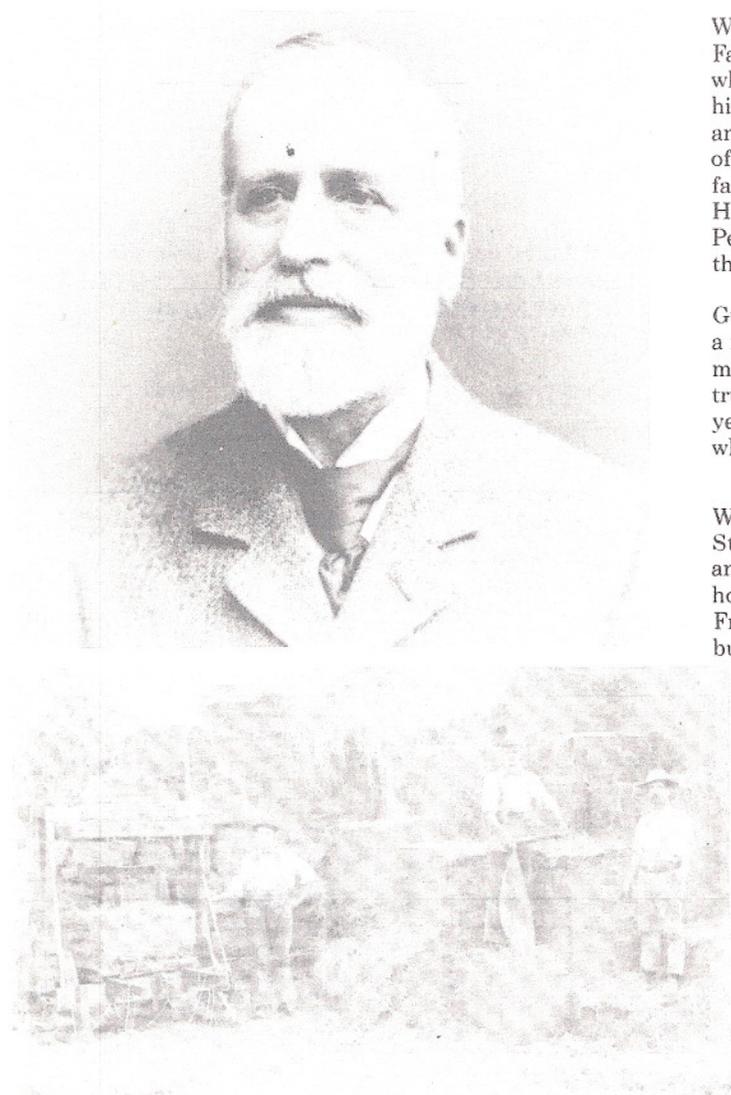


From
"A HISTORY OF GREAT YELDHAM"
by ADRIAN CORDER-SIRCH
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No 8

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WHITLOCK BROS.



WALTER WHITLOCK (1841-1924) was born at Lovingtons Farm and as a young man farmed Bakers Farm at Wethersfield where his seven children were born. In 1885, after the death of his father, Francis Whitlock, he came to reside at the Poole and farmed the Poole and Lovingtons Farms. He became one of the largest and most successful farmers in North Essex and farmed land in Great and Little Yeldham, Wethersfield, Sible Hedingham, Toppesfield, Finchingfield, Belchamp Otten and Pentlow. When he retired in 1919 he had control of about a thousand acres.

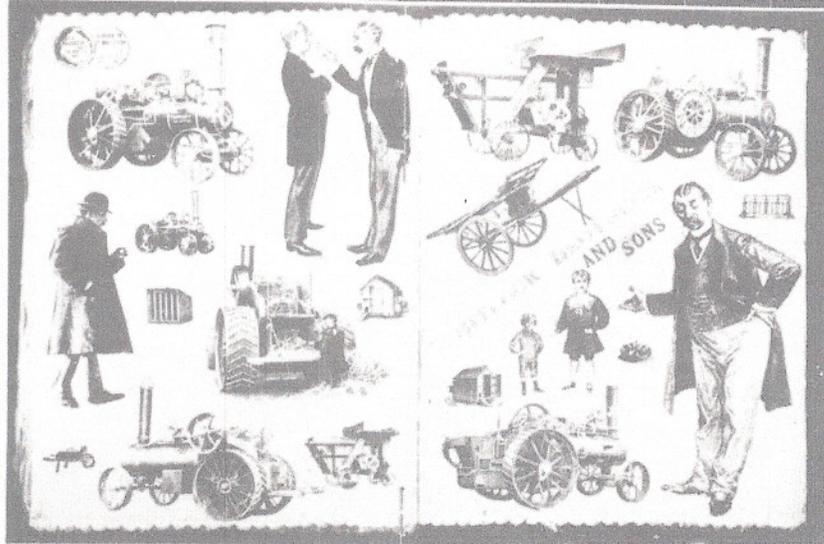
He represented Little Yeldham on the Halstead Board of Guardians and Rural District Council for many years and was a member of Halstead Education Committee. He was Chairman of Great Yeldham Parish Council, one of the original trustees of Great Yeldham Reading Room and for over 40 years a member of Great Yeldham Cottage Garden Society of which he was Chairman for a long period.

Walter Whitlock was a forage merchant at Poole Farm, Poole Street. This photograph taken in 1900 shows workmen cutting and baling hay for shipping to South Africa for the army horses in the Boer War. The man in the centre with the knife is Fred Harrington but the other two men are unknown. The business of forage merchant was continued by Christopher Albert Whitlock who was the youngest of Walter Whitlocks four sons. The forage business was an extensive one with over seventy hands being employed just before the First World War. One hay cutter was Simon Dace.

It was mainly through the forage business that Walter Whitlock first became interested in machinery and he purchased one of the first machines for cutting hay and straw. When he encountered difficulty in obtaining spare parts for his chaff cutting machinery he decided to solve the problem. He sent his son, Thomas, to Dunbarton and then Glasgow as an apprentice to the engineering trade and his next son, Herbert, to R. Hunt & Co., at Earls Colne and then to Marshall & Sons at Gainsborough, both well known agricultural engineering companies. Walter Whitlock later assisted these two sons to set up their own engineering works at Great

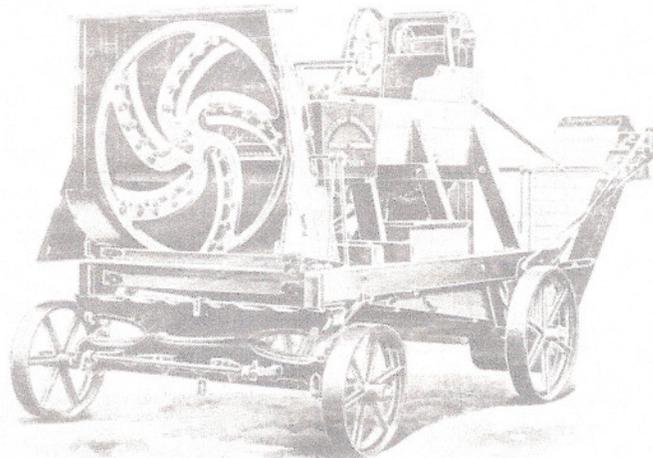
Yeldham. They purchased the site adjoining the railway station where they had the use of a siding and convenient access to the main road. A commodious workshop was erected and fitted with lathes, screwing, drilling and other machinery. They arranged agencies with some principal makers of agricultural machinery, whose machines were put on view. They provided a good service in repairing machinery and supplying parts in what was then described as an isolated part of the country.

Whitlock Brothers first office was a wooden hut on wheels. Unfortunately many of the early buildings were destroyed in a disastrous fire in 1921 but the majority of them were rebuilt by Whitlock's own men. An early view of Whitlocks showing some of the carpenters and examples of the poultry houses which they made. Two of their lorries used for deliveries are on the right. The woodworking shop was equipped with the latest machinery and in addition to a variety of different types of poultry houses, chicken coops and arks, the workforce also made wooden gates, pig huts, dog kennels, garden frames, store sheds, summer houses, garages, wagons and farm carts.



This illustration is a reproduction of two facing pages from a scrapbook made in 1909 by Mrs. Julia Ann Whitlock, the wife of Walter Whitlock. They were the parents of the two brothers, Thomas Sydney and Herbert William Whitlock, who founded Whitlock Brothers in 1899. The 'salesman' depicted on the right is Thomas Sydney Whitlock with his two sons Alan Carleton and Ernest Roy Whitlock who later became Directors of the Company. On the left brothers, Herbert and Thomas, are engaged in an argument. Some of the products manufactured by Whitlocks are shown including farm carts, wheelbarrows and poultry houses. As dealers they represented Garretts of Leiston and sold their steam engines and threshing tackle.

The Whitlock Gold Medal Chaff Cutter manufactured by Whitlock Brothers in 1907. For this Power Chaff Cutter they won a Gold Medal in a competition open to the World. This gold medal is shown in the top left hand corner of the previous illustration. Whitlock Bros. traded as Agricultural Engineers and Dealers in Farm Machinery until 1958 when the farm machinery repair side of the business was discontinued. They exhibited at their first Royal Show in 1922.



WHITLOCK BROS
GREAT YELDHAM, ESSEX



Essex Show 1932



Thomas Sydney Whitlock, J.P., (1874-1954), a founder-director of Whitlock Bros. Limited. With his brother, Herbert William Whitlock, they saw a venture grow from quite humble proportions to a flourishing business with world-wide connections. It is sad to record that the two brothers died within five days of each other in January, 1954. T. S. Whitlock was made a Justice of the Peace for Essex in January, 1934 and in 1946 became Chairman of Castle Hedingham Magistrates Court. He was also a member of Halstead Board of Guardians, Halstead Rural District Council of which he was Vice Chairman for eight years, and the local Education Authority. He succeeded his father as Chairman of Great Yeldham Parish Council which position he held until 1932. It was during his chairmanship that he was instrumental in raising among members of the Whitlock family the £400 necessary for the extension of the Reading Room. He was also Rector's Warden at Great Yeldham for ten years and a Manager at the Primary School for over thirty years.



A. Carleton Whitlock, O.B.E., (1907-1966) in the uniform of a Special Constable. He was awarded a long service medal for services with Essex Special Constabulary in which he held the rank of Inspector. He was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire for services to export and industry in the Birthday Honours, 1963. He joined Whitlock Bros. in 1924 and when the company was incorporated in 1941 became Chairman and Managing Director. In his younger days he was captain of Great Yeldham Fire Brigade and was a member of Great Yeldham Parish Council from 1937 and Chairman from 1958 until his death. Carleton Close, a new estate built in Great Yeldham circa 1970 was named after him.



Carleton Whitlock, Jack Smee and Roy Whitlock on the occasion of the presentation to Jack Smee of a framed photograph of Mr. R. A. Butler (later Lord Butler) talking to Jack Smee at Whitlocks factory. When Whitlock Bros. was established in 1899, with twelve workmen, one of them was Jack Smee who remained with the firm for over fifty years and was also presented with a gold watch. The company eventually employed nearly six hundred people.

The manufacturing side of Whitlock Bros. expanded over the years and included earthmoving as well as agricultural machinery. This view of the High Street in 1965 shows a row of diggers awaiting delivery. Whitlocks became one of the largest manufacturers of earth-moving and industrial equipment in Britain and their excavators, shovels, dumpers and mobile cranes were shipped to all corners of the World.

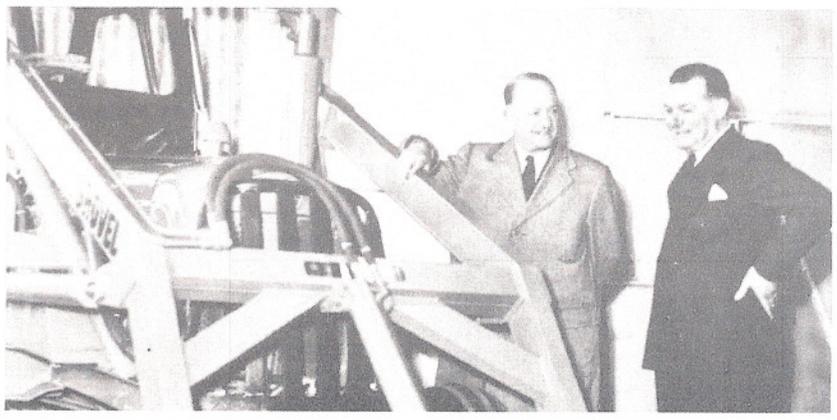


A Whitlock digger at work on road realignment at Dicketts Hill, with Lovingtons Farm in the background. In 1952 Whitlocks introduced the Dinkum Digger and became the first British Company to make a tractor-mounted excavator-loader.

Amongst equipment manufactured by Whitlocks were Dumpers one of which is shown opposite. They also designed and built the first Hydraulic Dredger for cleaning waterways and the largest Rock Drill Rig in the World.



The Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, M.P., (later Lord Butler of Saffron Walden) and Alan Carleton Whitlock, O.B.E., with a Whitlock shovel.



Royal Warrant Holder to the Queen as Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery. Carleton Whitlock was appointed Chairman and Managing Director in 1941 and was joined by his brother, E. Roy Whitlock in 1950. In 1965 the Board of Directors was strengthened with the inclusion of R. Nevil Whitlock (son of Carleton), Sir Ronald Long, Alfred E. Humphreys, Geoffrey E. Smith and Andrew A. Campbell, F.C.A.. In 1967 Whitlocks became part of the London and Midland Industrials Group and had 450 employees. After the death of Carleton Whitlock in 1966, Sir Ronald Long became Chairman of



Essex Show
1932



JULY 31 1964



TRIBUTE FOR SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

Union flag at Half mast
in memory of Sir Winston Churchill.
January 1965

W06