CHAUNTRY MILLS – EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

Thomas Coley Farrant - Stoker

Thomas Coley Farrant was one of nine children born to Cornelius Farrant and Amelia Spicer. Cornelius was born in Haverhill on 20 August 1829. His mother Amelia was born on 5 November 1830 at Crowland, Haverhill. Cornelius had traceable family roots in Haverhill going back to the late 1600s.



In 1871 the family were still living at Chauntry Croft and at this time 13 year old Thomas was working as an errand boy.

On 4 August 1877 Thomas married Emma Argent in Haverhill, but his young wife died along with their infant child. They were buried together in the cemetery on Christmas Eve, 1877.

Thomas remarried on 30 October 1880. His second wife was Eliza Ewin, the daughter of a shoemaker who also lived at Chauntry Croft.

Thomas Coley was born on 7 April 1857 at Chauntry Croft the fourth of six sons born to Cornelius and Amelia. He also had an older sister and two younger ones.



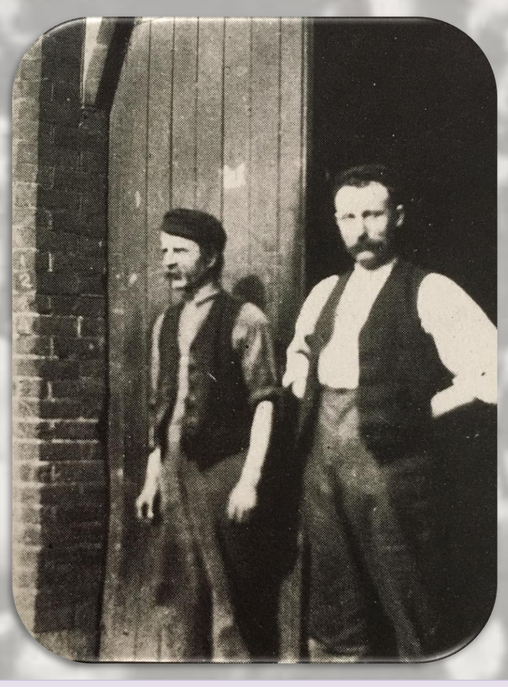
Thomas Farrant

By 1881 Thomas was employed as a 'stoker in a linen factory', and we can see from further census records that he remained in this occupation at Chauntry Mill for the rest of his working life. He would have been responsible for tending to the furnace used to generate the steam that ran the stationary engine in the factory. Thomas was one of the stokers who kept the steam engine Caroline (photo left) fuelled after it was installed in 1880.



INSTALLATION OF LANCASHIRE BOILER IN 1925

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT F.D.UNWIN D.M.GURTEEN D.M. GURTEEN JNR O.G.SMART A.G. SMART HILLS BOILER ENGINEER C.S.GURTEEN H. GURTEEN T.FARRANT W. SPICER D. MIZON



Thomas with fellow stoker 'Poker' Meads.

Thomas was also one of the persons responsible for the iron door keys for the factory.

Thomas and Eliza were living at 7 Mill Road close to the factory but it appears that this was a factory house as on 7 October 1905 they had to vacate the house which backed onto the factory near the tall chimney in the photograph as a workshop for the hair weavers was required.
Thomas, Eliza and two daughters moved to 10 Meeting Walk.

Thomas and Eliza had a family of eight children in addition to Thomas Argent Farrant from Thomas's marriage to Emma Argent. The family was certainly dependant on the many different departments at Chauntry Mills for employment:

Thomas – stoker
Eliza – machine hand
Thomas Argent born 1876 – woollen warehouseman; his wife, Jenny, was a machinist
William born 1880 – hair weaver; his wife, Annie, was a drabbet weaver
Ethel born 1882 – machinist
James born 1883 – mat maker
Ellen born 1885 – drabbet weaver (married to William Bray a WW1 casualty Killed in Action April 1918)
Albert born 1887 – mat maker; his wife Ethel was a machinist
Lillie born 1892 – machinist
Another daughter Bertha born 1895 was a dressmaker and later a shop keeper while a son Bertie born 1889 became a butcher.



Thomas and Eliza were living at 4 Chainey Pieces when he died in 1930 aged 73 years. After his death Eliza moved to 2 Mill Road. She died in 1940 aged 80.

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