

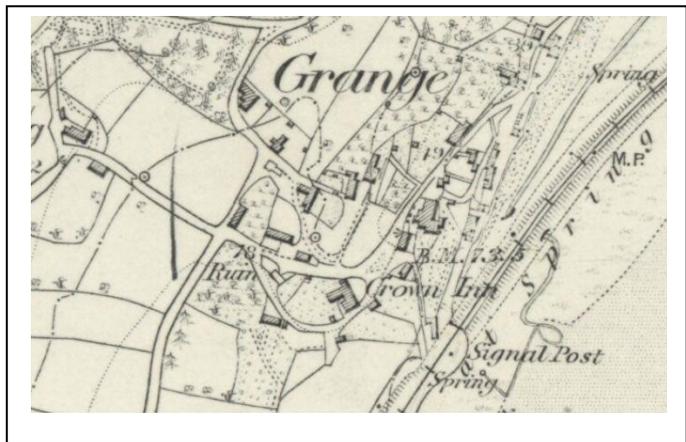
# A 'Department Store' in Grange-over-Sands

## Malcolm McIvor

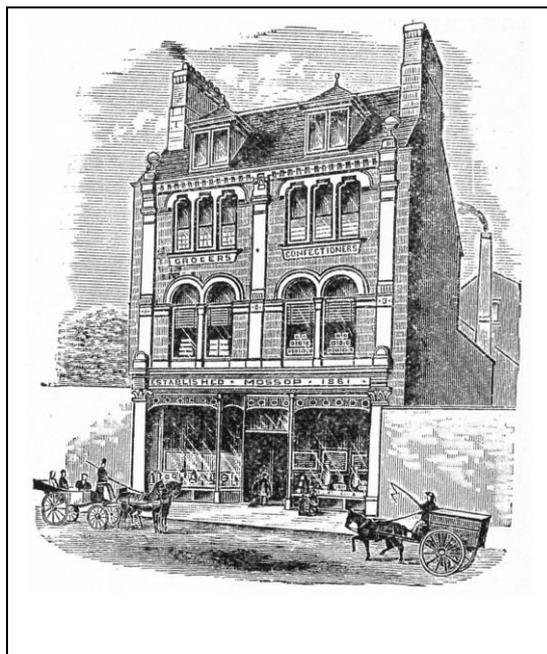
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According to parish registers for the Priory Church in Cartmel, Thomas Mossop, a yeoman, married Ann Burrow there in 1761. Where in the parish they lived is not known but the name 'Mossop' was quite a common one throughout the Furness area and the county of Cumberland. It is known that they had at least one son, George Mossop, born in 1773 and he and his wife Mary followed in his father's footsteps and farmed at Fell Gate near present day Grange-over-Sands. They had three children, Thomas and Ann who remained unmarried and farmed together at The High farm under Hampsfell and another son, William, born in 1810 and became a 'Hoop Maker' for making Creels for the fishermen of Morecambe Bay. He married Margaret Gibson of Hornby and came to live in Grange where they lived in 'Sunnyside Cottage' which was on the site of the current Post Office in the town. There were very few cottages in Grange at this time, as can be seen from the section of the 1851 OS map below.

'Sunnyside Cottage' is the building above and to the right of the 'Ruin' and seemingly included the building on the crossroads and the surrounding land too. The small building to the right of the cottage is still there today and was the stables and coach house for the neighbouring Crown Inn.



William & Margaret Mossop had six children George, William, John, Thomas, Robert and a daughter Anne Isabella. Sadly, George, who went into farming, died at the early age of 20 but all of his siblings became involved in the retail and grocery business. According to the 1851 census Margaret Mossop was a baker and son William, who was just 14 at the time was listed as an 'Errand Boy' so perhaps this was the makings of what was to become a successful Grocery and Bakery business in Grange.



In fact it continues to be so under the 'SPAR' banner but W & J Mossop, Grocers and Provision Merchants were established on this site in 1861.

This alone is quite remarkable since William was only 24 years old at the time and his brother John was 21. If one stands well back from the front of the on Main Street in Grange it can be seen that the building in this picture from the '1906 Little Red Book' for Grange was not built until 1880 so the business must have been based elsewhere and was probably in the building on the map above situated at the crossroads by present day Pig Lane and the High Street. This junction was known for many years as 'Mossop's Corner' and can be seen in archive

photographs with that name, which perhaps goes some way to confirming this assumption. A closer look at the image of the shop may give one the impression of some industrial activity going on behind the shop but building plans submitted for the new shop in 1879 also included plans for stables and a bakery and the chimney in the sketch is probably from the latter.

But what of the Department Store as mentioned in the title? Once again, the 'Little Red Book' for Grange in 1906 also has a full-page spread advertising this very splendid store and is shown below.

There was a Bread & Confectionery Department, which is probably where the business first started, and included the sale of 'jams, jellies and dessert fruits', and there was a Grocery and Provision Department that included the sale of 'cheeses, cooked meats and tea, coffee and cocoa as well as a 'large assortment of proprietary goods'.

Finally there was the Milling Department that not only offered a wide range of milled flour, oats and bran amongst other things but also invited customers to bring along their own oats to be 'crushed and ground or made into oatmeal.

This last service was able to be offered because the corn mill in Lindale would also seem to be in the ownership of W & J Mossop as seen on the bottom of this advertisement.

Established 1861. Established 1861.

**W. & J. MOSSOP,**  
Grocers and Provision Merchants,  
**MILLERS, BAKERS, AND CONFECTIONERS . .**

**Bread and Confectionery Department.**  
ONE GOLD MEDAL AND TWO DIPLOMAS AWARDED FOR BREAD.  
Plain and Fancy Bread, Cakes and Pastry made on the premises daily.  
Brioche Cakes, Birkley Cakes, &c., supplied on the shortest notice.  
**Jams, Jellies, and Dessert Fruits.**  
Mossop's Digestive Brown Bread, prepared from the Finest Wheat by our own process.  
MANHU BREAD. HOVIS' BREAD.  
*Analytical Reports on application*

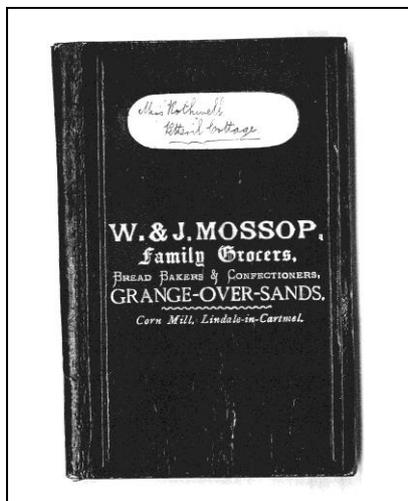
**Grocery and Provision Department.**  
Hams and Bacon, Cheese in variety, Pure Lard, Farmers' Factory and Colonial Butters, Pure Cane Sugars, Tea, Coffee, Cocoa, Rice, Tapioca, Sago, Dried Fruits.  
A large selection of Preserved Goods, including Tongues and other Meats, Salmon, Sardines, Apricots, Peaches, Plums, &c. A large assortment of Proprietary Goods.  
Agents for the Mazawattee Tea Company, Ltd., and United Kingdom Tea Company, Ltd.

**Milling Department.**  
Flour, Sharps, Bran, &c. Oatmeal—fine, medium and round. Oats, Indian Corn, Pea Meal and Indian Meal.  
Linseed and Cotton Cakes—in cake, suttled or ground. Earles & King's Compound Feeding Cake.  
Customers' own Oats crushed, ground or made into Oatmeal.

**W. & J. MOSSOP,**  
Shop & Bakery: Mossop Corner, Grange-over-Sands.  
CORN MILL: LINDALE-IN-CARTMEL.

John Mossop died at the relatively early age of 59 in June 1899 but his partner William continued to run the business assisted by his younger brother Robert until his death in 1916 at the age of 79. He had no family of his own to succeed in the business but John had children from two marriages and these continued to manage the business in conjunction with Robert until his death in 1926.

It was not long after this that new owners were to take over the shop. T D Smiths was the name of the company and they also had branches in Settle and Lancaster too.



For those wishing to know more about the W & J Mossop story, there is an 'order book' in the archive at Barrow Library that makes interesting reading. It is dated 1910/11 and itemises every single item that a Miss Rothwell, of Petterill Cottage in Kents Bank purchased from the store. She paid her bill just once per quarter and the first entry is 'carried over' from the previous order book and amounted to £3-5-8½ which equates in 2016 currency to £259.51, so her quarterly bill would have been well over £300 in today's money. Could you see this happening today except on one's credit card?

Comment by Chris Wright:

The building was designed by James Wright Grundy of Ulverston in 1879 [Z 1367, CRO Kendal]

The illustration from the Grange Red Book, 1906, as reproduced, shows the building as per Grundy's plans of 1879. The two pairs of 2-light, round-headed windows on the 1st floor were to a warehouse. A frieze above had engraved 'GROCERS' in Bay 1 and 'CONFECTIONERS' in Bay 2, but when built, as seen today, these inscriptions form the cills to the 2nd floor windows.