CHAUNTRY MILLS – EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

William Dykes – Mechanical Engineer

William Dykes was born in 1850 in Buxhall, near Stowmarket. He was one of the seven children of William Dykes and his wife Sophia. By the time he was 11 years old he was working as a stock boy possibly alongside his older brother John and his father who were both employed as agricultural labourers.

William had left home by the time he was 19. In 1871 he was boarding in Union Street Stowmarket and was employed as an Engine fitter. No doubt it was this experience that helped him gain employment in Haverhill for in 1877 he married Mary Ann Basham from Burton End who was nine years his junior.



William Dykes

In 1881 William and Mary Ann were living in St Botolphs Place with their first two children and William's widowed father. William had found employment as an engineer at Chauntry Mills. By 1901 the growing family had moved next to the Drill Hall at Burton End. Eight children were now living at home.

In 1911 William and his family were living at 23 Burton End. Just five children were still at home.

In total William and Mary Ann had a family of 11.

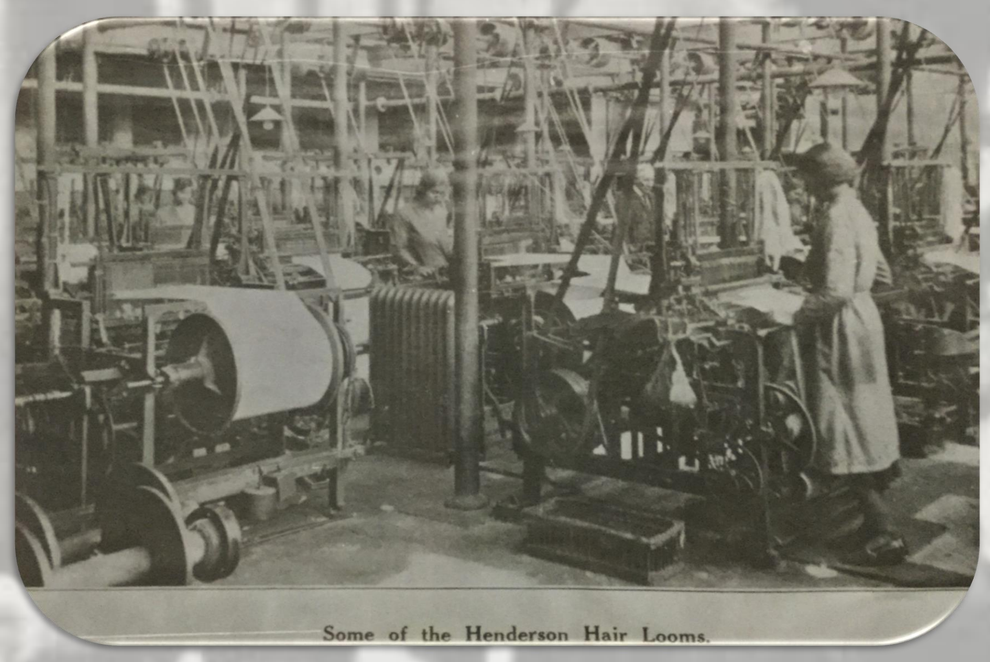
William Thomas born 1877
Sarah born 1879 Hair Weaver
Harry born 1882
James born 1883 Coach Painter
Beatrice born 1885 Hair Weaver
Grace born 1887 Telephonist in factory
Lily born 1889 Hair Weaver
Ernest born 1892 Fitter and Turner
Cecil born 1896 Shop Assistant
Spencer born 1900 Soldier WW1
Ivy born 1906

1	William Dykes	Head	61		Married			Mechanical Engineer
2	Mary Ann Dykes	Wife		60	Married	34	11	11
3	Lillie Dykes	Daughter		22	Single			Hair Weaver
4	Ernest Dykes	Son	19		Single			Fitter and Turner
5	Cecil Dykes	Son	16		Single			Shop Assistant
6	Spencer Dykes	Son	12					
7	Ivy Dykes	Daughter		6				
8	Jane Simpkin	Visitor		32	Married		1	1
9	William Simkin	Visitor	3					

Extract from the 1911 census

In 1911 William and his family were living at 23 Burton End. Just five children were still at home.

Three daughters were hair weavers.

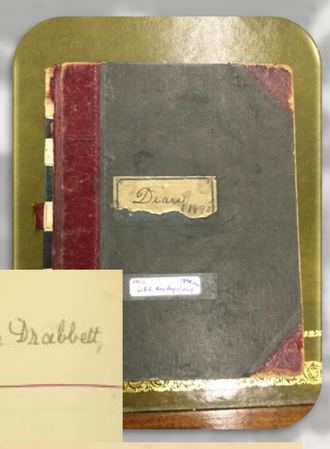


Some of the Henderson Hair Looms.

The horsehair fabrics were initially woven by hand. This would require a weaver to stand at a loom all day and a small child would sit in the loom with the horse tail, serving individual hairs to the weaver.

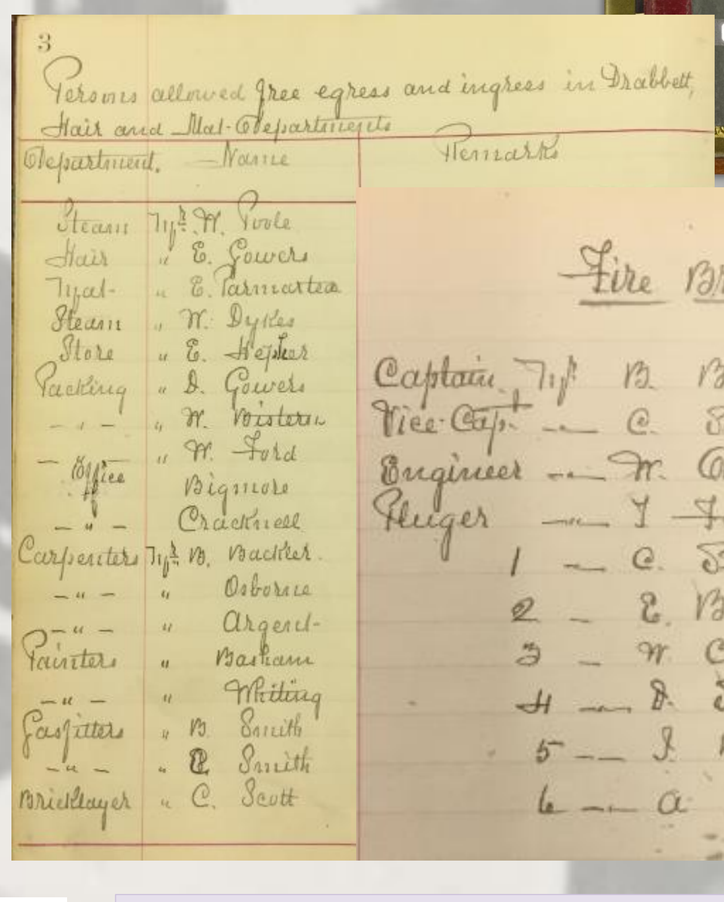
The horse tail hair was washed and disinfected, sorted into colours and lengths, soaked, combed, and dyed before being woven on a black linen warp to produce the lustrous sateen fabric.

Such was the essential nature of his work that William was one of just a few employees given free access to the Drabbet, Hair and Mat Departments.
He was also an important member of the Chauntry Mills Fire Brigade. The pages right are from he diary for 1898.
On 7th November 1890 the fire brigade was busy in the Mat Factory.



Diary 1898

1888 eye witness account:
The hair cloth which is used to stiffen and pad the linings of gentlemen's coats is woven from horsehair which comes principally from Siberia and South America.



3
Persons allowed free egress and ingress in Drabbett, Hair and Mat-Departments

Department.	Name	Remarks
Steam	Tyl. W. Poole	
Hair	" E. Gowers	
Tyal-	" E. Farmarter	
Steam	" W. Dykes	
Store	" E. Hefker	
Packing	" D. Gowers	
— " —	" W. Wiston	
— Office	" W. Ford	
	Bigmore	
— " —	Cracknell	
Carpenters	Tyl. B. Backler	
— " —	" Osborne	
— " —	" Argent-	
Painters	" Basham	
— " —	" Whiting	
Gasfitters	" B. Smith	
— " —	" E. Smith	
Bricklayer	" C. Scott	

Fire Brigade

Captain	Tyl. B. Backler	
Vice-Capt.	— C. Smith	
Engineer	— W. Dykes	
Fleiger	— J. Farrand-	
1	— C. Scott	
2	— E. Blomm	
3	— W. Claydon	
4	— D. Smith	
5	— J. Basham	
6	— A. Wright	

4th Nov. 1890	At 10.15 A.M. a Fire was discovered in the Tyle Room. Tyal-Factory, which was extinguished by 12.15 Pm, and work Resumed at 2 O'clock

No. 2/5 3 July 1888.

Received from Messrs D. Gurteen & Sons Half years Rent of Hair Factory the Sum of Thirty Pounds due Midsr. 1888. & the Trustees of W.L.W. Backhouse dec.

£30 : 0 : 0. Vincent Wayman

R. STRAKER, STEAM PRINTER, LUDGATE HILL.

William died in 1913 aged 63. Mary Ann died in 1937 outliving her husband by 24 years.

17 1898
15th January A Ball was held at Chauntry House
15th — During the Week ending 15th Jan.y the Tyal- and Tyen Hair Weavers worked until 8.15. O'clock P.M.
22nd — Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Also Glove Tyalers,
30th — Do Do Do Do Do Do Do, Hair Weavers until 9 O'clock
6th February During the Week ending 6th February the Glove Tyalers worked until 8.15. P.M. and the Tyen Hair Weavers until 9 O'clock
9th — During the Afternoon the Factory Inspector Visited the Factory
13th — During the Week ending 13th February, the Glove Tyalers worked until 8.15 P.M. and the Tyen Hair Weavers until 9 O'clock
15th — The Hours of the Factory commenced at 6.15. instead 7 O'clock
20th — During the Week ending 20th Feb.y the Glove Tyalers & Cutters worked until 8.15 P.M. the Tyen Hair Weavers until 9 O'clock
27th — Do Do Do Do Do Do
2nd March A Supper was given to the Tyal-Tyalers in the Tyal-Factory - By the Firm
5th — During the Week ending 5th March, the Glove Tyalers worked until 8.15 P.M. the Cutters and Tyen Hair Weavers worked until 9 O'clock
6th — Cracknell's Youngest Child Died at 4 A.M.
8th — and was buried in Haste at 3.30 P.M. 8th March.

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