

Reminiscences of Dilys Feb 2013 (age 82) in response to a query about the Aboudi family living at Grange Farm in 1935

She knew the Aboudi's as her mother cleaned for them at the cottage at Grange Farm. Elsie Aboudi mothered her and she went with them to their home in Manchester. She loved their stylish furnishings, there was a green room and a blue room, a sofa with ends that let down with silk cords and a brass top table that folded up. They also lived for a while at Cox Bank. It was thought they wanted a 'hideaway'. They were in the area until at least 1945.

They were Jewish looking but she thinks they were not orthodox.

Bertie Aboudi worked in barristers chambers in Manchester and she last spoke to him on the phone in the '80s.

Mrs Aboudi would take picnics out with a primus stove to boil eggs, they used serviettes! Elsie would float a lilo on the canal and Dilys' father was sure she would be drowned!

Mr Aboudi went to France when it fell and never came back. There were connections with Malta.

Dilys remembers dancing around the monument in the square to celebrate victory at the end of WW2. There were loads of troops at Adderley hall and she would hear trains and lorries going past on the way to Liverpool.

Dilys remembers seeing the hunger marchers going along the Market Drayton road, their feet were bound up. Her family and Mrs Fanny Shuker gave them cocoa served in tins for cups.

Her grandfather was a ganger on the railway earning £2 a week but he bought a £400 house.

Her parents were poor but happy together, mother came from a farm at Mobberley. Albert Hopkins was her uncle, he was at the Bridge Inn. They were all born at Cox Bank.

Miss Bennion the lecturer in butter and cheese making at Reaseheath lived at Brook House in Green Lane.

When Dilys had her baby, her mother caught the train to Audlem and told everyone the news, then cycling back she had a brain haemorrhage and died age 52.

Gifford Thornton had been a ship's surgeon. It cost 5 guineas when you had a baby. They were paying off their bill at 1s a week (they owed £44) but when the NHS started Dr T. said they needn't pay any more and cancelled it. He had a tall desk and would write the payments down in ink.

Everyone had nicknames there was 'Moley' Hobson (see Grange Farm photo), (Mrs Shuker's brother), 'Sticky' Booth etc.

They had big snowfalls and Green lane filled up so they were walking to school on the top of the hedges, they wore clogs. She loved the school. Jack Fearnley was her daughter's godfather. She went to Yoga in the church hall. The Challinors used to live in the 2 cottages opposite Shukers shop on the corner.

Tom Dutton was at Grange Farm. Dilys used to sit with Mrs Dutton in the summerhouse where she made leather purses. She died young.

Dilys passed the scholarship to go to grammar school but they could not afford the uniform so she did not go.

May Cliffe was the guide captain, her father was a stonemason and he made the cenotaph in the churchyard. The guides met in a hut by the vicarage. Tennis was played up Hen lane. Roger Smith married Peggy Parsonage and he was a POW in Japan. He built a house in Heathfield Rd. he managed the co-op.