CHAUNTRY MILLS – EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

William Ashplant – Foreman / Manager

William Ashplant was born in 1839 at St Giles in the Wood, Torrington, Devon, where he married Henrietta Bryant from Bristol in 1861. By 1863 they had moved to Ipswich, Suffolk where he found employment as a machinist with Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies.



In late 1871, 32 year old William had secured a job as a manufacturers manager at Chauntry Mills and the family had moved to Haverhill making a home in one of the terraced houses at the end of the High Street. Their neighbours were the Ungless family who had a mineral water business.

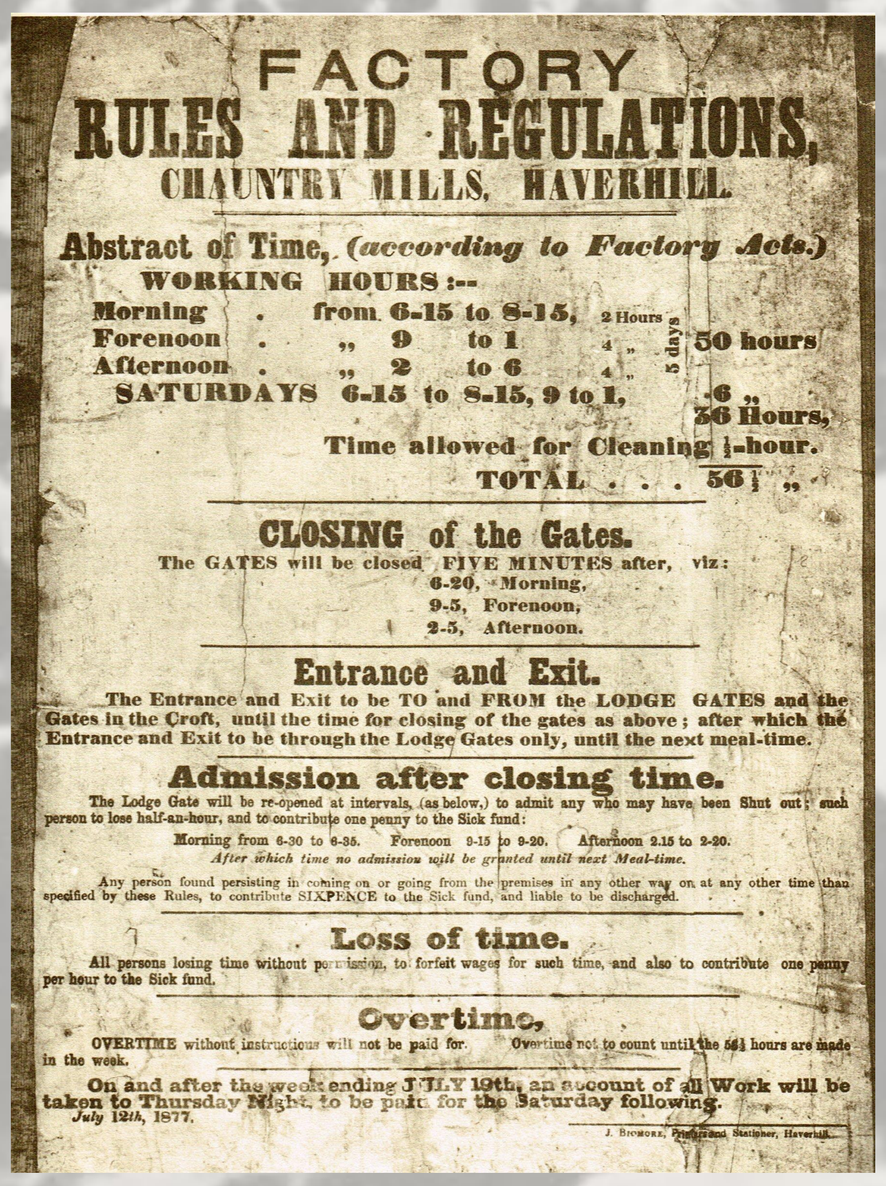
William and Henrietta had four daughters and one son while in Ipswich. Two more children born in Haverhill made the family complete.
Mary born 1863
Henry born 1864
Lilian born 1865
Florence born 1868
Edith born 1870
Henrietta born 1873
William born 1878
Lilian, Edith and Henrietta were all to become teachers.



By 1888, after securing a mortgage of £550 from his employer, the family had moved to Heazeworth House, Hamlet Road. In the 1991 census William described his occupation as Manager and Engineer in Linen and Cotton Weaving Factory.
Heazeworth House can be seen in the photo right which was taken c1911 with Haverhill Brass Band marching past.



There was a sick fund at Chauntry Mills. Contributions were made by employees who were 'shut out' because they were late for work. Read the Rules and Regulations.



FACTORY
RULES AND REGULATIONS,
CHAUNTRY MILLS, HAVERHILL.

Abstract of Time, *(according to Factory Acts.)*
WORKING HOURS :--
Morning . from 6-15 to 8-15, 2 Hours
Forenoon . „ 9 to 1 4 „ 5 days 50 hours
Afternoon . „ 2 to 6 4 „
SATURDAYS 6-15 to 8-15, 9 to 1, 6 „
36 Hours,
Time allowed for Cleaning ½-hour.
TOTAL . . . 56½ „

CLOSING of the Gates.
The GATES will be closed FIVE MINUTES after, viz:
6-20, Morning,
9-5, Forenoon,
2-5, Afternoon.

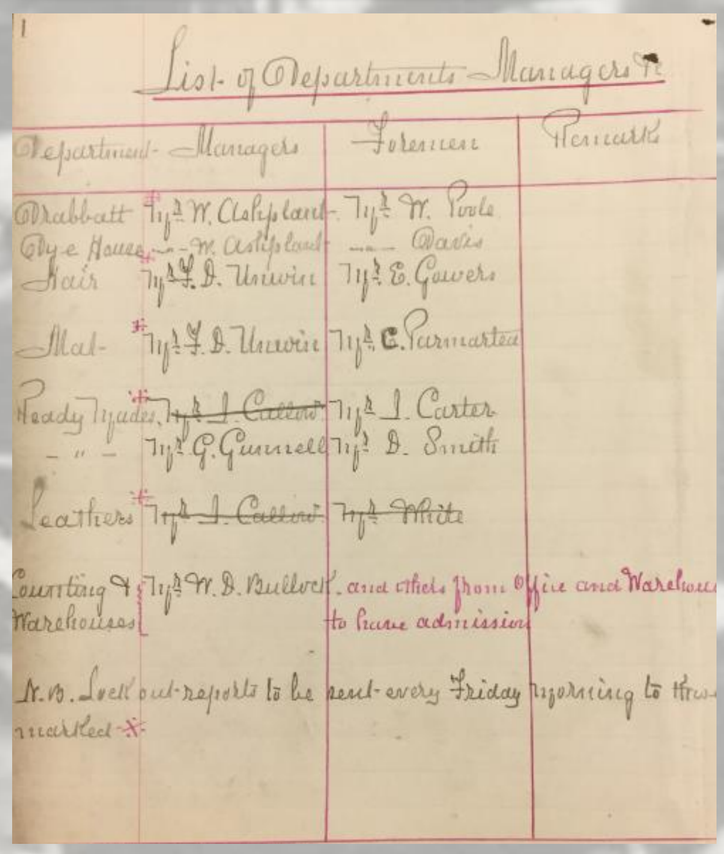
Entrance and Exit.
The Entrance and Exit to be TO and FROM the LODGE GATES and the Gates in the Croft, until the time for closing of the gates as above; after which the Entrance and Exit to be through the Lodge Gates only, until the next meal-time.

Admission after closing time.
The Lodge Gate will be re-opened at intervals, (as below,) to admit any who may have been Shut out; such person to lose half-an-hour, and to contribute one penny to the Sick fund:
Morning from 6-30 to 6-35. Forenoon 9-15 to 9-20. Afternoon 2.15 to 2-20.
After which time no admission will be granted until next Meal-time.
Any person found persisting in coming on or going from the premises in any other way or at any other time than specified by these Rules, to contribute SIXPENCE to the Sick fund, and liable to be discharged.

Loss of time.
All persons losing time without permission, to forfeit wages for such time, and also to contribute one penny per hour to the Sick fund.

Overtime,
OVERTIME without instructions will not be paid for. Overtime not to count until the 56½ hours are made in the week.
On and after the week ending JULY 19th, an account of all Work will be taken to Thursday Night, to be paid for the Saturday following.
July 12th, 1877.
J. BROMORE, Printer and Stationer, Haverhill.

William died at home on 6th January 1896, at the age of 58 years. He had been suffering from Bright's disease, an acute kidney condition. His funeral took place on the 11th, the interment being at Haverhill Cemetery. The cortege left Heazeworth House passing by Chauntry House and Chauntry Mills where the procession grew in numbers as employers and employees fell in with those following the mourning coaches carrying family members. In the cemetery the coffin was borne by men from the department that William managed.



List of Departments – Managers

Department	Managers	Foremen	Remarks
Drabbett	Mr. W. Ashplant	Mr. W. Poole	
Dye House	— W. Ashplant	— Davis	
Hair	Mr. W. D. Unwin	Mr. E. Gowers	
Mat-	Mr. W. D. Unwin	Mr. C. Parmarter	
Ready Made	~~Mr. J. Catlin~~ Mr. G. Gunnell	Mr. J. Carter Mr. D. Smith	
Leathers	~~Mr. J. Catlin~~	~~Mr. White~~	
Counting & Warehouses	Mr. W. D. Bullock	and others from Office and Warehouse to issue admission	

Mr. W. Lovell out-reports to be sent every Friday morning to Mr. ... marked X

William's youngest son, also called William, was killed in September 1916 while serving with the Canadian Infantry in France. He is commemorated on the Canadian Memorial at Vimy Ridge.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM ASHPLANT.—We regret to announce the death of Mr. William Ashplant, who for the past 25 years has been manager of the steam factory at Messrs. Gurteen's, at Chantry Mills, which took place at his residence, Hamlet Road, on Monday morning last. The deceased gentleman had been suffering from acute Bright's disease, but had only given up business about five weeks. Mr. Ashplant was 58 years of age, and was a prominent member of the Haverhill Choral Union, having been connected with the string band for a great number of years. The deceased was well-known and highly respected, and great sympathy is being expressed for the widow and family.

Family History HAVERHILL GROUP (Member of the Suffolk Family History Society)
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