices of Gladstone Wylie & Co. did well out of shipping cotton to Scotland to be woven and manufactured before being shipped back to India for sale.

Anderston district of the city. His parents were William Blake Moyes and Maria McLean, who had married in Edinburgh about a year earlier. James Andrew had a younger brother, William Begbie Moyes, born in early 1861, who eventually became a much-respected minister in the Church of Scotland.²

James Andrew Moyes trained as an accountant and, at the age of 23, was employed at a bank in Annan, Dumfriesshire. In the late 1880s, he married Margaret Wallace Hutchison, although the place and date of the marriage has yet to be established. They had, maybe, married in India. Margaret's father, John Hutchison, was described as an 'East India Trader of Leith, Calcutta and London' and it is possibly through his father-in-law's influence that James Andrew Moyes exchanged the relatively peaceful, rural surroundings of Dumfriesshire for the tropical heat and bustling atmosphere of Calcutta. Here, the couple lived at 10 Russell Street in the commercial quarter of the city. James and Margaret's first son, Blake Moyes, was born on 10th October 1890 at their Russell Street home. As we have seen, the infant lived for only six months and died on 9th May 1891, being buried the following day in Kurseong. This was around 300 miles north of Calcutta amongst the tea plantations of Darjeeling, within sight of the Himalayas. It seems likely that James was working in this area at the time.

In 1892, James and Margaret's second son, Thomas Burns Moyes, was born on 21st September and was baptised in Calcutta on 14th January 1893. Fortunately, Thomas survived the rigours of life in Bengal, for it is he who is the main subject of our story.



Fort William, Calcutta, mid-19th century

During the 1890s, James Moyes was elected to the position of 'Sheriff of Fort William'. The Calcutta Shrievalty was established by a Royal Charter issued by King George III in 1774 which created the Supreme Court at Fort William in Calcutta. The charter stipulated that the sheriff would be appointed by the Governor-General in Council from a list of three residents recommended by the Supreme Court.

² William Begbie Moyes married in 1886 and he and his wife, Clara, had a son who they named Wilfred Blake Moyes. Soon after graduating in law, Wilfred enlisted in the army at the start of the First World War in 1914. He received a number of honours for bravery but finally succumbed to fatal injuries received in battle. His grave is in St. Pierre Cemetery, Amiens.

It was an office held by a prominent citizen of Calcutta for a period of one year. By the time James Moyes took office the post was purely ceremonial and the holder's function was to preside over various city-related functions and be in charge of receiving foreign guests of the government. In 1893, James Moyes was also initiated into the Industry and Perseverance Lodge of the Freemasons of Calcutta. In their register he was described as a 'Merchant's Assistant'.

Sometime, possibly around 1901, James and Margaret Moyes returned to Scotland but on 4th September 1901, James's death was recorded in Glasgow. There is an unconfirmed report that he died at sea, so it is possible that he died on the voyage home from India. However, his probate record states he was 'latterly of 1 Pilrig Street, Leith', the address occupied by Margaret the following year in July 1902.³ James Andrew Moyes did not die a rich man, as he left only the modest sum of £266 to his wife. It was perhaps she, through her father, who was the main source of wealth in their relationship.

Thomas Burns Moyes - Edinburgh

Wealth in the family there must have been, as soon after the Moyes family returned to Scotland, their son, Thomas Burns Moyes, was enrolled at the prestigious Fettes College in Edinburgh, later going on to study at Stewart's Melville College until 1911. He continued in higher education at the University of Edinburgh where studied medicine. Whilst in Edinburgh, it is probable that he lived with his mother, who had moved from Leith and was now in accommodation at 1 Darnaway Street, Edinburgh. During his later student days, he held the position of President of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh, a distinguished body that listed among its former members Charles Darwin and Joseph Lister. He also excelled in his college football team and was an enthusiastic sportsman, an interest he continued later in life, as we shall see.



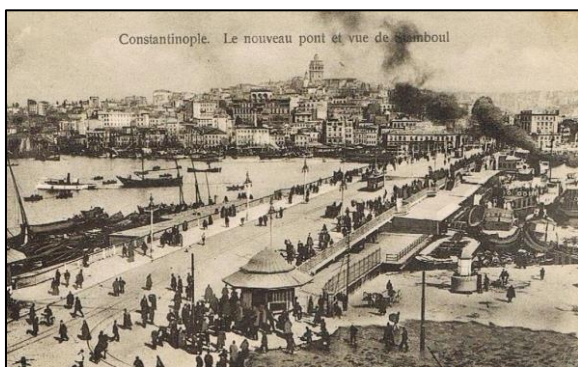
1 Pilrig Street, Leith (photo. pre-2015 – see footnote below.)

³ The house at 1 Pilrig Street now carries a prestigious blue plaque although, unhappily for our story, this is not in honour of any member of the Moyes family. The plaque was unveiled on the 14 September 2015 in honour of John Barlow, who was Assistant professor of Anatomy and Physiology at the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh. John Barlow was an early occupant of the house (1851-1856).

At a Graduation Ceremony, held in the impressive McEwan Hall in Edinburgh on Thursday, 11th July 1918, the Vice-Chancellor conferred on Thomas Burns Moyes the following degrees: Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.

Constantinople

In 1914, at the outbreak of the First World War and whilst continuing his studies, Thomas Moyes enlisted with the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) and by 1918 he had reached the rank of Lieutenant. It was about this time, after he had completed his medical studies in Edinburgh, that he was seconded to the 18th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery (RFA) where he served for a time in Constantinople.



Constantinople c1920

British Troops occupied Constantinople from 13 November 1918 to 23 September 1923 following the end the war between the Ottoman Empire and the allies. It is probable that Thomas Moyes had been sent with a medical team to deal with outbreaks of cholera and typhus fever amongst the troops at that time. A special hospital known as

82nd General Hospital had been set up in Constantinople for injured and sick army personnel and was opened in December 1918. Whilst in Turkey, Thomas Moyes was a regular member of the Army football team, continuing his participation in the sport.

Medical Officer

When Thomas Moyes returned from Turkey is not certain, but around 1920, he arrived in Hull having been appointed as assistant to Dr. G. Gautby⁴, a general practitioner, who had a surgery at 48 Anlaby Road in the city.⁵ When Dr. Gautby died in February 1921, Thomas Moyes took over the practice. On arrival in Hull, he settled in Sutton-on-Hull, where his exact address is not known, although it may have been 9 Church Mount. Subsequently, Thomas Moyes was appointed to the post of District Medical Officer (DMO) for Hull. As DMO his role was to examine bodies of the deceased to discover the cause of death and a number of

⁴ Dr. Gautby was a much-respected doctor and a former Sheriff of Hull. He was a keen churchman in the Free Church tradition and lived at Melton House in North Ferriby.

⁵ 48 Anlaby Road was situated roughly where Europa House, with its distinctive black and gold reflective glass frontage, now stands on the corner of Anlaby Road and Ferensway.

cases in which he was involved were reported in the local press. For example, on 15th August 1921, the Hull Daily Mail carried the following report:

On Saturday night, about 10.30, Nathan Cohen (65), boot repairer, of 10 Myton Street, Hull, retired to bed in his usual state of health. The following morning the man with whom he was lodging went to the bedroom to call Cohen but he found him lying apparently dead. Dr Moyes was called, and he pronounced life extinct. An inquest was held this afternoon and Dr Moyes stated that death was due rupture of the wall of the heart and chronic bronchitis. Verdict of natural causes was returned.

About a month later, on 24th September, the Hull Daily Mail reported another case in which Thomas Moyes' professional services were called upon:

An old age pensioner, Louisa Coulman (75) of 78 Walker Street, who had been in delicate health for the past five years, was the subject of the second inquest. She retired to bed about 10 p.m. on Thursday and during the night complained of pains in the stomach caused by wind. Dr Moyes was summoned but could only pronounce life extinct. The deceased had been treated in recent years for pneumonia and rheumatism.

Other similar cases were reported in the press and perhaps Thomas Moyes disliked being called out at all hours of the day and night. This may be the reason he resigned his position as DMO in May 1923. He was succeeded by Francis John Davidson. However, he continued in his own practice at his surgery on Anlaby Road. One of his patients was a Mr. W.E. Cooper, the company secretary of William Jackson & Sons, a local grocery company. Mr Cooper was visiting the surgery on 4th September 1925 when he suddenly collapsed. He was taken into the consulting room and laid on the couch. He was examined by Thomas Moyes who pronounced him dead and later gave evidence that death was due to "fatty degeneration of the heart". He gave a verdict of death from natural causes.

When driving his car on his rounds in October 1926, Thomas Moyes was involved in an altercation with a motor cyclist. Leonard Barnett, a presser of Anlaby Road, and rider of the motor cycle, was alleged to have turned out of Coltman Street on to Anlaby Road and cut in front of the motor car being driven by Dr. Moyes, forcing him to swerve. This caused him to mount the pavement, narrowly missing a passing pedestrian. When summoned for driving without due care and attention and endangering the life of the public, Barnett claimed in court that he had never seen the motor car and "he must

have been coming some". The verdict of the court and what became of Leonard Barnett is uncertain.

Marriage

At some stage during his busy doctor's schedule, Thomas Moyes met and became engaged to Florence Eleanor Ashworth, daughter of John and May Ashworth. John Ashworth was a native of Rochdale in Lancashire and had started work at the age of eight in a local cotton mill. Later, he trained as a teacher and came to Hull in 1889 to teach at Fish Street School, transferring to Paisley Street School when the latter opened in 1893⁶.

Thomas Moyes and Florence Ashworth were married in Hull in April 1924 and most probably went to live at Thomas's house in Sutton. It is there a son, James Ian, was born to Thomas and Florence in the summer of 1926. By this time, Thomas's mother seems to have been living with them in Sutton. She would have been around 60 years old and had been a widow for a quarter of a century. It is certain that Margaret Moyes was resident at 9 Church Mount, Sutton, on 1st March 1927 as this announcement appeared a few days later in several newspapers, including *The Scotsman*:

MOYES At 9 Church Mount, Sutton-on-Hull, Yorkshire on 1st March 1927 Margaret Wallace Moyes, widow of James Andrew Moyes, Esq., East India merchant, of Garden Reach, Calcutta, daughter of the late John Hutchison Esq., East India merchant, of Leith, Calcutta, and London, and dearly loved mother of Dr Burns Moyes of 48 Anlaby Road, Hull. Service at Renfield Street United Free Church, Glasgow, at 2.15 P. M, Saturday, 5th March. Friends please meet there prior to interment at Sighthill Cemetery, Glasgow. Flowers should be sent to arrive Sutton early Friday morning.

Margaret Moyes had been born in Edinburgh and, although she had no known connection with Glasgow (although her husband had been brought up there), there must have been a compelling reason why her funeral service and final resting place was in the city. Perhaps, as James Moyes had died in Glasgow, he had been buried there.

⁶ John Ashworth remained at Paisley Street School for 36 years until his retirement in September 1929. As well as teaching the 'three Rs' he also took a keen interest in sport at the school.

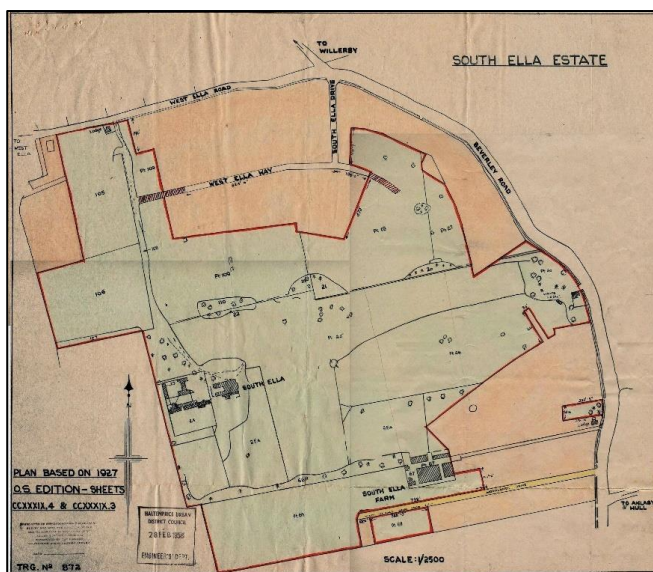
South Ella

It was soon after the death of his mother that Thomas Moyes spotted the following advertisement in the local press:

“For Sale, South Ella Hall, excellently situated in its own grounds, within four miles Hull, and about half a mile from Willerby Station. Near good golf links. The accommodation comprises dining-room, lounge, smoke-room, and large drawing room, ball room, 8 bedrooms, 2 dressing-rooms (h. and c. laid on in 3 bedrooms), bath-rooms, servants’ bedrooms and bathroom, 2 kitchens, butler's pantry with strong room, servants' hall and 2 larders.”⁷

The house must have appealed to them and, perhaps helped by a generous bequest from his mother’s estate, Thomas and Florence, with their infant son, purchased the house and moved in to South Ella Hall later that year.

Thomas and Florence had no further children and James Ian was an only child. No doubt, they had a number of servants and maybe they did some entertaining and, although there is not much on record about their lives at South Ella Hall, it was big house and for much of the time they must have rattled around in it. By this time, homes on such a grand scale were becoming a financial drain and only the wealthiest could afford their upkeep. It is apparent that the house was becoming somewhat run-down and the only way to maintain the building was by selling off parts of the estate for building development. By the early 1930s, land had been acquired on Beverley Road by Edward Marsden, Builder, and permission had been obtained by 1932 to start building a number of houses. Other land on the northern perimeter of the estate was acquired by J.W. Jordan who was building on West Ella Road in the same year.



The South Ella Estate in 1927 at the time Thomas Moyes purchased South Ella Hall.

⁷ Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer, Saturday 21 May 1927, page 7

The dairy farm on the estate, which had been sold off in 1926 by Major Hillas, continued to be run by Messrs l'Anson and Scott, although in the enclosure immediately surrounding the house, Thomas Moyes began to keep poultry. His endeavours in this respect were considerable and one curious story regarding his farming side-line emerged in May 1930. It was briefly reported in the Hull Daily Mail on the 27th of that month:

Dr Burns Moyes, of South Ella Hall, who carries on poultry farming on a large scale, had a chick hatched on Friday with four legs. It was still living on Monday.

No further reports on the progress of the chick were forthcoming, so perhaps it did not survive. Had it done so, and its own offspring exhibited the same remarkable mutation, maybe, today, East Yorkshire would have been renowned as the home of the South Ella four-legged chicken!

Local memories tell of Thomas Moyes possessing a somewhat unpredictable temperament. He is on record as a man with a fiery temper who would occasionally confront strangers with a shotgun in his hand, maybe suspecting they were poachers. However, he is not known to have discharged the same and, maybe, the threat of him doing so was enough to scare off any would-be interlopers.

Further Medical Matters

After moving to South Ella, Thomas Moyes continued to travel to his surgery at 48 Anlaby Road on a daily basis and was often called out to treat patients when necessary. One such occasion occurred on the evening of 14th March 1927 when he was called urgently to a house in Porter Street, West Hull. An account of the tragic events that night was reported the following day in the Hull Daily Mail:

DEATH FROM BURNS. DAUGHTER FINDS MOTHER ON FIRE IN BEDROOM. WEST HULL TRAGEDY. A shocking burning fatality occurred in West Hull on Monday evening, when an aged Hull woman succumbed to severe burns shortly after being found flames by her married daughter. The deceased woman was Hannah Watson, a widow, aged 76 years, living in Porter Street, Hull. As she was getting into bed about nine o'clock, her flannelette nightdress caught fire, and in a few seconds, she was wrapped flames. Her screams and cries of "Annie, I am on fire!", attracted the attention of her daughter, Mrs Annie Maud Carr, wife of a Corporation bus driver, who was working the kitchen below. Mrs Carr immediately rushed upstairs, and was shocked to find her mother in flames. Quickly picking up the hearth rug she wrapped it round the old lady, and with the aid of a neighbour who also appeared on the scene, was able to extinguish the

flames. Dr. Moyes was summoned, but within two hours the unfortunate woman had succumbed to her burns.

Another patient of Thomas Moyes also met a tragic end, although this was not an accidental fatality. The following newspaper report of Friday, 7th June 1929, describes the events of the previous evening:

A coloured man, Edward Cocoa, who was well-known throughout Hull, was found hanging in his home in Posterngate, Hull, late on Thursday night. Cocoa was a moneylender and was 36 years of age. The discovery was made at 11.40, when Cocoa's wife returned home with their baby. She wheeled the perambulator into the house and was met with an obstacle, which she was horrified to find was the body of her husband. She ran out of the house and met passer-by named Charles Mitchell, a fisherman, living in Albert Terrace, Wassand Street, who called P.C. Hairsine. The officer entered the house and found Cocoa hanging from the bannister-rail. He was immediately cut down and artificial respiration was applied until the arrival of the ambulance, which took him to the Royal Infirmary. There it was discovered that life was extinct. Part of a clothes-line was tied to the rail of the bannister and a dust-bin was at the foot of the stairs. A note is understood to have been found in Cocoa's pockets. Cocoa had not been in the best of health recently and had been treated by Dr Burns Moyes. Cocoa mixed with the sporting and seafaring fraternity and his principal business was the lending of money to seamen and their wives or cashing advance notes. He was frequently to be seen at the local greyhound race meetings, and is understood to have attended on the night of his death. Prior to registering Hull as money-lender he was a seaman.

Tragic cases such as these were, mercifully, rare and no doubt Thomas Moyes also had many successes in providing remedies and cures for his patients' ailments. However, his experiences during the First World War in Turkey would have prepared him for such harrowing scenes as those cited above.

Hull City

We have already heard of Thomas Moyes' prowess on the football field, and his enthusiasm for the sport continued after his arrival in Hull. He was a great fan of Hull City Association Football Club, where he became a director in 1926. It was felt by the club that, as he had "won distinction when playing for his college and was in the Army team in the Near East, his practical knowledge of the



Hull City's ground at Anlaby Road c1930

game would prove very useful at Anlaby Road.”⁸ One of his declared ambitions was to develop the club into a First Division team. At the time of his appointment, the team were in the English Second Division. Their form was mediocre during the first two seasons following the appointment of Thomas Moyes to the Board of Directors but, unfortunately, at the end of the 1929/30 season they finished in 21st position in the league table and were relegated to the 3rd Division North. The team fared better in the lower division and at the end of their third season in the lower tier, they were crowned champions and were promoted, returning to the Second Division. In the same season, they also reached the semi-final of the FA Cup, finally losing 1-0 to Arsenal in a replay.

The club's triumphs during the 1932/33 season would, surely, have been the cause of much celebration for Thomas Burns Moyes. Sadly, his celebrations were to be short-lived and soon after the end of the season he died of heart failure at South Ella on 24th May 1933, at the age of 40, following several months of illness. The following obituary appeared in the Hull Daily Mail on the day after his death:

Many people will regret to hear of the death of Dr T. Burns Moyes, of Southella Hall and Anlaby Road, Hull. Dr Burns Moyes was only 40 years of age, and although he had been ill since last January the end came very unexpectedly. The doctor was born Calcutta, where his father was working in the Indian Civil Service, and he took his M.D. degree at Edinburgh University. Throughout the war he served as a medical officer, and came out of the Army with the rank of captain. Subsequently he came to Hull to join Dr Gautby, of Anlaby Road, in his practice, and when Dr Gautby died, he took over the practice. Dr Burns Moyes was a popular man in Hull and as a general practitioner he had many friends among the poorer classes. He did lot of work among the seafaring community, and was medical officer to one of the River Boards. In the County Court, before Judge



Thomas Burns Moyes

⁸ Hull City, at that time, played at a ground on Anlaby Road, very close to the KC Stadium, their home ground since 2002. The team played at Boothferry Park from 1946 to 2002.

Beazley, he was often called as medical witness in compensation cases. He was for several seasons a director the Hull City A.F.C. He was a Freemason, and his mother lodge was the De la Pole Lodge, where this year he was senior warden. Dr Burns Moyes was married man, and leaves a widow and a son.

Thomas Moyes' funeral was held in St. Peter's Church, Anlaby, on Friday, 26th May 1933. There is no extant memorial to him in the churchyard at St. Peter's.

Last resident of South Ella Hall

Thomas Moyes left no Will and two months after his death it was reported that his estate was worth £5,839. As he died intestate, letters of administration were granted to his wife, Florence in July 1933. It was over a year later, the estate still not having been released, that the following notice appeared in both the local press and the *London Gazette*:

MOYES, Thos. Burns, 48, Anlaby Rd., Hull (Tel. Centr. 6754)—M.B., Ch.B. Ed. 1918; (Univ. Ed.); Med. Exam. & Ref. Shipp. Federat. Humber Dist.; Med. Exam. Kingston-upon-Hull Corp.; Mem. Hull Med. Soc.; Ex-Pres. Roy. Med. Soc. Edin.; late Sen. Ho. Surg., Jun. Ho. Phys. & Clin. Asst. Lock Wards Roy. Infirm. Edin.; Res. Med. Off. City Hosp. Infec. Fev. Edin.; Capt. R.A.M.C., 28th Brig. R.F.A., Constantinople.

The Medical Career of Thomas Burns Moyes
The Medical Directory for the UK and Ireland, 1930

DEMANDS against the Estate of Thomas Burns Moyes, late of Southella Hall, Kirkella, in the East Riding of the County of York, and 48, Anlaby Road in the City and County of Kingston upon Hull, Medical Practitioner, deceased (who died on the 24th day of May, 1933) and of whose estate Letters of Administration were granted to Florence Eleanor Moyes on the 13th day of July 1933, by the Principal Registry of the Probate Division of the High Court of Justice) are hereby required to send in the particulars of their Claims and Demands to the said Florence Eleanor Moyes or the undersigned, her Solicitors, on or before the 1st day of November, 1934. Notice is hereby also given that after that day the said Administratrix will proceed to distribute the Assets of the deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the Claims of which the said Administratrix shall then have notice, and that she will not be liable for the Assets any part thereof distributed to any person of whose Debt Claim she shall not then have had notice. Dated this 23rd day of August 1934. LAVERACK AND SONS, Town Hall Chambers, Alfred Gelder Street, Hull. Solicitors for the Administratrix.

The death of Thomas Burns Moyes meant that Florence and her young son, James Ian, had to vacate South Ella Hall. Two months after her husband's death, the furniture and other contents of the house were advertised for auction. The numerous lots included a mahogany chest, bedsteads, carpets, various items of

cut-glass, a Copeland dinner service and Dresden figurines. The Moyes family were the last residents of the house and after Florence and her son left the house it would never again be a family home.

Florence Moyes' remarriage

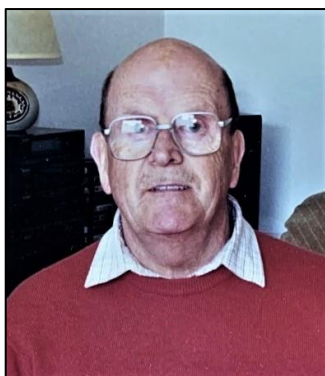
Florence moved to 'Braemar', Beverley Road, Kirk Ella, where, after her mother died in 1935, she and her young son lived with her retired father, John Ashworth. He died at this house on 27th September 1938 and his funeral took place in St. Andrew's Church, Kirk Ella, three days later.

By this time, Florence had become engaged to Allan Alexander La Haye, a hotel licensee, and they were married a few months after John Ashworth's death, in January 1939. In September of that year, they were resident at The Plough Inn in Fulford, York, where Allan was the licensee. James I. B. Moyes, the 13-year-old son of Florence was also living there and was attending St. Peter's School, York, as a boarder. By this time, he had dropped the name James, always being known thereafter as Ian. Subsequently, Allan managed a hostelry in The Shambles area of York.



Plough Inn, Fulford

In 1949, the names of Florence and Allan La Haye, together with that of James I. B. Moyes were on the Electoral Register for Kensington in London. Also named at the same address in Ashburn Place was Emma Moyes. The identity of Emma is not certain although she was spoken of later by Ian Burns Moyes as an aunt. Whilst living at Ashburn Place, Ian Burns Moyes met and married Joyce Winifred Auckland and they eventually moved to Barnes in the SW13 district of London.



Ian Burns Moyes

In 1963, Allan and Florence separated and Florence went to live in Barnes in south-west London to be near her son and daughter-in-law, who by this time had a four-year-old daughter. Florence died in Barnes at the age of 70 years.

Allan La Haye remarried twice and died in 1972, at the age of 69, in Bridge, near Canterbury, Kent.

Ian and Joyce left Barnes in 1991 and moved to Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. Ian died in 2009 and Joyce in 2013. Both are buried in the churchyard of St Mary's Church, Chiddingfold, a place they loved very much and visited often to spend time with their daughter and her family.



Thanks go to many people, both members of AWAKE U3A and others, in helping to gather information for this penultimate episode in the life of South Ella. Special thanks are reserved for Christine Gibbs who spent many hours of on-line research unearthing genealogical details of the Moyes family.

Francis Davies
December 2021