CHAUNTRY MILLS – EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

Emma Coates nee Challis - Machinist

Emma Challis was born in 1855 the daughter of James Challis and Sarah (Backler). James had two sons by his first wife Rebecca Smith. Rebecca died in 1842 and James and Sarah married at Haverhill St Mary on Christmas Day, 1844. Emma was the 3rd of their seven children.



Mrs E Coates

Emma's early years were spent growing up in Beggars Row (later Queens Street). Her father was employed as an agricultural labourer in 1861 but by 1871 he had found work as a factory hand, no doubt at Chauntry Mills where Emma aged 16 and her sister Maria aged 14 were working as seamstresses.

By 1881 Emma was the head of a household in Union Square. Living with her were a younger brother and sister. She had lost her sister Maria in September 1873 and both her parents, her father in October 1873 and her mother in May 1874. They are all buried at Haverhill Cemetery.

On 23rd October 1881 Emma married Robert Coates, from Birmingham, at St Mary's Church. They made a home in Orchard Place, off Camps Road. Their first born son,, Robert William, was baptised on 30th July 1882 but did not survive his first year. He was buried in Haverhill Cemetery on 12th April 1883.

HAVERHILL.

TENDERS FOR COTTAGES.—The committee of the Vine Lodge of the Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds Benefit Society, met on Wednesday evening at their lodge room, for the purpose of opening tenders, for the erection of six or ten cottages and sinking a well, in Camps-road, Haverhill, to plans and specifications supplied by Robert Coates, Surveyor Haverhill.

TENDERS.

Messrs. Ripper Bros., Russell-street, Cambridge and Hedingham, 10 cottages £1,720, six cottages, £1,040; Mr. Marcus Brown, Haverhill, 10 cottages £1 390, six cottages £840; George Hannibal, Braintree, 10 cottages £1,350, six cottages £835; J. C. Arber, Haverhill, 10 cottages £1,266, six cottages £768; Robert Coates, estimate, £125 per cottage. The committee decided to accept the tender of Mr. J. C. Arber, Haverhill, for six cottages at £768, the average price of which are only £3 per cottage more than the Surveyor's estimate.

In 1882 Robert Coates was Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances for the Urban Sanitary District of Haverhill. By 1891 he was a builder's clerk / surveyor involved in the tendering for the terrace of houses known as Vine Cottages. By 1893 his title was Architect and Surveyor when he advertised for tenders for the re-building of Ruse's Farm, Kedington.

TENDERS.

TENDERS are required for the RE-BUILDING of RUSE'S FARM and RESIDENCE attached, situate at Kedington, near Haverhill.

The Plans and Specification can be seen at Mr. Freestone's, Barnardiston Arms, Kedington, on and after the 22nd inst., and all other information can be obtained from the Undersigned.

Tenders must be sent in not later than 12 o'clock noon, the 30th day of June, and endorsed "Tender for Ruse's Farm," and addressed to Charles B. Parkis, Esq., Sturmere, near Haverhill, Suffolk.

The Proprietor does not bind himself to accept the lowest or any Tender.

ROBERT COATES,
Architect and Surveyor,
Haverhill.

June 15th, 1893.

Robert and Emma had four more children before moving to Cambridge in 1894. Robert found employment as a clerk at Coulson & Lofts, Builders.

1888 eye witness account:
'The hair cloth used to stiffen and pad the linings of gentlemen's coats is woven from horsehair. It is woven on a cotton warp in different patterns; such being the vanity of man that although the material is forever hidden, special patterns as well as different thicknesses, must be kept.'

Emma's life in Cambridge must have been quite difficult. On 7th September 1894 the Cambridge Chronicle & Journal reported that her husband had been in court charged with being drunk and disorderly. Robert had a problem with alcohol that caused his premature death aged 46 in January 1899. The inquest into his sudden death concluded that he was addicted to drink.
Emma gave birth to a son, William just weeks after her husband's death.

WEDNESDAY.

(Before the Mayor, E. H. Parker, Esq.)

DRUNK AND INCAPABLE.—Robert Coates, a surveyor, of Haverhill, was charged with being drunk and incapable, in Coronation Street, Cambridge, on the previous night.—Prisoner pleaded guilty, and said he was very sorry for what had occurred.—Fined 2s. 6d., and costs 4s.

SUDDEN DEATH IN CAMBRIDGE.

Mr Robert Coates, a clerk in the employment of Messrs. Coulson and Lofts, builders, Cambridge, died suddenly at his residence in Vicarage-terrace, Newmarket-road, on Saturday night. It appears that he arrived at his home on Saturday night, but was found lying on the floor on Sunday morning. He was placed upon a bed, and later on a doctor was called, though not until life was found to be extinct.

The Inquest

was held at the Cambridge Union Workhouse on Tuesday, before the Borough Coroner (Mr H. S. French).

Benjamin Coates, glass merchant, residing at Stetchford, near Birmingham, identified the deceased as his brother, a draughtsman, aged 46.

Hannah Furbank, of Vicarage-terrace, said she lived next door to the deceased. On Saturday night, about eleven o'clock, she was upstairs with the deceased's wife. Upon coming down she saw the deceased sitting in a chair. Witness went out of the house and locked it. She went in the next morning and saw the deceased lying on the floor. Mrs Coates said her husband had fallen out of the bed. Deceased was addicted to drink. He died at 10.30 on Sunday morning.

By 1901 Emma had returned to Haverhill and her job as a machinist at Chauntry Mills. She settled at 46 Eden Road with her five children. Her oldest son Arthur Sharpe Coates aged 17 had also found employment at the Mills where he was working as a mat maker.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedule 132 (To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family. State whether "Head," or "Wife," or "Son," or "Daughter," or other Relative, or "Visitor," or "Boarder," or "Servant."	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX. For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc. Age of Males. Age of Females.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE. Write "Single," or "Married," or "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of:— Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. Children born alive to present Marriage. Total Children born Alive. Children still Living. Children who have died.	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards. Personal Occupation. If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Industry or Service with which worker is connected. This question should generally be answered by stating the Trade or Business of the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here. In many cases for Domestic Servants is private employment, followed by a public body (Hospital, Workhouse, etc.) state what body. (See Instruction 9 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account. Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Business (1) "Employer" (that is employing persons other than domestic servants). (2) "Worker" (that is working for an Employer). (3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).	Whether Working at Home. Write the figure "1" in this column opposite the name of each person working at Trade or Industry at home.	BIRTHPLACE of every person. (1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea." NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Subject" or "Visitor" in this Country.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country. State whether:— (1) "British subject by parentage." (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation. (3) "Foreign subject." If any person enumerated in this Schedule is (1) "Totally Deaf," or "Deaf and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Imbecile," or (5) "Feeble-minded," state their condition opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.	INFIRMITY.
		Age of Males.	Age of Females.								
1 Emma Coates	Head		57	Widow			Machinist (Tailoring)		Worker	Suffolk Haverhill	
2 Annie E Coates	Daughter		20	Single			Machinist "		Worker	Suffolk Haverhill	
3 Benjamin Coates	Son	18		Single			Factory Hand (Clothing)		Worker	Suffolk Haverhill	
4 Lizzie Coates	Daughter	14		Single			Machinist (Tailoring)		Worker	Suffolk Haverhill	
5 William Coates	Son	12					School			Cambs. Cambridge	340
6											

In 1911 Emma was still living at 46 Eden Road and working as a machinist. Her eldest son Arthur had moved to Leeds where he was married with two children.
Chauntry Mills provided employment for her working age children who were still at home:
Annie was a Machinist (Tailoring)
Benjamin was a Factory Hand (Clothing)
Lizzie was a Machinist (Tailoring)

Emma died in 1931 at the home of daughter, Elizabeth, and her son in law, Walter Mayer, in Great Baddow, Essex.

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