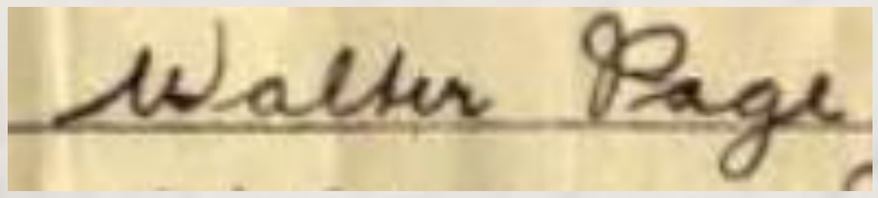
CHAUNTRY MILLS – EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

Walter Page – presser



Walter Page was the 4th of nine children born to James Page and Harriet nee Mayes.
He was baptised in St Mary's Church on 17th October 1852 when he was 9 months old. His father James was a agricultural labourer and mother Harriet was a 'hair weaver'.



By 1871 and living at Burton End with his parents and five siblings, 18 year old Walter had found employment at Chauntry Mills as a presser. This was to be his job for life.

Walter married Sarah Potter at Castle Camps Parish Church on Christmas Day 1875.
In 1881 Walter and Sarah are living in Eden Road with their first two children, Emily and Elizabeth and they are both employed at Chauntry Mills with Sarah making jackets.

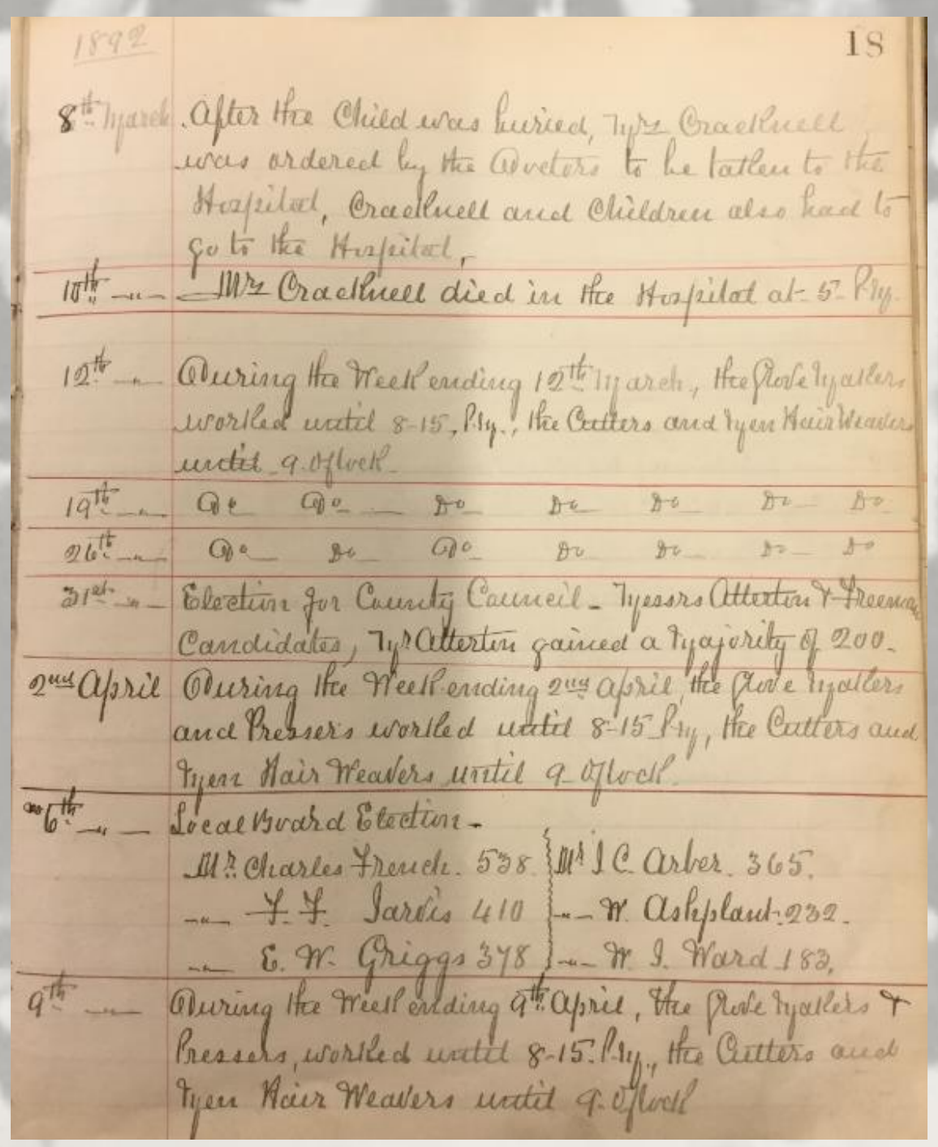
In 1891 Walter and Sarah are still living in factory housing at 19 Eden Road which they share with their family of five. Elizabeth, now 15 years old, is working as a jacket tacker.

By 1901 the family had moved to 66 Primrose Hill. The family was reliant on Chauntry Mills for it's income: Walter: 'coat presser, tailor', Emily; 'coat machinist, tailor', Elizabeth and Kate: 'linen weavers', Walter William: 'messenger, clothing factory'

1888 An eye witness account: The pressing or 'goosing' of the seams is done with irons heated by double pipes of gas and air meeting at the flame, an invention which saves gas.



In 1925 Walter was involved in a fatal accident.



1892 — 18

8th March. After the Child was buried, Mrs Cracknell was ordered by the Doctors to be taken to the Hospital, Cracknell and Children also had to go to the Hospital,

10th — Mrs Cracknell died in the Hospital at 5th P.M.

12th — During the Week ending 12th March, the Glove Hyatters worked until 8-15, P.M., the Cutters and Fyen Hair Weavers until 9 O'clock

19th — Do — Do — Do — Do — Do — Do — Do

26th — Do — Do — Do — Do — Do — Do — Do

31st — Election for County Council - Messrs Atterton & Freeman Candidates, Mr Atterton gained a Majority of 200.

2nd April — During the Week ending 2nd April, the Glove Hyatters and Pressers worked until 8-15 P.M, the Cutters and Fyen Hair Weavers until 9 O'clock.

6th — Local Board Election -
Mr Charles French. 538 — Mr J C Arber. 365.
— H. H. Jarvis 410 — W. Ashplant 232.
— E. W. Griggs 378 — W. I. Ward 183.

9th — During the Week ending 9th April, the Glove Hyatters & Pressers, worked until 8-15 P.M., the Cutters and Fyen Hair Weavers until 9 O'clock

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned by the Coroner. Walter was buried in Haverhill Cemetery.



Walter's sister Eliza was married to Charles Claydon who also features in this exhibition.

Suffolk & Essex Free Press
Thursday 14 May 1925

KNOCKED DOWN DURING BLIZZARD.

Haverhill Pedestrian's Fatal Injuries.

A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned by the Cambridge Borough Coroner (Mr. G. A. Wootten) at an inquest held at Addenbrooke's Hospital, on Thursday last, concerning the death of Walter Page (73), a tailor's presser, of 66, Primrose Hill, Haverhill, who died in the Hospital following injuries received through being knocked down by a motor-car.

The widow said that about 8 o'clock on the evening of April 15th they were both walking along Camps Road, Haverhill. A bad storm, more like a blizzard, sprang up, and both she and her husband put their umbrellas up. Witness was walking on the path, and her husband was on the road. As she was walking along she saw the glimmer of a light, and, turning her head, saw a motor-car passing. When the car had gone by she could not see her husband, and later found him lying on the road. The motor-car stopped, and the driver fetched her son and the doctor. Deceased was unconscious, and was removed to the Hospital.

Family History HAVERHILL GROUP (Member of the Suffolk Family History Society) · HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL · PRO BONO PUBLICO · GURTEEN Since 1784