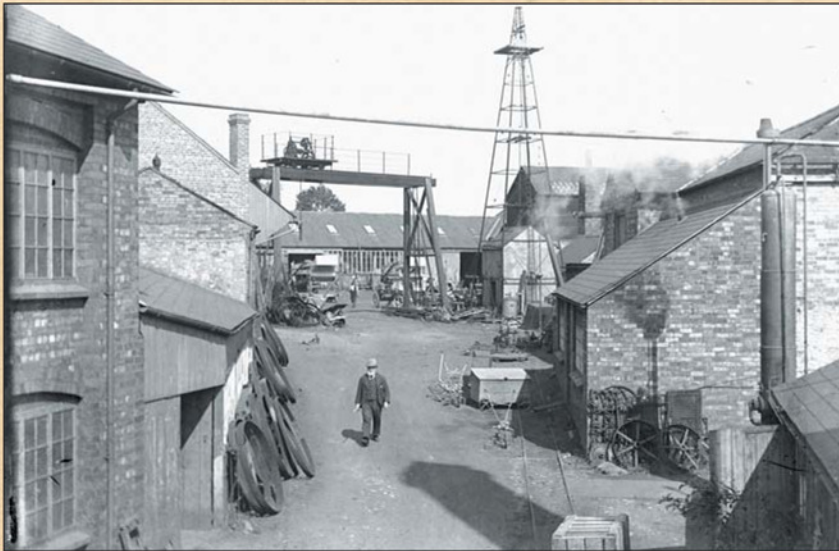


IN THE NEWS

Looking back 100 years

Fire Devastates Important Local Business!

Deanshanger Ironworks Foundry - 1912



E & H Roberts Ltd ironworks foundry

E& H Roberts Ltd has long produced world-renowned agricultural implements in their Deanshanger Foundry, including medal-winning ploughs and the 'Hercules' wind-powered water-pump.

At 9pm on Wednesday 11th September 1912, two villagers saw flames leaping from the foundry's Carpenters' Shop. A horse-rider raced to Stony Stratford Fire Brigade who arrived by 9.30pm. Villagers and workmen used buckets of canal water to quell the blaze and soak the rafters, but were beaten back by heat and smoke. The glowing sky alerted the Wolverton Works Fire Brigade too, along with thousands of people who came to watch.

Both brigades stopped flames reaching fuel tanks but the foundry has been devastated, with damage estimated at £5000.

The Foundry, re-built largely from insurance money, will doubtless enjoy a boom with the coming armaments programme (1914-18) so perhaps it is *"a blessing in disguise... with everything modernised, not only the buildings but also the machinery"*

(B. Casey)



Fire damage at the foundry



All photos courtesy of the Deanshanger Village Heritage Society