

Joseph Coe 1864 – 1922



In 1871 six-year old Joseph, the youngest of 10 children, was living with his parents Abraham and Mary Coe in Rattlesden.

1886 was an eventful year for Joseph: he married Ruth Ridgewell; was charged with attempted suicide and imprisoned for one day; then son Charles was born. Ruth died three years later.

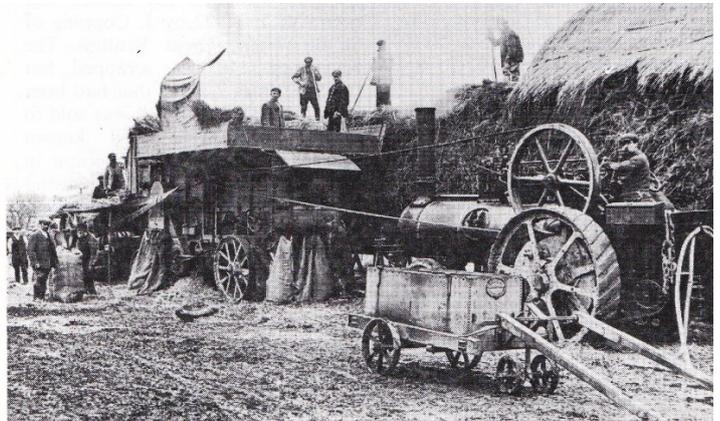
In 1891 Joseph was living in Delvyns in Gestingthorpe and described himself as an 'agricultural machinist'. The next year he married Edith Finch, and they eventually had 8 more children.

By the turn of the century he had become a 'threshing machine owner' in Bulmer Street. He employed a nursemaid. He was successful enough to have owned seven traction engines by 1922, and died that year leaving over £1200.



Above: Joe Coe with thrashing machine in Bulmer Street (picture courtesy of Carol Coe)

Right: Threshing at Smeetham Hall
(information from Robin Harding)



Joseph Coe's tackle threshing at Smeetham Hall, Bulmer in 1911. The engine is the Robey 8 horse-power, single cylinder purchased from Barton and Unwin, Dealers of Sudbury. The drum is a Marshall but without a 'self-feeder'. 'Dad' Mansfield is driving the engine with Toby Felton cutting the 'bands' on top of the drum, while 'Scrudger' Deal is taking the sacks off. It is interesting to note that both threshing and chaff-cutting were being undertaken in a single operation. The sheer volume of straw was often too much for the chaff cutter to cope with and a good engine was essential to run both, so although old, the Robey must have been in good running order.

COE Joseph of Balmer **Essex** died 9 October 1922 Probate **London**
12 December to Edith Cootes Coe widow and Spencer Coe
threshing machine proprietor. Effects £1273 5s. 3d.

Joseph is buried in Bulmer with his wife Edith who died in 1949.

Gillian Lamb 2014