

## Eileen Mellor - Transcription

*Audio Quality: Some bits a bit inaudible, lot of pauses as interviewee and interviewer look at photos or documents. Some background noise.*

*Interview concentrates on family life as mill owners, ghost mansions and mill closures*

**0:00:00**

**EM:** ...at side of the mill.

**LMI:** And that was specifically for your granddad coming home?

**EM:** The welcome home?

**LMI:** Yes, the welcome home sign. And the bunting, is that all for that as well?

**EM:** Yes, yes. It would have been. And I've got some more photos.

**LMI:** That is amazing.

**EM:** I looked in, I'm a...I signed up to Ancestry.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**0:00:23**

**EM:** And I haven't looked at it for ages. And so this morning quickly I looked, and I was amazed at all the photographs that people have put on. Because people share their..

**LMI:** I suppose the family trees linked and everything?

**EM:** I mean, there's all sorts of things for families.

**LMI:** Oh, my God.

**EM:** So he was my... this Joseph Thomas Moore, that was his father.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**EM:** They were all mill people. But he worked... the chap...Joseph Thomas Moore, originally worked for Ickringills Mill. I don't know if you've heard, have you heard of it?

**0:01:12**

**LMI:** I haven't heard of that one.

**EM:** No.

**LMI:** Gosh, it's a big one, isn't it?

**EM:** Yeah, yeah. There's a photo later on.

**LMI:** We haven't met anyone yet whose family's actually owned... like, inherited the mills. We've only ever spoken to people that worked in them. So it's so interesting hearing your perspective, because this is the sort of thing we really wanted to hear about.

**0:01:40**

**EM:** Let me have a look. Let me show you, because it's quite difficult. You see, this is my dad and my brother, and his son. And my dad was the director of like J.T. Moore & Son when it closed down in the '60s. And this is my family tree. So Joseph Thomas Moore, that was my dad; his dad was Lancelot Hartlemore, the one that was in the war and came back.

**LMI:** What a great name as well.

**EM:** Yeah. And then Joseph Thomas Moore, he was the one that started it.

**LMI:** He was the one that actually founded the mill in the first place?

**EM:** I was surprised, when he started it he was 68, something like that.

**LMI:** Wow!

**EM:** I can't believe I've got all this rubbish.

**LMI:** It's amazing.

**EM:** Oh, you see, there... it actually became...it must have gone to the company's house this...and so that was the mill, and then it gave the death of my grandfather.

**LMI:** Age of 90...What a legacy, that is incredible.

**0:03:14**

**EM:** And so this is what they did... when they opened the mill and to advertise to people.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**EM:** I don't know what genafin is. Do you know what genafin is? I'll have to have a look.

**LMI:** Genafin, I'm gonna write it down.

**EM:** I wonder if we can get a... I'll have to...

**LMI:** Shall I see if I can Google it?

**EM:** I'll have to see if I can get onto their Wi-Fi.

**LMI:** Well, it says it's a city in Belgium, which isn't particularly helpful.

**EM:** See if it's...

**LMI:** Oh, it's a spool of worsted yarn used for braiding.

**EM:** Ok.

**0:04:01**

**LMI:** That's what it says. So...in what context then? The yarn...? Oh, so it's all the different things, isn't it?

**EM:** Yeah. Patrice has...he's had 70 years experience in the mills. And he worked for Ickringill's and McKenzie's. And then he decided to... presumably start this company for his son because he was 70.

**LMI:** I was going to say, it's not really for his benefit.

**EM:** No.

**LMI:** Wow.

**EM:** And then, so it's...

**LMI:** So is that what your grandad...? So, Lancelot's your grandad, isn't [he]? So, did he take that over quite young then, and then have to go away to war and then come back?

**0:04:53**

**EM:** Yeah, he must have done. Um... That's Joseph Jones... When he came back from the war he got a letter from the King.

**LMI:** That is incredible. And that's handwritten as well. Because nowadays... sometimes you'll get a card in there, like in Diamond Jubilee or like... you don't get a handwritten.... He's a handsome fellow, wasn't he?

**0:05:43**

**EM:** I think I remember him. Oh, do I remember him? When was he born? I don't know, if this is still Lancelot... Yeah....So, when was he born? '81...So, the actual mill... He had a company in 1908, so he would have been in his early twenties. But then he'd be 40, wouldn't he, when he took it over the company.

**0:06:28**

**LMI:** Plus two marriages back in those days wasn't as common, was it?

**EM:** No, no.

**LMI:** Ahead of his time.

**EM:** Oh, I could tell you a story about that! So, yeah. And then... So, they lived in quite a big house in Albert Street in Keighley, opposite where the old Baths used to be.

**LMI:** And did some... because I know a lot of people who owned mills, probably like... probably people that owned multiple mills, but a few of them built houses specifically from earnings from the mills. Was that the case for your family? Or did they buy a house three minutes.

**EM:** I don't know about that, but um... This was the house.

**LMI:** Oh my...

**EM:** And it's still there. So that's Joseph Thomas Moore, and my grandad... No, my grandad and great-grandad. So he must have been in his 90s then, musn't he?

**0:07:30**

**LMI:** Do you know, he looks good for ninety! Especially back then without all the things we've got now. What a beautiful house. So who lived in that house then? Was it...?

**EM:** Well, he lived in it with his daughter Caroline, who never got married. And my Auntie Gladys, who never got married. She was my dad's sister. And his wife, I suppose.

**LMI:** That's a big house.

**EM:** You went in and then there was one room there, a sitting room. And then up the stairs with one of these, it wasn't grand like you see some mansions...

**LMI:** No, but...

**EM:** ...it was quite big, and they'd stained glass windows. And then you'd go up the stairs. So we used to go there on a Sunday, you know, my dad used to take us sometimes. When I was a kid. I mean, I'm what, nearly 80, so I'm talking about 70 years ago.

**0:08:40**

**LMI:** Do you remember much of your grandad then? Do you sort of remember? Because you'll have been very young...

**EM:** Well, he died... I don't remember a lot about my granddad because he died probably when I was quite young. Yeah, so...

**LMI:** He sounded like a very successful businessman, though. And your great granddad as well.

**EM:** Yeah. And we used to go... because... another reason why the mill closed was because they did... they concentrated on certain parts of the...

**LMI:** They specialised.

**EM:** Yeah. It was scouring and winding. And so when the other mills came along... There was one, Haggas's, I think, and they did everything from the raw wool right up to the knitting and everything. he knew us that much, I don't know whether he knew us. So they didn't get as much work. And my dad... they had to go out and look for work. And people weren't interested as much. But then, as I say, they had to close down anyway, because they wanted the mill for the new road. And it's now a tyre factory, or something.

**0:10:21**

**LMI:** It's now a tyre factory? I'm just going to write that down. That... I'll add to my map.

**EM:** If you go on Sun Street, there's a bridge. You can see that there's a bridge over, it'll be the North Beck. And Wark Mill is still there. And my grandfathers worked at Wark Mill. Both my grandfathers worked at Wark Mill. They must have done, because they lived next door to each other, my grandparents.

**LMI:** Oh, that's lovely.

**EM:** In Wark Mill Yard. And the house is still there because I went to see it a few years ago. The two houses are still there.

**0:11:05**

**LMI:** So when it closed then, and you said they wanted it for the new road?

**EM:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Did they completely demolish that, and then... But now there's a tyre factory and these places have built over it again? Classic Bradford, isn't it?

**EM:** That's when... what was it, this is 31st December 1961. And this is when it closed and they, you know, they didn't have much money left and they had to pay the workers. And my mother had to go out to work then.

**LMI:** It must have been quite a slow burn as well. Because I imagine they did everything possible to keep it going, and to specialise even further.

**EM:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Because I know that's why a lot of the mills in the '70s and '80s - the ones that stayed open were because they were specialists for a particular type of wool or something. It must have been a really horrible time for your...

**0:12:01**

**EM:** For our family.

**LMI:** ...your family, because you could sort of see this slow decline in people. And also it's hard when you're employing people as well. You know that they rely on you.

**EM:** Yes. Yeah, it was. And I suppose I'd only be like 14, 15. And I knew things were going on, but my mum and dad used to keep it from us. But I don't think they kept it from my sister because she was three years older than me. And she... I didn't get a chance to talk to her much, but she knew more that was going on. And she was working, and she had to lend... her and my brother were working, and they had to lend them money to pay off the workers in the end. And that must have been awful for my mother to have to ask them.

**LMI:** There's a real sense of pride, like, that everything's there.

**EM:** Yes, they got paid back. I only found this out the other week. I didn't know anything about it. But I do know that I must have been in a bit depressed, because I've always said when I was a teenager I was a bit depressed.

**0:13:15**

**EM:** And I failed all my... I did my mock O-Levels, because we did O-Levels. (And I'm telling all these things.)

**LMI:** It's absolutely fine.

**EM:** I did my mock O-Levels, and I did really well. And then, when it got to actually taking them, I failed the lot. And afterwards I thought, you know, 'I wonder if that was because, you know everything was... everything going on.' And my dad was ill. He had a thyroid problem.

**LMI:** And the stress won't have helped with that at all

**EM:** And he had pernicious anaemia, which he would have died of, both of them, years before. But they could do something about it, so he... [?] So, it's interesting to think back, you know.

**0:14:13**

**LMI:** Yeah.

**EM:** I mean, I don't, kind of...

**LMI:** No, absolutely.

**EM:** Certainly not depressed now, but...

**LMI:** I think when it's a family, because I... My mum owns a cleaning company, and she has done for 20 years. And I... from the age of about 15... had helped her with this company. And when it's a family run business...

**EM:** Yeah.

**LMI:** ...the stakes just feel so much higher, don't they?

**EM:** Oh, yes.

**LMI:** I think when you know as well that, obviously, his... So like obviously, your dad inherited it from his dad, who inherited it from his dad... You've got that real long line of... You sort of feel responsible, don't you? For carrying on that [?] And given how hard, I mean going through the second world war and having to raise a family. You know, like that, it must have been so difficult.

**0:15:00**

**EM:** And there was the General Strike as well.

**LMI:** That was one of the things I was going to ask you, was about things like strikes and unions, and all of that. Which you might not know about, but...

**EM:** Well, there is a bit of a write up somewhere, about Joseph...

**LMI:** Are these all from ancestry.com then? Or have you found these...?

**EM:** Well, I started before it was computed. You know, I started 40, 50 years ago. And I had to go down to London to get things. But now, you know, we get it off, we get it from Ancestry. Which is brilliant. So he started his business in... it says here, look, 'Employment...' This is for Joseph Thomas Moore.

**LMI:** Yeah

**EM:** ...'started own business yarn scouring and finishing in 1906.' But then they didn't register the company until 1920.

**LMI:** It did very well then, to go... I mean it went... the mill lasted through two world wars. Strikes. You know, multiple generations. Incredible.

**0:16:19**

**EM:** Oh that's a bit more... I remember this. I mean, we used to go to the mill on a Saturday morning.

**LMI:** Did you?

**EM:** And it wasn't, nobody was working, of course. So we could, we just had the run of the mill.

**LMI:** What an amazing playground.

**EM:** And so these were like, they're the winding, the wool. And here, well, I don't know what that is.

**LMI:** So did people only work weekdays then? Because there were some mills that went all the time, because obviously the machines were expensive to turn on. So... And did you know whether they had any people working night shifts? Or whether they just kept it for the days?

**0:17:00**

**EM:** Just the days.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**EM:** This you might be interested in. It's Joseph Thomas Moore and his brother, and they patented a machine for washing and drying fabrics. And so, erm... That's the machine!

[Both laugh]

**LMI:** Wow!

**EM:** And they patented it and I don't know whether it was ever used anywhere. But, you know.

**LMI:** What a legacy to have.

**EM:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Does it say what year that was?

**EM:** 1905.

**LMI:** Wow.

**EM:** But I don't know.

**LMI:** That would be right at the start of his textile mill career, really. That's not a bad start, is it?

**EM:** Well, he did work at Ickringill's.

**LMI:** Oh yeah, of course. First with his, like, self-employed.

**EM:** I don't know whether it's still there. I know their mill is... it was in Bradford – Ickringill's. But they lived in Keighley. It's a place called... Fair House with Balcony House and Oakwood Road. So that was, that might be a ghost mansion, I don't know.

**0:18:19**

**LMI:** You know, because I was going to say, that's one of the things on the map that we're doing. We've really struggled to hear about the landlords and the bigger houses that were owned by people that owned the mills. So Balcony House...

**EM:** Oh, Oakwood Road, Balcony, Balcony Road. I'm going to try and get it to work. It's getting a bit soft on us. Yeah. I don't know what to say. James Ickringill... Yeah, it doesn't give...

**0:19:24**



**LMI:** It's so hard to find information for some of the local.... I think because there are so many of quite similar names as well, sometimes. We've got a lot of... We've got a couple of different mills called like Croft Mill or the Frost Mill, within a district. So trying to differentiate which one. People talking like they've got deafness.

**EM:** I wonder if I can just find... I'll just find Ancestry because I've got some photographs of mills on Ancestry. So, 169 sold. This is what I found this morning; I couldn't believe it. Gallery... of all my family, some of the Keighley family, but um... Oh, that's Ickringill's Mill. That's in Bradford, but I don't know whether it's still there. I think it's shops now.

**0:21:23**

**LMI:** So it's been like re-purposed?

**EM:** Yes. And, er...

**LMI:** They're such distinct buildings, aren't they? Once you see them in day-to-day life, you do think, 'Oh, that must be a mill, because of how it's been designed.'

**EM:** And this, I've never seen this before until today. Look, Balcony House, [Oakworth] Road. And they actually had a band.

**LMI:** Oh, the members are supposed to attend Sunday school, and stuff. They were quite strict with code of conduct then, weren't they, in terms of the rules that they had? Oh, my goodness. Well, I think that definitely qualifies. I think Balcony House would definitely qualify as a Ghost Mansion.

**0:22:38**

**EM:** There's quite a lot of great mill owners in the place, isn't there?

**LMI:** So how are you related to the Keighley family then?

**EM:** My mother was called Keithley.

**LMI:** So you've got the mill side on your dad's side and then...

**EM:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Wow, that is a true Bradford product. Yeah.

**EM:** Well, my grandad had a shop in West Lane, in Keighley. So this was a business... He had a sweet shop in West Lane.

**LMI:** I bet that was great for you. Did you say it was your grandad?

**EM:** Well, this was before I was born. It was in the '40s. And I think some of the houses are still there, but they... I mean, that's another story with the king's feast, because they all, and... Oh, that's the inside of the shop.

**0:23:50**

**LMI:** There still are some traditional sweet shops about, aren't there. And it's really nice when they keep them traditional like that.

**EM:** Yeah, there's one in Pateley Bridge. I'm looking for one... See, these are all from the Keithley family - conveyances of houses that they own. Oh, that's the one I showed you, back... where the mill was. So do you want me to send this photo?

**LMI:** If you are comfortable. They will obviously credit you, as well. It would say..

**EM:** How do you mean credit?

**LMI:** Well, it would say 'Courtesy of Eileen,' you know, who provided [it]. Because that is fantastic. That would be amazing.

**0:24:43**

**EM:** And this, they lived opposite there, in some houses there.

**LMI:** So it was each building for a different part of...a different speciality?

**EM:** There was a foundry next to them.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**EM:** Next to them. And we used to go to the different mills, you know, to deliver the wool, and the sacks, and things. And I mean, they were big sacks that they had a crane to put them onto the lorry, and then... we used to play on this crane. I think my dad would have been arrested, and social services would have been after him!

**LMI:** Health and safety was different back then, wasn't it?

**EM:** Social services. But we had a great time, you know. And he had this old car bench seat that he put on the back of the lorry. So when we went out...He took us on picnics to Morecambe, Blackpool, into the Dales, in this lorry. And we'd all sit in the back, because there were only two seats in the lorry, and my mum and dad in front. And we were all on this bench. No straps or anything.

**0:25:55**

**LMI:** No seatbelts, or anything.

**EM:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Wow.

**EM:** So you know, those are the kind of things that we remember. That were good fun.

**LMI:** And do you remember much of the people that worked there? I know you didn't... you wouldn't have really seen that much of them but...

**EM:** Yeah, well, my auntie worked there -my Auntie Gladys - she worked there till it closed. And my dad's cousin, Jack. Which was another relative. There were...how many would there be, that got money from the company? if you thought 1, 2, 3. They'd be about 7 or 8. And they all expected to get a payout, you know. It was...

**0:26:40**

**LMI:** It gets so complicated with business and families...

**EM:** Oh, there's another mansion actually, which is a nursing home now. This was the Wark Mill. I don't know what's warping.

**LMI:** I'll add it to my list of things to Google! So, Wark Mill.

**EM:** That's the warping part.

**LMI:** That's certainly incredible. It sort of looks like in a hospital when you've got newborns in different cots, doesn't it?

**0:27:07**

**EM:** That must be when the wool had been washed, and they wanted to keep it... but there's one here that I saw... Laurel...Where did I see it, I just saw it now. Er... Oh, Laurel Mounts, who did that belong to? That was Ickringill's. Look at that.

**LMI:** Oh yeah, that's definitely qualifying.

**0:27:42**

**EM:** That is up Highfield Lane. And it's... actually, my mum was in there. She died in there. She was in a nursing home.

**LMI:** Where did you say it was? Sorry.

**EM:** It's off Highfield Lane, near Devonshire Park.

**LMI:** And it's a nursing home now?

**EM:** Yes, yes.

**LMI:** What a beautiful place for a nursing home, though. Stunning gardens.

**0:28:14**

**EM:** I know, it was lovely. It was nice. Heidi Richards had put that on. So, she's my... niece, cousin-niece. So she's doing a lot of family history as well. So she puts things on Ancestry. So that's how I've got all of these things. Well, it's just fascinating to me today, just... because I

was coming here, I thought, 'I'd better have a look at the thing.' I mean, these are all my grandmother's. She was adopted.

**LMI:** It's amazing how much you've got off here. Because I know some people that have paid for Ancestry.com, and then there's just been nothing. Because obviously, depending on your heritage, and where you're from and... you know, there might just be limited records. But I suppose because you've got the family businesses, you'll have different records, won't you? Which is great. I don't think there'll be much on me.

**EM:** And the thing is, when I was about... When my Gran died, she had this big metal chest that she kept all the family history stuff in - birth certificates, and all sorts - going back to early 1800s. And so that just sparked my interest.

**LMI:** So you sort of feel it's a point to carry on that?

**0:29:21**

**EM:** Yeah. But neither of my daughters are interested. But right through.... Oh, this is Ingram's Mill. That would belong to the Ickringills.

**LMI:** Gosh, they had so many didn't they?

**EM:** And this would have been in Bradford. That's Heidi that's put that on... I thought I might be able to make it bigger. But that's interesting, isn't it? Oh, I can make it bigger. That's nearly as big as Salts, isn't it? I wonder if it's still there. That's Bradford.

**0:30:03**

**LMI:** It's so interesting how specific the shapes of the buildings are, with the mills, because of all the different processes. I don't know if you've been upstairs, but they've got a model, haven't they, of where is the health. And it shows all the different rooms, and what they did. And it's just so fascinating... especially when the building's not there anymore, it's impossible to visualize it.

**EM:** I wonder if that's still around then.

**LMI:** I'll have a Google and see what....

**EM:** So, what's your interest in it? What's your background?

**LMI:** So, I'm on this project...it's a bit convoluted. I'm actually an actor, [?] and writing. So Alan, who runs 509 Arts, he does lots of different projects. I met him last February because he was the director for a rehearsal thing in Bradford. But we got chatting afterwards, and I did a few things in Brighouse for him as part of my open day, and interviewing people. And then he contacted me back in May and said, 'I've got this opportunity, I don't know if you're interested'. And I love, because I'm born and bred from Menston. My dad's from Otley. My mum's from Hull, but we've lived here like, my whole life And I'm just fascinated by it. And

the way the different communities are built from things that we just don't have these days. Like we don't have the textile industry here in the same way.

**0:31:40**

**LMI:** And I said to him, 'I don't know if I'm qualified to do this, because I'm not trained in history, I've not got a degree in it. But I am really interested.' And I knew that my mum's business had a lot of clients, that they knew a lot about the mills. And he said, 'Don't worry, whatever you... we'd love to have you on the project.' So, there's six of us all doing different things as part of this project. And it's a year long, so it's quite a big one, without really set deadlines or anything. Which is quite nice. So, my main thing will be interviewing people. When we do live events, I'll probably present some information. We've actually got an event at City Hall on Saturday. We've got a little stall to...

**0:32:33**

**EM:** Part of the heritage? [Open Days?]

**LMI:** Yeah.

**EM:** Yeah. I thought I might go to Keighley, actually, for that.

**LMI:** Yeah. I'm quite excited about that. But I've just been learning so much. And it's quite nice because I didn't know a lot about textiles. And I wanted to swot up on it, but then actually I thought, 'It's probably better that I don't, because then people will have to explain it a bit more. And it's just fascinating hearing all the different things. And the different roles as well. Because there's a lot of terminology that I don't know myself. And I'm wanting to create a bit of an information book about each different role, of the fit man that's in. And maybe their wage that they got. That kind of thing. So I would be confused really but...

**0:33:14**

**EM:** I can't really help you on that score, about the workers, because I don't know how much they got paid. They used... they had an office. You went into the mill, and on the right-hand side there was a kind of a desk where they did the everyday kind of office work. Then upstairs there was this great big desk. And, you know, it was a bit more opulent kind of thing. And so we used to go and play with the typewriter, and stuff like that. Yeah, so...

**LMI:** And did...? Some mills, they hosted like little celebrations or events, like Christmas parties. I know you'd have been a child at that point, but do you remember, or know whether your family's mill did any of that?

**0:34:17**

**EM:** Oh yeah, they had a party at Christmas. You see, there were probably only about 20 people who worked there. And they all knew each other. They were all quite friendly. It was really nice, yeah. But we weren't... we didn't kind of go with that much. But we did know

one or two. There was this red she that was like the maintenance man, you know. And he was like, he did all sorts of things at Ingram's. And, yeah.

**LMI:** And were there any, this might have happened after your family stopped. But there were a few talks about different unions, and different workforce changes when it came to the mills. Do you remember anything about that?

**EM:** No. I think that was before. I don't think people were in unions or anything. They just liked to have a job.

**0:35:19**

**LMI:** That's fair enough.

**EM:** Yeah, I think that came in the '60s.

**LMI:** I thought, yeah, I think it was.

**EM:** Later on, yeah.

**LMI:** So, when you did have to put the bolts, when you first did have to put them in, in '61, Did they carry on? Did they work in the textile industry at all? Or did they completely change?

**EM:** My dad went to... worked at Dryder Brothers at Silsden. In the dyeing department, I think it was.

**LMI:** So he stayed in..?

**EM:** So he did stay. He was off for quite a long time until he got better, you know. He got really run down and especially with this thyroid problem. It got so that he was asleep all day, I can remember, you know. But then he started with thyroxine. And it just changed him completely, you know. And he got this job, and he worked there for 20 odd years after. He worked till he was in his... probably in his 70s.

**0:36:26**

**LMI:** Bit like his dad then?

**EM:** Yes, yes. And my mum started... she worked at Burgess's Ford Dealers, as a secretary. But she used to work at Pinsmith and Spells, I don't know if you've heard of that? No, you won't have done.

**0:36:46**

**EM:** But, as I say, I would... I mean, it's interesting what you're doing. But I would like to chat with somebody who is... maybe from... I should go to the Mill Museum. Is it the Industrial Museum.

**LMI:** The Industrial Museum.

**EM:** Can you put me in touch with somebody?

**LMI:** You know, I can. I'm actually at the Industrial Museum on the 14th and we're doing an open event.

**EM:** Oh, what a shame, I'm on holiday.

**0:37:23**

**LMI:** I'll speak to Al tonight. And if he has any immediate contacts, if he knows directly who to go to, I'll email you them. But if not, Marie, who I also work with, is part of the museum. So it's like a, not a union, but it's a bit like that, where they work across different museums in the area.

**EM:** Yeah, yeah.

**LMI:** And they'll probably know who to speak to about that. Because I think it's such a shame when you've got so much amazing information, for it not to be put somewhere. that's been so up to date.

**EM:** I think, you know, 'All right, I might have a few more years, but it's just a shame if this went to waste.' I mean, I had a lot of pleasure, obviously, doing it, because it's a hobby. I was just going to look, because there was a write up about...

**LMI:** And if there was a way for us to be able to either take a picture of, or scan, or get some sort of copy of some of these photos, would that be something you'd be willing to do?

**0:38:17**

**EM:** Yeah.

**LMI:** It wouldn't have to be anything personal, more just the photographs of the mill, really. Would that be something you'd be willing to...?

**EM:** Oh, yeah. Oh, exactly. Well, the thing is, I even thought today it might have been better if you'd have come to the house. And then you'd have been able to... Because I'm not very good with the computer, you know. You would have known how to transfer photos. And stuff like that.

**LMI:** Yeah, but that is something we can, if you're comfortable...

**EM:** Yeah.

**LMI:** That'd be amazing to arrange because it's just so hard to find photographs of the mills. Because obviously, not many people back then were walking around taking photos of everything, were they? Because we just didn't have the opportunity to... Yeah, I'll get in

touch with the... what's the date today? It's the 6th, isn't it? It's, um... Yeah, I'm at the Industrial Museum on the 14th, so...

**0:39:13**

**EM:** Oh, that's a shame, I would have come, because... Oh, no, it was the 19... It was the... First World War!

**LMI:** Was it?

**EM:** Yeah!

**LMI:** I suppose that makes sense, actually, because...

**0:39:30**

**EM:** Yeah. It does, doesn't it? Yeah, cos my dad, of course.

**LMI:** Cos my great-granddad fought in the Second World War.

**EM:** Yeah.

**LMI:** And I only lost him when I was 18, and so I was just thinking... yeah.

**EM:** My dad was in the RAF in the Second World War. Yeah. So this, he was in the military, went to France and was captured at the Battle of Lausanne, and a prisoner of war in Germany for three years, yeah.

**LMI:** So those photos are even older than you thought then.

**EM:** Yeah, yeah. And he died in '48, well I was only four. So I can't really remember. So, I'm just looking to see where he lived, you see. Wark... Dowley Gap in Bingley. Have you heard of that?

**LMI:** The name rings...

**EM:** There's a mill there. And it's actually still there, but it's apartments on the canal. It's on the canal side, and it's called Dowley Gap. That's where they lived at one point. There was a mill there and they used to live there.

**0:40:51**

**LMI:** You can't believe how many mills there were in such a small area, can you really?

**EM:** No, no.

**LMI:** It was only from doing that map and actually showing all of them. And actually, when I've finished it, I'll send you a link so you can see it.

**EM:** Yeah.



**0:41:11**

**LMI:** It's not quite ready yet, so I don't want to promise anything...I just couldn't believe how many there were, in just Keighley alone, just Bingley. I mean, it was incredible that at one point all of them were really successful, and you'd think it would be an oversaturated market, but actually it wasn't. Unbelievable.

**EM:** I showed you those. I mean these...This isn't a wool mill, it was an engineering stamping company where my granddad worked.

**LMI:** It must have been so noisy in those rooms.

**EM:** Well, I just wondered about Cliff Castle. Have you heard of Cliff Castle? Have you ever been?

**LMI:** I've not been but I've heard of it, yeah.

**EM:** It's worth going to, actually. But I wondered whether to, you know, go and see somebody there, because that is Keighley, isn't it?

**0:42:08**

**LMI:** Yes. I'll let you know what people say. As I say, I'm probably not the best person to ask, but Marie will have a lot of contacts in that area.

**EM:** So, is there anything else that you want?

**LMI:** I mean, I don't... you've just given me so much, I can't believe it.

**EM:** Well, listen, my dad...This is Joseph Thomas Moore, he's my dad and his great-grandfather was Joseph Thomas Moore. So he worked in the family business in 1924. And then became a manager when... he worked from 1924 to 1961. So more or less all his working life. And he should have been a teacher, or something, You know, he was more academic. And he left school at 16 to work for the family.

**LMI:** So what did you do then, when you left school and things? Obviously, the mill was shut down then. What did you do?

**0:43:19**

**EM:** I was a cadet nurse at Victoria Hospital. And then I did my nursing training in Keighley. Then I did midwifery in Leeds and Bradford. And then worked at St John's in Keighley. And I worked as a midwife in Leeds, Winchester, for 20 odd years. And then Southampton, I was a back midwife. So...

**LMI:** Do you think if the mill had stayed open, if it had been successful from the '20s/'30s, do you think there was any chance your parents would have been like, 'Come on, off you go?'

**EM:** No, my dad was determined that my brother was not going into the mill, and so he was a policeman, he's a policeman, or he was a policeman.

**0:44:19**

**LMI:** So what do you think would have happened if the mill hadn't had to stop when it did? Because presumably there wouldn't have been... it wouldn't have been re-inherited because your dad didn't want your brother to do anything.

**EM:** I think he was ready for it to close anyway. Because he was ill. He didn't realise, but he was ill. And he was kind of running it, but then... his cousin... didn't... He wanted to be, you know, like, not a worker, not a manual worker. He wanted to be more of a boss. And you can see, I mean, my dad used to wear old clothes and he came home scruffy. You know...

**LMI:** Even if you own a mill, you're still surrounded by the dust, aren't you?

**EM:** Yeah, but he was, this cousin [was] always in smart clothes.

**LMI:** I'm not surprised that he was poorly actually, given the sort of environment he was in from a very young age really.

**0:45:23**

**EM:** Yeah, yeah.

**LMI:** Because I suppose he would probably have spent a lot of his childhood visiting the mill as well, with his dad, before he even worked in it. I mean, we've had a lot of stories from people that have said, 'Oh, my husband's deaf and it's because of the mills.' And 'I've always had lung problems. It was because of the dust and the fibres and...' You know, the conditions... I mean, yours sounded actually like a... better quality, conditions-wise; it sounded nicer to work in than some of the bigger ones.

**EM:** Yeah, yeah.

**LMI:** I mean, the ones that were going all night and they wouldn't turn the machines off, and everything, like... The conditions there, you'd just never get away with it now, would you?

**EM:** No. And they did have a system, I remember all these, you know, like, bloomed things that used to get rid of... I presume they got rid of a lot of the fibres. Yeah.

**0:46:16**

**LMI:** Yes.

**EM:** Well, he lived till he was 80 odd. 86, I think, my dad.

**LMI:** It's amazing isn't it, when you think they lived through wars and everything else.

**EM:** Yeah. I was surprised. Yeah, interesting.

**LMI:** Thank you so much.

**EM:** Oh, you're welcome. As I say, I'm glad I've kind of started something off. Because I would be... I'll also be interested if, you know...if there's anything anybody thinks I can do...that I can do to help with the research, or whatever.

**0:46:53**

**LMI:** Thank you.

**EM:** So, it would be an interest for the winter.

**LMI:** Well, you've got some mills and some mansions that I've not had mentioned to me before. I'll add them to our database, and I'll see what we can do about getting some photos from you and crediting you on those, because that is just impressive.

**EM:** My grandad was a photographer. He was John Keighley; he was a photographer in the US. He took loads of photographs. This is where he worked and stuff.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**0:47:30**

**EM:** But anyway, yeah. And it's nice to be able to share something.

**LMI:** Well, it is, yeah. I went and met someone here a couple of weeks ago to do an interview, and he'd worked as a lorry driver for the mills for his entire life basically. And he was absolutely... he loved talking about the mills. He knew so much, it was incredible. And then he was like, 'My daughter sent me here to talk to you, because she's sick of me talking about the mills!' I think we were here for four hours, or something, talking. It was amazing. But he loved it. And he was saying that a lot of people either didn't care, or didn't understand it, because they hadn't worked in that industry. And he was so passionate about it.

**0:48:18**

**LMI:** And he had some of the original, I can show you a picture actually. Of the original Bradford... it was like a stamp that they put on...I'm sure it was part of Bradford Textile Association or something. Where are we? I've got that many photos. I do carpet cleaning in my spare time; I've got lots of pictures of them.

**EM:** Oh, that's interesting, I was going to ask you if you can give me the name of your company. Because, you know, there's always a time when you might need...So you do carpet cleaning then?

**LMI:** I do, so I'm called Izzie, and my company is Kate's Clean Carpets.

**EM:** It's called what?

**0:49:08**

**LMI:** Kate's Clean Carpets, my nanny's called Kate. And just like you, we've got inherited businesses! So, this was the Bradford Dyers Association. One of the original stamps.

**EM:** Oh wow, yeah.

**LMI:** He had a few of them and he donated them to the Industrial Museum. but he kept a couple and I was able to take pictures of them. But then the company that I'm working with today, you can keep this.

**EM:** Oh, I've got one.

**LMI:** You've got one?

**EM:** I've got one.

**LMI:** Perfect. Yeah, it's 509 Arts.

**0:49:33**

**EM:** I don't know how I got it on my Facebook, but it came up you know...

**LMI:** Are you part of Memories of Bradford, or any of those?

**EM:** The Keighley Heritage, yeah.

**LMI:** It might be that Katie...so Katie does our social media, and she's been really promoting it on Facebook, because so many people have got stories.

**EM:** Yeah. And unfortunately, I was going to come over to one of the... well, I couldn't come to either of the open... There was one at a mill wasn't there?

**LMI:** There was one at Lister Mill in Manningham, and there was one at the Keighley City Centre.

**0:50:03**

**EM:** So I'll look out, and if there's another...

**LMI:** Yeah, absolutely. Well, as I say, we're at the Industrial Museum on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and that's to predominantly... It's part of the Sanghat Centre, it's an Asian community centre, and we're meeting them to talk to some of their members. But it is also just open to anybody. I've got someone that might be coming that couldn't do the open day either, to chat to us. And then we're going to be doing some more events in the next couple of months, with a plan of having something... I can't remember if it's here, or if it's at Lister Mill... but basically, one of them wants us to do an event in May, showcasing what we've done and things. And it's quite nice, because we've got some samples from Lister Mill...bits of material that have been made.

**EM:** Is it still a mill, a working mill? Lister Mill?

**0:51:06**

**LMI:** No, so it's been... it's really beautiful actually. Because it's quite a big mill, they've got some parts that are flats. And then there's another bit that has a community centre. So...

**EM:** Oh yeah.

**LMI:** That's not a very helpful photograph. So, these bits are the flats. And then this bit that sticks out a bit more is... it's like a theatre space, and like a recording space. Which is really beautiful. I did a writing workshop there a few weeks ago. And they've got big glass balustrades, so they've kept a lot of the original stairs, and everything. And then they've got at the front... I'm not sure if it'll show up... Manningham Visitor Centre... It's recently been taken over by a new person who's renovated the space.

**0:52:06**

**LMI:** This is an old photo. But they've got like a beautiful café. And then they've got different rooms you can hire. And they've kept all the original leaves and the high ceilings and stuff. So that's where we did... That's a bit of a better picture. That's like one of the rooms. So, it's sort of been divided into chunks, But they have done a really beautiful job actually, of...

**EM:** Is that with the lottery money as well?

**0:52:36**

**LMI:** Do you know, I'm not sure. I imagine the community centre will have had some lottery money in it. And possibly the art space. But it's called Mind The Gap. It does lots of different social classes, and events and stuff. But it's a really beautiful space. I've never been before, prior to the Open Day. And all the rooms are named after what they were. So one of them was called the Spinning Room, or [the] Silk Room, or something. So they've done a really good job at keeping the heritage of it, [but] also modernising it to be a useful space. It's really nice. Obviously, so many of the beautiful buildings just got completely demolished, didn't they? And then, you know, people would steal the floor tiles or, you know, whatever. And then it would just get left for wrack and ruin for ages. It's nice they've been able to keep it.

**0:53:33**

**EM:** I can remember... I've just had another thought. There was a boiler room. And that fascinated me, you know, the boiler man, I used to know the boiler man. And they had this coal, and it was... there was a boiler and then there was all this coal. And I used to go and play on this coal, where you could get... If you went over the coal, there was like a trap door, and you could climb out onto the riverbank. And so we used to go and you know play on the riverbank.

**LMI:** Was that the trapdoor where they used to bring the coal to [?]?

**0:54:07**

**EM:** Yeah, I think so yeah. There you go!

**LMI:** That reminds me of the Railway Children, when he steals the coal from the train station.

**EM:** I don't suppose, are you wanting writers, or anything?

**LMI:** Wanting what, sorry?

**EM:** Are you wanting writers or any other ones?

**LMI:** Absolutely. I think, we,

**EM:** See, my daughter writes.

**LMI:** Ok.

**EM:** She's, she's done a few things, had a few things published. She does crafts, mostly.

**0:54:42**

**LMI:** Yeah.

**EM:** And she writes, and any opportunity to do some writing. She's an editor as well.

**LMI:** Yes, that's really helpful because... At the minute we're sort of in different stages with it, really. So we're kind of calling this the Pre-Stage, which is where we're data gathering and doing the interviews. But then when we get to the bulk of the project, it will be things like - we're designing a website that will showcase what we've got; the events we'll need to provide different things for; and we're also transcribing these interviews, so that we can use either quotes from them, or, I think Bradford Community Broadcasting, who are the radio station, they're wanting to do some features based on different experiences. And things like that. So if people want to be a part of it, in whatever way, the more the merrier.

**0:55:43**

**LMI:** We'd really love the community to be a part of the project. No obligation or anything like that. And then in the long term, we'll obviously have the legacy, the heritage part of it, available to the public, for however long it can be. But then also, we're going to be creating these packets for schools to do specific learning on. That's a bit of a... we sort of don't know how that's going to go yet.

**EM:** Yes. [?] She's a teacher. You know, so...

**0:56:18**

**LMI:** That's something that maybe a bit further down the line when we've got something. It might be really nice to hear about the sort of things she enjoys. We don't want to create something that's not...

**EM:** Is it a voluntary thing?

**LMI:** Is it what, sorry?

**EM:** Is it a voluntary thing?

**LMI:** I don't know yet. It might... We're just in the... It's such a...

**EM:** I know, yes.

**0:56:36**

**LMI:** But being able to chat to teachers about what educational packages are actually beneficial to them. And what are the things that actually they don't need or use or particularly help them. Because we know there's a lot of things out there, but how relevant are they to the curriculum? How accessible are they? That's something that we are in the process of planning and thinking about. So what I'll do is, I'll keep that just as a note, and then when I kind of know a bit more, I'll let you know, and if she's interested...

**EM:** I'm interested... I'm asking you now... You know, because all these people came from Pakistan and Bangladesh, or wherever... So what are they doing now? Are they working in mills?

**0:57:23**

**LMI:** Well, do you know, I've been speaking to them today, not the whole community, but I've been speaking to a few of them. And a lot of them came over... so their husbands came over in the '50s, and they share houses with other Pakistani men. And they'd sometimes share beds and [?]

**EM:** Oh yeah, I went to some houses...

**LMI:** And then in the '70s their wives and children would start coming over. And it was basically from that point that a lot of the mills started to shut. Which is really sad when they risked everything to come over. And it was just when Bangladesh became independent from Pakistan, and so there was a lot of political changes. But I was speaking to a lot of them. And one lady, her husband opened his own restaurant, when the mill shut. And then there was somebody else that worked in mills for about forty, fifty years.

**0:58:18**

**LMI:** Like he basically... I don't know how he managed it, because I don't think there are many that are open now. But yeah, a lot of them sort of went and were aiming to work in the mill for the rest of their lives. And literally quickly didn't have a job and had a mortgage and everything. But they've now got three, four generations. And it's just probably one of the most diverse industries for... Especially... I mean, they've created a whole new generation of Bradford, haven't they, really?

**EM:** Yes, yes. And Keighley. I mean, I can remember when I worked at St John's Hospital at Keighley, as a midwife. So that was in the '60s. Let me think when I left... well I got married in [19]70. And that was when they'd moved to Airedale. So, '65 to '70. And the women were coming over because they were having babies. And you know, I can remember, it was always... before then, it was always very strict – 'Visiting time, you know, you can come for half an hour.' Or whatever. But when they came, it was the whole family. And I used to think 'Yeah, well that's how it should be.' I mean, I'm all for, you know, open visiting, to be honest. Because I've had experience of it. And it's... people get better.

**LMI:** And let's be honest, this... especially with like midwifery, it's such a special milestone in a whole of family's life.

**EM:** Yes.

**LMI:** It's unfair, isn't it that... you can't just limit that to like a 30 minute video.

**1:00:04**

**EM:** No, no. When the baby might have been off in the nursery, have somebody else feeding it. I mean, it was awful.

**LMI:** I was chatting to someone about that today, because she said that back in Bangladesh, you basically, and now as well, you have a baby, and you go home like same day or the next day. But she said back then, there weren't all sorts of things.

**EM:** For 10 days.

**LMI:** And she said after that, people came every day to check on you. But she was lovely, she was saying 'They were so friendly, everybody was so friendly, so welcoming, so keen to help.' And I said, 'Did you experience any racism, any discrimination?'

**1:00:46**

**LMI:** And she said, 'No. It's worse now than it was back then.' I mean, that's not from everybody, I've heard tales of the opposite way round. But I just thought, 'Wow, that's really saying something.' It must have been absolutely terrifying coming over here, on your own, not speaking English, with either young children or pregnant. Someone said to me that her husband would go to the mill. He'd lock her in. She'd have a spare key for emergencies, but she didn't know where she was, or what was around. And she used to sit and cry until he came home. She was so scared. But I thought 'The bravery of people.'



**EM:** Yeah. I mean I'd experienced we went to live in Spain - we were there for 11 years. And I knew two words when I went.

**LMI:** Paella.

**EM:** Then... no, I couldn't even pronounce that properly. Paella. So you just have to get on with it.

**LMI:** You muddle through.

**EM:** Yeah. You just have to get on with it. But I can also see... You know, somebody once said 'Go home to your own country.' And I thought, you know, 'There's something in that.' And we had an English-speaking group, you know, that you just... every Wednesday, it was such a relief. But yeah, I just wish everybody could live together and trust. And get on. I mean, it doesn't matter.

**1:02:24**

**LMI:** It would not be as special as it was, or as it is, without those different combinations of cultures and people. Like, I love the fact that you can go into Bradford and there are so many different restaurant options. So many different art opportunities. So many different stories. And that just wouldn't exist if we all stuck to, you know..

**EM:** You know, though, I've got to be honest, I haven't been to Bradford for years and years and years.

**LMI:** It's hard driving, I won't lie.

**EM:** I mean, we're so close in Horsforth. I keep thinking, 'I must go.' Because I mean, I worked in Daly for a year. You know, as a midwife. And that was the poorest part of Bradford. And I think maybe that still sticks with me.

**1:03:15**

**LMI:** I think it's really hard actually. And I'm glad that we've got this City of Culture for 2025...

**EM:** I'm really pleased about that, yeah.

**LMI:** It is such...like, I know I'm biased because I'm from here, but it is such a special part of the world, and it's so difficult to offer. And I think it does get a lot of stick and stigma, because there are deprived areas. And there are, you know, I'll be honest, it is not the safest city to be here as a woman, walking on your own at night, or whatever. And I just really hope that the events that we do showcase the fun, and the love, and the community that's part of it. And maybe build up some of those parts.

**1:03:54**

**EM:** I don't know...are there many Caribbean people? I mean, what cultures are there besides Pakistan and India?

**LMI:** I mean, I know there's a big Polish community and a big Ukrainian community. We actually hosted a couple of Ukrainians. There is quite a big Ukrainian community already over here, which is amazing. As I say, the kind of Pakistani and Bangladeshi community as well. I think there is a part of Bradford...and I can't remember which sort of borough it's in, that is quite a Caribbean based. But I can't remember where...We haven't spoken to many people. I think they may have come over after, like the Windrush generation, where it's built like this, and I mean, I just love it.

**1:04:40**

**LMI:** I mean, my family's from Hull, and so there was a big Hull community there as well. And so I've just kind of always been brought up with these cities that have so many different generations in. And different heritages and stuff.

**EM:** I mean, I'm from Keighley, I lived there for 20 odd years, before I got married.