CHAUNTRY MILLS – EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

Jonas Whiting – Winding & Warping

Amos Jonas Whiting (known as Jonas) was the son of agricultural labourer John Whiting and his wife Susannah nee Pilcher. Jonas was born on 14th February 1858 at the family home in Chauntry Croft. He was baptised in 1859 at St Mary's Church.

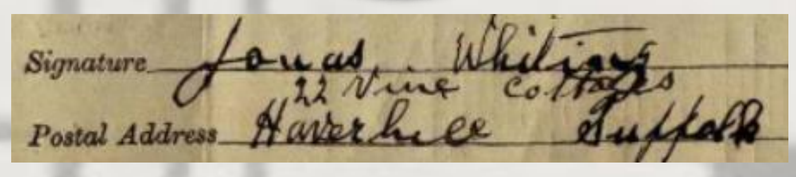


Jonas married Eliza Willis, a factory hand who possibly worked alongside him at Chauntry Mills. In 1891 Jonas and Eliza were living at 7 Nunn's Yard. Jonas was employed as a factory hand. They had two daughters, Ethel May aged 9 and 1 year old Winifred Grace.

By the age of 14, Jonas was working as a cotton weaver alongside his elder siblings Susanna and Horace Odessa. His younger sister, Catherine Miranda had died in infancy in late 1863 and was buried at St Mary's Parish Church. He had a younger brother, Lewis Albert, who was born in 1864.

In 1901, Jonas and family were living at 22 Burton End and he was working as a framer in the winding and warping department. Eliza was working as a cotton winder, and their eldest daughter Ethel was a schoolteacher.

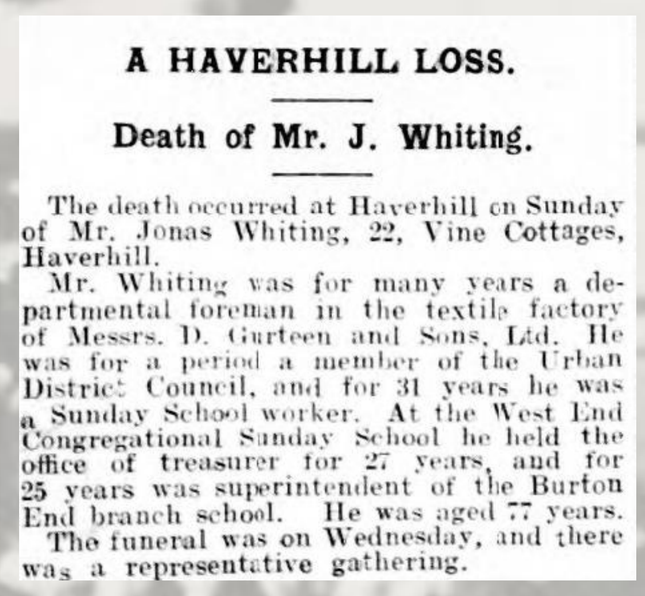
After John's wife Susannah died in July 1878 the remaining family moved to Eden Road. Susannah was buried in Haverhill Cemetery.



Did you know a winder was someone who wound thread onto the spindles used in shuttles?

By 1911 Jonas and Eliza were living at 22 Vine Cottages which was his home until his death on 1st September 1935. He was active in the community as a councillor on the Urban District Council and for 31 years he was a Sunday School worker at the West End Church.





A HAVERHILL LOSS.

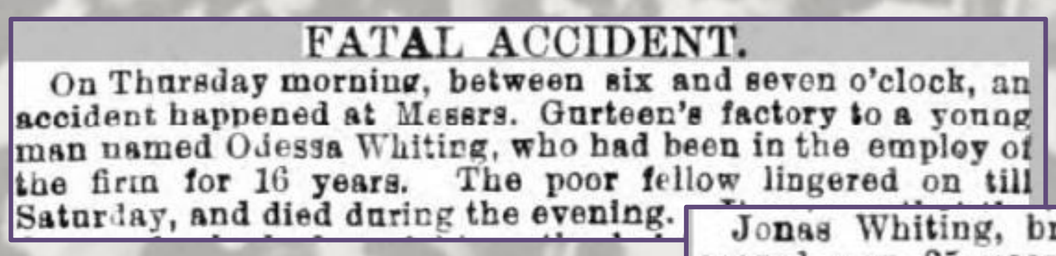
Death of Mr. J. Whiting.

The death occurred at Haverhill on Sunday of Mr. Jonas Whiting, 22, Vine Cottages, Haverhill.

Mr. Whiting was for many years a departmental foreman in the textile factory of Messrs. D. Gurteen and Sons, Ltd. He was for a period a member of the Urban District Council, and for 31 years he was a Sunday School worker. At the West End Congregational Sunday School he held the office of treasurer for 27 years, and for 25 years was superintendent of the Burton End branch school. He was aged 77 years.

The funeral was on Wednesday, and there was a representative gathering.

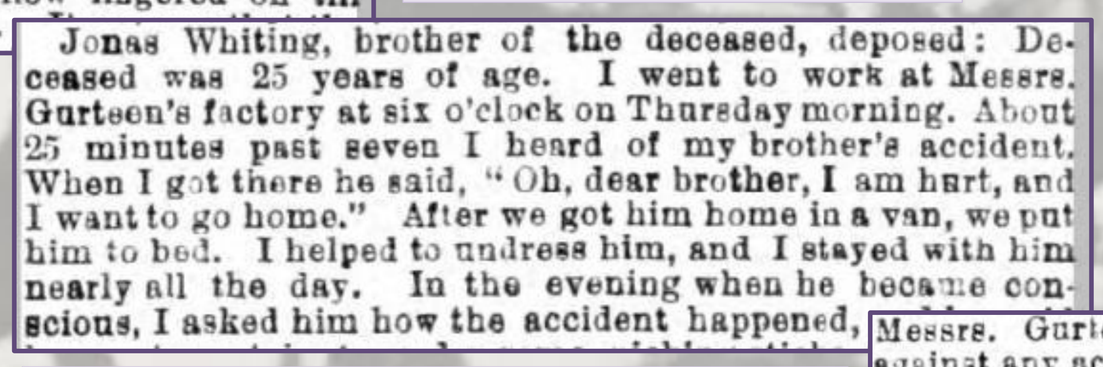
Horace Odessa (known as Odessa) married jacket maker Harriett Backler, in 1876. They had three daughters and lived in one of the mill workers houses in Eden Road. In June 1880 Odessa died as the result of an accident in the workplace.
The Bury Free Press of 3rd July 1880 reported the fatal accident.



FATAL ACCIDENT.

On Thursday morning, between six and seven o'clock, an accident happened at Messrs. Gurteen's factory to a young man named Odessa Whiting, who had been in the employ of the firm for 16 years. The poor fellow lingered on till Saturday, and died during the evening.

Bury Free Press 3 July 1880



Jonas Whiting, brother of the deceased, deposed: Deceased was 25 years of age. I went to work at Messrs. Gurteen's factory at six o'clock on Thursday morning. About 25 minutes past seven I heard of my brother's accident. When I got there he said, "Oh, dear brother, I am hurt, and I want to go home." After we got him home in a van, we put him to bed. I helped to undress him, and I stayed with him nearly all the day. In the evening when he became conscious, I asked him how the accident happened,

Messrs. Gurteen had taken every precaution to guard against any accidents, and the jury to his mind could not come to any other verdict that "Accidental death," brought about by the deceased's own act.

A verdict to that effect was returned, and it was agreed that the sum allowed to the jury should be given to the widow.

The following testimony is given by the deceased's employers:—"That he had been in their employ for 16 years, and by the accident they lose an honest and industrious servant."

The Coroner learnt that Odessa had to go upstairs to order some picking sticks from the carpenter.
He suggested to another labourer, that they should descend together by the hoist, which they had no permission to use. During the descent, Odessa was thrown out receiving fatal injuries.
A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

1888 An eye witness account: "Haverhill drabbet is made from cotton and linen, one being used for the warp and the other for the weft. The warp is the name given to the threads stretched out lengthwise in a loom to be crossed by the weft or woof.'

1888 An eye witness account: The first stage in the manufacture on receiving the cotton and linen was to wind the linen threads on large reels, a long series of machines, tended chiefly by lads, being used for that purpose. It then passed through a series of arrangements of cylinders and is ready for the loom.'

1888 An eye witness account: 'All kinds of towellings are made here; for instance a large annual order for the public baths at Birmingham had 'Birmingham Corporation' worked in the red or blue bordering on each side to prevent their being stolen.'



Jonas's father, John Whiting, who worked as a gardener at the Duddery is also in the photograph. He would have been employed by Daniel (IV).

John died suddenly on 11th June 1887 and was buried at Haverhill Cemetery.

Bury Free Press Saturday 18 July 1887

SUDDEN DEATH —On Saturday afternoon between four and five o'clock an old inhabitant of this town, John Whiting, aged 73 years, suddenly fell down dead opposite the Mount. The deceased had been organ blower at the church for upwards of 50 years, and always regular in his attendance. On Wednesday his funeral took place at the cemetery, when the choir belonging to the church were present to pay their last tribute of respect. Hymns were sung, and the service was impressively read by the vicar, the Rev. T. O. Roberts.

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