

A Short History of R. F. Mosley and Company Ltd

By Jeff W. Warner

The Company of R. F. Mosley earned its place in history by being the first company to manufacture and market cutlery produced from a new material later to be known as STAINLESS STEEL. Most of us know that stainless steel went on to become such an essential part of our everyday lives that it would be difficult to think of a world without it. In more ways than one it represents the changed world occupied by us now as compared to the world as it existed in Victorian times. For so many years the Victorians had believed that steel which did not rust would be the end to all their problems, and many companies and individuals spent much of their lives in a quest to solve the problem, to them it became a bit of a holy grail. By the turn of the century things had changed, Electro plating had almost solved the problem of rust proofing, at least for decorative goods and the quest had now manifested itself in the search for other improvements. Better mass production techniques, the discovery of man made materials like aluminium oxide abrasive for grinding, vulcanised rubbers for bonding and phenolic resins, industrial ceramics and high speed steels, &c., ran alongside a quest for improved precision instruments, which in turn made for more accurate fitting. In the clamour for swiftness of production and greater accuracy the search for rust-less steel had almost become overlooked.

By the late 1880s the big steel producers had begun to rely more on chemists, led mostly by the developments of Henry Clifton Sorby, in the search for more consistent mixtures of raw minerals used in steel making. Chemists were employed to apply their skills in the better control of steel melting, mixture and analysis, it was essential that steel could be manufactured the same repeatedly to suit the job it was required to do, and that these properties could be analysed and tested by the chemist to prove that it had been made correctly. Harry Brearley was employed in the relatively new position of analytical chemist, by the company of Thomas Firth & Sons Ltd. He was at his prime of life after working in Riga, Latvia, (part of pre Communist Russia) for a few years before heading the laboratory at Firth's in Sheffield. It will be well known to many by now how Brearley discovered rust-less steel, but what else could he do with it, since his employers were apparently initially not interested enough in it to develop it any further than armaments. Brearley managed to get in contact with Ernest Stuart who was then the 'Cutlery Manager' to **R. F. Mosley & Co Ltd**. Eventually, as we shall see, Harry was allowed to explain to Mr. Stuart how to work with the unusual properties of this new steel and advised him on how to overcome the problems that had been encountered by cutlers working with old conventional methods, which had failed in the first trials. Brearley and Stuart under the umbrella of **R. F. Mosley and Co. Ltd.** then went on to greater triumphs. The new rust and stain resisting steel eventually became the essential material for table cutlery and a whole world of other uses it now enjoys.

This Short History is about the Company and the man that had the forethought and capability to make all this happen, **Mr Robert Fead Mosley**.

The Mosley Family beginnings – London

Robert Fead Mosley was born into a family of well known London jewellery and allied trades manufacturers. He had twelve siblings, his father running the family owned business set up by his own father, Robert's grandfather, **Richard Mosley and Co.**

It seems by the 1800s several branches of the Mosley family have connections with the jewellery trade in and around Hatton garden area of London, which would have been established since Georgian times and maybe before. The early family history is obscured due to the lack of records kept, and incomplete church records of births deaths and marriages. These problems are not uncommon when researching the teeming metropolis of early Georgian London, however, it is estimated that Richard Mosley (senior) was born sometime during 1772 at Holborn London.

Although it's unknown exactly when the Mosley family became involved in the jewellery trade, by the turn of the 18th into 19th century they were well established and written evidence proves their continuing provenance.

The exact relationships of all the fractured lines of the Mosley families are convoluted and difficult to define as some of the parish records are incomplete with many children from the different family lines choosing similar names. Being born within a year or so of each other, there are many Richard's, Robert's, Charles's and William's in existence at the same time, to add to the confusion. Although we don't know much about the early family connections, fortunately after 1800 things become a little clearer and later in the chapter we will consider who else in the extended family was working in the trade.

As far as R. F. Mosley's ancestors are concerned, as we know Richard was born sometime in 1772 and married Mary Wyatt at St Andrews Church, Holborn 11th Aug 1795, both were single. The International Genealogical Index records that Richard and Mary had three children, Hannah christened 14th Aug 1798 at St Andrew's Holborn (Parents home Charles St). Richard, christened 17th Jul 1796. St Andrew's, Holborn.(Parents home Charles St) and William, christened 23rd Aug 1801. St Andrew's, Holborn.(Parents home Castle St). Unfortunately the child Richard dies aged 5 and is buried 7th April 1802 (Last address Castle St). Richard's wife Mary also dies in 1805 and is buried in St Andrews church, last address is Castle Street. Of this early history the only record of note is filed with the Guildhall London under the Sun fire insurance records for 1792 giving – **William & Richard Mosley 30 Charles St Hatton Gdn 1792 (MS 11936 / 387 / 601939)**

Richard now remarries to a Nancy Arabella sometime in 1806 as their first child together Richard is born on the 3rd Jun 1807 at Castle Street and christened 9th Aug 1807 at St Andrew's church, Holborn.

The London directory listings mirror his movements and add a little detail, it appears he was working alongside his brother William.

1808 – Mofley Rich. & Wm. Goldsmiths, Jewellers, and Bead-Manufacturers, 89, Cattle ftreet, Holborn (*The 89 likely to be a printing error which should read 39*)

Richard and Nancy's next child Mary Ann was born 6th Nov 1809, Castle Street, christened 5th Jan 1810 St Andrew's, Holborn, followed by **Cornelius Lewis Mosley** born 6th Aug 1812 at Castle St, christened 22nd Nov 1812, at St Andrew's, Holborn, who would be R. F. Mosley's father. Their last child was Arabella christened 21st Nov 1814 at St Andrew's, Holborn.

The records of Goldsmiths Hall London were transcribed and published by Grimwade and selected entries are available online as follows (*Indentures were signed in 1814 for Robert the son of Robert Fenn, butcher of Gray's Inn Lane to be Richard Mosley's apprentice. He is recorded as a 'Jeweller' of Castle Street*) another entry records that (*Richard Mosley entered a maker's mark at Goldsmiths Hall 1823-25 as a 'Goldworker' of 39 Castle Street*)

One other intriguing piece of research turned up from the 'Pigot's Dublin directory of 1820' which lists a – **Mosley William & Richard, wholesale jewellers, 17, Anglesea Street. Dublin,** I wonder if these are our Mosley's from London?

The London directory records the brothers working together from Castle Street at least until 1825 as the 1826 directory describes.

1826 – Mosly Rich. And Wm. Goldsm. 39, Castle-st. Holborn. The next directory listing shows us for

1827 – Mosley Richd. Working silver smith, 39 Castle st. Holborn. This directory entry tells us that by mid-1826 Richard is probably working on his own. This is also the last London directory listing for Richard as he died on the 30th April 1827 at Castle Street, he was buried 7th May 1827 at St Andrew's, Holborn, his last Will and Testament is dated 20th Mar 1827.

As I have suggested at the beginning of this section, other branches of the Mosley family are working in the same area of London in allied trades, however, due to the nature of the business and the selectiveness of directory entries (People die off or may not have the resources or will to keep a directory entry) the London directory's show very disjointed Mosley listings, some continuity can be found, however.

From at least 1808 Martin Mosley is working as a *watchmaker & jeweller*, from 6, Bevis-marks, St. Mary-axe until about 1820, but although the spelling of this Mosley seems to change to Mosely he may well still be related. The Robert Mosley and Son side of the family and ascendances work from 113, Fetter-lane, being listed at various times as – *working jeweller, bead manufacturers, watch and clock makers*, until at least 1847, with other Mosley's coming and going throughout the years.

After Richard died in 1827 it is apparent that his son **Cornelius Lewis Mosley** continues the business of **Richard Mosley and Co.** Entries in the London directory for the following few years record that the business changes slightly as the new owner begins to make his mark. Not only does the nature of the business change but also the premises from which he works. The last entry for three years being for **1830 – Mosly Rich. & Wm. goldsmiths, Strand** (the spelling of Mosley being wrong in the directory giving doubt as to whether this is a different family although unlikely). The next entry is for 1833 giving us two entries for Richard and one entry for Cornelius's brother William, Cornelius having moved into a premises previously occupied by a surgeon Greville Jones. William Mosley's (Richards brother's) premises being unlisted in the directory.

1833 – Mosley Rich. Birmingham agent, 84 Hatton garden (Robson's Directory)

1833 – Mosley Rich, Dealer in buildg materials, 24 Hampstead rd

1833 – Mosley Wm. Agent, 70 Hatton garden

I believe these entries would be correct for the time, although it is likely that the address of 84 Hatton Garden should read No 8. A review of later entries may help to explain better how Cornelius is actually continuing his fathers business.

The entry for 1835 is similar to the 1836, but the 1836 listing is much more concise –

1836 – Mosley Rich. & Co. *Steel-Pen-manufs.& Birmingham & Sheffield-warehousmen*, 8 Hatton garden

1836 – Mosley Wm. *Birmingham & Sheffield-wareh.* 75 Hatton garden

I estimate that Cornelius is much more of a progressive businessman than his father. I feel he is keeping his options open as to the best way of making the business a success without having to employ highly skilled workers spending a lot of time manufacturing jewellery for little return, times had changed and the demand now was for practical items made in the industrial north and midlands of England. Although Victoria was not yet on the throne people were becoming aware of the need for literacy, recording knowledge, education and accountability, the opulence and indulgencies of the Georgian and Regency periods being now, a thing of the past.

During the early 1800s a Birmingham based but Sheffield born entrepreneur, Joseph Gillott, had devised a way of making pen nibs by mass production, employing mostly unskilled labour (mainly women). When in Sheffield he had become manager of the famous steel makers, Samuel Fox, who had built his business around making a unique style of rib for umbrellas. In about 1821 Gillott had left Fox's in Sheffield and had moved to Birmingham where he eventually set up his pen making empire, developing and patenting his steel nibs. His pen making business is said to have been founded in 1827 just in time for Cornelius L. Mosley to take advantage of the blossoming trade by selling pens from his London outlet. It is probable Cornelius's London business would have made the accompanying pen holders, cases and instruments that went with the nibs, also stocking related items from the Birmingham and Sheffield trades. It would also be highly likely he would already have had good knowledge and contacts in the silverware, gold and jewellery trades in Birmingham.

We now know a lot more about the sort of things being produced in these two centres of industry Birmingham and Sheffield. It is likely that Richard Mosley & Co became a supplier to the London retail trade for things like cutlery, tools, fenders, silver and silver plate from Sheffield, and from Birmingham things like measuring instruments, locks, toys (toys to people from Birmingham were not children's playthings but items including pliers, cork screws, button hooks, shoe buckles etc.), all to feed the growing needs of an expanding early Victorian London population.

Cornelius would have been twenty four years old in 1836 and William a little older at thirty five. Richard and William Mosley's directory listings are pretty much the same for about the next ten years. It is also likely that Cornelius and William's brother Richard Mosley, was working for Cornelius at the same time as a Richard Mosley of 8 Hatton Garden registers a 'small workers' mark [RM] at Goldsmiths Hall in 1835 – 1842, however, this could be a cousin (son of Robert) as the same mark then passes to Robert Mosley from Dec 1849 (This mark is usually seen on silverware).

On the family side Cornelius Lewis married a twenty one year old local girl Emma Morgan on the 7th March 1835, and they went on to have fourteen children together. Emma Morgan, being born to William and Maria on 24th December 1815, and like Cornelius was christened at the Old Church, St Pancras, London. Their first child Emma was born 8th February 1836, christened – 7th Mar 1836 at St Andrew's Church, Holborn.

The following children will be listed below as descriptions will be confusing and long winded. (Ch = Christened.)

EMMA MOSLEY Birth – 08 FEB 1836. Ch – 07 MAR 1836 Saint Andrew, Holborn
 MARY ANN MOSLEY Birth – 09 APR 1837. Ch – 01 MAY 1837 Saint Andrew, Holborn
 ALBERT CORNELIUS LEWIS Birth – 10 NOV 1839. Ch – 05 DEC 1839 St Andrew, Holborn (died)
ROBERT FEAD MOSLEY Birth – 23 AUG 1841. Ch – 05 OCT 1841 Saint Andrew, Holborn
 GEORGE LEWIS MOSLEY Birth – 20 JUN 1843. Ch – 12 JUL 1843 Saint Andrew, Holborn
 WILLIAM MORGAN MOSLEY Birth – 27 MAY 1845. Ch – 19 JUN 1845 Saint Andrew, Holborn
 ANNETTE MOSLEY Birth – 21 JAN 1847. Ch – 16 FEB 1847 Saint Andrew, Holborn (died)
 ANNETTE MOSLEY Birth – 04 JUL 1848. Ch – 31 JUL 1848 Saint Andrew, Holborn
 LOUISA MOSLEY Birth – 17 JUN 1850. Ch – 11 JUL 1850 Saint Andrew, Holborn
 WALTER TUCKER MOSLEY Birth – 29 MAY 1852. Ch – 23 JUN 1852 Saint Andrew, Holborn
 ALBERT CORNELIUS MOSLEY Birth – 17 APR 1854. Ch – 11 MAY 1854 Saint Andrew, Holborn
 ALICE MOSLEY Birth – 06 APR 1856. Ch – 11 JUN 1856 Saint Andrew, Holborn
 ARTHUR EDWARD MOSLEY Birth – 21 MAR 1858. Ch – 29 MAY 1858 Saint Andrew, Holborn
 FLORENCE MARIA MOSLEY Birth – 02 OCT 1862. Ch – 09 DEC 1862 Saint Andrew, Holborn

Albert Cornelius Lewis Mosley died in 1841 leaving Robert Fead Mosley as the elder son, however, he did not take over the running of the business, as we will see he had his own company to run.

Cornelius Lewis Mosley was a successful businessman and needed to be, to be able support his large family. The 1841 census (the first useful census) confirms what we know already, although in March when the census was taken Albert is still alive and Robert F has not been born. Cornelius L. is a steel pen maker living with two Emma's a Mary and two servants at No 8 Hatton Garden. Business wise, by 1847 his London directory listing has expanded to include –

1847 – Mosley Richard & Co. steel pen holder & pencil case makers & Birmingham & Sheffield factors, 8 Hatton garden.

On the 28th February 1848 Cornelius Lewis Mosley had to attend the Old Bailey for the trial of one of his employees forty eight year old George Woollis - for embezzling and stealing 50 sovereigns, from his masters, to which he pleaded guilty, he was transported for seven years. (Old Bailey Reference t18480228-800)

In 1850 C. L. Mosley takes out an advert in at least one journal, no doubt aware of the interest caused by the preparations for the Great Exhibition in London where he would attend the exhibition as exhibiter, No 107 under Class 23 (works in precious metals, jewellery &c) in the south central gallery. Although he is basically exhibiting pens he oddly shows them under the class of precious metals as some of his nibs are made of the unusual metal iridium, whereas most other people exhibiting pens were grouped under Hardware, the full prospectus entry is as follows –

**107 Mosley, Richard, & Co., 8 Hatton garden –
 Manufacturers**

Gold pens tipped with iridium, in various forms. Gold and silver pencil cases, pen holders, &c., of various kinds.

[Iridium is an extremely rare substance, generally found in combination with platinum as an ally, from which state it is separated with difficulty. The name was derived from the remarkable play of colours exhibited by some of its soluble salts. – R. E.]

Unfortunately, Mosley did not win a medal or receive an honorary mention, but I have no doubt that the publicity did not do him any harm, remembering that as a London based business a captive audience of retailers would be within a short a distance from his door on their visit to the Exhibition. This advert from around the time of the Exhibition is just fancy text with a simple border.

ωψωψω GOLD PENS ωψωψω
Richard Mosley & Co's Gold Pens
still maintain their character & the very best
that have yet been manufactured,
The best quality 10/6 each, guaranteed not
to go wrong or wear at the points,
Accidents or violence excepted
The second quality 8/6, far superior to those
generally sold for Everlasting Gold Pens
SOLD BY ALL STATIONERS, JEWELLERS &c
MANUFACTORY, 8 HATTON GARDEN, LONDON

1850 Mosley advert.

Most pen makers exhibited under Class 22 **Iron & General Hardware**. Richard Mosley & Co did not exhibit under this class but Joseph Gillott did, winning a Prize Medal along with nine other English pen makers and two from France. Perhaps if Mosley had exhibited under this class things may have turned out differently, on the other hand the firm had started out as jewellers so perhaps they were in the right class after all. A typical illustration of the style of English pen being made at the time is shown next to the text for Joseph Gillott. The pencils illustrated were made by Sheldon's of Birmingham.

Today collectors find pens and pencil cases made around this period uncomfortable and unwieldy to use and over ornate in appearance, consequently they are not highly collectable and do not command great prices at auction.



Sheldon's Gold Everpointed Pencilcases.

324 GILLOTT, JOSEPH, *Victoria Works, Birmingham*—
Inventor and Manufacturer.

Specimens of metallic pens.

[Steel-pen making may be briefly described as follows: The steel is procured from Sheffield; it is cut into strips, and the scales removed by immersion in pickle, composed of dilute sulphuric acid. It is passed through rollers, by which it is reduced to the necessary thickness; it is then in a condition to be made into pens, and is for this purpose passed into the hands of a girl, who is seated at a press, and who, by means of a bed and a punch corresponding, speedily cuts out the blank. The next stage is piercing the hole which terminates the slit, and removing any superfluous steel likely to interfere with the elasticity of the pen; at this stage they are annealed in quantities in a muffle, after which, by means of a small stamp, the maker's name is impressed upon them. Up to this stage the future pen is a flat piece of steel; it is then transferred to another class of workers, who, by means of the press, make it concave, if a nib, and form the barrel, if a barrel pen. Hardening is the next process: to effect this a number of pens are placed in a small iron box and introduced into a muffle; after they become of a uniform deep red, they are plunged into oil; the oil adhering is removed by agitation in a circular tin barrel. The process of tempering succeeds; and, finally, the whole are placed in a revolving cylinder with sand, pounded crucible, or other cutting substance, which finally brightens them to the natural colour of the material. The nib is ground with great rapidity by a girl who picks it up, places it into a pair of suitable plyers, and finishes it with a single touch on a small emery wheel. The pen is now in a condition to receive the slit, and this is also done by means of a press; a chisel or wedge, with a flat side, is fixed to the bed of the press, the descending screw has a corresponding chisel or cutter, which passes down with the minutest accuracy: the slit is made; and the pen is completed. The last stage is the colouring, brown or blue; this is done by introducing the new pens into a revolving metal cylinder, under which is a charcoal stove, and watching narrowly when the colour desired is arrived at. The brilliancy is imparted by means of lac dissolved in naphtha; the pens are immersed in this, and dried by heat. Then follow the counting and selecting. Women are mostly employed in the manufacture, with skilled workmen to repair and set the tools. This exhibitor employs upwards of five hundred hands, of which four-

fifths are women. The manufactory has been established upwards of thirty years, and has been the means of introducing many improvements in the manufacture.—
W. C. A.]

Gillott exhibited in Class XXII
Iron & General Hardware.

Mosley Family connections

Before we consider the Mosely's from after 1851 and the Great Exhibition, we should look at the history of some Mosley family connections, in that some people and places from this period might have some influence on events in the future. First we should consider who else in the Mosley family were working in the jewellery trade. As we know the trade directory listing from 1808 tells us that —

<p>Mosley Rich. & Wm. Goldsmiths, Jewellers and Bead-manufacturers, 39, Castle Street, Holborn Mosley Robert & Son, Working Jewellers, 113, Fetter-lane Mos. Geo. & Thos. Brown Stone Pottery, Princes-st. Lambeth</p>
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We know that Richard was working with his brother William, and that Robert would have been a close relation, but as seemingly the very name **Mosley** can be and often is spelt a few different ways, it's hard to know exactly who is related to whom, as we can see from the next London trade directory of 1811:

Mosely M watch & clock maker, 6, Bevis-marks, St. Mary-axe
Mosely Robt. & Son, jewellers, 113, Fetter-lane
Mosely Wm. Carpenter, 32, Brick-lane, Spitalfields

Mosley Jos. Lapidary , 18, Albermarle-st. Clerkenwell
Mosley Robt, & W. working jewellers & bead makers, 39, Castle-st. Holborn
Mosley Wm. Jeweller, 8, Helmet-row, St. Luke's

The spelling of **Mosley** as it appears in the trade directories clearly has an influence on where in the order of names their name is situated, thus adding to the confusion. Obscuring also arises as we continue with the London directory listing (only significant entries have been included)

1818 – Mosely M. watchmaker & jeweller, 6, Bevis-marks, St. Mary-axe
1818 – Mosley Rob, jeweller & bead manufact. 113, Fetter-lane
1818 – Mosley R. & W. goldsmiths & bead manuf. 39, Castle-st. Holb.

1819 – Mosely Martin (seemingly unrelated as wrong spelling) 6 Bevis Marks
1819 – Mosley A. & Sonjeweller, &c113, Fetter lane
1819 – Mosley R. & W.working jewellers, &c...39, Castle street, Holborn

1822 – Mosley Rich. & Wm. Goldsmiths, 39, Cattle-ftreet, Holborn (Robsons Directory)
1822 – Mosley Rob. & Son, Jewellers, 113, Fetter-lane (Robsons Directory)

1823-4 – Moseley R. & Sons. Jewlr (394, 703) --- (394) Mosley Robt. & Sons, 113 Fetter-la
1823-4 – Mosley R. & Sons, watch m (703) --- Mosley Robt. & Sons, 113 Fetter-la
1823-4 – Mosley R. goldsmith (321) --- Mosley Richd. 39 Castle-st, Holborn
1823-4 – Mosley Wm cutler (259)

1833 – Mosley & Son, Watchmakers, 113 Fetter la
1833 – Mosley Chas, Jeweller, 20 Sweetings alley
1833 – Mosley Rich. Birmingham agent, 84 Hatton garden (Robson's Directory)
1833 – Mosley Rich, Dealer in buildg materials, 24 Hampstead rd
1833 – Mosley Wm. Agent, 70 Hatton garden
1833 – Mosley Wm. Working cutler, 21 Lit Saffron hill

After a few years the inconsistent directory listings settle down and the true picture is revealed. By 1836 we can see who is doing what and where:

1836 – Mosley Robt. & Son, Jeweller, 113 Fetter lane
1836 – Mosley C. Goldsmith & Jeweller, 20 Sweeting's alley, Cornhill
1836 – Mosley Rich. & Co. Steel-Pen-manufs. & Birmingham & Sheffield-warehousmen, 8 Hatton garden
1836 – Mosley Wm. Birmingham & Sheffield-wareh. 75 Hatton garden

Similar confusions are experienced by the researchers of marks attributed to silver and gold workers, as although attributed to say a Richard or Robert Mosley

nobody quite knows which one of the many relations to choose from or who actually filed the mark.

Last will and testaments are similarly fraught as often mentioned are brothers, daughters, sons, cousins, nieces, nephews, all Mosley's of unknown age with similar first names, all mostly working in London in the jewellery or related trades. As time moves on and the children of Richard Mosley and those of his son Cornelius Mosley turn their hand to business, it becomes a lot easier to sort out who is doing what and where.

Fortunately the other people I will discuss as influential in the Mosley story are easier to pin down, although that is not to say I have a concise history of them, their families or their connections to the Mosley's, there is always more to discover and learn.

Next we will look at the family of Benjamin who started out as jewellers but went into the pen making business at about the same time as C. L. Mosley. Cornelius L. Mosley would have known of most of his own rivals in the jewellery trade and would definitely have known of anyone following him into the trade of pen manufacturing. As to whether the two families were competitive rivals, or if they were partisan to each other, may never be known.

The London directories show that Benjamin Benjamin moved into No 68 Houndsditch in about 1836 as the 1837 directory lists him as such. Benjamin took over part of the premises from a Thomas Appleton a Copper and Pewter smith, and worm maker (screw maker) who remained at No 69 Houndsditch.

Much of the large Benjamin family were still working as jewellers, watch makers, stationers etc. in the London of 1841.

Ben Benjamin seems to have been at the property 68 Houndsditch until at least 1843 when the premises was taken over by John and Frederick Binge as hardwaremen and dealers in cutlery. The London Gazette reports that the Binge partnership was dissolved by mutual consent 2nd October 1845 (London directories in the National Archives are missing for the dates 1844, 45, & 1846). The Binge brothers may have been agents working for the Hobson Brothers of Sheffield as the London directory shows us that by 1847, Henry Hobson a merchant and Cutler, undoubtedly advised by Cornelius Lewis Mosley, had moved into No 68 Houndsditch, but more about the Hobson connection will be discussed later.

Mosley Family after the Exhibition of 1851.

I am unable to find the 1851 census return showing us Cornelius Lewis Mosley living at No 8 Hatton Garden with a house full of family, but further searching reveals that Robert Fead Mosley and his younger brother George are at a boarding school in Milton next to Gravesend in Kent. The school is run by a Richard S Trousdale a teacher in residence along with his family. There are only fifteen pupils in total, R. F is nine and George is seven years old. The family business must have been doing fine enough to give the two boys a good start in life, away from the distractions of their siblings, and away from the hustle and bustle of the Richard Mosley & Co. business in London.

For the Mosley family the Great Exhibition would have taken up a lot of resources in time, men and stock, enough to keep both operations running effectively. No doubt to drum up more sales and take advantage of the interest from the Exhibition, C. L takes out another larger advert which appears in the London Directory of 1852.

RICHARD MOSLEY AND CO.,

8, HATTON GARDEN, LONDON,

MANUFACTURERS (OF THE BEST QUALITY) OF

GOLD AND SILVER PENCIL CASES, PEN HOLDERS, GOLD PENS, &c.

RICHARD MOSLEY AND CO.'S GOLD PENS

Still maintain their character as the very best that have yet been introduced. Their lasting qualities are admirable. The writer has merely to suit his hand, and he is for many years supplied with a Pen which never alters. They have all the pliancy and softness of the Quill. They never cut the paper, and the ink flows freely and pleasantly. After hours of use the hand will not tire as with the ordinary pen, and the writing remains the same, from the impossibility of the point wearing.

A LARGE STOCK ON HAND OF EVERY DESCRIPTION OF

INK STANDS, CUTLERY, LEATHER GOODS, IVORY AND PEARL GOODS,

AND VARIOUS OTHER ARTICLES SUITABLE FOR

STATIONERS, JEWELLERS, FANCY WAREHOUSES, &c. &c.

Mosley Post Office London Directory Advert 1852

The next piece of the paper trail is from the 1861 census return which shows us for the first time the family divided between two areas of the country. For this short history it is quite interesting in that the census shows us a 'snap shot' of Robert Fead Mosley age nineteen and of working age, as a clerk to scissor makers in Sheffield, but more will be discussed in detail later. The census return for the London side of the Mosley family show us that nine children are still in residence at No 8 Hatton garden, along with their mother, and three servants - Cornelius is not present. George L. is now seventeen and a 'dressing case maker'. William Morgan at fifteen is a 'cabinet maker' the rest are either at school or helping around the home, the whereabouts of Cornelius is unknown.

A report in the London Gazette dated 23 February 1866 tells us that Edwin James Smith Stationer and Fancy warehouseman of Bristol was bankrupt, and that Cornelius Lewis Mosley was one of the two persons allocated to attest to the worth of his goods as a trustee and creditor, showing us that C. L. Mosley had respect and credibility.

Henry Hobson

Before we consider the Mosley business in London any further we must take a look at the movements and operations of a Mr Henry Hobson of Sheffield (one of the Hobson Brothers previously discussed), as he and his family had influence and close connections with the Mosley family. I must also add that most of the research from the Sheffield line of the Hobson family was done by Geoffrey Tweedale and is included in his book '*Tweedale's Directory of Sheffield Cutlery Manufacturers 1740 - 2010*'

Although the beginnings of the Hobson family are once again unclear, Henry's father Edward Hobson it seems is first listed in the Sheffield directory from 1825 as -

Hobson Edward, razor manufacturer, and dealer in all kinds of hardware, 18 Snig hill

Having an outlet in the capital city of London is always an advantage to any business, and it is likely Edward Hobson had relatives living and working ‘down south’ at a time before he began marking some of his goods and knives made in Sheffield with the Fleet street, London address. The London directory shows that from 1840 –

Hobson John, tallow chandler & oilman, 3 Salisbury ct. Fleet st

Henry Hobson was born to Edward and his wife Hannah in 1823. In 1841 he married Ann the only daughter of razor manufacturer and cutlery dealer, John Pearce, who had moved from Gibraltar Street, to Angel Street, Snig Hill, Sheffield in the 1830s. Henry Hobson became Pearce’s manager after marriage.

Tweedale notes – “In 1843, both Pearce and Hobson were called to the Town Hall to answer charges that they had been marking blades of common steel as cast steel [a far superior material]...” (*Sheffield Independent*, 30 September 1843).

Tweedale also tells us that it appeared from 1845 Henry Hobson sets up business with his brother John Barber Hobson as Hobson Brothers, although not listed in the Sheffield directory until 1852, the London directory of 1847 reports that –

Hobson Henry, merchant & who cutler, 68 Houndsditch

How Cornelius Lewis Mosley first met with Henry Hobson is unknown. It is likely that Mosley’s connection as a dealer in Sheffield goods, and the reputation of Edward Hobson’s knives would have bought them together, remembering that although Mosley was a dealer in fancy pens and pencils, he would have sold a great variety of pen knives for making quill pens too.

The Sheffield directory compiled in 1851 but issued for 1852 tells us –

Hobson Brother, (John & Henry,) cutlery merts. Bank buildings and London

Having taken out the Sheffield directory list a short time before, the London Gazette dated 16th November 1852 issued this:

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore existing between us the undersigned, Henry Hobson, of Houndsditch, in the City of London, and John Hobson, of Sheffield, in the county of York, carrying on business together as Hardwaremen, in Sheffield aforesaid, under the firm of Hobson, Brothers, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. – Dated this 12th day of November 1852.

Henry Hobson.

John Hobson.

John Barber Hobson returns to working at his father’s address at Snig Hill and is listed in the Sheffield directory for 1854 as:

Hobson John B. manufacturer & general dealer in cutlery, joiners’ & edge tools, saws, files, bowie, dirk & lock knives, 67 Snig hill

Henry and John’s father, Edward, dies in 1856 aged 59 and John Barber Hobson continues working from his father’s old premises until the 1860s. By 1876 he was at King Street. He was last listed as a cutlery dealer in 1907.

After John Barber and Henry Hobson's partnership dissolved in 1852 it appears that Henry Hobson remained resident in London and operated under his own name. After John Pearce, Hobson's father in law died in 1860, Hobson continued to trade as John Pearce & Co. Cutlery dealers of Queen Street, Sheffield until about 1870.

Henry Hobson's London business is so successful that by 1851 he occupies both 68 and 69 Houndsditch. His census return shows us that he and his wife Ann are both 28, and they have a daughter Mary Ann, aged 8, born in Sheffield, and a son, Henry, aged 2, born in London. They also give a home to London born George Emery, shop boy, age 14, Caleb Jameson apprentice, age 16, and two general servants, all living at 68 Houndsditch.

Robert Fead Mosley

We left R F Mosley after his schooling at Maidstone in 1851 and he is next traced by the 1861 census as being a clerk to a scissor maker in Sheffield. The full details of the 1861 returns are that he was living with, and working for, George Oates an established scissor maker. The Sheffield directory lists George Oates from 1837 as scissor and dagger maker, 14 Steel house Lane, and by 1841 as scissor manufacturer and beer house keeper of 40 Hoyle Street. By 1851 George Oates has left Hoyle Street, dropped the beer house and moved to Gatefield Works, Loxley working as a 'Scissor manufacturer' age 49 employing 30 people and living with his first wife Elisabeth in Chase House Loxley, their daughters having already married and left home. By the 1861 census George Oates is age 59 and living with his young 23 year-old second wife Matilda as a 'Scissor manufacturer' employing 20 men, 14 women and girls and 19 boys. He is giving a home to his 17 year old grandson, George Oates Law, who is also a clerk, Ellen Law his 15 year old granddaughter, who is still at school, two general servants and boarder Robert F. Mosley age 19 and a clerk. Some people have suggested that R. F. Mosley was apprenticed to George Oates but this seems unlikely due to the trade of the family he comes from, his schooling and the great future we now know he had, it's doubtful he 'got his hands dirty' involved in the nuts and bolts side of the business. Oates' home was by this time at Belmont, Uppertorpe, where he died later that same year on the 11th December 1861, he left most of his effects to his wife Matilda. The twenty year old R. F. Mosley was then at liberty to set up his own business.

By 1864 R. F. Mosley has his business listed in the Sheffield directory as –

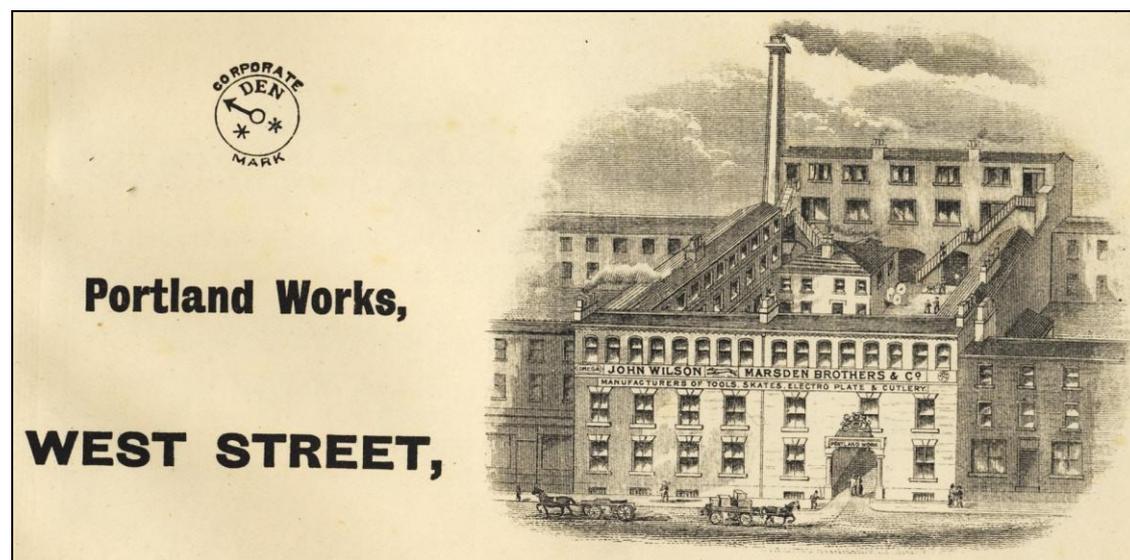
Mosley Robert F. scissor and table knife manufacturer, 214 Brook hill

In the same Sheffield directory of 1864 under scissor makers, he also has an address of 114 Sarah Street, which is likely his home address too. His works premises seem unstable for the first few years as his business expands. It is also likely he took on some of Oates workforce since he is still operating as a scissor maker until he gets established in the broader cutlery trade. In Robert's private life two things seemed to be moving forward as in the late summer of 1865 he marries Martha Ann Hobson, the eldest daughter of Henry Hobson the London cutlery dealer in Houndsditch. They marry at the Highbury Wesleyan Chapel in London and their first child Amy Mosley is born a year later in London during the last quarter of 1866. It seems that Martha might have stayed with her parents until R. F. organised their new home in Sheffield. The works would have continued under managers and supervisors if R. F was away in

London with his wife. The Sheffield directory shows him still working from Brookhill in 1868, but by 1871 he has moved to West Street, his home since before 1868 now being Rutland Lodge, Collegiate Crescent, in the fashionable well to do part of town - he was clearly moving up in the world. They had six children in total but only four children were born before the census of 1871. Henry Hobson Mosley, winter 1867, Lilian Mosley, winter 1868 and Robert Frederick Mosley, in the summer of 1870.

As expected the 1871 census return shows us Robert Mosley a 29 year old cutlery manufacturer with his wife Martha A. age 28, 4 year old Amy, Henry H., age 3, Lilian age 2 and Robert Frederick age 1, along with one visitor and 4 general servants (including a child nurse) all living at 19 Collegiate Crescent.

Forever moving forward, by 1871 Mosley had moved his business to a shared works in Portland Lane just off West Street, this was called Portland Works and consisted of small units or parts of floors used as temporary manufactories and for smaller businesses unable to keep a whole premises. This Portland Works was demolished about the turn of the century or shortly after, Portland Street still exists just off West Street but any original buildings have long since gone.



Portland Works about 1895 when in the ownership of Marsden Brothers & Co.

Being so young and starting out in business of his own, it is likely R. F. Mosley had some help from someone either for financial support or to help run the works, and it appears a Henry Lawton was an important person in the early business of R. F. Mosley. Henry would have been in charge of manufacturing and may have been one of George Oates' men. Although we don't know exactly when they got together the London Gazette dated 7th November 1873 reports that –

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Robert Fead Mosley and Henry Lawton, as Cutlery Manufacturers, at Sheffield, in the county of York, under the style or firm of R. F. Mosley and Co., was dissolved, by mutual consent, on the 25th day of June, 1873. – Dated this 31st day of October, 1873.

R. F. Mosley.

Henry Lawton.

After this apparent splitting of partnership it doesn't mean to say that the Lawton family, or indeed Henry Lawton had any more to do with the business, because as we

shall see, some of the Lawton family were still involved in the Limited Company. For Mosley the time at Portland Works must have been particularly successful and rewarding as he was able to commission the building of a new works on the south side of Sheffield in Randall Street (near the Sheffield United football ground). Permission for the new works was approved on 15th September 1876, and by the directory listing in 1879, the new works were occupied. R. F. Mosley called these new works, Portland Works, largely to give a consistent address to anyone who ordered his goods (particularly the foreign trade) and in small part to pass on a little of the success and goodwill from his previous humble premises.

Not to get too far ahead of ourselves, the R. F. Mosley family had moved home again by 1876 to Croft House at 81 Lyndhurst Road, a building of some 13 rooms, a place he would call home until he died.

The 1876 and 1879 Sheffield directory listings are as follows. –

1876 – Mosley Robert F. table cutlery and scissors manufacturer, Portland works, 224 West st; h Croft hs. Lyndhurst rd

1879 – Mosley R. F. manufacturer of table cutlery, scissors, pen and pocket knives, &c. Portland Works, Randall street; h Croft house, Lyndhurst road, Brincliffe

The London view from 1861

The meteoric success of the business of R. F. Mosley in Sheffield must be due in no small part to the success of the businesses in London run by his father, C. L. Mosley, and his father-in-law, Henry Hobson, as they were likely selling some of the goods he made. I have no doubt that if the products made by Robert in Sheffield were not up to the standard demanded by the London trade, then he would not have got the orders and made the sort of money needed to be able to commission new works. Conversely, for Cornelius and Henry what better for them to have a relation making cutlery and special order items executed to specific instructions, as opposed to having to choose items from a general ‘Sheffield list’ or to deal with cutlery firms who might not give them priority or be able to complete orders to their satisfaction. For R. F. Mosley having never completed an official ‘apprenticeship’, or had to follow the rules of the establishment like the ‘Company of Cutlers’, he was at liberty to do – within reason – what ever he wanted. R. F. not being born in Sheffield, or having inherited his fathers ‘Cutler’s mark’, was not bound by the same rules as a true ‘meister cutler’ from Sheffield.

Note: - During the research for this history it has been noticed that there is a lack of advertising and marked R. F Mosley items particularly from the early period. The items and advertising that is marked seems to come from a later date. One possible explanation for this is that all his products were going to London or for export mainly to the Commonwealth. Maybe too he did not want to bring his business to the notice of too many people in Corporate Sheffield in case they started insisting on enforcing traditions and rules. Another point which has been noted is the fact that, as soon as the new Portland Works was open for business, R. F. Mosley let out some of the, as yet unused, parts of the building to recognised Sheffield cutlers, possibly as a way of appeasing the ‘Company of Cutlers’ as at least some work done on site would involve some of its members.

The 1861 and 1871 Census returns for Cornelius Lewis Mosley and Henry Hobson shows us two fairly well-to-do families living in comfort and wealth surrounded by their children, some of whom are working and some are enjoying the privilege of living at home. C. L. Mosley is not present for the 1861 census, but Emma, age 48, is at home along with nine of their children, the oldest boy George Lewis is 17 and a 'dressing case maker', William Morgan 15 is a 'cabinet maker' and the rest are either at school, helping round the home or too young to do either. They have three servants, at their Hatton Garden address.

For Henry Hobson the 1861 census shows us that he has moved from Houndsditch to a better part of London at No 8 Highbury Hill near Newington Park North London, just a short train ride away from his work. 'Wholesale cutler' Henry is 38 as is his wife and their eldest daughter (soon to marry R. F. Mosley), Martha Ann, is 18, their seven other children are all still at school or too young. They have a visitor Elizabeth Pearce who at 57 is a 'house proprietor' and a relation to Henry's wife. Four servants complete the household. Henry's wife Ann died age 46 in the first quarter of 1869. Henry remarried on 9th April 1870 at the Holloway Congregational Church to Kezia Stuart the daughter of the Reverend Alexander Stuart.

We find the Hobson's in residence still at No 8 Highbury Hill in the 1871 census return. Henry is now 48, his wife Kezia is 38 born in Chipping Barnet, Hertfordshire. Henry his eldest son is 22, and a 'merchant' following his father into the business as 'Merchant, wholesale cutler and Electro plate', his second son Alfred is a 'bookkeeper'. The other five children are still at school, they have four servants.

The London directory records the Hobson's changing fortune –

1865 – Hobson Hy. & Co. mers.& who. Cutlers, 68 & 69 Houndsditch NE

1868 – Hobson Henry & Co. wholesale cutlery, elctro plate, comb, tooth, nail, cloth, hair & shaving brush manufacturers, general & export merchants, 68 & 69, Houndsditch NE; also at 60 Queen street. Sheffield

1874 – Hobson Henry & Co. wholesale cutlery, elctro plate, comb, tooth, nail, cloth, hair & shaving brush manufacturers, general & export merchants, 68 & 69, Houndsditch NE; also at 60 Queen street. Sheffield. See advertisement

HENRY HOBSON AND SON,
CUTLERY MANUFACTURERS,
ELECTRO-PLATERS, AND GENERAL MERCHANTS,
68 & 69, HOUNSDITCH, LONDON,
AND 60, QUEEN STREET, SHEFFIELD.

A Large Stock of all kinds of Cutlery, Carpenters' Tools, Electro-Plated Goods, Brushes, etc., etc.,
in Stock at their London Warehouse.

•• Shipping Orders for any kind of Sheffield Goods executed on the Shortest Notice.

1874 London Directory advert.

Although from the 1874 directory entry the firm is called **& Co**, the advert has the firm as **Henry Hobson & Son**. The London Gazette dated 27th February 1875 lists the partners of The Alliance Bank Limited two of whom are, Henry Hobson of 68, Houndsditch, E.C. – Gentleman. His brother John B. Hobson of Fulwood-Road,

Broomhill, Sheffield – Cutlery manufacturer, is also listed. The title ‘Gentleman’ at this time, usually means a man has independent wealth or he has retired, and one suspects that Henry has already left the business in the capable hands of his **Son**, giving guidance and reassurance where needed.

As for the Mosley side of the family, we know that C. L. was still keeping the firm on track by the time of the 1861 census, but by 1871 Cornelius is 58 his wife Emma 55, they are still keeping house to six of their children. George Lewis, age 27, is now a traveller (sales representative) and only the youngest Alice is still at school, the rest are enjoying the benefits of the labour of others. Also present in the household are an 18 year old (boy) friend and two servants.

Richard Mosley and Co no longer list extensive products in their directory entry, describing themselves only as ‘merchants’. On the 3rd July 1877 the London Gazette announces:

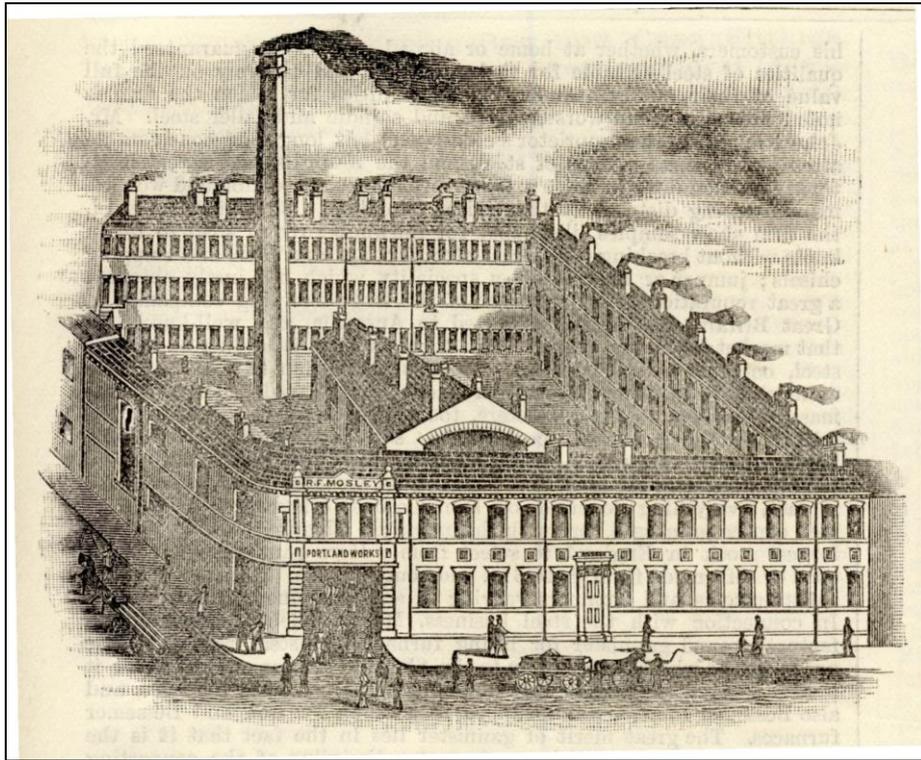
NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Cornelius Lewis Mosley and Alfred William Mosley, carrying on business at No. 7, Hatton Garden, Middlesex, under the firm of R. Mosley and Co., as Merchants, was dissolved, on the 30th day of June, 1877, by mutual consent. All debts due to and owing by the late firm will be received and paid by the said Alfred William Mosley, by whom the said business will, in future, be carried on. – Dated this 30th day of June, 1877.
C. L. Mosley.
A. W. Mosley.

Cornelius was 65 when he opted out of the firm leaving a son of his half brother William to continue the business, whether he still bought items from R. F. Mosley’s company, perhaps will never be known. Cornelius and his wife moved to Foxley Road, Lambeth, where they appear on the 1881 census return along with one daughter Louisa age 30, now working as a ‘wholesale stationers assistant’, obviously she was keeping her hand in the old family business, they also keep one servant.

Cornelius Lewis Mosley died on 25th August 1885 leaving his effects (under £432.10s) to his wife Emma.

Of Robert Fead Mosley’s brothers and sisters only George Lewis Mosley makes any further mark on the world, in 1884 he is a Licensed Victualler running the ‘Duke of Cumberland’ pub at 16 High Street, Kensington, West London, and in 1888 he is listed as also running a ‘chandler’s shop’ at, 16 Roseberry Street. Southwark Park Road, South East London, but this is short lived. After he died on 6th September 1902 his wife Kate continues to run the pub in Kensington.

The R. F. Mosley & Co firm matures



Portland Works, Randall street, Sheffield c.1895

If there is really nothing much in the way of contemporary literature written about an individual or a firm, one of the few ways to do research is to look at their census returns and the census return for R. F. Mosley in 1881 shows us that he is 39 a 'Cutlery & silver plate manufacturer' employing 200 men, 20 boys and 20 girls. Three of their children are still at home, two of them at school, the last child, Albert Oswald is only 1. Martha Ann, age 38, has her father, Henry Hobson age 58, the 'merchant' to stay and R. F. has his unmarried sister, Alice age 24, from London visiting. Four servants help keep the house running smoothly.

Back in London, Kezia Hobson is keeping their home in Highbury Hill to four of her stepdaughters and one stepson, the eldest daughter Alice is 27 and the youngest child is the 16 year old, George Frederick, who is an 'apprentice cutler'. They have one visitor from Sheffield, a 69 year old widow Jane Thornhill. Henry has called his home "Hallamshire House".

One of the few bits of nonsense written about the Company appeared in '*The Industries of Sheffield*' one of many publications printed at the time to celebrate the coming of the new millennium, proudly hoping to encompass all the firms and trades of Sheffield. These were often full of high minded Victorian intensions to show off the diversity and range of products produced. It was just a pity that most of the firms were still highly secretive and suspicious of other people knowing their business, after all who would want to let their customers know what was really going on with the firm especially if most or at least some of the goods sold had been factored elsewhere. These publications are at best vague, at worst completely wrong and should not be

relied on as primary sources for research. I have estimated this piece to have been written in about 1895 before the formation of the Limited Company.

R. F. Mosley & Co., General Cutlery Manufacturers, Portland Works, Randall Street.—A leading firm engaged in the great cutlery trade of Sheffield is the well-known house of Messrs. R. F. Mosley & Co., of Randall Street. This business was founded about thirty years ago, and during this period—a period in which many valuable improvements have been made in this great branch of industry—has achieved an unqualified and well-deserved success. The well erected premises known as “Portland Works,” in the occupation of this firm cover about three-quarters of an acre of ground, and provide every facility for the class of trade carried on. The buildings fronting to the street are two stories high, those running to the rear being three stories, and these combined comprise offices, handsome showrooms, systematically arranged stockrooms, well equipped packing, cutters’, silver, and electro-plating rooms, forge shops, grinding mills, etc., the different workrooms being thoroughly provided with all the necessary steam power, machinery, and appliances required in the carrying on of so large a trade. Messrs. Mosley & Co. manufacture every kind of cutlery, and have earned a high character for the quality of their productions. A valuable feature of their business, and one which has been made a speciality by them, is the manufacture of case goods on an exceedingly artistic and extensive scale. These cases are fitted up with satin and velvet linings, etc., for the reception of cutlery of the best and highly finished kinds, also for silver dessert and table spoons, forks, fish knives, etc., mounted in pearl, ivory, silver, metal, and other choice mountings. A large quantity of these beautiful goods are always kept in stock; and orders owing to the resources of the firm and the great number of hands employed, can be executed without any delay. The principals (Mr. Mosley and his sons) are actively engaged in the management of the business, to which they give every attention, and are to be heartily commended for the high position their establishment has attained under their guidance.

According to the directory listings in Sheffield and London, whilst Henry Hobson & sons seemingly expands, R. F. Mosley seems to stand still, entering similar information year upon year:

- 1884 – Mosley R. F. table cutlery, spring-knife and scissors manufacturer, Randall street
- 1889 – Mosley R. F. & Co. mfrs. of pen and pocket and table cutlery, scissors, &c. Randall street
- 1895 – Mosley R. F. & Co. manufacturers of table cutlery, scissors, &c. Portland Works, Randall street

- 1882 – Hobson Henry & Son, wholesale cutlery, electro plate, comb, tooth, nail, cloth, hair & shaving brush manufacturers, general & export merchants, 67, 68 & 69, Houndsditch E: also at Queen st. Sheffield

- 1888 – Hobson Henry & Son, wholesale cutlery, electro plate, comb, tooth, nail, cloth, hair & shaving brush manufacturers, general & export merchants, 67, 68 & 69, Houndsditch E: also at 92 Queen st. Sheffield; telegraphic address, “Cutler, London”

- 1895 – HOBSON HENRY & SONS, wholesale manufacturing cutlers, electro platers & foreign importers; established 1845; every description of cutlery, electro plate, Britannia metal goods, tools, watches, clocks, brushes, combs, firearms & appurtenances, leather optical

fancy goods &c. &c. kept in stock at the London warehouse; sole manufacturers of Davis's "Electric" knife cleaning machines also of the celebrated "Hobson's" butchers' knives. General & export merchants, 67, 68 & 69 Houndsditch E; & 92 Queen street, Sheffield; trade mark "Express" – T.A."Cutler" ; T N 4286

This information is not to say that R. F. Mosley was not doing well in business, it might be argued that Mosley was doing better than Hobson since they were diversifying their range and increasing their output of manufactured goods, whereas Hobson was only retailing or at best factoring his stock. In fact both businesses were likely doing well from each others enterprises. As was discussed before, little or no advertising appears from R. F. Mosley at this time and one must ask the question: where were all his products going? If the business was doing so well, who was buying it? Ken Hawley seems to feel that the majority was destined for export and ended up in Africa, Europe or Australia. This is partly confirmed by the discovery of some nice examples of cutlery found by people visiting these countries in the past which have ended up in the Hawley Collection. Another theory which might also be true, is the fact that Mosley might have been manufacturing goods with other people's names on them, like good retailers or hotels, shipping companies etc., disguising the true origins of who made them.

Whatever was really happening between Mosley and Hobson perhaps we will never really know, and we will now leave the firm of Henry Hobson and Son in the more than capable hands of his son Henry Hobson junior. (More about the Hobson firm can be read in the Geoffrey Tweedale book '*Tweedale's Directory of Sheffield Cutlery Manufacturers 1740 – 2010*')

The 1891 census shows us that Henry Hobson senior 68, his wife Kezia 58, and daughter Florence 34, had retired back to Sheffield to live in "Lyndhurst" Rutland Road, along with 3 servants to keep house. Henry Hobson died on 29th July 1897 leaving effects of £3,363. George Frederick Hobson being one of the four executors of his will, R. F. Mosley being another.

To finish off the Mosley family story before the establishment of the Limited Company we have to look to the 1891 census. Robert Fead Mosley is 49 and described as a 'Manufacturer (Cutlery)', his wife age 48. Two daughters and three sons are still at home, the eldest Amy is 24, Henry Hobson Mosley, 23, is 'learning the business as Cutlery Manufacturer' as is Robert Frederick Mosley age 21, the youngest Albert Oswald Mosley is 11 and still at school. The middle daughter, Lilian, is age 22. They have four servants to keep them in the lifestyle they had become accustomed to.

Four years after the census Robert Frederick Mosley married Margaret Lucy Jones in Sheffield during the first quarter of 1895, he moved to Marylebone, London. It appears he wanted to try his hand in the old family business, working as a 'Gold Jeweller'. By 1901 they have a son age 2 born in London, called imaginatively, Fead Robert Mosley. Sometime just before the First World War Robert got together with Arthur Samuel Flowers and set up a moderately successful Jewellery business as Mosley, Flowers & Co. The London directory entries plot their progress.

1914 – **MOSLEY, FLOWERS & CO.** jewellers & dealers in precious stones, goldsmiths, silversmiths & manufactures of gold & silver mounted dressing bags, suit cases &c. 1 Albemarle street W – TA "Mosflo"; TN 498 Regent

1915 – Mosley, Flowers & Co. jewellers, 1 Albemarle street W – TA "Mosflo"; TN 498 Regent

1919 – Mosley, Flowers & Co. jewellers, 1 Albemarle street W1 – TA “Mosflo”; TN 498
Regent

Robert Frederick Mosley’s father R. F. died in January 1921 and his effects come to a considerable sum of money. As an executor of his fathers will it also makes Robert Frederick provision as one of the benefactors. Now a man of independent means it seems that it was now possible to give up the London business, perhaps it was failing a little too. The London Gazette dated 5th April 1921 reports –

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Robert Frederick Mosley and Arthur Samuel Flowers, carrying on business as Jewellers, at 1a Albermarle-street, under the style of “MOSLEY, FLOWERS & CO., has been dissolved by mutual consent as from the 11th day of March, 1921. – As witness our hands this 2nd day of April, 1921.

R. F. Mosley.

A. Flowers.

Robert Frederick Mosley did not survive long after his father had died and his own business had been dissolved, he died 19th January 1926 at the Hotel Bedford, Beaulieu, France.

R. F. MOSLEY & CO., LIMITED.

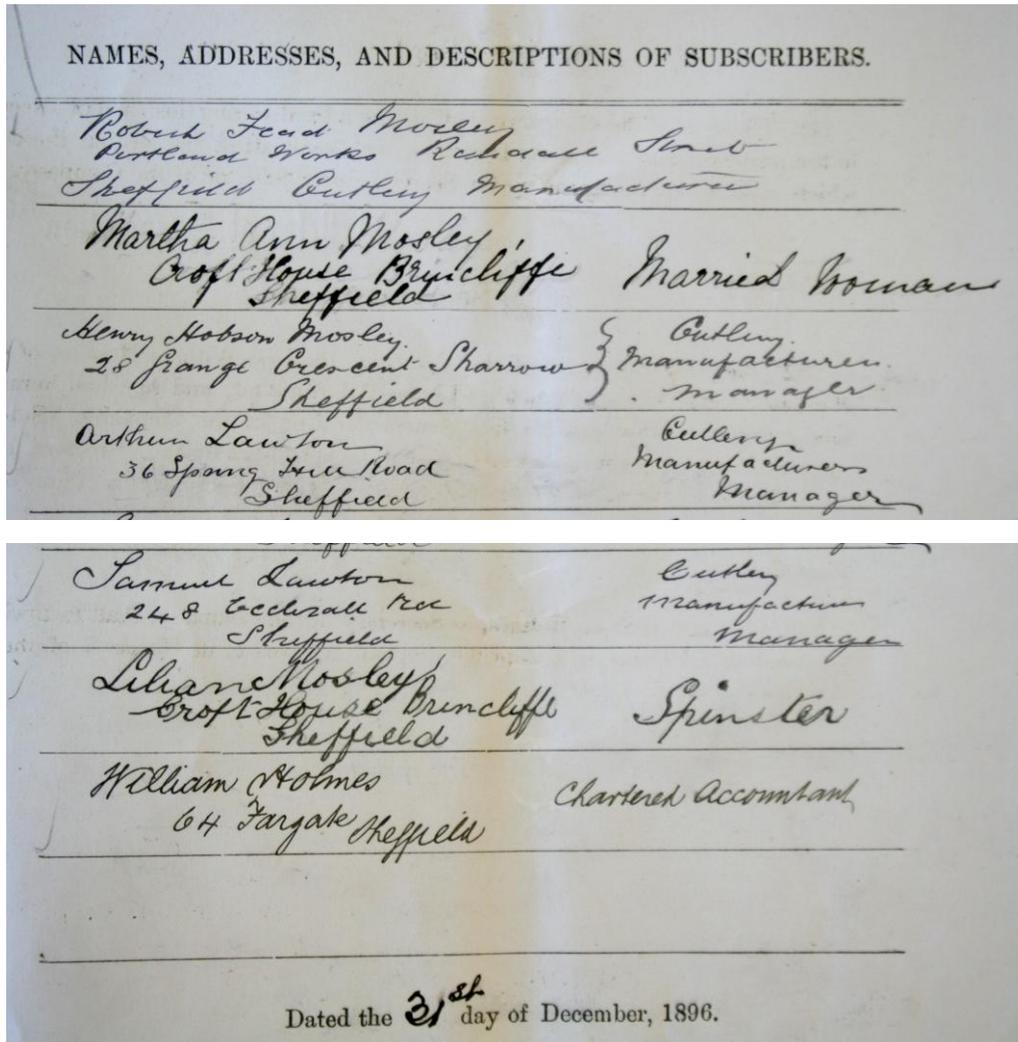
In the following section I will list the main events of the R. F. Mosley & Co Ltd. Since there is an awful lot of information filed with the National Archives in London over the 38 years the Company was in business, there is too much to include here. Most of the information is irrelevant to this history and a lot of it is quite frankly boring, unless you want to study the economic history of this Company at an important time in its existence. I will expand and discuss the relevant important parts at the end of this section. The Company continued on after 1935



The Mosley Company seal

R. F. Mosley & Co., Limited, was incorporated on 2nd January 1897 Company No 50743. Claus 83) Its first directors were Robert Fead Mosley (Md), Arthur Lawton, Henry Hobson Mosley and Samuel Lawton, the Managing Director should take a fee of not less then £520 per annum in equal monthly instalments. Claus 84) there should be not more than five directors or less than three at any time. Claus 86) Directors

should have shares of not less than £500. The 'Articles of Association' of the Company take up more than thirty pages and 143 terms or clauses and if anyone is interested enough I have them available to read. The Company was set up with a capital of £35,000 over 3,500 shares of £10.00.



The names of the subscribers illustrated are as follows –

- Robert Fead Mosley – Cutlery Manufacturer
- Martha Ann Mosley – Married Woman
- Henry Hobson Mosley – Cutlery Manufacturers Manager
- Arthur Lawton – Cutlery Manufacturers Manager
- Samuel Lawton – Cutlery Manufacturers Manager
- Lilian Mosley – Spinster
- William Homes – Chartered Accountant.

The amount and distribution of shares from the 14th May 1897 is as follows, note the addition of Alfred Oswald Mosley

Name	Title	Shares
Robert Fead Mosley –	Cutlery Manufacturer	1711
Lilian Mosley –	Spinster	21
Albert Oswald Mosley	Manager	20

Henry Hobson Mosley –	Cutlery Manufacturers Manager	251
Arthur Lawton –	Cutlery Manufacturers Manager	261
Samuel Lawton –	Cutlery Manufacturers Manager	151
Martha Ann Mosley –	Married Woman	1
William Homes –	Chartered Accountant	1

Now that the Company was incorporated the business of making money was not just left to the enterprises of a few key individuals but was now spread across all those involved in the Company, relieving some of the pressure from those who had worked so hard to bring it to this position. It must have made it easier to trade with other Companies and country's as well as making it easier to employ staff of calibre with proven results.

Without going into all the detailed comings and goings of a vibrant Cutlery Manufacturers at the turn of the century I will list only the important changes to the directorship or any other changes I feel are important to the story.

2nd Jan 1897 – Limited Company incorporated the first directors are –
 Robert Fead Mosley (Managing Director)
 Arthur Lawton
 Henry Hobson Mosley
 Samuel Lawton

26th June 1901 – 10 Shares for Arthur Lawton transferred to Arthur Lawton the younger.

25th June 1902 – Samuel Lawton resigns from the Directorship leaving only three directors – the same as stated previously

1st March 1907 – Directors are –
 R. F. Mosley
 Arthur Lawton
 Henry Hobson Mosley
 Albert Oswald Mosley
 Arthur Dodworth Kirkby – Appointed new additional Director.

4th June 1908 – Special resolution that no more than 50 shareholders at any time.

11th Mar 1912 – The same directors as above. (A. D. Kirkby is a Traveller for the Co.)

22nd Feb 1917 – The same directors as above. A D Chamberlain is a shareholder.

21st June 1917 – Ernest Stuart Cutlery Manager is offered 50 shares in the Company.

18th Feb 1919 – Special resolution Shares divided into 10 £1.00 shares equal to 35,000 x £1 shares, issued capital of £26,000 at £1 each

11th Mar 1920 – Special resolution capital increased to 75,000 making 40,000 more shares at £1.00 each

15th Nov 1920 – Special resolution capital increased to 95,000 making 20,000 more shares at £1.00 each

18th Dec 1920 – Directors are –

R. F. Mosley – Chairman	14,000 shares
Henry Hobson Mosley	500 shares
Albert Oswald Mosley	500 shares
Arthur Dodworth Kirkby	500 shares
Ernest Stuart	500 shares
Arthur Lawton	500 shares
A Donald Chamberlain (Traveller) (London)	500 shares

13th Jan 1921 – Robert Fead Mosley ‘passed peacefully away’.

20th mar 1922 – Directors are –

- Arthur Lawton
- Henry Hobson Mosley
- Albert Oswald Mosley
- Arthur Dodworth Kirkby
- Ernest Stuart
- Arthur Donald Chamberlain

12th Sep 1924 – Registered “RUSNORSTAIN” Trade Mark with cutlers hall and London Trade mark office, – No’s 6419s – 451810 claimed to have been in use since 7th Nov 1914.

31st Dec 1927 – Directors are –

- Arthur Lawton
- Henry Hobson Mosley
- Albert Oswald Mosley
- Arthur Dodworth Kirkby
- Ernest Stuart
- A. Donald Chamberlain

12th Mar 1928 – Henry Hobson Mosley died.
1928 – 1929 – Arthur Lawton died

24th Mar 1930 – Directors are –

- Albert Oswald Mosley
- Ernest Stuart
- Arthur Dodworth Kirkby
- A. Donald Chamberlain
- Robert Clive Mosley – In place of H. H. Mosley deceased.
- Arthur Lawton Jnr – In place of Arthur Lawton deceased.

30th Dec 1932 – Directors are the same as previous.

9th Feb 1934 – Members’ voluntary winding-up – Declaration of solvency.

Declaration of solvency

We ALBERT OSWALD MOSLEY of 305 Fulwood Road in the city of Sheffield
ARTHUR DODWORTH KIRKBY of 234 Graham Road Sheffield aforesaid

ARTHUR LAWTON the Younger of 28 Spring Hill Road Sheffield aforesaid and ROBERT CLIVE MOSLEY of 305 Fulwood Road Sheffield aforesaid being a majority of the Directors of R. F. Mosley & Co LIMITED Do solemnly and sincerely declare that we have made a full enquiry into the affairs of this Company, and that, having so done, we have formed the opinion that this Company will be able to pay its debts in full within a period not exceeding twelve months from the commencement of the winding up. And we make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the statutory Declarations Act 1835. Signed 8th February 1934 – before a Commissioner for Oaths, Harold M. Gowan

9th Mar 1934 – Ernest Western Chartered Accountant and Albert Oswald Mosley appointed receivers of the Company

13th Apr 1935 – Ernest Western and Albert Oswald Mosley cease to act as Receivers I ERNEST WESTERN of Queen's Buildings, Queen street, in the City of Sheffield, Chartered Accountant, being liquidator of R. F. Mosley & Co Limited, a Company in the course of being dissolved, hereby, pursuant to section 17 of the Companies Act 1929, and on behalf of the said Company, testify its consent to the registration of the new Company by the name of R. F. Mosley & Co Limited. Dated this 20th May 1935.

21st Sep 1935 – Old R. F. Mosley & Co Limited fully wound up, shares paid out, and assets, goodwill, premises, customers, stock and machinery transferred to the new Company of R. F. Mosley & Co Ltd.

The appendix lists the names of all the debtors of R. F. Mosley & Co. Ltd at the time of winding up, giving the amount the Company owes them, presenting a snapshot of the sort of Firms Mosley was dealing with in 1934 and the business they did and kind of products they made.

The new firm continues in the capable hands of Albert Oswald Mosley's son Robert Clive Mosley who takes over after his father retires, seemingly soon after the old Company is wound up. The final Sheffield directory entry is 1968.

The R. F. Mosley & Co., family details and connections

The next census record after the formation of the Ltd Company is the 1901 return. Martha Ann Mosley is in residence along with husband R. F. age 59 and his son Albert Oswald who are described as a 'Cutlery & electroplate (white) manufacturer' the white stands for white metals, like silver or nickel. They are all still living at 'Croft House' 81 Lyndhurst Road along with 5 servants.

In 1901 Henry Hobson Mosley age 33 now lives at 28 Grange crescent after having married Edith Emma Greenwood, now 35, in London 29th March 1893, he is described as 'Cutlery manufacturer (spring knife)' and an employer. Their three daughters live with them, Edith Gwendoline age 6, Vera age 5 and Katholine age 3 along with 3 servants.

Of the other Directors in the early days of the Limited Company all these men had been an important part of the Company before incorporation.

Arthur Lawton was born in Sheffield in 1855 he was 46 in 1901 and had been a Table knife manager in 1881, a Cutlery Manager in 1891 and Electro plate manager in

1901, he was married in 1879 to Selina Houldsworth, they have one son Arthur Lawton the younger born in 1880, who was also an Electro plate manager in 1901

Samuel Lawton was Arthur's younger brother born in 1867. He had married Anne Fisher in 1891 and they had had three children together although one child had died before 1901. He was like his brother a 'Cutlery manager', he resigns from the Directorship 25th June 1902, although he is still described as a 'Cutlery manufacturer and employer in the 1911 census so it seems he continued to work for R. F. Mosley & Co Ltd.

Arthur Dodworth Kirkby the son of a joiner was born in Sheffield in 1869 and married Alice Innocent in 1892. He had been a silversmith in 1891, becoming a Silversmith manager by 1901. They had one daughter born in 1894. It seems later, he became a traveller (sales representative) for the Company.

Lilian Mosley is the daughter of R. F. and remains a shareholder until the end of this Company in 1935. She married Friedrich Carl Günther sometime during the late summer of 1899 in London, they lived at 94a Stamford Hill, London.

What the company returns above do not mention much about is the Company showroom in London. Presumably at some point the Henry Hobson connection dwindled away after the death of Henry senior, so what better than to open their own showroom controlled and run from the head office in Sheffield. From the London directory we can see that from 1902 R. F. Mosley Ltd were at No 3 Charterhouse street London EC – Telephone No 1733 Holborn. This entry does not appear in the directory of 1901. They occupied these premises until 1920 when they moved to No 57 Holborn viaduct EC1 – Telephone No City 1424. The address number changes to No 59 in about 1927 but it's doubtful they moved, only the number changed. A new telephone number was issued in about 1934 to Central 3951, just before the London showroom was moved again from 1936 – 1948 to No 18 to 20 Holborn viaduct EC1 – Telephone No City 7587. After 1948 the London showroom ceases to be listed in the directory.

The London showroom would have been a successful addition to the R. F. Mosley Company Ltd as it would have been placed in the heart of the community of retailers selling similar goods. The showrooms might have been just one section of a great building of many floors alongside firms selling a diverse range of stuff from hollowware dealers and butchers suppliers. The address in Charterhouse Street would have been on the north side of the road in the Holborn area on the way to Farringdon, No 3 was shared with a 'Diamond mounter' and a 'General merchant'. The address at Holborn Viaduct would have been especially fruitful since it would have been right next door to the firm of Joseph Buck at 56 one of the largest tool dealers in London. Edgar Tyzack who then owned the Joseph Buck showroom decided to close it down in 1922 shortly after R. F. Mosley had moved in.

It is mentioned in the Winding up papers of the Company in 1934 that the London office closed down and the lease surrendered. Listed below are the –

<u>London office and Showroom expenses</u>	£	s	d
Saleries &c.	492.	0.	0
Rent	200.	0.	0
Agreed amount paid for surrender of Lease	100.	0.	0
Expenses consequent upon change of office &c.	64.	19.	8
Miscellaneous Expenses	30.	3.	2
Plate Licence	5.	15.	0
Repairs &c.	36.	19.	8

This London showroom must have been worth a lot to the Company since the ground rent for half a year on the Randall street property was only £31. 16s. 11d, although the running costs were understandably, considerably higher.

The last of the official paper trails we can look at is the census returns of 1911. This census provides more information than previous census returns however the difficulty of finding who you are looking for and where they were living still remains, made more difficult by only being available to search from the internet.

R. F. Mosley is understandably a 'Cutlery manufacturer' and employer, now age 69 he lives with Martha 68 and shares the 13 room house at 81 Lyndhurst Road with 3 servants.

After being the head of the Company and the main driving force R. F. is still an active part of the company ten years later than this census, when he sadly passes away. His grave inscription reads –

In Loving Memory of
ROBERT FEAD MOSLEY,
CROFT HOUSE, BRINCLIFFE
WHO PASSED PEACEFULLY AWAY ON
JAN^Y THE 13TH 1921 AGED 79 YEARS

ALSO OF
MARTHA ANN MOSLEY
WIFE OF THE ABOVE
WHO PASSED PEACEFULLY AWAY ON NOV^R 5TH 1926
IN HER 85TH YEAR

A synopsis of the will from the probate office in London reads –
1921 – MOSLEY Robert Fead of **Sheffield** died 13 January 1921 Probate **London** 15 April to Henry Hobson Mosley cutlery manufacturer Robert Frederick Mosley jeweller and silversmith and Albert Oswald Mosley cutlery manufacturer. Effects £52966. 7s 9d.

The 1911 census also shows us Henry Hobson Mosley now age 43 is a 'Cutlery manufacturer' but listed as a 'worker' lives with his wife of 18 years and three daughters at 28 Grange Crescent, Sharrow, Sheffield a house with 8 rooms, they don't appear to have any servants in 1911 (sexist comment – perhaps with four ladies in the house all the domestic chores are taken care of). Henry Hobson Mosley tries to keep the Company on track for the next seven years before he died. He is not buried in the 'Family plot' at Fulwood road cemetery. A synopsis of his will is also available as follows –

1929 – MOSLEY Henry Hobson of 28 Grange-crescent Sharrow **Sheffield** died 12 March 1928 Probate **London** 5 February to Edith Emma Mosley widow and Albert Oswald Mosley merchant. Effects £4829 12s. 6d.

Albert Oswald Mosley was the last son to move out of the family home after he married Florence Mary Brotherton in the summer of 1903 at Stockton on Tees where Florence comes from. By the time of the 1911 census they had been married 7 years and have one son Robert Clive Mosley born summer 1905 now age 6. A. O. Mosley at age 31 is described as a 'Cutlery manufacturer' employer. They utilise the services of one servant at their home at No 132 Psalter lane, Sheffield, a house of some 7 rooms.

With the Mosley family dwindling Albert Oswald and his son Robert Clive Mosley manage to steer the Company to its final conclusion. Albert Oswald Mosley

seemingly retires from running the Company after its wound up in 1935, Robert Clive Mosley becoming director of the new Company until its closure, in around 1968 when the last Sheffield directory listing appears. Their dates as they appear on the family grave in Fulwood church cemetery are

In Loving Memory of
FLORENCE MARY
THE DEARLY BELOVED WIFE OF
ALBERT OSWALD MOSLEY
WHO PASSED PEACEFULLY AWAY
ON JUNE 10TH 1932, AGED 55 YEARS

ALSO OF ALBERT OSWALD
SON OF THE AFORESAID
ROBERT FEAD MOSLEY,
WHO PASSED AWAY DEC 18TH 1950 AGED 71 YEARS.

ALSO OF
ROBERT CLIVE MOSLEY
SON OF
ALBERT OSWALD MOSLEY
WHO PASSED PEACEFULLY AWAY

ON NOVEMBER 25TH 1979, AGED 74 YEARS
ALSO OF WINIFRED AUDREY MOSLEY
THE BELOVED WIFE OF THE ABOVE,
WHO PASSED PECEFULLY AWAY

ON JULY 20TH 1984, AGED 75 YEARS.

The discovery of 'STAINLESS STEEL' and R. F. MOSLEY & Co Ltd.

One person we have not discussed in relation the R. F. Mosley Company is that of Ernest Stuart 'Cutlery manager' the man responsible for working the first knife blades from the new steel.

Ernest Stuart was born in the spring of 1875 the middle son of three born to George Stuart a 'stove and fender grinder' and his wife Emily who also had a younger daughter. They lived in Woodside lane in 1881. It has been said that George worked for Joseph Rodgers & sons cutlers, arguably the best and most prestigious Cutlers in Sheffield at the time, which is probably where George is working in 1891 as a 'Warehouseman', he is age 52 and lives at 31 Haywood Road also near his previous address as well as near the Rodgers works at Norfolk Street, all in the Brightside area of Sheffield. George has his three sons still living at home and the young Ernest is 15 years old and a 'Warehouse Clerk'. Ernest was very good at sports as a lad an attribution which would likely have made him a natural leader of men. Someone he knew from school was Harry Brearley, although 3 years older Harry was a sickly child who was probably held back in his class at school due to absenteeism and the fact he was not that interested in what the school had to teach him. Ernest Stuart worked at Joseph Rodgers and Sons Ltd completing an apprenticeship with them and rapidly becoming a 'Table Cutlery manager' by the time he was 25 in 1901. He was still living at home with his mother and father George, who at age 62 was 'pocket knife warehouseman'. They were still living in Brightside, but this time at No 148 Rock

Street. Whilst Harry Brearley was learning his trade at Firths and later at Riga, Russia, Ernest was progressing in his career by joining the management team of R. F. Mosley & Co Ltd. It's unknown exactly when Ernest started with Mosley's but it's likely he started about 1905 when he and his new family were more settled. Ernest married Annie Maria Beesley in Sheffield during the spring of 1901 and they had a son shortly after.

At the time of the 1911 census Ernest is 35 and a 'Cutlery Manager' his wife Annie is 34 and Cyril Frederick Stuart is 9 years old. They live at No 15 Goddard Hall Road a house with seven rooms. What happens next is likely to be as much conjecture as fact, since what actually happened will be shrouded in half truths and perhaps, slight manipulation of the facts in hindsight, years after the actual events. My take on events is as follows –

Harry Brearley having first discovered the unrefined but effective 'Steel that didn't rust' in 1913, presented his findings to his managers at Thomas Firth & Sons Ltd. They were considerate of the results but didn't see any use for this new material other than in armaments, which is what Brearley's experimentation was commissioned for. Everyone including Firth's could see that a war of some sort was on its way and wanted to 'beat the march' on others trying to develop a new steel primarily for use in gun barrels. Brearley realising that it might have other uses suggested to the management that it could be exploited in making domestic cutlery. His suggestion was at first ignored. Eventually Harry convinced Mr Wolstenholme one of the managers at Firth's to give it a go at making table knives, and from January to May 1914 Wolstenholme tried to interest cutlers into working up some knife blades. The steel was sent to two different firms, both of them having strong ties with the Company of Cutlers in Sheffield. On 20th May 1914 Mr. J. W. Ibberson of George Ibberson & Co Ltd. sent a letter to Firths letting them know why he thought the new steel was unsuitable for cutlery. The steel was also sent to Messrs James Dixon & Sons but they too had difficulty in hardening (tempering) and grinding the blades they had also found great difficulty in forging, they did however, show an interest in using the steel, if and when these problems were sorted out. This was not good enough for Harry Brearley and he must have felt almost beaten until a friend reintroduced him to Ernest Stuart.

Perhaps Harry did not know at the time that someone from his past, Mr Ernest Stuart was cutlery manager of R. F. Mosley & Co., Ltd., maybe it too, it was just good fortune that Mosley's had no strong affiliation to any Corporate civic society, that might have influence over what was occurring.

It was in June or more likely July 1914 that this new steel was bought to the notice of Mr Ernest Stuart. Being a keen sportsman and rising to the challenge, within a week Mr Stuart produced some 'rustless' steel knives hafted and ready for use, and although he had experienced great difficulty in making the first few knives, his second attempt at a small batch was not entirely successful either. With the help of Harry Brearley a third batch was produced, Harry giving invaluable advice on hardening, grinding and finishing. Not earlier than September 1914 Mr Stuart made several hundred knives which were distributed amongst friends of Harry and Ernest with the strict request that they be returned if they showed signs of stain or rust under normal use. Most of these knives were made from the second cast of high chrome steel produced by the electric furnace at the Works of Thomas Firth & Sons Ltd, containing 0.25% Carbon, 12.86% Chromium. This mix of steel was not entirely satisfactory for producing cutlery so Harry Brearley commissioned a Mr Shindler of the Vanadium Steel Co to make several small crucible ingots of varied carbon and chrome content to

help determine the best mix for cutlery purposes. These were cast at the end of 1914. The Vanadium Steel Co was used, because the facilities of Thos Firth & Sons Ltd were unavailable to Brearley for experimental work such as this. Some of the new casts were formed into 1 inch ingots to make it easier for Mr Stuart to make into cutlery blades. For the duration of the war the manufacture of this steel was prohibited for use in cutlery and was mainly used for producing aeroplane engine valves. During this war time period Mr Stuart used many tons of scrap bars and small ends to make cutlery.

Most of these observations have been taken from a signed legal declaration from Harry Brearley as told to the Master Cutler, David Flather. The document was written in 1931 and kept by the Cutlers Company in Sheffield. This 'secret' statement was first opened by the Master Cutler 29th June 1960.

In all the time prevaricating about the usefulness or not of the new steel no one had thought to patent the mixture and process, meaning that basically anyone could make it if they had the right facilities. Harry Brearley did understand the importance of patenting his methods and percentage mixture but he could not convince the management at Firths to take the initiative. As it was unlikely he could do anything in England without agreement from his bosses at Firths, Brearley decided to file a patent in Canada and the USA. The Canadian patent was granted in August 1915 and the USA patent 5th September 1916 (see Appendix), several patents were then granted in some European countries. The patent granted in America caused a problem in that Brearley had to defend himself in a court case against a rival US citizen run steel producer.

Because of the delay in recognising the usefulness of this new material and in applying for a patent for England, Firth's did not feel that it was worth bothering with anymore, especially since other many other firms were now 'riding the band wagon' and producing it (see appendix). Eventually after all this anxiety and distress Harry's new steel was firmly established as a material that would revolutionise the world, however slowly that would happen.

When it was apparent to everyone how useful this new steel was and what a challenge it had been to create anything at all from the unworkable second batch of Firth's steel, the R. F. Mosley & Co., Ltd recognised the invaluable dedication and contribution its cutlery manager Mr. Ernest Stuart had made in this achievement by awarding him on the 21st June 1917, 50 shares in the Company worth £500. Ernest Stuart's reputation and standing within the Company was considered so highly that within three years he had become a Director of the Company where he is recorded on the Company account returns for 18th Dec 1920. Ernest at age 45 a director alongside the 79 year old Robert Fead Mosley himself, Henry Hobson Mosley 53, Albert Oswald Mosley 40, Arthur Dodworth Kirkby 51, Arthur Lawton 65, and A Donald Chamberlain from London.

I have no doubt that Ernest Stuart lost his job and Directorship with the R. F. Mosley & Co., Ltd after the Company was dissolved in 1935. Ernest Stuart's obituary tells us that he had been ill since November 1936 and sadly passed away in the spring of 1937 aged 62. Ernest Being the son of a 'warehouseman' had worked his way to the top of his trade as 'Cutlery manager', having endured being called the creator of 'knives that do not cut' alongside his friend Harry Brearley and having anxiously buried his first creations in his back garden (under the Chrysanthemums) to check for himself that they hadn't either rusted or stained. Mr Ernest Stuart must rightfully take his place as the first pioneer of this new 'Rust nor Stain' Steel.

A note on TRADE MARKS and the NEW STEEL

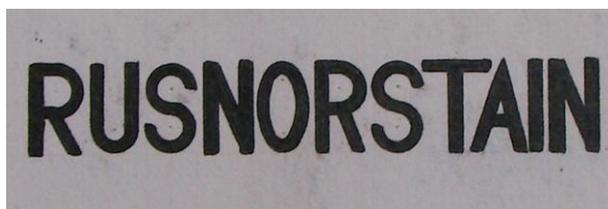
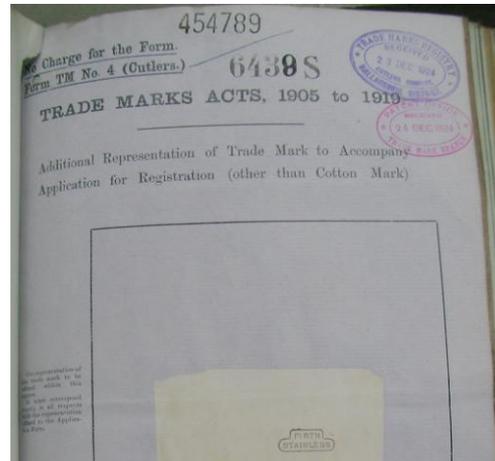
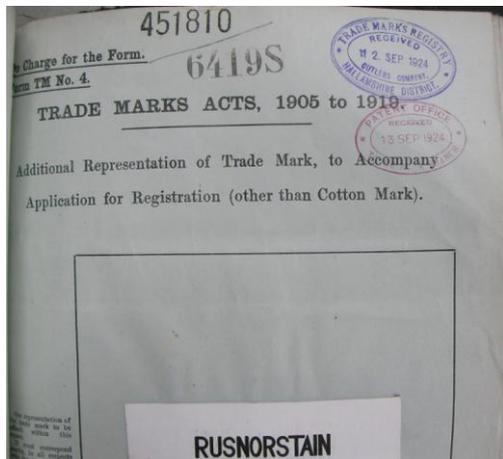
I have hesitated in using the words ‘Stainless Steel’ in the first years of its discovery for the simple reason’ as we shall see’ that this was a Trade name owned by Thomas Firth & Sons Ltd and was not used from the beginning by others. The ability to register a ‘Trade Mark’ with the ‘board of trade’ had only come into being with the Trade Marks Act of 1875 which meant that from 1st January 1876 a mark from anywhere in England could be registered in London. This had already been available to the citizens of Germany France and the USA who set up offices for the administration of marks in the few years before the UK. The only place in England that had the ability to register a Trade Mark by act of the King and parliament was the Company of Cutlers in Sheffield. The Cutlers Company address was Cutlers Hall established from about 1623 near the main parish church of St Peter. The Company of Cutlers had the ability to issue and police trade marks for use by members of the Company, who had to comply with its rules. Marks were originally issued by the choice of the Company or after about 1800 you could apply to have a special mark assigned to you as long as it complied with the stringent terms set by the Company. Originally only knife Cutlers were allowed to become members but from about 1623 Scissor, Sickle, and Shear makers were able to take protection from the Company. From 1860 another Government Act allowed steel makers, edge tool makers and saw maker’s protection of the Company and the ability to register Trade Marks with the Company. The Trade Marks Act of 1875 made provision for the Cutlers Company to remain issuing and policing Marks for use by the previously mentioned trades. Obviously the fact that Sheffield was allowed to do to some extent ‘what it wanted’ did not sit well in the Board of Trade offices in London and caused confusion, so in 1883 a new Act was passed by parliament restricting the issue of all newly applied for Marks to be issued from London only, although it still made allowances for Sheffield to police its own Marks. The Act demanded that five years from 1883 the power of the Cutlers Company of Sheffield to issue Trade Marks was now removed, although they continued to record marks for their own interest. The Company of Cutlers was now distilled largely into a ceremonial and symbolic establishment of local civic importance. The Records of Cutlers Hall show us that the Company still had an important role in protecting the interests of cutlers against foreign competition and the misuse of Trade Marks, they also kept a complete record of all the marks issued in its jurisdiction as well as collecting reassignment fees when due, usually every 14 years.

On the 12th September 1924 a representative of R. F. Mosley & Co Ltd presented themselves at Cutlers Hall to register a Trade Mark, that would have to be officially registered in London. The 1883 legislation meant that Marks had to be recorded in London but did not stop the Company of Cutlers from filling in a page of a ledger with the details of the Mark and issuing a separate number from the ledger page, this was not a legally binding record but was recognised in London as issued from Cutlers Hall Sheffield. The mark details reached London on the 13th September 1924 and a number from the London ledger was then issued.

Mosley registered the use of the Trade Mark “RUSNORSTAIN” and claimed it had been used by the firm from the 7th November 1914. The Cutlers Company number was 6419S. The ‘S’ suffix standing for ‘Sheffield’. The London office number was 451810. Illustrations of the original Trade Mark application forms are given below.

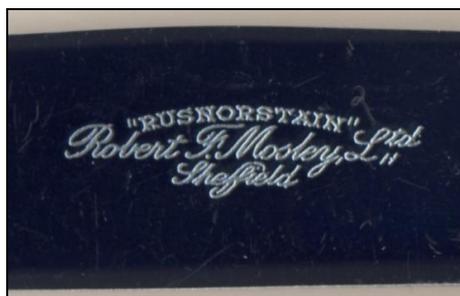
Note – Ken Hawley – *Interestingly although R F M bought steel from Thos Firth for their first knives at least, Mosley’s never had a steel makers mark on their cutlery, only their own trade mark ‘Rusnorstain’.*

Thos Firth & Sons Ltd would have had their eye on what was happening at R. F. Mosley's because of what was happening with 'their' Steel, and seemingly not to be outdone again, also registered a Trade Mark with the Cutlers Company. Issued a few months later than Mosley's Mark, Firths Cutlers Company number was 6438S registered on the 23rd of December 1924. The London number issued the same day was 454789. Firth claimed that their Mark had been in use since February 1915. Three representations of the Trade Mark had to be included in the application, and an original form still survives. See below.

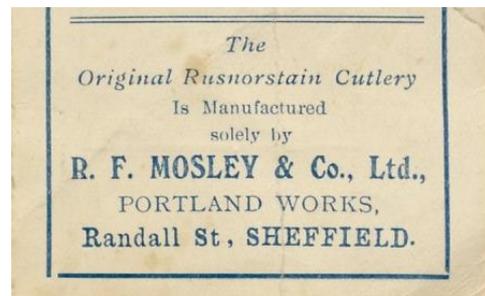


Although, as we can see both Mosley and Firth claim to have used the Trade names they had for the new steel as early as November 1914 and Feb 1915 respectively. Its highly unlikely anything would have been made using these marks, as not only was the war restricting the use of this Steel for cutlery purposes, but also that its unlikely anyone even thought to put these Trade names on anything produced, what proof did the Company of Cutlers need to verify these claim dates or was it just taken as 'the word of the applicant' Why leave it nine years before registering their Marks?

Thos Firth & Sons Ltd chose the name 'FIRTH STAINLESS' to mark the steel used by countless cutlers producing knives using their Steel. A mark familiar to anyone who has handled the older style of Stainless cutlery, in fact the name is so descriptive and familiar it is known the world over as the generic name of the Steel Harry Brearley discovered a hundred years ago.



R. F. Mosley & C., Ltd., cutlery knife mark



and box front

The Social History of the R. F. Mosley Co. Ltd and its importance to the domestic use of Stainless Steel. (Conclusion)

Every aspect of the creation of the R. F. Mosley Company was unusual for a business in Sheffield, Mosley was from London, not a local lad, and he was not bound by its attitudes and traditions, in fact he was probably keen to avoid getting involved. It's likely he had heard the story from Henry Hobson about the incident involving Hobson and his father in law John Pearce that was reported in the Sheffield Independent, of 30th September 1843, a fact no doubt prompting Hobson to relocate in London, and giving R. F. reason enough to keep a low profile with the establishment.

R. F. Mosley's choice in setting up business in Sheffield would have been a result of the discussions between his father and his father in law and would likely to have been a choice between moving back to London and working with and competing with his strong willed father or seeing it through in Sheffield for better or worse.

For Harry Brearley to take a chance and stand against the management at Firth's he needed a lot of good fortune and a number of factors to be in the correct alignment. He needed a Company which was open minded in seeing an opportunity, which was also large enough to give freely a bit of time, money and manpower in a project which may or may not have a successful conclusion. A Company that was not influenced by the establishment and the traditions of Sheffield cutlers like Thomas Firth's themselves, George Ibberson and James Dixon, and finally, it would be preferable to find a Company which had a friend at management level who had influence with his bosses. This was 'big Ask' and it seems R. F. Mosley & Co Ltd was that Company.

It's likely that if any one of these factors was missing then the project might have failed and history would be telling a different story.

I feel that not only was Mosley wise enough to see the potential of a business opportunity but he could see the determination in Harry to succeed in the same way he had done when he had to set up business on his own as a Londoner in Sheffield against all the odds all those years ago.

One must admire the perseverance of Harry Brearley and how he must have felt when he asked his friend Ernest Stuart if he could look into doing something with this new steel, wondering if he too, might fail.

It's highly unlikely Mr Mosley would not have known what was going on in his factory particularly after the first few trials and would also have known that two of Sheffield's more traditional firms had already 'had a go' at making something out of this new material. I feel that R. F. Mosley was more open to suggestion due to his background and could see the potential especially if successful, in using steel that 'did not rust' and exploiting its properties for exported goods to the commonwealth.

A greater part in the story of Stainless Steel must go to R. F. Mosley himself, as without his foresight, investment in time, machinery and men and by putting his reputation on the line not only did the discovery and also the first use for cutlery of the new steel happen in England, but most importantly SHEFFIELD.

Appendix

Harry Brearley filed patents for his new Steel in Canada the USA and Europe. Below is the patent filed in the USA.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY BREARLEY, OF SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND.

CUTLERY.

1,197,256.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 5, 1916.

No Drawing. Continuation of application Serial No. 17,856, filed March 29, 1915. This application filed March 6, 1916. Serial No. 82,301.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY BREARLEY, residing at Sheffield, Yorkshire, England, have invented a certain new and useful improvement in Cutlery, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to new and useful improvements in cutlery or other hardened and polished articles of manufacture where non-staining properties are desired and has for its object to provide a tempered steel cutlery blade or other hardened article having a polished surface and composed of an alloy which is practically untarnishable when hardened or hardened and tempered. This alloy is malleable and can be forged, rolled, hardened, tempered and polished under ordinary commercial conditions.

The invention results from the discovery that the addition of certain percentages of chromium and carbon to iron will produce a steel capable of taking a polish and having the characteristics above referred to. I have discovered that the addition to iron of an amount of chromium anywhere between nine per cent. (9%) and sixteen per cent. (16%), and also an amount of carbon not greater than seven tenths per cent. (.7%) will result in a product which, when made into knife blades, has the said characteristics.

I have further found from experiments that steels containing less than eight per cent. (8%) of chromium are relatively tarnishable whatever the amount of carbon that they contain up to the limit at which they cease to be malleable and capable of being hardened and tempered. I have also found that when the amount of carbon exceeds seven tenths per cent. (.7%) the polished steel is tarnishable whatever the amount of chromium it may contain and that this condition corresponds with the appearance in the steel of free carbids, which are distinguishable microscopically on polished and etched specimens.

A typical composition for the untarnishable steel blades embodying my invention would be as follows: carbon .30 per cent.; manganese .30 per cent.; chromium 13.0 per

cent.; iron 86.4 per cent. In producing such steel I preferably use an electric arc melting furnace. It can be readily made in such furnace. It forges easily into sheets or strips such as are required for knife blades and can be hardened and tempered by ordinary commercial processes.

Knife blades embodying my invention are made from the steel above referred to being formed, hardened and polished by grinding or buffing in the ordinary manner, the product being a polished cutlery blade similar in appearance to other polished blades but possessing the remarkable quality of being practically untarnishable when subjected to the ordinary uses to which knife blades are subjected, because made from the alloy above described. My blades are tempered so as to be sufficiently resilient for ordinary requirements.

Small amounts, up to say one or two per cent. of nickel, copper, cobalt, tungsten, molybdenum and vanadium appear to be without influence on the untarnishable property of the steel.

In practice it is best not to attempt to obtain an alloy containing above .4% of carbon, but rather to try to obtain an alloy containing an amount of carbon less than .4% thus leaving a wider margin for variations from the alloy sought to be produced since the desired result is attained when considerably less carbon is present.

This application is a continuation of my application Serial No. 17,856, filed March 29th 1915.

As is evident to those skilled in the art, my invention permits of various modifications without departing from the spirit thereof or the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is,

1. A hardened and polished article of manufacture composed of a ferrous alloy containing between nine per cent. (9%) and sixteen per cent. (16%) of chromium and carbon in quantity less than seven tenths per cent. (.7%).

2. A hardened, tempered and polished cutlery blade composed of a ferrous alloy containing between nine per cent. (9%) and

sixteen per cent. (16%) of chromium and carbon in quantity less than seven tenths per cent. (.7%), and not containing any microscopically distinguishable free carbids.

3. A hardened and polished cutlery article composed of a ferrous alloy containing between nine per cent. (9%) and sixteen per

cent. (16%) of chromium and carbon in quantity less than six tenths per cent. (.6%).

4. A hardened and polished article of manufacture composed of a ferrous alloy containing approximately carbon 0.30% manganese 0.30% and chromium 13.0%.

HARRY BREARLEY.