



John Thomas Moore

John Thomas Moore took out a patent for adjustable and portable folding chairs in 1886, and started manufacturing them at Bollin Head Mill, in Langley. Were these the original deckchairs, so called because they were used on the decks of ocean liners?

John Thomas Moore was born in 1846 in Wybunbury, Cheshire, the son of Thomas Moore, a farmer of 109 acres, at Fields Farm, Blakenhall, Cheshire and his wife Ann née Thornley.

In the 1861 census John Thomas aged 15, was at Blakenhall with his father Thomas, mother Ann and brothers, James, Joseph, William and Peter, a sister, Elizabeth and uncle, Peter Moore.

By 1871 John Thomas was at 36 Mill Street, Macclesfield (now The Wardrobe) a draper's assistant in the household of John Meek, a linen and woollen draper. Shortly after on 11 March 1872 John Thomas, the bachelor and draper, of Mill Lane, Sutton married Mary Alice Prichard at Brunswick Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Prestbury.

On 29 January 1873 a daughter Lillie Ann Moore was baptised at Brunswick and died aged 18 in 1891. Another daughter Gertrude Alice Moore was born in 1875 and a son Sydney Herbert Moore was born in 1878. Twins Ernest Prichard Moore and Percy Thornley Moore were born on 13 May 1880, but they both died in infancy. Another daughter Evelyn Prichard Moore was born in 1886.

In 1881 John Thomas was at 38 Mill Lane, Sutton, still a linen draper but by 1887 he was a chair maker living at The Firs, Langley. He made two types of chair: the Waverley, described as "the best ship or lawn tennis chair", and the Hygienic, which was a rocking chair "valuable for those with sluggish and constipated bowels"

In Kelly's Directory of 1892 he is described as a folding chair manufacturer and this is an extract from the Nottinghamshire Guardian of 8 June 1895 reporting on the Nottinghamshire Agricultural Show: Mr J.T. Moore, Langley Macclesfield who visited the show for the third time, showed several of his own patent folding chairs, which have attained great popularity. The chairs can either be placed in an upright position or they may be adjusted to any angle, even to such a slope as to form a couch, and they are extremely comfortable. The requisite angle of seat and back is unfailingly maintained, as the seat is raised correspondingly with the lowering of the back. The chairs have already secured many awards. Not only did John Thomas Moore invent folding chairs but he also won medals at agricultural shows for his designs for corn grinding mills and chaff cutters.

By 1901 he was living at Wood Villa, Langley a chair manufacturer and employer.

He died on 17 February 1929 aged 82 and is buried in the Prichard family grave at St James, Sutton with his wife Alice, who died on 25 March 1944.