

The History of Moistown: Part 7 by Dr. Sylvia Warham c. February 2010

In Part 6 of the history of Moistown I looked at what happened to Moistown after it passed into the hands of the Gostwyck family of North Tawton. In Part 7 I shall tell you about Joseph Andrews of Broadoodkelly his love letter.

The final deeds I found in the ancient deeds of Moistown concerned the missing 2/7ths of the property rights which had not surfaced since the 1600's, so they were particularly interesting. By 1826 it belonged to John Andrews sen. Yeoman of Broadwoodkelly and his wife Sarah. I have been unable to discover the line through which the 2/7ths of the property was passed, but the records show that Andrews had promised to sell 2/7ths of Moyestown to Benjamin Cleave, Lord of the Manor of Broadwoodkelly. (Devon Record Office: 1931B/E/5a)

*Married in the Parish of Broadwoodkelly
in the County of Devon in the Year 1849 -
James Andrews of Broadwoodkelly
- Kelly
Pattiland
Jan 23 78
By whom the
Ceremony was
performed
Rev J. B. Hole
Rector*

*This is a true copy by me
Rev J. B. Hole
- Rector -*

I know very little about John Andrews or how he came to inherit the property rights of Moistown apart from the fact that he was married to Sarah and there were at last three generations of John Andrews who owned the property rights. Sarah sen. died in 1849 at the age of 78. She was living with her husband John at Pattiland and we have a record of her burial in Broadwoodkelly by the Rev. John Hole.

I was however, fortunate enough to come across two personal letters now held in private hands. This first letter was written by the son of Sarah Andrews dated January 23 1843 Broadwoodkelly and is a charming love letter written to 'Martha'.

Love letter from John Andrews

GC 8

Letter from John Andrews to Martha, postmarked Crediton Jan 22 1843

My dear Martha

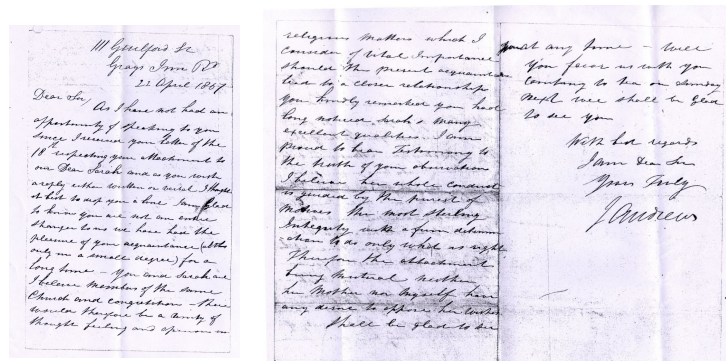
I am happy to acknowledge the receipt of yours of Jan 11th also happy to find all (?? well with you and yours??) - As you remark, the time is fast approaching when I must again bid adieu to many kind friends who are endeared to me by nature's strongest ties - The time of parting I know will be painful - But the hopes of seeing a certain party who was anonymous in some part of your last letter and whose charms still encircle my heart afford me pleasure more than adequate to the sorrow of parting - Yes, my dear Martha, I hope to see you again next Friday or Saturday. I intend to go by the Great Western Railway It will be more expensive but more expeditious and I shall have a opportunity of seeing the country both ways. I hope to be at Paddington Station either Friday or Saturday evening from 5 to 6 o'clock. Mrs Stevens I suppose has left you before now. I think the Great Western p.....?? through Cheltenham but if I knew Mrs Stevens' address I don't suppose I should have time to call on her. I am very sorry she has left you - she was not only a good lodger but to you a profitable companion and one who felt deeply interested in your welfare (??3 or 4 words missing??) I hope to see you soon I shall say but little more with my pen. May Heaven watch over you and preserve you to the arms of your

Affectionate Lover

John Andrews

Broadwoodkelly
Jany 23 / 43

The second letter, dated 1867, is by the third generation of John Andrews, who had just been asked for the hand in marriage of his daughter Sarah:



Original copy of John Andrews letter.

The letter reads:

111 Guildford St
Grays Inn Road
22 April 1867

Dear Sir,

As I have not had an opportunity of speaking to you since I received your letter of the 18th respecting your attachment to our Dear Sarah and as you wish a reply either written or verbal, I thought it best to drop you a line. I am glad to know you are not an entire stranger to us; we have had the pleasure of your acquaintance (although only in a small degree) for a long time - You and Sarah are I believe members of the same Church and congregation - there would therefore be a unity of thought feeling and opinion in religious matters which I consider of vital importance should the present acquaintance lead to a closer relationship. You kindly remarked that you had long noticed Sarah's many excellent qualities. I am proud to bear testimony to the truth of your observations.

I believe her whole conduct is governed by the purest of motives: the most sterling integrity with a determination to do only what is right. Therefore the attachment being mutual neither her mother nor myself have any desire to oppose her wishes.

Shall be glad to see you any time - will you favour us with your company to tea on Sunday next? We shall be glad to see you

With kind regards

I am dear Sir

Yours truly

J Andrews.

By 1829 2/7ths of the property owned by John Andrews jun., his wife Sarah and his mother Sarah, widow of John Andrews sen. who died intestate in 1814. The property was sold for £200.00 to Benjamin Wood Cleave. It had an estimated 73 acres and a tenant, Christopher Chamings, who paid a rent of £50.00 p.a. (Devon Record Office:1931B/T58)

In Part 7 I have described how the 'lost' 2/7ths of the property rights reappeared. In Part 8 I shall tell you about Moistown under the ownership of the Cleave family.

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Affectionate Lover

John Andrews (X)

Broadwoodkelly
 Jan'y 23 / 43

Letter addressed to Martha at 34 French Place, Hampstead Road.

Did he get the letter postmarked and write the next day on the back of the postmarked
 sheet? There is no envelope - just a single folded sheet