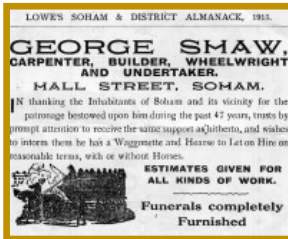


C. E. Fuller & Co. A Brief History



In 1868 George Shaw started working from our address in Hall Street, Soham. He advertised his services as a Funeral Director as well as doing the usual mix of other roles expected of a small country firm such as wheelwright and builder. At this time it would have been very unusual for a company to have traded solely as a Funeral Director.



In 1915 the company changed its name to Fuller & Johnson. It was owned and managed by Ernest Fuller and Herbert Johnson. They continued to do the same range of work that George Shaw had done previously, although increasingly the wheelwrights side of the business was more concerned with repairs rather than the building of new vehicles.

At the turn of the 20th Century, Ernest's son, Cecil was born. After attending the local infants school he left the Shade Boys School when he was about 13 years old and went to work for the local W. H. Smith & Sons Book Stall on Soham Railway Station, delivering daily newspapers. In 1915 he began what was intended to be a four year apprenticeship with his father.



After two years this was interrupted when he was called up to join the army in March 1917. Just before his regiment was due to go to France, he was transferred to the Royal Flying Corp to work as a rigger on aircraft - this meant he got to stay in England throughout the war. As his apprenticeship had been interrupted, he was discharged in March 1919 and rejoined Fuller & Johnson.

Following the death of Herbert Johnson in February 1938, the existing partnership was dissolved and the company was taken over by Cecil, who then began trading as Cecil E. Fuller. Although the letterheads continued to advertise a wide range of services including plumber and hot water fitter, increasingly the focus was on general building work and funerals.

As well as general changes in society there were developments within the funeral industry with the opening of the first crematorium in the area. Cecil Fuller was a forerunner at offering cremation as an alternative option instead of the more traditional burial.

In 1964 Cecil Fuller retired from the business and passed the reigns across to Reg Brown, his son-in-law, who took over and started trading as C. E. Fuller & Co. At this time the company slowly withdrew from building work and began focusing solely on taking care of local funerals.

In 2018, Reg Brown passed away and the family involvement with the business was placed in the hands of Reg's daughter-in-law, Marie Brown.

The business continued to flourish during this time. In June 2023 the decision was taken to merge the family business with another local family funeral directors, Peasgood & Skeates so that they could continue to offer the same level of high standards of care to the local community.