

Letters written by Andrew Bell of Woodside, Bowsden and Luke Moody, tenant of Bowsden Farm [Bowsden West Farm], and others, to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, between 1829 and 1833. [Purchased from Glendale Antique Centre, Wooler, 2014, by Julie Gibbs. Part of the Thorp, Archer & Dickson Collection]

Transcript

1) Letter from Andrew Bell, Woodside, to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 3rd February 1829

Gentle[me]n

I have seen Mr Moody according to your request and upon looking over the Farm the Proposals he makes seem to be no way improper in my Opinion. It would be much better to have the whole of the Farm in two years Grass or in 5 Shifts I should think, both for the Landlord & Tenant, but that cannot well be done for a few years as the Land ought to be properly cleansed and Fallowed before it is sown with Grass Seeds, in that Case it may be as well to allow 4 y[ea]rs to prepare the Infield Land according as you have stated (viz 114 Acres) and after that time the whole to be continued in 5 Shifts to which Mr Moody seems quite Agreeable. Likewise he would require a much greater Quantity of Stock which he might not be able to procure at the present time.

He may also be allowed to sell 20 or 30 Tons of Hay provided only that 4 Loads of Dung is got from each Ton; for One year or two only; And his Proposal to burn 200 L[oa]ds of Lime will be Advantageous for both Parties. It will be necessary for Mr M[oody] also to have one Field of Pease or Beans yearly and this may be done by Sowing Oats after One y[ea]rs Grass, then Pease after, and next next [sic] year Fallowed which would bring it into the same Rotation with Mr Davison's to which it is annexed, being a Green Crop the Pease would as good for the Land as two y[ea]rs Grass. There ought to be a proper Quant[hole in paper but probably *ity*] and kind of Seeds Stated to be sown on the Farm Close and Stockgarth Close to remain in permanent Grass, he should be particular in having good Perennial Rye Grass not less than 12 Forpits to an Acre and rather more Clover then is usually sown at Other times.

The Warricow Field [Warricle Field found on a modern field name map] and Acres Mr M[oody] says were to have been divided and a New Fence made as the whole of each to be considered Infield would make 30 or 40 Acres more than the Quantity you mention, and it would be very inconvenient to have the half of each in 5 Shifts and the Other half in 4 Shifts causing Corn and Pasture or Grass in the same Field, it would in that Case perhaps be as well to consider One of the two Fields as Infield and the Other as Outfield Land, provided the Fence is not made as he mentions.

I will be ready to state any thing further you may wish and will endeavour to let you know of any deviation from the Plans proposed And am Gentlemen

Your Most Obed[ie]nt Serv[an]t

Andrew Bell

I have been pressing him to pay some more of his Tithe Arrear for 1827 but I doubt there will not much more be got at present he speaks of paying £10 or 20 in two or 3 weeks. The Horse I spoke of purchasing is very ill of a Distemper and prevents any thing doing in that way, there is no Other he seems wishing to dispose of at present as more of his horses are in a similar state but not so dangerous. AB

[Endorsed on front cover – 3rd Feb 1829, rec[eive]d 5th Mr Andrew Bell
(1) Luke Moody –
(Management of Bowsden) [initials]]

**2)Note from Luke Moody, Bowsden, to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors,
Alnwick, 10th March 1829**

Gentlemen

The inclosed for Mr Davison & will send the remaning part promised in a very few d[a]ys, I am sorry your letters was returned I know of no other reason but only the changes of a Clerk in the Postoffice, but shall take care in future.

G[entlemen] your ob[e]d[ien]t Serv[an]t
L Moody

[Endorsed on front cover – 10th Mar 1829 Mr L Moody
(1) with £48 on acct [initials] (wr[ite] to ack[nowled]ge)]

**3)Note from Luke Moody, Bowsden, to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors,
Alnwick, 27th April 1829**

Gentleman

I beg leve to inform you that I have sold what corn I have, as son as I receive the money for it, I will send it to you Amediately , I might as will have have sold two months ago, as the price is no better.

I am G[entlemen] your Most Ob[e]d[ien]t Serv[an]t

L Moody
Bowsden Apr 27th 1829

[Endorsed on front cover – 27th April 1829 Luke Moody
Has sold corn & will send the money when rec[eive]d]

**4)Note from Luke Moody, Bowsden to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors,
Alnwick, 13th May 1829**

Gentlemen

The inclosed is £40 – for Mr Davison
From your Ob[e]d[ien]t Serv[an]t

L Moody
Bowsden May 13th 1829

[Endorsed on back – 13th May 1829 Luke Moody With £40]

**5)Letter from Luke Moody, Bowsden to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors,
Alnwick 23rd May 1829**

Gentlemen

I received yours of the 14th Inst. And in Answer I can only say that every shilling I receive from the Farm dis [does] not rest with me one day. I send you all & will do untill such times as the Indulgence you was pleased to grant me, on the Mode of Husbandry be proven, which will be in harvest, when I then expect it will prove satisfactory both to my Landlord & myself as I never had a better prospect of a good Crop. I will see Mr Bell, Tuesday & settle a payment with him in part, of Arrears on Corn Tithe. Gentlemen, your Ob[e]d[ien]t Serv[an]t

L Moody

[Endorsed on back – 23th May 1829 Mr Luke Moody

(1) Farm Arrears

(2) Tithe Arrears [initials]]

6) Letter from Nicholas Davison [Landowner], 18 Queen Ann Street, London, to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick 15 Oct 1829

Gentlemen

I have to acknowledge the receipt of two of your letters the latter of which reached me 3 or 4 days ago. I wish you at all times to provide for the payment of Mr Naters' Interest by retaining in your hands as much of each half years rent (wh[ich] ought to be regularly paid about the 11th of Oct[obe]r & April) as will meet his demand at the succeeding period at wh[ich] the Interest becomes due or any remittances you may have to make to me may be deferred till after the 24th of Dec[embe]r & 24th June & not till his demand is satisfied.

I am sorry to see by your letter that Mr Moody's arrears have increased since the indulgence was allowed him. I understand that the arrear was to be gradually diminished and entirely liquidated by September 1830, but it appears that at present it exceeds one year's rent and if another payment is not made before the 12th of next month the rent of 3 half years will be due.

I have enclosed to my Mother as bill for the amount of her annuity due the 11th of next month. I of course understood that I was to undertake to pay it.

I am, Gentlemen

Yours very Sincerely

N Davison

[Endorsed on front cover 15th Oct 1829 Dr Davison

(1) Mr Nater's Int[erest]

(2) Moody's rent

(3) Mrs Davison's Annuity

7) Letter from Andrew Bell, Woodside to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 17th Nov 1829

Gentlemen

I had an opportunity a few days ago in speaking with Moody respecting his Fallow Lands and the state of his Farm he has sown a part with Wheat, in a very bad state. I was advising him it would be more for his advantage to quit the Quit [sic] the Farm as

well as the Landlords (though not as desired by you to do so,) but only to know his intentions about Quitting, as I believe he cannot hold it long; he seems very anxious to hold it Another year to see how the Markits may Change, and should things not appear better he will be ready to quit at that time he says We will not get much of the Tithe Corn Threshed for some time as he has been threshing so much himself his Stockyard & Folds are quite Full.

I am Gentl[emen] Your most Ob[e]d[ien]t Serv[an]t

Andrew Bell

NB I will take his present Tithe upon myself if you wish it at £65 as the appear to be so very dull makes me speak of a little reduction at present.

8)Letter from Andrew Bell, Woodside to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 22nd Oct 1830

Gentlemen

I have seen Mr Moody according to your desire respecting his Farm, he seems very Anxious to Continue his Lease. I stated to him that I thought it would be more to his Advantage to quit it, and take a Smaller Concern more within his Capital, as it would require a Considerable Outlay to Clean it and put it in proper Condition, he says you may be Assured Mr Davison shall not lose any thing by him and he expects from his Industry to get over his difficulties, which I should much fear.

he has got a good deal of his Wheat Land sown and has a better prospect for a Crop next year than the present, that the Land is not well Cleaned. If Mr Dickson can come over to Bowsden as soon as convenient and view the premises it will be better when I will wait upon him at any time. I have got a few pounds more from Luke and will get the remainder about the 30th Inst. I expect, with the other Tithe Arrears remaining. He was offered £180 for the two Garths and Cottages I stated which are of very little value to the Farm Tenant. I remain Gentl[emen]

Your very H[um]ble Serv[an]t

Andrew Bell,

Woodside 22nd Oct 1830.

[Endorsed on front cover 22 Oct 1830 Mr A Bell]

9)Letter from Luke Moody to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 6th Nov 1830

Gentlemen

I here beg leave to acknowledge your kind indulgence, that is for putting off the rent for a backwardly Harvest, I only got done cutting 27th Oct. And have all inn excepting 10 Acres of Beans, But their shall be no more delay to get your money. I begin to thresh Monday & will carry on with the greatest quickness till you have between three & Four Hundred Pounds.

And further I beg to say for the more satisfaction to you and Mr Davison my Landlord, should there be any Arrears standing against me payable at Martinmas one thousand Eight Hundred & thirty one, I shall bind myself to quit the Farm to Mr Davison on 12th May next following, should he think proper to take it.

L Moody
Bowsden 6th Nov[em]b[er] 1830

[Endorsed on front cover 6th Nov 1830 Luke Moody
Threshing corn to pay rent
Will quit at May foll[owin]g 1832 if any arrear at Mart[in]mas 1831 if required.]

10) Note from Luke Moody to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 17th January 1831

Gentleman

I herewith send you Nineteen Pounds all I could raise on Saturday. I intend being at Alnwick this Day fortnight with what I can possibly raise more.

I am your Ob[ed]i[en]t Serv[an]t

L Moody

Bowsden Jan 17th 1831

[Endorsed on page, (See o[ther] side WD)]

[Endorsements on back

17 Jan 1831

Luke Moody

(1) With £19 WD

Luke Moody Rent Acct

May 1829	191 2 11
May 1830	440 - -
Nov 1830	<u>220 - -</u>
	851 2 11

Recd at various times

To 17 th Jan 1831	<u>170 - -</u>
Due Nov 1830	681 2 11

MR Naters Acct thus

Half y[ea]r Int[erest] due

24 Dec 1830 140

Cash in hand to make

This paym[en]t £102 2 0 WD]

11) Note from WD [Dickson] dated 17th Jan 1831

I have often tho[ough]t for some time past that you sho[ul]d acquaint Davison what A Bell says ab[ou]t his Ten[an]t Moody with the state of his arrears & whatever he directs will satisfy us, it appears to me there is likely to be a great loss by him & that the Land is run out. The letter could be delivered by *Morristy* as he does not answer post letters.

17th Jan 1831 W D

12) Letter from Andrew Bell, Woodside, to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 8th February 1831

Mr Dickson Esq,
Sir,

Mr Moody was intending to be at Alnwick this week past but the roads being quite impassible with Snow has prevented him we had a very severe Storm and only got a Communication to Berwick to day since last Tuesday. I do not think he can keep the Farm as there is not Corn left to pay his Servants and [hole in paper] for Seed; If Mr Davidson wishes him to remain another year I think it would be best for him to make an assignment if it meets with your approbation, I don't know what rent he has paid you of late but I fear it will of small Amount, If you wish it I could come over to Alnwick along with him or afterwards I think the Farm might be let yet, but the Season is rather too far advanced. I remain Sir,
Your very H[um]ble Serv[an]t

Andrew Bell

[Endorsed on front cover *8 Feb[ruar]y 1831*
Mr A Bell
Respectin]g L Moody's Farm]

13)A brief note from Luke Moody to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 8th Oct 1831

L Moody, Bowsden
I have not time to say more for the Post. I hope it is in time.

[Endorsed on front cover *8th Oct 1831 re[plie]d 9th*
Luke Moody
(1) with £150
WD and (answ[ere]d & ret[ur]n) WD]

14)Letter from Luke Moody to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 26th Dec 1831

Gentlemen

I received yours, And by the bearer (Mr Burn) you will receive Fifty Pounds, and next Saturday am promised Sixty or Seventy more, which you shall have, & more after as soon as possible, it is three weeks since it was due.

As for the Tithe I will *referd* [refrain] saying anything more about it at present, but only this, that is, that I will thank Mr Thorp for an offer of the Tithe the next Crop at the same value, thou[gh] I will have 20 Acres of less wheat.

I am Gentlemen

Your Most ob[e]d[ien]t serv[an]t

L Moody

Bowsden 26 Dec 1831

[Endorsed on the back *26 Dec 1831*

L Moody
(1) with £50

(2) *Tythes!* –

WD and possibly written by Luke Moody with Fifty Pounds Paid]

15) Letter from Luke Moody to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 2nd January 1832

Gentlemen

I am sorry I was disappointed of not receiving the sum expected on Saturday. I only received £40 which you will receive by the bearer Mr Burn from

Your ob[e]d[ien]t serv[an]t

L Moody

Bowsden Jan[uar]y 2nd 1832

[Endorsed on front cover 2nd Jan[uar]y 1832

Mr Luke Moody

(1) with £40

WD and possibly in Luke Moody's hand with £40 paid]

16) Letter from Luke Moody to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 4th April 1832

Gentlemen

You will receive by the berrar [bearer] Mr Burn £17. I will send more next week And will be at Alnwick as soon as I git the spring seed sown in order to explain the request in your last.

Your ob[e]d[ien]t serv[an]t

L Moody

April 4th 1832

[Endorsed on front cover 4th April 1832

Mr L Moody

With £17 and probably in Luke Moody's hand with £17]

17) Letter from Luke Moody to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 23rd May 1832

Gentlemen

You will receive by the bearer Mr Burn Fourteen Pounds.

Pray do not sind any return to day as I expect to send you the remaining part for the six kyloes to morrow it was neglected by the buyer to get the money yesterday.

Your ob[e]d[ien]t serv[an]t

L Moody

Bowsden May 23rd 1832

[Endorsed 23 May 1832

L Moody

with £14 0 0]

18) Letter from Luke Moody to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 8th September 1832

Gentlemen

I beg to trouble you again, in respecting the Tithe, that is should you think proper to allow it to be sett up on the premises, I will *lead* & thrash it for only the Straw, As I am very sorry any Manure should go off Mr Davisons property while I am occupier.

G[en]t[lemen] your ob[e]d[ie]n[t] serv[an]t

L Moody

Bowsden Sept 8th 1832

[Endorsed on front cover 8th Sep 1832

Luke Moody

(1) as to tithes

WD and

1832 Sep 14th answe[re]d WD]

19) Letter from Luke Moody to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 17th November 1832

Gentlemen

I could have sent you a payment to day but it would have prevented me from sending any next week. Therefore I will send you a larger payment next week.

I am your ob[e]d[ie]n[t] serv[an]t

L Moody

Bowsden Nov 17th 1832

[Endorsed on front cover 17 Nov[embe]r 1832

Luke Moody

Large payment next week!!]

20) Letter from Andrew Bell, Woodside, to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 28th January 1833

Sirs

I am sorry to say I have got Nothing fixed with Moody yet in naming a person to act for him, he does not seem to act in a Candid Manner, on parting with him that evening I left you he engaged to let me know next day the Person he wished to appoint, but never came near me 'till on Friday morning I received a Note from him saying he would meet me on the Saturday at Berwick Market and endeavour to get the Business settled. I waited sometime but he never appeared I met his Son who informed me where he was I went and found him but to my Surprise he said he had sent his Son to Alnwick for his Lease or a Copy of it and would not Act in any way 'till he got it. I endeavoured to persuade him as much as possible to Change and that whoever was appointed by him would certainly be guided by the Lease, but he seemed quite positive and seemed to have been consulting some Attorney in Berwick and had great Claims upon Mr Davidson for not fulfilling his Agreements, of this I am not certain but only from his

Manner of talking about it. I believe he intends to leave very little Grass Land for an entering Tenant but that must be altered with several Other things which should be Compromised by getting any reasonable Person. He expects to hear from you as soon as convenient. I had two or three Applications about the Farm on Saturday if the Bad State it is in does not fear them.

I remain Sir

Your most Ob[e]d[ien]t Serv[an]t

Andrew Bell

NB I will send to the Post on Tuesday & Wed[nesda]y for your Answer & enquire for Mr Moodys Letters also. A B

[Endorsed on front cover *28 Jan[uar]y 1833*

Mr Andrew Bell

Luke Moody.

Crusty]

21) Offer from John Bone of Barelees sent to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 9th February 1833

Gentlemen

I propose to offer you the yearly rent of Three Hundred and seventy five pounds for the Farm called Bowsden provided the term of years and other conditions of Lease meets my approbation.

I am Gentlemen

Your ob[e]d[ien]t serv[an]t

John Bone

[Endorsed on front cover *Feb 1833*

John Bone

(1) 375£

WD]

22) Offer from Henry Barber of Bowsden Hall sent to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 11th February 1833

Gentlemen

I will give you the sum of Three Hundred and Sixty Pounds per Annum for the Farm of Bowsden occupied by Mr Moody. Provided we can agree as to covenants and that you will support the price of Wheat Forty five shillings per Boll of Six imperial Bushels.

I am

Gentlemen

Your most ob[e]d[ien]t s[ervan]t

Henry Barber

Bowsden Hall 11th Feby 1833

[Endorsed on front cover *Feb 1833*

Henry Barber

(1) 360£]

23) Letter from Mr Appleby, Haggerston Mead re: offer made by Messrs John & George McGregor, Bridge Mill, sent to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick 11th February 1833

Gentlemen

Messrs John & Geo[rge] McGregor who have offered for the Farm at Bowsden, I can recommend to you as good tenants, & quite equal to the Farm. They hold a Mill & Farm under Lady Haggerston at Bridge Mill, which they have improved very much since they entered to them - & should they be the successful offerers for Bowsden, I have no doubt they will give every satisfaction.

I am

Gentlemen

Your Ob[e]d[ien]t Serv[an]t

Wm Appleby

24) Letter from Andrew Bell, Woodside, to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 25th February 1833

Gentl[eme]n

I am sorry to say that Mr McGregor has got Wind Mill Hill Farm and declines taking Bowsden in consequence. I wrote you on Thursday last in answer to your Letters, and have sent this for Mr Brown who is almost treating for another Farm on Wed[nesda]y, first provided his Offer is not accepted for Bowsden and wishes you to inform him, how it is to be, he takes this opportunity having to be at Alnwick on Other Business. I believe Mr McGregor would visit you himself on Saturday Even[ing]. Mr Moody should be prevented ploughing any More Fields than what is begun which I stated in my last letter. I remain Gentlemen Your very H[um]ble Serv[ant]t

Andrew Bell

[Endorsed on front cover *25th Feb 1833*

Mr Andrew Bell

(1) *Letting of Bowsden*

WD]

25) Offer from Mr Berwick of Detchant, to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 27th February 1833

Sir

If the farm of Bowsden is not let we will give you for 21 years £315 yearly. Your immediate answer will oblige me.

Your Obed^t Serv^s

Wm M Berwick

Detchant Feb 27 1833

[Endorsed on front cover *27 Feb 1833*

Mr Berwick
(1) Bowsden £315
Note in an[swe]r 28 Feb 1833
In red *don't know him*
Carter Slate
[See No. 27]

26) Offer from Thomas Scrowther of Kyloe sent to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 28th February 1833

Gentlemen

I have seen Mr Scott of Beal this morning and spoke to him concerning Bowsden Farm and with regard to my Character should you approve of the offer I gave for the Farm. Mr Scott is very willing to give you every information. With respect to other matters concerning the Farm can be better explained by bargain than at present Mr Scott will probably write you to day or tomorrow he would write when I saw but was on the road going to Berwick if Mr Scott can get time he will write from Berwick to you. Your answer as soon as possible would oblige

Your Humble Servantt

Thos Scrowther

[Endorsed on front cover *28 Feb 1833*

Mr Thos Scrowther

(1) is to offer for Bowsden]

[An offer letter, written by Thomas Scrowther of Kyloe, February 9th 1833, was advertised for sale on Ebay, 2016 -

Gentlemen

Having viewed the Farm at Bowsden at Present occupied by Luke Moody as Tenant Containing 516 Acres according to Advertisement. I propose to give you an Offer for the Same.

Gentlemen the Offer I give you for such Farm is Three Hundred and Ninety One Pounds provided we can agree in the System of Husbandry and other Particulars that can be better explained by bargain than other way should my offer be Approved of.

Your answer will oblige your Ob[edien]t Serv[an]t

Thomas Scrowther]

[Endorsed on front cover *Feb 1833*

Thomas Scrowther

£391]

27) Note from Wm & M Berwick of Detchant to Messrs Thorp & Dickson, Solicitors, Alnwick, 4th March 1833

Sir

We have received your letter, but as we have not viewed Bowsden since Mr Moody came to it, we intend being over it this day, will then either see or write to you, in a day or two what we can do, we hear it is in a miserable state – we are Sir

Y[ou]r most Obed[ien]t Ser[van]ts

Wm & M Berwick
Detchant
March 4 1833
[See No. 25]