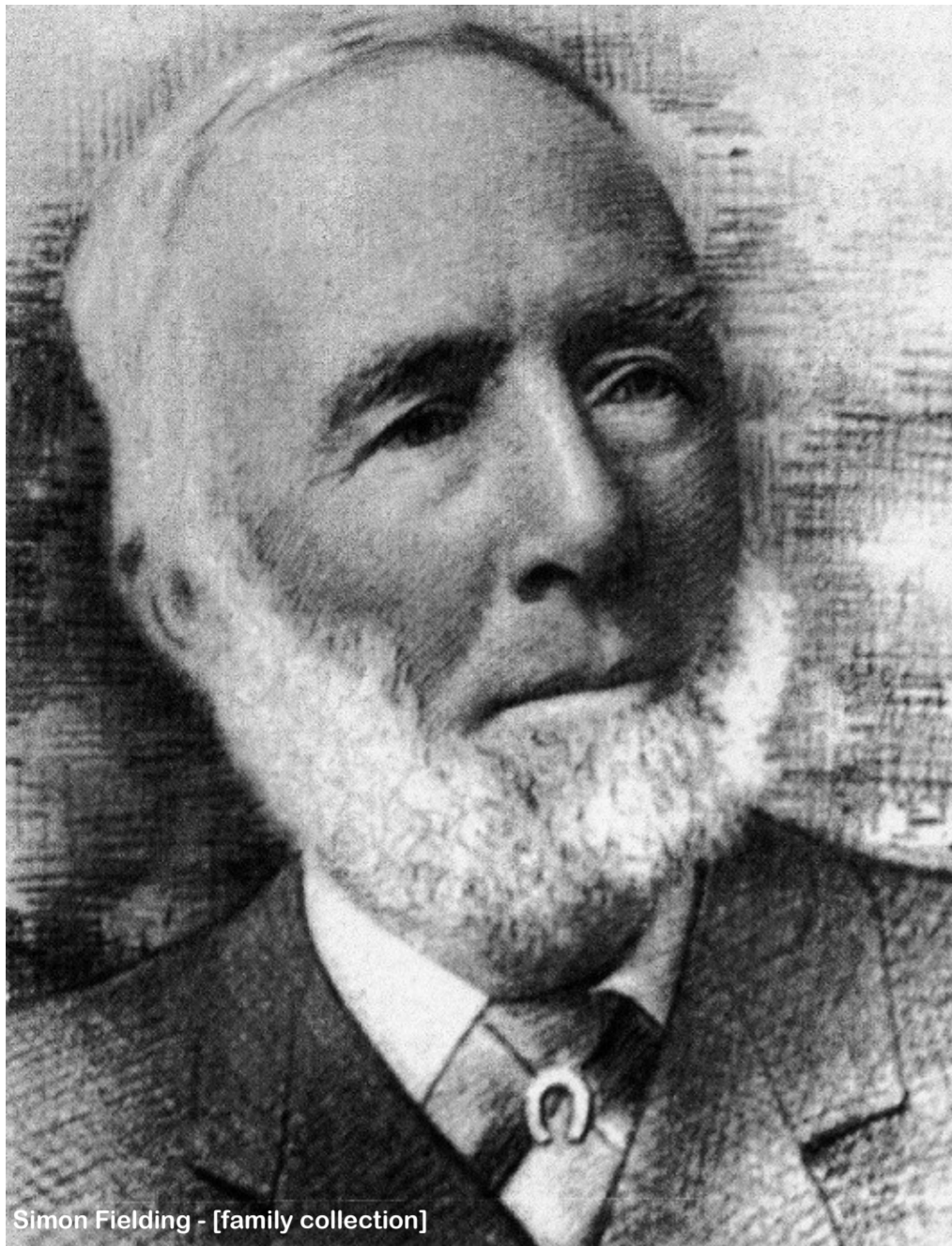


The Fieldings of Longton Road



Simon Fielding - [family collection]

Simon Fielding was born in Lancashire and came to Trentham with his young family to work for the Duke of Sutherland. They lived in The Poultry House on Park Drive and Simon was regarded as an authority on both dogs and poultry.

In 1879 he put his life savings into the Railway Works pottery on Sutherland Street in Stoke. This proved to be an unwise investment and he was helped out by his son, Abraham who took over the business.

Simon died in 1905 at 170 Longton Road, living next door to his daughter, Mary.



Abraham Fielding—[family collection]

Abraham Fielding (1855-1932) grew up in Trentham and served an apprenticeship at Blythe Colour Works, Cresswell where he became a partner. When the Railway Works got into financial difficulties Abraham took over the reins, expanded the business to great success and in 1912 renamed the works The Devon Pottery starting the "Crown Devon" name making mainly decorative pieces and novelty ware.

As a young man, Abraham was a great athlete, cyclist, swimmer and footballer. He was secretary of Victoria Cycling Club and often travelled to work on his penny farthing bicycle. He was for some years chairman of Stoke Football Club (not Stoke City until 1925), president of North Staffs Harriers and an enthusiastic huntsman with the North Staffs hunt, something he was able to do until an advanced age. Another passion was motor cars. He was passionate about this new form of transport and one of the earliest owners of a motor car in the area

In 1894 Abraham built himself a house on the corner of Longton Road and Oaktree Road and the house still bears his initials. The house next door was built the same year by his sister and brother in law, John and Mary Taylor.

On the 1911 census the Fieldings had three resident servants at number 182 Longton Road. There was a large garden in which two houses were built in the 1970s.

In 1912 The Sentinel reported a serious house fire in the Fielding's "stables and motor house". Firemen came from Stoke, Newcastle and Longton to fight the blaze. One horse died in the fire and "Mr Fielding's valuable car, well known to inhabitants in the area.....was rendered a complete wreck." As well as building his own house, Abraham owned many local houses which he let out to tenants.

In 1913 Abraham had the honour of receiving King George V and Queen Mary at The Devon Pottery during their visit to the city. Abraham and his wife moved to Mill House, Blurton in the 1920s and he died there in 1932.



Abraham Fielding [family collection]



Abraham Fielding—[family collection]



Ross Fielding in his father's car 1904 [family collection]

The Devon Pottery closed in 1982 and pieces made there are now much sought after by collectors.



[Alec] Ross Fielding (1880-1947) played professional football for Stoke, Nottingham Forest and West Bromwich Albion. He retired from the game in 1909 and joined his father in the family business.

He proved himself to be a capable businessman and handed over the reins at The Devon Pottery to his own son Reginald (born 1907).

After his parents moved out of 182 Longton Road Ross and his wife Gertrude lived there. Ross's son, Reginald married Mary and they lived at Trentham Ley for many years.



Ross Fielding Stoke team photo 1905-6 season [Stoke City Football Club]



Abraham and Mary Fielding with son Ross and grandson Reginald [family collection]