CHAUNTRY MILLS –

EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

F. D. Unwin – Manager (Textiles)

Frederick Daniel Unwin was born 16th April 1862, the eldest son of George Jarvis Unwin and Mary Ann. At the time of his birth the family lived at Whites Farm, Helions Bumpstead, by 1871 the family had moved to Haverhill and his father is recorded as being a Hotel Proprietor in Station Road. The 1881 Census shows Frederick is employed as a Merchants Clerk and still living with his family, but now in Duddery Road.



1883 saw the marriage of Frederick to Eliza Bigmore, and the move to 17, Chauntry Place where they started their family.

By 1891 Frederick and Eliza had moved their growing family of three children to Crowland House. At this time he was employed as a Commercial Traveller and this was clearly a role that afforded him certain status as he was able to employ a live in housemaid.



By 1911 Hoveton House in the High Street was the family home. Within four years the family had moved again, this time to The Grange, a substantial house in Withersfield which was home until 1930. Their final house move was back to the High Street when they occupied Chauntry House, the former home of Daniel Gurteen (III).



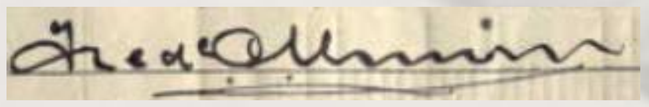
Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Unwin, of Chauntry House, Haverhill, have celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding. Mr. Unwin is the manager of the textile departments of Chauntry Mills, the works of Messrs. D. Gurteen and Sons, Ltd., and from the directors of the firm he received a handsome silver and gilded salver. Employees of textile departments also made gifts. Mr. Unwin has been associated practically all his life with the West End Congregational Church and Sunday School, and from the minister and deacons he received a congratulatory address.

In June 1933 Frederick and his wife Eliza celebrated 50 years of marriage. A report that appeared in the newspapers of the time tell us that they received a handsome silver and gilded salver from the directors of the firm and also gifts from employees of the textile departments.

Frederick Daniel Unwin died on March 27th 1941, leaving a widow, two sons and three daughters.
The previous Monday he attended the monthly meeting of the Haverhill Urban District Council, where he gave a short speech in support of protest against charges being made by the West Suffolk Education Committee to convey pupils to Sudbury Secondary School.
After making that speech he collapsed and was carried home. From that time until his death he never regained consciousness.
His funeral at the West End Church had a large attendance which showed the high regard the town had for him.
He was buried in Haverhill Cemetery.



Frederick D Unwin was employed as a clerk in 1881. Within ten years he was employed as a Commercial Traveller before becoming the head of the ready made clothing section. He eventually gained the position of Manager of the Textile Department. This job entailed a considerable amount of travelling, not only around Britain but also across Europe.



During his employment he became President of the Hair Manufacturers Association of Great Britain and Ireland in 1921, and for some years he had been Chairman of the Coir Mat and Matting Association, a national organisation dealing with the mat making industry.

On March 31st 1937, Frederick D. Unwin retired from the position of Manager of the Textile Department, a position he had held for 42 years. He was the recipient of a solid silver cigarette case from employees of the department, and a cigarette lighter from the staff and foremen.

Outside of his work life, Frederick committed himself to public service. He served as Secretary of the West End Church and later held the post of Church Treasurer. He was elected a life deacon in recognition of 50 years completed as a member. In April 1899 he was elected to the Haverhill Urban District Council, in 1924 he became Chairman and held that position until 1930, but continued to serve on the Council until his death.

Frederick Daniel Unwin was one of the Managers of Haverhill Council School, a Governor of Haverhill Secondary School and was Haverhill's representative on the West Suffolk County Council. He took an interest in the Boy Scout's Association and supported the Haverhill Literary Institute.





Frederick marshalled the processions celebrating King George V's coronation in 1911, the silver jubilee in 1935 and the coronation of King George VI, in 1937.

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