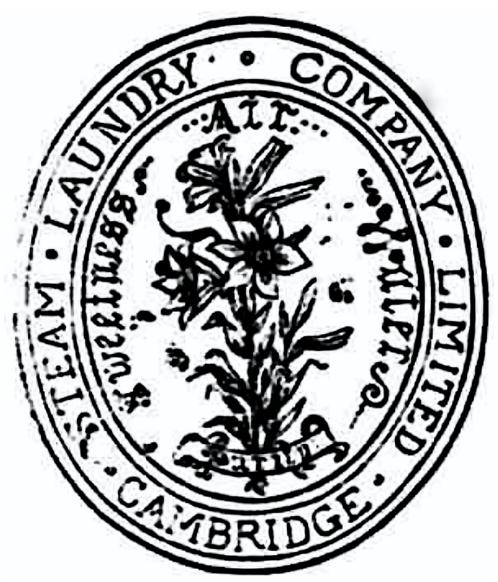
The History of Cambridge Steam Laundry Company, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge



Michelle Bullivant www.michellebullivant.com © Oct 2023

Location

Cambridge Steam Laundry Company was in operation from 1881-1970.

Cambridge Steam Laundry Works once stood at the end of Laundry Lane, off the north side of Cherry Hinton Road, to the west of the village of Cherry Hinton.



There were once 6 laundry workers' cottages down this lane and two other laundry houses facing the main road. None of these buildings remain today.

Introduction

Laundry work was a traditional trade in Cherry Hinton, usually carried out by village women. The main clients were the colleges of Cambridge University, but the laundries also served local hotels, schools and families.



Cherry Hinton Village Sign which depicts laundry as part of its history.

Before motorised vehicles, the washing would have been delivered and picked up by horse and cart or donkey and cart.

With the rise of the steam-powered industry in the later Victorian period, the traditional manual laundries were overtaken by mechanised steam laundries. With the establishment of the Cambridge Steam Laundry in 1881, in the fields west of Cherry Hinton village, much of the trade soon diverted there.

Cambridge Steam Laundry Company 1881-1970

<u>1881</u>

The Steam Laundry was built in Cherry Hinton parish on the site of an old brewery and was opened by 18th October 1881 for business. It included a large area of drying ground. Further research is needed to learn more about the brewery that is said to have once stood on this site.



Manchester Courier - Saturday 12 March 1881 - British Newspaper Archive

Cambridge Steam Laundry was established in 1881 by Ginn, a Cambridge solicitor, who made Josiah Chater the secretary of the newly formed company. Newspapers reported on the formation of the new public company by March of 1881.

You can read more about Samuel Ginn here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ginn %26 Co Solicitors

Capturing Cambridge are currently transcribing and publishing the diary of Josiah Chater - you can find out more about this on their website here:

https://www.museumofcambridge.org.uk/2022/07/josiah-chaters-diaries-aglimpse-back-in-time/ They state that: "Josiah Chater records in his diary the establishment of the Steam Laundry Company. On 11 Feb 1881 he writes:

"Had a pipe with Ginn the solicitor; he told me about a new project of a Laundry Company he had in view to which I am to be secretary if it comes off. He has the offer of an estate of 4 acres, with buildings on it, at Cherryhinton, opposite the waterworks, and he has a capital man in view as a manager." Josiah was appointed secretary and the first meeting of the directors was on 5th March. It was decided to demolish the brewery which had stood on the site; by 18th October the laundry opened for business. The first customers were Cavendish College and Mrs Todhunter, wife of Isaac Todhunter, honorary fellow of St John's College. Josiah as secretary was paid £25 per year, the manager was paid £1 per week and the manageress £1 10s per week.

By February 1882 there were problems though. Josiah found the books in a bad state and did not think that the manager and his wife were competent. There had been many mistakes in sending linen back home. Eight cottages for workers had been built near the laundry and a Dr Cunningham, a graduate of Harvard then living in Cambridge, had been consulted on the problem of disposing of the soap suds without interfering with the sewage system." (Capturing Cambridge)

<u>1882</u>

In January 1882 we find evidence of the trouble referred to by Josiah above, in the form of an advert for a Forewoman for the Laundry who "must understand book-keeping":

WANTED for the Cambridge Steam Laundry Company (Limited), a Forewoman. Must understand book-keeping. Previous experience not insisted on so much as intelligence and respectability.— Apply to the MANAGER, Steam Laundry, Cherryhinton.—A few hands for general work also required.

Cambridge Independent Press - Saturday 21 January 1882

By March 1882 we begin to see the first advertising for custom by the new

Cambridge Steam Laundry Company. The advert below ran for several months in various publications.

Cambridge Steam Laundry Company (LIMITED). Works at Cherryhinton, fitted newest machinery, are now in full operation. Washing collected and returned with punctuality and well and cheaply done. Great saving in wear and tear. No chemicals used. Special machinery for table linen. Curtains got up equal to new. Special terms for hotels, schools, and other large establishments. Full information may be obtained t No. 2, Alexandra-street, Cambridge.

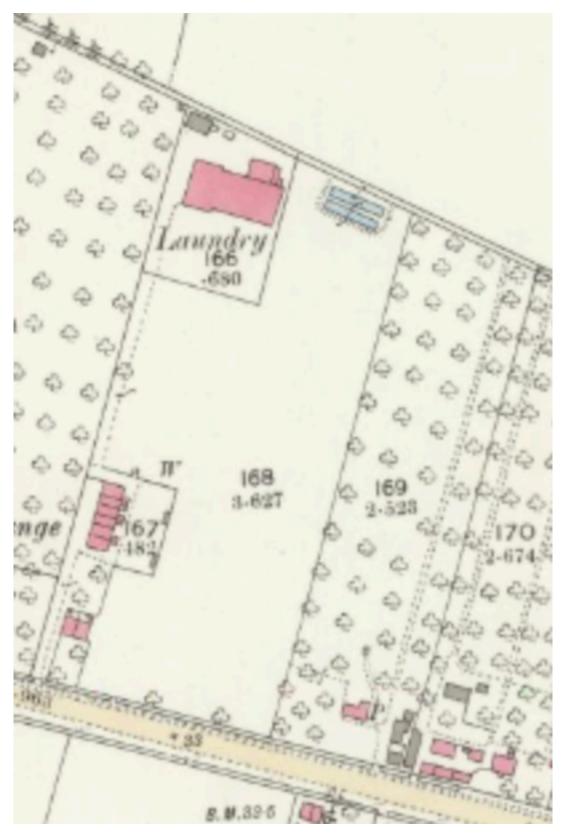
Cambridge Independent Press - Saturday 11 March 1882 - British Newspaper Archive

The advert above states that full information may be obtained from No. 2 Alexandra Street, Cambridge. This was the office of the Cambridge Reform Building Company. This office was given up quickly because it was too small and moved to 5 Alexandra Street.

You can read more about Alexandra Street on Capturing Cambridge here: <u>https://capturingcambridge.org/museum-of-cambridge/museum-exhibit-</u> <u>stories/7-alexandra-street/</u>



OS 25" 1888 (surveyed 1885) Showing the site of the newly established Cambridge Steam Laundry with its drying field and lane leading to the worker's houses (left side of the picture above - Cherry Hinton Hall is shown to the right side of the picture above with Coe's Market Garden Farm (Lime Tree Farm) in the centre with its orchards.



OS 25" 1888 (Surveyed 1886) Showing close-up of the Cambridge Steam Laundry and workers' houses, with Coe's farm and orchard bottom right.

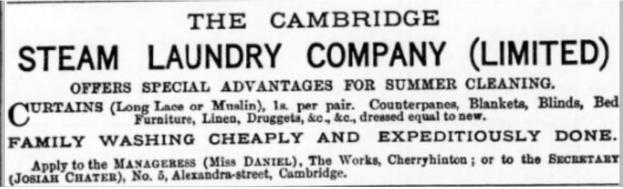
In August 1882 a complaint was published in the Cambridge Newspaper (see below) about the contamination of water. This matter soon seems to be resolved and no further public reports are made. It does help us identify the water source being used for the works. The article refers to an open ditch which ran at the back of the Steam Laundry building and although not visible above ground there today. You will note on the map above that there are two long water-filled troughs which must have been made for use by the laundry.

> was rather more than usual. -- The Clerk 29110)ywas directed to write to Mr. French, and urge him to decrease the arrears. -A letter, signed by ns, ts, C. C. Willson, F. O. Carr, and Ezra Lofts, and dated July 29th, was read, informing the Board ts, ga, the Cambridge Steam Laundry Company that **wn** ran their soapsuds and their dirty water into an es, open ditch running at the back of their houses. ts, from which the said suds and water got into the \mathbf{ch} parish drain, causing a bad smell, and seriously endangering the health of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood .- The Clerk was asked to lay the matter beve fore the sanitary committee .- A post-script was added, rs stating that ithere had recently been a serious case of nthroat affection, which the medical man said was caused ng by inhaling a bad smell.-The Inspector of Nuisances he had been directed by the Clerk to visit the place and report upon the nuisance. Mr. Masters attended now, k, but he said that at the time he visited the place there nwas no nuisance existing. He had not visited the place ir since, but he had had notice of the letter. It was said ۱., that the nuisance occurred on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. ty Dr. Anningson had been there once, and had told the d people at the laundry that they must not turn their suds finto the ditch.-The Chairman reminded Mr. is te Masters that as the Clerk had requested him a month ago to report upon the nuisance he ought now to be in a 10 position to do so, and to have visited the place at the g same time as Dr. Anningson, and be able to speak from 8, personal observation .- Dr. Anningson, the medical officer, arrived subsequently, and said he had visited the st e place twice, and had told the managers of the Laundry st Company that the practice of turning the suds and dirty 7water into the ditch in question must be discontinued. g It was arranged that the Medical Officer and the Inspector of Nuisances should visit the ditch on one of а the days on which the nuisance was said to exist. g ÷t. FILL BOILDN An immediate Latt of the

> > Cambridge Independent Press - Saturday 26 August 1882

<u>1883</u>

The laundry continued with consistent, regular advertising for business in the newspapers. You'll see from the advert below that the offices have now moved from No. 2 Alexandra Street to No. 5 and that the manageress of the laundry is Miss Daniel.



Cambridge Independent Press - Saturday 08 September 1883 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1885</u>

By December 1885 the manageress is Mrs Pratt. The advert below also describes the laundry site a little more by mentioning the "Spacious well ventilated sorting,

washing and ironing rooms and an extensive meadow for drying ground"



Cambridge Independent Press - Saturday 13 December 1884 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1887</u>

By May 1887 we start to see the first of many sponsorship adverts between the Steam Laundry and Reckitts Blue.

You can read more about Reckitts Blue at the Old and Interesting website here:

http://www.oldandinteresting.com/laundry-blue.aspx

These sponsored adverts linked between the manageress of the Steam Laundry and Reckitts continue for many years and appear in adverts all over the country, providing a great deal of coverage and promotion for both parties.



Richmond & Ripon Chronicle - Saturday 07 May 1887 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1888</u>

Kelly's Directory: Steam Laundry Co. Limited (Josiah Chater, sec.) 5 Alexandra Street; works, Cherry Hinton

<u>1889</u>

In 1889 we get the first look at the Cambridge Steam Laundry Company's logo in an advert placed in the Cambridge Independent Press. You'll also see that Mrs Pratt is still the manageress and Josiah Chater is still the secretary.



Cambridge Independent Press - Friday 26 April 1889 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1890</u>

In the financial papers and financial sections of general newspapers continuing information about the share prices of the company are given regularly over the years.

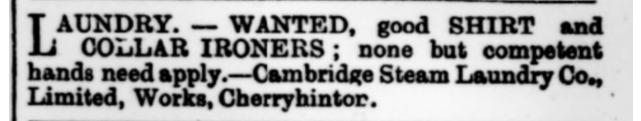
LO	CAL	SHA	RE	LIS	ST	
(Supplied by	C. E.	TEMPE	sr, 6 ge.)	3, Sid	dney	Street
Cambridge Ga					200	203
Do.	1880.	'82 and	*85		140	142
Do.	New	Shares			14 .	141
Ipswich Gas A					234	24x1
	B				173	1833
Do. 0					16	17xx
British Gas					44	451
Cambridge Waterworks Original 295 30						
Do.	Do.	Cons	olidat	ed	275	280
Do.	Do.	New	Share	85	8	84
Cambridge Tr	amway	8			8	81
Cambridge Fi	re Insur	ance			1	1
Cambridge In	dustrial	Dwellin	128		3	34
Cambridge Sta					10	104
Ipswich Dock				t	102	103
Do.	Do.		er cen		104	105
April 3rd, 1						

Cambridge Chronicle and Journal - Friday 04 April 1890 - British Newspaper Archive.



OS 6" surveyed 1886 published 1888 - showing the Cambridge Steam Laundry and the Cambridge Water Works site opposite.

In the 1890s there were newspaper adverts for more workers needed at the laundry, which provided employment for local people.



Cambridge Daily News - Wednesday 01 October 1890 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1891</u>

The first full record of the people who worked and lived on-site at the new laundry is in 1891. The 1881 census was taken before the Steam Laundry was opened so there are no details for it for that year. The 1891 census shows 7 households living at the laundry site. James Pratt is listed as the manager along with his wife Annie Pratt who is the manageress. The remainder of the families appear to be housed due to the wives working at the company.

On the OS Map (25" 1888-Surveyed 1886) you can see a terrace of 6 cottages down Laundry Lane and 2 separate semi-detached houses set back, facing Cambridge Road (Cherry Hinton Road) - it is not clear if these last 2 houses are part of the laundry houses. However, the 1901 Census lists two households (with the laundry manager & family living in one and the laundry Carman & family living in the other) as being on Cambridge Road and the rest are called Laundry Cottages Cambridge Road. It would make sense that the manager/s would have higher-grade houses, separate from the main workers.

1891 Census

Laundry -

1.

James E Pratt Head M 35 Laundry Manager – Norfolk Old Catton Annie A Pratt wife M 31 Laundry Manageress – Loughton Essex Grace A Pratt daughter 6 Scholar – Cherry Hinton Daisy M Pratt daughter 4 – Cherry Hinton Fred Thomas Pratt son 10 months – Cherry Hinton Mary Ann Pratt mother widow 55 – Brook Norfolk

Keziah Read servant single 14 Domestic Servant - Petersfield Hampshire

Cambridge Road Laundry – (Cambridge Road is Cherry Hinton Road today)

2.

John Osbourne Head M 67 Farm Labourer – Great Wilbraham Cambs Ann Osbourne wife M 64 Laundress – Little Wilbraham Cambs Annie McDonald Boarder 46 widow Laundress – Hanover Square St George London

3.

Wilfred Freeman Head M 38 General Labourer – Royston Cambs Jane Freeman wife M 38 Laundress – Cherry Hinton John Henry Fuller step-son s 15 General Labourer – Cherry Hinton Sidney Fuller step-son 8 Scholar – Cherry Hinton

4.

Isaac Read Head M 48 – Cherry Hinton - Buckworth Hants *Defective eyes* Elizabeth Read wife M 46 Laundress – Walworth Surrey Annie Read daughter s 18 Packer and Sorter in Laundry – Worcester Park Surrey Jessie Ann Read daughter s 16 Packer and Sorter in Laundry – Worcester Park Surrey Mary Elizabeth Read daughter 12 Scholar – Petersfield Hants May Read daughter 10 Scholar – Petersfield Hants George Patten Head M 30 Carman – Cherry Hinton Jane Patten wife M 26 Laundress – Cherry Hinton Percy George Patten son 2 – Cherry Hinton

6.

Arthur Nightingale Head M 34 General Labourer – St Andrew the Less Cambridge Sarah Anne Nightingale wife M 35 Laundress – Thriplow Cambs Julia L Nightingale daughter 6 Scholar – Cherry Hinton Arthur George Nightingale son 5 – Cherry Hinton Ernest H Nightingale son 2 – Cherry Hinton Emily Ann Benstead Servant s 12 Domestic Servant – Swaffham Prior Cambs

7.

Margaret Daniels Head widow 53 Living on own means - Edinburgh Scotland

In 1891 the secretary of the Steam Laundry, Josiah Chater and his family including Augustine Chater who would later take over the role from his father as secretary of the Steam Laundry - lived in Hartington Grove, off of Hills Road Cambridge

<u>1892</u> Kelly's Directory
Steam Laundry Co. Lim. (Josiah Chater, sec.), 5 Alexandra st

In February 1892 the newspapers reported on the death of a well-known Cherry Hinton man, one of the Pamplin Brothers of the Steam Engine fame, who had a steam engine works in Cherry Hinton at the junction of Coldhams Lane and Cherry Hinton High Street. Eliab Wright Pamplin died as a result of an accident, in which it was believed that he fell from the loft of his stable. The report notes that "*Mr Pamplin was for some years Manager to the Cambridge Steam Laundry Company*". We know that Mrs Pratt was still manageress in 1899, it is not clear when Mr Pamplin became manager but Mrs Pratt still continued to be manageress for some years.



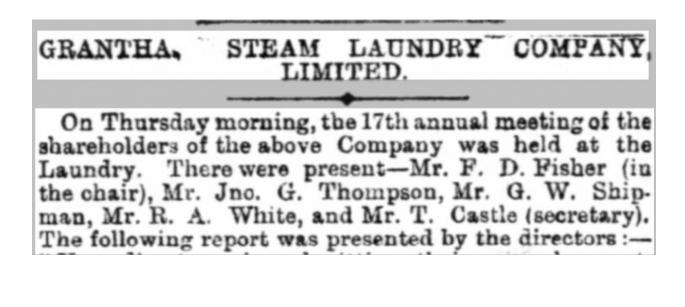
Cambridge Independent Press - Friday 19 February 1892 - British Newspaper Archive.

WANTED, a Steady Man as HORSEKEEPER and COLLECTOR. Good wages given.-Apply by letter only, enclosing references, to the SECRETARY, Cambridge Steam Laundry Company, Limited, 5, Alexandra-street, Cambridge.

Cambridge Independent Press - Friday 14 April 1893 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1894</u>

There were many steam laundry businesses across the country by the 1890s and many books were written about the processes, equipment and running of these establishments. The newspaper article below discusses the wages of the Cambridge Steam Laundry Company as a comparison.



been higher, ut that was easily expl compared provender. creased of favourably w th other Steam Laundry Companies, for the amount of work they did. He had a report of the Cambridge Steam Laundry Company, and he found, when the amount of work done was taken into consideration, that a comparison of the wage-lists] was very satisfactory. He had much pleasure in moving that the report be received and adopted, and the dividend of five per cent. be paid on Monday next.seconded, and it was carried .- Messrs. R. A Castle were re-appointed on the direc-

Grantham Journal - Saturday 24 February 1894 - British Newspaper Archive.

The continuing adverts both for the business and for employees give us useful pieces of information that we can use to build a picture of the machinery used, the jobs available and the workings of the Steam Laundry.

IRONERS Wanted, constant work all the year .- Apply, Cambridge Steam Laundry, Cherryhinton

Cambridge Daily News - Wednesday 28 March 1894 - British Newspaper Archive.



Cambridge Daily News - Wednesday 28 March 1894 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1896</u>

Kelly's Directory

Cambridge Steam Laundry Co. Limited (J. Chater, sec.) Cherry Hinton, Camb Steam Laundry Co. Limited (Josiah Chater, sec.) 5 Alexandra St. Cambridge



Cambridge Daily News - Tuesday 29 August 1899 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1899</u>

The following newspaper article from December 1899, gives a report on proprietors and employees of Steam Laundries and is extremely useful as it includes the Cambridge Steam Laundry in the listings, giving a list of names of people working there. - you'll see the error in the print calling Cherry Hinton 'Cherry Linton'!



CAMBRIDGE STEAM LAUNDRY, Cherry Linton, per Arthur Tewson: Daisy and Grace Pratt, J. C and A. A. Pratt. G. M. Porter, Mrs. Bateman, Mrs. Nightingale, Maud, Nelly, Jessie, Julia, and Rose Nightingale, L. Scarr, Nelly Farrant, Maud Farrant, Mrs. Bowes, Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Bead, Mrs. McDonald, E. Farrant, Butcher, Mrs. Paltern, Mrs. Osborne, Mrs Turner, E. Butcher, Florrie, Mrs. Wolfe, Rose Sea-Odell, Mrs brook, Alice Robinson, Emma Robinson, Alice Palmer, Beatrice Seymour, Mr and Mrs. Frost, Nelly Wetts, M. Vandenvinne, Mrs. Poulter, Matilda Martin, May Strickland, Clara Steam, W. Whatley, Mrs. Rise, Kate Rice, Wolfe, A. Anderson, Louis Donnez, Mrs. Bailey, Lee, Tidy, Willows, E. Pilworth, Bose and Haroid Wolfe, d. Annie, and Rose Pratt. Mrs. Daniel VENDER-HILL SANTTARY LAUNDRY, Clapham,

Daily Telegraph & Courier (London) - Wednesday 13 December 1899 - British Newspaper Archive.

1901 Census

Cambridge Road -

1.

James C Pratt Head M 45 Laundry Manager - worker - Norfolk Old Catton

Annie A Pratt wife M 41 Laundry Manageress -worker – Loughton Essex

Grace A Pratt daughter s 16 Pupil School – worker - Cherry Hinton

Daisy M Pratt daughter 14 – Cherry Hinton – Typist Pupil – Own account at home

Frederick T Pratt son- Cherry Hinton

Annie A Pratt daughter 7 - Cherry Hinton

Rose M Pratt daughter 7 – Cherry Hinton

Mary A Pratt mother widow 68 – Brook Norfolk

Margaret Daniel mother-in-law widow 63 - Scotland

2.

Arthur H Wolfe Head M 32 – Laundry Carman – worker – Cambridge Alice Wolfe wife M 33 – Little Wilbraham Rose Wolfe daughter s 13 - Cambridge Harold Wolfe son 8 – Cambridge

Laundry Cottages Cambridge Road Cherry Hinton -

3.

Ann Osbourne Head Widow 73 – Little Wilbraham Cambs Agnes M W Maloney niece m 33 Laundress – worker – London

4.

Henry J Frost Head M 37 – Steam Laundry – worker – Cambridge Jane Frost wife M 38 – Laundress – worker – Great Easton Essex Christopher W Frost son 12 – Cambridge Montague H Frost son 10 – Cherry Hinton William H Frost son 7 – Cherry Hinton Henry J Frost son 5 – Cherry Hinton Robert G Frost son 1 – Cherry Hinton

5.

Arthur J Case Head M 28 – Asylum Attendent – worker - Cambridge Ann Case wife M 26 – Silverstone Northants

6.

Frederick E Coe Head M 27 – Waterworks Stoker – worker – Cambridge Ellen Coe wife M 30 – Teversham Ellen E Coe daughter 6 months – Cherry Hinton

7.

William Tingery Head 33 Foreman & Coal Porter – worker – Wheathampstead Herts
Minnie Tingery wife M 32 – Cambridge
Frances Tingery daughter 10 - Cambridge
William E Tingery son 8 - Cambridge
Dorothy Tingery daughter 1 – Cambridge

8.

Arthur Nightingale Head M 44 – Brewers Labourer – worker – Cambridge Sarah A Nightingale wife M 45 – Laundry Worker – worker – Thriplow Cambs Julia L Nightingale daughter s 16 – Laundry Worker – worker – Cherry Hinton Arthur G Nightingale son 15 – Whitesmiths Assistant – worker – Cherry Hinton Ernest H Nightingale son 13 – Errand Boy – worker – Cherry Hinton William M Nightingale son 6 – Cherry Hinton

9.

Frederick Bowles Head M 30 – Coal Carter – worker – Fulbourn Cambs Mary A Bowles wife M 28 – Whittlesford Cambs Frederick Bowles son 2 – Cherry Hinton Redvers Bowles son 6 months – Cherry Hinton Pretoria May Bowles daughter 6 months – Cherry Hinton *In 1901 the secretary of the Steam Laundry, Josiah Chater and his family including Augustine Chater who would later take over the role from his father as secretary of the Steam Laundry - lived in Hartington Grove, off of Hills Road Cambridge*

Extensive regular advertising continues for the Steam Laundry in the local newspapers, again providing us with interesting clues and information about the business.



Cambridge Independent Press - Friday 08 November 1901 - British Newspaper Archives.

<u>1903</u>

In 1903 the Cambridge Steam Laundry opened new Offices at 84 Regent Street Cambridge.



Cambridge Independent Press - Friday 05 June 1903 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1904</u>

With continued drainage of the land and management of the various streams crossing the fields to the west of the Steam Laundry, development continued across the western parish of Cherry Hinton, along Cherry Hinton Road towards Hills Road, which was known as 'New Cherry Hinton'. With the growing number of new houses, streets and shops, a new laundry called The Swiss Laundry, was built on the higher ground further to the west. The Swiss Laundry was founded in 1904 by Mr Chapman and Mr Goundry on the former site of a tannery. It offered a Swiss finish to table linen. This new laundry was to be in direct competition with the Cambridge Steam Laundry.

It is worth further research to see what effect this event had on the Cambridge Steam Laundry share prices.

As a result, the advertising campaign for the Cambridge Steam Laundry went into

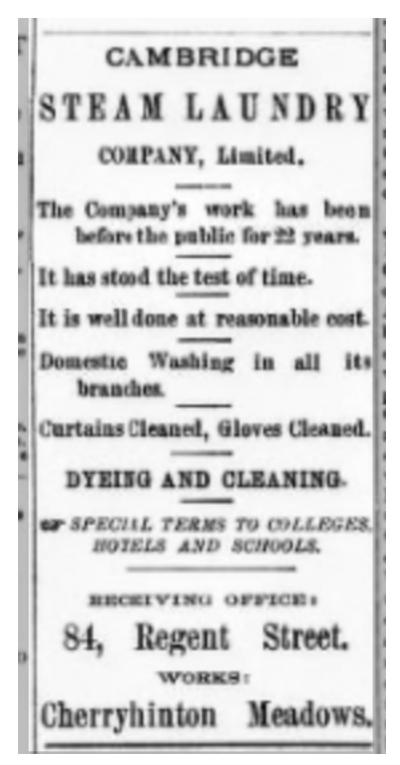
overdrive with many repeated and varied advertisements being placed in many local publications and newspapers. Some are shown below.

CAMBRIDGE	Trade Notices.
STEAM LAUNDRY	
COMPANY, Limited. The Company's work has been before the public for 22 years. It has stood the test of time. It is well done at reasonable cost, Domestic Washing in all its	STEAM LAUNDRY COMPANY, Limited. THE COMPANY INVITES A TRIAL. FIRST RATE WORK AT REASONABLE PRICES THE NEWEST AND BEST MACHINERY.
branches. Curtains Cleaned, Gloves Cleaned. DYEING AND CLEANING. SPECIAL TERMS TO COLLEGES HOTELS AND SCHOOLS. RECEIVING OFFICE : 84, Regent Street.	FIVE ACRES OF OPEN AIR DRYING GROUND. HAND WASHING OF DELICATE FABRICS DYEING AND CLEANING IN ALL BRANCHES. RECEIVING OFFICE: 84. REGENT STREET.
Cherryhinton Meadows	works: Cherryhinton Meadows.

Cambridge Independent Press - Friday 31 July 1903 - British Newspaper Archive.



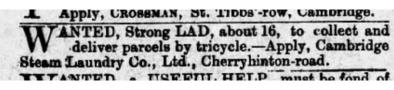
Cambridge Independent Press - Friday 18 March 1904 - British Newspaper Archive.



Cambridge Independent Press - Friday 29 July 1904 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1907</u>

By 1907 Cambridge Steam Laundry had progressed from donkeys/horses and carts to including tricycles for their collections and deliveries.



Saffron Walden Weekly News - Friday 25 January 1907 - British Newspaper Archive.

In 1907 Cambridge Steam Laundry worker, 16-year-old Montague Frost, was involved in a serious cycling accident whilst riding a Steam Laundry carrier tricycle laden with linen.

> SERIOUS STERET ACCIDENT.-Two cyclists came into collision with a cab horse in St. Andrew's-street about half-past nine on Saturday evening, and as the result of the accident a sixteen year old errand boy named Montague Frost, employed by the Cambridge Steam Laundry Company, and living at the cottage adjoining the company's works in Cherryhintonroad, sustained somewhat severe injuries. It appeared that Mr. Arthur Lionel Butter, an auctioneer, residing at Cushendall, Clarendonroad, Brooklands-avenue, was cycling by the Post Office, in the direction of Regent-street, closely followed by a hapson cab, driven by Alfred Carter, of 2, Gleacester - terrace, Gloucester-street, when he met the lad Frost, who was riding a carrier tricycle, laden with clean linen, belonging to the Cambridge Steam Laundry Company. In their efforts to dodge each other, both cyclists collided with the cab horse, and were thrown off their machines. The horse also fell, and in recovering its feet struck Frost on the head, rendering him unconscious P.c. O'Connor, who witnessed the accident, and the occupant of the cab, Mr. W. F. Sidgwick, of Harbury Crescent, Notting Hill Gate, London, W., at once picked up the injured lad, and conveyed him to Dr. Johnson's surgery at 53, St. Andrew's street. Frost was found to be suffering from slight concussion, an abrasion on the bead, After being treated for his injuries, he was driven home in a cab, the tricycle, which was driven home in a cab, the tricycle, which was gbadly damaged, being removed to the Police Station. Mr. Rutter escaped without serious injury, but his machine was alan severely damaged, and the horse's legs were somewhat injured,

Cambridge Independent Press - Friday 08 February 1907 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1909</u>

The advert below shows that things must have continued to go well for the Steam Laundry despite the competition further up the road, this was in part probably due to the sheer amount of new development leading to a decent number of customers going around. It's also worth noting that despite opening the new offices in Regent Street, the office at 5 Alexander Street was still in use.

WANTED, a thoroughly practical FORE-WOMAN to assist Manageress, generally, in examining work and overlooking packers.—Apply by letter (stating qualifications and experience) to the SECRETARY, Cambridge Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., 5, Alexandra-street, Cambridge.

Cambridge Independent Press - Friday 15 January 1909 - British Newspaper Archive.

In February 1909 drama unfolds with a robbery at the Steam Laundry premises. This is then reported in several newspapers across the country as well as locally.

DARING ROBBERY.

Premises Broken Into.

SAFE RIPPED OPEN.

Sixty Pounds in Cash Stolen.

A well-planned and skilfully carried out robbery took place on Sunday night or the early hours of Monday morning at the works of the Cambridge Steam Laundry, Cherryhinton-road, a safe being ripped open, and about £60 in cash abstracted.

The laundry premises are situated a mile down the Cherryhinton-road from Cambridge, nearly opposite the Waterworks Pumping Station. The manager (Mr Pratt) lives at the entrance of a private road which leads to the works. There are several cottages in this road, the last being about 150 yards from the laundry, which is about 260 yards from the main road. It will be seen that the premises broken into are isolated, and lend themselves to a nefarious undertaking of this nature.

The laundry was quite secure at half-past four

undertaking of this nature.

The laundry was quite secure at half-past four on Sunday afternoon, but when Mr Pratt arrived at half-past six on Monday morning he found the office door wide open, the lock having evidently been picked. A rude shock awaited him, for lying on the floor of the office was the safe, with the back ripped open. It was a Perry fireproof safe, and lay on its face. The bettom of the outside casing of the back, of marl steel, had been cut open, the inner lining was also cut through, and two steel drawers, which are locked from the front, had been prised out of the safe, and thrown on the floor. - ney contained cash to the amount of about £60. mostly in gold, but partly in silver.

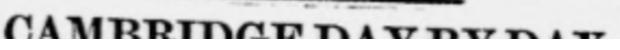
Unfortunately for Mr Pratt the greater part of this was his own personal property, the money belonging to the Company having been sent away on Saturday. Mr Pratt, being so little at home, had kept the money in the office for safety. He courteously showed a representative of the "Cambridge Daily News" exactly how he found the safe, and also how an entrance to the premises had been effected. It seems probable that more than one man was engaged in the work. In the office was a writing desk, with several drawers. The only one which was locked was forced open, but it contained nothing but papers. In another drawer was a gold watch, in a jeweller's case, placed ready to be sent to be repaired. The robbers opened the case, but were astute enough not to take the watch, leaving it on the top of the desk. The safe has been on the premises for 20 years.

Entrance to the premises was obtained through

20 years.

Entrance to the premises was obtained through a window at the back. The only house on the main road that commands a view of the window is about 250 yeards away, and is partly obscured by the trees and an orchard which runs at the back of the laundry. The window was in full view of the Norman Cement works, but that would be about half a mile off as the crow flies. The robbers were therefore scarcely likely to be interrupted in their work. The window is only a few feet from the ground, and the robbers having, apparently with a chisel, forced away a top corner of a large pane of glass, exposing the window catch, had an easy task before them. Pulling back the catch they entered the girls' mess room, and walked through several apartments to the office, which is at the front of the building. The ground was hard with frost, so that the robbers unfortunately left no footprints behind.

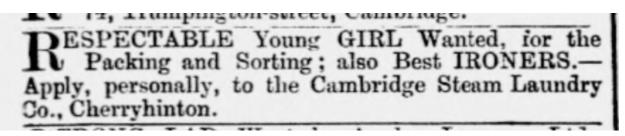
Mr Pratt at once placed the matter in the hands of the police, who are making diligent enquiries, but so far no arrest has been made.



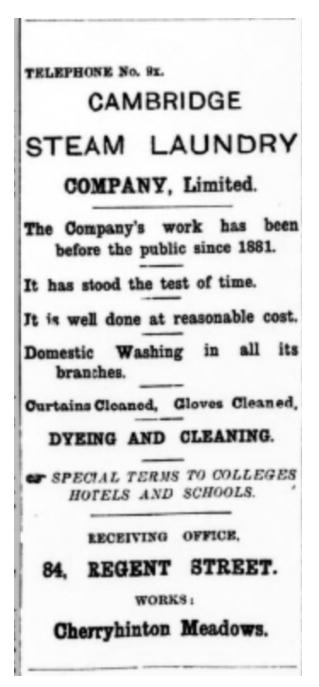
Cambridge Daily News - Wednesday 10 February 1909 - British Newspaper Archive.

Along with adverts seeking new staff the Steam Laundry continues with its regular advertising but is now able to include a phone number for the first time.

premises for



Cambridge Daily News - Thursday 18 March 1909 - British Newspaper Archive.



Cambridge Independent Press - Friday 19 March 1909

1911 Census - Cambridge Road now called Cherry Hinton Road

1. 3 Huckles Cottages, Cherry Hinton Road Cambridge - 6 rooms

Henry William Oakman Head 26 (M 6 years 1 child) – Domestic Groom – worker - Cambridge

Mary Ann Oakman wife 23 – Laundry Hand Steam Laundry – worker - Cambridge Henry William Oakman son 6 – Scholar - Cambridge

1. Loughton, Cherry Hinton Cambs - 8 rooms (They have named their house after wifes home town)

James Pratt Head 55 - M 27 years 5 children 4 alive 1 deceased - Laundry Engineer – out of work – Old Catton Norfolk Annie A Pratt wife 51 – " " " " – Laundry Manageress -worker – Loughton Essex Fredrick A Pratt son 20 s – Clerk Government Telegraph – worker – Cherry Hinton Annie A Pratt daughter 17 s – Cashier Café – Cherry Hinton

Rose M Pratt daughter 17 s – Casher Care – Cherry Hinton Harrold G Daniel brother-in-law 45 s – Journalist – at home – Loughton Essex

1. Hinton Cottage, Laundry Cottages, Cherry Hinton – 4 rooms

Arthur King Wolfe Head 41 (M under one year) – Laundry Carman Steam Laundry Company - Cambridge Elizabeth Wolfe wife 38 M " – Laundry Ironer Steam Laundry Company – Chesterton

1. Laundry Cottages, Cherry Hinton Road – 4 rooms

William Arthur Coe Head 33 (M 11 years 2 children) – Dairy Farmer – own account – Cherry Hinton Annie Coe wife 38 M – Dressmaking – own account, at home – Compton Devon Arthur Coe son 9 – School – Cherry Hinton Annie Coe daughter 6 – School – Cherry Hinton

1. 6 Steam Laundry Cottages Cherry Hinton Cambridge – 4 rooms

Henry James Frost Head 48 (M 23 years 6 children) Laundry Man employed worker - Cambridge Jane Frost wife 49 - " " " - Essex Christopher Frost son 21 s – Labourer to Carter – Cherry Hinton Montague Frost son 20 s – Labourer to Carter – Cherry Hinton William Frost son 18 s – Farm Labourer on Land – Cherry Hinton Harry Frost son 16 s – Farm Labourere on Land – Cherry Hinton Robert Frost son 11 s – School – Cherry Hinton Sidney Frost son 8 s – School – Cherry Hinton

1. Laundry Cottages, Cherry Hinton Road – 4 rooms

Charles Patten Head 26 (M 7 years 4 children) – Bricklayer – worker – Cherry Hinton Emily Patten wife 28 M – Trumpington Rose Patten daughter 7 – School – Cherry Hinton Frederick Patten son 4 – Cherry Hinton Sidney Patten son 4 – Cherry Hinton Maude Patten daughter – 3 months – Cherry Hinton

1. Laundry Cottages, Cherry Hinton Road – 4 rooms

John King 51 M – Attendant Fulbourn Asylum – worker – Woodwalton Hunts Emily King 30 M – Laundry Maid Steam Laundry – worker – Arlesey Beds

1. Laundry Cottages, Steam Laundry Cambridge - 4 rooms

George Walker Miller Head 40 (M 14 years 2 children) – Hydro Man Laundry – worker – Edinburgh Scotland Olive Harriet Miller wife 47 M " " " – Forewoman Laundry – worker – St Pancras Islington William Frederick George Miller son 11 – School – Wood Green Middlesex Robert Rick Miller son 8 – School – Wood Green Middlesex

1. Laundry Cottages, Steam Laundry, Cambridge – 4 rooms

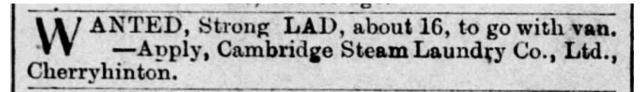
Arthur Nightingale Head 54 (M 29 years 4 children) – Brewers Labourer – St Andrew the Less Cambridge Sarah Ann Nightingale wife 55 M – " " " " – Laundry Ironer – worker – Thriplow Julia Louise Nightingale daughter 26 s – Laundry Ironer – worker – Cherry Hinton Arthur George Nightingale son 25 s – Whitesmith – worker – Cherry Hinton Ernest Henry Nightingale son 22 s – Wheelwright – worker – Cherry Hinton William Mark Nightingale son 16 s – Under Gardener – worker – Cherry Hinton

 Laundry Cottages, Cherry Hinton – 4 rooms
 Frederick Bowles Head 40 (M 14 years 4 children) – Coal Carman – worker – Fulbourn
 Mary Ann Bowles wife 38 M " " " – Whittlesford Cambs
 Dorothy Bowles daughter 13 – School – Cherry Hinton
 Frederick George Bowles son 12 – Cherry Hinton
 Redvers Bowles son 10 – Cherry Hinton
 Pretoria May Bowles daughter 10 – Cherry Hinton

In 1908 Josiah Chater died, the role of secretary to the Steam Laundry Company most likely fell to his son Augustine Chater at this date. In 1911 Augustine was living in Hartington Grove, off of Hills Road Cambridge

<u>1912</u>

In 1912 we find the first mention of the use of motorised vehicles for the Steam Laundry.



Saffron Walden Weekly News - Friday 19 July 1912 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1916</u>

By May 1916 the effects of the First World War on businesses were being felt and a claim was placed by the Steam Laundry to hold on to their key worker, William Henry Wenham, rather than him go off to war, stating that if he were to go, they would probably have to shut down. We can see from the newspaper report below that the Steam Laundry was engaged in army work by the washing of army blankets.

CHERRYH Cherryhinton ing exemption with laundries ham, who was Steam Laundri	INTON LAUNDRY CLAIMS. a produced two applicants want- b, both of whom are connected to The first was Wm. H. Wen- s appealed for by the Cambridge ry Company. Wenham lives at
attendant, me would probabl taken. They	ind is employed as steam engine chanic and stoker. The company y have to close down if he were were engaged on Army work, kets, etc.—Conditional exemption
In the secon pealed for by dry Company. and has charg company are	nd case Ernest Walters was ap- the manager of the Swiss Laun- He is employed as engine driver to of the laundry machinery. The doing the washing for the 1st other hospitals.—Three months.

Saffron Walden Weekly News - Friday 26 May 1916 - British Newspaper Archive.

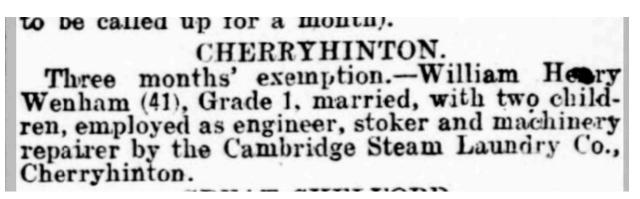
<u>1918</u>

Throughout 1917-1918 the Steam Laundry places less of its regular weekly newspaper adverts for business and instead, there is a constant stream of weekly adverts places requesting staff for various jobs. The advert below, for example, states that a war bonus is included.

RESPECTABLE GIRL Wanted for the Packing and Sorting, also Girls for Calender and Folding; war boaus paid.—Apply, Cambridge Steam Laundry Co., Cherryhinton.

Cambridge Daily News - Friday 28 June 1918 - British Newspaper Archive.

In July 1918 we can see that William Henry Wenham was granted another 3 months' extension to continue working at the Steam Laundry rather than be sent of fighting. This must continually be requested.



Cambridge Independent Press - Friday 12 July 1918 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1923</u>

For a few years after the war there were quite a lot of newspaper adverts placed for job vacancies at the Steam Laundry but no real regular adverts for business like there had been before the war. In 1923 we find the following newspaper notice which discussed one of the Steam Laundry cottages. We can see that the office at 5 Alexandra Street was still in use and that the manageress was now Annie Wheeler.

POSSESSION OF A COTTAGE.

The Cambridge Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., of 5, Alexandra-street, applied for the possession of a cottage tenanted by Mary Moles, of 8, Steam Laundry Cottages, Cherryhinton.

Mr. R. C. Bishop appeared for applicants.

Annie Wheeler, manageress to the company, said the cottage was one of a number used to house their staff. During the war one cottage became vacant, and the defendant was allowed to have it on the understanding that the company should have the cottage if they wanted it for staff again. The cottage was now required for a foreman, who was now living in lodgings. There was a possibility of losing him if the company could not get possession of the cottage. There was no written agreement with the defendant, and the tenancy was a weekly one.

Defendant's husband, a mental nurse, stated that he was now living in lodgings in a village near Watford. He had to live there as his work was there. He had made efforts to get a house, but was unable to do so. He had four children, one being a son of 19 years of age.

ren, one being a son of 19 years of age. His Honour adjourned the case until the next Court, and advised the defendant to endeavour to get alternative accommodation in the meantime.

'THURSDAY.-Before his Honour Judge Farrant.

Saffron Walden Weekly News - Friday 26 January 1923 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1925</u>

In January 1925 Mr Rutter dies and the newspaper obituary states that he was a director of the Cambridge Steam Company.

The Late MR. ARTHUR RUTTER.

Sudden Death of Well-known Auctioneer.

Auctioneers' Institute. He was also a diretor of the Cambridge Steam Laundry Company. The late Mr. Rutter was at one time churchwarden at St. Mark's, Newnham, He

Suffolk and Essex Free Press - Thursday 08 January 1925 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1933</u>

In 1933 another break-in at the Steam Laundry occurred with an interesting tale of how the culprit was caught!

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW

Remarkable Story at Cambs. Court

At Cambs. Divisional Court on Saturday Thomas Edward Spriggs, of 115, Rossstreet, Cambridge, was charged with being on enclosed premises with intent to commit a felony on the night of February 24th.

P.C. Good said that he went to the premises of the Cambridge Steam Laundry in Cherryhinton-road on Friday night, and found foot marks in the snow, which led to the outer office.

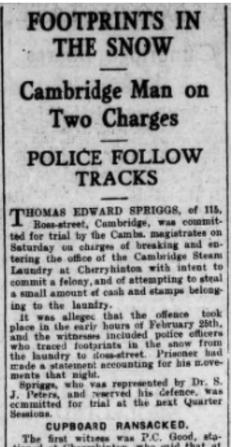
He found that the lock on the office door had been forced and that there were footmarks and snow on the floor inside the office, where he found an instrument, which he produced, resembling a chisel. The cupboard behind the door had been ransucked and articles were strewn about the floor.

Witness and Sergt, Sussum followed the footprints over the fields and after some miles found that they led into Ross st., and stopped abruptly at the house numbered 115, where the prisoner resided. They had measured the length of the footprints. On Saturday morning he saw defendant at his house and arrested him at 9.30 a.m. Supt. Allen said that he intended to produce other evidence regarding the footprints and asked that the prisoner should be remanded in custody for a week, to which the Bench agreed.

Saffron Walden Weekly News - Friday 03 March 1933 - British Newspaper Archive.

The full tale unfolds in March 1933 in the trial report given in the newspaper, which you can read below.

In the report we discover that Edna Fisher, who gives evidence in the trial, is Chief Clerk of the Steam Laundry.



CUPBOARD RANSACKED. The first witness was P.C. Good, sta-tioned at Cherryhinton, who said that at 12.25 a.m. on February 25th he visited the Steam Laundry at Cherryhinton Meadows. Snov had fallen the day be-fore, and he found footprints loading from the fields behind the laundry to the door of the outer office, which was wide open. The word on the post near the lock had been cut away, and there were footmarks and snow inside the office. A cupboard behind the door had been ran-sacked. An ircn cuse-opener was found on a shelf near the lock, and the marks corresponded with it. The bolt of the lock was bent, and hore signs of having been roughly used. Footprints led away from the office, crossed a ditch and en-tered the fields

tered the fields With Sergt. Sussam witness followed footprints acress two fields towards Brookfields. On arriving at the old Newmarket branch railway line they found that the footprints led through a hole in the hedge, along the line to Perne-road. A fence had to be climbed, and the foot-prints crossed the road to Brooks-road. The footprints were then followed to Coldham's-lane and Ross-street, and ended at the door of 115, Ross-street, Witness telephoned to the Borough Police, and in company with Det.-Sergt. Bird and Sergt. Sussum he interviewed pris-oner at his residence at 9.20 a.m. Pris-Bird oner was asked to account for his moveoner was asked to account for his move-ments the previous night, and after a good deal of hesitation he said, "I went out at 5 p.m. for a walk and returned home. I went out again at 7 p.m., and again returned home. I went out again at 10 p.m. and took the dog for a walk. The dog ran away. I went to look for it and got back home about 1 a.m. The dog was home when I returned." Prisoner was taken to the County Police Station. It was quite easy to follow

Station. It was quite easy to follow the footprints.

The only other occupant of the house was a woman. Prisoner produced a pair of shoes which as said he wore. They

of shoes which he taid he wore. They were wet, but he (witness) thought an attempt had been made to dry them. Replying to Dr. Peters. witness said they arrived at Ross-street at 2.45 a.m. Re-examined after the luncheon adjourn-ment, P.C. Good stated that the passages between the two houses had not been swept. When they first saw prisoner he was in his slippers. He did not appear to have been up long. have been up lorg.

The snow was not deep enough to show whether the marks had been made by boots or

Saffron Walden Weekly News - Friday 10 March 1933 - British Newspaper Archive.

COULS OF SHOPS.

DOOR FORCED OPEN.

Sergt. Sussum, stationed at Stapleford, gave evidence that at 12.40 a.m. on Saturday, February 25th he received a telephone message from P.C. Good, in consequence of which he went to the Steam Laundry. Oberry hinton. He there met P.C. Good and went down the drive leading to the outer office of the steam laundry.

The office door had been forced open and a strip of wood off the door-frame on the left hand side of the door had been ripped off. The woodwork around the lock had been cut away, giving the impression that it had been chipped with a chisel, and the bolt of the lock was bent. The strip of wood torn from the door frame was found lying near the office door. On entering the office, P.C. Good found a steel implement on a desk.

Witness followed footprints in the snow, in company with P.C. Good. At intervals the footprints were about four feet apart, which gave the impression that the man had been running.

The Chairman: What is the normal length of the stride of a man? About three feet?

Witness: No, sir, about thirty inches.

" IT IS A MISTAKE."

Witness cautioned the prisoner at the house and told him that he would be detained whilst further inquiries were made. He was escorted to the headquarters of the County Police, Cambridge, where he was charged with office-breaking. In answer to the charge he said: "It is a mistake. I don't know nothing about the charge."

In answer to Supt. Allen, witness said that the footprints stopped at the entrance to 115, Ross-street, one pointing towards the door. There were no prints coming away. The footprints were those of a man. There was one man in the house, the prisoner. oner.

Shown some shoes, witness said they were the ones which made the marks. The shoes were pointed.

Witness saw no marks of a dog's paws in the snow.

Cross-examined, witness said that the mud on the shoes was similar to the mud in the fields on the way to the laundry. If prisoner had been looking for his dog near Coldham Common he agreed that similar mud would have been on them.

Old marks were seen along Coldhamlane but none in Ross-street. It was not possible to take a mould of the prints in the snow as it was thawing when they came back from seeing the prisoner. None of the snow had been brushed away

None of the snow had been brushed away near the house when prisoner was seen in the morning. Nc finger-prints were taken at the laundry.

Dr. Peters put it to witness that prisoner did not say that the shoes produced had been worn by him but witness disagreed.

SEEN BY CONSTABLE.

Evidence was also given by P.C. Parker, of the Cambridge Borough Police, who stated that he was on duty at Vinery-road, Cambridge, at 12.50 a.m. on February 25th. He was in the new cut leading into Coldham's-lane when he saw a man go by the end of the cut along Coldham's-tane. He was going towards Newmarket-road. That was in the direction of a new road into Ross-street. He was coming from the direction of Cherryhinton-road.

direction of Cherryhinton-road. Witness hurried to the end of Vineryroad into Coldham's-lane. When he reached the end the man was about fifty yards away. Witness called out to him and he came back. Witness saw that it was the prisoner, whom he knew. Witness said to him: "What are you doing at this time of night?" He repled: "I have just left the girl." Witness felt satisfied with his reply, as he knew him and let him go. He did rot say anything about having jost his dog He had not got a dog with him.

He had not got a dog with him. Edna Fisher, 15. Madras-road, Cambridge chief clerk Cambridge Steam Laundry Company, gave evidence that at 4.30 p.m. she locked the door of the outer office of the laundry. She put the key in the usual place. When she left the office that evening there was about is, worth of stamps in a little cardboard box, made up of 2s, worth of halfpenny stamps and one shilling's worth of twopenny stamps. There was also 14d. in the box, which was on the telephone box. In addition there were three shillings of witness's own money in another box, which was in an unlocked cupboard in the effice. About 8.45 next morning witness found the place had been broken into. The stamps and the 14d, were just as they had been left the previous night. The contents of one cupboard had been strewn about the usual place.

of one cupboard had been strewn about the floor.

Cross-examined, witness said a whatever was taken from the office. nothing

After the second charge had been amend-ed by the omission of the reference to 3s, in cush, prisoner, who reserved his de-fence, was committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions.

In the end, at sentencing, Thomas Spriggs was found not guilty.

His answer to the policeman about leaving his girl was untrue, but his reason for saying so was that his dogs were unlicen-sed, and there had been complaints that chickens had been killed. On arrival home he kicked the snow off his shoes and put them in the fender.

home he kicked the snow off his shoes and put them in the fender. "THOUGHT IT WAS MURDER." "When I saw all the police officers there," remarked Spriggs, "I thought there had been nothing less than a murder." On suggesting to the police that he might object to having his fuger-prints taken, he was told that an order could be obtained for taking them by force. In reply to Mr. Howard, prisoner said he left the beet factory 18 months ago and took up the charge of greyhounds ov red by other people. He received Sam-bo as a gift from Mr. Curry, a bookmaker, about February 21st. A man named Lee was now looking after the dog, but he still "had a share in it." He sold part of his defence. He married his housekeeper only last week. He did not generally choose a stow-storm in which to go for walks, but the snow suited the dogs feet. Between 7 and 9 o'clock he entered a public-house, but friends who saw him were not being called as witnesses, nor was his wife. The dog returned to the house later and waked up and down outside, so that there must have been a number of paw-marks in the snow. This concluded the evidence, and coun-

SHOW.

This concluded the evidence, and coun-

This concluded the evidence, and coun-sel addressed the jury. "NOT GUILTY" VERDICT. After counsel had addressed the jury. the Chairman summed up. The jury re-tired, and after an absence of eight min-utes, returned a verdict of not guilty on the breaking and entering charge. The second charge was withdrawn, and a formal verdict of not guilty returned.

Saffron Walden Weekly News - Friday 14 April 1933 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1935</u>-36

Cambridgeshire County Directory Cambridge Steam Laundry Co. Ltd. Receiving office 4738 Works 87548 Chater, A. B. A.C.A., F.C.I.S., secretary Cambridge Steam Laundry, Cherry Hinton road and 54 Regent Street *Augustine Barrett Chater was Josiah Chater's son*

<u>1937</u>

The following newspaper notice shows that the laundries are working together how this worked in practice and affected the public ownership of the Cambridge Steam Laundry is not clear and would merit further research.



Saffron Walden Weekly News - Friday 10 September 1937 - British Newspaper Archive.

In 1937 we find the first general business advert in many years for the Steam Laundry. It is much plainer than those that they used to publish before the war, and you'll note that there is now a new phone number for the Steam Laundry.



Saffron Walden Weekly News - Friday 05 November 1937 - British Newspaper Archive.

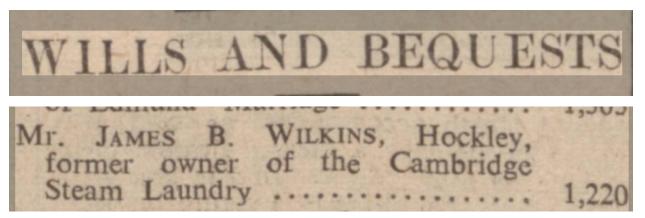
<u>1938</u>

By 1938 Kelvin Close was laid out to the immediate west of the Steam Laundry and the houses were built just before the war.



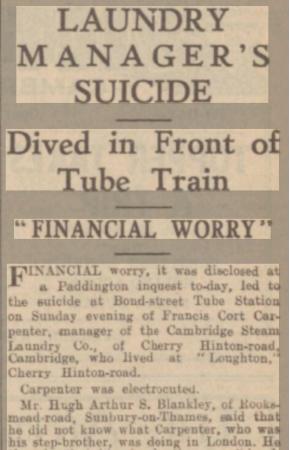
OS 6" surveyed 1935 published 1945.

<u>1939</u>



Chelmsford Chronicle - Friday 06 January 1939 - British Newspaper Archive.

A very sad tale appeared in the newspaper in August 1939 which tells of the suicide of Francis Cort Carpenter, Manager of Cambridge Steam Laundry. The full story is below.



his step-brother, was doing in London. He thought that his step-brother was "hardup," but had received no request for assistance from him. Carpenter had been taking to drink

lately.

"LISTENED FOR A TRAIN."

How Carpenter "listened-in" for a train to enter Bond-street Station was described by Mr. Edward James Saxby, of Park-street W. He said that the man whom he took to be a police officer in plain clothes walked to the tunnel end of the platform and stood listening.

As the train came in he deliberately dived in front of it as if going off a diving board. The driver stopped immediately, and the train did not go over Carpenter.

Dr. Edward Fell, of St. Mary's Hospital, said that the cause of death was electrocution.

"VERY MUCH THE WORSE FOR DRINK."

P.C. Albert Dinsdale, Deputy Coroner's officer, said that Carpenter left Cambridge on August 10th apparently intending to go to the head office of the laundry firm at Cambridge. He did not go there but, went instead to Blackheath, where he used to be employed. He reached Blackheath at mid-day very much the worse for drink, and stayed there until 8.30 p.m. treating several people to drinks.

When asked why he did not go home, he said that he had had trouble with his wife. He eventually borrowed money to go to a hotel for the night

The Coroner (Mr. Ingleby Oddie): There had been some trouble at the firm?—Enquiries were made at the firm, but they seemed very reluctant to give information.

The Coroner recorded a verdict of "Suicide while of uncound mind." With the outbreak of World War Two the Steam Laundry business was once again affected.

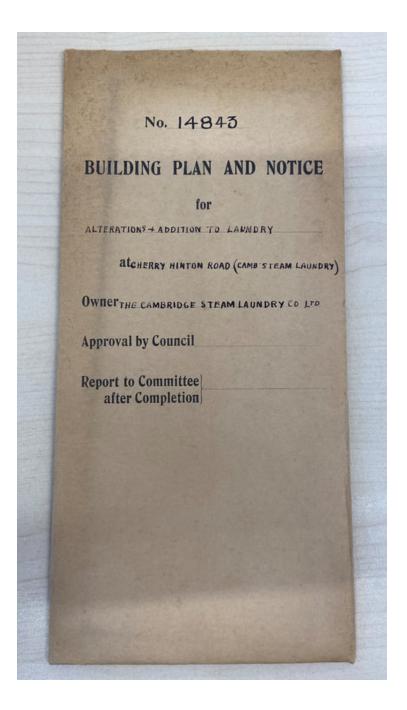


Cambridge Daily News - Thursday 14 September 1939 - British Newspaper Archive.

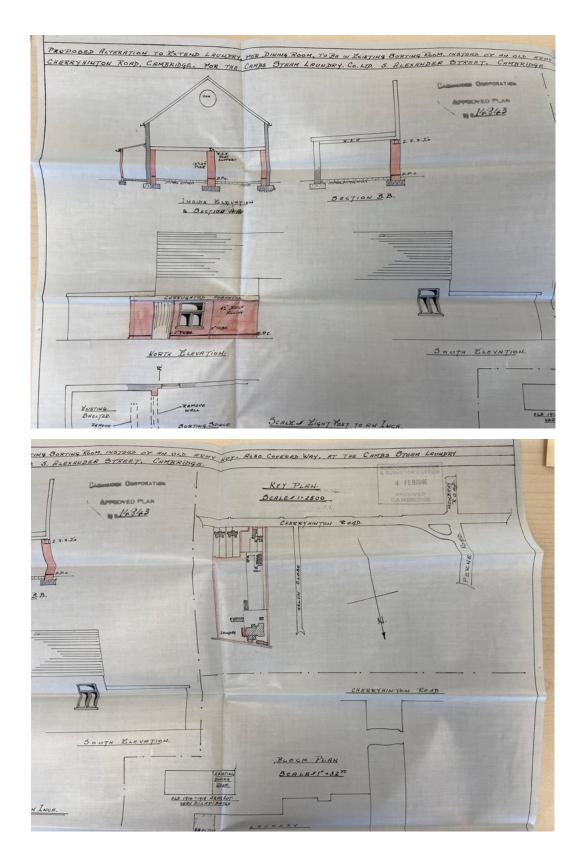
<u>1946</u>

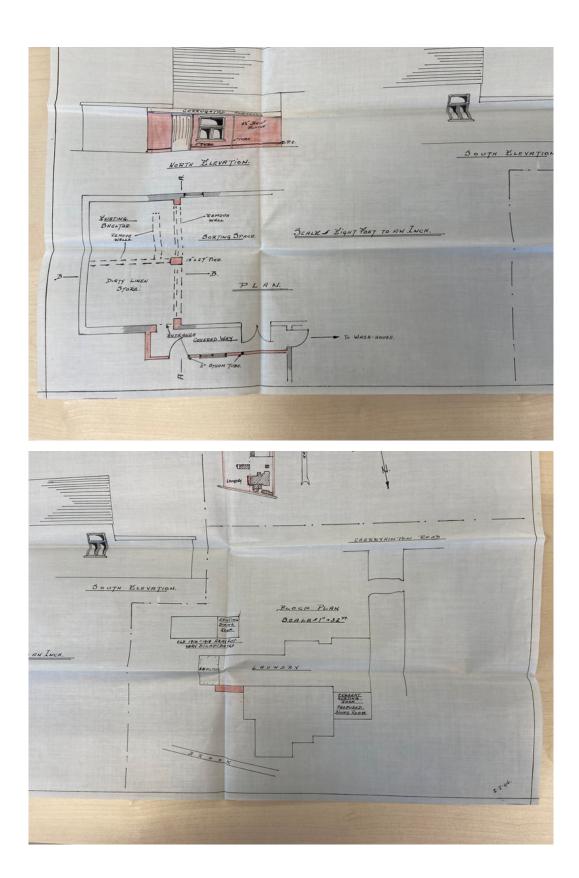
I visited the Cambridgeshire Archives at Ely to look at the records that they hold for the Cambridge Steam Laundry. They hold a set of building bylaw plans which I was able to photograph. Cambridgeshire Archives Reference:

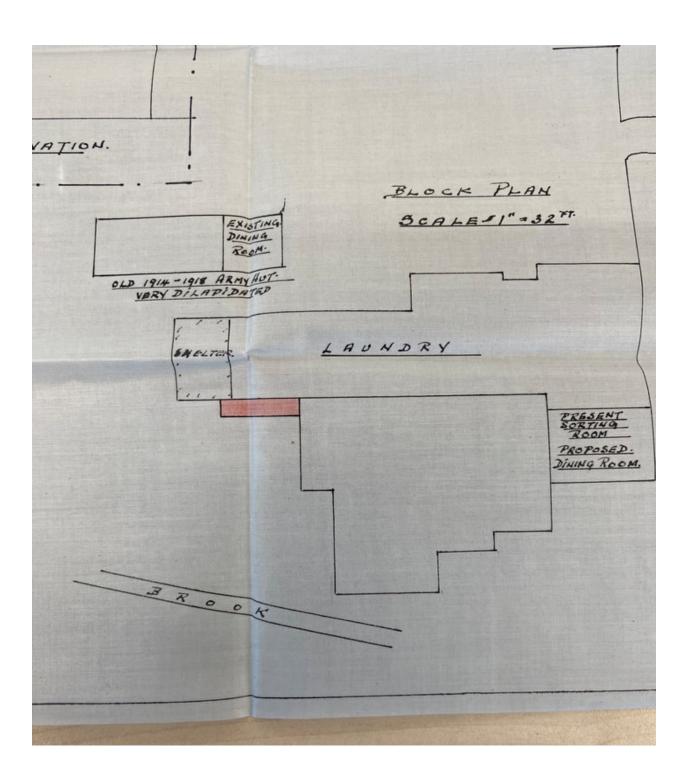
KCB/2/SE/3/9/14843 Building byelaw plan and approval for alterations and additions to laundry, Cherry Hinton Road (Cambridge Steam Laundry) 11th Feb 1946.

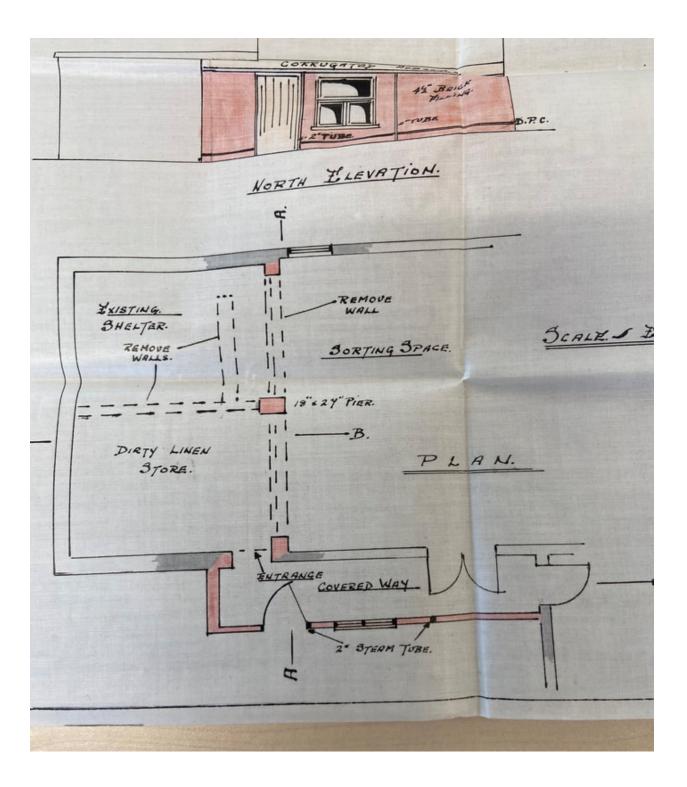


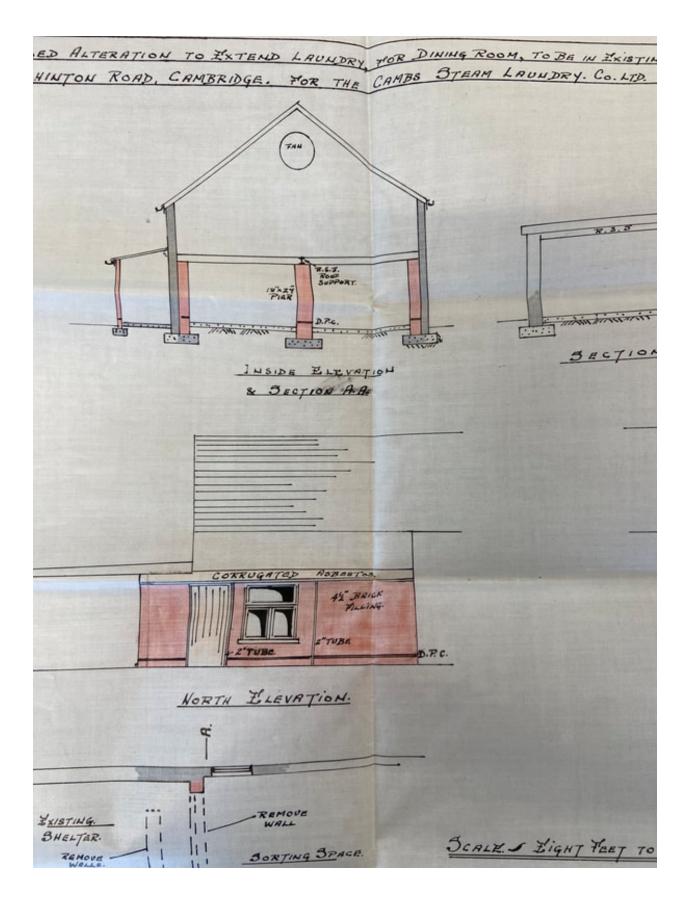
Altrations to Laundry at Carbidge Steam Laundry Colts. 5. Clepander Strat. Byclaws In Orden . wed filmena C TP. affected by the Cambridge +D. P. Scheme Residential 8 to an but Existing Ensenies. - Jubrden Somerages Burneyer. ака Алтекатон то Елтена Алисти, на Вана Коан, То За и Белгинд Сох Ухинтан Кола, Самакада, Нек тие Сила Огала Каширау, С. 10, З. Во IL HET. HARD COLORED WAY. AT THE CARDO OTHER LOUNDED. Rott INSTERS OF TH OLD TH DLALES 1. 1800 APPROVED PLAN No.14343 Bestion B.B. Derrar Party M South ELEVATION. BLOSH PLAN OLALASI - 22" BEALK & Light Your TO AN LUCA. Bernus Brein EMPARTE TRADUCAR PLAN

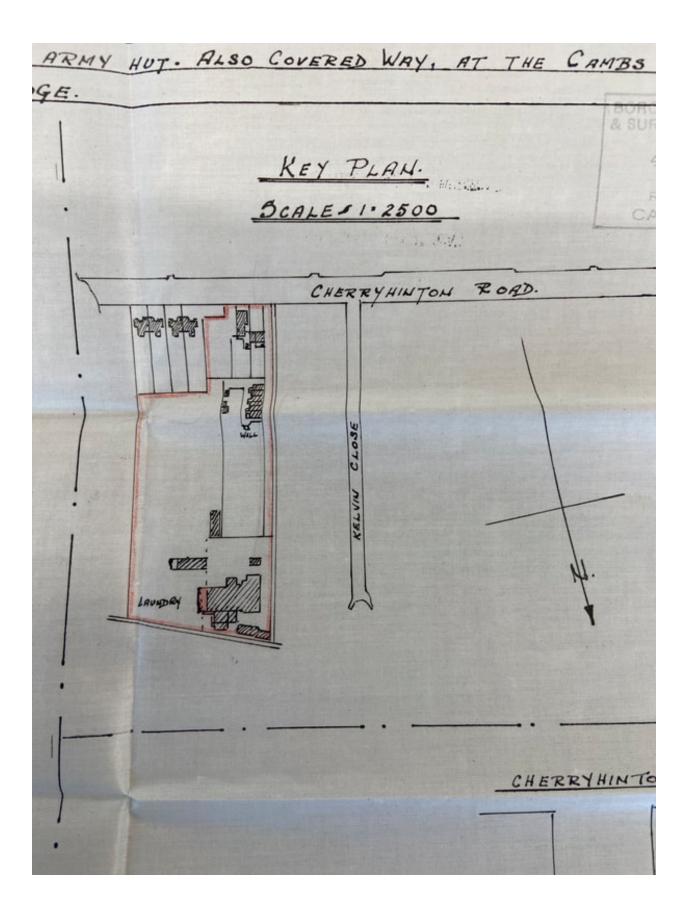












BRID	<u>уде.</u> . <u></u> . <u></u>	EY PLAN. ALE 11.2500	4 FEBI9 RECEIVER	46	
		CHERRYHINTON P	A.	PERVE ROAD.	
T			CHERRYHINTON R	<u>елр</u>	

Cambridgeshire Archives: KCB/2/SE/3/9/14843 Building byelaw plan and approval for alterations and additions to laundry, Cherry Hinton Road (Cambridge Steam Laundry) 11th Feb 1946.

<u>1948</u>

YOUR LAUNDRY. - The Cambridge Laundry Co., Ltd., are now col-Steam lecting and delivering in the Imping-Histon-and surrounding ton areas. А iable weekly service of fully finished rel work is offered, and we are in lau ndry position to take on new customers a Tel. Cambridge 87548. All enquiries, Manager. Cambridge Steam Laundry Co. Cherry Hinton Ltd., Road, Cambridge.

Saffron Walden Weekly News - Friday 16 July 1948 - British Newspaper Archive.



The site of Cambridge Steam Laundry in February 1948, still with its drying meadow. Kelvin Close can be seen on the west of the site with Coe's orchard and farm on the east. Air Photo Mosaic Sheet (1:10,560 scale) National Library of Scotland.

<u> 1952 - 1962</u>

A Cherry Hinton resident, Penny Nicholas (nee Jackson), kindly wrote up her memories of living in one of the Steam Laundry cottages for me. She lived there between c.1952-1962.

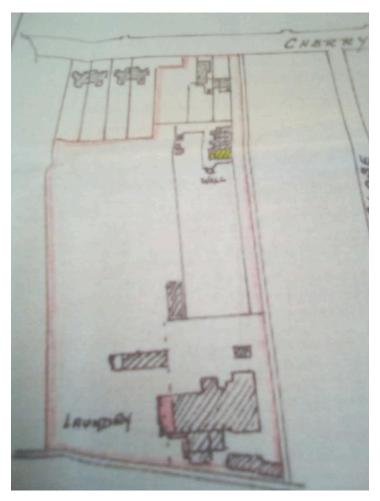
"My parents decided after the 2nd World War to move away from London and make Cambridge their home. I believe that my dad's first job in Cambridge was at the Swiss Laundry on Cherry Hinton Road, which was not far from our home. My dad was an engineer, and he eventually left his job at the Swiss Laundry and worked for the Cambridge Steam Laundry which was at the end of Laundry Lane off of Cherry Hinton Road in Cambridge. The job came with a cottage which was located at Laundry Lane, our cottage was number 1 Laundry Lane which was the cottage nearest the Laundry, there were 5 other cottages and as far as I can recall, all were occupied by other laundry workers."



Tinker my dog with the laundry buildings in the background.

I sent Penny the plan of the site, which showed the houses on the Steam Laundry, and she kindly highlighted in yellow, which house used to be theirs - see below:

"I was pleased to see that the well was marked on the plan, it was practically in our back garden! It's a shame that the Lane is in such a mess now.....On the attached plan that you kindly submitted I have highlighted our cottage and we resided there circa 1952-1962."



Penny's house is marked yellow on the plan.

Penny related further useful and interesting information about the Steam Laundry site and who was living there during this period. She also had several photographs to share.

"I recall that there was a family called Arnold who lived at number 3 Laundry Lane, Cecelia Arnold was the eldest and I think Len was her son, there was a young lady called Ella and I remember a young man called Ricki. At some point, there was a baby boy living in the Arnold household and I guessed he was Len's son, his name was Kevin."



My mum, holding Kevin Arnold, my uncle John (visiting from London) sisters Ellen, Margaret, & me Penny.



Penny, Michael Inskip, Margaret back row, Christine Inskip and Freda Mauer in the front.



Mrs Arnold, (Cecelia) Mum, Ella, Margaret, Michael Inskip, Freda (Mauer) Christine Inskip, & myself, I think the dog belonged To Mrs Arnold.

"There was a family whose surname was Cramer. I think the dad was Polish. I cannot remember his wife's name, but I remember he had 2 daughters. I think one of the daughters was named Barbara, the other I think was Marisha but I am not sure.

There was a family called Inskip but I cannot remember what number they lived at, but they had two children Michael and Christine. At the end of the row of cottages was a couple who did not have any children, they were Tom and Ivy Cordon, and I can remember when Queen Elizabeth was Crowned (1953) they let us children watch the ceremony on their TV because none of the other residents had one! They were also the only ones who had a car. There was another little cottage in Laundry Lane, it was nearer to Cherry Hinton Road. There was a little girl called Freda Mauer who lived there with her parents, her dad's name was Steve."



Our Mum with her 3 Girls. This picture was taken in Laundry Lane, you can see Kelvin Close houses in the background.



Penny and Margaret in the back garden of No1, garden shed and cowslip field in the background.

Post-war, money was tight, but as a child, it seemed to be a happy community. At the back of the row of cottages, we all had back gardens and to the side of the houses was a plot of land which was turned into allotments for growing vegetables. There was also a well on this piece of land.



Laundry Lane Children c.1953. This was taken at the back of our house, the girl at the back was our eldest sister Ellen, I am front-left and Margaret is front-right, I think the two girls in the middle of the front row are the Cramer sisters. The Laundry building is in the background.

Beyond our back gardens was a big field, where in the summer the children used to play during the school holidays. In early summer the field was covered with cowslips, which today are still my favourite flower. The boundary of the field had a row of trees and beyond the trees was Coe's Farm. Mrs Coe ran a shop, the front of which was on Cherry Hinton Road. The shop was opposite where the TA is now. (You can read more about the Coe's by visiting:

https://www.michellebullivant.com/cherryhintonhistory/lime-tree-farm-and-the-coe-familycherry-hinton#/)

In the Early 1960s, I am not sure of the date, but I know I was at Netherhall School at the time, we learned that the field that was playing field, at the back of the cottages had been sold and houses were to be built, and Derwent Close was born, building proceeded and we were surrounded by a building site. At the time it seemed like a huge number of houses were being built, but worse was to come, the houses that we lived in were to be demolished to be part of the new build, I think there are garages where our houses used to be. The workers from the Laundry were given new homes on Derwent Close, wonderful we thought, brand new houses with a bathroom! I can remember our old cottage being demolished, Margaret and I watched out of our new bedroom window, and we could see all the pictures of pop stars still clinging to the walls of our old bedroom as they demolished the cottages.

Dad came home from work one night and he had to tell us he had been made redundant from his job, so he had to find us somewhere else to live. Margaret and I were really upset, we did not want to move! But Dad sorted it out, he got another job, at the Cambridge pumping station (now the Museum of Technology).....It was winter 1962 when we moved, Dad and Margaret had to go to work, so Mum and I had to sort out the moving, we had a removal company move us, and when they had finished, I had to take the key to the house back to the manager of the Laundry, I think his name was Mr Dorsey. Looking back, I had a very happy childhood, we did not have much money, but we had a good time, and we made the most of what we had. Looking at the recent pictures that my husband Nick took the other day of Laundry Lane, it made me sad to see how neglected it is now. But that is progress for you!"

Penny Nicholas (Jackson) - Church End, Cherry Hinton 18.09.2023

You can read Penny's full story by visiting:

https://www.michellebullivant.com/cherryhintonhistory/laundry-lane-cherry-hinton-history#/

<u>1954</u>

From around 1950 the Cambridge Steam Laundry had begun a new service of Dry Cleaning and had begun its advertising campaign by 1954 Perhaps this was in part because it had now lost its traditional drying ground to the new houses. For several months there were many newspaper adverts placed to call for new employees at the Steam Laundry, in the 'Dry Cleaning Department'.

Mrs B Jackson & Co. 3 Regent Street, was one of the first businesses in Cambridge offering Dry Cleaning from 1900 onwards. The Swiss Laundry had also offered dry cleaning since its opening in the early 1900's.



Cambridge Daily News - Monday 04 January 1954 - British Newspaper Archive.



Cambridge Daily News - Friday 29 January 1954 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1962</u>

In 1962, during the last years of the laundry, Mr H Dorcey of Cambridge Steam Laundry represented on the East Anglian Council section of the Institute of British Launderers.

Launderer's Elect New Chairman				
At a meeting of the Section of the Institu- Launderers, held in Kettle Restaurant, C. J. Bassett, of Haver Steam Laundry, was man for 1962. The secretary will vill, of Swiss Laund bridge, the treasurer L. Hirst of the Well Co. Ltd., Cambridge. The section will on the Institute's East trict Council by Mr Turvill and Mr. H. Cambridge Steam La	the Cambridge tute of British the Copper Cambridge, Mr. hill and Dist. elected chair- be Mr. K. Tur- lry Ltd., Cam- will be Mr. D. brook Laundry be represented st Anglian Dis- Bassett, Mr. Dorcey of the			

Haverhill Echo - Saturday 24 February 1962 - British Newspaper Archive.

In the same month of February 1962 Cambridge Steam Laundry changed its name and became the Cambridge Laundry and Cleaners Ltd with Mr Dorcey identified as the general manager. The company then takes over another laundry - The Coldham Model Laundry - bringing along a few of its staff.



Saffron Walden Weekly News - Friday 02 February 1962 - British Newspaper Archive.



c.1962 Aerial view showing the newly built Derwent Close over the drying meadow with the Steam Laundry still reachable at the rear, via Laundry Lane - Fairley Surveys.

<u>1967</u>

The Laundry Lane / Arnold Layne Pink Floyd Connection. Added by D J (Nick) Nicholas (Penny Nicholas' husband)

"The story of the Pink Floyd song Arnold Layne has never been fully explained, and probably never will, the Lane although called Laundry Lane had so many Arnolds living there in the very early days, it was called (unofficially) Arnold Lane. If you listen to the lyrics of Arnold Lane by the Floyd, you will gather that it is pertinent to an individual (known to the police) as an alcoholic, and a thief who stole items of clothing from the washing lines in the area, it is believed he was an Arnold (one of the many that lived in the Laundry Lane cottages) and as the nearby Homerton Colleges had lots of ladies lodging in the area, it was a like a child in a sweet factory, with an abundance of quality undergarments to pilfer. He also had an illegal still in a shed at the back of the cottages where he brewed illegal hooch and sold it on.

The connection here is that Kevin Arnold was a friend of Roger (Syd) Barret and it was one of Kevin's relatives that was the perpetrator of these acts. Obviously he not only stole ladies' clothes, but men's attire as well, as it is rumoured that Syd Barret was one of his customers, (Syd being totally unaware of where the booty came from) He was eventually caught and served time for his misdemeanours. Hence it can be assumed that Syd used this knowledge to pen the song, Arnold Layne. Below I have written down an abridged version of the lyrics.

Arnold Layne had a strange hobby Collecting clothes Moonshine, washing line They suit him fine

On the wall hung a tall mirror Distorted view See-through, baby blue He dug it Oh, Arnold Layne It's not the same Takes two to know Two to know Why can't you see? Now he's caught A nasty sort of person They gave him time Doors bang, chain gang He hates it Oh, Arnold Layne It's not the same Takes two to know Two to know Why can't you see?

The song was Pink Floyd's 1st Single and was recorded on Feb 8th & was released on the 11th March 1967." DJN (Nick) – Church End, Cherry Hinton 18.09.2023



Pink Floyd, Arnold Layne Album Cover - M. Bullivant

<u> 1969</u>

In August of 1969, the end of the 88-year history of Cambridge Steam Laundry was coming to an end. The name had been changed in recent years, but the business did not last much longer. The remaining premises and land were listed for sale by direction of Lyndale Laundries Ltd.



Cambridge Daily News - Wednesday 20 August 1969 - British Newspaper Archive.

By October 1969 the public auction sale of the site had been withdrawn, citing the reason that the site had been sold by private treaty.

Douglas L. January and Partners announce that THE CAMBRIDGE STEAM LAUNDRY CHERRY HINTON ROAD, CAMBRIDGE Which was to have been offered for Sale by Public Auction on WEDNESDAY NEXT 8th OCTOBER, 1969 has now been SOLD BY PRIVATE TREATY AND THE SALE IS THEREFORE CANCELLED.

Cambridge Daily News - Monday 06 October 1969 - British Newspaper Archive.

<u>1970</u>

The mystery surrounding this sale was noted in a newspaper article the following year. It seems that after the private sale of the land in October 1969, the business had carried on for almost another year under the name of Cambridge Laundry and Cleaners Ltd, which had been owned by Mr W Shaw. It soon became apparent that the Swiss Laundry had taken over the Cambridge Laundry business. The Cambridge Steam Laundry, albeit with a new name change, finally closed for good on the site it had occupied for 89 years.



Cambridge Daily News - Friday 04 September 1970 - British Newspaper Archive.

Today the Cambridge Steam Laundry Buildings are all gone and in their place is a new housing development called Brothers Place. Laundry Lane remains as a rough road now leading to a dead end.



Please do feel free to get in touch if you would like to add anything to this story or if you have any further information on the Cambridge Steam Laundry.

www.michellebullivant.com

https://www.michellebullivant.com/cherryhintonhistory/laundry-lane-cherryhinton-history#/

Suggested further reading and research:

- A visit to Cambridge Technology Museum to find out more about the steam engines which would have been used or the systems.
- More about Steam Laundries across the country.
- More of the workers and families of Cambridge Steam Laundry.
- How the shares in the Cambridge Steam Laundry did over time.
- It would be a good research project to discover the various sites around the village for not only the laundry houses and sites but also the paddocks and meadows for the horses and donkeys and any laundry drying fields.
- Work on the census records to glean the names and addresses of other laundry workers in the area.
- More work on the families and employees of the Steam Laundry
- It is to be kept in mind that there were several other laundries in the local area leading to the need to be sure which people worked and lived where so as not to confuse the laundries.

Books that are worth reading on the subject:

The Steam Laundry and its Methods - Charles A Royce

How to Successfully Operate a Steam Laundry - Caleb David Patterson (Classic Reprint)

The Steam Laundry. Its Construction, Equipment and Management - Taylor, John. (Consulting Laundry Engineer) LAUNDRY MANAGEMENT. A Handbook For Use In Private And Public Laundries - Editor of "The Laundry Journal"

A Manual Of Modern Steam Laundry Work 1912 - Ellis Clayton

Steam Laundries: Gender, Technology, and Work in the United States and Great Britain, 1880-1940 - By Arwen P.Mohun (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999)

Further Suggested Archives and Records to Consult:

Cambridge University Library:

Laundry books, 1956 - 1968 Reference Code: GBR/0265/UA/BG 18 Scope and Contents

Record laundry taken in and money paid. Several of the books in this series were used concurrently.

Dates: 1956 - 1968

Conditions Governing Access: *From the Fonds:* Among the archives of the Botanic Garden, personal records are closed to scholars for 80 years from the date of creation under data protection legislation. Restrictions are clearly indicated in catalogue entries.

Found in: <u>Cambridge University Library</u> / <u>GBR/0265/UA</u>, <u>Cambridge University</u> <u>Archives</u> / <u>Teaching</u>, learning and research records / <u>Archives of the Botanic</u>

Garden

Personal diaries: Volume 39 (loose inserts), 1930

Reference Code:

GBR/0271/GCPP Tillyard 1/1/39a

Scope and Contents

Photograph of AT with ? Agatha at St Anthony-in-Roseland in Cornwall; also press cutting re a carol concert given by the Perse School at the Cambridge Steam Laundry works.

Dates: 1930

Found in: <u>Girton College Archive</u> / <u>GBR/0271/GCPP</u>, <u>Personal Papers</u> / <u>Personal</u> <u>Papers of Aelfrida Tillyard</u> / <u>Personal and biographical records</u> / <u>Personal diaries</u>, <u>1897-1959</u>, together with documents formerly contained loose in the diaries, 1868-<u>1959</u>.

Personal diaries: Volume 50, 1935-11-01 - 1936-06-08

Reference Code:

GBR/0271/GCPP Tillyard 1/1/50

Scope and Contents Oxford. Still at St Benedict's. Alethea also living in Oxford frequent visits. Brief visit to Cambridge - resigns directorship of the Cambridge Steam Laundry. Continued illness: goes to a nursing home in Torquay in Jan. 1936. March 1936 - has an operation then convalesces at the Convent of the Holy Trinity. Otherwise this volume contains largely description of the contemplative and religious life - occasional comment on the world, eg the situation in Germany. Discussions with Father Cary,...

Dates: 1935-11-01 - 1936-06-08

Found in: Girton College Archive / GBR/0271/GCPP, Personal Papers / Personal

Papers of Aelfrida Tillyard / Personal and biographical records / Personal diaries, 1897-1959, together with documents formerly contained loose in the diaries, 1868-1959. + taking on her father's role as a director of the Cambridge Steam Laundry Ltd. Writing: 'Concrete' and 'Can I be a Mystic?' both published by Tillyard, Aelfrida

Cambridgeshire Collection:

The laundry of perfection

Author:

Cambridge Steam Laundry Co. Ltd

Imprint:

n.d.

Cambridge steam laundry, 80 Regent St and adjoining shops

Imprint:

1907-1911 (circa)

Notes:

Indexes: Yes

Dewey class:

P.Stea.K0

B.REG.K0

PC.Lan.K0

Local class:

B.REG.K0

The Cambridge Steam Laundry, Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge

Author:

Sales Catalogue

Imprint:

Cambridge, 1969

Collation:

p.7;35 cm.

Notes:

With map enclosed

Dewey class:

C.06

CABINET

Language:

English

Subject:

Cherry Hinton Road