

Cecil Frederick Moon

Cecil Frederick Moon was born in Islington, London in 1881 and we first meet him in the records with this fascinating poster distributed by the York City Police in 1905 warranting his arrest. Highly unusual for the time, the portrait of Cecil reflects his status being from a 'good address' and suggests a level of wealth and prestige he most probably enjoyed. Cecil's appearance in the records shows the diversity of the individuals recorded within the Poor Law Union and Workhouse Records and that the records do not just include the destitute or poorest people in York society.

Cecil Frederick Moon, a married man, elopes with actress Violet Campbell to London in the night. He even has a tattoo on his arm, of a vampire no less! Although his story is fascinating and would have been utterly scandalous in middle-class, Victorian York, this poster was commissioned because Cecil was wanted on the charge of desertion of his wife Frances and two children, a 13 month old son named Ronald and baby who was just 10 days old when Cecil left.

YORK CITY POLICE.


TELEPHONE NO. 13. 20th April, 1907.

**Wanted here on Warrant charged with
Wilfully Neglecting his Wife and Two Children.**

CECIL FREDERICK MOON.

A CLERK.

Age 26 years.
Height—5 ft 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ in .
Complexion—Fresh.
Hair—Dark Brown.
Eyes—Brown.
Gentlemanly appearance.
Good address.
Vampire tattooed on left forearm.



Dressed when he left home in Dark Brown Suit, Greenish Plaid Overcoat, Hard Black Hat Brown Wellington Boots, Trilby Collar, Dark Tie with Small Blue Spots, White Cuffs.

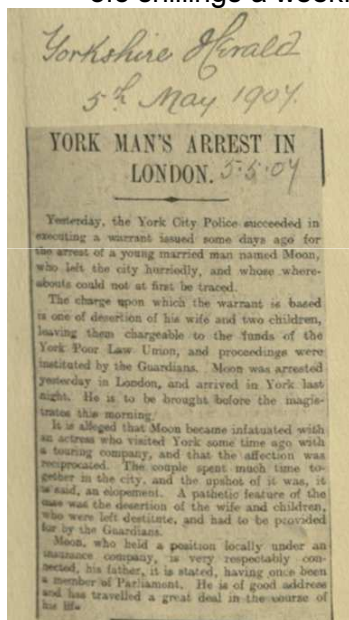
He generally wears a gold ring with Masonic Emblem and his monogram engraved thereon, and a gold albert with silver badge, which has the words "British Association" printed on it in blue enamel letters.

He left York at 1-20 a.m on the 4th inst, in company with a young actress about 20 years of age named Violet Campbell, who was until recently a member of Miss Eva Moss' "Frou-Frou" Company.

Kindly cause enquiries to be made for this man and if found arrest and wire, when an officer will be sent for him or any information as to his whereabouts please forward to me.

JAMES BURROW,
Chief Constable.

Frances, Ronald and her new born baby, like many women and children deserted by their husbands and fathers, were left in destitution with no means of working to support themselves. On the 2nd May 1907 Frances first appears in the Application and Report Books, where she applied to The Guardians for out door relief. She was granted her just 3.5 shillings a week.



Cecil's father was also written to by the Board of Guardians with the request he provide financial aid to this daughter-in-law and grandchildren. This practice was common, for the extended families of individuals to be expected to support their family who were seeking assistance and take the financial burden away from the Board of Guardians. However, Cecil's father did not assist Frances or Ronald. The York City Police issued a warrant for Cecil Moon's arrest and his arrest was reported in this newspaper article in the Yorkshire Herald on the 5th May 1907. After being arrested, Cecil served one month's hard labour in June 1907 in HM Wakefield in West Yorkshire for the offence of Desertion of the Family Union.

Over the years that followed we see Frances, with just her one son Ronald stay in the same area of York, moving from 49 Ferndale Street to 86 Alma Terrace, and she remains reliant on Outdoor Relief from the York Poor Law Union.

It remains unclear what happened to Cecil until 1919, when we find him on active service in World War One with the Commissioned Royal Berkshire Regiment 16-6, a regiment which was stationed in the Ypres Salient. Cecil was awarded the Royal Artillery Field Service Medal in 1919 alongside his regiment.

Cecil never remarried and died in Wandsworth, London in 1959 age 78. It remains to be discovered if Frances ever managed to come off Outdoor Relief or what happened to their son Ronald, or of Violet Campbell's acting career.

(1)
 Frances Moon aged 27 + Child Ronald aged 2
 P again became chargeable on the 18th
 Sept 1908. Received 5/- per week
 Out Relief up to 14th Aug 1909.
 46 Weeks £ 11-10-0 also 3/- for
 + 1/6 Extras Extra making a total
 of £ 11-14-6

PRODUCED TO

Records Consulted:

Records of Cecil Moon's legal case: PLU/13;;Collecting Committee Minute Books PLU/1/4/2-3; Weekly Outdoor Relief Lists PLU3/2/1/162 and PLU3/2/1/156; HMP Wakefield, Nominal Register, 1907 March – June ; Civil Registration and Death Index; UK World War One Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914 – 1940