

**HOW WORTHINGTON IN NW LEICESTERSHIRE  
EVOLVED FROM BEING AN ANGLO - SAXON  
SETTLEMENT INTO BECOMING A PARISH IN  
ITS OWN RIGHT c.1878**

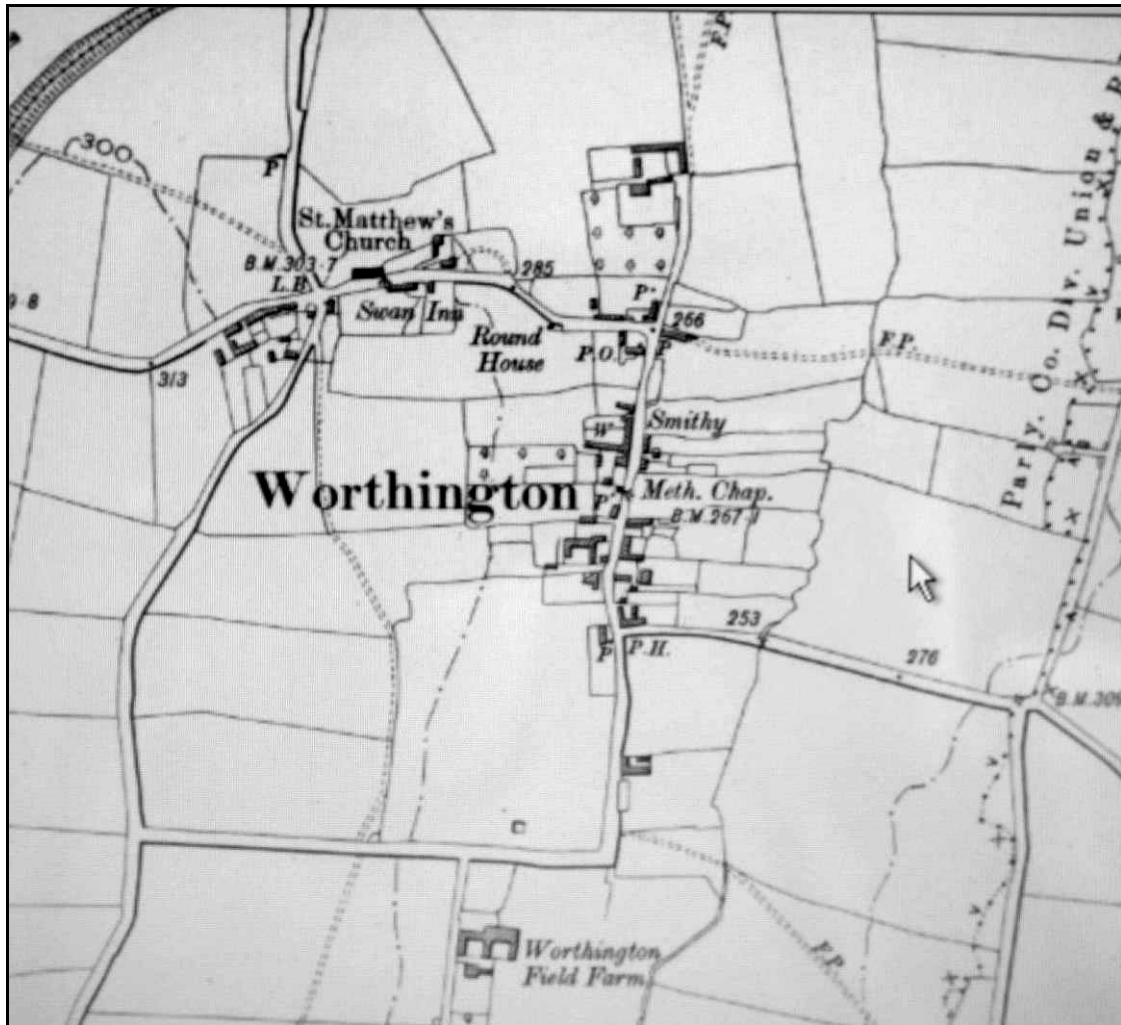
**(includes supplementary history  
on the parish of Worthington)**



**THE CENTRE OF WORTHINGTON EXTRACTED FROM THE  
1806 ENCLOSURE MAP (main street should be facing approx north)  
THIS IS THE OLDEST DETAILED MAP AVAILABE OF THE VILLAGE**

**DRAFT ONLY - AN ONGOING PROJECT - ISSUE 4**

**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - MAY 2023 updated July 23**



**WORTHINGTON VILLAGE IN 1903 - FROM 6" TO 1 MILE O/S MAP, WHICH CAN BE DIRECTLY COMPARED WITH THE 1806 MAP ON THE FRONT COVER TO SEE WHAT CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER A 100 YEAR PERIOD.**

## PREFACE

### Draft ongoing project - issue 4

The writing of this publication has proved extremely challenging due to the paucity of available research information over a period of several hundred years.

It focuses on the village of what became Worthington from the earliest record found, when it was recorded as Werditone in the 1086 Domesday survey. The author has previously written publications relating to the history of Worthington civil parish, which have not been included in this publication. **These cover for example:- the ancient hamlet of the Woolrooms, the Providence Chapel in Gelsmoor, and the bread oven in Aqueduct lane, the Coleorton Railway which passed through the parish, Cloud Hill Limestone Quarry, the Hinckley to Melbourne / Ashby to Rempstone turnpikes, the Railway Inn, Newbold School, coal mining and sanitary pipe making in the parish, a history of Griffydam and much more**, which the reader can explore on the author's website, download and read for free.

Author's website address - [samuelstewart.com](http://samuelstewart.com)

Until the 21st century, the village was rural and numerous farms provided the main employment for the men folk. In 1955 there were still six working farms in Worthington.

A council housing estate was built in Worthington in 1957, thereby increasing the population, and in the 2011 census it was recorded as 1,461.

The author hopes that what has been possible to include here will at least serve as a platform for those interested in our local history, to base further research on. The publication is intended to be an ongoing project and the author would be pleased to receive further information or photographs which can then be added as an update.

In conclusion, it should be noted, that the civil parish of Worthington contains an immense amount of important social and industrial history, both in Worthington itself and Griffydam, Gelsmoor, the Woolrooms, and Newbold

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Certain text and photographs are taken from the publication entitled "Hand-Me-Down-Hearsays" by the Reverend John Dawson who gave the author permission to use these, and confirmed there was no copyright attached.

Sincere thanks to Michael Green for his assistance with the history of Worthington Wesleyan Methodist / Primitive Methodist Chapel - 1820

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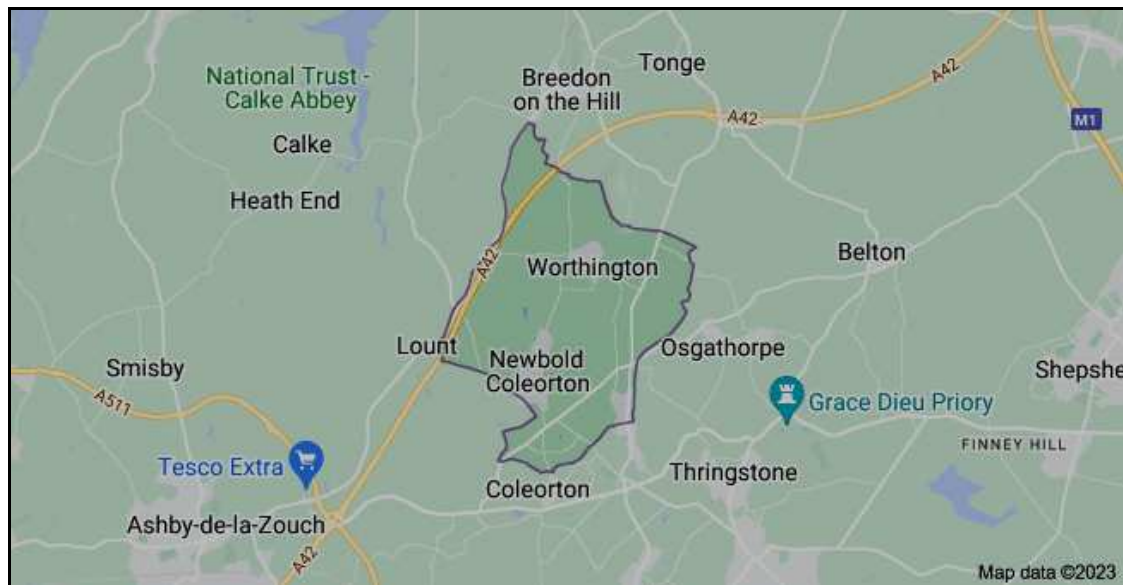
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## LOCATION AND BOUNDARY OF WORTHINGTON CIVIL PARISH IN 2023

The parish of Worthington lies in the triangle formed by the B587, the A512 and the A447 roads.

In England, a civil parish is a unit of local Government. Civil parishes are the lowest tier of local government, below districts and counties. It is an administrative parish, in comparison to an ecclesiastical (church) parish, which is an administrative part of a diocese, especially an Anglican or Roman Catholic diocese, having its own church and a designated priest.



**MAP SHOWING THE CIVIL PARISH BOUNDARY OF WORTHINGTON - 2023  
INCLUDING GRIFFYDAM, GELSMOOR, NEWBOLD AND THE OUTWOODS'**

**IT IS BOUNDED BY THE PARISHES OF COLEORTON, OSGATHORPE AND  
BREEDON-ON-THE- HILL.**

## THE ROMANS TO THE NORMAN CONQUEST

Many of the existing villages in Leicestershire were established in Roman times or earlier, as well-dispersed settlements, and besides the few major highways, a large system of secondary roads gradually came into existence to serve local needs. This opened up the partially wooded forests and open moorland, albeit in a small way, to exploitation. More recent archaeological research has indicated that population and settlement in Roman Britain was much more extensive than previously thought, and would have exerted a considerable influence on the local countryside. The Romans were known to have mined lead, fluorspar and iron ore in Derbyshire from about 80 AD. It is assumed that they mined some coal from outcrops or shallow pits to use in the smelting of the ore, metallurgy and smithy work, lime burning and domestic heating. They were known to have been active in the Ashby, Ravenstone and Thringstone areas, and it is quite possible that they were also using surface coal in small quantities from the Coleorton area, particularly as the Coleorton coalfield is significant for the large number of outcropping coal seams in this small area. There is very little evidence of pre-historic or Roman occupation, but it is likely that the heaths which dominated much of the area in the Middle Ages (e.g.; Normanton-Le-Heath / Donington-Le-Heath) were cleared of woodland at an early stage of pre-history.

The *Dark Ages*, between the rule of Rome and the Norman Conquest was a period of disorder in Britain, and throughout this time and beyond, the settlement pattern was constantly changing. There would still have been considerable areas of woodland by the time the *Anglo-Saxons* infiltrated the area. They were industrious farmers and tackled even the heaviest soils, establishing an agricultural landscape with field systems, route ways and villages. The “ton” and “worth” names are evidence of their settlements, but there was still plenty of room for the “bys” and “thorps” to be founded by the Scandinavian invaders of the 9<sup>th</sup> and early 10<sup>th</sup> centuries.

By the time of the Norman Conquest, the area would have been thinly populated, and we can imagine the area between Ashby, Breedon and Whitwick as being partially wooded with some open moorland and scattered villages, around which would have been extensive field cultivation.

Goats and sheep for example would have grazed on the open moorland, and encouraged the extension of treeless landscape. Pigs were provided with woodland panage, and oxen were the beasts of burden. The use of timber and woodland products would have been widespread, and it is likely that early exploitation of readily accessible coal from outcrops would have been carried on in small scale operations. An outcrop is where main coal seams meet the surface.

## THE 1085/86 DOMESDAY SURVEY

The Domesday survey of England was carried out in the years 1085 -1086 on the orders of William the Conqueror (William I) 1066-1087. This followed the Norman Conquest of Britain in 1066 when Harold Godwin was defeated at the Battle of Hastings. The Domesday Book is a manuscript that records the great survey of much of England and parts of Wales, which was started in 1085 and completed in 1086. While spending the Christmas time of 1085 in Gloucester, William had deep speech with his counselors' and sent men all over England to each shire to find out what, or how much each landholder had in land and livestock, and what it was worth.

One of the main purposes of the survey was to determine who held what, and what taxes had been liable under Edward the Confessor. The judgment of the Domesday assessors was final—whatever the book said about who held the material wealth or what it was worth was the law, and there was no appeal. It was written in Latin, although there were some vernacular words inserted for native terms with no previous Latin equivalent, and the text was highly abbreviated. Richard Fitz Nigel, writing around the year 1179, stated that the book was known by the English as "Domesday", that is the Day of Judgment, and that is the spelling used in this section.

The *Reeve* from a manor and six peasants were questioned for every manor visited. A *Reeve* was a type of farm manager in modern day terms. The inquisitors were required to ask the following questions:-

- How many ploughs are there in the manor?
- How many mills and fish ponds?
- How many Freeman, Villagers and Slaves are there in the manor?
- How much woodland, pasture and meadow?
- What does each Freeman own in the meadow?
- How much is the manor worth?

The Domesday Book contains records for 13,418 settlements in English counties. The assessors noted everything of value, but there was no mention of coal or coal mining. However, it is almost certain that outcropping of coal was being carried out at the time, albeit in a small way. It is probable that when the survey was carried out, no mining was taking place, as during the summer months the labourers worked on the land 'farming'. In the winter months they would have gathered the coal at the outcrop for the lord of the manor. Of course, the chief fuel for cooking and warmth at the time would have been wood, and remained so for many years. It is possible that coal, being of a secondary nature, and not thought valuable, was a perquisite for tenants in the same way as peat or brushwood, and therefore not mentioned.

## WORTHINGTON RECORDED AS WERDITONE IN THE 1085 / 86 DOMESDAY SURVEY

Worthington was recorded in the Domesday book as WERDITONE, a settlement within the *Hundreds of Goscote* in the County of Leicester (Leicestershire) with a recorded population of twelve households, consisting of six villagers, 4 freemen and two smallholders. If we assume an average of four persons per household this would equate to a small hamlet of around 50 people. Most of the counties of England were divided into *hundreds or wapentakes* from the late Saxon period and these were, with a few exceptions, effectively abandoned as administrative divisions in the 19th century.

The landowner was Henry de Ferrers (or Henry de Ferrais) and he was recorded as holding 4 carucates of land, plus an area of Woodland. *A carucate (ploughland or plough) might nominally be regarded as an area of 120 acres of land but this varied wildly depending on the quality and fertility of the soil.* It was based on the area a plough team of eight oxen could till in a single annual season (usually but not always excluding its suitability for winter vegetables and desirability to remain fallow in crop rotation). It was sub-divided into oxgangs, or "bovates", based on the area a single ox might till in the same period, which thus represented one eighth of a carucate; and it was strongly analogous to the hide, a unit of tax assessment used outside the Danelaw counties.

In 1086 Henry de Ferrers was made Tenant-in-Chief by the King, to whom the tenants / peasants paid their taxes. Tenants-in-chief were **those who, after the Norman Conquest, held their lands directly from the king** and were mainly those who had fought alongside William at Hastings or their descendants. Tenants-in-chief **sat on the King's council and might give him advice.** They also hosted the King and his court when he travelled to their area.

Worthington eventually became a manor within the ecclesiastical parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill. The manor. was controlled by a 'lord', which may have been **the King, a baron, a bishop or religious house**, but seems to have also been Henry de Ferrers. In 1086, Manors varied in size, ranging from just a couple of farms to vast estates.

**JOHN NICHOLS' IN HIS HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF LEICESTERSHIRE 1800-1820 GIVES THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT:-**

### *WORTHINGTON*

was antiently accounted a member of Tonge, and with that was given to *Henry de Ferrariis* by the Conqueror<sup>13</sup>.  
Four ploughlands in Werditone, in which were five ploughs, were valued in the reign of the Confessor at twelve pence. At the general survey this lordship was worth twenty shillings, and was held by *Henry de Ferrieres*. Four focmen, with six villans and two bordars, had three ploughs. There was a wood four furlongs long and three broad. Of this land *Alwin* claimed the foc of one ploughland, affirming that it belonged to the king's fee in Scepesthefde<sup>14</sup>.



## THE DERIVATION OF THE NAME WORTHINGTON

Worthington as we know it today, is an interesting name, undoubtedly of Anglo-Saxon origin. It appears to have developed into a locational name. Worthington In Lancashire, is recorded as "Worthinton", in the Curia Rolls of 1210, and in Leicestershire as "Werditone" in the Domesday Book of 1086. The derivation for both places appears to be the same, that is, from the Olde English pre 7th Century byname "Wureth", Worthy, or "worthign", a derivative of "worth", meaning enclosure, and the Olde English "tun", meaning a settlement or a farm. During the Middle Ages, when migration for the purpose of job-seeking was becoming more common, people often used their former village name as a means of identification, resulting in a wide dispersal of the name. The surname is first recorded in the late 12th Century (see below), while other early examples include William de Wurthington, recorded in the Assize Court Rolls of Lancashire in 1246, and John Worthyngton, mentioned in the "Calendar of Inquisitiones Post Mortem" of Nottinghamshire in 1439. Agnes, daughter of Hugh Worthington, was christened on April 16th 1560, at Wilmslow, Cheshire. A Coat of Arms granted to a family of the name depicts on a silver shield three black dungforks. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Snarri de Wurethintona, which was dated 1169, in the "Pipe Rolls of Lincolnshire", during the reign of King Henry II, known as "The Builder of Churches", 1154 - 1189.

**Robert Wynter of Worthyngton, Leicestershire, grandson and heir of Henry Winter is mentioned on 27th June 1509-10 on the Pardon Roll. (1 Henry VII 1509-10). The arms of George Winter of Worthyngton, Leicestershire were "*cheque or and sable, a fesse argent*".**

Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

**WORTHINGTON CHURCH - DEDICATED TO ST. MATTHEW -  
OF SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL INTEREST**



**St. Matthews Church, Worthington before restoration c.1870.**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The following is a short guide written by the Rev. H. A. Dane (Vicar 1949 - 1971) and revised 2017 by Christina Walmsley (nee Dane) & Tim Philips. It is in the public domain and no copyright is attached to it.

**Additional supplementary information has been added by the author :-**

The "plain edifice of stone" which serves the Church here as a place of Worship is a Norman Church, but the name Worthington is Saxon - the "tun" or settlement of the family of Werden, so that there was a village here in Saxon times, and tradition has it that there was a Saxon Church to meet their needs. This would have been of wood and wattle, not likely to endure. There is no trace of it today, nor is there mention of it in the Domesday Survey of 1068 where we learn that Henry, Earl de Ferrers, held 4 carucates of land with 5 ploughs. There were 4 freemen with 6 villagers and 2 smallholders with 3 ploughs indicating a population of around 50. In a later survey we read that Henry de Ferrers had 12 carucates of land.

Worthington was then part of Breedon parish, so we look two miles north to Breedon on the Hill where in 1114 the Church was re-built and occupied by 5 monks as a cell or outpost of the Augustinian priory of St Oswald Nostell in Yorkshire, who around 1175 built a church here, of stone, allegedly for the benefit of the coal-miners of Gelsmoor. If there had been a Saxon church here then this would obviously have been the place to build it. In any case it would have been conveniently halfway between Coleorton and Breedon, with a short trip by the monks, and a similar journey for the miners. In the time of Hugh of Wells, 1210 - 1230, we read that the Chapel of

Worthington was served by a chaplain from "the mother Church of Breedon."

The church is of a simple shoe-box shape, a "plain edifice of stone", a rectangle with no distinctive separation of chancel from nave, though a later wooden screen performs this duty.

The Church has three doors. There is first the one by which you came in. The present brick porch bears a date 1781 (now nearly indecipherable) but the upper part appears to be of more recent date than the lower part where the brick are narrow, and the joints between them wider. At the base are stones which may well have been the footings of a much earlier porch. In the Lincoln archives is an entry under the date 1518 that the porch of Worthington chapel was "ruinous." Inside are bench seats where of old parish business would be transacted. At the side of the door the stone is deeply marked with scores which are said to have been made by archers as they sharpened their arrows over four hundred years ago, when in the reign of Henry VIII the crude sport of football was banned and men had to practice their archery. Two similar stones are found in the north wall of Muggington Church in Derbyshire. Just inside the door are two corresponding recesses into which a baulk of timber might be placed to act as a barricade.

You entered by the south door. There is a north door, which may have led to a burial ground (if there ever was one). This is now open. From the field side you can see the rounded head. Behind the choir is another door, which, if it were opened, would send you headlong into the road. This is the Priest's door, but you can only see what I am going to tell you from the outside. If you look carefully at the window, you can see the remains of iron bars, one bar down the centre and two bars across. Clearly at one time this formed an open grille, but the purpose of it is disputed - one explanation being that it was used for the Priest inside to hear confessions.

As you enter by the south door you see the font which at one time stood near the north door. It is of 14th century, is made of sandstone and is octagonal in shape, on each face of which is a plain shield with a four foil, and other shields on the upper part of the basin. The oak cover was presented to the Church by Holy Trinity Church, Ashby in 1958.

The nave is said to be the oldest part of the Church. The small lancet and deeply spayed windows, and the semi-circular head of the south door, coupled with the fact of the walls being thick without original buttresses lead to the conclusion that this portion was built in the latter part of the 12th century or early 13th century, that is to say 1175 - 1225. This is the Transitional period between Norman and lancet. The chancel is described as 14th century, showing characteristics of this in the south and east windows, angle and buttresses and doorway. There does not appear to be any structural indication of this (i.e. you can't see a join)) so I suggest another explanation. Worthington has the distinction of being the area where coal-mining started in Leicestershire, at Gelsmoor in about 1275. This would provide an industrial boom with some local prosperity so some modernisation

might have been done to the existing walls of a 12th century chancel, e.g. re-windowing in 14th century style.

A noticeable and interesting feature of the Church is the inclination of the walls. The north side is 5 inches out of the perpendicular at the ends increasing to 10 inches at the centre, and the south side is similarly out of true. Two explanations are given. One of these is that the walls have slumped into this state which explains the buttressing. The other is that the Church was built with sloping walls to resemble a ship. This is plausible when we remember that the word "nave" means "ship", while we have reference to the "ark of Christ's Church" in the Baptismal Service.

Notice the windows. We have two windows of single lights, round-headed, plain pointed and foliated pointed, windows with two lights without foliation, and in the west window one of three lights with mullions crossing each other in the head. The window in the south wall is of very recent date, as you can see, but it is of some interest. In the drawing, done in 1811, which is on display, you will see that at this place is a lattice window with a smoke stack coming out. At some time, however, there must have been a window of considerable width. This we conclude from the two corbels which originally supported the drip-stone of such a window. You can see these corbels on the outside of the Church though they are badly weathered. In the south wall is a piscina, which was a medieval wash-basin or sink in which the Priest washed his hands and the sacred vessels during and after Mass. It has a three-foil head. The word piscina is the Latin word for a fish-bowl. On the opposite side is the aumbry which, as you can see, was originally lined with wood, and formed a cupboard for the custody of the paten, chalice and wine. At the end of the 15th century we read of the Lords of the manor, the Wynters of Worthington. Their memorial stones are in Breedon Church - Henry Wynter, 1494, and Robert or George Wynter, 1545, but they held land in Worthington including a cottage and croft, "adjacent beside the Chapel of Worthington" for which they gave service of a pound of pepper at Michaelmas yearly. We have a silver chalice dated 1569, which may well have been given by one of the Wynter family. The paten is of electro-plate, and the other chalice and paten of pewter, as are the collection plates. There is a brass alms dish and a modern brass cross in memory of a Churchwarden, Frank Cox. Later chalices and patens given to the Church. One in memory of John Barnett Wheatley.

From the time of its building Worthington was served first by the monks, then by the clergy of Breedon, though in 1601 the curate was a Mr Taylcoat, who had a stipend of £12 per annum. I have the idea that by, say 1700, the Church was not merely disused, but derelict. However, towards the middle of the 18th century, that is to say 1740 or 1750, perhaps as a result of the Wesleyan Revival, the Church was restored, repaired and re-roofed. The evidence for this is that the upper part of the east wall is completed in brick, which suggests that this part of the wall was missing, and therefore there was no roof. The Church began a new and active life as from June 30th 1755 when the Rev. John Dalby was admitted and licensed to the cure of the donative Chapel of Worthington. On his death the Rev. Francis Harris was licensed to the free Chapel or Curacy of Worthington on the

nomination of John, Lord Scarsdale, and again on his death the Rev. James Dean was licensed to the perpetual Curacy of Worthington on the nomination of Nathaniel, Lord Scarsdale, so he was the first to be called Vicar. Note the progression : donative, free Chapel, perpetual Curacy. Since 1755 there has been a continuous ministry here. In 1978 Worthington was re-united with Breedon when the Vicar there became also the Vicar of Worthington.

*(The pulpit is reputed to be about 150 years old and the lectern carries a plate to tell that it was given by Sarah Nicklinson who died on the 8th August 1889.)*

### **List of Incumbents**

30th June 1755 John Dalby  
17th May 1781 Francis Harris  
5th August 1819 James Dean  
22nd January 1863 William Barnes  
9th January 1868 John Oatway Brook

### **Leicester Journal – March 25<sup>th</sup> 1887**

#### **WORTHINGTON**

**PRESENTATION.-** On Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., a presentation was made to the Rev. J. O. Brook, who has resigned the living at Worthington after being vicar there for nineteen years. The present consisted of a valuable silver inkstand, which the parishioners gave as a slight token of the esteem with which they regarded Mr. Brook. The reverend gentleman held his farewell services last Sunday. The holy communion was administered at the Parish Church, and the evening service was held (as it has been the customary practice) in the village schoolroom. Mr. Brook's health has been failing of late, and he leaves the Midlands for the South of England. During his nineteen years residence at Worthington, he has carried out many valuable improvements in the parish. The schools and school house, which are now most commodious buildings, and well adapted for their purpose, have been entirely re-built, and Mr. Brook has also built a new vicarage house. He is an eloquent preacher, and active and energetic in all parish matters ; and his people deplore his state of health which prevents him continuing in these duties. His successor is the Rev. A. R. Parsons, curate of All Saints', Loughborough, who, however, will not commence his labours at Worthington till the beginning of May. Till that time, the church services will be taken by the Rev. W. B. Beaumont, Coleorton, and the Rev. G. Crossley, Breedon-on-the-Hill, who have kindly offered to officiate – the former at the schoolroom, Worthington, for the Sunday evening service ; and the latter at the Parish Church, Worthington, each Sunday morning.

13th April 1887 Robert Arthur Parsons  
17th March 1892 Arthur Lee Sparkes  
28th August 1894 George William Bridges Dalrymple (George William Bridges Dalrymple was Rector of Houghton on the Hill (1890-1894) before becoming Vicar of Worthington (1894-1912). His grandfather, Sir Charles Dalrymple (1779-1849), was Commissary General to Wellington during the Napoleonic Peninsula campaign, and his great-grandfather was General William Tombes Dalrymple (1736-1832) of Chessington Hall, Surrey.)  
17th March 1912 Henry Barker Greene  
20th March 1919 Walter Raveley Guest  
17th July 1922 Henry Masters Moore  
17th September 1929 Henry Robert James Canham  
4th May 1939 William Cole  
11th July 1947 John Penrose  
17th October 1949 Henry Arthur Dane  
26th September 1972 Joseph Glynn Whittall  
1st June 1978 John Carr

11th February 1980 David Victor Osborne  
16th May 1990 Kenneth Roy Watson  
22nd May 1994 Simon John Darby Foster  
20th January 1999 Martin Charles  
2002 John William Arthur Dawson  
12 September 2016 Tim Phillips

The Church was restored and refurbished in 1890 by Temple Moore at a cost of £1200 after a fire had burned the roof. It was at this time that a license was issued for Divine Worship to be conducted at Newbold School. This concession is still in force. In the Church the old box pews were taken away, the family pew for the Scarsdales being used as a reredos, and chairs were used for seating instead, similar to those in the Church now. At the Restoration in Queen Anne's time the space above the rood screen was filled in with plaster on which the arms of Queen Anne were painted, surrounded by the Garter and with a crowned lion on top. The walls of the Church too used to be plastered, but presumably this also was removed at the 1890 restoration.

The pulpit is about 150 years old, but it is not of any particular interest. The lectern carries a plate to tell that it was given by Sarah Nicklinson, who died 8th August 1899. On the walls are three memorials. There is the War Memorial bearing the names of those from the Parish who gave their lives in the two World Wars. Another plate commemorates Reuben Sissons, who was Schoolmaster at the C of E School at Newbold for 25 years, and organist and choirmaster at Church for 18 years. The third brass lists the three charities bequeathed to the Church - the Pilkington Charity, originally for six penny loaves each week to the poor, who are also provided for by the Bulstrode Charity, which also established a Clothing Club. There was also an educational charity but this has now been transferred to the Leicester Diocese. There is a wrought iron flower stand in memory of Mrs Phyllis Dane, wife of the Vicar here, 1949 - 71.

In 1552 the Commissioners reported that the Chapel here was built of Worthington stone and contained two bells in the 'steeple', which we understand was made of wood. There were still only two bells in the 1870s, but at some time a third was added. Nowadays these are merely chimed, not rung.

There is a wooden cross in memory of Ronald Carter

There is a brass plate affixed to the organ housing in memory of Reginald Arthur Wardle.

### **The Present Day**

Since 2005 St Matthew's Worthington has been served by the Ashby and Breedon Team ministry. In 2015 Rev Canon Mary Gregory became Team Rector, and in 2016 Rev Tim Phillips was given responsibility for the ministry in Worthington and Newbold.

**Note:- there being no burial ground associated with the church, internments are made in that of the mother church, Breedon on the Hill. The register dates from the year 1653, and is in good preservation.**

## **NEWSPAPER ARTICLES RELATING TO THE RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH**

**Leicester Journal – January 4<sup>th</sup> 1889**

### **WORTHINGTON**

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES:-** On Christmas Day the church was very prettily decorated. The lattice screen separating the chancel from the body of the church was covered with box and holly, and above it the text, "Glory to God in the Highest, peace on earth, good will to men". The pulpit before the word "Rejoice", worked in evergreen upon white ground. At the east end was a reredos of white wool, paneled with holly and ornamented with the text in white on a red ground, "The Word was made Flesh". On the super-altar, which was covered in white wool, stood a cross of holly and berries, with two vases. The font was wreathed with holly and white chrysanthemums, and various devices in evergreens adorned the walls of the church. The morning service was well attended, and was followed by a celebration of the Holy Communion. In the evening a service was held in the school (Newbold), which now contains a pulpit, reading desk and lectern. These were very tastefully decorated (principally in white wool and holly), the pulpit now bearing the text, "Emmanuel", in red letters. Another text spanned the end of the room, "Jesus the Son of the Highest". The lamp standards and walls had not been forgotten, and the school presented a very pretty appearance. The Vicar officiated at the services, preaching in the morning upon the text, "Let us go now even into Bethlehem", and in the evening upon the word "Emmanuel".

**Leicester Journal – July 5<sup>th</sup> 1889**

### **WORTHINGTON CHURCH BAZAAR**

A bazaar in aid of the restoration of Worthington Church, and the provision of additional church accommodation in the outlying parts of the parish, was opened in the schoolroom at Newbold, on Tuesday afternoon, by the Countess Ferrers. The necessity for some considerable improvement of the ancient and dilapidated edifice which serves the purposes of church worship for the parishioners of Worthington, has long been keenly felt by all who frequent the church. Nor can the greater stranger who takes a cursory glance at the queer building depart without a strong conviction that even on the grounds of personal safety alone, it is high time something was done to restore the fast decaying and bulging walls of the old church. Notwithstanding the present unsightly appearance of the church, its great antiquity, which is apparent both externally and internally, has endeared it to the hearts of the villagers, and they have eagerly responded to the proposals initiated by the vicar (the Rev. R. A. Parsons) for arresting the process of decay and rendering the structure more comfortable and more attractive than it is at present. It is proposed in the course of restoration to preserve all the evidences of antiquity so strongly characteristic of the building, and only to modernize the interior, which looks clumsy and rude in the extreme. The church does not boast of any architectural beauty, and is devoid of any embellishment whatsoever. Built in the early English style, and resting on the crest of a hill at some distance from the village, it readily attracts the attention of the passers by from its commanding position. Unfortunately little is known of the history of the church. It is an oblong building, with a sloping roof, surmounted by a small belfry, and nothing to relieve the severity of the walls but the abutting antique porch and several small buttresses. The belfry is one of the distinguishing features, notwithstanding its insignificant proportions, as herein are contained bells that possibly rung in the infancy of the church. Only one is used, the other being cracked. Several inscriptions are carved in the metal, but they are at present undecipherable. The interior of the church is even more quaint than the exterior, and presents undoubted evidence of dilapidation. The walls incline out of the

perpendicular in some places as much as two feet, and apparently, only their substantial nature prevents their total collapse. The windows are let into the wall in coarse open spaces, and the pews are rudely constructed oak benches, substantial but time worn. The yellow-washed walls and ceiling, the ill formed pews and nave, and the prevailing appearance of antiquity make the church very interesting to look at, and in the evening, when it is lighted by scattered oil lamps, the effect must be very singular. Recent investigations of the building disclosed the pleasing fact that the lower plastered ceiling hides a rich a richly carved oak roof, and hopes are entertained of its complete restoration. In undertaking the restoration of the church the Vicar has met with encouraging help not only from a strong committee of parishioners, but also from the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood. An architect has examined the building with a view to reporting upon the work required in the process of restoration and the probable cost, but the contents of his report have not at present been disclosed. A dilapidated church is by no means the only difficulty which has to be contended with in the spiritual oversight of this out-of-the-way parish, which extends over a circuit of seven miles or so, and embraces the hamlets of Newbold, Griffydam and Gelsmoor. At the former place there is a school, which is conveniently adapted for the purpose of worship ; but at Griffydam, there is no place where a service can be held conveniently, and a secondary object of the movement inaugurated with the bazaar on Tuesday, is to supply this need of a hamlet which comprises the most distant part of the struggling parish. A convenient *locale* for the bazaar was found in the commodious schools at Newbold.....the Rev. R. A. Parsons made a statement as to the objects of the bazaar. He said although the parish of Worthington was a secluded and distant one they did not feel altogether neglected, for in every work they had attempted they had always found a great many ready and willing helpers. It was one of the few parishes where they did not happen to be a resident land owner, and yet they had nothing to complain of on that ground, because those who owned land in the parish were amongst their most ready and foremost supporters. The parish was split up into four parts, and that constituted one of the difficulties with which they had to contend, the four parts being widely separated. The church stood in the village of Worthington proper, and unfortunately it seemed to be in the spot where the smallest part of the parish lived. At Newbold the schoolroom, which was used as a mission room on Sundays, provided accommodation for the people living there, but at Griffydam (a mile and a half distant) there was no accommodation at all for public worship, and they very much hoped, when the church was restored, to erect a mission room in that part of the parish.....He believed that about fifty years ago an architect reported that "with or without extra pressure, the building might come down at any moment", and the statement had such effect on the parishioners that for a time the church was closed, but it was re-opened afterwards without any step having been taken to make it more secure. As to the proposed mission room for Griffydam, it was a matter of the very great necessity that accommodation should be found for the people in that struggling part of the parish. He therefore earnestly appealed to those present to help to provide a place suitable for them and to carry forward the work of the church.....**EARL FERRERS**, in the course of a brief address, said he thought the promoters must already feel encouraged by having a fine day and such a number of people present. He thought that looked well for the success of the bazaar and the cause of the Church. The Church at Worthington was very much older than many people were aware. Looking in a volume of Nichol's "Leicestershire" he found the following remark:- "The Church at Worthington possesses two bells, chalice and complete suit of vestments". The date of that was 1551. He could not find any date for the foundation of the Church, but the extract he had named made it nearly 300 years old. He thought nothing had been done in that time to restore the Church and they must now make up for the faults of their ancestors. The proceeds of



the first day amounted to £108, including £28 donations. The bazaar remained open on Wednesday.

**Leicester Journal – July 10<sup>th</sup> 1891**

**RESTORATION OF ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH  
WORTHINGTON  
RE-OPENING SERVICE**

The antiquated and, in many respects, unique little Parish Church at Worthington has recently undergone a very necessary restoration, and if, owing to the lack of funds, the work has not been as complete as many could have desired, it has at least rendered the old edifice safe and convenient for purposes of public worship. The church, happily is singular in at least one respect, and that is that it has not an inch of ground beyond the external boundary of its walls.

On the west, north and east it abuts upon what are now the fields' gardens or gardens of adjoining owners, while the south side of the church is built alongside the town street. While the deplorable want of ground space materially cripples any possibility of adding to the attractiveness and utility of the sacred edifice, there is a much more serious aspect of the matter to which at present it forms an insuperable barrier. **We refer to the immediate want of a burying ground for the hamlet of Worthington. The burials now take place either at the Griffydam Wesleyan Cemetery or at Breedon-on-the-Hill, both places being a considerable distance. That such an arrangement is highly unsatisfactory goes without saying, and it is much to be regretted that the attempts that have been made to acquire land adjoining the church for the purpose of a burying ground have resulted in disappointment.**

It may also be remarked that during the recent restoration of the church doorway, hitherto concealed beneath the plaster, was discovered the north wall, the inference being that at one time there was a means of egress from the church in that direction either to a burying ground or to some path to which the public had access. The discovery of human remains during the progress of the work around the foundations of the church also tends to confirm the supposition that there were at one time burials in the church. It seems certain that a new burial ground must be found. At present, as far as the congregation is concerned there is but one entrance to the church, and that through a brick porch of very ancient date, situate on the side adjoining the road

As to the church itself, it had long prior to the recent restoration been in a ruinous state of repair. Half a century ago it appears to have been closed as dangerous, but was subsequently opened again for public worship, without have received any attention at the hands of a builder.

As to the antiquity of the building there can be no doubt, but as to the precise date of its erection, nothing definite is known.. There are however, distinct evidences of early Saxon architecture in the curiously narrow windows which have been carefully preserved, and probably in the plain old stone font which stands at the entrance. The nave of the church, indeed, is said to have been built by a Saxon family named Worthing ; but the nave roof and the chancel are probably of the fourteenth century. Tradition also relates that the church was injured by a cyclone which swept over the parish about the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and that the unsightly brick buttresses which greatly disfigure the building on all sides were then added. The roof was of oak, but for a number of years this had been hidden from view by another incongruity in the shape of a plaster ceiling which also shut out of sight the top of the three-light Norman window in the chancel. On the appointment of the Rev. R. A. Parsons as Vicar of the parish, nearly five years ago, he at once realized the necessity for immediate steps being taken to render the church not only comfortable but absolutely safe. Having received some kind promises of assistance from those who owned property in the parish, the Vicar was encouraged to proceed

with his scheme of the church restoration, and as a preliminary step he obtained the advice of Mr. Temple-Moore, a London architect, who made a thorough inspection of the building, and presented a report, from what we make the following extract :- The church is a very interesting one, both from its architectural features and its position, and is on this account alone well worthy of preservation. It is now, however, in a bad state of repair, and I do not think it should be left unattended to much longer. The north and south walls have gone outwards along the greater part of the length of the church, about eight inches in the centre on the north side being the greatest variation from the perpendicular. The whole of the facing of the wall below the plinth, and the plinth in places, is in a bad state, and there are bad settlements, one at the north-west corner and another at the south-west. There are also settlements at both angles at the east end and another under the east window. If any other evidence beyond that of actual observation and experience had been needed to enforce the necessity of the scheme which the Vicar set on foot, it would certainly have been found in the report of the architect, who had no hesitation whatever in certifying as to the absolute danger of the fabric in its then condition. Internally, too, a great work had to be taken in hand, for in addition to demolishing the far too many evidences of the plasterer's handicrafts on walls and ceilings, the floors, the seating and other features demanded attention. Nine months ago the work of restoration was entrusted to Messrs. Walker and Slater, of Derby, who have most satisfactorily carried it out according to the plan of Mr. Temple-Moore. The solidity of the structure has been assured by the addition of a new concrete foundation in some parts where the settlements had taken place, and the under-pinning of the walls all round. Certain absolutely decayed portions of the building, especially the upper portions of the buttresses at the west end, have been replaced with substantial stonework. The interesting "leper window" in the chancel has been opened and glazed, and the roof has been covered with small red tiles. The bell-turret which was originally composed of wood and tiles, and afterwards of brickwork, has now been tiled to match the roof. As to the interior, it has undergone a complete metamorphosis. The ceiling has been removed, thus opening up the old oak roof which was found to be so decayed as to need practically a new one, though much of the old timber (including the old carved braces) has been replaced. Over the chancel the roof is semi-circular and is boarded with oak. The stonework of the wall has been laid bare and pointed throughout. In removing the plaster from the walls, some curious mural decoration was discovered. The characters, however, were not decipherable, but the painting was probably executed in the Elizabethan period, and photographs of it have been preserved.. The oak chancel screen destroyed some years ago has been re-erected in a plain but substantial form. The old high, square pews have been removed and the boards have been used as paneling round the walls to a height of about three or four feet. Chairs are used temporarily in the nave but it is hoped to have seats when funds will permit of it. The west end has been considerably improved and part of it is used as an improvised vestry. The choir vestry is not yet made, but such a necessary ????? is contemplated and will probably be completed at a later date. Suitable curtains currently occupy the position assigned to the vestry screen. The floor of the nave is comprised of wood blocks : that of the chancel, red and white Mansfield stone. The church was formerly on one level throughout, but now the chancel floor is raised about six inches above the nave. The furniture of the church still requires considerable additions. There is at present no provisions made for the artificial lighting of the nave, but it is hoped to use defers lamps suspended from the principals of the roof by brass chains. The chancel will be lighted by means of candles placed in standards affixed to the choir stalls. The pulpit, prayer desks, and choir seats are only of a temporary character, and new ones are needed. A neat oak lectern has been presented to the church by the relative of the late Miss Nicklinson, of Worthington. It bears the following inscription on a brass plate, "To the glory of God, in memory of Sarah Nicklinson, who died August 8<sup>th</sup> 1889". The same family

has also given a brass Alms dish, suitably inscribed, in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. Nicklinson. The altar table will demand attention, and there is a great need for a harmonium at the church. A new heating apparatus from Messrs. Messenger and Co's hot water system has been placed in the church and will be a considerable improvement on the old stoves, the piping of which so sorely disfigured the church. Until lately the church possessed but one sound bell, but through the kindness of friends, the turret now contains three. The large bell which had been in the church hundreds of years, was cracked, but it has been re-cast at the expense of Mr. Curzon. The bell which had been generally in use bears the date 1742 and the following inscription :- "God save His Church". A third bell bearing the inscription "Gloria in Excelsis" has been presented by Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, who have executed the whole of the work in connection with the bells. The total cost of the entire restoration has been about £1,000, and towards this £750 has been paid or promised, leaving a deficit of £250. The parish is but a poor one, and though the Vicar and the parishioners have done their utmost to aid the work, appeals have been made to friends outside for assistance. Nor have such appeals been in vain. About £50 has been realized through offertories at neighboring churches where the Vicar was allowed to plead the cause of the church. The patron of the living, Lord Scarsdale, has also approved the restoration of the church, and has contributed £20 towards the cost. Among the most generous supporters of the scheme is Mr. N. C. Curzon of Lockington Hall, who originally promised a donation of £100, but increased it by another £50 upon it being found that a new roof was required. Earl Ferrers also gave a donation of £100 and the Vicar, who is to be highly congratulated on the success which has attended his perseverance and energy in so worthy a cause, has received encouraging aid from numerous other quarters. It may be mentioned that in addition that a Mission Room at Griffydam and a Parish Room at Worthington have been acquired, and the outlay upon these has had to be obtained concurrently with the larger amount required for the restoration of the church. In carrying on the arduous work, the Vicar has received most valuable aid from a numerous committee of Laymen resident in and around the parish

The final culmination of the work was seen on Wednesday, when the re-opening ceremony was conducted by the Lord Bishop of Peterborough. The event was the subject of a great deal of interest in the locality, not only on account of the ceremony itself, but also as it was the occasion of the first visit of the Bishop, who was greeted with a hearty welcome by an archway near the church. The quaint little edifice was quite filled with a congregation, which included several clergymen. The service was of the usual character on such occasions, the Bishop knocking at the door and asking for admittance, on gaining which he proclaimed "Peace to this House and all that dwell therein". The singing was led by the choir of All Saints', Loughborough, which also rendered a special anthem very creditably. The lesson was read by the Rev. Canon Beaumont, the prayers being intoned by the Rector, the Rev. R. A. Parsons

**Leicester Journal – July 19<sup>th</sup> 1889**

#### **WORTHINGTON**

**THE CHURCH RESTORATION BAZAAR.** – The recent bazaar in aid of the restoration of the church proved very successful, the total receipts amounting to about £183. The expenses were heavy, but there will still be a substantial balance. Donations to the Bazaar Fund, in addition to those already acknowledged, were received from the following sympathizers, and many of whom were unable to be present at the bazaar:- The Rev W. B. Beaumont, £10 ; Mr. W. S. Fane, and Mr. F. W. Paget, £2 each ; The Rev. C. Crossley, £2 2s. ; Messrs. W. A. Musson, C. B. Lowe, W. U. Heygate, and the Rev. J. Clark, £1 1s. ; The Rev. C. T. Moore £1 ; and 10s. each from Mr. W. F. Beardsley, Mrs. Buckley, Miss Campbell, and Mr. John Fletcher. The cost of the restoration is estimated at £600. We should add that the stalls of the bazaar were

most effectively draped by Mr. G. W. Howe, of Ashby, and that Mr. G. F. Boden, of the Queen's Head, Ashby, catered successfully for the refreshment department.



**THE INTERIOR OF ST. MATHEWS CHURCH, WORTHINGTON, 1870.  
Restored in 1890 by Temple Moore following a roof fire. The wall plaster was removed as part of the restoration**

## EARLY COAL MINING IN THE OUTREACHES OF THE FUTURE PARISH OF WORTHINGTON

Although the geography is such that coal only existed in the outreaches of the parish near Worthington Rough and the Smoile, an area shown on the following 1835 O/S map. This was owing to what is commonly known as the Thringstone Fault, a detailed description of which is given in the publication by the author on his website entitled "The Development of Coal Mining in the Local Area".

It was 'recorded' that coal was being worked at Swannington (Leicestershire) in 1204 during the reign of King John. This small Coalfield was fairly isolated and eventually bordered the South Derbyshire Field where coal was known to have been mined in 1208. A Charter of confirmation relating to the village of Swannington, formerly preserved in the Tower of London, confirms the gift of one Philip, son of Eilnod, to Rudolf, son of Gerbold of a piece of land, worth 2 shillings per annum, in Swannington "where **cole** is gotten". A lawsuit of 1293 mentions a coalmine operating there also. As Swannington was adjacent to "Overtone" (Coleorton), it can be safely assumed that coal was also being mined / outcropped there as well.

There is reference to coal being mined at Swadlincote (South Derbyshire) in 1208. William de Gresley granted half of his lands in the 5 acres of woods stretching from Leverichgrave to Blakepit where coal was known to be worked, to Robert de Sugkenhull and his wife Petronilla. We are told that two charters of 1374 and 1377 indicate that coal was being mined at Swadlincote.

During the mid thirteenth century one of the most important landowners in the Worthington district was Ralph Bozun. Around 1270, he and his wife granted their lands and coal mines which they contained to Garendon Abbey, probably in the area of "the Smoile" and the adjacent "Worthington Rough" where all the coal seams outcropped. This is to some extent confirmed by the following.

Isabella de Hastings granted certain tithes of coal to the "Convent of Breedon" in South Derbyshire, and worked small diggings at Worthington in 1340, and is recorded in the "Garendon Enspeximus" as follows:-

*The gift, grant and confirmation, which Ralph Barron of Claxton and Lora his wife made to the same Abbot and Monks of the whole wood at Worthington with the whole soil to the same adjacent, with the common of pasture, coal mines (minera carboneum) and all other appurtenances".....This again probably refers to the outcrop of coal workings of "Worthington Rough" and "The Smoile" where the coal seams outcropped. Isabella de Hastings was responsible for the workings of both coal and iron ore at Gelsmoor in Breedon parish, where all of the coal seams outcropped also.*

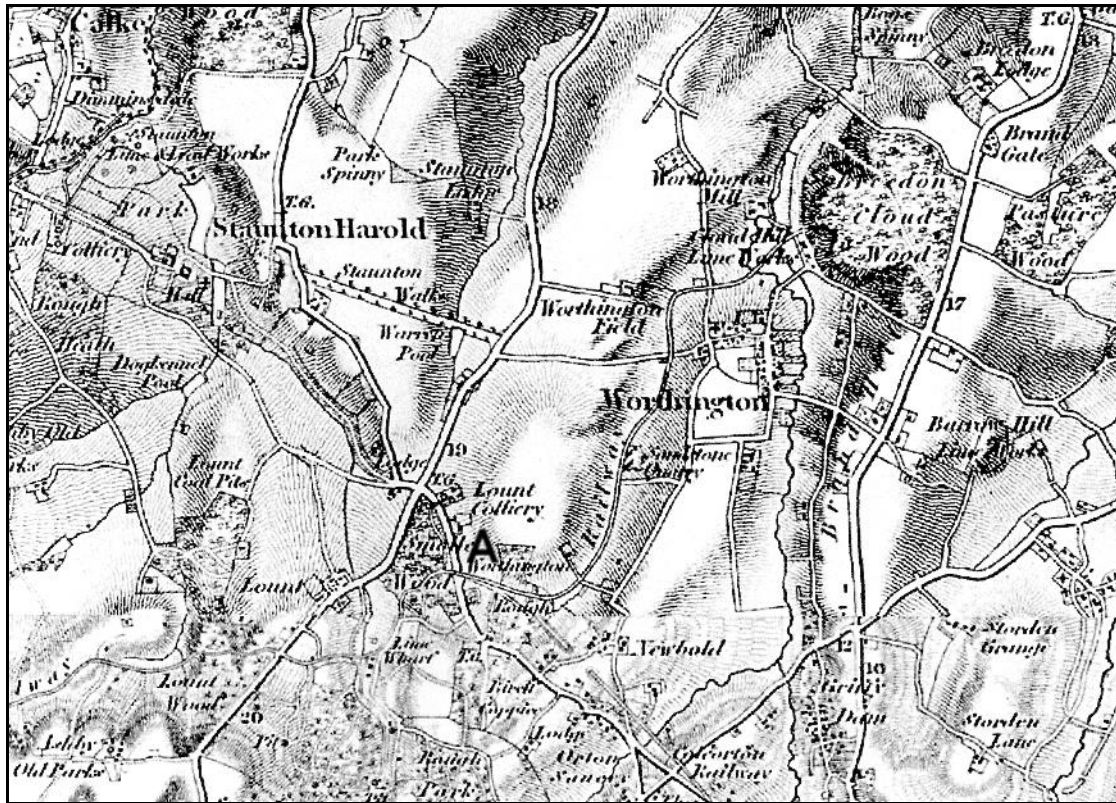
In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Sir William de Staunton worked coal and ironstone near to Staunton Harold where several seams outcropped.

It is not until 1498 that we have actual documentary evidence contained in a law suit of coal mining at Coleorton, when Thomas and Robert Pocock, "**colyers of Overton Saucy**" were charged with cutting down John Beaumont trees and underwood valued at 40s in **Overton Katermershe**. Timber was always a scarce and valuable commodity. Farming was the main livelihoods of the inhabitants of these scattered townships, although, a hundred years later coal mining was an important, though not full-time, occupation of the growing population. This record has the added interest of being the earliest known Leicestershire example of the existence of a specialist

group of workers and suggests that mining at Coleorton had by this time become much more than a part time estate activity.

By 1520, there were at least five coal pits being worked in Swannington, but at Coleorton, at least some of the pits were closed by an underground fire.

The precise location of early pits is not known, but in view of the fact that no less than seventeen significant seams outcropped within the area, they were widespread from Staunton, Heath End, the Smoile and Newbold in the north to Swannington in the south.



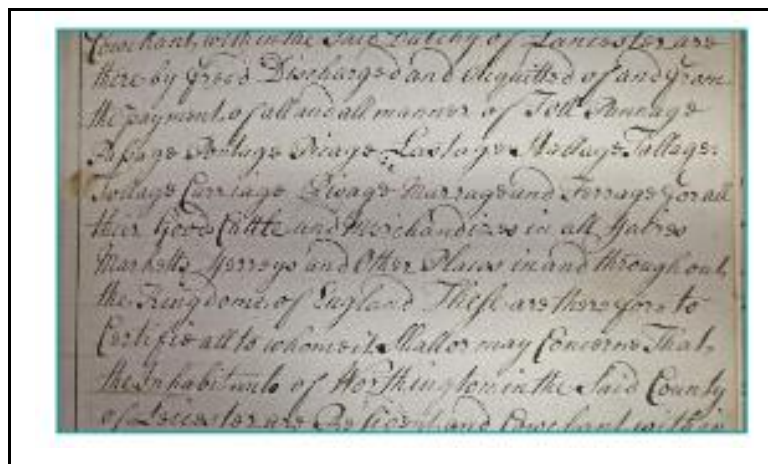
Extract from the first edition 1835 O/S Map. The area of “the Smoile” and “Worthington Rough” is marked by the letter A

## **WORTHINGTON RECORDED AS PART OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER**

The following confirms that in 1494, Worthington, Newbold and Breedon-on-the-Hill were part of the Duchy of Lancaster :-

*Henry Winter (1440-94) of Newbold, Leicestershire was MP for Bletchingley (1472-5) and may have been the collector of the subsidy in Derbyshire in 1463 (Fine Rolls 3 Edward IV m.15) and was appointed customer of Southampton on 1.6.4.1460 (Fine Roll, 4 Edward IV M5). **He died on 12.4.1494, seised of Newbold, Worthington & Breedon, Leicestershire held of the duchy of Lancaster, his son and heir was Robert then aged 24 (Cal. Inq. pm Henry VII. p 476).***

Evidence of Worthington being part of the Duchy of Lancaster in 1707 is provided by Worthington History group on their display board for Hello Heritage. This is in the public domain.



The above is an extract from the Worthington Charter of the Duchy of Lancaster which basically states that all persons and cowhands within the Duchy of Lancaster do not have to pay passage etc., on all their goods and cattle in markets, fairs etc., throughout the Kingdom of England. Dated the 13th of April in the 6th year of the Reign of Queen Anne 1707.

In 1702, the Crown passed to Queen Anne. In the first year of her reign, an Act was passed preventing further sales of Crown lands to shore up the capital available to the Sovereign.

The Duchy remained in crisis for the next 60 years. In fact, during the first half of the century the Duchy was almost bankrupt. In 1760-61, profits amounted to £16.18s.4d. No revenues had been paid to the Privy Purse of the Sovereign for many years.

### **AN ANCIENT INHERITANCE**

The ancient Lancaster inheritance we know as the Duchy of Lancaster began in 1265, when Henry III gifted the baronial lands of Simon de Montfort to his son, Edmund. A year later, Henry added the estate of Robert Ferrers, Earl of Derby and then the 'honour, county, town and castle of Lancaster', giving Edmund a new title, Earl of Lancaster.

Two years later in 1267, Edmund also received from his father the manor of Newcastle-under-Lyme in Staffordshire, together with lands and estates in both Yorkshire and Lancashire. This substantial inheritance was further added to by Edmund's mother, Eleanor of Provence, who in 1284 bestowed on him the manor of the Savoy in London.

Edmund's inheritance passed to his eldest son Thomas, who was beheaded in 1322. Thereafter, it was conferred on his second son Henry (3rd Earl of Lancaster).

In 1351, Edward III conferred the title of **Duke of Lancaster** on the celebrated diplomat and soldier, Henry Grosmont, son of Henry the 3rd Earl of Lancaster, '*in recognition of (his) astonishing deeds of prowess and feats of arms*'. Edward III also raised Lancaster to a County Palatine for the duration of Henry Grosmont's life, giving the Duke devolved royal powers. These included control of the law courts and the right to appoint the sheriff, judges, justices of the peace and other senior officials serving the County Palatine.

When Henry Grosmont died in 1361, the inheritance became part of his daughter Blanche's dowry. Two years earlier in 1359, Blanche had married one of Edward III's sons, John of Gaunt. As only a male heir could inherit the Dukedom, John became the second Duke of Lancaster in 1362. He then persuaded his father Edward III to grant the Palatinate powers to him and his heirs permanently.

When John died in 1399, his nephew King Richard II confiscated the Lancaster inheritance and banished John's son, Henry Bolingbroke, from England for life. Within the year, Henry Bolingbroke returned from exile, raised an army and forced Richard to abdicate. He ascended to the throne as Henry IV in October 1399.

One of Henry's first acts as King was to stipulate the conditions in which the Lancaster inheritance should be held, specifying that it should be held separately from all other Crown possessions, and should descend through the Monarchy as a private estate.

Some 300 years later, under the Crown Lands Act 1702, it was decreed that the Sovereign should only receive income and not capital from the Duchy.

And so it remains to this day



**ANCIENT HISTORY OF WORTHINGTON TAKEN FROM JOHN  
NICHOLS 'HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF LEICESTERSHIRE'  
WRITTEN 1800-1820**

**WORTHINGTON**

was antiently accounted a member of Tonge, and with that was given to *Henry de Ferrariis* by the Conqueror<sup>13</sup>.

Four ploughlands in Werditone, in which were five ploughs, were valued in the reign of the Confessor at twelve pence. At the general survey this lordship was worth twenty shillings, and was held by *Henry de Ferrieres*. Four socmen, with six villans and two bordars, had three ploughs. There was a wood four furlongs long and three broad. Of this land *Alwin* claimed the soc of one ploughland, affirming that it belonged to the king's fee in Scepeshede<sup>14</sup>.

In the reign of king Henry II. *Robert de Ferrariis* earl of *Derby* gave (*inter alia*) certain lands in the village, and the service of half a knight's here and at Newbold, to *Bertram de Verdon*, in frank marriage with *Maud* his daughter; but whether the *Goldingtons*, who were lords of this manor in the time of king John, were first enfeoffed therein by Ferrers or Verdon, we cannot, at this distance of time, determine<sup>15</sup>.

“Mem. q̄d Robtus de Ferrariis, comes Derbeie, dedit dño Bertramo de Verdon quatuor feoda militum, cum Matildâ filiâ suâ, in liberum maritagium; viz. in Crakemers et Broughton, continen' unum feodum militis & dimidium; Fenewale, continen' dimidium feodum; Novam Aulam de Staunton, continen' dimidium feodum; Herteshorne, continen' tres partes feodi; Worthington & Newbold, cont' dñi feodi; Staunton Harold, cont' quartam partem feodi militis. Item, memorand' quod postquam comes predictus dederat quatuor feoda antedicta remanserunt in manu suâ septem virgate terre, cum uno bosco dicto Basset haye, & aliis pertinentiis, in Newbold; quem boscum Johannes Basset affartavit ex dimissione dñi Edmundi comitis Lancastrie & Ferrers, & continet quintam partem feodi militis<sup>16</sup>.”

In 1240, *Philip de Staunton* held the fourth part of

a knight's fee in Staunton Harold and Worthington under *Roefia de Verdon*, who held the same under the earl *de Ferrariis* <sup>1</sup>.

“ *Johanna filia Petri de Goldington petit versus Petrum de Goldington fratrem suum totam terram de Worthington, que est de feodo Bertrami de Verdon, quam pater ejusdem Johannes ei dedit in maritagio cum Wiffo Pantulf viro suo* <sup>2</sup>.”

“ *Johannes Crioll & Johanna uxor ejus petunt versus Petrum de Goldington tenendum sicut terra illa que data fuit eidem Johanni in libero maritagio ex dono Petri de Goldington & Eve uxoris sue, & unde Wiffus pater ejus & Johanna uxor ejus sefisti fuerunt tempore Henrici regis patris domini regis nunc. Petrus venit, & defendit jus, &c.; & dicit quod terra illa de Wirthington fuit de maritagio Eve matris sue, & eidem descendit tanquam recto heredi; & preterea ponit se in magnâ affisâ, si sufficere non potest carta Petri patris sui & Eve matris sue, que testatur quod si non possint ei terram illam warrantizare eschambiam ei facient ad valentiam in Stokes, vel in Cotes. Vive voces testium carte predicte, &c.*” <sup>3</sup>

*Peter de Worthington* granted and confirmed to *John Picot*, of Worthington, and his heirs, for his homage and service, five acres and a half of arable land, lying dispersed in the territory of Worthington in the several places in the deed particularly expressed. His testibus; Radulpho de Verdon, Philippo de Stanton, Rogero . . . . . Henrico Picot, Johanne de Cestr', Rogero de Wyneliston, Richardo Coco, Alano de Stanton, & multis aliis <sup>4</sup>.

In 1252, *Peter de Goldington* died seized of it (being then held *in capite* of *John lord Verdon*), by the service of one knight's fee, leaving *Maud* the wife of *sir Alan Robaud*, and *Isabel* wife to *Ralph Boson*, his daughters and coheirs, who shared this lordship and the rest of their father's inheritance, *Dionisia* their sister dying without issue <sup>5</sup>.

“ *Affisa* venit recognitura si Petrus de Goldington, &c. ubi constat quod idem Petrus tenuit tenementa in Cotes, Goldington, & Ravensthorpe, de rege in capite, & obiit sine herede masculino; habens tres filias & heredes, scilicet, Dionissa nupta Miloni de Hastings, Matildis nupta Alano filio Roaldi, & Isabella nupta Wiffo Nodariis: ipsi litigaverunt de partibus suis<sup>6</sup>.”

*Boson's* part (or at least a large share of it) came to the abbey of *Gerendon*; *Ralph Boson* of Claxton and *Lora* his wife granting them one bovate, two virgates, 30s. of yearly rent, all *Worthington* wood, and the whole soil to the same adjacent, with the coal-mines and common of pasture within the said lordship. They had also one virgate and five bovates here of the gift of *Theobald* lord *Verdon*, constable of Ireland. The said *Ralph* also gave them a bovate of land here, held of him by *Richard Greye*; with the same *Richard* and all his chattels, and their whole sequel, and an annual rent of 30s. and a pound of pepper; releasing also the monks from an accustomed rent of half a pound of cumin, and a pair of white gloves<sup>7</sup>.

“ Omnibus Christi fidelibus hoc presens scriptum visuris vel auditoris, *Theobaldus* de *Verdon*, constabularius *Hybernie*, salutem in Dño. Noveritis nos concessisse, & hoc presenti scripto nostro confirmasse, in liberam, putam, & perpetuam elemosinam, pro salute anime nostre & omnium antecessorum & hered' nostrorum, Deo & ecclesie beate *Marie* de *Gerondon*, & abbati & monachis ibidem Deo servientibus, illam bovatom terre, cum pertinentiis suis, quam *Rogerus* de *Coleston* tenet in villâ de *Worthington*, de feodo nostro, & illam virgatom terre, quam *Robertus Pakeman* tenet in predictâ villâ, cum pertinentiis suis, & tres bovatas terre, cum pertinentiis suis, quas *Petrus Dering* tenet in eadem villâ, de feodo nostro, & unam bovatom terre, cum pertinentiis suis, quam *Ricardus*

Reyd tenet in predictâ villâ de feodo nostro; tenend' & habend' predictis abbati & monachis, & eorum successoribus in perpetuum, bene, libere, & in pace, infra villam & extra, cum homagiis, wardis, releviis, & servitiis predictorum tenentium & heredum nostrorum, cum omnibus aliis ad predictam terram ut ad ipsos tenentes pertinentibus, quietè & solutè ab omnibus servitiis, consuetudinibus, & demandis. In cujus rei testimonium hoc presens scriptum predictis abbati & monachis fecimus, & sigilli nostri impressione corroboravimus. Hiis testibus; dn̄is Thomâ de Alecon', Wilto de M'chepe, militibus; Eliâ de Eddiston, tunc senescallo; Roberto de Malehowes; Roberto de Midpiston, tunc coratore; Thomâ de Worthington, clerico; & aliis<sup>8</sup>."

"Omnibus Christi, &c. Wittus filius Johannis Marmion de Worthington & Emme uxoris ejus, &c. dedisse &c. Radulpho la... & Agnete uxori ejus... 1261."

In 1296, it appeared by an inquisition in the Exchequer, that the town of Worthington was held in fee of the honour of *Verdon*; and that *Theobald de Verdon* held lands there of *John de Verdon*, and *John de Verdon* of the king<sup>9</sup>.

In 1304, *Nicholas Kirriel* held lands at Worthington; and *Nicholas* his son and heir was aged 21<sup>10</sup>.

*Roger Colston*, *William Pakeman*, and others, granted divers lands here to the canons of *Bredon*; and the *Roppeleys* seem also to have had an interest here about the time of king Edward I.; for then *Gervase* prior of *Bredon* gave leave to sir *Simon de Roppesley*, knt. to have a chantry "in capellâ infra dominicam curiam suam apud Worthington," for his life only<sup>11</sup>.

*Roger de Somerville*, of Whichnor, co. Stafford, was seized of lands here and at Newbold in the time of Edward II. which he gave to *James* his brother, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, for ever <sup>12</sup>.

*William* the son of *Ralph Sacheverell*, of Staunton Harold, granted and confirmed to *William* the son of *Robert* Sacheverell and *Agnes* his wife, and their heirs, all his right and claim to a messuage and eight acres and a half and one rood of land, with the appurtenances, in Worthington and Newbold. Hiis testibus; Henrico de Somerville, Johanne de Worthington, Willielmo de Bredona, Johanne de Fenton, Willielmo Balle de Winlaston, Simone Pakeman, Johanne de Worthington, Galfrido More de eadem, Simone filio Richardi de eadem, Willielmo de Wodecote de Osgrethrop, Roberto de Wodecote de eadem, Ada de Thurgiton de Newbold, Roberto filio Simoni filii Jordani de eadem, Edmundo Epporehull de Aston, Willielmo Werdon de eadem, Gilberto de Greysham de eadem, Willielmo de Wattona capello, & aliis. Dated at Worthington, on Easter Monday 1305.

*Joan* the daughter of *Ralph Sacheverell*, of Staunton Harold, granted and confirmed to *William*, the son of *Robert* Sacheverell and *Agnes* his wife, and their heirs, all her right and claim to the messuage and lands mentioned in the last deed. The same witnesses and date as the last deed.

*Simon* son of *Richard* of Worthington occurs as a juror in 1306 <sup>13</sup>.

In 1316, *Theobald de Verdon* held at his death a quarter of one knight's fee, with the appurtenances, in Worthington <sup>14</sup>.

In 1328, sir *Robert Holland* held the advowson of Worthington in right of his wife *Maud*, daughter of *Alan la Zouch* of Ashby <sup>15</sup>.

*Agnes*, the relict of *William* de Sacheverell, clerk, in her pure and legal viduity, granted and confirmed to her son *Robert* de Sacheverell, and his heirs, all her right and claim in all the lands and tenements, rents, possessions, and reversions, in the towns of Worthington and Newbold, which he had of the gift of the said *William* de Sacheverell her husband. Hiis testi-

bus; Willielmo de Bredon, Willielmo Pakeman de Worthington, Simone de Heydon de eadem, Thomà Foucher de Olmondeston, Johanne Franceys de eadem, Pagano de Gourney de Belton, Henrico de Weston de Alweston, Willielmo de Holton, clerico, & aliis. Dated at Bolton, on Thursday after St. Lawrence, 1336.

In 1346, *Roger de Robaud* (on the aid then granted for knighting Edward of Woodstock, the king's eldest son) was assessed 10s. 8d. for a quarter and a fortieth part of one knight's fee, and the abbot of *Gerondon* 12d. for a fortieth part of one knight's fee, in Worthington and Newbold, parcel of the fee of *Tutbury*<sup>1</sup>.

*Robaud's* lands passed in marriage by an heir-general in 1360 to sir *Thomas de Champerton*, as hath been shewn under Claxton<sup>2</sup>; and in that year *Elizabeth de Burg*, wife of *Theobald de Verdon*, deceased, held a quarter of one knight's fee, with the appurtenances, in Worthington and Newbold Verdon, which *Thomas de Champerton* and his wife and other freeholders held there<sup>3</sup>.

*Thomas Pigott*, son and heir of *John Pigott*, of Worthington, granted and confirmed to *John Maneille*, of the same place, and his heirs, one acre of land in Worthington and Newbold. Hiis testibus; Johanne Pond de Worthington; Johanne Bayle de eadem; Richard' Balle de eadem; Johanne Thaxton de eadem; Johanne Dexter de eadem; & multis aliis. Dated at Worthington, on Wednesday next before the feast of the Ascension, 1443.

*Roger de Coleston* granted and confirmed to *Adam Sturgunt*, of Newbold, and his heirs, one half acre of land lying in the fields of Worthington, and another half acre of land lying on a piece of ground called The Wolgergriff. Hiis testibus; Olivero Pygot de Worthington, Hugone de Braunston de eadem, Petro Dering de eadem, Simone filio Richardi de eadem, Willo Payn de Newbold, Galfrido Pygot de eadem, Richardo Petit de eadem, & aliis<sup>4</sup>.

May 16, 1462, king Edward IV. granted divers lands at Worthington and Whitwick (late parcel of the possessions of *John Beaumont*, esq.) to *Richard Hasling*, esq. and his heirs male<sup>5</sup>.

In 1475, sir *John Champerton* died seised of the manor of Worthington, held of *John Marbury*; leaving *Blanch* the wife of *Robert Willoughby* lord *Broke*, and *Joan* married to — *Talbot*, his daughters and co-heirs, the latter of whom died without issue<sup>6</sup>.

This manor came soon after, by purchase, it is supposed, to *Henry Winter*, who died seised of it Aug. 10, 1491.

In 1507, certain lands and tenements at Worthington and Newbold were held by — *Talbot* of the king, as of the dutchy of *Lancaster*, by the service of 13s. 4d. a year<sup>7</sup>.

In 1528, *William Compton* died seised of the manor of Worthington, held of the king, as of his honour of *Tutbury*<sup>8</sup>.

In 1536, the tithes of Worthington, Wilston, and Tonge, with those of Staunton, were leased, by the prior of *Bredon*, to *Thomas Shirley*, esq. who, after the dissolution of the priory, obtained a grant of them

from queen Elizabeth 9.

In 1540, *Robert Winter* died seised of this manor<sup>10</sup>; which Robert was father to *George Winter*<sup>11</sup>, who married *Anne*, daughter and coheir to *John Herdwicke*, of Lindley; and by her had issue *Edward Winter*, who aliened it to *Griffin Hanmer*, esq.; who held the manor of Worthington *in capite* about 1605.

In 1564, there were 34 families in Worthington and Newbold.

March 29, 1606, sir *Henry Beaumont* died seised of the tithes of wheat, grain, and hay, in Worthington, Newbold, and Wilton<sup>12</sup>.

Soon after this period, the manor of Worthington was purchased by dame *Judith Corbett*<sup>13</sup>.

In a subsidy of 1617, are these entries:

“ *Bredon*. William Davenant, gent. in terris 4*l*.

John Starkey, gent. in terris 3*l*.

*Worthington, Newbold, and Stanton*:

Sir Henry Shirley, bart. in terris (*sum omitted*).

Dame Judith Corbett, in terris 3*l*.

Thomas Boothbie, gent. in terris 3*l*.

The family of *Winter* continued to reside here, though they had no longer the manor; for, in 1619, their pedigree was entered as of this place<sup>14</sup>.

Lands here were also possessed at that period by the family of *Pilkington*, of Staunton le Dale in Derbyshire; whose pedigree is preserved by Mr. Le Neve<sup>15</sup>.

The *Winters* seem to have removed to Carcolton<sup>16</sup> in Nottinghamshire, and afterwards to Langley in Derbyshire; from one of which places the MS. of Mr. Bassano preserves the following neat epitaph on Mrs. Dorothy Winter, spinster:

“ Occidet heu Virgo nulli pietate secunda;

Terras destituit, quisque superna petit.

Absterfit lachrymas merito quas fudimus omnes,

Ac Letho luctum lætitiãque tulit.”

“ Worthington was given by dame *Judith Corbett*, to *Thomas Boothby* her second son; which *Judith* was daughter to *Thomas Austin*, of Oxley farm in Staffordshire, and was first married to *William Boothby*, citizen of London, by whom she had issue, *William*, who died without issue; *Thomas*, now (1641) lord of this manor and of Tooley Park; *Henry*, a citizen of London; *Richard*, to whom she gave the manor of Marston; and *Robert*; and one daughter, *Elizabeth*, married to sir *Andrew Corbett*, of Norton, knt. This *Judith* took to her second husband, *William Bassett*, of Blore, in the county of Stafford, esq. by whom she had an only daughter and coheir, *Elizabeth*, first married to *Henry Howard*, third son to *Thomas* earl of *Suffolk*; and after to *William* earl of *Newcastle*. She was lastly married to sir *Richard Corbett*, of Morton Corbett, knight of the Bath, by whom she had no issue; and, surviving him, and having attained great riches, purchased a great estate in this and other counties; all which she left to her son by her first husband. She died in 1640, aged 74<sup>17</sup>.”

On the 2d of June, 1660, the effects of a whirlwind were severely felt in this and the adjacent villages, which was thus described by two contemporary writers:

“ About three or four of the clock in the after-

noon it began to be very dark with clouds, as if some very great storm were ready to come; which occasioned many people about Worthington to repair from the fields into their houses; and suddenly there arose a mighty whirlwind, which untiled and unthatched many of the houses in Worthington; and thence it went to Worthington hall, where the effects were as great or greater. It took away, or cast down, several bays of a building there, bringing down the great barn. Also it took up a great log of wood from a mill-pond, whirling it out. And so it passed on to a wood called Spring wood, where the place that it passed through may be yet discerned, by the great trees blown down, and arms of trees, and unbarking of many trees, &c. Thence it passed along to Tonge, a village near it, where it blew down many trees, tearing some up by the roots. Amongst other things there, major Benskin told Mr. Archdale Palmer, late high-sheriff, that it took away a hive of bees of his, of which he could never hear since. And though there was harm to dogs, by the fall of tiles, &c. the Lord wonderfully preserved men, women, and children<sup>1</sup>."

"Near the town of Worthington, began a very dreadful whirlwind; which turned an house on one side, tore up a great tree by the roots, casting it four or five yards from the place where it grew; it rent off the great limbs of an apple-tree, and threw down a house into the street; the chapel was sorely shaken, and the chancel in danger of falling; then passed off with great force and noise to Worthington hall, where it overturned five bays of barn building and a gate-house. It blew down a stack of chimnies, and hurried a man into the orchard, where with his arm he caught hold of a tree, and so stayed himself. Hence it passed, renting trees and turning some up by the roots, to a house that stands alone, where it took away a load of thorns, few of which could ever be found after; it took out also the side of another house. At a town called Tonge, it overthrew a bay of barn building, and rent a house, where a woman with three children were miraculously preserved; to this house also it brought a great log of wood, none knows from whence. Between Worthington and Tonge, it is conceived that this wind rent off, and turned up by the roots, twenty loads of wood; it carried away likewise a hive of bees, which could not afterward be heard of. This whirlwind ran three miles in length, and the effects of it were seen above 20 yards in breadth. Some say that flames of fire were seen in it<sup>2</sup>."

This manor, and a considerable estate, with the old manor-house, which has been for a series of years ruinous, was purchased from the *Boothbys*, about 1676, by sir *Robert Shirley*, bart. (afterwards created earl *Ferrers*.)

In 1722, 11 freeholders polled from Bredon, and 15 from Worthington; and, in 1775, 11 from Bredon, and 20 from Worthington.



## FURTHER RESEARCH NOTES

Henry Winter (1440-94) of Newbold, Leicestershire was MP for Bletchingley (1472-5) and may have been the collector of the subsidy in Derbyshire in 1463 (Fine Rolls 3 Edward IV m.15) and was appointed customer of Southampton on 1.6.4.1460 (Fine Roll, 4 Edward IV M5). He died on 12.4.1494, seised of Newbold, Worthington & Breedon, Leicestershire held of the duchy of Lancaster, his son and heir was Robert then aged 24 (Cal. Inq. pm Henry VII. p 476).

**Robert Wynter of Worthington, Leicestershire, grandson and heir of Henry Winter is mentioned on 27th June 1509-10 on the Pardon Roll. (1 Henry VII 1509-10). The arms of George Winter of Worthington, Leicestershire were "*cheque or and sable, a fesse argent*" (the same as those of Barningham Winter) - his daughter Jane married Thomas Bole of Gosterkirk.**

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### ***THE CASE OF PILKINGTON V DAN - 519***

**George Pilkington of Worthington, co. Leicester, gent v Ralph Dan of Donington, co. Lincoln, saddler**

**November 1639**

#### **Abstract**

Pilkington complained that Dan had claimed that he was as good a man as Pilkington, called him 'a base gentleman', and 'bidd fart in his mouth, and tould him that he should weare a coxcombe'. Process was granted and Pilkington entered bond to prosecute the cause on 23 November 1639; but nothing further survives.

#### **Initial proceedings**

##### **2/161, Petition to Arundel**

'Ralph Dann, sadler, in publique and disgracefull manner, before divers persons, without any provocation, did give very uncivill and opprobrious tearmes to your petitioner, and alsoe made a comparison with him, affirming that he is as good a man as your petitioner, and bidd fart in his mouth, and tould him that he should weare a coxcombe, and said he was a base gentleman, with other reproachfull and provoking speeches, whereby the petitioner extremelie suffers in his reputacon, and being a gentleman of an ancient discent and famelie, capable of the releife and favour of this honorable court.'

Petitioned that Dan be brought to answer.

Maltravers granted process on 23 November 1639.

##### **2/160, Plaintiff's bond**

23 November 1639

Bound to appear 'in the Court in the painted Chamber within the Pallace of Westminster'.

Signed by George Pilkington.

Sealed, subscribed and delivered in the presence of Humphrey Terrick.

### Notes

George Pilkington was either the brother or fifth son of Edward Pilkington of **Stanton, co. Derby and Worthington, co. Leicester** or Edward's brother George Pilkington of Barston [Barton-under-Needwood, co. Stafford] who also had a son named George in the 1619 Visitation.

J. Fetherston (ed.), *The Visitation of the County of Leicester in the year 1619* (Publications of the Harleian Society, 2, 1870), p. 78.

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Three charities were bequeathed to the Church:-

**The Pilkington Charity - Henry Pilkington, in 1698, charged a farm of 150 A., now belonging to Mr. Bulstrode, with the weekly distribution of six penny loaves among the poor, who are also provided for by the Bulstrode Charity, which also established a clothing club.**

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## THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War was unlikely to have had any great effect on Worthington, and at the time of writing, no specific references have been found to it. However, the straggling armies would no doubt have passed through the area, and the reader who wishes to learn more about local involvement would benefit from reading the publication on the author's website entitled "*The English Civil War In the Local area Including information On The Part Played By The Parliamentary Garrison At Coleorton*". This can be found on the Coleorton page, subsection - Wartime .....Lest we Forget.

## THE COMMUTING OF TITHES IN WORTHINGTON IN 1802

The Tithes of Worthington were commuted in 1802, and records suggest that this was when Worthington became first known as a Chapelry of the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill. **Tithe commutation** was a 19th-century reform of land tenure in Great Britain and Ireland, which implemented an exchange of the payment of a tithe to the clergy of the established church, which were traditionally paid in kind, to a system based in an annual cash payment, or once-for-all payment. The system had become complex, with lay owners by impropriation entitled to some tithes, which were of a number of kinds. A chapelry was basically a district served by an Anglican Church (sometimes referred to as a chapel). There doesn't appear to be any consistent description available for what a Chapelry was, but it certainly wasn't a township. The author is of the view that St. Matthews church was at this time responsible to the mother church at Breedon-on-the-Hill for part of its tithes as it was part of the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill at the time.

### Tithes

The payment of one tenth of local produce to the church had been established in Anglo Saxon England before the Norman Conquest. These Tithes paid the minister's salary and provided for the upkeep of the church. They could be in the form of actual goods, such as an animal or part of the harvest, or money. Tithes in the form of goods were usually divided into "great" or "small" tithes. The great tithes were the produce of the land, such as grain or wood, and they were supposed to go to the Rector, who was often, in fact, a corporate body. The small tithes composed everything else, and they went to the minister. Tithe Barns were used to store produce for payment in kind.



**Great Coxwell 14<sup>th</sup> Century Tithe Barn**

Pressure for commutation (paying a sum of money instead of handing over the goods themselves) grew during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, resulting in the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, though the practice had been taking place before it was enshrined in law.

Nonconformists objected greatly to contributing to the Anglican Church and there were many disputes about non-payment in the church courts, as well as disputes about under-evaluation, about whether minerals that were mined were liable to be tithed, and other issues. An act of 1891 restricted the payment of tithes to landowners.

The rates levied on each household in the parish paid for the non-spiritual duties. The work involved was carried out by a group of (usually) men, who were collectively

known as "The Vestry", after the room of the church in which they generally met. All parishioners were entitled to attend the meeting, and ratepayers were allowed to vote.

## Tithe Maps

The Tithe Commutation Act 1836 and an amending act in 1837 established a procedure whereby tithes could be converted to money payments. This required the drawing of an accurate map (the accuracy of which was certified by commissioners) showing all the land in the parish. The series of maps resulting from this legislation provides unprecedented coverage, detail and accuracy.

The initial intention was to produce maps of the highest possible quality, but the expense (incurred by the landowners) led to the provision that the accuracy of the maps would be testified by the seal of the commissioners, and only maps of suitable quality would be so sealed. In the end, about one sixth of the maps had seals. A map was produced for each "tithe district", that is, a region in which tithes were paid as a unit. These could be distinct from parishes or townships. Areas in which tithes had already been commuted were not mapped, so that coverage varied widely from county to county. The maps indicated parcels of land and buildings, assigning each a number.

Each map was accompanied by a schedule listing each map item by number. This showed the owners, occupiers and a description of the land in the parish including individual fields - sometimes with field names. (The description might be short: house and barn, arable, etc.) A preamble gave the name of the tithe owner, the circumstances under which tithes were owed, and whether the apportionment was subject to an agreement between the parties, or was being imposed by the Crown. Most of the surveying and mapping was carried out by 1841, and the work was largely completed by 1851. In some cases amendments had to be filed when properties were divided or other circumstances intervened. The work was also complicated by numerous inconsistencies in the ways tithes were assessed. For example, timber might or might not include standing trees, branches, acorns, mast, and even charcoal. Variations as to the circumstances of tithe-paying were also considerable.

Three copies of these maps and schedules were prepared: one copy was held centrally by the Tithe Commissioners, one locally in the parish church and one in the diocesan registry.

## THE CLOUD HILL AND TICKNALL TRAMWAY - 1802

Due to the cancellation of the Ashby Canal extension, and the decision to build a tramway instead, the company sought the advice of the respected engineer, Benjamin Outram, of Butterly Ironworks, Derbyshire. Eventually, it was decided that a double track tramway (except for a single track only at the Burton Rd level crossings in Ashby) should be built from Willesley canal basin wharf as far as the 447 yard long "New Parks Tunnel", from where it would split into single track branch lines to Cloud Hill and Ticknall. This major project was completed and opened for traffic in late 1802. However, in March, 1803, the Ashby Canal Company seconded engineers to make an inspection of the completed tramway, resulting in a critical report being issued which reflected badly on Outram. A program of repairs was carried out and Christopher Staveley, a Leicester based surveyor responsible for the "Charnwood Forest Canal" was brought in to carry out an examination of the repaired tramway.

Much later, in 1830, a single track branch line was opened from Calke and Dimminsdale limestone quarries, which joined the Ticknall branch tramway on the west side of South Wood near Ashby, which enabled lime to be shipped to the national canal network from there for a time.

The following map (in two parts), is taken from the Worthington and Newbold enclosure map dated 1806, and is the earliest map record the author has found which shows the initial route of the Cloud Hill Tramway from the quarry, which is actually depicted on the map as a railway. The first half of the map shows the tramway, dotted red, leaving the Cloud Hill Quarry (part of the Parish of Breedon at that time) and the second part shows its continuation on to Smoile Colliery near Lount from where it then continued on to the Ashby Canal at Willesley basin.

Once the Ashby Canal became fully operational in 1804, the Cloud Hill tramway gave Earl Stamford a significant advantage in getting his limestone and burnt lime to the wider markets via the national canal network.

Cloud Hill benefited further when the Coleorton Railway reached Worthington Rough in 1835, thereby opening up the market to Leicester.

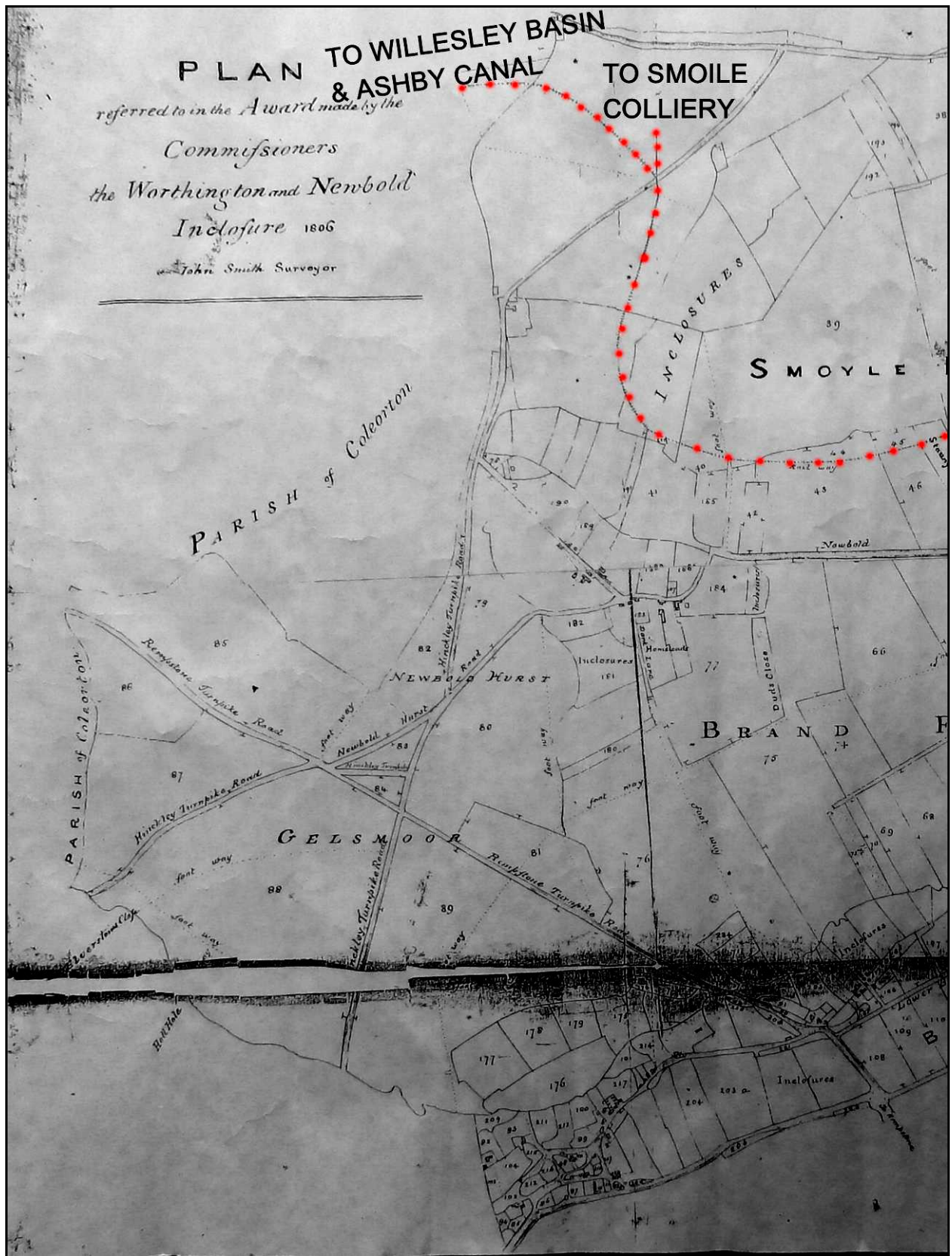
*When the Railway was first opened, the lime had to be inefficiently transhipped at Worthington Rough from Cloud Hill horse drawn wagons to Coleorton Railway horse drawn wagons. Changes were quickly put in place to build a separate edge rail tramway from Cloud Hill to link up directly with the Coleorton Railway, details of which are given in the later feature on the Coleorton Railway. Only horse drawn wagons were ever used on the Coleorton section and it wasn't till it joined up with the Leicester to Swannington Railway at the Swannington Incline that steam engines were used, meaning goods had to be transhipped at that point.*

The final and perhaps most profitable transport link for Cloud Hill was when the final stage of the Derby through to Ashby Midland Railway line was opened on September 1<sup>st</sup> 1868 linking with the Burton to Leicester Midland Railway which had already been opened in 1850 and was initially reached via the tramway over an 18 year period. From Cloud Hill to Ashby, the railway was laid mainly on the track bed of the old tramway, except for a few places where it was re-aligned to ease the curvature.



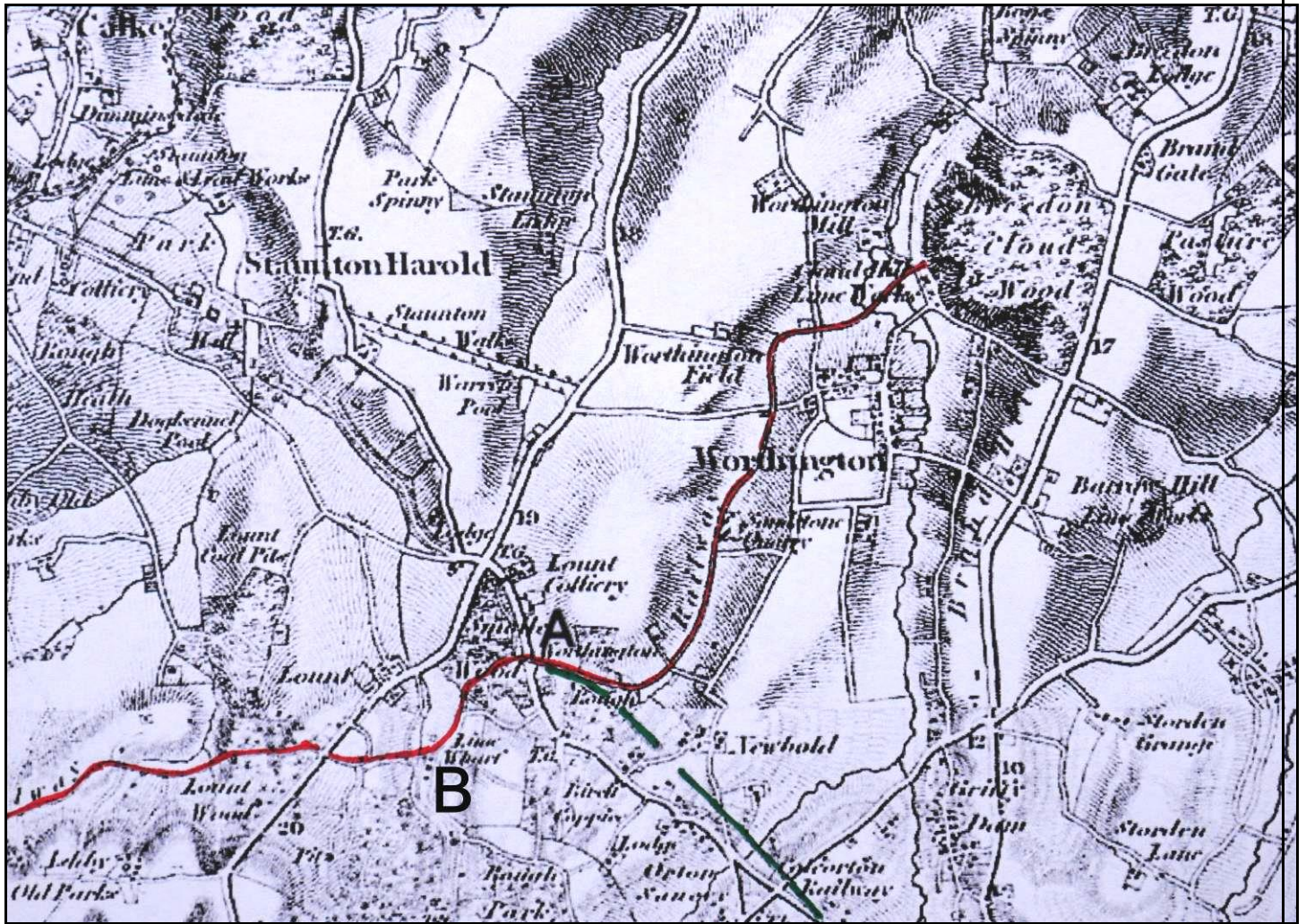
WORTHINGTON & NEWBOLD ENCLOSURE MAP 1806 – PART 1

(NOTE NORTH FACING ARROW RE CORRECT ORIENTATION OF MAP)



WORTHINGTON & NEWBOLD ENCLOSURE MAP - PART 2





FROM FIRST O/S MAP DATED 1835

The area of the Cloud Hill Lime Works being quarried to the south west of Breedon Cloud Wood where the tramway enters the quarry can be discerned on the above map, and buildings / lime kilns are shown.

This map depicts the Cloud Hill Tramway (marked as a "Railway" on the map and coloured red) leaving the quarry, and bypassing a sand-stone quarry till it reached "Worthington Rough" and "The Smoile" near Lount at **A** and then winds its way to a "lime wharf" marked **B**. The wharf is adjacent to three lime kilns shown on the following map and as far as the author is aware following a search of old records, that no further records of these lime kilns still exist.

The land on which the three lime kilns and wharf was built was certainly owned by Sir George Beaumont of Coleorton Hall. No lime stone was present on any of their local estate lands, but of course, the Beaumonts' had developed many coal mines in this area, Smoile Colliery and the adjacent Lount Colliery being just two of them, both of which were a stones throw from these lime kilns

The author takes the view that Sir George Beaumont made an agreement with Bostock & Co. Ltd, Lord Stamford's tenant at Cloud Hill quarry, to have lime stone shipped from Cloud Hill via the tramway and transhipped at the kilns wharf so that he could produce his own quick lime, presumably for use on his own estate. In return

for this, Bostock would presumably have been able to obtain coal for his kilns at competitive rates. The author emphasises that this is only conjecture of course and has found no written proof of this.

If the above was the case, this further added to the network of industrial activity established by Beaumont in this area, with Coleorton Pottery (Opened in 1835), his coal mines and lime burning kilns, brickworks/ sanitary pipe works all on the edge of his estate boundary and just across the road from the Ferrers estate boundary. **Samuel T Stewart has written a book entitled "Coleorton Pottery 1835 – 1938" for anyone wishing to know more about this interesting pottery.**

The three lime kilns referred to, can clearly be seen at the centre right on the following undated map, with the Cloud Hill tramway sweeping round in close proximity. Whether these kilns were linked together with a common draw tunnel is not known. The road to the left hand side, coloured yellow, was the Tamworth to Sawley turnpike road at that time (currently the main Ashby to Breedon Road) under which the tramway went.



**MAP FROM THE COLEORTON ARCHIVE HELD AT ASHBY MUSEUM**

The tramway carried on to "Old Parks Tunnel" where it joined the branch line from Ticknall just before entering the tunnel. From there it went onto Willesley basin and joined the Ashby Canal.

To give the reader some idea of the scale of the Cloud Hill tramway, from Old Parks tunnel to Cloud Hill was 4 miles 2 chains 16 yards and the total length from Willesley basin (Ashby Canal) to Cloud Hill was 7 miles 74 chains 23 yards. The tunnel itself was 447 yards long. Quite a project!

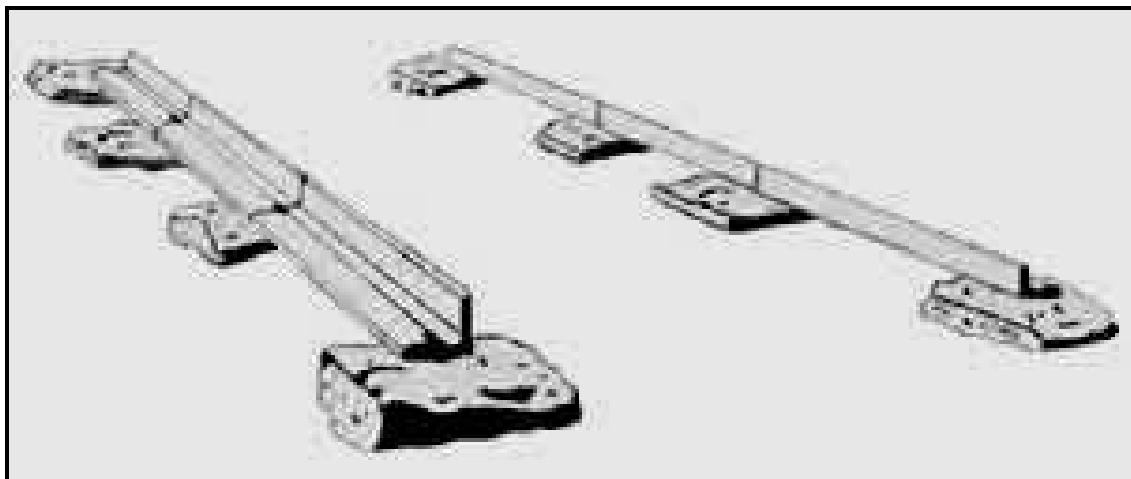
## THE CLOUD HILL & TICKNALL TRAMWAY ENGINEERING DESIGN FEATURES

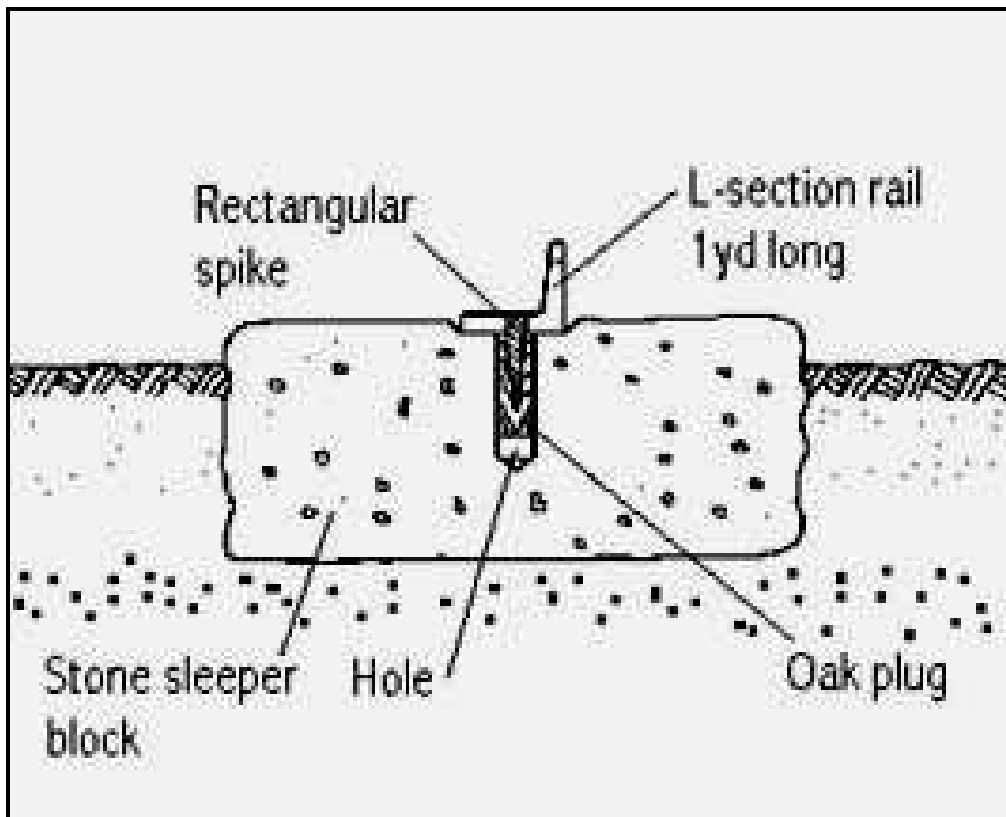
The tramway was mainly a product of the renowned Derbyshire engineer Benjamin Outram, and the following is a synopsis of the specification he laid down.

The stone sleeper blocks (sometimes known as chocks) for mounting the rails on weighed on average 150 lbs each and had a central hole drilled in them. Outram laid down the specification for the hole at 1½ in. diameter x 6 inch deep. The blocks were to be firmly embedded on ballast and the space between and around them filled up with small stones and gravel. The distance between the hole centres in the blocks, along the line of the rails, was to be set at 3ft to suit the 3ft long vertically flanged cast iron plate rails which had a notch at each end to form two halves of a hole which the securing spike went through. These were specified to be “the stoutest cast iron rails, one yard in length and to weigh on average 38 lbs each”, with proportionately stronger ones at road crossings. The two rows of rails and stone blocks were set by an iron gauge to achieve a width of 4ft 2in over the rail vertical flanges. It was recorded that the width of the base flange of the rail was 4inches wide on the Ticknall Tramway and the vertical one 2¾ inches high. A bye-law was passed in April 1804 making it an offence to use wagons with a gauge (distance between the wheels) of less than 4ft 2in minimum and 4ft 3½in maximum, although the minimum gauge seem to conflict with the rail gauge of 4ft 2in.

Tight fitting octagonal wooden oak pegs were to be driven into the hole in the sleeper blocks, and hand made wrought iron spikes made to fit the countersunk notches at the end of the rails were then driven into the wooden pegs through the notched holes, to secure the rails in position. According to Outram, the wooden plug was to be octagonal and 5in. long, and the spikes were to be made to fit the rectangular countersunk notches in the end of the rails in order that they finished flush with the rails.

It was intended that the narrow wagon wheels ran close to the vertical flange of the rails. In reality, the spikes would have worked loose under the continuous impact from the max 4 tons per wagon load, and no doubt the wheels would have been bumping along over the spike heads most of the time, meaning that they would have had to be continually maintained. However, in 1806 the General Assembly made a regulation prohibiting the transit of any wagon exceeding two tons gross. Two years later, speed was reduced to walking pace.





The reader should note that the following photographs of the Dimminsdale and Ticknall tramways are included as they are representative of the original Cloud Hill tramway specification also.



**TWO SLEEPER BLOCKS WHICH WERE FOUND ON THE TOP OF THE BRIDGE AT DIMMINDSALE, IN SOME CASES, IT WAS NECESSARY TO DRESS THE SLEEPER BLOCKS TO PROVIDE AN ACCEPTABLE SURFACE FOR THE RAILS TO SIT ON AS SHOWN IN THE RH PHOTOGRAPH THESE BLOCKS WERE SET AT 3FT CENTRES**

Amazingly, a nail / spike had survived in one of the holes in another sleeper block found close to the bridge. This was in a very rusty and eroded condition as can be expected after nearly 200 years. This is shown in the following photographs.



**THE SLEEPER BLOCK FOUND ADJACENT TO THE BRIDGE WITH THE SURVIVING NAIL / SPIKE SHOWN ADJACENT TO THE HOLE IN WHICH IT WAS FOUND**



**A TYPICAL COMPLETE NAIL / SPIKE**



A horse drawn wagon typical of those that would have been used on the tramways. The design allowed for wooden containers to be placed on top of the chassis thereby preventing damage to the basic wagon and these could be easily removed and repaired. This particular wagon is on display at the Forest of Dean Heritage Centre complete with cast iron rails mounted on stone blocks at 3ft centres.



A Ticknall tramway wagon on the weigh-bridge between Old Parks Farm and Ashby. Note the removable wooden container mounted on top of the wagon chassis. Apparently, after the line closed in 1913, the Midland Railway Company made occasional trips over it to try and keep the "Right of Way" open, but it was officially closed in 1915.

By 1775 Earl Ferrers had started mining lime stone and lead at Dimminsdale. The Harper-Crewe family starting to work the Calke side shortly afterwards. **A detailed account of this is included in the book by Samuel T Stewart entitled "A Social**

**& Industrial History Study Based Upon Staunton Harold, Lount, Dimminsdale & Heath End”.**

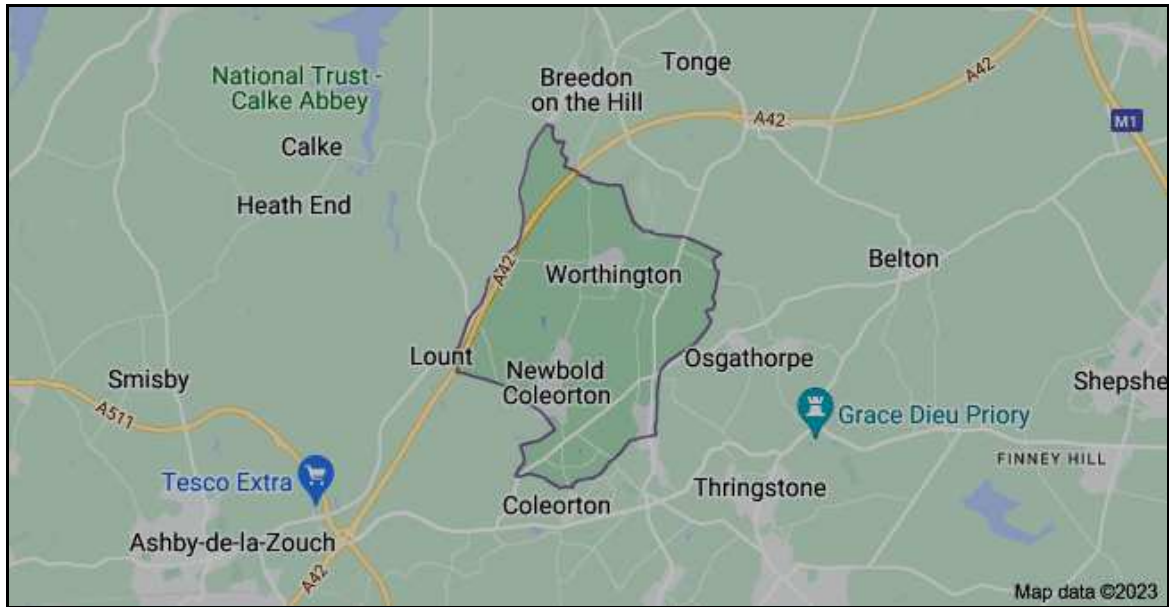
A total of 16 lime kilns were eventually built (10 at Dimminsdale and 6 on the Harper-Crewe side). Up until September 1830 when the tramway branch from Calke & Dimminsdale to join up with the Ticknall branch to the west of South Wood was built, burnt lime had to be collected by the customers from Dimminsdale and Calke by horse and cart. Coal to fuel the lime kilns was brought into the quarry by the same means from local coal mines.

**A GUIDE TO THE 1802 AND 1806 PARLIAMENTARY  
ENCLOSURE ACTS RELATING TO THE MANOR &  
TOWNSHIP OF WORTHINGTON, THE LIBERTY OF  
NEWBOLD AND THE HAMLETS OF  
GRIFFYDAM AND GELSMOOR**



**THE ENCLOSURE OF FORMER OPEN COMMUNAL FIELDS OR WASTE  
GROUND BY HEDGES, FENCES AND WALLS**





**MAP SHOWING THE CIVIL PARISH BOUNDARY OF WORTHINGTON - 2023  
WHICH NOW INCLUDES GRIFFYDAM, GELSMOOR,  
NEWBOLD AND THE OUTWOODS'**

**THE PARISH IS BOUNDED BY THE PARISHES OF COLEORTON,  
OSGATHORPE AND BREEDON-ON-THE- HILL.**

# **A GENERAL GUIDE TO THE ENCLOSURE OF LAND IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

In medieval times farming was based on large fields, known as open fields, in which individual yeomen or tenant farmers cultivated scattered strips of unfenced land.

The Lord of the Manor, his officials, and a manorial court administered the manor and exercised jurisdiction over the peasantry. The Lord levied rents and required the peasantry to work on his personal lands, called a demesne. In medieval times, little land was owned outright. Instead, generally the lord had rights given to him by the king, and the tenant rented land from the lord. Lords demanded rents and labour from the tenants, but the tenants had firm user rights to cropland and common land and those rights were passed down from generation to generation. A medieval lord could not evict a tenant nor hire labour to replace him without legal cause. Most tenants likewise were not free without penalty to depart the manor for other locations or occupations. The rise of capitalism and the concept of land as a commodity to be bought and sold led to the gradual demise of the open-field system.

## **Enclosure by Act**

Originally, enclosures of land took place through informal agreement. But during the 17th century the practice developed of obtaining authorisation by an Act of Parliament. Initiatives to enclose came either from landowners hoping to maximise rental from their estates, or from tenant farmers anxious to improve their farms.

From the 1750s enclosure by parliamentary Act became the norm. Overall, between 1604 and 1914 over 5,200 enclosure Bills were enacted by Parliament which related to just over a fifth of the total area of England, amounting to some 6.8 million acres.

## **Agricultural use**

There is little doubt that enclosure greatly improved the agricultural productivity of farms from the late 18th century by bringing more land into effective agricultural use. It also brought considerable change to the local landscape.

Where there were once large, communal open fields, land was now hedged and fenced off, and old boundaries disappeared. Historians remain divided over the extent to which enclosure forced those at the lowest end of rural society, the agricultural labourers, to leave the land permanently to seek work in the towns.

**Note:- Enclosure was actually referred to as Inclosure at this time, but for the sake of commonisation, the author has used the more modern spelling of Enclosure throughout this publication.**

## THE THREE FIELD SYSTEM, THE GLEBE AND ENCLOSURE OF LAND

At the time leading up to the Enclosure in 1802 and 1806 of the Manor of Worthington, the Township of Newbold and the hamlets of Griffy Dam and Gelsmoor, the medieval "Three Open Field System" of land management would have still been in operation, to some extent. Leicestershire in the 17th century was predominately made up of three field villages. The three open fields recorded on the 1806 Enclosure map in the Manor of Worthington were Smoyle Field (aka., Smoile), Brand field and Breedon Field. **Prior to Enclosure the Manor of Worthington and the Township of Newbold were part of the parish of Breedon on the Hill.**

The three field system was a medieval system which provided for efficient land management and crop growing by rotation. One of the fields lay fallow for one year and the other two fields were set with crops and other vegetables etc

It is worth mentioning that a "Glebe Terrier" record of 1638 defines that Worthington's neighbour Osgathorpe was divided into three open fields named a) The Brand, b) The Grange and c) Gracedieu. The latter was named such because Gracedieu had retained lands in Osgathorpe liberty following the dissolution of the monasteries.

The land in the three field system was divided into strips and allocated to the villagers, with of course, the poor having the least amount and the wealthy the most. Nothing has changed in that respect. The average area of a strip was between a third and a half acre. Numerous strips could be grouped together, all running in the same direction to form a unit known as the 'furlong'. In the medieval village, the strips in any one furlong could be each in different ownership, reflecting the distribution made among the villagers who first brought that portion of the parish into cultivation.

Strips of land known as "The Glebe" were allocated to the church. The *Glebe Terriers* are written surveys or schedules of the lands belonging to the church in any one parish. Since, in an agricultural society, these lands might be the main source of the incumbent's incomes, the Church administrators were anxious that they should not diminish or disappear. For that reason, the Archdeacon, or Bishop in his visitation enquiry, will ask the incumbent and churchwardens to declare to him the value and extent of the temporalities of the church. The articles of enquiry, dealing mainly with matters of ritual, conduct, and spiritual duties of the clergy, would also include questions on the fabric, the glebe, and the tithes, and such other fees as those for burial and marriage. The word 'terrier' has its root in the French word 'terre' (land), and it is a land-survey. The first canon to authorise a terrier explicitly, is dated 1571. *'A bishop shall see that a true inventory, which they call a terrier shall be made of all fields, meadows, gardens, orchards belonging to any Rectory or Vicarage by an inspection made by worthy men: it shall be brought to his Registry for perpetual reminder.'*

This eventually led to the *enclosure* of land or *inclosure* as it was formerly known. The word enclosure here is limited to the process of re-distributing

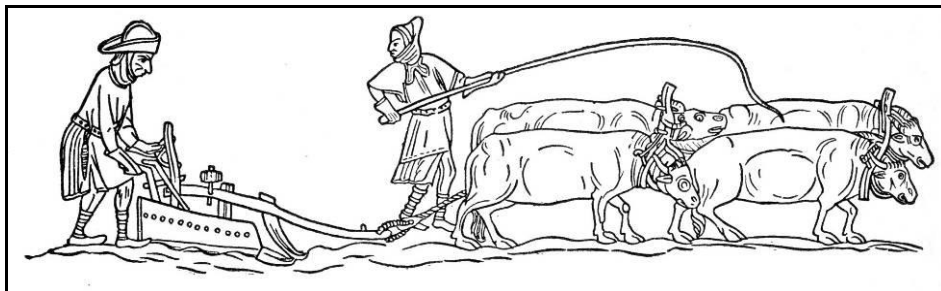
and hedging the strips of the medieval open fields, whether for sheep and cattle pastures or for improved growing of crops. Enclosure of land in some form, had been taking place for centuries but this was generally limited to the piecemeal enclosure of strips of land. This process carried on to a limited extent, and in many cases against the main stream of social opinion, the law and the crown until Parliamentary Acts were introduced from 1740 through to 1840.

Parliamentary Acts were passed in neighbouring villages, in 1785 for the enclosure of the lordship or liberty of Osgathorpe, in 1802 and 1806 for the Manor and Township / Chapelry of Worthington (including the Township of Newbold and hamlets of Griffydam and Gelsmoor) and in 1807 for the Enclosure of Peggs Green and the Township of Thringstone.

Coleorton was not enclosed as it developed into an estate mainly owned by the Beaumonts who had their seat at Coleorton Hall. The Beaumont estate was mainly sold off in lots to the general public in 1920.



The method of ploughing the fields created a distinctive ridge and furrow pattern in open-field agriculture. The outlines of the medieval strips of cultivation, called selions, are still clearly visible in the above now enclosed fields.



A four-ox-team plough, *circa* 1330. The ploughman is using a mouldboard plough to cut through the heavy soils.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### THE 1759 PARLIAMENTARY ACT FOR ENCLOSING THE FIELDS OF BREEDON, TONGE, AND WILSON

#### THE 1759 ACT FOR ENCLOSING THE FIELDS OF BREEDON, TONGUE AND WILSON IN THE MANOR OF BREEDON AND COUNTY OF LEICESTER, AND CERTAIN COMMONABLE AND WASTE GROUNDS WITHIN THE RESPECTIVE LIBERTIES THEREOF

THE FOLLOWING IS TAKEN FROM "THE HOUSE OF LORD'S JOURNAL" VOL 29 APRIL 1759 21-30 PAGES 488 TO 496:-

**Breedon Common, Bill:**

The Lord Bishop of *Litchfield and Coventry* reported from the Lords Committees to whom the Bill, intituled, "An Act for dividing and enclosing the Open and Common Fields of *Breedon, Tonge, and Wilson*, in the Manor of Breedon and County of *Leicester*; and certain Commonable and Waste Grounds within the respective Liberties thereof," was committed: "That they had considered the said Bill, and examined the Allegations thereof, which were found to be true; that the Parties concerned had given their Consents, to the Satisfaction of the Committee; and that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and directed him to report the same to the House, without any Amendment."

**Breedon Common, Bill:**

¶ *Hodie 3<sup>a</sup> vice lecta est Billa*, intituled, "An Act for dividing and enclosing the Open and Common Fields of *Breedon, Tonge, and Wilson*, in the Manor of Breedon and County of *Leicester*; and certain Commonable and Waste Grounds within the respective Liberties thereof."

The Question was put, "Whether this Bill shall pass?"

It was Resolved in the Affirmative.

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE ENCLOSURE OF LAND IN THE MANOR & TOWNSHIP / CHAPELRY OF WORTHINGTON, THE LIBERTY OF NEWBOLD, AND THE HAMLETS OF GRIFFYDAM & GELSMOOR**

The first Act for dividing, allotting and Enclosing the several open fields, meadows, commons and waste grounds within the manors of Breedon on the Hill and Worthington including the Township of Newbold, all in the parish of Breedon on the Hill in the County of Leicester, was passed in the Houses of Parliament in early 1802. This Parliamentary Act only seems to have been applied to the public and bridle carriage way roads which had to be built and which are described on pages 7, 8, 9 & 10. Various challenges in the courts from the numerous land owners, no doubt caused significant delays. Further delays would have been caused by construction of the 1802 Cloud Hill Tramway, which ran from the Smoile to Cloud Hill Limeworks.

This clearly resulted in the Enclosure of the open fields, meadows and waste grounds in the Township / Chapelry of Worthington, and Township of Newbold being delayed till 1806, and another Act of Parliament was granted on the 10th of February 1806 to deal with this. By then, the hamlets of Griffydam and Gelsmoor were included, but it is important to note that the latter was never enclosed.

Newbold, had many names throughout its recorded history, which can be confusing. These being - The Liberty of Newbold / Newbold juxta Worthington / Newbold Saucey (various spellings of Saucey used). Although Newbold was referred to as a Township in both the 1802 and 1806 Parliamentary Enclosure Acts, the author believes it was actually a "Liberty". A "liberty", was an English unit originating in the Middle Ages, traditionally defined as **an area in which regalian right was revoked and where the land was held by a mesne lord** (i.e. an area in which rights reserved to the king had been devolved into private hands). A *mesne lord* was a lord in the feudal system who had vassals who held land from him, but who was himself the vassal of a higher lord. The author believes this relates to the time when Newbold was recorded as Newbold Saucey. If the reader would like to know more about Newbold Saucey, there is a publication on the author's website under the Newbold page. Worthington became a township of the ecclesiastical parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill in addition to being a chapelry as discussed earlier when the tithes were commuted. A township was an administrative sub-division of an ecclesiastical parish.

It was not until 1806 that an Enclosure map was prepared for the commissioners by the surveyor John Smith, which was used in conjunction with the Enclosure awards schedule. The awards schedule, a copy of which is in the possession of the author, is dated 1806 like the map, and hand written extracts from this are appended later together with copies of the map, on which the author has illustrated the route of the 1802 Cloud Hill Tramway with a dotted red line.

## **THE 1802 PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE ACT (ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC CARRIAGE AND BRIDLE WAYS TO BE BUILT)**

The following is transcribed from the Leicester Journal -  
Friday 15th October 1802

### **WORTHINGTON AND NEWBOLD ENCLOSURE**

The commissioners appointed to carry into Execution an Act passed in the last session of Parliament, entitled "An Act for dividing, allotting, and inclosing the Several Open Fields, Meadows, Common and Waste Grounds, within the Manors of Worthington, Breedon-on-the-Hill, and Township of Newbold, all in the parish of Breedon-on-the Hill, in the County of Leicester.

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC CARRIAGE ROADS BEING SET OUT**

The Commissioners first gave notice in October 1802, that they had first set out and appointed the Public Carriage Roads and Highways, through and over the Lands and Grounds to be divided and Enclosed in pursuance of the 1802 Act, of the several widths and in the directions as follows :-

#### **FROM WORTHINGTON TO BREEDON**

A public Carriage Road of the width of 33 feet, beginning at or near Blanch Gate, in the Township of Worthington, and extending from thence over Breedon Field in the direction of the present road to the Township of Breedon on the Hill.

#### **FROM WORTHINGTON TO NEWBOLD**

A public Carriage Road of the width of 33 feet, beginning at the southwardly end of Pinfold gate lane, in the Township of Worthington and extended from whence in a Southwardly direction over Smoile and Brand Fields by the fence dividing the said fields at the Northwardly end of Barn-yard Lane, in the Township of Newbold.

#### **FROM WORTHINGTON TO THE ASHBY TURNPIKE ROAD**

A Public Carriage Road of the width of 33 feet, beginning at or near Bird's Gate, in the Township of Worthington and extending from thence over the South Side of Breedon Field in the direction of the present road, to the Ashby turnpike road.

#### **FROM WORTHINGTON INTO THE ROAD TO NEWBOLD**

A public Carriage Road of the width of 33 feet, beginning at the southwardly end of the town street of Worthington, and proceeding from thence in Southwardly and Westwardly directions by the East and Southwardly sides of

an ancient Inclosure belonging to Edward Dawson, Esquire., to the South-West corners thereof, and from thence in a Westwardly direction over the Brand Field into the Newbold road.

### **FROM NEWBOLD TOWARDS COLEORTON**

A public Carriage Road of a width of 33 feet, beginning at the Southwardly direction of a lane in Newbold called Crofts lane, and proceeding from thence in a Southwardly direction over Newbold Hurst, across the Hinckley Turnpike Road, and from thence in the same direction over the Gelsmoor to the Coleorton and Rempstone Turnpike Road.

### **FROM NEWBOLD TO THE HINCKLEY TURNPIKE ROAD**

A public Carriage Road of the width of 33 feet, beginning at the Southwardly End of Newbold, and extending from thence, in a Southwardly direction over the common to the Hinckley Road.

### **ROAD NEAR THE BRAND COMMON**

A public Carriage Road of the width of 33 feet, beginning at an Eastwardly End of an ancient lane in Worthington called Frearson's Lane, and extending from thence in a Southwardly direction over the Brand Common into the Rempstone and Coleorton Turnpike Road, at a place called Griffydam.

### **BRIDLE ROAD**

#### ***From Frearson's Lane to Ashes Lane***

A public Bridle Road of a width of 20 feet, beginning at the Eastwardly End of the said Lane called Frearson's Lane, and extending from thence over the Brand Common in a Southwardly Direction to an ancient lane in the Lordship of Breedon called Ashes Lane.

All which said Roads are ascertained by Marks and Bounds and are staked and set out in the directions above described.

And the said commissioners do hereby further give notice that they have caused a map to be prepared, and which the said Roads are accurately laid down and described, and such map is now deposited at the office of Mr. Lockett in Derby (one of their Clerks'), and a copy thereof at the House of Mr. Wm. Jaques in Worthington for the inspection of all persons concerned.

And that they intend to meet by Adjournment at the house of John Hackett, the Lime Kiln Inn in Breedon aforesaid on Tuesday the ninth day of November next at ten o'clock in the Forenoon, for the purpose of receiving, hearing and determining any objections that may be made by any Person or Persons who may be injured or aggrieved by the said Roads, or any of them set out as above described.

***By Order of the Commissioners  
Their Clerk's and Solicitors***

CHARLES UPTON

WM. JEFFERY LOCKETT Derby October 11 1802



**THE 1802 PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE ACT  
(NOTICE OF MEETING FOR FINAL CLAIMS TO BE  
SUBMITTED)**

The following is transcribed from the Leicester Journal - Friday 15th  
October 1802

**WORTHINGTON AND NEWBOLD ENCLOSURE**

The commissioners appointed to carry into Execution an Act passed in the last session of Parliament, entitled "An Act for dividing, allotting, and enclosing the Several Open Fields, Meadows, Common and Waste Grounds, within the Manors of Worthington and Breedon-on-the-Hill, and Township of Newbold, all in the parish of Breedon-on-the Hill, in the County of Leicester.

***Hereby Give Notice***

That they will meet by Adjournment on the 8th day of November next, at the house of Mr. John Hackett, in Breedon-on-the-Hill aforesaid, at four o' Clock in the Afternoon, and continue their said meeting during the next and several successive days : and they do hereby peremptorily require all Persons and Bodies Politic, having any claim of common or the Rights, upon or in the lands and Grounds to be divided and Enclosed in Persuance of the said Act, who have not already delivered their claims, in Compliance with the former Notice, to deliver or cause to be delivered to them the said Commissioners, at their meeting at Breedon aforesaid, on the 9th day of November next, at 11 o' Clock in the Forenoon, an Account or Schedule in writing, signed by them or their respective husbands, Guardians, Trustees, Committees, or Agents of such their respective Rights or Claims ; and therein describe the Lands and Grounds, and the respective Messuages, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, in right whereof they shall respectively claim to be entitled to any and which of such Rights, in and upon the same, or any Part thereof, with the Name or Names of the Person or Persons then in the actual possession thereof, and the particular computed Quantities of the same Respectively ; and of what nature and extent such Right is ; and also in what Rights, and for what Estates and Interests the claim the same respectively, distinguishing the Freehold from the Copyhold and Leasehold.

And that all and every Person or Persons, refusing or neglecting to deliver, or cause not to be delivered, such Account or Schedule, in writing, at such Meeting as aforesaid, will be excluded and totally barred of and from all Right and Title of unto or upon the said Lands or Grounds, intended to be divided and enclosed, and all Benefit and Advantage in or to any share or Allotment thereof on the said intended Division and Enclosure.

***By Order of the Commissioners***  
**Their Clerk's and Solicitors**

CHARLES UPTON  
WM. JEFFERY LOCKETT

Derby October 11 1802

## **THE 1802 PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE ACT (NOTICE FOR OBJECTIONS IN CLAIMS)**

Transcribed from the Leicester Journal - 10th December 1802

### ***Worthington & Newbold Enclosure***

#### **Notice for Objections in Claims**

**THE COMMISSIONERS** appointed to carry into Execution an Act of Parliament, made and passed in the last Session, for dividing and allotting, and enclosing the several Open Fields, Meadows, Commons and Waste Grounds, within the Manors of Worthington and Breedon on the Hill, and Township of Newbold, all in the Parish of Breedon on the Hill, in the County of Leicester, hereby give Notice, that they intend to hold their next Meeting at the House of John Hackett, the Limekiln Inn, in Breedon aforesaid, on Thursday the 16th Day of December next, at 11 o' Clock in the Forenoon ; and if any Person or Persons, or Body Politic or Corporate, interested, or claiming to be interested in the said Division and Enclosure, shall have any Objection to offer to any of the Claims made to the Proprietors, - the Particulars of such Objections must be produced in Writing, signed by the Person or Persons offering the same, and delivered to the Commissioners at or before the said Meeting.

The original Claims are left at the Office of Mr. LOCKETT, in Derby, for the inspection and Perusal of all Parties interested therein ; and for the greater Convenience of the Proprietors, authentic Copies of them are deposited at the House of WM. JAQUES, in Worthington.

#### **ROADS**

The said commissioners also give Notice, that they intend, at their said Meeting, to consider and determine upon the Expediency (if the requisite Contents can be obtained) of making a Public Carriage Road, of the width of 33 Feet, beginning at about the Middle of Gelsmoor Common, and extending from thence across the Middle Field, to the Northwardly End of Worthington Town, and from thence along Breedon Field, to and by the Side of the Ashby Railway (*Cloud Hill Tramway ?*), over certain Ancient Enclosures belonging to the Right Honourable Earl Ferrers, to the Lime Works at Breedon Cloud Hill ; or a like Carriage Road in the direction before described, to nearly the opposite, the Westwardly End of Worthington, and from thence along the Town Street, up Freason's Lane to the Brand Common ; in Lieu of the Roads before proposed to have been made over the Bottom of the Brand Common, and from Worthington to Newbold as described in the former Notice.

And the said Commissioners, at their said Meeting, on the 16th Day of December next, will receive, hear, and determine any Objections which maybe made by any Person or Persons who may be Injured or Aggrieved by the proposed Alteration, and the making of the Road, in either of the Directions above described, in Lieu of those being proposed to have been made as aforesaid.

***By Order of the Commissioners***  
**Their Clerk's and Solicitors**

CHARLES UPTON

WM. JEFFERY LOCKETT Derby October 11 1802

## THE 1806 PARIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE ACT

Inserted on the following two pages is the 1806 Enclosure map of Worthington, Newbold, Griffydam & Gelsmoor which was drawn by the surveyor John Smith for the Commissioners to accompany the awards schedule.

**The dotted red line on the map, indicates the route of the 1802 Cloud Hill Tramway**

**Note the direction of the arrow indicating North on the second half of the map to ensure correct orientation**

The three open fields enclosed in the Township of Worthington and indicated on the map are :-

Smoyle (aka. Smoile)  
Brand Field  
Breedon Field

All the enclosures, intakes and allotments are given a number which can be related to the awards schedule.

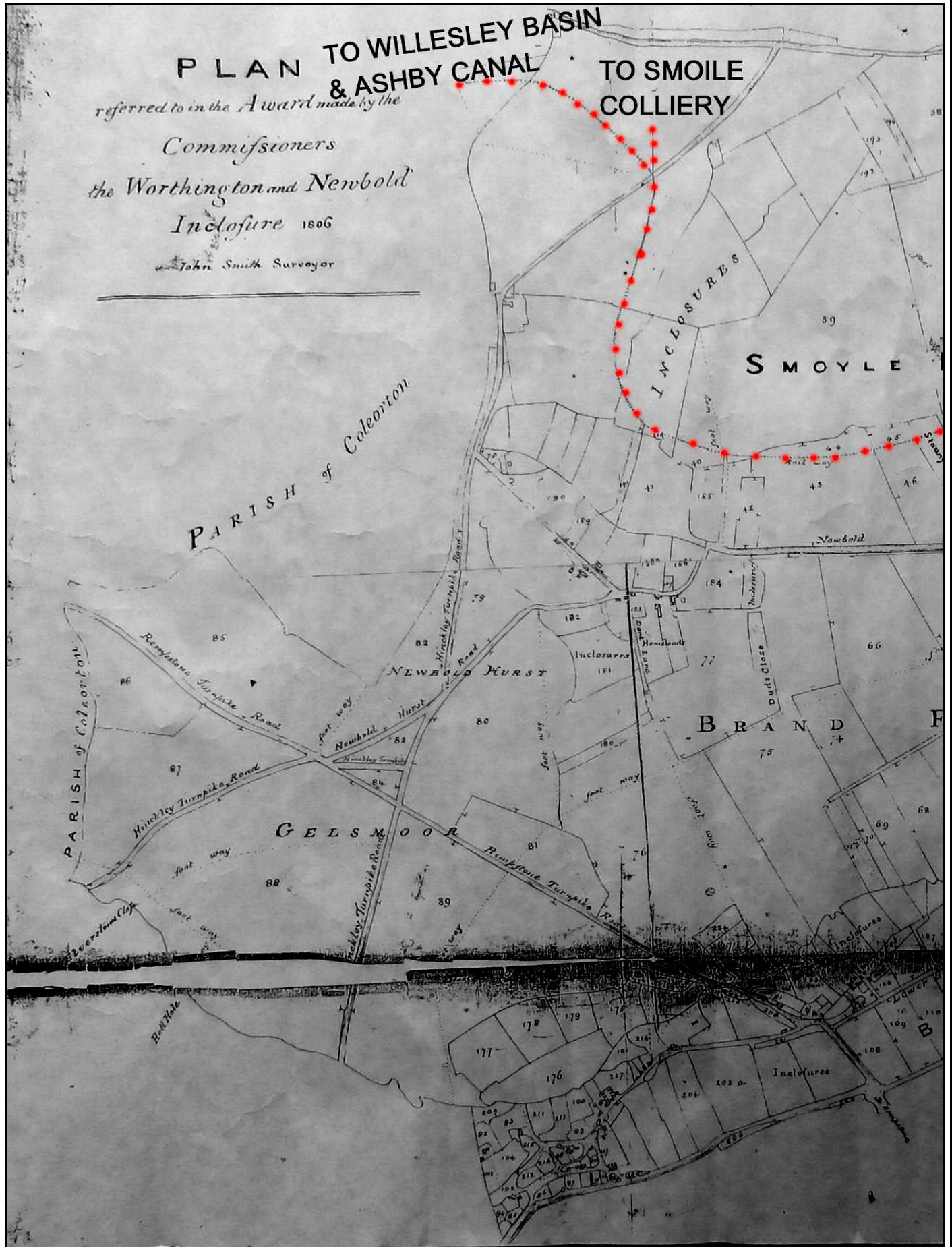
### CROP AGREAGE IN WORTHINGTON IN 1801 TAKEN FROM 1801 CROP RETURNS - BY W. G. HOSKINS OF THE LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The Curate of Breedon who did the survey said "I find all the farmers inclined to give in less than they really have"

| CROPS                    | ACRES |
|--------------------------|-------|
| WHEAT                    | 150   |
| RYE                      | 0     |
| BARLEY                   | 70    |
| OATS                     | 60    |
| POTATOES                 | 4     |
| PEAS AND BEANS           | 100   |
| TURNIPS                  | 0     |
| TOTAL ARABLE - 384 ACRES |       |

# PLAN TO WILLESLEY BASIN & ASHBY CANAL TO SMOILE COLLIERY

*referred to in the Award made by the  
Commissioners  
the Worthington and Newbold  
Inclosure 1806  
John Smith Surveyor*





EXTRACTS FROM THE 1806 ENCLOSURE SCHEDULE

The Award  
made by  
The Commissioners  
appointed  
To Divide, Allot & Inclose  
The open Fields, Meadows  
Commons and Waste Grounds  
Within the Manors of  
Worthington and Breedon on the Hill  
and the Township of Newbold,  
all in the  
Parish of Breedon on the Hill,  
in the  
County of  
Leicester

A COPY FROM THE AWARDS SCHEDULE CONFIRMING THE  
PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE ACT ENROLLED BEFORE KING GEORGE  
THE THIRD AT WESTMINSTER ON THE 10TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 1806  
IN THE FORTY SIXTH YEAR OF HIS REIGN - ROLL 142

Sealed, delivered and Published  
by the said Samuel Hyatt John Brighton and William }  
as and for their award (the parchment being }  
last duly stamped) in the presence of }  
Sam. Hyatt Esq  
John Brighton Esq  
Wm. Soone Esq  
Wm. Jeffery, Sockett of Serby atty, at Law  
Bryan Balguy, Clerk to Mr. Sockett  
Let this award affidavits and plan be enrolled of record  
in his Majesty's Court of Kings Bench at Westminster  
Pursuant to an act of Parliament dated the tenth day  
of February, one thousand eight hundred and six  
W. G. Rose  
Enrolled in the Court of our Sovereign  
Lord the King before the King himself }  
at Westminster of the Term of Saint Hilary } Roll  
in the forty sixth year of the reign of King George } 142  
the third 1806 }  
-----

A N  
A C T  
F O R

Dividing, Allotting, and Inclosing the several Open Fields, Meadows, Commons, and Waste Grounds, within the Manors of *Worthington* and *Breedon-on-the-Hill*, and Township of *Newbold*, all in the Parish of *Breedon-on-the-Hill*, in the County of *Leicester*.

W H E R E A S there are within the Manors of *Worthington* and *Breedon-on-the-Hill*, and Township of *Newbold*, all in the Parish of *Breedon-on-the-Hill*, in the County of *Leicester*, several Open Fields called *Brandfield Smoyle* otherwise *Linvil Field* and *Breedon Field*, and also a certain Open or Lot Meadow, called *The Mill Meadow*, and several Commons or Waste Grounds called *The Brand*, *The Griffy Dam*, *The Gelfimore*, and *The Newbold Hurst*, and other Commonable Lands and Waste Grounds, containing altogether by Estimation One Thousand and Two Hundred Acres or thereabouts:

And whereas the Right Honourable *Robert Earl Ferrers* is Lord of the Manor of *Worthington* aforesaid, and the said *George Harry Earl of Stamford* and *Warrington*, *Sir George Howland Beaumont*, Baronet, and *John Mynors Bullstrode*, Gentleman, are Lords of the Soil of the several Commons and Waste Grounds within the said Manor of *Worthington*, as follows: (*videlicet*) the said *George Harry Earl of Stamford* and *Warrington* is sole Lord of the Soil of a certain Part of the said Common called *Griffy Dam*, and *John Mynors Bullstrode*, Gentleman, is sole Lord of the Soil of the Residue of the said Common called *Griffy Dam*, and *Sir George Howland Beaumont*, Baronet, is sole Lord of the Soil of the said Commons called *Gelfimore* and *Newbold Hurst*, and the said *John Mynors Bullstrode* is sole Lord of the Soil of the Town Streets, and the other Waste Grounds in *Worthington* and *Newbold* aforesaid, and the said *George Harry Earl of Stamford* and *Warrington*, *Sir George Howland Beaumont*, and *John Mynors Bullstrode*, in their several Rights as aforesaid, are entitled to all Cottages and Buildings erected upon the said Commons and Waste Grounds, and to all Mines and Minerals whatsoever within and under the same:



it shall be lawful for the said *George Harry* Earl of *Stamford* and *Warrington*, *Sir George Howland Beaumont*, and *John Mynors Bulltrode*, their Heirs and Assigns, according to such their several and respective Rights, Estates, and Interests as aforesaid, from Time to Time and at all Times hereafter, to have and enjoy the said Mines and Beds of Coal and Iron, Lime and other Stone, and Minerals, and the Rents, Issues, and Profits thereof, to receive and take to and for their own Use, and to dig, get, and work the same, and to cut, sink, dig, and make Pits, drive Soughs, and erect Engines and other Machines, Buildings, and Kilns, and to plumb, dial, level, and bore, and do all such Work, in and upon such Part or Parts of the said Commons and Waste Grounds, for getting, working, and draining such Mines and Minerals, as they respectively shall think proper; and to have and use convenient and necessary Places upon the Allotments or Parcels of the said Commons and Waste Grounds, for the laying of such Coal and Iron, Lime and other Stone, and Minerals, and of all Soil and Rubbish to be dug and gotten by setting, sinking, making, and digging such Pits, driving such Soughs, erecting such Engines, and doing such other Work as aforesaid; and also free Way and Passage from Time to Time and at all Times hereafter, into, through, and over the said Allotments of the said Commons and Waste Grounds, or any Part thereof, for the said *George Harry* Earl of *Stamford* and *Warrington*, *Sir George Howland Beaumont*, and *John Mynors Bulltrode*, their Heirs and Assigns respectively, and their or any of their Lessees, Tenants, Agents, and Workmen, and for all other Persons whomsoever, in the most convenient Di-

COPIES OF RANDOM PAGES FROM THE SCHEDULE

To the Right Honorable George Murray Earl of Mansfield Nottingham  
 One acre, 100 rods and thirty two perches <sup>no 52</sup>  
 in small field bounded eastwardly by the Railway  
 westwardly by the allotment 53 northwardly by  
 the allotment 55, and southwardly by the  
 allotment 34, To fence south  
 Ten acres, one rod and twelve perches <sup>no 1</sup>  
 in Broadon field bounded eastwardly by the allotments  
 2 and 28, westwardly by the Ashby Turnpike road  
 northwardly by an inclosure called Dumps Close  
 and southwardly by the allotment 14, to fence  
 east west and south  
 Twenty perches, <sup>no 23</sup> in Broadon field  
 bounded eastwardly by the Broadon road  
 westwardly by the allotment 24, northwardly by  
 the allotment 25, and southwardly by the  
 Railway, to fence East and North  
 One acre, and five perches, <sup>no 93</sup> on Griffy  
 Dene bounded eastwardly by a Cottage and Outake  
 belonging to Lord Stamford, and the allotment  
 105, westwardly by the allotment 104 and the  
 Brook, northwardly by the allotment 111, and  
 southwardly by the allotment 92  
 Twenty seven perches, <sup>no 94</sup> on Griffy  
 Dene bounded eastwardly by the allotment 94 and  
 part of an Outake belonging to Lord Stamford  
 westwardly by the allotment 102, northwardly  
 by an Outake belonging to Lord Stamford and  
 southwardly by the Township of Springstone

Turnpike road northwardly by the inclosures 174,  
175, 177, and 176, and Southwardly by the Knechley  
Turnpike road, to fence against the Brook and  
West and South

In Exchange from Sir George Beaumont  
An Inclosure, called the Dye house Close 173  
containing two acres one rood and fifteen perches.  
A Farmhouse, outbuildings, Yard, Garden  
Orchard 174, containing two roods and twenty Perches

An Inclosure called the Croft 172, containing  
two roods

An Inclosure, called the Dye house Close 175  
containing three acres and twenty eight Perches

An Inclosure called the Meadow 176  
containing five acres two roods and six perches

An Inclosure called the far Breach 177  
containing four acres two <sup>roods</sup> and thirty three perches

An Inclosure called the near Breach 178  
containing three acres one rood and thirty six perches

An Inclosure called the middle Breach 179  
containing two acres one rood and seventeen perches

In Exchange for tithes given to the said  
Sir George Rowland Beaumont by Lord Scarsdale

From  
John Mynors Bulstrode One rood & thirty six perches  
No 103, in Giffy Dams bounded eastwardly the allotment 102  
westwardly by an estate belonging to Lord Stamford  
northwardly by the allotment 104 and southwardly by  
the Township of Hovingstone.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

One acre & thirty one perches N<sup>o</sup> 204

at Griffy Dam bounded eastwardly by the allotments 102 and 215 westwardly by the allotments 92 and 93 and intakes belonging to Lord Stamford northwardly by the allotment 215 and an intake belonging to Lord Stamford and southwardly by the allotment 103

Three Houses and Gardens N<sup>o</sup> 224

at Griffy Dam containing eight Perches in the Occupations of Robert Hannah and Thomas Heywood

A Garden N<sup>o</sup> 225 at Griffy Dam containing ten perches in the occupation of George Richards

A House and Garden N<sup>o</sup> 226 at

Griffy Dam containing sixteen perches in the occupation of John Perkins

A House and Garden N<sup>o</sup> 227 at

Griffy Dam containing eight perches in the occupation of Benjamin Smallwood

Two Houses and Gardens N<sup>o</sup> 228 at

Griffy Dam containing thirty perches in the occupation of William Richards and Richard Winters

A House and Garden N<sup>o</sup> 229 at

Griffy Dam containing eight perches in the Occupation of James Games

Three Houses and Gardens N<sup>o</sup> 230

at Griffy Dam containing twenty two Perches in the Occupations of Charles Wood George Nicolson and Wm Fowler

An Intake N<sup>o</sup> 231 at Griffy Dam containing

eighteen perches in the Occupation of William Shupe

NOTE REFERENCES TO GRIFFY DAM

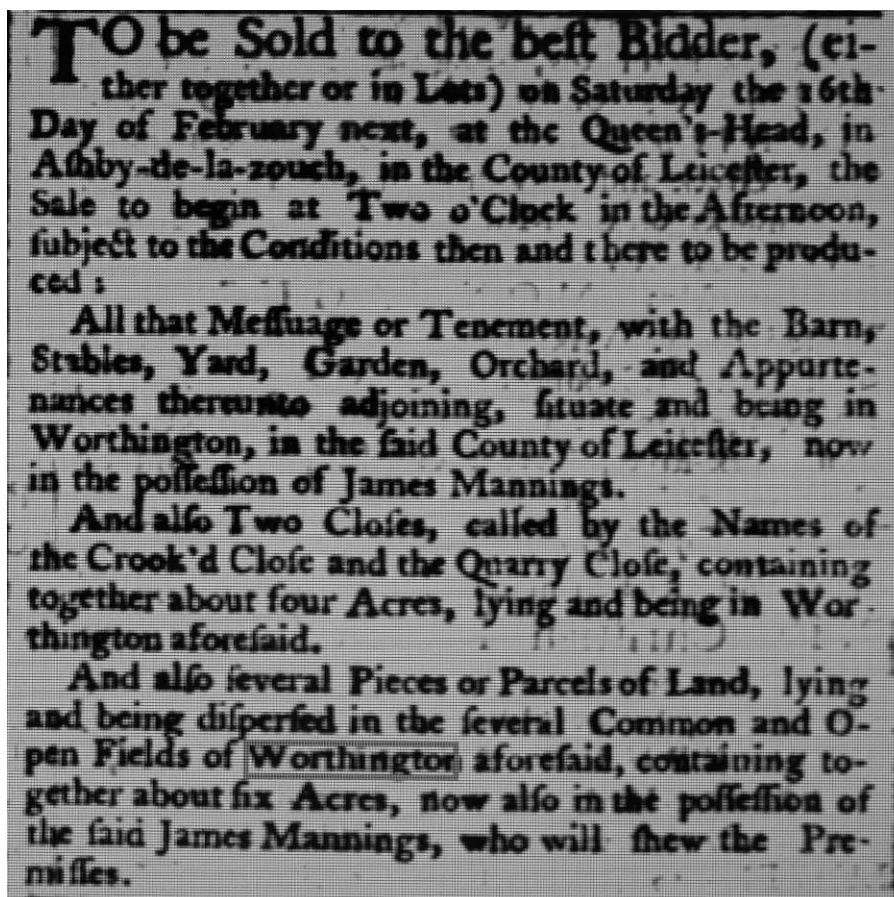
## EXAMPLES OF AWARDS RELATING TO GRIFFYDAM

At the time of the 1806 enclosure, the schedule states that George Harry, Earl of Stamford and Warrington is "Sole Lord of the Soil" of a certain part of the said common called Griffy Dam and John Mynors Bulstrode, Gentleman, is "Sole Lord of the Soil" of the residue of said common called Griffy Dam. Although we have no accurate way of knowing the extent of the Griffydam common and waste land, it was relatively small. In 1863, the whole of the area of Griffydam was adjudged to be c.200 acres.

The part of the awards schedule dealing with the allotting of land for enclosure is difficult to interpret, although it is very detailed in the information provided, which is quite unusual for this type of enclosure enactment schedule.

On page 23, 24 and 25 is a list of certain awarded intakes (allotted parcels of land) made to Harry George, Earl of Stamford and Warrington, and other persons. The numbers can be related to the enlarged extract from the 1806 map on page 22, covering the area of Griffy Dam and the Brand..

Below is an interesting newspaper report which appeared in the Leicester Journal on Saturday 02 February 1771. This makes reference to several pieces or parcels of land dispersed in several commons or open fields in Worthington - note the old English use of f instead of s.



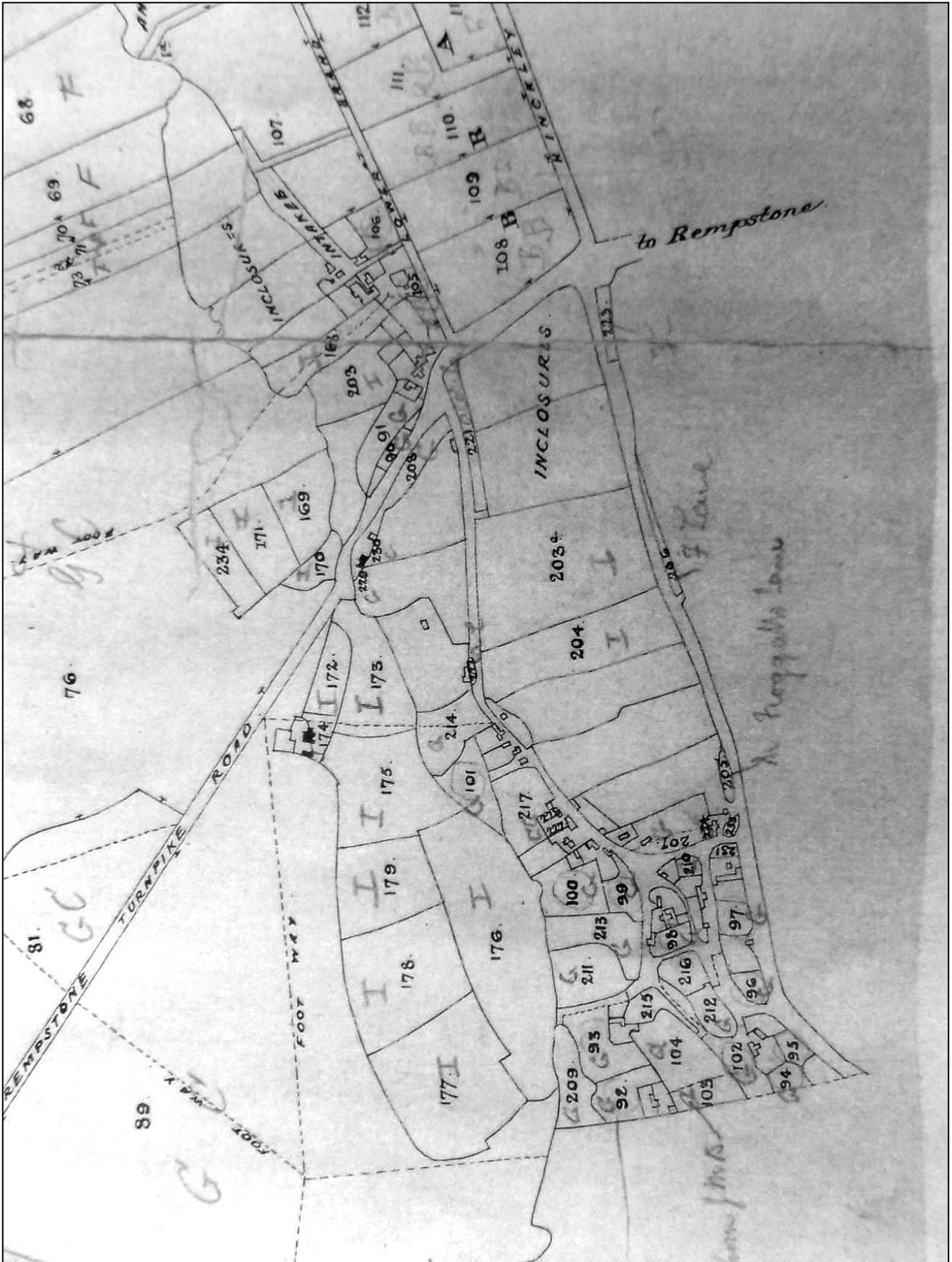
**T**O be Sold to the best Bidder, (either together or in Lots) on Saturday the 16th Day of February next, at the Queen's Head, in Ashby-de-la-zouch, in the County of Leicester, the Sale to begin at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, subject to the Conditions then and there to be produced:

All that Messuage or Tenement, with the Barn, Stables, Yard, Garden, Orchard, and Appurtenances therunto adjoining, situate and being in Worthington, in the said County of Leicester, now in the possession of James Mannings.

And also Two Closes, called by the Names of the Crook'd Close and the Quarry Close, containing together about four Acres, lying and being in Worthington aforesaid.

And also several Pieces or Parcels of Land, lying and being dispersed in the several Common and Open Fields of Worthington aforesaid, containing together about six Acres, now also in the possession of the said James Mannings, who will shew the Premises.

NORTH



allotment 209, northwardly by the allotment 93 and westwardly by intake belonging to the said Earl and the Township of Thringstone.

**To Joseph Sharpe in exchange for the allotment 103 awarded to Lord Scarsdale** - 6 perches No.90 on Griffydam bounded south east by the Rempstone Road and north west by an enclosure and the allotment 91. To fence north east. Which last mention allotment containing in the whole 15 acres 2 roods 18 perch are in our judgement equal in value to 1/8<sup>th</sup> part of the whole of the said common and waste ground 81 and have been allotted by us unto the said Earl of Stamford and Warrington, Sir GH Beaumont, John Mynors Bulstrode and Joseph Sharpe in surety in lieu of recompense for their several rights to the soil of the said common and waste ground.

**To John Burton and Samuel Clarke who are the Trustees of Griffydam Meeting House (the chapel)** - An intake No.205 in Froggat's Lane containing 7 perches, an intake called the Meeting House Close No.207 on Griffydam containing 1 rood 7 perches.

**To George Else and John Curzon** – An intake called Coobelts Close No.208 on Griffy Dam containing 1 rood 24 perches.

**To William Fowler** – An intake No.206 on Froggat's Lane containing 1 rood and 7 perch.

**To John Hackett** – 37 perch No.221 in Elder Lane bounded eastwardly by enclosures belonging to Lord Stamford, westwardly by Elder Lane, northwardly by the Rempstone Turnpike Road and Southwardly by a road to Lord Stamford's old inclosure. To fence West, North and East.

**To John Haywood** –

- An intake called Silvester House Close No.212 on Griffy Dam containing 2 roods 2 perch
- An intake called Swan's Meadow No.213 on Griffy Dam containing 1 acre 36 perch
- An intake called Dye House Close No.214 on Griffy Dam containing 1 acre 20 perch
- An intake called Crabtree Close No.211 on Griffy Dam containing 1 acre
- 3 acres 1 rood 20 perch No.110 on Breedon Brand (**not in Griffydam at that time**)

**To Thomas Hodges** –

- An intake called Silvester's Close No.209 on Griffy Dam containing 2 roods 33 perch
- An intake No.210 on Griffy Dam containing 12 perch.

**To Joseph Malsey and John Curzon** -

- An intake called Dexter Close No.215 on Griffydam containing 1 rood 15 perch
- An intake called Roger's Close No.216 on Griffy Dam containing 2 roods 2 perch

- An intake called Aaron's Close No.217 on Griffydam containing 3 roods 22 perch

**To Joseph Sharpe –**

- An intake No.91 on Griffydam containing 2 roods 19 perch
- An intake No.223 on Froggat's Lane containing 16 perch

**To Humphrey Smith –**

- An intake No.222 on Elder Lane containing 6 perch

\*\*\*

**To The R. H. George Harry, Earl of Stamford & Warrington**

- 1 acre 5 perch No.93 on Griffydam, bounded eastwardly by a cottage and intake belonging to Lord Stamford and the allotment 104, westwardly by the allotment 209 and the brook, northwardly by the allotment 211 and southwardly by the allotment 92.
- 27 perch No.94 on Griffydam bounded eastwardly by the allotment 94 and part of an intake belonging to Lord Stamford, westwardly by the allotment 102, northwardly by an intake belonging to Lord Stamford and southwardly by the Township of Thringstone.
- 28 perches No.95 on Griffy Dam bounded eastwardly by the Hinckley Turnpike Road, westwardly by an intake belonging to Lord Stamford and the allotment 94, northwardly by an intake belonging to Lord Stamford.
- 32 perches No.96 on Griffy Dam bounded eastwardly and southward by the Hinckley Turnpike Road, westwardly by the allotment 102 and northwardly by an intake belonging to Lord Stamford.
- 1 rood 3 perch No.97 on Griffy Dam bounded eastwardly by the Hinckley Turnpike Road and westwardly by the lane at Griffy Hill and northwardly and southwardly by intake belonging to Lord Stamford.
- 1 rood 11 perch No.98 on Griffy Dam bounded eastwardly, westwardly and southwardly by lanes at Griffy Hill and northwardly by intake belonging to Lord Stamford
- 1 rood 29 perch No.99 on Griffy Dam bounded eastwardly by a lane at Griffy Hill, westwardly by the allotments 213 and 100, northwardly by an intake belonging to Lord Stamford and southwardly by the allotment 213.
- 3 roods 36 perch No.100 on Griffy Dam and bounded eastwardly by intake belonging to Lord Stamford and the allotment 99, westwardly by the brook, northwardly by an intake belonging to Lord Stamford, and southwardly by the allotment 213.
- 3 roods 5 perch No.101 on Griffy Dam bounded eastwardly by intake allotted to Lord Scarsdale and intakes belonging to Lord Stamford and the allotment 217, westwardly by the brook and the allotment 214 and southwardly by the brook.



- 2 roods 29 perch No.102 on Griffy Dam bounded eastward by the allotments 94 and 96 and intakes belonging to Lord Stamford. Westward by a lane and Griffy Hill and an intake allotted to Lord Scarsdale, the allotments 215 and 212 and a lane leading to the allotments 212, southwardly by the allotment 212 and the lane and southward by the Township of Thringstone.

## **HOW DID THE EARL OF STAMFORD AND WARRINGTON BECOME LORD OF THE MANOR OF GRIFFYDAM ?**

The Grey family owned the Groby and Bradgate (Leicestershire) Estate which eventually came to own substantial lands in Leicestershire including a wide area around Griffy Dam. After Lady Jane Grey was executed in 1554 for treason, her father was executed in the same year and the estate passed to the crown.

In 1563, the family regained favour and Groby Manor including Bradgate, was restored to Jane's uncle, Lord John Grey of Pirgo. The Groby and Bradgate (Leicestershire) estate then passed to Sir Henry Grey who was created Baron Grey of Groby in 1603. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron in 1620 married Anne, youngest daughter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Exeter, through whom the manor and borough of Stamford (Lincolnshire) was acquired. In 1628, Henry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Grey of Groby, was created Earl of Stamford (later became Earl of Stamford and Warrington). He later became a senior commander in the armies of Parliament during the English Civil War, although he later supported the restoration of the Monarchy. His son, Thomas Lord Grey of Groby, was a more ardent Parliamentarian and was one of the signatories to the death warrant of King Charles 1 in 1649.

Harry Grey (1715-1768), elder son of the third Earl, married Mary in 1736. She was the only daughter of George Booth, second and last Earl of Warrington, through whom estates in Cheshire and Lancashire came to the Grey family. Through inheritance and marriage, estates at Enville (Staffordshire), and property in Nottingham also came into their possession. Following the third Earls succession, apparently the estates of Leicestershire and Staffordshire were united. The seventh Earl of Stamford and Warrington) built a new house at Bradgate, where he died in 1883. He left the Stamford and Warrington estates to his widow for life and the Leicestershire estates passed to his niece Mrs Arthur Duncombe.

By 1883, the Stamford estates consisted of 9.012 acres in Leicestershire including Griffydam

**A SYNOPSIS OF THE HISTORY OF WORTHINGTON IN THE  
SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY INTERPRETED FROM  
VARIOUS TRADE DIRECTORIES**

There follows a selection of transcribed Trade Directories starting on page 138 for the Township of Worthington before it became a parish in its own right. Wright's Directory of Leicestershire & Rutland dated 1880 is the first to refer to Worthington being a parish, and this helps to confirm that it became a parish in its own right between the two dates of 1877 and 1880.

The author has also included the lists of tradesmen / women included in the directories. This can be a great help to genealogists as well as identifying the trades carried out in the area of course. Worthington was always very much a rural area so there were numerous farmers listed or trades associated with farming, not forgetting the many licensed ale and beer houses where they could quench their thirst.

\*\*\*\*\*

One interesting fact given in William White's Trade Directory of 1846 is:-

*In 1828 Lady Margaret Beaumont made a bequest to the Rector of Coleorton of £200 in trust. The yearly profits thereof to be used in apprenticing poor children of Coleorton, Worthington, Thringstone and Whitwick. Under this trust, a premium of £10 was given yearly to an apprentice from one of the four parishes in rotation.* Lady Margaret was the wife of Sir G. H. Beaumont, 7th Baronet of Stoughton, who was responsible for re-building the old manor house at Coleorton which became known as Coleorton Hall, the future seat of the Coleorton Beaumont's. They moved there on completion in 1807. She reputedly had a great influence on his life. See the publication on the author's website under subsection / houses and gardens, entitled - "The Return of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet & Lady Margaret to Coleorton & the Re-Building of the Old Manor House".



**Lady Margaret Beaumont by Joshua Reynolds 1780  
QUEEN ANNE'S BOUNTY**

The trade directories also record that the living at Worthington is a perpetual curacy, valued in 1831 at £100, and augmented from 1747 to 1812 with £1600 in lots of Queen Anne's Bounty and Parliamentary Grants.

**Queen Anne's Bounty** was a scheme established in 1704 to augment the incomes of the poorer clergy of the Church of England, and by extension the organisation ("The Governors of the Bounty of Queen Anne for the Augmentation of the Maintenance of the Poor Clergy") which administered the bounty (and eventually a number of other forms of assistance to poor livings).

### **ORIGINAL STRUCTURE OF THE BOUNTY**

The bounty was originally funded by the *annates* monies: "first fruits" (the first year's income of a cleric newly appointed to a benefice)<sup>1</sup> and "tenths" – a tenth of the

income in subsequent years traditionally paid by English clergy to the pope until the Reformation, and thereafter to the Crown. Henry VIII, on becoming the recipient of these monies had had them carefully valued and specified as sums of money. This valuation was never revised, and in 1920 the income from First Fruits and Tenths was between £15,000 and £16,000.

The bounty money was to be used to increase the income of livings yielding less than £80 a year. It was not paid directly to incumbents, but instead used to purchase land (generally £200-worth), the income from which augmented the living. The livings to be augmented were selected by lot from those with an annual income less than £10, or (in the early years of the bounty) those where augmentation by a third party was offered conditional upon augmentation by bounty funds. Parishes worth less than £20 a year were included in the ballot in 1747, those worth less than £30 a year in 1788, those under £50 in 1810.

\*\*\*\*\*

**For those who wish to know more about the Shirley's and Earls Ferrers' referred to below, this can be found in the publication entitled "A History Study on the Origins & Establishment of the Staunton Harold Estate". This is under the Lount, Staunton Harold, Heath end, Breedon & Dimminsdale publication page / subsection Houses and Gardens.**

William White's **1846** directory tells us that Earl Ferrers is lord of the manor, and owner of a great part of Worthington, and the rest belongs to J. Curzon, Esq., W.A.Pochin, Esq., E. Dawson, Esq., Mr. J. Bulstrode, and a few smaller owners.

The **1861** Gazetteer of Leicestershire & Rutland of Earl Ferrers (now a minor) is lord of the manor, near the corn mill in the occupation of Mr. John Poxon, was formerly a hall, the seat of the Shirleys' and Boothbys', the site now belonging to John Bulstrode, Esq.

William White's **1863** directory records that Earl Ferrers is lord of the manor, and owner of a great part of Worthington, and the rest belongs to J. Curzon, Esq., Peter Heward, Esq., Capt. Dawson, J. Bulstrode Esq., and a few smaller owners. The Shirleys' and Boothbys' had formerly a seat here, and Earl Ferrers (now a minor) is lord of the manor. Near the corn mill in the occupation of Mr. John Poxon, was formerly a hall, the seat of the Shirleys' and Boothbys'. **This is thought to be still in existence and referred to now as the manor house.**

The **1877** Gazetteer of Leicestershire & Rutland states that Earl Ferrers is lord of the manor of Worthington, but N. C. Curzon Esq., owns the greater part of the soil, and the rest mostly belongs to Earl Ferrers and Mrs. Bulstrode.

Kelly's **1908** Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland tells us that Earl Ferrers is Lord of the manor. William Curzon esq, of Lockington Hall, Sir George Howland William Beaumont bart, and the trustees of the Late Lord Donington (d. 1895) are chief landowners.

**A study of the narrative included with the trade directories will reveal further interesting historical information.**

## **WORTHINGTON LOCK - UP, ALSO KNOWN AS A ROUND HOUSE**

Lock-ups (or Round-Houses) were fairly common in England towards the end of the 18th century, and at that time were used to hold miscreants, often drunkards, or other low-level offenders for short periods of time, whilst awaiting transportation to the local assizes. They were commonly used to house drunkards, often overnight, in order to allow them time to sober up. They were commonly constructed in rural areas, which were at some distance from local courts, prisons or police stations, where there was a need for a structure for the temporary confinement of wrongdoers. It is estimated that around 200 lock-ups survive in England, and there are at least two others surviving in the local area at Smisby and Breedon on the Hill.

The Worthington lock-up is octagonal in shape, and of red brick construction, with an octagonal brick spire. It measures approx. 3 metres across with 1.5 metre high walls surmounted by a projected stone string course. The octagonal brick spire is approx.

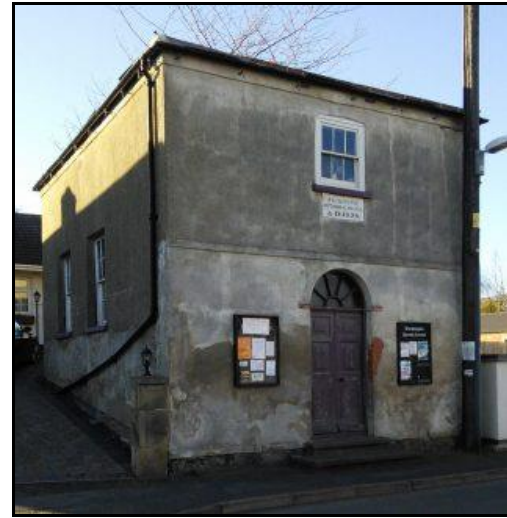
3.5 metres high and tapers to a strong crown finial. The overall height of the lock up is approx 5 metres. In addition to the door, it has a small slit window, which may have been inserted in World War II to convert it into a pillbox. It is grade II listed and a scheduled ancient monument.

A gate to a pinfold was once attached to the Round House as shown in the photograph below. A Pinfold is a pound, where stray stock would be held until claimed by the owner. The pinfold gate is shown in the photograph below. In 1957, St. Matthew's Avenue council estate was built on the area, but fortunately the Lock-up was preserved and is shown in the photograph on the following page adjacent to the junction of St. Matthew's Avenue and Church street.

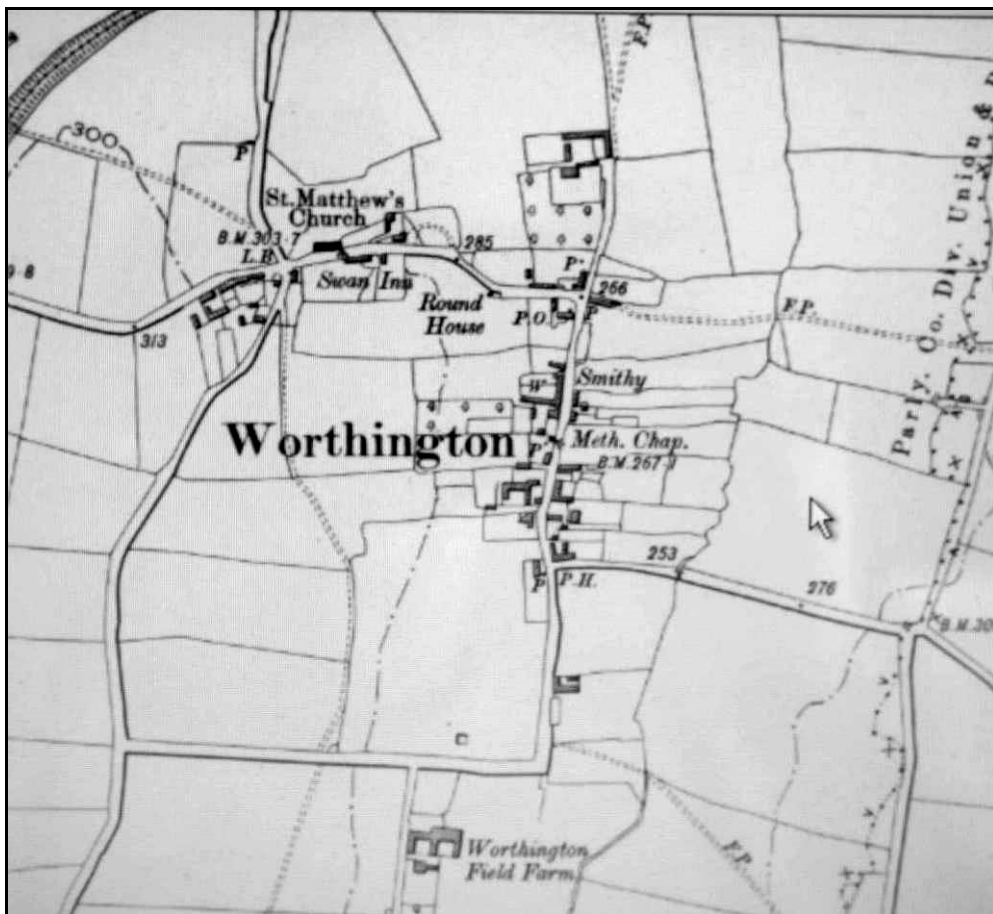




**WORTHINGTON PRIMITIVE METHODIST / WESLEYAN  
METHODIST CHAPEL - OPENED 1820**



Photograph of chapel c. 2022



Extract from 1903 issued O/S map showing location of  
Worthington Methodist Chapel



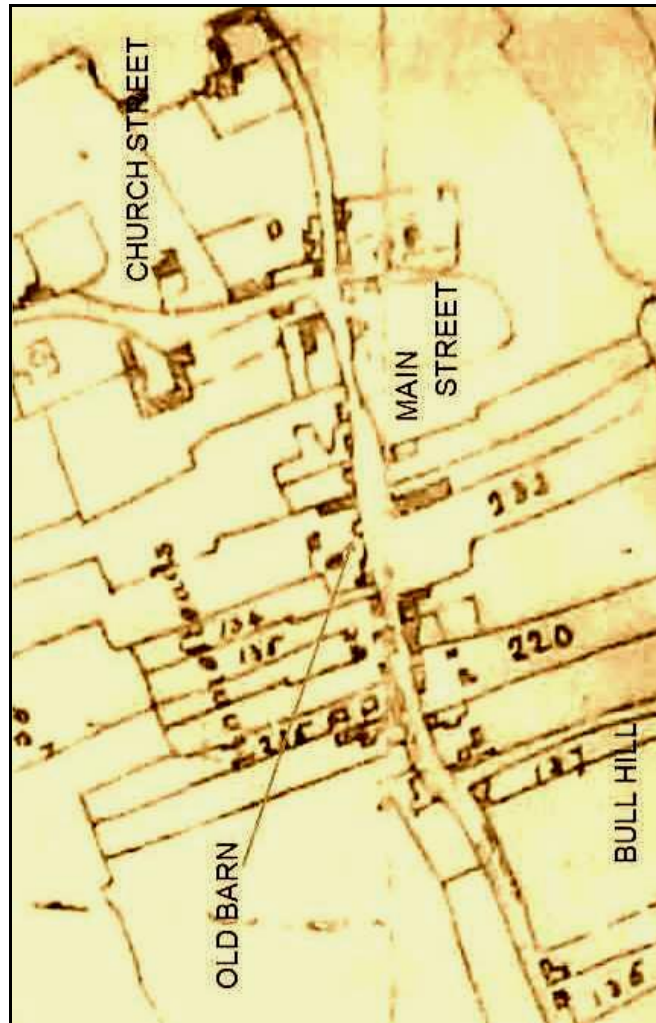
## PRIMITIVE METHODISM IN WORTHINGTON

Worthington was one of the earliest Primitive chapels still in use prior to its closure and sale to the Wesleyan Methodists in 1833. The tablet on the front of the chapel dates it as 1820. This is only two years after the third Primitive Methodist circuit was established in September 1818 in Loughborough, 8 miles away.

Around the end of 1817 and the beginning of 1818, the first Primitive Methodist missionaries were sent to Leicestershire. We are told they met with less persecution than in Rutland and Lincoln and were favoured with a large amount of success and that the Missionaries, Messrs Benton, Wedgwood and Heath, effected much good at *Loughborough, Coleorton, Whitwick, Markfield, Sileby and numerous other places; many sinners were brought to God...* (The History of the Primitive Methodist Connexion: by John Petty). Coleorton and Whitwick were again visited around April 1818 by John Harrison. He found *crowds – not hostile, but curious and eager so see and hear* (The Origin and History of the Primitive Methodist Church: H B Kendall).

On 16<sup>th</sup> June 1818, John Harrison also missioned Ashby. The seeds sown in the area found fertile ground in Worthington and, no sooner, had a society been formed there then very unusually a chapel was quickly erected in Main Street on a small plot of land on which a barn had stood.

**Continued over page**



**Extract from the 1806 Inclosure map of Worthington and Newbold showing the approximate location of the barn referred to on the previous page**

On 27<sup>th</sup> January 1821 the land was acquired by the Trustees who were

|                         |                   |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| John Jarvis             | Ashby de la Zouch | Confectioner      |
| Benjamin Robottom       | Ashby de la Zouch | Hosier            |
| John Farmer the Younger | Worthington       | Farmer            |
| John Kinson             | Worthington       | Farmer            |
| Joseph Skevington       | Loughborough      | Lace Manufacturer |
| William North           | Loughborough      | Bricklayer        |
| William Waterfield      | Worthington       | Labourer          |

The Deed set out that the trustees had agreed to buy the land from George Blount of Worthington for £21 and had erected on it a Methodist Chapel or Meeting House for the purposes set out. The land was 8 yards long and 7 yards wide containing just 56 square yards

The trustees were to *permit from time to time and at all times for ever hereafter the said new erected Chapel or Meeting House hereditaments and premises hereinbefore mentioned to be granted and released to be used and employed as a place of worship of Almighty God by the people called the Primitive Methodists and that no person or persons whatsoever ....shall be admitted or allowed to preach or perform divine service therein but such person or persons as shall be appointed at the quarterly meetings ..... of the said people called Primitive Methodists held at Loughborough.*

From themselves the trustees were to appoint a steward or treasurer to receive all the seat rents which money was to be applied towards repayment of the debt on the premises arising from the erection of the building or for repairs of the chapel.

Should the trustees see occasion to sell the newly erected chapel or meetinghouse they could do so either by public sale or private contract for the best price or sum that could reasonably be obtained. When the number of trustees was reduced to three the survivors were to choose other trustees to make the number up to seven again.

The chapel had been erected the previous year in 1820 and it is thought it opened in the summer of that year missing by only a few months being the first Primitive Methodist Chapel in Leicestershire. This distinction fell to the one in Dead Lane Loughborough which had opened in May.

The front door is on Main Street with an arched fanlight over it and above is inscribed "Primitive Methodist Chapel AD 1820". Externally, apart from the cement rendering covering the red brick added at a later date, the building is unchanged. It was a basic box type redbrick Georgian chapel. with a hipped slate roof.

Above the inscription is a 6 pane sash window. Both side elevations have sash windows with stone sills. Apparently, hearsay has it that it accommodated 125 worshippers, with 100 in the body and 25 in the small gallery on the east. The chapel was just 6.9m deep and 5m wide, coming complete with a balcony.

On opening, the chapel formed part of the Loughborough Primitive Methodist Circuit but around 1822 it was transferred to the Ashby one.

The Primitive Methodist cause in Worthington struggled. It is clear the chapel had been erected too hastily before the society had been firmly established. After all, Ashby had to wait until 1833 and Coleorton 1839 before their chapels were built.

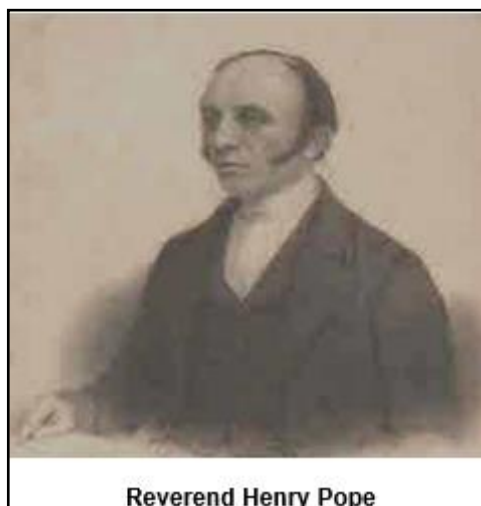
Despite being an unsuccessful society, it rather surprisingly produced a young man who became a Primitive Methodist Minister, Rev'd Henry Pope, who had started his religious journey as a Wesleyan.

He was born on October 11th 1805 at nearby Griffydam. His father ran a farm there and we are told that both his parents were respectable God fearing people who endeavoured to give their children a Christian upbringing. The parents were members of the Griffydam chapel. Sunday, in those days, meant chapel and Henry Pope had happy memories, even in old age, of being a young boy trotting beside his mother going to and from it and holding onto her dress as he tried to keep up with her!

The religious training, his parents' faith and his mother's love for the Lord had a lasting impression on him and, on 22nd February 1822 aged 16, he accepted Christ as his Lord and Saviour in the Griffydam chapel. For reasons which are unclear, he

did not remain with the Wesleyans at Griffydam but immediately joined the Primitive Methodist Society at Worthington who had not long opened the chapel.

Young Henry was welcomed with open arms by the Primitives possessing as he did great natural ability and talent and it was not long before he was called upon to use these. The planned preacher was unable to fulfil his appointment and Henry was asked to take his place. We are told he “tremblingly” agreed. He was so suited to local preaching that shortly afterwards the 1823 June Quarterly meeting of the Ashby Circuit asked him to become a local preacher. He was diligent in his studies and fully devoted to the work and regarded as the best and ablest of all the local preachers.



Reverend Henry Pope

At this time, the Ashby circuit was in urgent need of another travelling preacher and Henry was invited to fill the position and he entered the ministry on 31st August 1824. So, in just over two and a half years he had progressed from his conversion in a Wesleyan chapel to a trainee minister in the Primitive Methodist Church. On the circuits we are told he was a much loved and hardworking minister. In nine of his circuits – there are no records for his first three – every circuit had an increase in members.

The early years of the Primitive Methodist Connexion were far from easy for travelling preachers. “At that time”, wrote Rev’d J Bellingham, “the Connexion was one vast missionary organisation, circuits were extensive, journeys long and the preachers suffered from exposure to all kinds of weather. The homes were few and the salary was about fourteen shillings per week. The open air work was very heavy and only a few of the men were able to travel over thirty years.”

Sadly, the Rev’d Henry Pope was not one of the few. In his thirtieth year of travel his voice failed and he had to seek superannuation. He settled in Bath where he died in 1887 at the age of 82.

A Return filed in 1829 in compliance with a resolution of the House of Commons requiring the numbers attending nonconformist places of worship to be given recorded only 20 for the Worthington Primitive Methodist chapel.

Unsurprisingly, shortly afterwards the services ceased. The chapel was put up for sale and the following was placed in the Leicester Journal of 25<sup>th</sup> October 1833.

**To be sold by PRIVATE CONTRACT**  
**THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL**, at Worthington in Leicestershire, with the Gallery, Pews &c. The chapel fronts to the public street, is modern built, in excellent repair, and might if necessary be converted into a commodious dwelling-house.  
For further particulars, and to treat for the purchase, apply to **Mr. JOHN FARMER**, or **Mr. JOHN ARMSON**, of Worthington.

## WESLEYAN METHODISM IN WORTHINGTON

The Methodist society established in Worthington by John Hall and others was one of the first in the area and was a Wesleyan one. It is known that around 1780, the society started to meet in a room adjoining the farm of Worthington Farmer, Samuel Gilbert, where it met for some 50 years. It is thought that the farm was located at the junction of Main Road, Manor Drive and Church Street.

Worthington at first formed part of the Derbyshire Round (a Round being the old name for Circuit) until the formation of the Ashby de la Zouch Wesleyan Circuit in 1792. It prospered and there was a strong desire amongst the members for a chapel of their own which was realised in a most unusual way.

Living at the farm, and a servant there, was Sarah Coltman who had become a member of the Wesleyan society in 1787. It appears she attended the Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Chapel some 1 ½ miles away. She was regarded as a steadfast and consistent member. The society approached Messrs Farmer and Armson and it was agreed that the chapel could be purchased for £82.00. Although only paid a modest wage, Sarah Coltman had been frugal and happily provided the money so that the purchase could go ahead and on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1833 it was completed. The trustees were :-

|                            |                     |             |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| William Deacon             | Worthington         | Farmer      |
| James Gilbert              | Worthington         | Maltster    |
| Thomas Ratcliffe           | Worthington         | Farmer      |
| James Burton               | Breedon on the Hill | Lime Burner |
| Thomas Gilbert the Younger | Osgathorpe          | Cordwainer  |
| John Knight the Younger    | Stordon             | Farmer      |
| William Kidger             | Thringstone         | Grocer      |
| Thomas Wainwright          | Swannington         | Farmer      |
| Henry Burton the Younger   | Swannington         | Farmer      |

The Deed of the chapel provided that the trustees were to allow those appointed at the Yearly Conference of the People called Methodists held in London, Bristol, Manchester or elsewhere as established by a Deed Poll enrolled in Chancery under the hand and seal of the Rev'd John Wesley and dated 14<sup>th</sup> February 1784 to preach there and expound God's holy word and perform other acts of religious worship. However, no doctrines were to be preached other than those contained in the Rev'd John Wesley's Notes on the New Testament and his first four Volumes of Sermons published by himself.

The document went on to provide that -

- All money received or collected on behalf of the chapel was to be applied in meeting the outgoings on it and towards the support of the preachers stationed by Conference in the circuit;

- Every June there would be a trustees' general meeting at which the steward or trust treasurer chosen annually by the trustees would give a fair and true account of monies received for and expended on the trust premises to be approved by the trustees;
- At least two days' notice in writing of every trustees' meeting was to be given to the Superintendent Preacher who would have the right to attend either in person or by proxy and to vote on all questions relating to the trust estate.
- Trustees' meetings were also to be announced at services so that the congregation was aware they were taking place.
- If the majority of the trustees were of the opinion that the chapel should be sold it was permissible for them to sell it with the consent of Conference and utilise the net proceeds in the acquiring of a more suitable chapel to be held on the same trusts;
- If the number of trustees was reduced to five, the Superintendent Preacher with all convenient speed was to nominate sixteen persons including the surviving trustees willing to act to whom the chapel was to be transferred.

The document concluded with the Wesleyan trustees "signing, sealing and delivering" the deed,



**Signatures of the Wesleyan trustees.**

The new trustees proceeded to stamp their ownership of the chapel by obliterating "Primitive" from the inscription on the front of the building.



**The partly obliterated inscription.**

Sadly, Sarah was only able to worship at the chapel for three years. On 28<sup>th</sup> March 1837 she had attended the Easter Monday Lovefeast at the Griffydam chapel and been well but two days later she passed peacefully away. Her generosity in respect of the chapel continued. After leaving a legacy of £40 to Griffydam, she left the rest of her estate for the repair and extension of the building.

In common with the Wesleyan chapel at Gelsmoor and others in the vicinity there was only one service on a Sunday in the evening at 6.00 pm at Worthington to give members the opportunity to attend the afternoon service at 2.00 pm at Griffydam, the mother church in the local area.

The next official count of the numbers attending service at the chapel was that taken on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 1851 under the Ecclesiastical Census of that year which required Returns to be completed by all places of worship whether Anglican or nonconformist. The number returned saw a significant improvement in that given in the 1829 Return further to the resolution of the House of Commons, The Return signed by James Gilbert, Steward (and also Class Leader), recorded that 70 people had attended the evening service on that Sunday.

Following the death of Mr Gilbert, he was succeeded by John Franks, a local preacher and then by John Wardle senior who, with his wife, Sarah, and family had arrived at Field's Farm Worthington in 1852. With the Chester family the Wardle's were linchpins of the Worthington chapel.

During the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century several improvements took place which included a wooden floor and seating with backs to replace the brick floor and forms. The lighting in the early days was by way of chandeliers with tallow candles which could be a distraction when, during worship, one or more had to be snuffed out. The lighting was later greatly improved by the replacement of the tallow candles with wax ones which, in turn, were replaced by paraffin lamps.

The hymns were initially sung with no musical accompaniment at all so it was necessary to have a precentor who led the singing from the congregation. This role was filled by Joseph Walker for many years until he died in 1856. During the night of his death it is said that a neighbour heard the most beautiful singing from the room where he died. His role was taken over John Stanton with assistance from Ann Wardle, the eldest daughter of the Wardle's.

### A plan of the itinerant preachers in the Ashby Circuit, 1825.

| Name of the Preacher | MAY |   |    | JUNE |    |   | JULY |    |    | AUGUST |    |    | SEPTEMBER |    |   | OCTOBER |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |  |  |  |
|----------------------|-----|---|----|------|----|---|------|----|----|--------|----|----|-----------|----|---|---------|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|--|--|--|
|                      | 1   | 8 | 15 | 22   | 29 | 6 | 13   | 20 | 27 | 3      | 10 | 17 | 24        | 31 | 7 | 14      | 21 | 28 | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |  |  |  |
| Ashby, G.            |     |   |    |      |    |   |      |    |    |        |    |    |           |    |   |         |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |  |  |  |
| Gifford, G.          |     |   |    |      |    |   |      |    |    |        |    |    |           |    |   |         |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |  |  |  |
| Milner, G.           |     |   |    |      |    |   |      |    |    |        |    |    |           |    |   |         |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |  |  |  |
| Todd, G.             |     |   |    |      |    |   |      |    |    |        |    |    |           |    |   |         |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |  |  |  |
| Walker, G.           |     |   |    |      |    |   |      |    |    |        |    |    |           |    |   |         |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |  |  |  |
| Wright, G.           |     |   |    |      |    |   |      |    |    |        |    |    |           |    |   |         |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |  |  |  |
| Wood, G.             |     |   |    |      |    |   |      |    |    |        |    |    |           |    |   |         |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |  |  |  |
| Young, G.            |     |   |    |      |    |   |      |    |    |        |    |    |           |    |   |         |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |  |  |  |

\* The day of the week is not always the same as in the calendar.   
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**Ashby Preaching Plan showing one service at Worthington on alternate Sundays at 6.00 pm**

There was no Sunday School until 1864-65 when one was formed with help from Edward Kidger and Edward Smith who came over from Ashby. John Wardle junior became the first Superintendent and William Chester of the Mill, Secretary. The first teachers were Sarah Wardle and Mrs Joseph Blunt. Following the establishment of the Sunday School, an afternoon service was started and music arrived in the form of a harmonium loaned from Field's Farm.



The usual Sunday School Anniversaries or Sermons, as they were sometimes called, were held. and somehow the premises accommodated the scholars, teachers and congregation though unsurprisingly many of the latter often had to be turned away. Thus , we learn that on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1878 at both services many were unable to obtain admission. The total collections were £6 6s. 0d.

In 1905, the Sunday School Anniversary Sermons were held in the afternoon and evening of 29<sup>th</sup> May. The preacher was Miss Burden of Grantham and it was a glorious day and once more there were large congregations. The children had been trained by Mr John Goodman from Osgathorpe and sang their hymns *nicely* to the accompaniment of the American organ played by Miss Chester with her *usual ability*

Playing a valuable role in the Society had been Mr and Mrs Adkins of Diseworth who helped with the entertainment of preachers. Additionally, Mrs Adkins became Class Leader for the Ladies, John Wardle continuing in that role for the men until his death in 1890.

In 1892, it was realised that there was a problem. All the trustees appointed in 1833 had died so application had to be made to the Charity Commission to appoint new ones and on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1893 an Order was made appointing the following :-

|                     |                     |                                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| John Wardle         | Worthington         | Farmer                              |
| William Chester     | Worthington         | Miller at Worthington<br>Water Mill |
| Thomas Roulston     | Breedon on the Hill | Farmer                              |
| Robert Plowright    | Coleorton           | Farmer                              |
| Geary Kendrick      | Coleorton           | Baker                               |
| David Sketchley     | Thringstone         | Butcher                             |
| Herbert Rowell      | Griffydam           | Grocer                              |
| John Willars Weston | Whitwick            | General Dealer                      |
| Alfred West         | Whitwick            | Boot Factor                         |
| William Jones       | Coalville           | Boot Factor                         |
| John Pearson Adcock | Ashby de la Zouch   | Miller                              |
| John William Wells  | Ashby de la Zouch   | General Dealer                      |
| George Rowse        | Swannington         | Farmer                              |
| William Goodman     | Osgathorpe          | Grocer                              |
| John Arthur Goodman | Osgathorpe          | Clerk                               |

For the members and friends, the chapel was the focus of their social life during the week with the various activities taking place.

There were services of song such as in March 1891 which was entitled "Primrose Garth" given by the choir and a few friends. The connective readings were given by Mr Hance, headmaster of the Wesleyan School in Peggs Green and the pianist was

Miss Sketchley. There were also talks promoting Home and Foreign Missions and lectures such as that given by Rev'd W Jackson Bush of Measham on 26<sup>th</sup> March entitled "Common people and common sense".

In the summer of 1898, the chapel had undergone a thorough cleaning and renovation and re-opened on the 27<sup>th</sup> August with two special services which were well attended with a number of visitors travelling from Oakthorpe and Netherseal to be present. There was special singing by the children accompanied by John Wardle on the harmonium. On the following day, a public tea was held in the granary at Fields Farm followed by Mr Cox's inimitable lecture on "Rev'd Peter MacKenzie".

In 1905, the society was dealt a crushing blow when Mr and Mrs Wardle junior left the area. On the 27<sup>th</sup> February, a large gathering of members and friends assembled in the chapel to say their goodbyes. The chair was taken by Mr John Goodman who with others spoke of the high appreciation in which Mr and Mrs Wardle had been held by the congregation and friends. Handsome presents suitably inscribed and subscribed for by the congregation and friends in the village were presented. These were an electro plated tea and coffee service with matching tray handed over by Mr Charles Chester and marbled clock given by the teachers and staff by John Spencer. Mr and Mrs Wardle responded appropriately and the evening concluded with the singing of "God be with you until we meet again".

For reasons that are unclear the chapel was again closed in 1905 for the purpose of painting, cleaning and renovation and re-opened on 16<sup>th</sup> July. While closed, services took place in another granary this time provided by Mr Chester at Worthington Water Mill.

There are many references to a good number of people being present at events in the small chapel but it with great surprise to learn that at the Good Friday tea in 1911 as many as 80 were able to sit down for it!

1920 was a milestone year and the centenary was celebrated over the weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August with a service on the Saturday at 3.30 pm and two on the Sunday at 2.30 pm and 6.00 pm. All three were taken by the Rev'd George Lampard from Middlewich. The Saturday service was followed by a tea in the Parish Room at 4.45 pm which in turn was followed by a Public Meeting in the chapel at 6.00 pm.

In the letter to friends the Superintendent Minister, Rev'd William Hopper, the Society Stewards, Philip Adkin and Reuben Edgley, and Treasurers, John Spencer and John Chester, wrote :-

*The passing of the years has naturally brought many changes. Many of our staunch supporters and workers have gone "Home," and the economic conditions of country life have taken many to the towns and cities. In the midst of all the difficulties common to Village Church life, we have tried to maintain our cause at Worthington and not without success. We are greatly hampered in our work by the lack of Sunday School accommodation. We have a flourishing School, but the little Chapel is quite unsuitable for carrying on successful work among the young people. We are appealing to all our friends to send us a gift for our Centenary Building Fund. We are striving to raise at least £100, at our Centenary Services, and in commending this appeal we believe no more worthy object can command our attention than the work of our Church among the young people especially of our villages.*

WESLEYAN CHAPEL,  
WORTHINGTON.

**Centenary**  
**Celebration.**

---

**On SATURDAY, AUGUST 14th,**  
THE  
**Rev. GEORGE LAMPARD**  
OF MIDDLEWICH  
WILL PREACH AT 3.30 P.M.

*TEA* will be provided in the PARISH ROOM,  
at 4.45 p.m., at a reasonable charge.

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
in the CHAPEL, at 6 p.m.  
CHAIRMAN:  
**Mr. J. A. GOODMAN, C.C.,**  
Supported by  
Revs. GEORGE LAMPARD, W. GUEST,  
W. HOPPER, and others.

**On SUNDAY, AUGUST 15th,**  
**The Rev. George Lampard**  
WILL PREACH in the AFTERNOON at 2.30,  
and in the EVENING at 6.0.

COLLECTIONS at all the Services on behalf of the Building Fund,  
and generous support is requested.

J. H. TINDY & Son, Printers, Woking.

**The Centenary Flier**

The result of the appeal was disappointing with only £50 being raised

Continued over page

## METHODISM IN WORTHINGTON

The Primitive Methodists had not been the only ones to separate from the Wesleyans. There had been others too but gradually over the years there had been amalgamations until finally only the Wesleyan, United and Primitive Methodist Churches remained. Discussions had taken place between them over a long period and the three were brought together in 1932. On September 20<sup>th</sup> 1932, there was a huge procession which marched in witness from Methodist Central Hall in Westminster to Hyde Park where there was a rally. This was followed by the uniting Conference at the Royal Albert Hall when the “Uniteds”, the “Prims” and the “Wesleyans” became the Methodist Church of Great Britain.



**Victorian hat and coat peg**

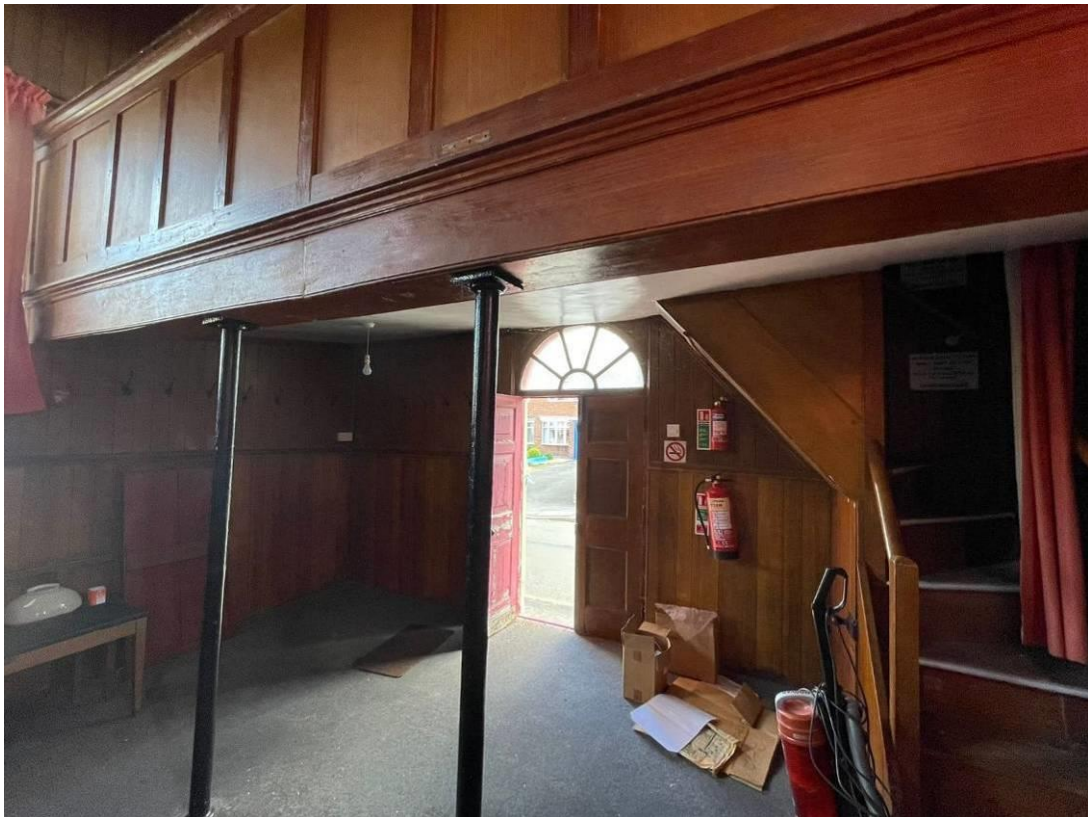
Some 20 – 30 years later, substantial renovations took place at Worthington Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. The pulpit and harmonium were removed. A dado rail was fitted on three walls and above the rail wooden tongue and groove planking was installed and stained. At a later date, a laminate was fitted below the dado to floor level. The wooden floor was removed and replaced by a concrete one. It seems probable that the planking was done because of damp and the wooden floor taken up because of rot. Be that as it may, the stained wooden planks add considerably to the character of the interior. Thankfully, some of the Victorian hat and coat and hat pegs were retained.



**INSIDE CHAPEL**



**BALCONY WITH SEATING FOR 25 WORSHIPPERS**



**STAIRS UP TO BALCONY**

The handicaps experienced with the work amongst children and young people which it had been hoped would have been overcome as a result of the Centenary Appeal sadly continued. Council houses had been erected in 1957, creating St Matthews Close, and had compensated for the depopulation which had previously taken place and was a concern in 1920. There were six classes of Sunday School children, four being held downstairs and two in the gallery.

In common with other churches and chapels, the number of children attending Sunday School declined until it closed. Numbers of adults declined also leaving a faithful but elderly core who had to grapple with maintaining a chapel in need of repairs and renewals. A Renovation Fund was established in 1981 but there was an ever increasing gap between money available and the increasing cost of repairs and renewals which became beyond the congregation's reach leading to further deterioration.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1983, the chapel became a Grade II listed building. In 2006 North West Leicestershire District Council carried out a district wide "Buildings at Risk" survey. The chapel was identified as being "At Risk". The surveyor found;

*Slipped slates. Ivy covering the rear wall and part of the roof causing displacement of slates, UPVC RWG's. Patches of cracked and damaged render which is tracking moisture and causing damp patches. External joinery in need of repair and repainting. Overall shabby condition.*

In addition to the poor state of repair, there was an absence of basic facilities while acceptable in 1820 was certainly not over 180 years later. There was no mains water or sewage and the chapel must have had the unique but unwelcome distinction of being the only church or chapel in use without a toilet. The absence of basic facilities was also an impediment to attracting users. For example, the local authority would have hired the chapel as a voting centre had these been available.

To rectify this, plans were drawn up in 2008 for the laying on of mains drainage together with the installation of a wc with sink and a separate sink and draining board adjoining. These would be installed under the balcony to the right as one entered the building.

This was followed in 2009 with a report from David Granger Architectural Design Ltd on the condition of the premises which confirmed what was all too apparent, and that which was not, which included urgent repairs to the roof. These were carried out in 2011 by Merison Building Maintenance Contractors at a cost of £11,179.34 with the aid of a grant of £9,179.27 from the former Ashby & Coalville Methodist Circuit.

On the advice of the Methodist Conservation Officer, a conservation accredited architect was commissioned, and on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014, Mark Stewart of Building Design Ltd visited the chapel for a preliminary survey followed by a more detailed one on 10<sup>th</sup> December preparatory to a report and plan. His Conservation Management Plan. was issued on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

This provided for three options –

A - Do everything specified at an estimated cost of £125,880

B - Do the minimum necessary and have a kitchen and toilet.at an estimated cost of £78,174

C - Do the minimum necessary without a kitchen and toilet at an estimated cost of £60,288

By this time, Worthington, because the number of members was less than 6, had become a class of Ashby Methodist Church. This meant that the Church Council there became its Managing Trustees.

A support group for Worthington was established and on 27th May it met and agreed to meet Mark Stewart to clarify some issues and confirm his charges for drawing up tender documents based on option B. On 30th June Ashby Church Council approved the instruction of him to proceed to the tender stage.

Mark Stewart's report had been sent to the Methodist Conservation Officer who found his Conservation Management Plan "incredibly helpful" and requested a visit to Worthington. The meeting took place on 5th October in the chapel and the Conservation Officer indicated that, for funding purposes, Worthington "ticked most of the boxes".

On 30th October, Mark Stewart was instructed to prepare specifications and obtain tenders. On receipt of these a meeting took place to discuss them and funding with particular reference to application being made to the Heritage Lottery Fund and it was agreed that a report and cost/funding plan be prepared. Unfortunately, when the question of making application to the Heritage Lottery Fund came before Ashby Church Council for a second time in May 2016 it was not sanctioned.

There the matter stood until having increased its membership to more than 6 Worthington once more became a Local Church and was able to move forward with mission and resurrect the outstanding matters of repair, renewal and refurbishment along the original lines with one important difference. One great disadvantage of the premises' location was the inability to extend laterally as only the land upon which the chapel stood together with a narrow strip adjoining some 18" wide on the south side and rear was owned. Thus, the need for proper facilities for the Sunday School for which the centenary appeal was made depended on acquiring nearby land which vision disappeared over the years with the gradual development of this. Because the chapel was "land locked", disabled access could not be provided which would also have assisted the elderly some of whom found the two steps into the building difficult to negotiate.

The only but simple answer was to reduce the floor to pavement level by removing the concrete one which had been laid inside and installing a new wooden suspended floor which would allow for the removal of the two steps thereby affording level access. A new lengthened door to match the existing would be fitted. An application to North West Leicestershire District Council to alter the front elevation was granted on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The approval of the Methodist Church to the plans for repair, renovation and refurbishment of the 200 year old chapel has now been given and the quest to secure the necessary funding has started.

Despite the poor condition of the premises, it was felt that the chapel had an important role still in the village. It was well located and had for a number of years been used by the Parish Council for its meetings.

Around 2008, a children's activity group for 7-9-year olds was run for a time with help from Ashby Youth for Christ. In September 2010 a highly successful Café Church was established which met every Thursday during school term time, which was a part of "Fresh Expressions". These are new forms of church that emerge within

contemporary culture and engage primarily with those who don't go to church. The activities involve plenty of mugs of coffee and tea, lots of talking, fun sessions, prayer, outings and the like.

The chapel sought to use its heritage as part of its mission by opening on a Saturday during "Hello Heritage" (*Hello Heritager* run by NWLDC is a celebration of the heritage and rich culture within and across North West Leicestershire), which attracted good numbers. Other activities took place from time to time. Four services a month offering a wide variety of worship with Lectio Divina which means "divine reading," and represents a method of prayer and scriptural reading intended to promote communion with God and provide special spiritual insights together with normal morning worship, Holy Communion and an afternoon service was followed by tea and fellowship.

The chapel did not have running water or a toilet and after all possibilities had been explored the sadly the chapel closed and the grade II listed building was put up for auction at a guide price of £10,000 in 2022. The chapel was sold by auction for £67,500 and an application was made to North West Leicestershire DC for change of use to a single residential dwelling and associated external alterations.

## **References**

*The History of the Primitive Methodist Connexion* – John Petty

*Protestant nonconformity in Worthington.....from 1825* – [www.leicesterhistory.co.uk](http://www.leicesterhistory.co.uk)

*Wesleyan-Methodist Magazine* – 1837



**WORTHINGTON'S WATER DRIVEN  
CORN MILL**



**THE MILL HOUSE**

**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - MAY 2023**

## **PREFACE**

The author has found little of any real substance recorded about the Worthington water driven corn mill, which appears to have by-passed the historians even though other water driven mills in Leicestershire have been recorded in some detail. Therefore, the following is the author's own interpretation based on old O/S maps and Trade directories, census and other fragmented pieces information. Only one photograph has been located which shows a limited view of the actual corn mill building, and this was taken in 2012.

The earliest reference found to the corn mill is given in John Nichol's 'History and Antiquities of Leicestershire, written in 1800 - 1820 where he states that "the Mill and the Brook which drives the Water Wheel is in the possession of Lord Ferrers".

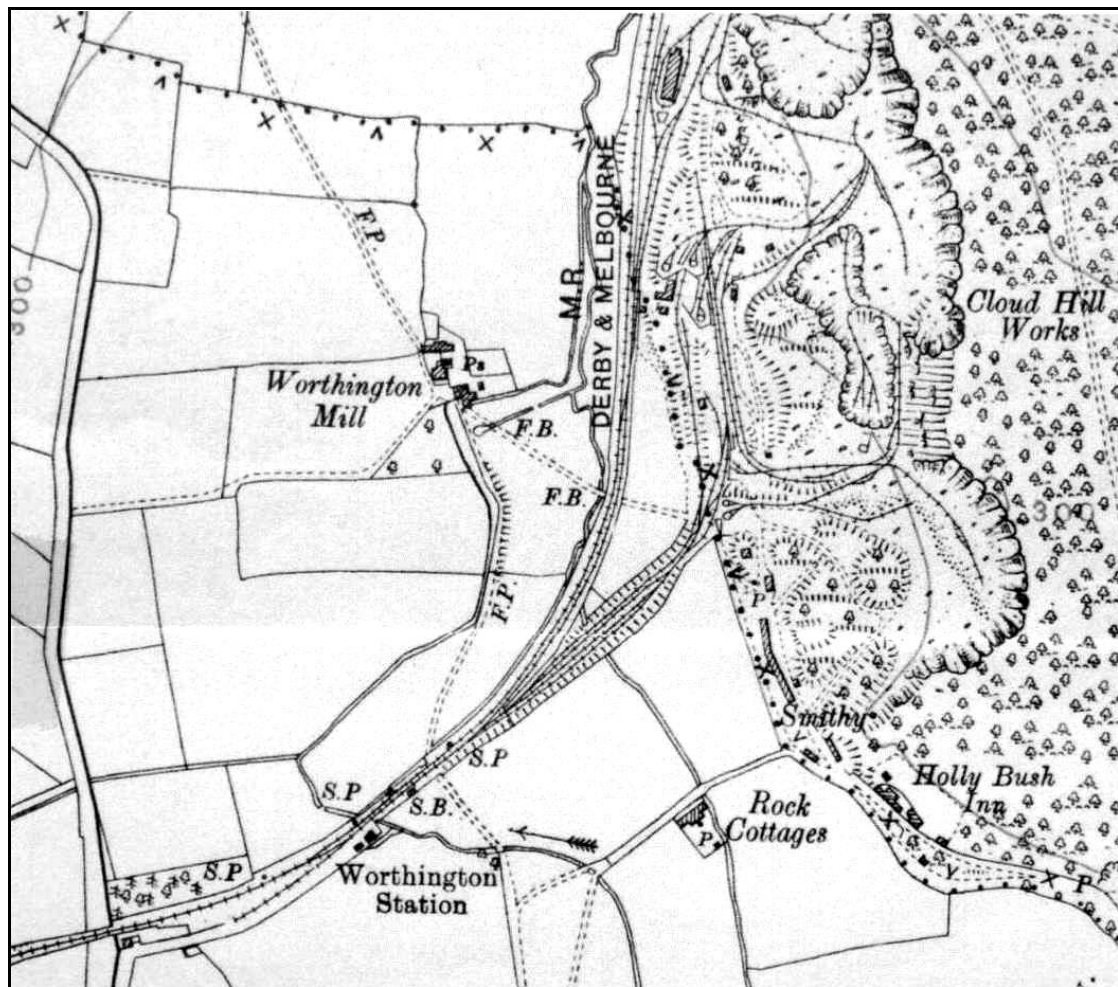
The Mill is shown on the first edition 1835 O/S map, and it was thought to be still in use till 1960 when the corn grinding machinery was apparently taken out. It is not shown on the Worthington Township 1806 enclosure map, so it is assumed that the original Mill was built sometime between then and 1820 making it over 200 years old.

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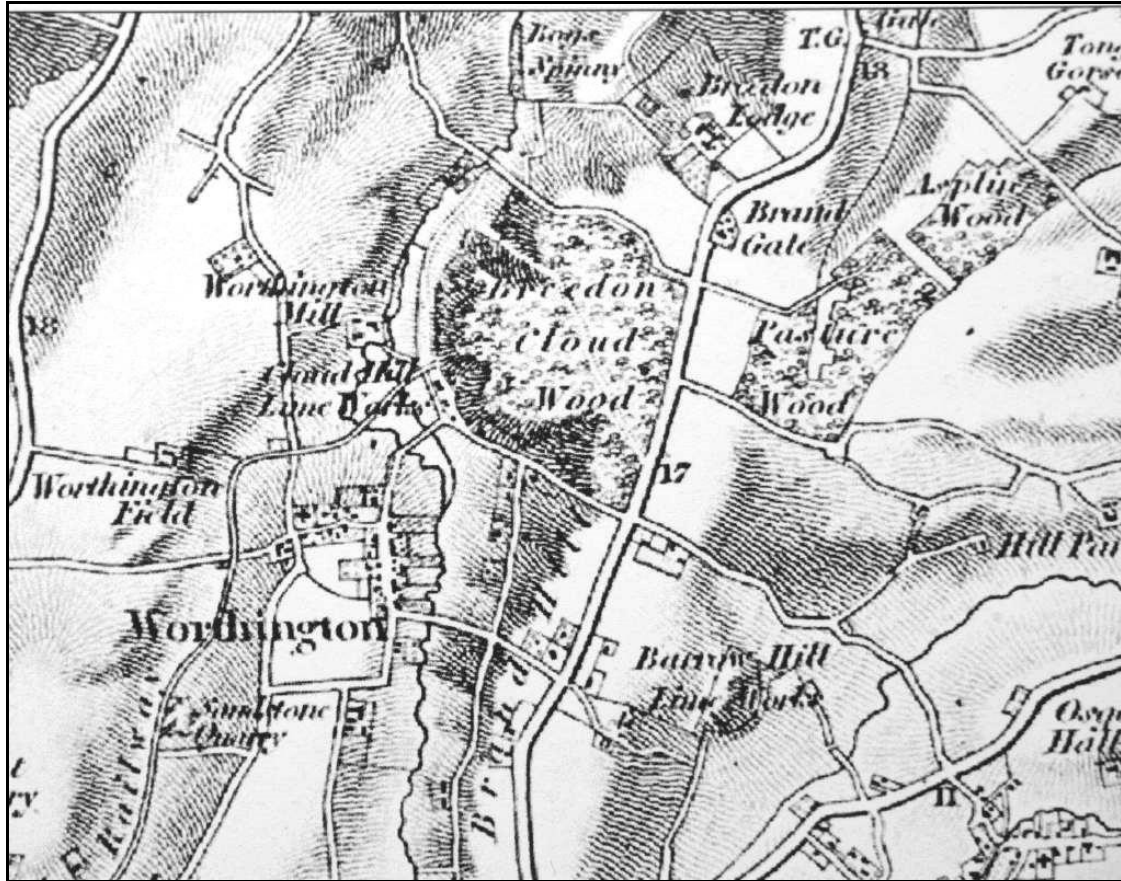
## LOCATION OF THE MILL

The location of Worthington water driven corn mill is shown on this extract from the 1885 issued O/S map below, just to the west of the old Derby to Ashby Midland Railway and Cloud Hill limestone quarry. The most southerly of the buildings is the actual Mill House and a leat branching off from Boden Brook is shown going to that building to drive the water wheel via a mill race. *A leat is an artificial water trench especially leading to or from a mill.* The Mill House building and farm house (now extended) are located at the bottom of what is now Mill Lane which is a turning off the road to Breedon-on-the Hill. It is now known as Worthington Mill Farm and shown in more detail on page 5.



1885 ISSUED O/S MAP

Continued over page



EXTRACT FROM THE FIRST EDITION 1835 O/S MAP

(This shows that Worthington Mill was in operation at that time -  
top left corner)

Continued over page



**2021 GOOGLE EARTH PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING WORTHINGTON MILL FARM  
AND THE SURVIVING GRADE II MILL HOUSE**

**KEY**

- A- SURVIVING GRADE II MILL HOUSE BUILDING**
- B- EVIDENCE OF THE LEAT FROM BODEN BROOK WHICH WENT TO THE MILL TO DRIVE THE WATER WHEEL**
- C- ORIGINAL FARM HOUSE BUILDING (see following page)**
- D - POSSIBLE FORMER GRANARY STORE BUILT ON TO REAR OF MILL HOUSE**

**\*\*\*\*\***

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CORN MILL

This photograph taken in 2012 provides a good illustration of what the Mill House looked like. It should be noted that the angle from which the photograph has been taken with a telephoto lens has "dramatically" foreshortened the distance between the farm house and the mill house, which were / are two completely separate buildings as shown on the preceding page.



**Modified from a photograph originally taken in 2021 by Ian Caldecote for which he owns the original copyright and is licensed for reuse under a creative commons license**

The historic England website lists the mill as being a grade II historic building (Jan 3rd 1981 - 1361237) and describes it as follows. Part of this description can be related to the photograph but unfortunately we cannot see the brick arched wheel chamber which was on the opposite :-

***Mill - probably early c.19. Coursed sandstone blocks with plain tiled roof & brick gable. 3 storeys, 1 window to each floor. Windows have heavy square section stone surrounds & mullions. Front elevation has low water opening & a small round opening at ground floor level. Ground floor window has possible keystone of earlier opening above existing lintel - 2 doorways one above the other on this elevation. To the west, a semi-circular brick arch to former wheel chamber (cannot be seen in the above photograph). Formerly a breast wheel of c.14 - c.15 diameter but machinery removed c1960.***

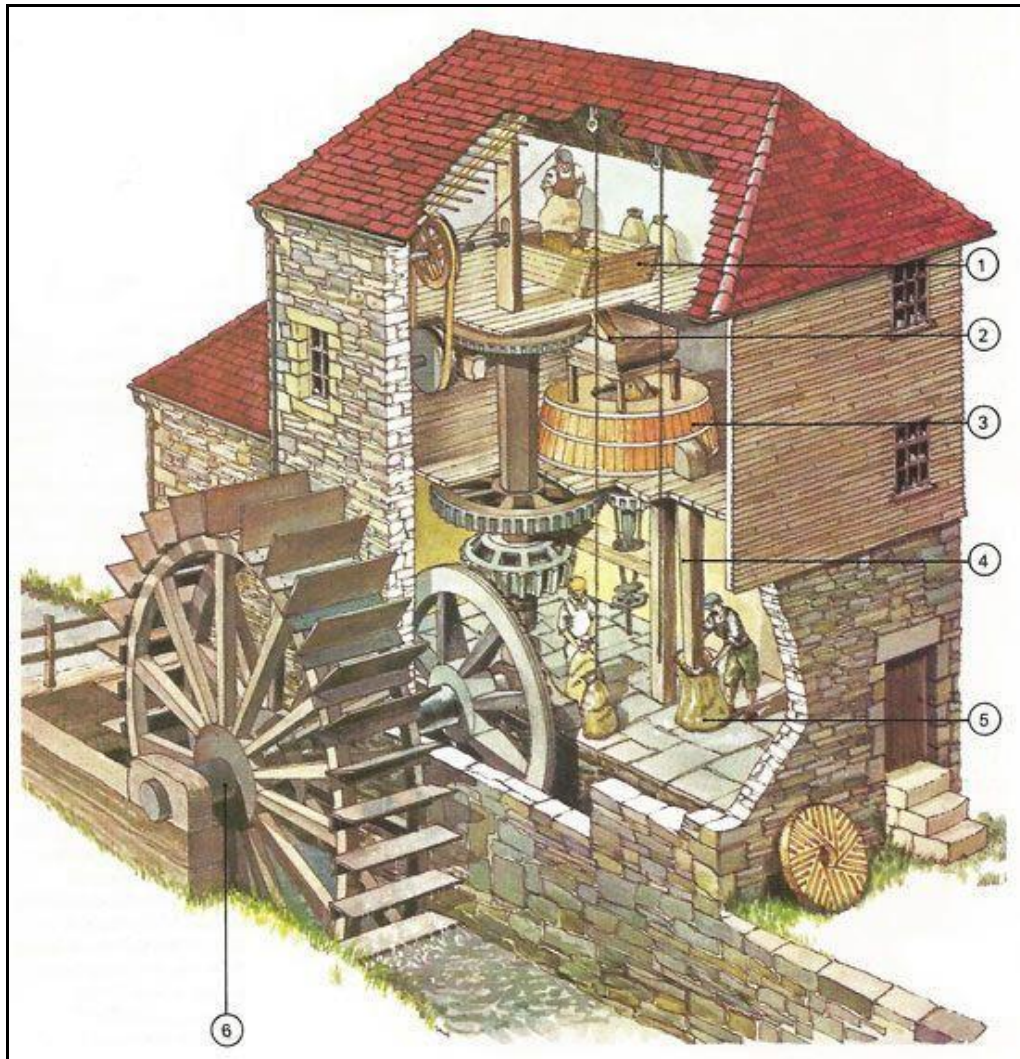
***Low 2 storey brick & rubble building adjoins to the north. This can be seen on the extreme right of the photograph. (possibly originally a granary)***

A granary was either attached to the Mill or built separately. We know this existed, as when the Worthington Chapel was closed for a period in 1905, William Chester who became the miller there between 1871 and 1881, succeeding John Francis, loaned the granary building for the members to continue their worship there. To the left is the original farmhouse frontage, a number of yards distance to the north. It is almost certain that there would have been a corn drying kiln on the site at one time.

Trade directories and censuses record the various millers as farmers also, and William Chester is recorded as a Miller and Farmer of 30 acres in the 1881 census.

In 1946 the RAF took numerous aerial photographs in the area, and three were centered around the Mill and Cloud Hill Quarry. Interestingly their title is recorded as Worthington Water Mill. Although the definition is not good, it is possible to relate buildings and Boden Brook to the preceding 1885 map. These are available on line for anyone who wishes to investigate further.

## TYPICAL WORKINGS OF A WATER DRIVEN CORN MILL



### KEY

- 1 - GRAIN HOPPER
- 2 - GRAIN SHUTE FEEDS GRAIN INTO MILL STONES
- 3 - PAIR OF MILL STONES (ONE FIXED AND ONE ROTATING)
- 4 - SHUTE FROM MILLSTONES TO PUT GROUND FLOUR DIRECTLY INTO BAGS
- 5 - FLOUR BAGS FOR TRANSPORTATION
- 6 - WATER DRIVEN BREAST SHOT WHEEL WITH MAIN SHAFT DRIVING GEAR WHEEL WHICH TRANSMITS MOTION TO GEAR WHEELS ON VERTICAL SHAFT TO DRIVE MILL STONES

Note that the upper gear on the vertical shaft drives a winch for raising bags of grain from either the inside or outside of the mill house. As the Worthington Mill had doors on the third story, this suggests that bags of grain were winched up to the top floor externally.

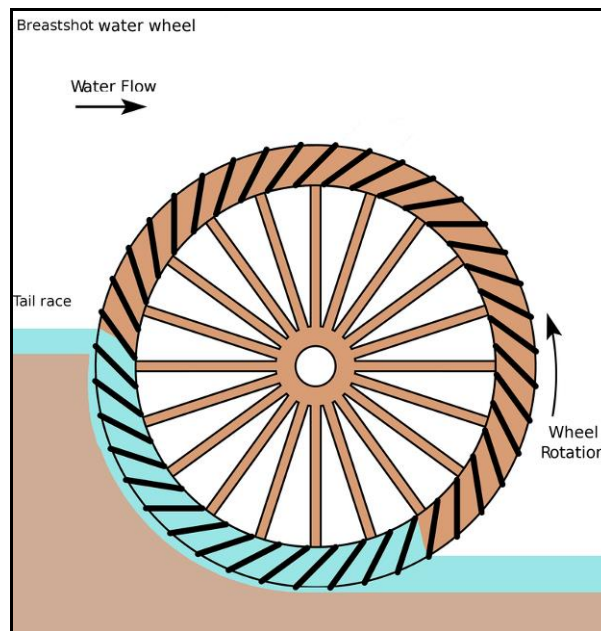


The Worthington corn mill was water powered by a breast shot water wheel (14 to 15 meters diameter) through a series of gears used to drive the mill stones to grind the corn into flour. The size of the Worthington mill house suggests the grinding of the corn into flour only utilised one pair of mill stones, much like that shown in the preceding illustration.

It can be clearly seen on the page 3 map that a "leat", which would have been controlled via a sluice gate, was diverted from Boden Brook to drive the water wheel.

**Suggested derivation of name Boden, but this is only conjecture of course:-**

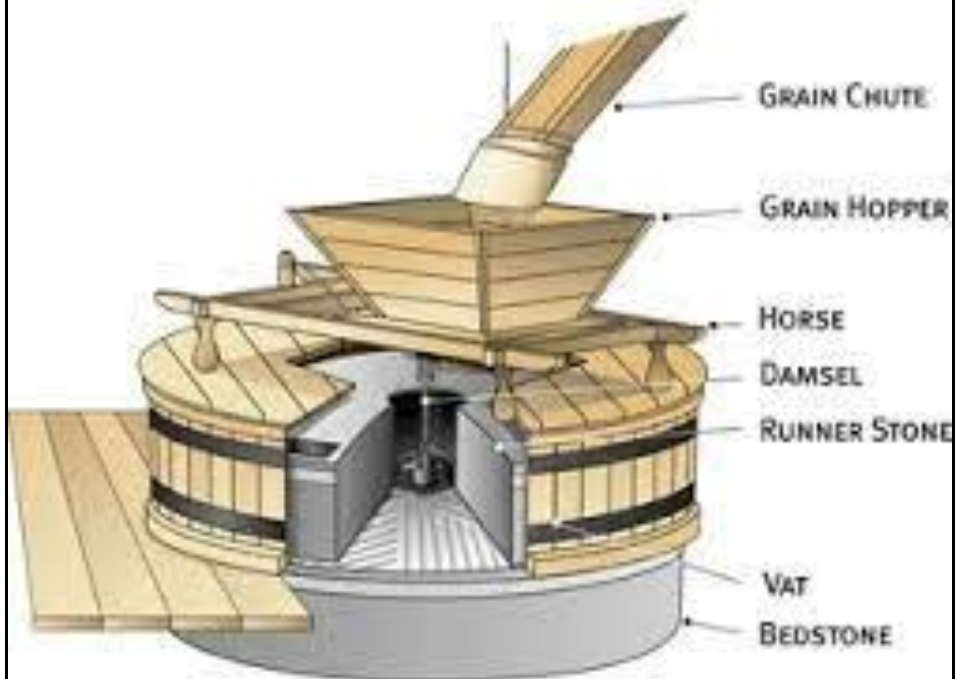
German: topographic name for someone living in a valley bottom or the low-lying area of a field Middle. High German - *boden* 'ground bottom'. Compared to English word Bottom.



**A DIAGRAMATIC SKETCH OF A BREAST SHOT WATER WHEEL**

**A waterwheel**, is a mechanical device for tapping the energy of running or falling water by means of a set of paddles mounted around a wheel. The force of the moving water is exerted against the paddles, and the consequent rotation of the wheel is transmitted to machinery via the shaft of the wheel. The waterwheel was perhaps the earliest source of mechanical energy to replace that of humans and animals, and it was first exploited for such tasks as raising water, fulling cloth, and grinding grain.

## CROSS SECTION OF THE MILLSTONES



A TYPICAL PAIR OF MILL STONES

## MILLERS AND FARMERS AT WORTHINGTON MILL

The following 1840 newspaper article could have some relevance to the water mill. Although it seem to relate to the farm only, it does say that it will be of interest to Farmers, **Millers** and Factors

**Transcribed from the Leicester Journal - Fri 13th March 1840**

**WORTHINGTON, LEICESTERSHIRE  
TO FARMERS, MILLERS AND FACTORS**

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTIONY MR. GAMBLE**

On Monday and Tuesday, the 16th and 17th of March, 1840, all the live and dead farming stock, stock in trade, implements, household furniture and other effects, on the premises of **Mr. Pratt, Worthington Mill aforesaid**, who is leaving this country.

Descriptive catalogues to be had 6 days prior to day of . Sale each morning at 11 o'clock.

William Pratt, mentioned in the above article, is the earliest name found of a Miller and Farmer at Worthington Mill.

### **Corn millers / farmers, given in Trade Directories:-**

#### **Gazette & Directory of Leics & Rutland - 1861**

John Poxon Jn'r - Corn Miller at Worthington Mill

#### **Harrod & Co's Postal Directory of Derbys & Leics - 1870**

Joseph Stubbs - Farmer & Miller at Worthington Mill

#### **History, Gazetteer & Directory of Leics & Rutland - 1877**

Joseph Stubbs - Farmer & Miller at Worthington Mill

#### **Wright's Directory of Leics & Rutland - 1880**

Joseph Stubbs -Farmer and Miller at Worthington Mill

#### **Kelly's Directory of Derbys & Leics - 1891 (Pt 2. Leics & Rutland)**

William Chester - Farmer and Miller (water)

#### **Wright's Directory of Leics -1892**

William Chester - Farmer and Miller (water)

#### **Kelly's Directory of Leics and Rutland - 1908**

William Chester - Farmer and Miller (water)

The Chester's seem to have been the most memorable owners / occupiers of Worthington Mill and Farm

Apparently, one of only two lorries in the village at the time, was operated by Ernie Chester at Worthington Mill for collecting corn and delivering flour after grinding at the Water Mill. It is assumed that Ernie was William Chester's son Harry E, as given in the censuses.

## CENSUS INFORMATION

| 1871<br>CENSUS  |                     |           |                   |                                |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| NAME            | RELATION<br>TO HEAD | CONDITION | AGE               | OCCUPATION                     | BORN                |
| JOHN FRANKS     | HEAD                | MARRIED   | 45                | MILLER<br>EMPLOYING<br>ONE MAN | KEGWORTH            |
| ESTHER          | WIFE                | MARRIED   | 42                |                                | CANTERBURY          |
| JOSHUA          | SON                 | UNM       | 18                |                                | CASTLE<br>DONINGTON |
| CHARLES         | SON                 |           | 13                | SCHOLAR                        | "                   |
| JOHN            | SON                 |           | 10                | SCHOLAR                        | MELBOURNE           |
| WILLIAM         | SON                 |           | 6                 | SCHOLAR                        | WORTHINGTON         |
| JAMES           | SON                 |           | 5                 | SCHOLAR                        | WORTHINGTON         |
| SARAH K         | DAUGHTER            |           | 3                 |                                | WORTHINGTON         |
| ESTHER A        | DAUGHTER            |           | 6 MTHS            |                                | WORTHINGTON         |
| 1881<br>CENSUS  |                     |           |                   |                                |                     |
| WILLIAM CHESTER | HEAD                | MARRIED   | 34                | MILLER &<br>FARMER<br>30 ACRES | THRINGSTONE         |
| HARRIET         | WIFE                | MARRIED   | 25                |                                | SHEPSHED            |
| GEORGE          | SON                 |           | 9                 |                                | THRINGSTONE         |
| WILLIAM         | SON                 |           | 5                 |                                | THRINGSTONE         |
| CHARLES         | BROTHER             | UNM       | 21                | MILLER                         | WHITWICK            |
| MARY ELLEN      | SISTER<br>(VISITOR) | UNM       | 19                |                                | WHITWICK            |
| 1891<br>CENSUS  |                     |           |                   |                                |                     |
| WILLIAM CHESTER | HEAD                | MARRIED   |                   | MILLER AND<br>FARMER           | THRINGSTONE         |
| HARRIET         | WIFE                | MARRIED   |                   |                                | SHEPSHED            |
| GEORGE          | SON                 | UNM       | 19                | MILLERS<br>ASSISTANT           | THRINGSTONE         |
| WILLIAM         | SON                 |           | 15                | SCHOOL                         | THRINGSTONE         |
| HARRIET E       | DAUGHTER            |           | 8                 | SCHOOL                         | WORTHINGTON         |
| HARRY E         | SON                 |           | 1 YEAR<br>10 MTHS |                                | WORTHINGTON         |
| JOHN E          | SON                 |           | 8 MTHS            |                                | WORTHINGTON         |
| MARY ANNE SHAW  | SERVANT             |           | 14                |                                | COLEORTON           |
| ALBERT E HARRIS | SERVANT             |           | 13                |                                | HEATH END           |

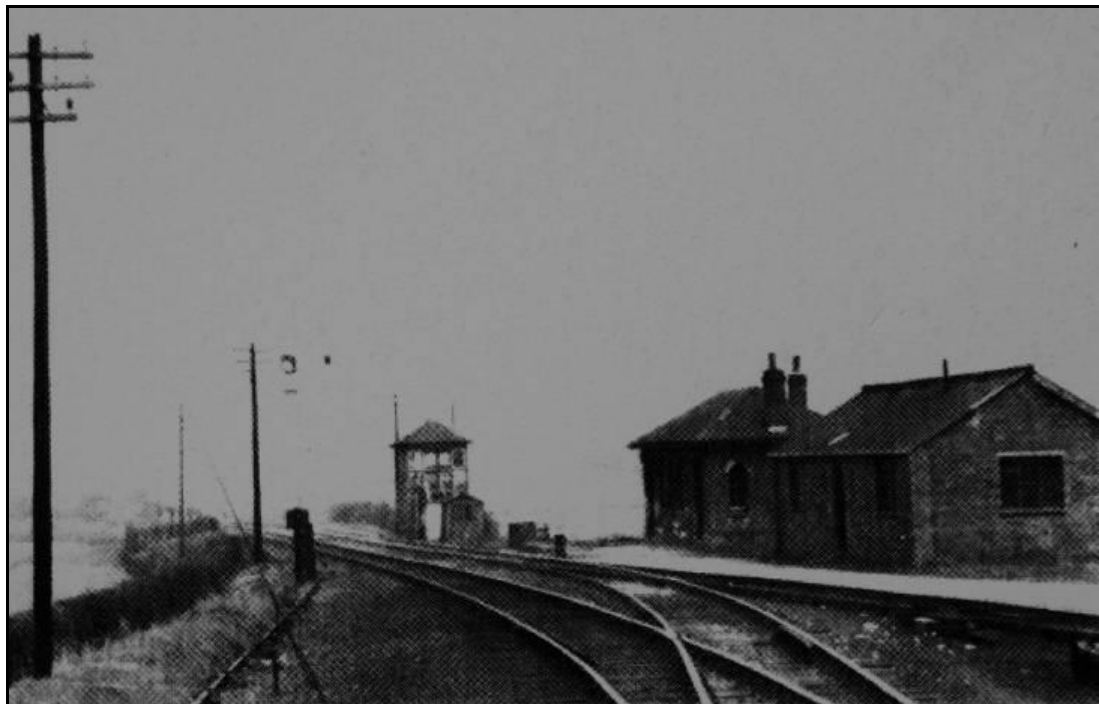
### NOTE

In the 1871 Worthington Census - John Franks is given as a Miller employing one man. That would have been John Brooks (aged 23) who is given as a Miller's labourer in the 1871 census.

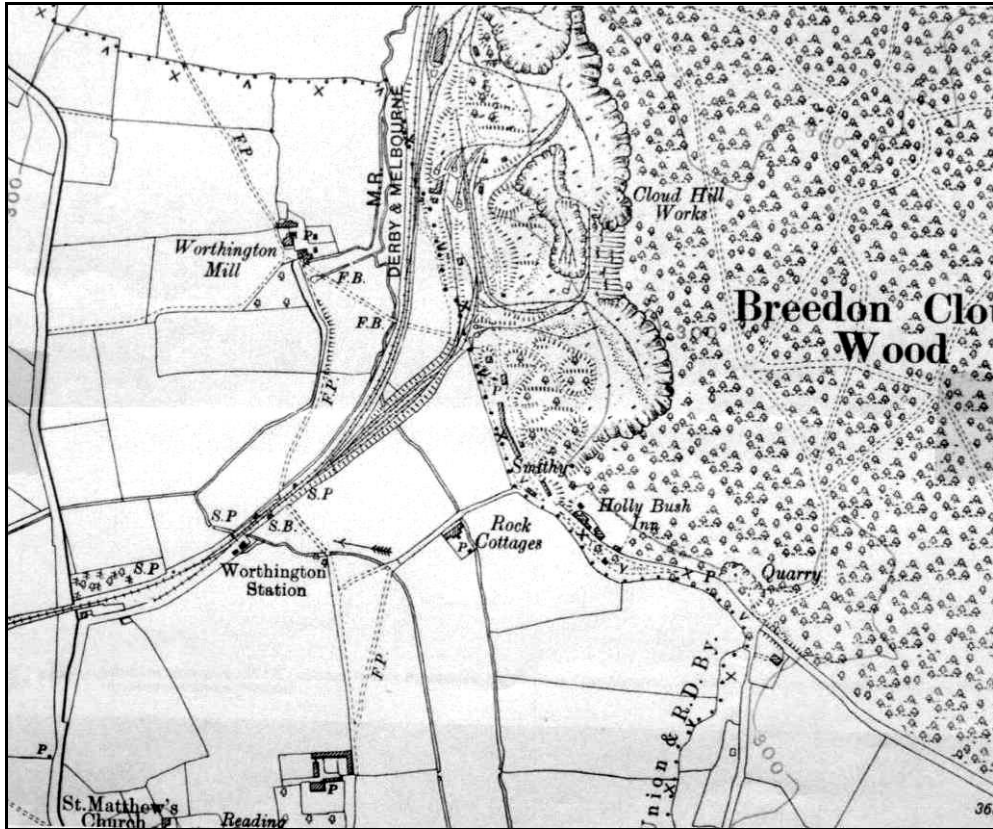
**WHEN WORTHINGTON HAD ITS OWN  
RAILWAY STATION**



**LOOKING DOWN THE RAILWAY TRACK FROM WORTHINGTON STATION VIA  
THE SIGNAL BOX TOWARDS CLOUD HILL QUARRY SIDINGS**



**WORTHINGTON STATION AND THE SIGNAL BOX IN 1942. THE PHOTOGRAPH  
WAS TAKEN FROM THE BRIDGE OVER BREEDON LANE, WHICH WAS  
SUBSEQUENTLY DEMOLISHED**



### LOCATION OF WORTHINGTON STATION

Worthington Railway station opened on 1 October 1869 when the Derby to Melbourne Midland Railway line was extended to Worthington from Melbourne. The line was further extended from Worthington to Ashby de la Zouch in 1874

In 1930 passenger services were withdrawn and the Midland's successor, the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, was using the line only for freight services. During the Second World War the line became the Melbourne Military Railway. In 1945 the War Department returned the line and station to the LMS.

In 1980 British Railways closed the line and by the 1990s the track had been dismantled. National Cycle Route 6 now joins the trackbed at the site of the former station.

### **Stationmasters** (taken from Wikipedia)

- A. Nowell until 1872 (afterwards station master at Rainworth)
- John Mercer 1872 - 1874 (afterwards station master at Kirkby-in-Ashfield East)
- W. Wright 1874 - 1875<sup>1</sup>
- Henry Kirk 1875 - 1881 (afterwards station master at Kingsbury)
- Edwin Allard 1881 - 1883
- J. Edwards 1883 - 1886
- G.F. Munns 1886
- S. Oughton 1886 - 1887 (afterwards station master at Ribbleshead)
- E. Birkinshaw 1887 - 1891 (afterwards station master at Harvington)
- S. Hart 1891 - 1894 (formerly station master at Tonge and Breedon)

- G. Albutt 1894 - 1896 (formerly station master at Tonge and Breedon)
- Thomas Beighton 1896- 19 01 (afterwards station master at Thornton)
- J. Gafferty 1901 - 1904 (afterwards station master at Denby)
- W.J. Lloyd 1904 - 1907
- G.H. Aewey 1907 - 1908
- Harry York 1908 - ca. 1911
- Arthur John Tilley ca. 1914 ca. 1925
- T.F. Houle 1932 - 1939 (afterwards station master at Hasland)
- A. Robinson from 1939 (formerly station master at Melbourne)

### **AN ACCOUNT OF AN ACCIDENT BY THE REV. JOHN DAWSON - TAKEN FROM "HAND-ME-DOWN-HEARSAYS".**

In 1942, the Royal Engineers moved from Northern Ireland to take up training courses on the Melbourne to Ashby railway. It became known as the Melbourne Military Railway. Military occupation started immediately south of the main line at Cloud Hill Quarry marshalling yard near the river Trent. The yard has now gone but was situated near the river where the railway crosses on a fine old railway viaduct. It contains exchange sidings, locomotive shed and a row of timber army huts which served as railway offices and stores. On this section the permanent way was double track. Kings Newton with its stores dump sidings was three quarter of a mile from the quarry. The next station was Melbourne, one mile further on. Beyond Melbourne and into Ashby, the line was single track only. Tongue, three and a half miles out, was much less grand than Melbourne, Melbourne amounting only to a single platform. here there were some sidings and tank ramps used by a nearby tank depot. Up a gradulaay increasing gradient, five miles out, the next station was Worthington which retained its original timber platforms and shelters. Here there was a passing loop. trailing in from the east end of the platform were the sidings of the Cloud Hill limestone quarry.

From Cloud hill and Worthington, the railway was on historic ground, the route of one of the plateways of the Ashby Canal., opened in 1802. The plateway was built by Benjamin outram of the Butterly Iron Works and conveyed the output of Cloud Hill and other limestone quarries down to Willesley canal basin beyond Ashby. Before the opening ofof te Derby and Ashby line, the stone and lime were taken by tramways to Ashby to join the Ashby Canal., by which in connection with other canal, it was conveyed to Coventry and other parts.

The line climbed steeply from Worthington to get onto the Ashby Woulds, first at 1 in 60 for three quarters of a mile and then at 1 in 65 as far as Newbold where there was a facing junction into the sidings of New Lount Colliery, still climbing, the line reached Ticknall sidings eight miles out.

Here we had a spectacular smash in late 1942 involving new rolling stocks from the USA. The screw couplings fitted to this stock were mounted a liittle lower than in Britain, and when fully extended were shorter. The stock was at Smoile sidings near Newbold and on this occasion, a sergeant was trying to couple a locomotive to a train of three tank cars, a van and a caboose. The engine came up to the buffers of the first car, the sergeant swung the coupling links, missed the hook, and the cars started to move away. The engine followed up and the sergeant missed again. He had to walk to keep up with the cars after the second miss and the third time the engine gave them a good push, the sergeant missed the coupling again and the cars ran away.

The blockman at Newbold saw the cars trotting by a few minutes later and gave the alarm to the blockman at Worthington who set a straight line through his station and into loud Hill lime sidings to avoid a train coming up from Tonge. He telephoned the quarry who had time to set a line to the far end and get themselves out of the way.

After running down from Newbold, it was estimated that the cars were doing 80 miles an hour through Worthington Station and when they hit the loaded coal and stone wagons, there was an imense explosion. Quarry wagons flew through the air and everything was very much a write off.

Mr. Clarke, the signalmaster, used to cut hair for local people in the signal box pictured earlier. He charged two shillings (10p). Engine drivers an their firemen used to take advantage of this service. When a train was collecting or delivering wagons from Cloud Hill, the engine driver would have his hair cut whilst the fireman took the trucks into the quarry. They would then change places so that the fireman could have his hair cut.

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Ashby .....                 | 8 25 |
| Worthington .....           | 8 37 |
| Tonge & Breedon .....       | 8 44 |
| Melbourne .....             | 8 51 |
| Chellaston & Swarkestone... | 8 58 |
| Peartree.....               | 9 4  |
| Derby.....                  | 9 12 |

**AN EXTRACT FROM A TIMETABLE**



## WORTHINGTON PUBLIC HOUSES

THE HOLLY BUSH INN (CLOUD HILL)  
THE OLD SWAN INN  
THE MALT SHOVEL INN  
WILLIAM THE FOURTH INN



**THE "HOLLY BUSH INN" - FORMERLY ON THE  
SLOPES OF CLOUD HILL WOOD ADJACENT TO THE  
SOUTHERN END OF CLOUD HILL QUARRY**

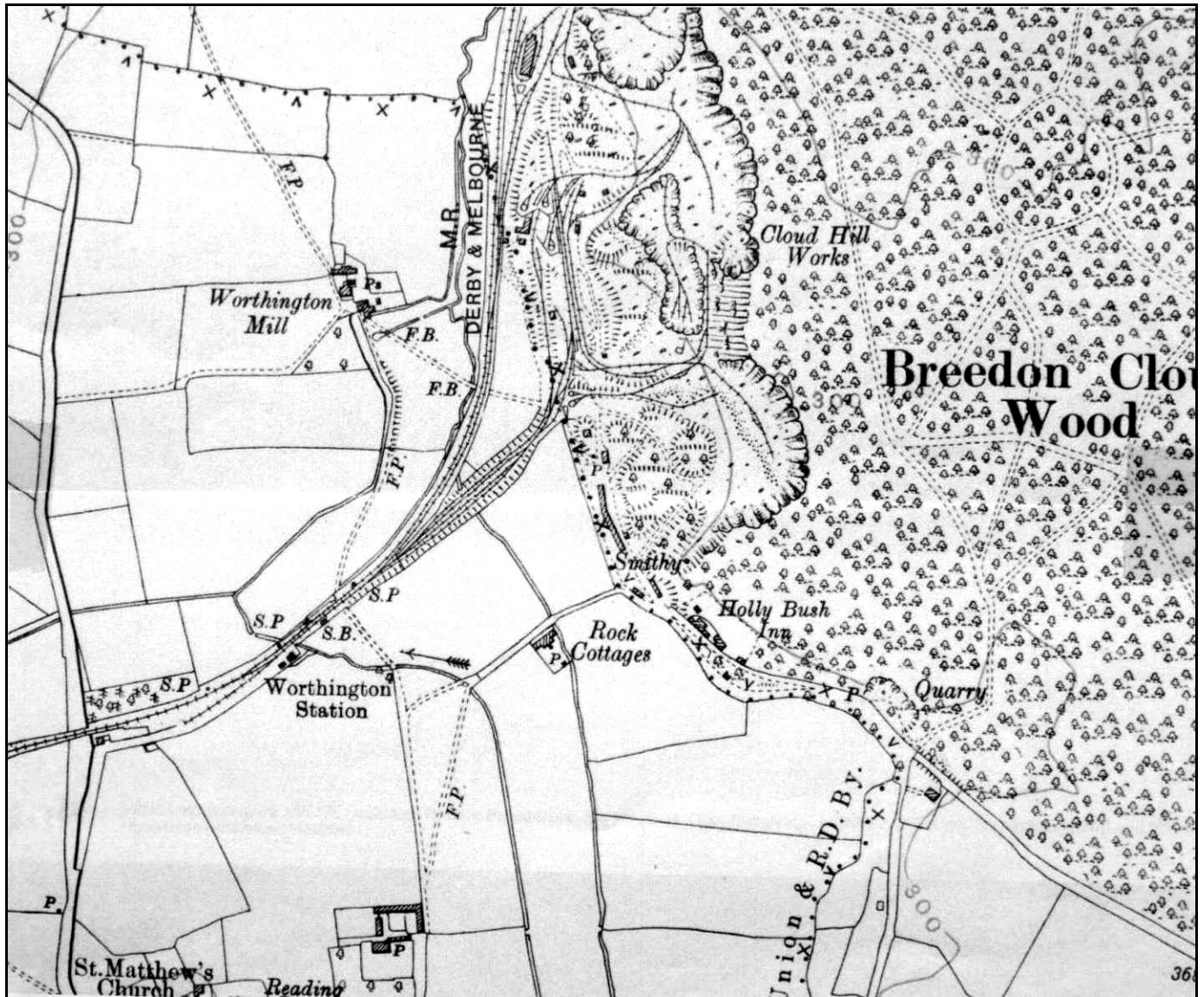
**(plus supplementary information on the Hinsley family and  
Woodside Cottage)**



**THE HOLLY BUSH INN**



**THE HOLLY BUSH INN - 1955**



### 1925 PUBLISHED O/S MAP OF CLOUD HILL QUARRY

The location of the "Holly Bush Inn" is shown on the above map, just to the south of where the quarry had been extended to in 1925. Woodside Cottage is shown to the south east of the Holly Bush.

Inns were commonly built next to coal mines or quarries and there are numerous examples of these in the area. It is reasonable to assume that this was the reason for the building of the Holly Bush in this location. Imbibers after a hard days work at the quarry, no doubt covered in dust, would have visited it on their way home, as related in the story by Ralph Roberts on the next page.

It is not know when the Holly Bush was first opened, but it was certainly plying its trade in 1842 as it appeared in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch first register for licensed houses list at that time, the year when the first "Penny Post" was introduced. *Strangely, unlike other public houses in the area, there are no further records available of the licensees in the available licensing records.*

The Holly Bush was owned by Breedon & Cloud Hill Quarry Ltd and the manager of the inn at one time was a Mr. Hines who was a Thatcher by trade and would go to Scotland for Mr. Shields the chairman of the quarry to thatch cottages for him.

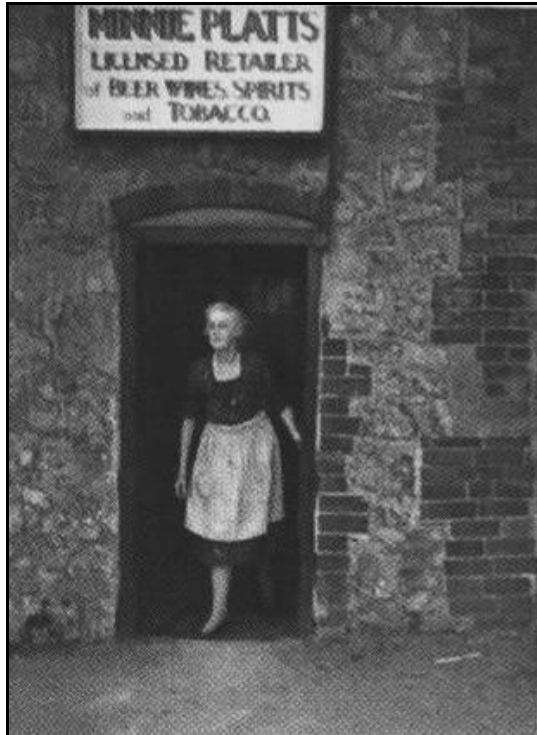


**MR. HINES**

There is a suspicion that the inn did not adhere to the normal licensing rules and being located in an out of the way situation it would not have been regularly under the watchful eye of the local constable. It was said that you could always get a drink at the Holly Bush no matter what time of day. Being out of the way there was no police interference. **No doubt the quarry owners had an influence on this, in order to keep the men happy.**

In the book 'Hand-me-down Hearsays' by John Dawson, there is an entry by Ralph Roberts which states:-

*The men who worked at Cloud Hill used to go to the Holly Bush, and on pay days, the wives had to go to Cloud Hill for the money or else they wouldn't have got any. Although the pub was supposed to be licensed, it was open all hours, and they were getting 20 to 25 shillings a week then (1911/12). Mind you, there wasn't much drunkenness. I mean, although beer was cheap at 2d per pint, 4d at best, it didn't affect them. Working at the quarry, you needed a good drink.*



**THE POPULAR LANDLADY MINNIE PLATTS AT THE DOOR OF THE HOLLY BUSH IN 1963. TO THE RIGHT IS MR. COX, GAMEKEEPER TO LORD DONINGTON WHO WAS MINNIE PLATT'S FATHER c.1900**



**IN THE BAR OF THE HOLLY BUSH IN 1963 SHORTLY AFTER CLOSING TIME. AMONGST THE CUSTOMERS ARE REG (WEDGER) JORDAN AND OK HINSLEY**



**THE CLUB ROOM IN THE HOLLY BUSH WAS USED FOR PARTIES AND FUNCTIONS. HERE CELEBRATING VICTORY IN THE 2nd WORLD WAR ARE MR & MRS. JORDAN, "DUCKIE" PLATTS, OLIVER SMITH, ARTHUR HINSLEY AND AT THE BACK TO THE RIGHT, BIG JIM SMITH**

**Transcribed from the Leicester Evening Mail - Friday 31 December 1954**

### **COALVILLE PARTY**

More than 40 guests attended a party for old people and widows held at the Holly Bush inn at Cloud Hill near Coalville, last night.

A supper was followed by an entertainment in which Mr. C. Tyler (Coalville), Mr. M. Shepherd (Coleorton) and Mr. M. Bennett (Moir) took part.

The arrangements were made by Mr. W. Harper, Mrs. M. Plant and a committee.



**THE QUORN HUNT WHO USED TO MEET REGULARLY AT THE HOLLY BUSH  
ARE SHOWN HERE IN 1958**



**CHARLIE SHIELDS WITH QUORN HUNTSMAN GEORGE BARKER TAKING A  
WARMING STYRUP CUP IN THE TOP YARD OF THE HOLLY BUSH  
BEFORE THE OFF IN 1958**





**THE QUORN HUNT PASSING "THE DELPH" ON THE WAY TO THEIR MEET AT THE HOLLY BUSH, CLOUD HILL IN 1963**

### **THE CLOSURE OF THE HOLLY BUSH**

The 26<sup>th</sup> June 1964, marked the end of a long innings for the Holly Bush Inn when an application was not renewed by the Ashby Petty Divisional Session, and shortly following this, the Inn was pulled down in 1965 to make way for the quarry to be extended.

Mr. A. Pollard, clerk to Ashby Magistrates said that there had been no violent objection to it. "The truth of the matter is that this inn is well away from the village, and Breedon and Cloud Hill Lime Works Ltd who are quarrying nearby, and who own the licensed house, soon expect their workings to extend near to the premises". Pollard called Police Sergeant A. H. Illingworth, who said that he made several visits to the Holly Bush. "It is in an isolated position about a mile from Breedon, which has three public houses, and the inn does little trade" he said. Sergeant Illingworth said that the greatest number of people he had ever seen on the premises on a Friday night was 20.

Mr. E.A. Crane, who appeared for the owners and also for the licensee, Mr. Thomas Kinsey, said there was no objection to the application. Minnie Platts left on 1st April 1964 and Thomas Kinsey continued as licensee until the public house finally closed its doors on 5th July 1964.



**THE END OF THE HOLLY BUSH INN  
A RUSTON BUCRYUS 30 RB QUARRY EXCAVATOR, EXPERTLY DRIVEN BY  
DEREK HICKLING, BEGINS THE TASK OF DEMOLISHING THE HOLLY BUSH  
IN 1965**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON THE HINSLEY FAMILY AND WOODSIDE COTTAGE**

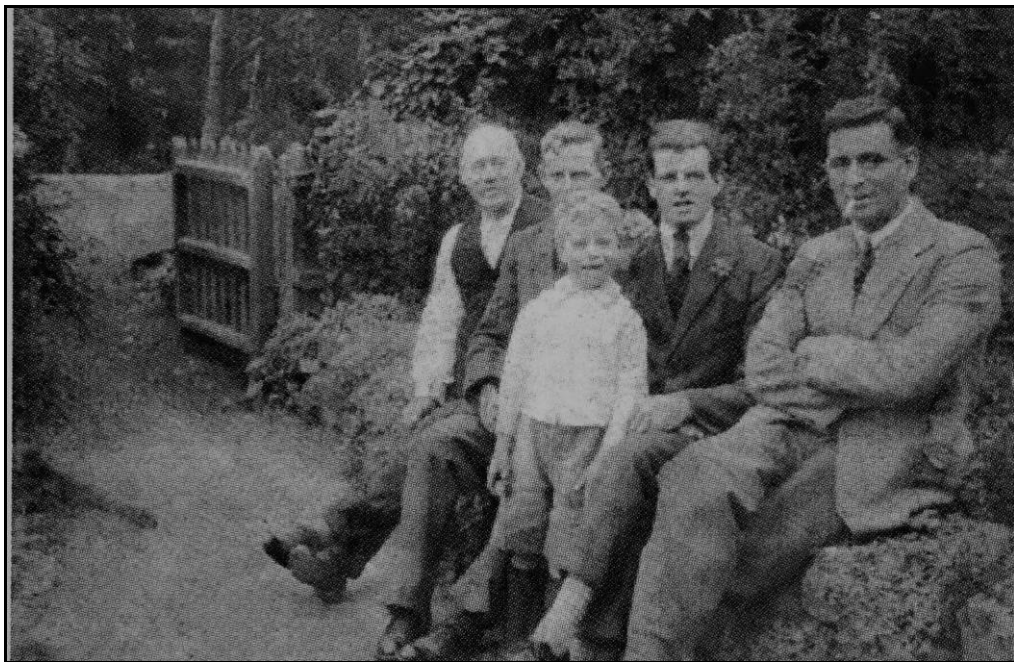
**The following, by Eric Hinsley, appeared in the April 2002 edition of the Parish Times:-**

*I was born in 1918 and brought up in a cottage owned by the quarry near the Holly Bush public house on the Woodside by Cloud Hill Wood. The scene is very different now. the Holly Bush and the cottages are gone, pulled down in about 1965. Our cottage stood about where the viewing platform looks down to the quarry bottom.*

*My father Arthur was the blacksmith at the quarry for more than 45 years. The cottages were on the corner of the Middle Brand. Electricity was installed about 1935, but up until 1945 when mains water was put in, it had to be carried by pail from the Holly Bush and the cottages. I remember mother making nettle pop and collecting herbs from the hedgerows to make herb beer. Father used to keep two or three pigs, and I remember what trouble it was getting them out of the wood if they once broke in. Cloud Wood was very different then with large oak trees before they were felled during the war. Near to our cottage at the entrance to Cloud Wood at the end of the Middle Brand was a small rock face called "The Delph", where we picked violets and primroses. A "Delph" was an area where stone was quarried, and this was a favourite climbing haunt of village lads. And when one reached the top there were sometimes wild strawberries to eat. **The Delph is thought to be shown on the preceding 1925 map as a small stone quarry.***



**WOODSIDE COTTAGE c.1947 - DEMOLISHED IN 1965**



**THREE GENERATIONS OF THE HINSLEY FAMILY SITTING ON THE WALL AT WOODSIDE COTTAGE**

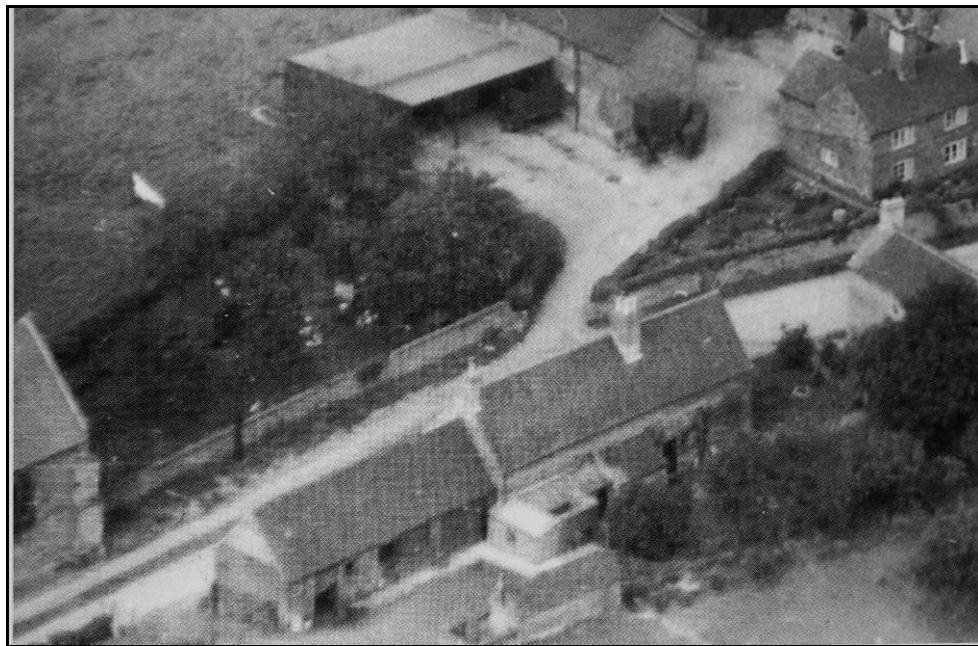


**WALLACE HINSLEY IN THE GARDEN AT WOODSIDE COTTAGE c.1947**

## THE OLD SWAN INN



**The Old Swan Inn c.1900,  
when William Cooper would have been the landlord  
thought to have closed c.1994, although it was advertised for auction in July  
1984**



**A rear view of the Old Swan Inn c.1955  
Opposite can be seen the end of St. Matthews Church**



**The above extract from the 1855 O/S Map shows the location of the "Old Swan Inn" diagonally opposite to St. Matthew's Church**

It was quite normal in the 1700's and early 1800's for Alehouses, as they were known then, to be a room in a farm house. The licensing laws did not require the Alehouse to be registered with a name, only a location was necessary. The wife would have normally looked after the ale house and some served basic food items to travellers, when the licensee would have been referred to as a victualler. It is thought that this is how the Swan Inn would have started its life.

It was not until a new licensing act came into force around 1825 that the licensee had to register a name for the Inn or Public House as they became known as. It was also necessary for at least one person (not the licensee) to put up a surety of £10. We can see from the following that the name of the Old Swan Inn had already been established by 1775, although the Ale House records don't specify it (see page 17).

In 1825, under West Goscote - William Mee was listed as the licensee of the Swan Inn with John Nichlinson standing surety. The Ashby de la Zouch - "Ale House recognizance" records strongly suggest that William Mee was the licensee pre 1825 and going back to 1782. Prior to that it appeared to be in the hands of Hannah Mee (presumed to be his mother and recorded as a widow) from 1762. She was preceded by William Mee (presumed to be his father and Hannah's wife) from 1753 when the available licensing records began.

Between 1827 when William Mee was still the licensee, and 1842, no licensing records are available, however, the fact that in 1842 Joseph Mee is recorded as the licensee, suggests that the Mee family continued to be licensees of the Old Swan Inn. Joseph Mee continued to hold the license until 1854 when it was transferred to Mary Mee for a few months, but by 1855 another William Mee had become the

licensee. He was also a Wheelwright and an oil stone manufacturer held the license until 1891 when George & John Mee took over for two years followed by George Mee till 1897 and then back to a William Mee for a further year only.

The license went out of the Mee families hands when William Cooper and subsequently Mary Cooper became the licensees until 1936 when Charles Frederick Barden took over the license. No further records have been located by the author from 1936 onwards. **It is quite remarkable, assuming the author's interpretation of the licensing records are correct, that the Mee family held the license of an English public house for 144 years.**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

The type of license for the Old Swan Inn given in the licensing records is too confusing and inaccurate to serve any purpose in recording it. The same applied to the Malt Shovel Inn. It must be accepted that these old transcribed licensing records are subject to errors and confusion.

From 1872 till mid 1889, William Mee is shown as the owner / leaseholder of the Old Swan. He must have died, as his executors held it in the following year. It was then purchased by Lord Donington who held it till mid 1897 followed by his trustees till 1920 when the licensing records show Alton & Co. Ltd, brewery, (a Derby based brewery) were leaseholders / owners of the Old Swan till records ceased in 1936.

Alton's were taken over by Stretton Derby Brewery Ltd in 1903 but continued to run as a separate concern till its closure in 1922. **This casts some doubt on the information given in the licensing records.** However, it seems that Allied purchased their offices as a local base for Inde Coope (East Midlands) before turning them into the Wardwick Tavern, and we know that Inde Coope owned the Old Swan in 1984 when it was advertised for auction. Therefore, it is quite possible the records should have shown Inde Coope as the owners from 1922.



Continued over page

Taking refreshments outside the Old Swan Inn in 1930. Standing at the back on the right is Mr. Cooper, the landlord of the Swan at that time. Others enjoying a drink in the sunshine are:- Front left - Tom Fairbrother, holding the jug, next to him is Tom Hickling ; on the right of Tom - Oliver Smith ; and on the extreme right is Joe Walker, later to become the landlord of the Malt Shovel Inn.

The earliest published historical record of the Old Swan Inn found by the author goes back to 1775 in the form of a newspaper article which is transcribed below. A copy of the original follows on the next page.

## TWO 18TH CENTURY NEWSPAPER REPORTS

**Transcribed from the Leicester Journal -Saturday 20th April 1771**

### THE SWAN INN, WORTHINGTON

*To be sold to the Best Bidder, together or separate, on Friday 10th May next, between the hours of 2 and 6 o' clock in the afternoon, at the house of Hannah Mee, known by [the sign of "The Swan" in Worthington](#), in the County of Leicester, subject to such conditions as shall be then and there produced, if not before disposed of - The estate of the late William Tomlinson, of Worthington aforesaid, deceased, consisting of a farm house, barn and outhouses in good repair, 18 acres of enclosed ground, meadow and doles, and 50 acres and 1 rood of arable land, with right of common on Breedon Brand lanes and Gellsmoore ; and also about 70 quarters of malt.*

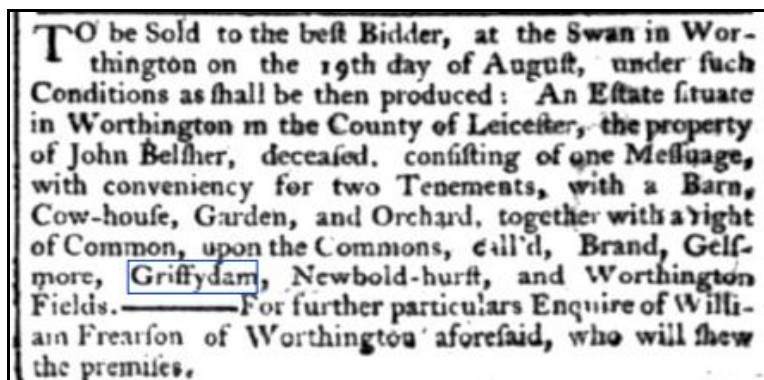
*For further particulars, enquire of Thomas Haskinson, of Wykin, in the County of Leicester ; or of George Jacques, of Worthington aforesaid, who will show the premises.*

*[This confirms as stated on page 15 that Hannah Mee was the licensee at the Swan at this time.](#)*

**Transcribed from the Leicester Journal - Saturday 12th August 1775**

*To be sold to the best bidder, at the [Swan Inn, Worthington](#), on the 19th day of August, under such conditions as shall then be produced : an estate situate in Worthington, in the county of Leicester, the property of John Belsher, deceased, consisting of one Messuage, with conveniency for two Tenements, a Barn, Cow-house, Garden, and Orchard, with a right of Common, upon those Commons, called Brand, Gelsmore, Griffydam, Newbold Hurst, and Worthington Fields. --*

*For further particulars Enquire of William Frearson of Worthington aforesaid, who will show the premises.*



**T**O be Sold to the best Bidder, at the Swan in Worthington on the 19th day of August, under such Conditions as shall be then produced : An Estate situate in Worthington in the County of Leicester, the property of John Belsher, deceased, consisting of one Messuage, with conveniency for two Tenements, with a Barn, Cow-house, Garden, and Orchard, together with a right of Common, upon the Commons, call'd, Brand, Gelsmore, **Griffydam**, Newbold-hurst, and Worthington Fields. — For further particulars Enquire of William Frearson of Worthington aforesaid, who will shew the premises.



## A SELECTION OF RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

### **Transcribed from the Leicester Mercury – November 15<sup>th</sup> 1856**

#### **ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH PETTY SESSIONS**

William White, Michael Richards and Frederick Haywood, were charged by Elisha Senior, Gamekeeper to Earl Ferers with assaulting him on, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at Worthington. Complainant said he was at Worthington Wake, and met White, who asked him to lend him his gun to shoot a swallow. Told him to go on and walked as far as Tivey's Public House ([The Malt Shovel](#)). White followed him there and said he would like to punch his head. Told him to go away and said and said he did not want anything to do with him. White leaned his head forward, said he could get him and would like to worry him and laid held of complainant's dog's nose and twisted it. He also spat in his face (complainant's) thrice. Subsequently he went to Mee's Public House ([The Old Swan Inn](#)), and White as he was going in seized him by the collar, and after teasing him some time struck him a severe blow with his fist. Upon that he (complainant) pulled off his coat and went at him in earnest. The other defendants then came up and assisted White. In the struggle, complainant fell down and on trying to get up, found his leg was injured. Being conveyed home, Mr. Dolman, of Melbourne, examined his leg and found a small bone broken, and the ankle severely damaged

### **Transcribed from the Leicester Chronicle – September 9<sup>th</sup> 1857**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Before T. Mowbray, Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echelaz

Joseph Jackson of Worthington, was charged by Thomas Mee, of that place, with assaulting him, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August. They had, with a mutual friend, *clubbed* for "a sup of drink" on the day in question, being Sunday ; but as the publican refused to supply the "lush", a quarrel ensued, and the assault complained of was the consequence. **The case was dismissed, and the complainant ordered to pay the costs, 10s. 6d.**

### **Transcribed from the Leicester Mercury – October 18<sup>th</sup> 1862**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

William Weston and Thomas Edwards were charged by P.C. Peberdy with creating a disturbance at Worthington on Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup> inst., being Worthington Wake, there were a great many persons assembled at the Public Houses drinking and quarrelling. **Fined 17s. or 1 months hard labour**

### **Transcribed from the Daily Mail - Saturday 20 June 1868**

Samuel Bailey charged Geo. Nice with unlawfully assaulting him at Worthington, on the 5th inst.

On the above night, complainant and defendant were in the [Old Swan Inn](#), Worthington, and being elevated with the strong ale both began to discuss political matters, the theme of conversation being generally the forthcoming election. Both waxed hot in the dispute as to who would be the successful candidate, and it was alleged that in the heat of the moment defendant rose from his seat and knocked complainant's hat off.-----A number of witnesses having been called on both sides, the Bench dismissed the case.

**Transcribed from the Leicester Mail - Saturday 01 May 1869**

**TO SELL BY AUCTION**

**On Wednesday, May 5th 1869 at Breedon-on-the-Hill and Worthington**

About 50 lots of Elm, Ash, and Alder TIMBER, CORDWOOD, &c., the property of N. C. Curzon, Esq.

The auctioneer will be glad to meet his Friends at the **Old Swan Inn**, Worthington, at 11 o'clock. Mr. Mawrey, the keeper, Worthington, will show the lots.

Catalogues may be had on application to the

**Transcribed from the Leicester Chronicle – September 10<sup>th</sup> 1870**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**Wm. Mee, of the Swan Inn, Worthington**, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of beer during prohibited hours, on Sunday, the 21<sup>st</sup> ult. – P.C. Weston said that owing to frequent complaints having been made, he watched the house of defendant, and saw a number of navies go into the house and defendant supplied them with drink. – Defendant said the navies did come into the house and asked for beer but he refused them ; he did, however, with water from a jug. – **Fined £2, including costs, or in default twenty one days hard labour.**

**Transcribed from the Leicester Journal – May 28<sup>th</sup> 1886**

**SAD DEATH THROUGH DRINKING.** – On Monday Mr. Henry Deane, coroner for North Leicestershire, held an inquest at the **Old Swan Inn**, Worthington, relative to the death of a woman named Ann Dakin, aged 70 years. – Jane Cooper, wife of James Cooper, labourer, said that deceased had lived in a home by herself. Witness lived close to her, and had been waiting on her. She had been ill lately and was attended by Dr. Serres of Osgathorpe. On Friday evening about five minutes past six o'clock, witness went into the house, and found deceased lying with her face on the floor and her legs in bed. Witness put her in bed and sent for a Mrs. Shaw, who came shortly afterwards. Witness spoke to the deceased, but she made no responses. And she then sent for the police and a medical man. She had found the deceased in that position on many occasions, and had got up in the night and found her so. The deceased was addicted to drinking, and was in drink on Friday. Witness was with her on Friday about half past five o'clock, and she was not sober then. A half-gallon bottle of whiskey stood on the floor against the washstand, which she could reach by leaning out of bed, and a glass and jug of water were on the wash-stand. Witness had helped deceased to undress at three o'clock, as she was then helpless from drink. – **The jury returned a verdict that the cause of death was apoplexy, arising from a fall out of bed whilst drunk.**

**Transcribed from the Hinckley News - Saturday 21 August 1886**

**Worthington, Leicestershire  
Valuable Freehold Property  
By Messrs. GARTON and AMATT,**

**At the Swan Inn**, Worthington, on Thursday, the 2nd day of September, 1886, at Four for Five o'clock in the Afternoon, subject to such conditions of Sale as will be produced, in one Lot.

All that MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE and BLACKSMITH'S SHOP adjoining, with garden, paddock, outbuildings, and appurtenances thereto belonging, situate at Worthington, in the county of Leicester, now and for 22 years past in the occupation of Mr. William Baxter, having a frontage to the main street of 48 feet, and containing altogether an area of one acre or thereabouts.

To view, apply to the tenant, and further particulars may be obtained of the Auctioneers, Loughborough ; or of

TOONE and BARTLETT,  
Solicitors, Loughborough

**The Blacksmith's Shop referred to above is identified on the following extract from the 1885 O/S map.**

**William Baxter is given in Trade Directories dated 1875, 1877 and 1880 as the village Blacksmith.**

**Other Blacksmiths were given in various Trade Directories in Worthington :-**

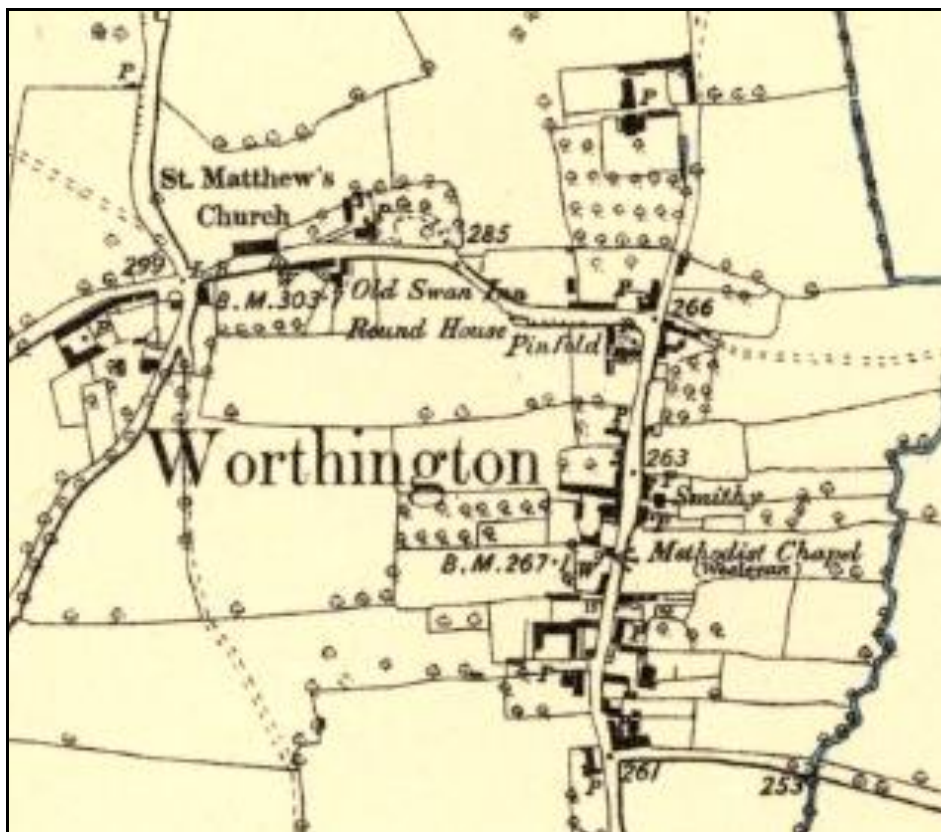
**1855 - George Varley, Joseph Mee and Thomas Shaw**

**1861 - George Varley**

**1863 - Thomas Varley**

**1891 - William Varley**

**1892 - Samuel Mason**



**Transcribed from the Leicester Daily Mercury - Thurs 03 April 1980**

**TUG O' WAR TEAM GIVE OUT CHARITY HAUL**

A Tug o' War team that abandoned the rope and turned itself into a charity organisation, raised £700 for good causes last year.

The Newbold, Coleorton Tug o' War charity made its presentation at the **Swan Inn**, Worthington, presenting £300 for the Staunton Harold Cheshire Home, another £300 for a pensioner's outing, and £100 for a parish wheel chair.

The chairman, Mr. David Stevenson said the wheel chair would be loaned to families who needed it.

Staunton Harold's cheque was received by the home's warden Mr. Robert Leader, who told the donors that without such charitable help, the home would be unable to balance its budget.

The Tug o' War club was formed about 11 years ago.

**Transcribed from the Leicester Daily Mercury - Saturday 19 May 1984**

**PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUCTION - JULY 11th**

**Lot 1 :**

**PUBLIC HOUSE  
THE SWAN INN, WORTHINGTON  
LEICESTERSHIRE**

On instruction from Inde Coope Ltd, these freehold licensed premises will be offered for auction on July 11th. The property is detached and comprises public house and living accommodation. Site extends to nearly 2000 square yards. To include car park and beer garden.

**Lot 2 :**

**POTENTIAL BUILDING LAND  
ADJOINING THE SWAN IN, WORTHINGTON**

Comprising a cleared site of 1,000 square yards or thereabouts and having road frontage of 75ft. Outline planning permission for two detached bungalows being applied for.

## THE MALT SHOVEL INN



Upper Photograph - c.1955 - Henry Brooks on his Ferguson tractor passing the Malt Shovel on the corner of Town End, Main Street & Bull Hill

Lower Photograph - 1906 - Town End, looking back into the village. On the corner with Bull Hill Lane. Near left is Town End cottage



**An aerial view of the Malt Shovel Inn c.1956. The adjoining Malt Shovel cottages on Bull Hill lane were later demolished.**



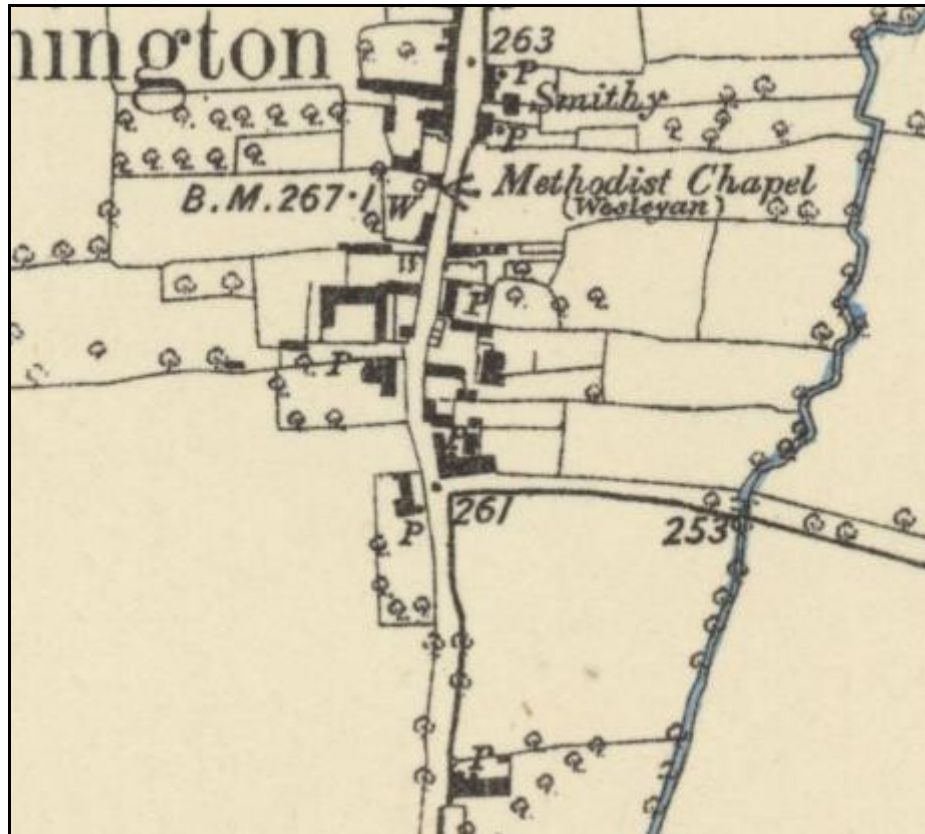
**In the bar of the Malt Shovel c.1962  
From L to R - Demma Watkins, Billy King, Dorothy Woodhall (nee Sommerton), Henry Menzies, and Johnny Brownlow.  
Johnny is trying to hide under the collar of his coat as he should have been working at Lount pit at the time.**



The above extract from the 1806 enclosure map shows that the cottages pictured in the top photograph on the preceding page had been built at that time, but the extension at right angles to them and parallel to main street of which the Malt Shovel is now part, was built later (see upper photograph on preceding page).

It also worthy of note that the lane which runs up to meet Bull Hill has the name Frearson on it on the above map. It is thought that this was named after the prominent Frearson family of Worthington. William Frearson was parish clerk from 1818 to 1825 in Worthington where he was born and lived. The post was previously held by his uncle, also William Frearson and his grandfather Samuel Frearson. After William Frearson's vacated the post in 1825, his brother Lovett, born in Worthington in 1789, held it from 1826 to 1853. In 1877 Abraham Frearson was the parish clerk.

According to the Tivey website from which certain information is taken, they were all literate and their own signatures appeared on their marriage certificates at the time.



**The above extract from the 1885 O/S map shows the cottages at right angles to the Malt shovel as we know it today, which were later demolished**

James Winfield became the licensee until August 22nd 1891. James Winfield was given as a wheelwright and shopkeeper in 1891/92 trade directories, suggesting he had a shop incorporated within the Malt Shovel. Charles Mee then took over the license. It seems likely, that the Malt Shovel Inn would have taken its name from the Brew House, which was attached along with a stable, cow-shed and other outbuildings. The Inn, outbuildings and adjoining cottages were put up for auction in 1862 when James Tivey was the landlord. The newspaper report concerning this appears later.

As explained under the Old Swan Inn, it was not until a new licensing act came into force around 1825 that the licensee had to register a name for the Inn or Public House as they became known as. It was also necessary for at least one person (not the licensee) to put up a surety of £10.

In 1825, under West Goscote - William Johnson was listed as the licensee of the Swan Inn with John Nichlinson standing surety as was also the case at the Old Swan Inn at that time. William Johnson was also the landlord in 1826 and 1827. No further records have been found by the author till 1842, when Matthew Richards was the licensee. John Richards then became the licensee from 1843 till August 29th 1849 when the license was transferred to Richard Auribrook who held it until the 26th August 1853 when the license was transferred to James Tivey who held it until August 26th 1865. It was then transferred to his widow Louisa Tivey who held it to August 25th 1867. Joseph Mee then held the license from August 22nd 1868 till 21st August 1869 when it was transferred to Jane Winfield who held it until 1876 following



which and was the landlord until 1925 when the license was taken over by Frederick Stacey. On 2nd February 1929, John Berkin Williams / Williamson took over and he was the licensee until 1936 when further records have not been located. However, a newspaper report recorded that John Arthur Conkay was granted the license in 1937.

It is likely, that prior to 1825, the Malt Shovel was an Ale House. However, it has not been able to prove this from the Ale House records.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

The type of license for the Malt Shovel Inn given in the licensing records is too confusing and inaccurate to serve any purpose in recording it. The same applied to the Old Swan Inn. It must be accepted that these old transcribed licensing records are subject to errors and have information missing.

No owner / leaseholder of the Malt Shovel Inn was given in the licensing records until 1872 when James Husband, Worthington was recorded as the owner / leaseholder until 1889. Frank Jones, Long Eaton was the owner / leaseholder the following year and James Husband again the year following. In 1891 and 1892 Burton Brewery Co. were given as the owners / leaseholders followed by Mrs. Frank Jones, Loughborough for one year only. From 1894 to 1897, Lord Eaton is given as the owner / leaseholder. **It has not been possible to find out who this Lord Eaton was, assuming the record was correct.**

No further records are given until 1907 when Frank Jones executors, are listed as the owner / leaseholder up until 1924 when Frederick Stacey replaced Charles Mee as the licensee. This coincided with Zachary Smith and Co. Ltd., Burton-on-Trent becoming the owner / lease holder until 1936 when the records ended.

Although the records give Zachary Smith & Co Ltd address as Burton-on-Trent, they were in fact brewers of Shardlow who closed in 1930 and were taken over by Marston Thompson and Evershed Ltd. In 1927, the owners of the Waggon & Horses, Griffydham, Dorothy Sarah Brearley, a farmer's wife, and Ethel Elizabeth Nicholson, sold the house to Zachary Smith & Co. Ltd.

## **A SELECTION OF RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES**

**Transcribed from the Leicester Chronicle – March 30<sup>th</sup> 1844**

### **HIGHWAY ROBBERY**

**THOMAS CARTWRIGHT (22 : READ AND WRITE WELL) AND THOMAS SMART (17 ; READ WELL AND WRITE IMPERFECTLY) WERE CHARGED WITH FELONIOUSLY STEALING FROM THE PERSON OF** Thomas Gibson, on the 6<sup>th</sup> October last, three sovereigns, eight half-crowns, six shillings, and three sixpences. Mr. White appeared for the prosecution. The prosecutor is a labourer living at Belton. He stated in his evidence that he received his wages on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, intending to go to Ashby Races the next day. When he was there he saw both of the prisoners, and came home along with Smart. They called at **the Malt Shovel at Worthington**, about eight o'clock in the evening ; and in about an hour the other prisoner came in. On witness paying for the ale which they had drunk, he pulled a sovereign out of his pocket, instead of a shilling, and tendered it to the landlord, who returned it. Prosecutor then gave the landlord a shilling, and returned the sovereign to his pocket. The party left the public house together about eleven o'clock in the evening, and when they had proceeded a short distance the prisoners threw

prosecutor on the ground, Cartwright attempting to throttle him whilst Smart rifled his pockets. They shortly afterwards left him, Smart having threatened to knock out his brains if he dared to make any noise : he gave information to the police next morning. Prosecutor knew the prisoners well. An attempt was made by the Judge and Cartwright to shake prosecutor's testimony, by their asking whether he had not been drinking and dancing with women at the public-house ; but he declared he had not. Policeman Beales of the County Force deposed to have apprehended Cartwright at Packington, when he said he would give prosecutor £5 to make it up, on his obtaining £50, which he expected at his Grandfather's death. Rose, another member of the County Force, apprehended Smart at Nuneaton. The prisoners were found guilty and sentenced – **Smart to fifteen years transportation and Cartwright to twelve months hard labour.**

**Transcribed from the Leicester Mercury – November 15<sup>th</sup> 1856**

**ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH PETTY SESSIONS**

William White, Michael Richards and Frederick Haywood, were charged by Elisha Senior, Gamekeeper to Earl Ferers with assaulting him on, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at Worthington. Complainant said he was at Worthington Wake, and met White, who asked him to lend him his gun to shoot a swallow. Told him to go on and walked as far as Tivey's Public House (**The Malt Shovel**). White followed him there and said he would like to punch his head. Told him to go away and said and said he did not want anything to do with him. White leaned his head forward, said he could get him and would like to worry him and laid held of complainant's dog's nose and twisted it. He also spat in his face (complainants) thrice. Subsequently he went to Mee's Public House (**The Swan**), and White as he was going in seized him by the collar, and after teasing him some time struck him a severe blow with his fist. Upon that he (complainant) pulled off his coat and went at him in earnest. The other defendants then came up and assisted White. In the struggle, complainant fell down and on trying to get up, found his leg was injured. Being conveyed home, Mr. Dolman, of Melbourne, examined his leg and found a small bone broken, and the ankle severely damaged.

**Transcribed from the Leicester Chronicle – September 9<sup>th</sup> 1857**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Before T. Mowbray, Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echelaz

Joseph Jackson of Worthington, was charged by Thomas Mee, of that place, with assaulting him, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August. They had, with a mutual friend, *clubbed* for "a sup of drink" on the day in question, being Sunday ; but as the publican refused to supply the "lush", a quarrel ensued, and the assault complained of was the consequence. **The case was dismissed, and the complainant ordered to pay the costs, 10s. 6d.**

**Transcribed from the Leicester Chronicle – September 1<sup>st</sup> 1860**

**ASHBY – GENERAL ANNUAL LICENSING MEETING**

The general report of the division for the past year has been very satisfactory, except in two cases – one of a house kept by a person named Robinson at Ashby ; the other a house kept by James Tivey, at Worthington (**the Malt Shovel**). In both cases the licenses were suspended.

**Transcribed from the Leicester Journal – May 9<sup>th</sup> 1862**

**Freehold Public – House, Cottages and Premises**

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION**

**By Mr. T. Davenport,**

**At the [Malt Shovel Inn](#), Worthington, on Monday, the fifth day of May next, at Six o'clock in the evening**

ALL that MESSUAGE or Old-licensed PUBLIC HOUSE, called the Malt Shovel, with the brew house, stable, cow-shed, and other outbuildings, and the garden thereto, containing altogether an acre of land, or thereabouts, and in the occupation of Mr. James Tivey

Also SIX DWELLING HOUSES, or TENEMENTS, adjoining, or near to the said Messuage, and in the several occupations of John Edwards and others.

The property is situate at Worthington, in the County of Leicester, fronting the main street there and also the road leading to Griffy Dam.

For further particulars apply to the auctioneer, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, or to Messrs. RICHARDSON and SMALL, Solicitors, Burton-on-Trent

Burton-on-Trent, 19<sup>th</sup> April 1862

**Transcribed from the Leicester Mercury – October 18<sup>th</sup> 1862**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

William Weston and Thomas Edwards were charged by P.C. Peberdy with creating a disturbance at Worthington on Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup> inst., being Worthington Wake, there were a great many persons assembled at the Public Houses drinking and quarrelling. **Fined 17s. or 1 months hard labour.**

**Transcribed from the Leicester Journal - Friday 19 May 1865**

**Worthington, Leicestershire - Valuable Freehold Property**

**S. JACKSON**

**WILL SELL BY AUCTION**

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1865, at the [Malt Shovel Inn](#), Worthington, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to such conditions as will then be produced.

**A VERY VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY**, situate at Worthington, in the County of Leicester, comprising 2 dwelling houses abutting upon the town-street, large barn and other farm buildings, garden and paddock, also a field of superior Pasture Land, well watered by a stream running through it, the whole containing 4 acres and 18 perches, or thereabouts, and now occupied by John Stratton and James Eaglesfield. The land is bounded by property belonging to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, J. Curzon Esq., and others

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, or to

**MR. W. J. WOOLLEY**

Solicitor, Loughborough

**Leicester Journal – June 19<sup>th</sup> 1868**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

George Mee, cordwainer of Worthington ([Boot and Shoe maker](#)), was charged by Samuel Bailey with assaulting him at Worthington, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June. – These parties and also their witnesses had been drinking in a public house the greater part of the day, and being rivals in the shoe trade, they did all they could to annoy one another. – Case dismissed, each party to pay his own costs.....The defendant in the above case was charged by Mary Eaglesfield, housekeeper to Samuel Bailey, with an assault on her at the same time and place, but at the suggestion of the Magistrates, this case was withdrawn.

**Transcribed from the Leicester Mail - Wednesday 06 October 1869**

Temporary authority was given to James Winfield, of Worthington to sell beer at the house known as the [Malt Shovel Inn](#), at Worthington, until a proper transfer can be obtained.

**Transcribed from the Ashby de la Zouch Gazette - Saturday 03 July 1880**  
**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

James Winfield, licensed victualler of Worthington, was charged with unlawfully allowing beer to be consumed on his premises during prohibited hours, on April 21st. - P.C. Holyoaks, stationed at Breedon, said on the 21st of April last, he was on duty at Worthington, near the **Malt Shovel Inn** kept by defendant. It was about half past eleven o'clock at night. he saw a light burning in the house and heard some talking. . He looked through the window and saw a man named William Bailey, of Worthington, and defendant in the house. He saw defendant hand Bailey a pint mug of ale, which he drunk out of and then put it down, and handed him something in return. Bailey again drank out of the mug and stood talking to the defendant for a few minutes. He went round to the back door of the house, and met both Bailey and defendant coming out of the house. He said to defendant "how is it that you are supplying ale so long after time". He said "I do not know for supplying, I have got Mr. Bailey here to settle some accounts. I kept him in till after the company turned out, as I did not like to do it before". Bailey said "I have been constable here for some time, you know me, and will not take any notice of it ". He (witness) replied he did not know him, and he said he was William Bailey of Worthington. He (witness) then went in and picked up the mug that Bailey had been drinking out of, and there was a small quantity of beer at the bottom. Defendant then went away. He (witness) afterwards then met P.C. Hardy, and they saw defendant at his door sometime afterwards. Hardy had a short conversation with the defendant. - P.C. Hardy corroborated. - Mr. Dewes who appeared for the defendant, pointed out that the defendant and Bailey, who were old friends, were talking politics and settling accounts. - The Bench dismissed the case.

**Transcribed from the Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham & Uppingham News -Thursday 02 January 1908**  
**STOLEN GOOSE IN THE OVEN**

Jane Collins, Widow, of Worthington, was charged with the theft of a goose, value 7s., at Worthington on the 21th December, the complainant being Alfred Staniforth, butcher, of Shepshed. - Defendant denied stealing the goose, saying she picked it up. - She elected to be dealt with by the Bench. - - Prosecutor deposed that at about 10.15. p.m. on the date he called at Worthington on his rounds, and stopped near the **Malt Shovel**, serving several customers with meat. he had two plucked geese on his cart, besides meat, his horse moved on, and witness's back was towards the cart at that time. After cutting the meat and serving two other customers, he went back to defendant's house and she paid for meat purchased. On returning to the cart he missed the goose, and asked the boy where it had gone. Witness reported the loss to the Shepshed police the same night, and wired to the Breedon police the next morning. - P.C. Oliver of Breedon-on-the-Hill, deposed that on receiving a wire from the prosecutor he made enquiries, and went to defendant's house, asking her if she took a goose from prosecutor's cart on Saturday night. She said she had not, adding, "I've never seen a goose". He cautioned the defendant, and asked her what she had for dinner. She fetched some meat from the pantry, and said it was that she had for dinner. Witness noticed steam from the oven, and on opening it he found the goose (produced), partly cooked. He asked her how she accounted for it. She replied, "my son sent it from Derby". Witness charged her with stealing the goose, and defendant then said, "I will tell you the truth. I found it in Mee's yard, near the urinal, but sooner than have any bother with it I will pay Mr. Staniforth all expenses if he won't prosecute me". Staniforth identified the goose as his property. When witness served the summons defendant said, "Well, the least said, soonest mended. I've had enough to suffer for this. I hope they won't send me to prison". - Defendant (an elderly buxom person) : God only knows what I've gone through. Defendant appealed for leniency, saying that she knew she had done wrong in having the goose in the oven. She had

worked hard all her life. - The Chairman, in fining her 5s. 6d. and costs, £1 11s. 10d., said she had been dealt with leniently

**Transcribed from the Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 24th April 1937**

**Coalville Protection Orders** - Coalville magistrates yesterday granted protection orders to George Arthur Conkay in respect of the license of the **Malt Shovel Inn**, Worthington which he is taking over from Mr. G. Williams.

**Transcribed from the Leicester Evening Mail - Friday 25 August 1961**  
**INN'S BRASS IS AUCTIONED OFF**

Nearly 100 pieces of brassware and copper which Mr. and Mrs. George Woodhall spent 20 years collecting were disposed of in little over an hour, at Worthington, near Coalville.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodhall, licensees for the past 10 years at the **Malt Shovel Inn**, at Worthington, decided to part with their collection because they are retiring from the license trade.

The coach lamps, swords, harness pieces, hunting horns and copper vessels, which have decorated their inn were sold by auction.

Hundreds of people attended the sale, which because of the crowds, had to be conducted in the open air outside the inn.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodhall will live in retirement at Swannington, near Coalville.

## THE WILLIAM THE FOURTH INN

Although no further evidence has been found of a William the Fourth Inn referred to in the following newspaper report *which was also inserted in the 1840 London Gazette*, one has to assume that it existed. The author takes the view that this would have been a "Beer House", for which an explanation follows. As explained later in relation to beer houses in Griffydam, the Ashby-de-la-Zouch register of licenses had not recorded beer houses till 1869. Further research is required, but it is worthy of note that the P.O. Directory of Leics & Rutland 1855 lists Joseph Bird as a "beer retailer" and the Harrod & Co. Postal Directory of Derbys & Leics 1870 gives Joseph Hewitt as a "beer retailer" as does Barker & Co's Directory for Leics & Rutland 1875. None of these appear in the licensing records for the other Worthington public houses. The description of a "beer retailer" possibly suggests this was a beer house, but is not sufficient proof that it refers to the William the Fourth Inn.

Transcribed from the **Leicester Journal – August 7<sup>th</sup> 1840 :-**

***Freehold Estates, at Castle Cary, Somersetshire; Cartmel, Lancashire and  
Worthington, Leicestershire.***

### TO BE PEREMPTORILY SOLD

Pursuant to an order of the High Court of Chancery, made in a cause of "**ASKEW v PEDDLE**", with the approbation of **SIR GRIFFIN WILSON**, one of the Master's of the said Court at Cartmel, in the County of Lancaster, at Castle Cary, in the County of Somerset, and at Worthington on the County of Leicester.

Certain Estates the property of the late **REVEREND ANTHONY ADAM ASKEW**, consisting of a Freehold Estate situate at Cartmel, near Milnthorpe, in the County of Lancaster, containing 87a. 2r. 39p. now in the occupation of **GEORGE MOSSOP**, and which will be sold at the Cavendish Arms Inn, Cartmel, on Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of September next, at seven o'clock in the evening:-

Several Freehold Closes situate Ditcheal, and Woodstone, in the County of Somerset, now in the several occupations of **JAMES HARDING** and **THOMAS PITMAN**, which will be sold at the George Inn, Castle Cary, on Thursday the third of September next, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

And a freehold estate at Worthington, in the County of Leicester, containing 29a. 3r. 33p. now in the occupation of **JOHN ARMSON**, and which will be sold at the "**William the Fourth Inn**", **Worthington**, on Wednesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> day of August next, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

The name King William IV was the most popular monarch among pub names **from the passing of the 1830 Beerhouse act that liberalised the brewing and selling of beer**. It was during his reign that the number of pubs multiplied out of control, and he is celebrated by having his name on so many.

In fact, King William IV has more pubs named after him than any other monarch because, by an accident of history, he became a hero for beer drinkers. The following offers an explanation as to why the William the Fourth Inn did not appear in licensing records etc.

The government's reasoning was to promote competition among brewers to bring down the price of ale so that people would not be tempted by stronger spirits like gin which were doing much harm to health.

The Act came into effect just as William IV came to the throne on June 26, 1830. The new king became immediately popular among drinkers who named their new beer houses after him – and so to this day, no monarch has more pubs named after them than William IV.

### **The Beerhouse Act 1830**

**The Beerhouse Act of 1830** was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, which liberalised the regulations governing the brewing and sale of beer. Sometimes known as the "Duke of Wellington Beer Act" as it was the Duke of Wellington's government in situ at that time. It was modified by subsequent legislation and finally repealed in 1993.

The precursor to the **Beerhouse Act** was the Alehouse Act of 1828, which established a general annual licensing meeting to be held in every city, town, division, county and riding, for the purposes of granting licences to inns, alehouses and victualling (i.e. provision of food) houses to sell excisable liquors to be drunk on the premises.

Enacted two years later, the **Beerhouse Act** enabled any rate-payer to brew and sell beer on payment of a license costing two guineas per annum, equivalent to about £150 today. The one term of this licence was that the brewers should place a board outside their home with their name on it. The government's intention was to increase competition between brewers; lowering prices and encouraging people to drink beer instead of strong spirits. The drinking of Gin had become common place and led to an increase in drunkenness. It resulted in the opening of thousands of new public houses and breweries throughout the country, particularly in the rapidly expanding industrial centres.

A **beer house** was a type of public house created in the United Kingdom by the 1830 Beerhouse Act, legally defined as a place "where beer is sold to be consumed *on* the premises". Existing public houses were issued with licenses by local magistrates under the terms of the Retail Brewers Act of 1828, and were subject to police inspections at any time of the day or night. **Proprietors of the new beer houses**, on the other hand, simply had to buy a license from the government costing two guineas per annum, equivalent to about £150 in current day value. Until the Wine and Beerhouse Act of 1869 gave local magistrates the authority to renew beerhouse licenses, the two classes of establishment were in direct competition.

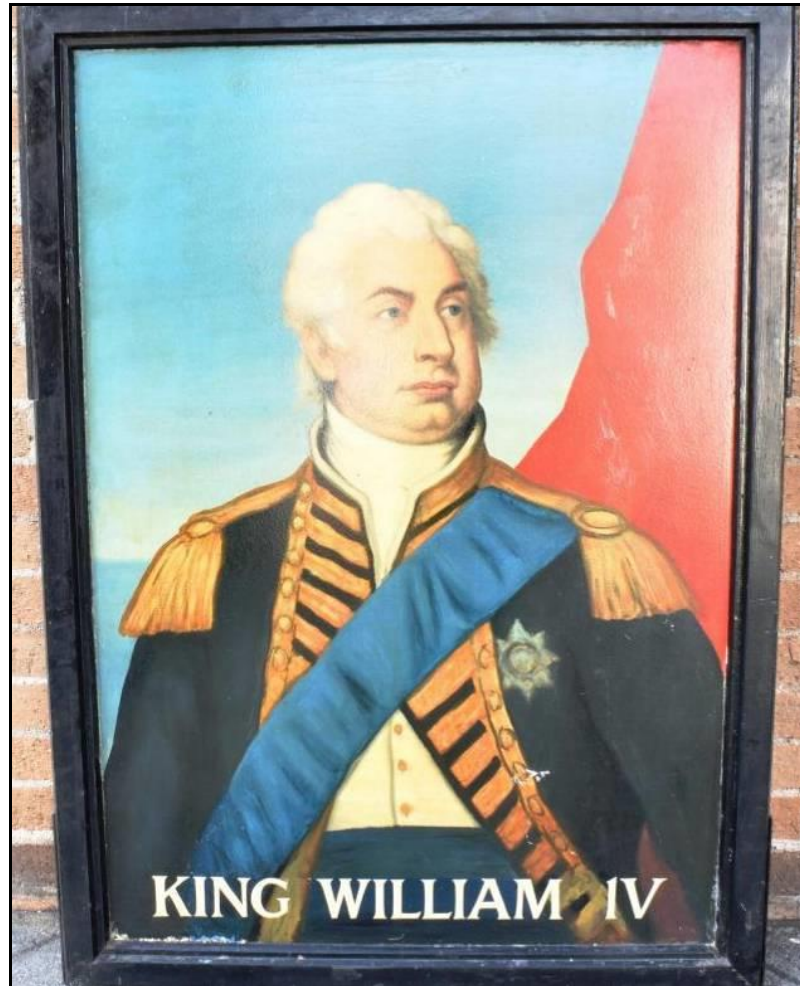
The 1869 Wine and Beerhouses Act brought in magisterial controls with stricter licensing laws, pre 1869 beerhouses were still exempt though and this meant that the small beerhouse could thrive but the large inns that sold spirits were under increasing pressure to run a controlled and respectable house.

*So, as "Beer houses" did not come under the control of magistrates and stricter licensing laws till 1869, this is why the two beer houses at Griffydum, the "Traveller's Rest" and the "Rising Sun" were not recorded in the Ashby de la Zouch register of licenses till after 1869.*

*It is of interest to note that the various trade directories did not feature either of these establishments unlike "The Griffin" and "Waggon & Horses" at Griffydum, prior to*

*c.1870, and later on when they started to appear they were listed as a bhs (beer house) and licensees given as "beer retailers".*

From the 1890s through to WWI, beer houses were increasingly targeted by the police and clergy who wanted to see the end to the long opening hours and cheap ale.



**A typical William the Fourth pub sign**



## WHEN DID WORTHINGTON BECOME A CIVIL PARISH IN ITS OWN RIGHT

Unfortunately, at the time of writing the author has not been able to obtain any official documents which would reveal when the exact date was. It has therefore been necessary to resort to Trade Directories to establish an approximate date.

If the reader refers to the following 1877 History, Gazetteer and Directory for Leicestershire & Rutland by William White, they will see that it is still being referred to as a township with Newbold within the ancient parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill.

If we now refer to Wright's 1880 Directory of Leicestershire & Rutland, it states that Worthington is now a parish, chapelry, and station, within the northern division of the county, hundred of Goscote, rural deanery of Akely, Ashby Union and County Court District.

**Until further evidence comes to light to disprove it, the author is of the opinion that Worthington became a Civil parish in its own right between 1877 and 1880. There is other evidence in the censuses which supports this, which coincides with about the time the Vinegar Hill part of Breedon Lower Brand was transferred into Worthington parish and Griffydam.**

In 1870-72, John Marius Wilson's *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* described Worthington like this:

**WORTHINGTON**, a township-chapelry, with three hamlets, in Breedon-on-the-Hill parish, Leicester; 5 miles NE by N of Ashby-de-la-Zouch railway station. Post town, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Acres, 1,600. Real property, £5,603; of which £655 are in mines, and £60 in quarries. Pop., 1,172. Houses, 252. The manor belongs to the Earl of Ferrers. The living is a p. curacy in the diocese of Peterborough. Value, £105. Patron, Lord Scarsdale. The church is plain. There are a school-church at Gelsmore, Wesleyan chapels at W. and Griffydam, and charities £75.

## TRANSCRIBED TRADE DIRECTORIES

### WHITE'S HISTORY, GAZETTE & DIRECTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND - 1846

**WORTHINGTON**, in the parish of Breedon on the Hill, is a village of 802 inhabitants, with a colliery railway connected with the Ashby and the Leicester and Swannington lines. It is distant nearly 5 miles N.E. of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and its township and chapelry comprises also the small hamlets of, **GRIFFYDAM** and **NEWBOLD LIBERTY** which have 341 souls, and are situated about one and a half miles S. of the village and three and a half miles E.N.E. of Ashby. The whole chapelry has about 1600 acres and 1143 souls. There is a chalybeate spring at Griffydam. **NEWBOLD** contains about 500 acres, and has a colliery. It belongs to Earl Ferrers and Sir G. H. Beaumont, bart. Griffydam (about 200A.) belongs to the Earl of Stamford and J. Curzon, Esq. Earl Ferrers is lord of the manor, and owner of a great part of Worthington, and the rest belongs to J. Curzon, Esq., W.A.Pochin, Esq., E. Dawson, Esq., Mr. J. Bulstrode, and a few smaller owners. The chapelry was enclosed in 1802, when the tithes were commuted. The church is an old structure of brick and stone, with two bells but no tower. The living is a perpetual curacy, valued in 1831 at £100, and augmented from 1747 to 1812 with £1600 in lots of Queen Anne's Bounty and Parliamentary Grants. Lord Scarsdale is patron, and the Rev. James Deane, M.A., is the incumbent, for whom the Rev. H.C. Close, of Breedon officiates. Here is a small Wesleyan Chapel, built in 1820. Henry Pilkington, in 1698, charged a farm of 150 A., now belonging to Mr. Bulstrode, with the weekly distribution of six penny loaves among the poor. As noticed with Coleorton, this chapelry is one of the four places entitled to have a poor boy apprenticed from Lady Beaumont's Charity

| <b>WORTHINGTON</b> |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| HANNAH BACON       | BEER HOUSE KEEPER        |
| JOHN BULSTRODE     | GENTLEMAN                |
| JOHN MAY           | WHEELWRIGHT              |
| JOSEPH MEE         | VICTUALLER - OLD SWAN    |
| JOHN RICHARDS      | VICTUALLER - MALT SHOVEL |
| RALPH TAYLOR       | TAILOR                   |
| JAMES WALKER       | VICTUALLER - ENGINE      |
| THOMAS SHAW        | BLACKSMITH               |
| GEORGE BAILEY      | BLACKSMITH               |
| THOMAS MANSFIELD   | BOOT & SHOE MAKER        |
| GEORGE MAY         | BOOT & SHOE MAKER        |
| JOSEPH COOKE       | FARMER                   |
| JAMES GILBERT      | FARMER                   |
| JOHN FARMER        | FARMER                   |
| JAMES HUSBAND      | FARMER                   |
| ANN NEWMAN         | FARMER                   |
| THOMAS RATCLIFF    | FARMER                   |
| JABEZ SHAKESPEARE  | FARMER                   |
| JAMES WALKER       | FARMER                   |
| JOHN CRABTREE      | JOINER &c.               |
| JAMES FLETCHER     | JOINER &c.               |
| JOSEPH FLETCHER    | JOINER &c.               |
| JOHN FLETCHER      | JOINER &c.               |

|                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| WHITE ARMSON           | SHOPKEEPER                   |
| GEORGE MAY             | SHOPKEEPER                   |
| WILLIAM MORLEY         | SHOPKEEPER                   |
| HANFORD WILLIAMSON     | SHOPKEEPER                   |
| <b>NEWBOLD LIBERTY</b> |                              |
| JAMES BENSON           | VICTUALLER - CROSS KEYS      |
| WILLIAM WALKER & SON   | COLLIERY OWNERS              |
| WILLIAM DEAKIN         | FARMER                       |
| JAMES KNIGHT           | FARMER                       |
| WILLIAM KNIGHT         | FARMER                       |
| <b>GRIFFYDAM</b>       |                              |
| JOHN NICHOLSON         | VICTUALLER - WAGGON & HORSES |
|                        |                              |
|                        |                              |
|                        |                              |
|                        |                              |

## POST OFFICE TRADE DIRECTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND - 1855

Worthington is a Chapelry in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill, consisting of three townships viz., WORTHINGTON, NEWBOLD, and GRIFFYDAM. It is situated 5 miles north-east from Ashby-de-la-Zouch in West Goscote Hundred, Ashby-de-la-Zouch Union, Peterborough Bishopric. South Leicestershire. The Church is a plain building dedicated to St. Matthew, with a belfrey for two bells. The living is a perpetual curacy, worth £100 yearly, in the gift of Lord Scarsdale The Rev. Dean M.A., is the present incumbent, and the Rev. Henry Charles Close, B.A., the curate. The Wesleyan Methodists have a small chapel at Worthington, and a much larger one at Griffydam. There is a day and Sunday School in connection with the Established Church and at Griffydam they have a National School. The petrifying spring in the field of John Bulstrode, Esq., and Griffy Well, at Griffydam are worthy of attention. In 1851, the population was 1,203, with 1,000 acres. The Earl Ferrers is Lord of the Manor. At Pegg's Green is a colliery.

Newbold is a liberty with 355 inhabitants

| <b>WORTHINGTON</b>               |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| JOHN SHAKESPEAR BOWLES, ESQ      | GENTRY  |
| MISSES GRACE & HANNAH BULLSTRODE | GENTRY  |
| JOHN BULLSTRODE ESQ              | GENTRY  |
|                                  |   |
| WHITE ARMSON                     | SHOPKEEPER  |
| JOSEPH BIRD                      | BEER RETAILER                                     |
| JAMES BONSER                     | BEER RETAILER & SHOEMAKER AT<br>WORTHINGTON FIELD |
| JOHN SHAKESPEAR BOWLES           | FARMER  |
| JOHN BULSTRODE                   | FARMER  |
| JOHN DEXTOR                      | MILLER  |
| JOHN FARMER                      | FARMER  |
| JOHN FLETCHER                    | JOINER  |
| WILLIAM FREARSON                 | FARMER  |
| JAMES GILBERT                    | FARMER  |
| JAMES HUSBANDS                   | FARMER  |
| JAMES KNIGHT                     | FARMER  |
| THOMAS MANSFIELD                 | FARMER  |
| GEORGE MEE                       | SHOEMAKER & SHOPKEEPER                            |
| MARY MEE (MRS)                   | BEER RETAILER                                     |
| WILLIAM MEE                      | WHEELWRIGHT                                       |
| FRANCES PICKERING                | SHOPKEEPER  |
| HENRY RENNOX                     | SHOEMAKER   |
| JOSEPH RICHARDS                  | SHOE MAKER & SHOPKEEPER                           |
| ROBERT RICHARDS                  | SHOPKEEPER  |
| THOMAS SHAW                      | BLACKSMITH  |
| JOHN STANTON                     | FARMER  |
| JOSEPH STENSON                   | FARMER & CARRIER                                  |
| JAMES TIVEY                      | BEER RETAILER                                     |
| GEORGE VARLEY                    | BLACKSMITH  |
| JOHN VERNON                      | SHOEMAKER   |
| BENJAMIN WALKER                  | COAL MERCHANT SMOILE WORKS                        |
| JAMES WALKER                     | FARMER  |
| JOHN WARDLE                      | FARMER  |
| HANNAH WILLIAMSON (MRS)          | SHOPKEEPER  |

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>GRIFFYDAM</b> |  |
| DANIEL BURTON    | SHOPKEEPER   |
| THOMAS DOMAN     | SHOPKEEPER & TAILOR  |
| JAMES FLETCHER   | JOINER   |
| JOSEPH FLETCHER  | JOINER   |
| SAMUEL FLETCHER  | COOPER   |
| THOMAS HAYWOOD   | LICENSEE AT GRIFFIN & SHOEMAKER  |
| WILLIAM HAYWOOD  | SHOPKEEPER   |
| JOHN KENDRICK    | SHOPKEEPER & WHEELWRIGHT   |
| JAMES MASSEY     | SHOPKEEPER   |
| JOSEPH MEE       | BLACKSMITH   |
| JOHN NICKLINSON  | BEER RETAILER (WAGGON&HORSES)<br>FARMER & BRICKMAKER   |
| WILLIAM WALE     | FRAMEWORK KNITTER  |
| <b>NEWBOLD</b>   |  |
| WILLIAM DEACON   | FARMER   |
| GEORGE FOWKES    | SHOEMAKER  |
| ANN KIDGER (MRS) | FARMER   |
| WILLIAM KNIGHT   | FARMER   |
| JOHN PIXON       | SHOPKEEPER   |
| JAMES SHARP      | FARMER   |
| JOHN WILSON      | POTTER   |
| <b>GELSMORE</b>  |  |
| GEORGE CRABTREE  | LICENSEE OF RAILWAY HOTEL & JOINER   |
| JOHN LITHERLAND  | FARMER - GELSMORE HOUSE  |
|                  |  |
|                  | LETTERS RECEIVED THROUGH<br>ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH, WHICH IS ALSO<br>THE NEAREST MONEY ORDER OFFICE |

## GAZETTEER AND DIRECTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND - 1861

**WORTHINGTON** is a village in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill, and Union of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, from which latter place is 5 miles N.E. Its Township and chapelry comprises also the hamlets of GRIFYDAM, GIRLSMOOR, and NEWBOLD JUXTA, and contains about 1,630 acres of land, and 1203 inhabitants. The Church or chapel dedicated to St. Matthew, is a plain building, with a belfry for two bells. The living is a perpetual curacy, valued at £120, in the gift of Lord Scarsdale and incumbency of the Rev. John James Dean, M.A. of Derby. In the Township there are four chapels belonging to the Wesleyan Methodists. There are Sunday Schools in connexion with all the chapels, and likewise with the church. Earl Ferrers (now a minor) is lord of the manor, near the corn mill in the occupation of Mr. John Poxon, was formerly a hall, the seat of the Shirleys' and Boothbys', the site now belonging to John Bulstrode, Esq. The tithes were commuted in 1802, when the chapelry was enclosed. In 1698, Henry Pilkington charged a farm of 150.A. now belonging to Mr. Bulstrode, with a weekly distribution of six penny loaves among the poor. This chapelry is entitled to have a poor boy apprentice from lady Beaumont's charity.

|                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>GIRLSMOOR</b>       |                                 |
| GEORGE CRABTREE        | VICTUALLER AT RAILWAY TAVERN    |
| GEORGE HALFPENNY       | BRICKMAKER                      |
| WILLIAM KNIGHT         | EARTHENWARE DEALER              |
| JAMES MARSON           | NAILMAKER                       |
| JOSEPH PERCIVAL        | BRICKLAYER                      |
| THOMAS SHAW            | BLACKSMITH                      |
| JAMES KNIGHT           | FARMER                          |
| WILLIAM KNIGHT         | FARMER                          |
| JOHN VERNON            | COLLIERY CLERK                  |
| EDWARD JOHNSON         | TAILOR                          |
| <b>GRIFYDAM</b>        |                                 |
| JOHN LEATHERLAND       | CATTLE DEALER                   |
| JOHN NICKLINSON        | VICTUALLER., WAGGON AND HORSES  |
| THOMAS DORMAN          | SHOPKEEPER                      |
| JOHN KENDRICK          | SHOPKEEPER                      |
| GEORGE RADFORD         | SHOPKEEPER                      |
| <b>NEWBOLD JUXTA</b>   |                                 |
| JAMES BONSER           | BEERHOUSE KEEPER                |
| WILLIAM COOPER         | BLACKSMITH                      |
| WILLIAM DEACON         | FARMER                          |
| WILLIAM KNIGHT         | FARMER                          |
| JOHN POXON SENR.       | FARMER                          |
| JAMES SHARP            | FARMER                          |
| WILLIAM COOPER         | FARMER                          |
| <b>WORTHINGTON</b>     |                                 |
| JOHN MYNORS BULSTRODE  | GENTLEMAN                       |
| MISS GRACE BULSTRODE   | DAUGHTER                        |
| WILLIAM MEE            | VICTUALLER., OLD SWAN           |
| JOHN POXON JUNR.       | CORN MILLER AT WORTHINGTON MILL |
| GEORGE VARLEY          | BLACKSMITH                      |
| WILLOUGHBY BERRIDGE    | FARMER                          |
| JOHN SHAKESPEAR BOWLES | FARMER AT WORTHINGTON FIELD     |
| JOHN FARMER            | FARMER                          |
| WILLIAM FARMER         | FARMER                          |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| WILLIAM KNIGHT  | FARMER   |
| FRANK JAMES     | SHOPKEEPER AND BAKER   |
| ROBERT RICHARDS | SHOPKEEPER AND BAKER   |
| LETITIA SELBY   | SHOPKEEPER   |
| JOHN WARDLE     | SHOPKEEPER   |
|                 |  |
|                 | LETTERS FROM ASHBY-DE LA-ZOUCH AT<br>9 A.M. DESPACHED 4-20 P.M. ASHBY IS<br>THE NEAREST MONEY ORDER OFFICE |
|                 |  |
|                 | CARRIERS TO ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH<br>PASS THROUGH  |
|                 |  |

**HISTORY, GAZETTEER, & DIRECTORY OF  
LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND 1863 (2nd EDITION)  
BY WILLIAM WHITE**

WORTHINGTON in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill, is a village of 802 inhabitants with a colliery railway connected with the Swannington & Leicester line. It is distant nearly 5 miles N.E. of Ashby-de-la-Zouch and its township and chapelry comprise also the small hamlets of GRIFFYDAM, OR GRIFFITH'S DAM, and the liberty of Newbold Saucey or NEWBOLD-JUXTA-WORTHINGTON, which contains 338 souls and are situated about one and a half miles south of the village and three and a half miles E.N.E. of Ashby. The whole chapelry has 1663A. 1R. 14P. of land, and 1172 souls. There is a chalybeate spring at Griffydam, and a petrifying spring on Gelsmoor. Newbold contains about 500 acres, and has a colliery, it belongs to Earl Ferrers and Sir G. H. Beaumont, Bart. Griffydam (about 200 acres) belongs to the Earl of Stamford and J. Curzon, Esq. Earl Ferrers is lord of the manor, and owner of a great part of Worthington, and the rest belongs to J. Curzon, Esq., Peter Heward, Esq., Capt. Dawson, J. Bulstrode Esq., and a few smaller owners. The Shirleys' and Boothbys' had formerly a seat here. The chapelry was enclosed in 1802, when the tithes were commuted. The Church (St. Matthew), supposed by some to be of Saxon origin, is an old structure of brick and stone, consisting of nave, chancel, south porch, and turret with two bells, but no tower. The living is a perpetual curacy, valued at £100 and augmented from 1747 to 1812, with £1600, in lot's of Queen Anne's Bounty and Parliamentary grants, Lord Scarsdale is patron, and the Re. James Dean, M.A., of Derby has been the incumbent since 1819. The Rev. H. G. Chaville is the curate. The church school on Gelsmoor, is licensed for divine worship. There are Wesleyan chapels at Worthington, Griffith's Dam, and Gelsmoor. Henry Pilkington in 1698, charged a farm of 150 acres, now belonging to Mr. Bulstrode, with the weekly distribution of six penny loaves among the poor. As noticed with Coleorton, this chapelry is one of four places entitled to have a poor boy apprenticed from Lady Beaumont's Charity. *In 1828 Lady Margaret Beaumont made a bequest to the Rector of Coleorton of £200 in trust. The yearly profits thereof to be used in apprenticing poor children of Coleorton, Worthington, Thringstone and Whitwick. Under this trust a premium of £10 was given yearly to an apprentice from one of the four parishes in rotation.*

POST from Ashby at 8 in the morning returning at 4 in the afternoon. There is a pillar box.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>WORTHINGTON</b>                           |  |
| PHOEBE BAKEWELL                              | SCHOOL MISTRESS                        |
| JOHN MYNORS BULSTRODE, ESQ.                  | GENTLEMAN                              |
| REV. H. G. DE CHAVILLE                       | ST. MATTHEWS - CURATE                  |
| REV. JAMES DEAN M.A., OF DERBY               | ST. MATTHEWS - INCUMBENT SINCE 1819    |
| AMBROSE FREARSON                             | CHURCH CLERK                           |
| REV. HENRY THEOPHOLUS HASTINGS<br>KELK, B.A. | ?                                      |
| THOMAS LAKIN                                 | COLLIERY MANAGER                       |
| JAMES TIVEY                                  | LICENSEE - MALTSHOVEL                  |
| WILLIAM MEE                                  | LICENSEE - OLD SWAN AND<br>WHEELWRIGHT |
| THOMAS VARLEY                                | BLACKSMITH                             |
| GEORGE MEE                                   | BOOT & SHOE MAKER                      |





## HARROD & Co's POSTAL DIRECTORY OF DERBYSHIRE & LEICESTERSHIRE - 1870

Worthington is a chapelry and railway station distant 5 miles from Ashby-de-la-Zouch in the north division of the county, hundred of West Goscote, union and county court district of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, diocese of Peterborough, archdeaconry of Leicester, and rural deanery of Akely. The church is dedicated to St. Matthew. The living is a vicarage, annual value £117, with residence, in the gift of Lord Scarsdale. The Rev. John Oatway Brook is the vicar. The Wesleyans have chapels at Worthington, Griffydam and Gellsmoor. There is a church of England School for boys and girls at Gellsmoor, W. F. Newman master, Mrs. Newman, mistress. The acreage is 1663, the chief owners are Earl Ferrers (lord of the manor), Earl of Stamford, G. H. Beaumont, and N. C. Curzon, Esqs. The population is about 1800. Newbold, Gellsmoor and Griffydam are hamlets belonging to the parish. Letters arrive at 8.35 a.m., are despatched at 4.20 p.m. The nearest money order and telegraph office and post-town is Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Brook Rev. J. Oatway, vicar, the vicarage

Bulstrode Mrs, the Cottage

| <b>WORTHINGTON</b>                   |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| SAMUEL BAILEY                        | BOOT & SHOE MAKER                     |
| WILLIAM BAXTER                       | BLACKSMITH & FARRIER                  |
| JOHN BIRD                            | BUTCHER                               |
| SARAH COOPER                         | GROCER                                |
| CO-OPERATIVE                         | GROCERY STORE                         |
| DENNIS THOMAS                        | TAILOR                                |
| WILLIAM ELLIOT                       | GROCER                                |
| J. FLETCHER                          | CARPENTER                             |
| JOHN FLETCHER                        | CARPENTER                             |
| GEORGE FOWKES                        | BOOT AND SHOE MAKER                   |
| JOSEPH HEWITT                        | BEER RETAILER                         |
| EDWARD JOHNSON                       | TAILOR                                |
| GEORGE MEE                           | BOOT AND SHOE MAKER                   |
| THOMAS MEE                           | WHEELWRIGHT                           |
| WILLIAM MEE                          | SWAN INN AND OILSTONE<br>MANUFACTURER |
| B. PERCIVAL                          | BRICKLAYER                            |
| GEORGE PERCIVAL                      | BRICKLAYER AND SHOPKEEPER             |
| JOSEPH PERCIVAL                      | BRICKLAYER                            |
| JOSEPH. S. RICHARDS                  | GROCER                                |
| THOMAS SHAW                          | BLACKSMITH                            |
| THOMAS TIVEY                         | GROCER AND BAKER                      |
| JAMES WINFIELD                       | MALTSHOVEL                            |
| JOSEPH ADKIN                         | FARMER                                |
| JOSEPH BLUNT                         | VICAR AND FARMER                      |
| JOHN FARMER                          | FARMER AND LANDOWNER                  |
| JOSEPH STUBBS                        | FARMER AND MILLER                     |
| WILLIAM STUBBS                       | FARMER                                |
| JOHN WARDLE                          | FARMER                                |
| <b>GRIFFYDAM</b>                     |                                       |
| WILLIAM DOMAN                        | TAILOR AND GROCER                     |
| THOMAS GOSTELOW- WAGON AND<br>HORSES | BUTCHER AND VICTUALLER                |
| THOMAS HAYWOOD - GRIFFIN INN         | BRICKLAYER AND VICTUALLER             |
| JOHN KENDRICK                        | GROCER AND BAKER                      |

|                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| JOSEPH LAGER                     | BEER RETAILER            |
| LEONARD PALMER                   | SPAR ORNAMENT MAKER      |
| THOMAS UPTON                     | BEER RETAILER            |
| <b>NEWBOLD</b>                   |                          |
| JAMES BONSOR                     | CROSS KEYS               |
| HENRY COOPER                     | FARMER                   |
| W & J. KNIGHT                    | FARMER                   |
| HENRY E. RADFORD                 | FARMER                   |
| JOSEPH SHARP                     | FARMER                   |
| JOSIAH WALKER                    | FARMER                   |
| <b>GELSMOOR</b>                  |                          |
| GEORGE CRABTREE - RAILWAY TAVERN | CARPENTER AND VICTUALLER |
| WHITE ARMSON                     | FARMER                   |
| SAMUEL BAILEY                    | FARMER                   |
| JAMES KNIGHT                     | FARMER                   |
| BENJAMIN PERCIVAL                | FARMER                   |

**HISTORY, GAZETTEER AND DIRECTORY OF  
LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 1877  
BY WILLIAM WHITE**

**WORTHINGTON**, with **NEWBOLD**, is a township within the ancient parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill and Ashby Union and County Court District, and comprises about 1664 acres, containing in 1871, 1134 persons living in 246 houses. Its village, which has a station on the Derby and Ashby-de-la-Zouch Railway is nearly 5 miles N.E. of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and its township comprises also the small hamlet of Griffydam, or Griffith's Dam, and the liberty of Newbold Saucey, or Newbold-juxta-Worthington, which is situated about one and a half miles S. of the village, and three and a half miles E.N.E. of Ashby. There was a chalybeate spring at Griffydam and a petrifying spring on Gelsmoor, but these are now lost. Newbold contains about 500 acres, and belongs to Sir G. H. Beaumont, Bart., Earl Ferrers, and P. Heward Esq. Griffydam (about 200 acres) belongs to C. F. A. Hastings, Esq., of Castle Donington. Earl Ferrers is lord of the manor of Worthington, but N. C. Curzon Esq., owns the greater part of the soil, and the rest mostly belongs to Earl Ferrers and Mrs. Bulstrode. The Shirleys' and Boothbys' had each formerly a seat here. The chapelry was enclosed in 1802, when the Tithes were commuted. The **CHURCH** (St. Matthew), supposed by some to be of Saxon origin, is an old structure of stone, consisting of navel, chancel, stone porch, and turret with two bells, but no tower. There is no burial-ground, attached to the Church. The living is a vicarage, valued at £100, and augmented from 1747 to 1812 with £1600, in lots of Queen Anne's Bounty and Parliamentary grants. Lord Scarsdale is patron, and the Rev. John Oatway Brook is the incumbent, who has a vicarage house built in 1869, at a cost of £1400, half of which was given by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The Township was formerly a chapelry within its mother parish, but under the Act constituting all incumbencies not handing over fees over to the mother church vicarages, it became a vicarage. There are **WESLEYAN CHAPELS** at Worthington, Griffydam (with graveyard attached) and Gelsmoor. The **NATIONAL SCHOOL**, with teachers residence was built in 1872, at an outlay of £1,500, raised by subscription, and a government grant of £208 10s. weekly. Henry Pilkington in 1698 charged a farm of 150 acres, now belonging to Mrs. Bulstrode, with the weekly distribution of six penny loaves among the poor. As noticed with Coleorton, this chapelry is one of the four places entitled to have a poor boy from Lady Beaumont's Charity. Miss Grace Bulstrode, by her will, dated October 20th, 1860, devised £1,600 to trustees ; of the dividends arising from its investment by the Charity Commissioners, £23 14s.. is applied to the Church of England schools, £14 10s. 2d. to the clothing club, and £8 17s. 8d. is given to the poor.

**POST** via Ashby-de-la-Zouch, which is the nearest Money Order Office. There is a **WALL LETTER BOX** here, and also one at Griffydam, cleared a 5 p.m.

| <b>WORTHINGTON</b>   |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| JOSEPH ADKIN         | FARMER AND GRAZIER         |
| WILLIAM BAILEY       | BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURER |
| MATTHEW BAKEWELL     | BAKER AND GROCER           |
| ? BARKER             | SHOPKEEPER                 |
| WILLIAM BAXTER       | BLACKSMITH                 |
| JAMES BIRD           | FARMER                     |
| JOSEPH VICKERS BLUNT | FARMER AND GRAZIER         |
| RICHARD BRAY         | FARMER                     |

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| REV. JOHN OATWAY BROOK       | VICAR, THE VICARAGE                         |
| HENRY COOPER                 | FARMER AND GRAZIER                          |
| WILLIAM DABELL               | FARMER                                      |
| ABRAHAM FREARSON             | PARISH CLERK                                |
| THOMAS GARRATT               | FARMER, WHITE HOUSE                         |
| JAMES HUSBAND                | FARMER AND GRAZIER, WHITE HOUSE             |
| HENRY KIRK                   | STATION MASTER                              |
| GEORGE MEE                   | BOOT AND SHOE MAKER                         |
| WILLIAM MEE                  | VICTUALLER - OLD SWAN INN                   |
| REV. JOHN PARKER             |   |
| DAVID SKETCHLEY              | BUTCHER                                     |
| JOSEPH STUBBS                | MILLER AND FARMER                           |
| WILLIAM STUBBS               | FARMER AND GRAZIER,<br>WORTHINGTON FIELD    |
| THOMAS TIVEY                 | BAKER, GROCER AND FARMER                    |
| JOHN WARDLE                  | FARMER AND GRAZIER                          |
| JAMES WINIELD                | VICTUALLER - MALT SHOVEL INN                |
| <b>GRIFFYDAM</b>             |   |
| WILLIAM DOMAN                | TAILOR, BAKER AND GROCER                    |
| THOMAS GOSTELOW              | BUTCHER AND VICTUALLER<br>WAGGON AND HORSES |
| THOMAS HAYWOOD               | VICTUALLER, GRIFFIN INN                     |
| JOHN ISON                    | SHOPKEEPER                                  |
| JOHN KENDRICK                | GROCER AND BAKER                            |
| JOSEPH LAGER                 | BEER HOUSE                                  |
| LEONARD PALMER               | SPAR MANUFACTURER                           |
| JOHN PLATTS                  | COWKEEPER                                   |
| JESSE SKETCHLEY              | FARMER                                      |
| JAMES SMART (JOSEPH AND SON) | EARTHENWARE MANUFACTURERS                   |
| JOSEPH SMART AND SON         | EARTHENWARE MANUFACTURERS                   |
| HENRY SOUTHERD               | BEERHOUSE                                   |
| <b>NEWBOLD</b>               |   |
| JAMES BONSER                 | VICTUALLER, CROSS-KEYS                      |
| THOMAS EDWARD COOPER         | FARMER, LIME AND COAL AGENT                 |
| JOSEPH FLETCHER              | JOINER                                      |
| JOHN KNIGHT                  | FARMER AND CARPENTER                        |
| JOSEPH KNIGHT                | FARMER AND GRAZIER                          |
| GEORGE ARGYLE MOSEDALE       | SCHOOLMASTER                                |
| JOSEPH READ                  | POSTMAN                                     |
| JAMES SHARPE                 | FARMER                                      |
| JOSIAH WALKER                | FARMER AND HIDE AND SKIN MERCHANT           |
| <b>GELSMOOR</b>              |   |
| GEORGE CRABTREE              | VICTUALLER, RAILWAY TAVERN                  |
| ROBERT KNIGHT                | FARMER AND GROCER                           |
|                              |   |
|                              |   |
|                              |   |

## WRIGHT'S DIRECTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND - 1880

Worthington is a parish, chapelry, and station, in the northern division of the county, hundred of West Goscote, rural deanery of Akely, Ashby Union and County Court District. The parish comprises the four townships of Worthington, Newbold, Griffydam, and Gelsmoor. Worthington township is 5 miles N.E. from Ashby. St. Matthew's church, supposed to be of Saxon origin, is a plain ancient building, with chancel, nave, south porch, and turret with two bells. The living is a vicarage of the annual value of £120, with residence, in the gift of the Rev. Lord Scarsdale. There is a Wesleyan Chapel. The national school at Newbold was built in 1872 at a cost of £1,500, raised by subscription and grants. It will accommodate 200 children. A sum of £1,600 was left by Miss grace Bulstrode, the interest of which is given to the schools, a clothing club, &c. Acreage 1663 ; rateable value, £3,614 ; population in 1871, 1134.

**ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH.** - services, Sunday, at 10-30 and 6-30. Sacrament last Sunday in month.

Rev. J.O.Brook ; Churchwarden, Mr. Henry Cooper ; Clerk, Abraham Frearson Windle's Hymns.

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL** .- 2-30 and 6. Chapel Keeper, John Wardle.

Letters arrive from Ashby, which is the nearest Money Order and Telegraph Office, at 9-30. Box cleared at 4-5.

| <b>WORTHINGTON</b>              |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| WILLIAM BAXTER                  | BLACKSMITH AND FARRIER                                   |
| REV. J OATWAY BROOK             | THE VERGE - VICARAGE                                     |
| HENRY KIRK                      | STATION MASTER   |
| DAVID SKETCHLEY                 | BUTCHER  |
| JOSIAH WESTON                   | COAL DEALER  |
| WILLIAM BAILEY                  | COTTAGER AND COW KEEPER                                  |
| JAMES EAGLE                     | COTTAGER AND COW KEEPER                                  |
| GEORGE MEE                      | COTTAGER AND COW KEEPER                                  |
| THOMAS SMITH                    | COTTAGER AND COW KEEPER                                  |
| MRS. ANN MEE                    | DRESSMAKER   |
| MRS. MARY WINFIELD              | DRESSMAKER   |
| MRS. SARAH                      | WRIGHT   |
| JOSEPH ADKIN                    | FARMER AND GRAZIER                                       |
| JAMES BIRD                      | FARMER AND GRAZIER                                       |
| JOSEPH VICKERS BLUNT            | FARMER AND GRAZIER                                       |
| MRS. SARAH COOPER AND SON HENRY | FARMER AND GRAZIER                                       |
| THOMAS COOPER - SMOILE FARM     | FARMER AND GRAZIER                                       |
| THOMAS GARRATT - WHITE HOUSE    | FARMER AND GRAZIER                                       |
| JOSEPH STUBBS                   | FARMER AND GRAZIER AND CORN MILLER                       |
| WILLIAM STUBBS                  | FARMER AND GRAZIER                                       |
| THOMAS TIVEY                    | BAKER AND SHOPKEEPER                                     |
| JOHN WARDLE - WORTHINGTON FIELD | FARMER AND GRAZIER                                       |
| WILLIAM MEE                     | COW KEEPER, WHEELWRIGHT AND VICTUALLER AT OLD SWAN       |
| JAMES WINFIELD                  | SHOPKEEPER, WHEELRIGHT AND VICTUALLER AT THE MALT SHOVEL |
| MATTHEW BAKEWELL                | SHOPKEEPER AND BAKER                                     |
| CHARLES CHESTER                 | SHOPKEEPER   |
| RICHARD JAMES                   | SHOPKEEPER   |
| THOMAS TIVEY                    | SHOPKEEPER AND BAKER                                     |

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>NEWBOLD &amp; NEWBOLD GATE</b> |  |
| MARK COOPER                       | VICTUALLER - CROSS KEYS                      |
| JOSEPH FLETCHER                   | JOINER - NEWBOLD GATE                        |
| PETER HEWARD                      | NEWBOLD GATE                                 |
| JOSEPH KNIGHT                     | FARMER, GRAZIER AND SHOPKEEPER               |
| JAMES SHARPE                      | FARMER AND GRAZIER                           |
| JOSIAH WALKER                     | HIDE AND SKIN MERCHANT                       |
| <b>GRIFFDAM</b>                   |  |
| JAMES FLETCHER                    | JOINER                                       |
| LEONARD PALMER                    | SPAR ORNAMENT TURNER                         |
| JOSEPH SMART AND SON (JAMES)      | EARTHENWARE MANUFACTURER -<br>BRICK MAKER    |
| JESSE SKETCHLEY                   | FARMER AND GRAZIER                           |
| JOHN PLATTS                       | BRICKLAYER AND BUILDER                       |
| THOMAS GOSTELLOW                  | BUTCHER AND VICTUALLER - WAGON<br>AND HORSES |
| MRS. ANN HAYWOOD                  | VICTUALLER - GRIFFIN INN                     |
| JONAS KNIGHT                      | BEER HOUSE KEEPER - RISING SUN               |
| JOSEPH LAGER                      | RETIRED BHK                                  |
| BENJAMIN PERCIVAL                 | BEER HOUSE KEEPER - RED LION                 |
| WILLIAM DOLMAN                    | TAILOR, BAKER AND SHOPKEEPER                 |
| JOHN ISON                         | SHOPKEEPER                                   |
| JOHN KENDRICK                     | SHOPKEEPER AND BAKER                         |
| WILLIAM WALE                      | SHOPKEEPER AND CHEMIST                       |
| <b>GELSMOOR</b>                   |  |
| EDWARD JOHNSON                    | TAILOR                                       |
| GEORGE ARGYLE MOSEDALE            | MASTER AT NATIONAL SCHOOL                    |
| BENJAMIN PERCIVAL                 | BRICKLAYER AND BUILDER                       |
| MISS JOHNSON                      | DRESSMAKER                                   |
| GEORGE CRABTREE                   | JOINER AND VICTUALLER RAILWAY<br>TAVERN      |
| ROBERT KNIGHT                     | FARMER AND SHOPKEEPER                        |
| GEORGE PERCIVAL                   | BRICKLAYER, BUILDER AND<br>SHOPKEEPER        |

## KELLY'S DIRECTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND - 1908

Worthington is a parish and station on the Ashby and Melbourne branch of the Midland Railway, 4 1/2 miles north of east from Ashby de la Zouch, in the western division of the county, West Goscote hundred, Ashby de la Zouch petty Sessional division, union and county court district, rural deanery of West Akely, archdeaconry of Leicester and diocese of Peterborough. The church of St. Mathew is a plain edifice of stone, erected towards the close of the 12th or the commencement of the 13th century, and consists of chancel, nave, south porch, and a bell-cot at the west and containing three bells : the chancel retains a piscina and an aumbry, and has an oak screen : the church was restored in 1890 at a cost of £1,200, and affords 200 sittings ; there being no burial ground, internments are made in that of the mother church, Breedon on the Hill. The register dates from the year 1653, and is in good preservation. The living is a vicarage, net yearly value of £115, including 58 acres of glebe, with residence, in the gift of Lord Scarsdale, and held since 1894 by the Rev. George William Bridges Dalrymple, of Exeter College, Oxford, who resides at Newbold. There are Wesleyan Methodist Chapels at Worthington and Griffydam, and a Wesleyan Reform Chapel at Griffydam. The parish room and reading room in the village is managed by the vicar. The interest of £1,600 was left for the schools, clothing club and poor by Miss Grace Bulstrode in 1860 : of this £21 14s. is appropriated to the church schools, £13 7s. to the clothing club and £8 0s. 2d. to the poor. The Earl Ferrers is Lord of the manor. William Curzon esq, of Lockington Hall. Sir George Howland William Beaumont bart, and the trustees of the Late lord Donington (d. 1895) are chief landowners. The soil is mixed ;, subsoil, sandstone, like, red marl and blue clay. The area is 1,732 acres ; rateable value, £4,273 ; in 1901 the population was 953.

Newbold is a liberty, Gelsmoor, Griffydam and Outwoods are places in the parish.

**POST OFFICE.** - Mary Ann Edgley, sub - postmistress.

Letters through Ashby de la Zouch arrive at 8.00 a.m. ; dispatched at 5.30 p.m. ; no Sunday delivery. Ashby de la Zouch is the nearest money order office and the telegraph office is at the railway station, which is open on weekdays only.

**POST OFFICE** - Griffydam. Herbert Rowell, sub-postmaster.

Letters from Ashby de la Zouch arrive at 8.20 a.m. ; dispatched at 5.15 p.m. ; No Sunday delivery. The nearest money order office is at Coleorton, and the telegraph office at Worthington Railway station, 2 miles distant. Wall letter box Newbold cleared at 5. p.m.

**PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS** -Newbold (mixed) built, with residence for the master, at a cost of £1,500, and enlarged in 1899 for 263 children ; average attendance 180 ; Reuben Sisson, master ; Miss Florence Eley, Miss J. A. Gough, Miss Jessie Pearson, and Miss Margaret Storer, assistants.

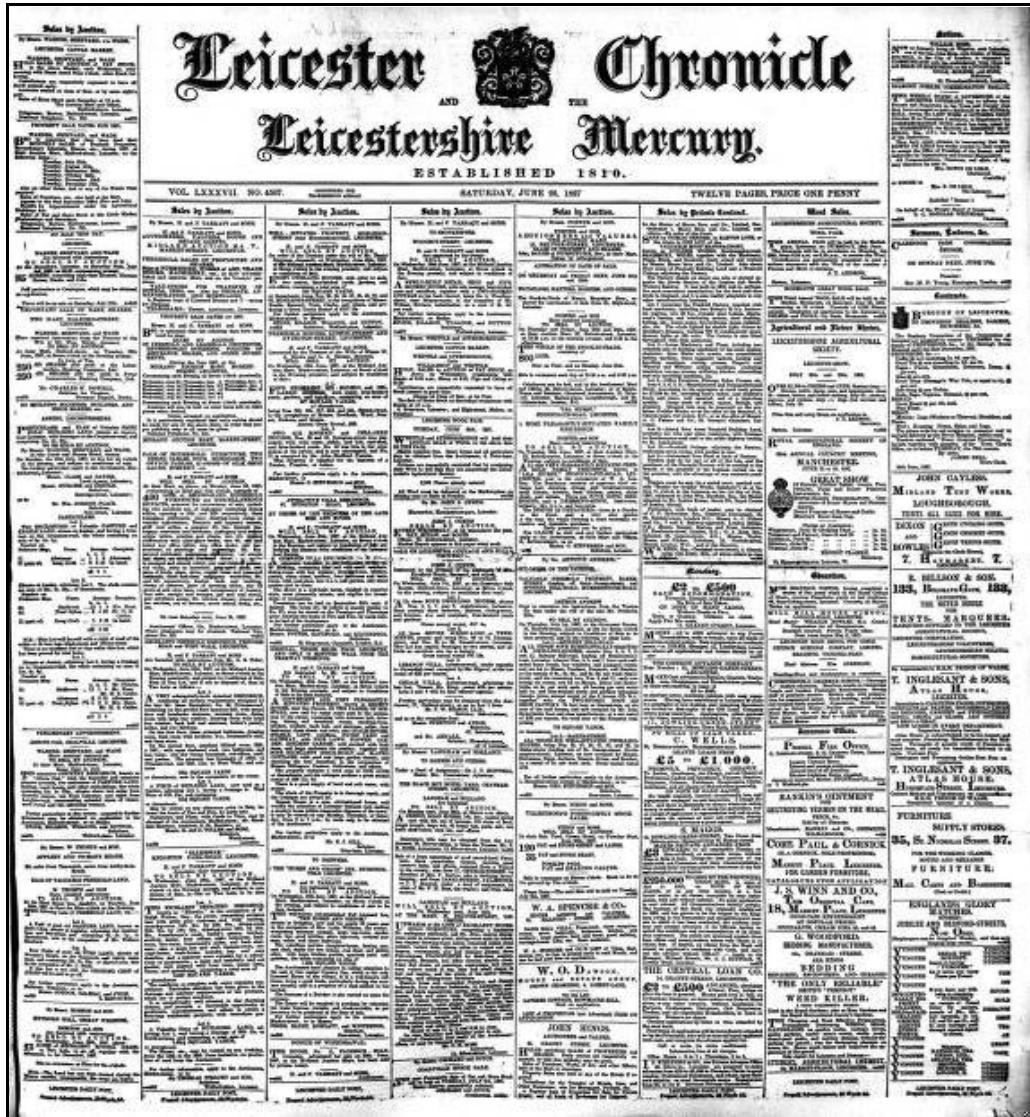
**RAILWAY STATION** - Harry York, station master

Continued over page



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>WORTHINGTON</b>                           |  |
| WILLIAM BAILEY                               | FARMER AND ASSISTANT OVERSEER<br>(SMOILE)              |
| JOHN BIRD                                    | FARMER AT WORTHINGTON FIELD                            |
| JOHN BIRD                                    | SHOPKEEPER   |
| WILLIAM CHESTER                              | FARMER AND MILLER (WATER MILL)                         |
| WILLIAM COOPER                               | COWKEEPER AND LICENSEE AT OLD<br>SWAN                  |
| GEORGE EDMUNDS                               | FARMER   |
| JOSEPH FREEMAN                               | COWKEEPER  |
| CHARLES MEE                                  | WHEELWRIGHT AND LICENSEE AT THE<br>MALT SHOVEL         |
| FREDERICK JESSOP                             | SHOPKEEPER   |
| RICHARD MEE                                  | SHOEMAKER  |
| HENRY SHAW                                   | COWKEEPER  |
| THOMAS SHAW                                  | COWKEEPER AT WHITE HOUSE                               |
| JOHN G SHIELD                                | FARMER AT MANOR HOUSE                                  |
| WILLIAM SMITH                                | COWKEEPER  |
| THOMAS KENDRICK STARTIN                      | FARMER AND OVERSEER                                    |
| WORTHINGTON COLLIERY AND PIPE<br>COMPANY LTD | COLLIERY PROPRIETERS AND DRAIN<br>PIPE MAKERS          |
| <b>GELSMOOR</b>                              |  |
| MRS. VERNON                                  |  |
| WILLIAM BIRCH                                | COWKEEPER  |
| HERBERT HOULT                                | FARMER AND BAKER                                       |
| JAMES KNIGHT                                 | FARMER   |
| MATTHEW LAKIN                                | COWKEEPER  |
| JAMES LEESON                                 | COWKEEPER  |
| SIMEON STACEY                                | BUTCHER (WOOLROOMS)                                    |
| ELI WHITE                                    | LICENSEE RAILWAY TAVERN                                |
| <b>OUTWOODS</b>                              |  |
| JOHN KNIGHT                                  | COWKEEPER  |
| SAMUEL TOWERS                                | CARRIER  |
| WILSON WRIGHT                                | COWKEEPER  |
| <b>GRIFFYDAM</b>                             |  |
| WILLIAM BATSON                               | BEER RETAILER  |
| WILLIAM FREDERICK COX                        | FARMER AND LICENSEE AT WAGGON<br>AND HORSES            |
| JOHN EMMERSON                                | BEER RETAILER AND FARMER                               |
| MISS MARY ANN FLETCHER                       | DRESS MAKER  |
| JOSEPH ISON                                  | SHOPKEEPER   |
| FREDERICK JOHNSON                            | LICENSEE AT GRIFFIN INN                                |
| JONAS KNIGHT                                 | FARMER   |
| NENRY LEECH                                  | FARMER   |
| HERBERT ROWELL                               | BAKE, GROCER AND SUB- POSTMASTER                       |
| <b>NEWBOLD</b>                               |  |
| REV. GEORGE WILLIAM BRIDGES<br>DALRYMPLE     | VICAR  |
| GODFREY MOORE                                |  |
| JOSEPH H RILEY                               |  |
| WILLIAM CRABTREE                             | BUILDER AND LICENSEE AT THE CROSS<br>KEYS PUBLIC HOUSE |
| WILLIAM HOUGH                                | FARMER   |
| JOSIAH WALKER                                | FARMER   |
| JAMES STATHAM                                | BOOT MAKER   |

**A COMPILATION OF TRANSCRIBED OLD NEWSPAPER  
REPORTS ON GRIFFYDAM, WORTHINGTON & GELSMOOR  
(LITTLE WAS RECORDED ON NEWBOLD)**



**TRANSCRIBED BY SAMUEL T STEWART**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Having spent many years researching local social and industrial history, the author has found that newspaper articles provide a remarkable insight into village social history, and provide information that is not readily available elsewhere. They have the added benefit of providing a personal touch also as villagers names are included which can be invaluable for genealogists in particular.

The adjacent villages of Worthington, Gelsmoor, Griffydam, Pegg's Green and Osgathorpe contained 15 public houses (Inns) all in use at the same time in the mid nineteenth century. It is therefore not surprising that numerous incidents resulted from the consumption of alcohol by the regular imbibers. It is easy to forget however, that the local pubs were also centres for the villagers to meet up and they served an important need in the community, as well as providing a place for men, having spent a day underground in the local coal mines, or working at the limestone quarries for example to quench their thirst. It was not unknown for some to stay there till the next shift without returning home. We should not forget the hard working agricultural workers employed on the numerous farms that existed in the locality either. From the pubs social entertainment like football and cricket teams, darts and domino leagues etc. developed which brought together people from different villages to compete and form competitive friendships with each other.

The main religion in these villages was non-conformist, being catered for by numerous Methodist (Wesleyan, Primitive and Wesleyan Reform) and Baptist chapels which were influenced by the growth of coal mining in the area. They of course were also centres of social life and together with the pubs there was little else to engage the communities. Many temperance meetings were held to persuade people to abstain from alcohol and there is evidence that numerous pledges of abstinence were made at these meetings.

It is quite remarkable that three new schools were built in the villages of Griffydam and Pegg's Green from 1853 onwards and the infant school in Griffydam is still a thriving school. These again contributed to the social life of the community and educated the local villages children from infant to high school levels. The Griffydam Wesleyan Day School built in Pegg's Green in 1853 achieved remarkable results and a publication on its history can be found on the websites below.

Yes, the villagers were generally poor, with large families to feed and they experienced hard times, but that does not take away the community spirit that developed, and which does not generally exist today.

The following are only a selection, but it is hoped the reader will find them not only interesting to read, but perhaps bring back a few memories and prove helpful to their own research. There are numerous examples of Victorian journalism which in itself makes fascinating reading and is in stark contrast to the grammar and punctuation used in today's journalism.

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## GRIFFYDAM

### **Leicester Chronicle – June 16<sup>th</sup> 1832**

**DARING ROBBERY.** – About nine o'clock on Saturday, as a female named Hibbert, of Griffydam, in this county, who travels about with earthenware, was coming along the Melton road to Loughborough, she was stopped by three men within two miles and a half of the latter place, who robbed her of 18 sovereigns', 4s 6d. in silver, and three pair of shoes, two of which were women's, and the other a child's about three years of age. One of the ruffians having knocked her down and kicked her while on the ground, the others proceeded to take the money &c., from her, saying with oaths, if she attempted to create any alarm, that they would murder her. They were dressed as sailors, two of them wearing white trousers, and the other blue ; one of them wore a glazed hat – the other a striped worsted cap, and the third had a red cotton handkerchief tied about his head. When they had plundered Mrs. Hibbert, they ran off in the direction of Melton.

### **Nottingham Review & General Advertiser for the Midland Counties – June 5<sup>th</sup> 1835**

#### **THE TOWN NEWS**

On Friday, an inquest was held before Johnathan Dann, gent., at Mr John Redferns, the Green Dragon, Park Street, relative to the death of Emily Marshall, an infant twenty three weeks old. It appeared that the deceased was the bastard child of a young woman **residing at Griffydam**, from which place she set out on Wednesday evening, along with her sister, to ask parochial relief from the parish of St. Mary, on account of her child ; they stayed at Wilne for the night, where they gave it some laudanum, and the next day, when they got to Nottingham, the child was just on the point of death. Mr. Lightfoot, surgeon, on examination of the body, stated that it appeared healthy, but that the lungs were inflamed, and he had no doubt the cause of death having imprudently administered an overdose of laudanum, which had produced convulsions. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.

### **Leicestershire Mercury – October 15<sup>th</sup> 1836**

**COURT LEET.** – The next Court Leet of the Manor of Worthington and Newbold will be held at the Waggon and Horses, Griffydam, on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, at 11 o'clock.

### **Leicester Journal – October 7<sup>th</sup> 1836**

#### **Manor of Worthington and Newbold with the members thereof, In the County of Leicester NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

That the next **COURT LEET** and **COURT BARON**, of the Right Honourable Washington Earl Ferrers, Lord of the Manor of Worthington and Newbold with the Members thereof, in the County of Leicester, will be holden at the house of **JOHN NICHLINSON**, called the Waggon and Horses, at Griffy Dam, within the said Manor, on Wednesday, the twenty sixth day of October, 1836, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon ; when and where all the Tenants of the said Manor, and the Freeholders and Inhabitants within the same, and all Persons whomsoever, who owe suit and service to the said Courts, or either of them, are personally to be and appear, then and there, to pay their Rents, and to perform their several suits and services, according to the custom of the said Manor.

Dated, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1836

**GILBERT STEPHENS**

*Steward of the said Manor*

### **Leicester Journal – October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1840**

**Ashby De La Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. - Before W. W. Abney and T. Mowbray Esqrs.**

Hannah Varnam, Sarah Varnam, and Catherine Spencer, of Griffydam, were charged with assaulting Thomas Proudman, on the 13<sup>th</sup> instant. It appeared from the evidence, that on the day in question, he went to Spencer's house to make a distress for a debt. As he seized the clock, Catherine Spencer laid hold of him, and the three defendants set upon him. Hannah Varnam hit him with a poker, and one got a piece of lighted coal. Witness said he was never

so beaten in his life, and called a witness named Robt. Ayre, who corroborated his testimony. Ayre said he was beaten as well as complainant; he never saw such a scene before; "the battle of Waterloo was a fool to it". **Convicted in the penalty of £1 each plus costs.**

**Leicester Mercury – September 4<sup>th</sup> 1841**

**Griffydham.** – On Sunday last, August 29<sup>th</sup>, two sermons were preached in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Griffydham, by the Rev. W. Hales, of Northampton, for the benefit of the Sunday School, when the liberal sum of £12 .5s. was collected.

**Leicester Mercury – September 25<sup>th</sup> 1841**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Before T. Mowbray, and R. G. Cresswell, Esq.**

Thomas Preston, of Griffydham, charged Susannah Marshall of the same place, with an assault. It appeared that there had been some old grievance between the parties, and on Monday last, defendant, going past complainant's shop, challenged him out to a fight, when he came, and they both began for a considerable time, until they were parted by the constable. The magistrate told the complainant he ought to be ashamed of fetching a summons, when it appeared from his own statement that they were both willing to fight; they therefore ordered each party to be bound over to keep the peace and pay the expenses between them.

Harriet Preston then charged Elizabeth Morley with assaulting her. It appeared that this case came out of the preceding one, and the magistrate advised them to settle it privately.

**Leicester Mercury – December 31<sup>st</sup> 1842**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup>**

James Edwards and two other men, notorious characters from Griffydham, were committed for trial, charged with stealing four geese and four hens, the property of James Walker of Packington.

**Leicester Mercury – May 13<sup>th</sup> 1843**

**Griffydham** – Two sermons were preached in the Wesleyan Chapel here, yesterday week, by the Rev. Dr. Beaumont of Liverpool, and liberal collections made.

**Leicester Chronicle – October 14<sup>th</sup> 1843**

.....Entire population of Breedon-on-the-Hill parish including the hamlets of Lount and Griffydham – 2,625 : area including Tonge and Wilson hamlets, 6,410 ; Eight persons have emigrated since 1840. Population of Worthington 1,143 ([presumably includes Newbold, Griffydham and probably Gelsmoor](#)).....

**Nottingham Review & General Advertiser for the Midland Counties –  
December 1<sup>st</sup> 1843**

**WESLEYAN MISSIONS.** – On Monday evening, the 27<sup>th</sup> instant, a most delightful missionary meeting was held in the Wesleyan chapel, Griffydham, in the Ashby Circuit. The chair was taken by J. Sowter, Esq., of Castle Donington, who after a few excellent introductory remarks, called upon the Revs. T. Staton, W. Bond, R. H. Hare, and A. Suter, Esq., of Halifax, to address the meeting. It is but just to say, that the speeches delivered by the various speakers, were of a very interesting and talented character. The crowded chapel and liberal collection clearly proved that the zeal for missionary enterprise is on the increase in that locality.

**Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties – January  
5<sup>th</sup> 1844**

**NOTTINGHAM IMPERIAL ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS  
THE SICK CLUB**

On Tuesday week, the sick club held at the house of Mr. John Nicklinson, the Waggon and Horses Inn, Griffydham, by virtue of a dispensation granted for the purpose, by the Nottingham Imperial Order of Odd Fellows, was converted into a body of that order. Messrs. J. Sturgess, T. Ironmonger, and other officers from neighbouring lodges were in attendance, to direct and assist in the initiatory ceremonies of the day. The brethren, about fifty in number, afterwards partook of a most excellent dinner, and the evening was spent in a convivial manner.

### **Leicester Chronicle – January 20<sup>th</sup> 1844**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday, Jan 13.**

Joseph Hewitt, of Griffydam, was charged by Mary Hickinbottom, of the same place, with an assault. It appeared that defendant overtook complainant near the workhouse at Ashby, on her way home; they entered into conversation, and at length began “hugging” each other. Complainant having allowed this, defendant thought he would be permitted a kiss, and in the struggle his elbow accidentally got into complainant’s mouth: consequently she applied for a warrant against him for indecent assault! **The magistrates were of the opinion that defendant was in the wrong, and he was fined 10s. and costs**

### **Leicester Journal – July 19<sup>th</sup> 1844**

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** – On Friday last, as Hannah the daughter of Mr. John Nicklinson of the Waggon and Horses Inn, Griffydam, was leaving the cheese-room which is reached by a flight of steps on the outside of the building, and which are quite unguarded, the handle of the door having become rusty, came off whilst she was pulling it to, and she fell back wards to the ground, and falling on her head dislocated the vertebrae of her neck, but being quickly raised up, instant death was prevented. She remained in an insensible state, till Sunday, when she expired in the 42<sup>nd</sup> year of her age. The inquest was held on the body before J. Gregory esq., Coroner, on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, and a verdict returned accordingly.

### **Leicester Journal – September 5<sup>th</sup> 1845**

#### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

William Haywood, carrier, of Griffydam, was charged with assaulting Thomas Henry Warner, son of the head English Master, at Ashby, on the 19<sup>th</sup> July last. It appeared from the evidence that the complainant was going home from the hayfield to his dinner about one o’clock, and when he got a short distance along the turnpike-road leading from Coleorton to Ashby, the defendant got out of his cart, and without the least provocation, commenced an assault upon the boy with the butt-end of his whip, and beat him most severely. Several witnesses were called, who confirmed the boy’s evidence. The defendant admitted the assault, but said, in extenuation, that he had been annoyed by boys getting on his cart behind, and he was determined to thrash the first he caught. The witness for the complainant being recalled, most distinctly proved that the complainant was never in the cart, and the assault was committed without the least provocation. Fined 30s., including costs, in default of immediate payment, one months imprisonment.

### **Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties – September 11<sup>th</sup> 1846**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

On Sunday last, two sermons were preached in the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydam, by the Rev. John Crawshaw, of Ashby de la Zouch, on behalf of the Sabbath schools connected with that and another chapel in the same locality. The collections, though ample, considering the present number of scholars, which from various causes are not so numerous as in past years, were considerably less than might have been expected from so large a congregation, and in a neighbourhood where Sabbath schools are so very popular.

### **Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties – October 16<sup>th</sup> 1846**

#### **IMPERIAL ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS**

The anniversary of the “Golden Fleece Lodge” No. 160, was held at host Nicklinson’s, the Waggon and Horses Inn, Griffydam, on Tuesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> instant. After the usual business of the lodge had been transacted, the brethren walked in procession, preceded by the Melbourne military band, to their parish church at Worthington, where an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Close P.G.M., of Woodhouse Eaves, after which they returned to their lodge room in the same order, and upwards of seventy of them partook of a most excellent dinner. On the cloth being withdrawn, the worthy clergyman condescended to take the chair, and Mr. Tugby, manufacturer was called to the vice-chair. The usual loyal toast of “The Queen and the Royal Family” was given and duly responded to. As was also “Brother Lomas”, our valued surgeon, “Brother Bostock”, “Brother Massey”, “P.G.M. Sturgess, and the visiting Brethren”, “Our Worthy Host”, “Prosperity to the Lodge”, “The Past and Present Officers” &c. In the course of the evening’s entertainment, brother Mee sung “The Brave old

Nelson", with admirable effect, and brother Sturgess recited the soliloquy of King Dick, in good style. The proceedings of the day were marked by order and good fellowship, and will long be remembered by all present.

**Leicester Journal – May 21<sup>st</sup> 1847**

**MARRIAGE.** – On the 13<sup>th</sup> inst. At Breedon, in the county, Mr. Jessie Sketchley, Miller, to Harriet, youngest daughter of the late Mr. T. Nichlinson, Waggon and Horses, Griffydam

**Leicester Mercury – December 16<sup>th</sup> 1848**

**Griffydam – Providence Day School.** – The first anniversary of this school took place in the Wesleyan Chapel, at the village, on Tuesday. There was a public examination of the scholars in the afternoon, which spoke well for the system on which they are educated. At the close of the examination, a large number of friends of the institution sat down for tea, which was furnished gratuitously by a few friends, so that the whole proceeds was donated to the school funds. After tea, a public meeting was held, when addresses on the subject of education were delivered by several ministers and others of the Wesleyan body. The whole proceedings excited great interest in the neighbourhood, and there is no doubt the institution will be benefited by them.

**Leicester Journal – July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1852**

**LEICESTERSHIRE POACHERS.** – At the Stamford Baron, on Friday week, William Haywood and John Stinson, dealers in earthenware, from Griffy-dam, near Ashby de la Zouch, were taken before W. L. Hopkinson Esq., on a charge of trespassing in pursuit of game, at Wothorpe. They were both convicted, and fined, including costs, 15s. each, which they paid.

**Leicester Journal – February 11<sup>th</sup> 1853**

**Valuable freehold property, at Griffydam, Leicestershire  
TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION,**

**In the Month of March next, unless previously disposed of by Public Contract**

ALL that substantial and Newly erected DWELLING HOUSE, comprising two parlours, Kitchen, Wash-house, Cellar and three lofty Bedrooms, with capital Soft Water Cistern, Garden and Croft, containing one Acre, or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. Grant and Mr. Hoult.

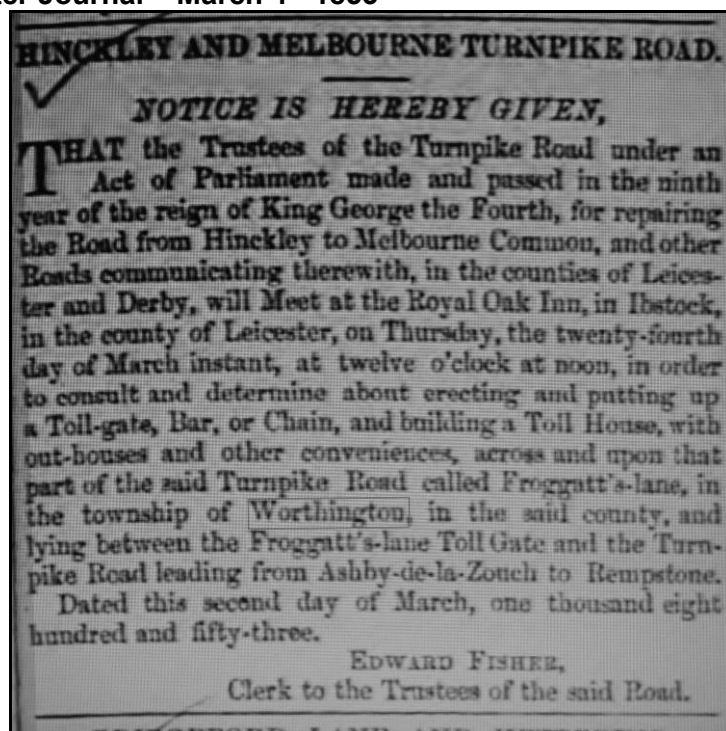
Also, all these two Well-built MESSUAGES adjoining, with all necessary Appurtenances thereto belonging, and now in the occupation of Mrs. Cartlidge and Mr. William Smith.

The above property is pleasantly situated in the centre of the village of Griffydam, is well built, and in good repair.

To view the same, apply to Mr. Cartlidge, on the premises ; and any further information may be obtained on application to

MR. DAVENPORT, Auctioneer, &c.  
Ashby de la Zouch

From Leicester Journal – March 4<sup>th</sup> 1853



**Leicester Chronicle – March 5<sup>th</sup> 1853**

**Ashby de la Zouch petty Sessions, Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> – before Rev. J. M. Eschalaz and W. W. Abney, and Geo. Moore Esqrs.**

Mary Robinson, a singular looking and diminutive young woman, of Griffydham, charged Joseph Bird of Thringstone, with indecently assaulting, kicking and striking her, on the high road near the former place, at nine o'clock on the night of the 12<sup>th</sup> of February. Her statement was corroborated by a female named Amelia Shaw, living near the place, who heard the complainant scream and call for help. Complainant admitted having a former acquaintance with the accused by whom she had a "little one". He made a lame attempt to prove that he was in another place at the time, but without success; **he was therefore convicted, and ordered to pay a fine of 25s., including expenses, half of which was paid down, and a fortnight allowed for the remainder.**

**Leicester Mercury – March 5<sup>th</sup> 1853**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions February 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Before W. W. Abney, Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz.**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, William Haywood of Griffydham, Whitwick, was apprehended by P.S. Iliffe, and charged before W. W. Abney Esq., of Measham Hall, with stealing four ducks, the property of Mr. William Kidger, farmer, of Peggs Green. **Committed for trial at the adjourned quarter sessions.**

**Leicester Mercury – August 6<sup>th</sup> 1853**

On Saturday night a quantity of thistle-top kidney potatoes and a potato fork were stolen from the garden of Francis Elliot, Griffydham

**Leicester Chronicle – August 20<sup>th</sup> 1853**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, August 13<sup>th</sup>. – Before W. W. Abney, and T. Mowbray Esqrs., and the Rev. J. Echalaz.**

Joseph Hodges (a boy of thirteen years of age) charged a farmer named John Litherland, of Griffydham, with an assault. The complainant having been questioned on the nature and obligations of an oath was sworn, and he stated that he was tending a mule on the Turnpike Road near Mr. Litherland's residence, on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, and he was ordered by the defendant to take the mule away. He did not do so immediately, and the defendant beat him severely with a thorn stick, the prickles of which stuck into his back; and when he got home, his mother



drew them out. He did not know how many. Defendant also kicked him. Defendant stated that he was ordered to impound cattle trespassing on the road, and when he ordered the boy to take the mule away (which is a vicious and dangerous brute) plaintiff used most abusive and disgusting language to him; whereupon he pulled a twig out of the adjoining hedge, and gave him two or three strokes with it. The stick was produced; it was a small branch of an elm tree, of by no means formidable dimensions – not thicker than a carpenter's pencil. He was provoked by the filthy epithets applied to himself by the boy to chastise him. Defendant having just acknowledged the committing of an assault was convicted; but by reason of the extenuating circumstances only fined 6d. and costs. The lad's father and mother (who are travelling pot hawkers) were present, and were repeatedly checked on account of prompting him when he gave evidence.

#### **Leicester Mercury – September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1853**

**FATAL COLLIERY ACCIDENT.** – On the 24<sup>th</sup> ult., an inquest was held at Griffydham, upon Jarvis Marshall, deceased. He was about twenty years old, and employed as a loader in Pegg's Green Colliery. On Saturday, the 20<sup>th</sup> ult., he was employed in loading the stone from a horse way, which was being made in the pit. The stone was blasted from the roof, and a great many shots had been fired in the course of the morning. About one o'clock a blast having been fired, deceased, who had no occasion to have done so, went to the place, and proceeded to try a stone which had been shaken in the roof with a pick several times. Another man took the pick from his hand, and, in less than a minute, the stone fell on the hip of deceased, and crushed him against a heap of stones on the floor. He was extricated as soon as possible, and taken home in a cart, but was so much injured internally that he died on the following Tuesday. **Verdict, "Accidental Death", and the jury recommended that Mr. Price, the manager, should give strict orders to the loaders not to go to the spots where shots had been fired, till the safety of the roof had been ascertained.**

#### **Leicestershire Mercury – October 15<sup>th</sup> 1853**

##### **OPENING OF THE**

**NEW WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL (GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST DAY SCHOOL,  
PEGG'S GREEN)  
GRIFFYDAM (PEGG'S GREEN)**

On Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, Two Sermons will be preached in the **WESLEYAN CHAPEL GRIFFYDAM** by the:-

**REV. DR. BEAUMONT, OF BRISTOL  
AND ON WEDNESDAY OCT 26<sup>TH</sup>, BY THE  
REV. F. JOBSON, OF LONDON**

Services on both days to commence at half-past two, and at six.

A collection will be made after each service, in aid of the school.

#### **Leicester Journal – January 6<sup>th</sup> 1854**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**Thomas Hermitage**, 23, pleaded guilty to stealing a pair of boots, value 8s., and a coat, value 1s., the property of Thomas Dolman, at Griffydham, on the 1<sup>st</sup> November last. **Three months hard labour.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – May 13<sup>th</sup> 1854**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions, May 6<sup>th</sup>**

William Hurst of Pegg's Green was charged with assaulting Edward Boat, on the 29<sup>th</sup> April, by throwing him down and striking him several times while on the ground. Defendant admitted that he was upon the "spree" and gave complainant a slap on the face. **Fined 1s. and 13s. 6d. expenses, or one months imprisonment.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – May 27<sup>th</sup> 1854**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Before George Moore, Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz**

**Sheep Worrying. – Joseph Sharpe v. James Lord.** – This case had been twice adjourned at the request of the defendant's attorney, Mr. Brown, for further evidence. It will be remembered that the defendant was charged with wilful damage by sheep worrying, and also under Martin's Act for cruelty. Several witnesses were sworn, who denied the truth of the charges against Lord; one of them, John Massey was asked by Mr. Sharpe, jun., son of the

prosecutor, whether there was not a club at Griffydam, the members of which had agreed to deny upon oath any accusation made against a brother member? An enquiry, which was of course answered in the negative. Mr. Echalaz, one of the Magistrates, made some pointed remarks on the cross-swearing of the witnesses for the defence. The magistrates having retired to deliberate, shortly returned into court, **and convicted the defendant, ordering him to be fined 2s. 6d. and £1 4s. expenses; in default, one months imprisonment with hard labour, at the same time the Bench suggested that the owner of the dog, a young man named Platts of Griffydam, should be sued in the County Court for the value of the sheep that had been worried.**

**Midnight Ruffianism at Griffydam** – James Lord, the defendant in the last case, with John Massey and William Handford, two of his witnesses, were then charged with a violent and brutal assault upon a woman named Hannah Hurst, on the night of Saturday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of May. The complainant, a respectably dressed woman, who appeared in the witness box with her left eye terrifically bruised and swollen, most of its surface being coated with extravasated blood, deposed that on the night in question, the three defendants came about twelve o'clock to her mother's house at Griffydam. The door was not locked, and they appeared to be drunk: Massey threatened her, and struck her on the face; he and Handford were both beating her at once; Massey hit her several times, his wife also being present; the dog belonging to Platts (the sheep worrier) was brought in by the defendants, and the family were afraid of being bitten by him. There was a young man named Ordish, sitting beside her on the squab when the defendants came into the house; her mother and father, who are aged persons, were both knocked down, and one of the defendants tried to put the old man on the fire, and he cried out "murder" several times: Handford wanted to pull the clock down. In cross-examining the witness, Mr. Brown asked if Ordish did not sleep with her that night, which she indignantly denied. – Mary Hirst, the mother, was next examined, who corroborated her daughter's evidence as to the violence of the defendants: she stated that she was knocked down by Massey, and also struck by the other two, and was some time in a state of insensibility. Mr. Brown asked this witness if Ordish did not sleep with her daughter that night, which she positively denied. She said the young man stopped in the house all night to protect them, but he slept with her son. (The magistrates informed the witnesses that they were not bound to answer such highly improper questions). – Edward Ordish gave confirmatory testimony: he saw the defendants come into Hirst's house on the night in question; Massey and Lord both struck Hannah Hirst; the old man was pushed near the oven, and Lord knocked him onto the fire. Has known all the defendants for several years. – John Platts, the constable, was in bed when the uproar began in Hirst's house, and was awakened by the noise, and cries of "murder": he hurried to the place, and met Lord running away; the mother and daughter were bloody, and the floor looked as if blood had been thrown over it from a basin!! Knows the parties well; persons may go to visit the daughter, and has not heard the best of characters given to the house. (Here the defendants retired with their solicitor, accompanied by P.C. Platts).; on returning into court, Mr. Brown said he was able to prove that the house was one of ill fame; other persons were present on the night in question, who had not been brought forward. George Ford was at Hirst's that night; Massey and he were both ordered to leave the house; and heard the old man cry out "murder". – Sylvia Massey, wife to the defendant of that name, was at Hirst's with her husband on the Saturday night; called in as they were going home; saw many blows struck; Hannah threw some water at one of her assailants. The complainant was recalled, and again positively declared that all the defendants struck her and her mother repeatedly, but the latter could only swear to being assaulted by Lord, as she was stuck senseless to the floor. – Mr. Moore addressed the defendants; the offence of which they had been guilty he considered to be of the most atrocious, cowardly, and unprovoked description: if persons were not of good character they must be shamefully maltreated, and the law would not protect them. **The bench was fully convinced that this case ought to be dealt with under the new Act for The Protection of Women; he should therefore sentence the defendants, Lord and Massey, to be imprisoned four months, and Handford three months, in the County gaol, with hard labour. The defendants were perfectly dumb-founded by this decision, and when they were handcuffed and marched off to the lock-up, they truly looked "unutterable things".** – The magistrates recommended that the dog which had figured so prominently in the last two cases, should be forthwith destroyed.

## FURTHER REPORT

### **Leicestershire Mercury – May 27<sup>th</sup> 1854**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Before George Moore, Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz**

Hannah Hurst charged James Lord, John Massey, and Wm. Handford with an assault at Griffydam. This case was taken under the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Vict., cap.30. Complainant said, she lived at Griffydam, and on Saturday night the 13<sup>th</sup> inst., she was at home. About half-past twelve the defendants rushed into the house. Massey went up to the clock and tried to pull it down, and then struck her over the shoulders. She told him to go away, and he threatened to knock her head off. He struck her over the head and side many times. Lord then went up and struck her over the eye, and she became senseless. – Mary Hurst, mother of complainant, corroborated the statement made, and said Massey struck her several times. – Mr. G. F. Brown appeared on behalf of the defendants, and called two witnesses; but the evidence given by them did not in anyway tend to lessen the defendant's guilt. **Lord and Massey were sentenced to four calendar months hard labour, and Handford to three months.**

### **Leicestershire Mercury – March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1855**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Pety Sessions, February 24<sup>th</sup> – Before W. W. Abney and George Moore Esqrs., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz.**

James Lord, labourer, Coleorton was charged with assaulting Francis Elliot, at Griffydam, on February 10<sup>th</sup>. – **Fined £1 10s., including costs; in default of payment, one months hard labour.**

### **Leicester Mercury – June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1855**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup> – Before Rev. J. M. Echalaz and E. A. Holden Esq.**

Sarah Miller charged Mark Richards and George Hewitt with assaulting her on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Complainant said she was a married woman, and lived at Pegg's Green. On June 4<sup>th</sup> she was returning from the post office at about half-past nine o'clock at night, and passed by the defendants. They bid her good night, and then ran up to her. Hewitt took hold of her and behaved very indecently. Richards also conducted himself in a similar way – **Convicted and fined 10s. each including costs; in default, fourteen days imprisonment.**

### **Leicestershire Mercury – May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1856**

#### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

George Smith, a labourer, in the employment of Mr. W. Kidger, of Griffydam, was charged with stealing, on the 24<sup>th</sup> instant, a quantity of oatmeal, barley meal and bean meal, the property of Mr. George Smith, of Stretton Mill. From the evidence adduced before the committing magistrate, it appeared that Mr. Kidger and Mr. Smith had severally taken portions of a farm at Snarestone lately held by Mr. John Fowkes, sen., the scene of the recent murder there, and for which crime John Fowkes was executed at the County Gaol, Leicester on Ash Wednesday last. The prisoner, it seems, was sent by Mr. Kidger to manage his land, as there was no building on that portion of the farm, the prisoner was allowed by Mr. Smith to sleep in his house, where his bailiff, Joseph Wright also lived. Mr. Smith had a large quantity of oat, bean and barley meal mixed in his granary for the use of his cattle, and, suspecting from the appearance of the cattle that all was not right, he, on the 24<sup>th</sup> instant, at an hour when he was not expected, went to a stable over which the prisoner had sole control ; the prisoner reluctantly gave Mr. Smith the key, and in the manger where a horse was feeding was found a quantity of meal, which Mr. Smith identified as part of his. The prisoner said his master had given it to him for some calving beast, and he was then given into custody. – Mr. Kidger proved that he had never given the prisoner meal of any description, nor had he authorised him to procure any. – P.C. Wilson searched the prisoner's room, and amongst other articles of a suspicious nature found a skeleton key, which unlocked Mr. Smith's granary door. – The prisoner, who it appeared had before been convicted of felony, was committed for trial at the next sessions.

### **Leicester Journal – May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1857**

#### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

William Gibson was charged by John Haywood with assaulting him at Nicklinson's Public House ([Waggon and Horses](#)) at Griffydam, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April. The parties were drinking

together, and some discussion taking place as to a "boxing match". Haywood accused Gibson of an improper interference, and struck him. Further blows ensuing, a general scuffle took place, after which the defendant wanted to heal all further differences by giving a jug of ale, but the complainant avowed his intention to "have law", and, according to his account, the defendant again assaulted him severely. Mr. W. Smith appeared for the defendant, and called several witnesses, who completely "turned the tables" and proved that the plaintiff was himself the aggressing party, - The magistrate dismissed the complaint.

**Leicester Chronicle – June 17<sup>th</sup> 1857**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, June 13<sup>th</sup> – Before the Right Hon. Earl Ferrers, T. Mowbray Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz.**

Frederick Heywood was charged by Charlotte Robinson, of Griffydam, with being the father of her illegitimate daughter, born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May. It appeared by the evidence of the complainant that she lived alone, and the defendant "kept company" with her; in an evil hour she listened to his seductive tongue and the little stranger intruded herself to interrupt their happiness. There being no confirmatory evidence, the case was dismissed

**Leicester Chronicle – May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1857**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, May 16<sup>th</sup> – Before the Right Hon. Earl Ferrers, T. Mowbray Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz**

John Heywood of Griffydam, was charged with assaulting William Gibson of that place, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May. They had a dispute respecting some parish affairs. Mr. Smith of Ashby, conducted the defence. **The bench dismissed the charge, ordering the complainant to pay costs.** Mr. William Kidger, farmer of Thringstone, was charged by a man named Thompson, the pounder of Griffydam, with having twelve cows upon trespass, in Green Lane. The complainant impounded the cows, but the pinfold being too small, he sent ten of them back again, lest they should be injured by overcrowding; keeping two as security for the expenses. **The defendant refused to pay the amount demanded, and still persisted in refusing in respect of the two detained.**

**Leicester Chronicle – June 20<sup>th</sup> 1857**

Several attempts have lately been made by the Mormonites of the neighbourhood to propound their audacious mummeries near the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydam, but without success. On Sunday last, one of the elders from Nottingham mounted the rostrum, and began what would doubtless have proved a polygamic oration; but the crowd, drawn together by the nasal tones of the prophetic seer, would not allow him to proceed, but pelted him and his foolish followers with rotten eggs, and they speedily beat a retreat, with an odour less fragrant than roses, lavender or honey-dew. Should they make another attempt, it is to be feared that some substantial artillery may be employed, than nest eggs from the neighbouring roosts.

**Leicester Journal – 31<sup>st</sup> July 1857**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Thomas Heyward of Griffydam, complained that his haystack had been maliciously set on fire, on Thursday last. The police were ordered to search out the guilty parties.

Mr. Heyward, was the prosecutor in a charge at the late Assizes for the stealing of hosiery good, the offenders being sentenced to three years penal servitude.

**Leicester Chronicle October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1857**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions – Appleby House, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Before the Rev. J. M. Echalaz.**

Benjamin Platts (Alias Bendigo) , was charged by Sarah Weston, of Griffydam, with non-payment of £1 10s., on a bastardy order; the defendant had been very troublesome, and seemed to set the Law at defiance. **Apprehended by P.C. Earp, and remanded till Saturday.**

**Leicester Journal – December 4<sup>th</sup> 1857**

**Ashby Petty Sessions**

John Richards of Griffydam ws charged by P.C. Carter, of the Leicestershire police force, with a violent assault at Ashby de la Zouch, on the 28<sup>th</sup> inst. From the evidence of Carter, it

appears that there was a street row in Ashby, on Saturday night, about eleven o'clock, and finding it necessary to take one of the men into custody, and being about to put the handcuffs on him, the defendant came up, snatched them out of his hand, knocked the officer down, and ran away. Carter pursued the defendant, who turned round and struck the officer in the ribs, using a coarse expression, and saying the man should not be taken by him. The defendant seized the officer, and being a powerful man, threw him down, a violent struggle took place, but Carter succeeded in mastering the defendant, and conveyed him to the lock-up. – Mr. W. E. Smith appeared for the defendant, and admitted the offence, and pleaded intoxication in extenuation of it. – **The magistrate convicted the defendant, and fined him £5 including costs, at the same time highly complementing the officer upon his conduct. – It was remarked that the officer wore a Crimean medal with three clasps.**

#### **Leicester Mercury – March 6<sup>th</sup> 1858**

The major portion of the Sheepshed Choral Society, combined with some of the leading vocalists from Loughborough, gave a performance of a choice selection of sacred music, in the National School ([Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)) Griffydham ([Pegg's Green](#)), on Tuesday evening last, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, when notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the place was densely crowded by a highly respectable audience, an extensive neighbourhood contributing the elite of its population. The programme comprised overtures, choruses, anthems, quartets, trios, solos, &c., judiciously selected from the works of the great composers; and the performance was most deservedly eulogized by all present. Several of the pieces were rapturously encored.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – May 8<sup>th</sup> 1858**

##### **Ashby petty sessions, May 1<sup>st</sup> – Before W. W. Abney Esq.**

John Robinson, better known by the name of Dr. Robinson, Griffydham, was charged by John Holyoak, labourer of the same place, with wilfully breaking his window on 6<sup>th</sup> of April. This was a paltry case; Holyoak had an empty house, and the doctor having furniture, he became his tenant without any rent being stipulated. **Case dismissed, and the defendant ordered to pay costs.**

#### **Leicester Mercury – July 17<sup>th</sup> 1858**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch petty Sessions, Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> – Before W. W. Abney Esq.**

**William Lager** – Collier, Griffydham (who did not appear), was charged with stealing a quantity of cherries, from a tree at Pegg's Green, on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult., the property of James Rance. – P.S. Moore proved the service of summons on defendant. – Louisa Draycott, a neighbour of complainant, stated in evidence, that she saw defendant in tree gathering cherries, about 3 a.m. in the morning in question, and also spoke to him offering her a branch from the tree, with some of the fruit upon it through the window, to say nothing about it. She called the complainant up, and defendant ran away. **Fined including costs, £1. 18s. 6d., or one months imprisonment.**

#### **Leicester Journal – July 16<sup>th</sup> 1858**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, July 10<sup>th</sup> 1858**

##### **Before W. W. Abney, Esq., T. M. Mowbray Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz.**

**John Lager** of Griffydham was charged with garden robbing. He did not appear, but the offence was proved and **he was fined 20s. and costs; in default one months imprisonment.**

#### **Leicester Journal – July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1858**

##### **Association for awarding prizes for schools in the mining districts.**

Do to the length of this report it is not possible to include it all, but a brief synopsis is attached due to its social history importance.

The second annual distribution of prizes to the successful candidates taught in the schools in this association, being the children only of miners or persons employed in connection with mines, took place last Saturday in the Trinity Church school room, considerably lent by the Rev. E. M. Wade for that purpose.....Sixty three candidates (41 boys, 22 girls) presented themselves from the under mentioned schools:-

|                         | Boys | Girls |
|-------------------------|------|-------|
| Riddings                | 4    | 2     |
| Ironville               | 11   | 11    |
| Ilkeston                | 1    | 2     |
| Coalville and Snibstone | 1    | 1     |
| Coleorton               | 2    |       |
| Claycross               | 6    | 8     |
| Ravenstone              | 4    |       |
| Griffydam               | 1    |       |
| Wastwood                | 11   | 1     |
| Total                   | 41   | 22    |

.....the new regulations restricts that all candidates must be the children of parents being actually coal miners or workmen employed about such mines: the children, therefore, of farmers, tradesmen, artisans, and labourers not connected with the above mentioned works, were excluded from competing for the prizes. The average age of the boys was 11 years 6 months; that of the girls 12 years 1 month.

Their conduct during the whole of the examination was highly satisfactory, no attempts were made at copying, all were very neatly dressed, and their behaviour everything that could be desired. The appearance presented by the children was that of a number of candidates for pupil teacherships.

Of these 63 candidates, 20 had obtained a prize in 1857.

They were examined in reading, writing from dictation, and in simple and compound rules; the girls were examined in needlework: those who competed for the higher prizes were expected to work sums in the higher rules of arithmetic, in grammar and in geography.

The prizes were distributed in the following proportions:-

|            |         |
|------------|---------|
| Riddings   | £8      |
| Ironville  | £25     |
| Ilkeston   | £1      |
| Coalville  | £1      |
| Snibstone  | £1      |
| Coleorton  | £1 10s. |
| Claycross  | £13     |
| Ravenstone | £1      |
| Griffydam  | £1      |
| Eastwood   | £16     |

.....With the exception of Coleorton, all the schools who have furnished candidates are under inspection, and have been for some time; we are therefore acquainted with their condition.....The successful candidates were then called up, and money prizes given to them, amounting in the aggregate of £75, together with a beautiful card (which no doubt will adorn many cottage home, and be pointed at with a feeling of pleasure and pride), signed by the Chairman. Thirteen smaller cards, certificates of merit, were also given out, the Chairman, in presenting them, saying he hoped they would be a prelude to success next year. The prizes were distributed as follows:-

#### Local Children Only

|            |                |    |
|------------|----------------|----|
| Coalville  | Martha Massey  | £1 |
| Coleorton  | Robert Lakin   | £1 |
| Coleorton  | George Bacon   | £1 |
| Ravenstone | George green   | £1 |
| Ravenstone | W. H. L. Lakin | £1 |
| Griffydam  | Abner Webster  | £1 |

#### Leicester Mercury – November 6<sup>th</sup> 1858

#### Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> – Before T. Mowbray Esq.

**Monday November 1<sup>st</sup>.** – Henry Kinsey (Alias Bird), collier, Griffydam, and William Hickling (Alias Butt), Belton, apprehended on Saturday night by Sergt. Moore, on a warrant, charged with poaching and seriously assaulting, the keepers of Sir George Howland Beaumont, bart., on Sunday night, October 24<sup>th</sup>, in the parish of Worthington, were remanded, in order to give time for other parties concerned in the affray to be apprehended. The facts of the case are, that on the night in question, about 9 p.m., two of Sir G. Beaumont's gamekeepers were out watching, when they saw some men setting a net, and that they also had a net with them. The keepers tried to get possession of the nets, when they were attacked by three men with

bludgeons and stones. One of the watchers, named Cooper, was struck just above the temple, and on the back of the head, and was very seriously wounded. All the poachers ultimately made off, leaving their nets and two caps behind them. One of the men drew a knife, and swore that if either of the keepers offered to take him, or follow him, he would rip them open. Information was at once given to Sergt. Moore, and an inquiry set on foot, which has led to the apprehension of the above prisoners, who have been identified by the keepers. The other man, who is known, but has absconded, will no doubt be apprehended in the course of the week.

### **Loughborough Monitor- March 10<sup>th</sup> 1859**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

John Hodges, of Griffydham, was charged by Superintendent Platts with being drunk and disorderly, at Pegg's Green, on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Case was proved by Sergeant Moore, and the defendant, who it appears is an habitual drunkard, was fined 17s. including costs.

### **Leicestershire Mercury – March 12<sup>th</sup> 1859**

#### **TREACHEROUS ASSAULT UPON A WOMAN**

William Hurst (labourer : 23) was charged with feloniously assaulting Mary Johnson, at Thringstone, on Jan. 15, with intent to rob her. Mr. Merewether conducted the prosecution. – Prosecutrix said, she lived at Griffydham. On the day in question, she received 19s. 61/2d. from the landlady of the "Anchor", at Thringstone ([Pegg's Green](#)). Prisoner knew she was about to receive the money. Saw prisoner in the evening on the road from Whitwick, when he walked about a mile and a half along the road with her. They were talking together, and she knew prisoner well. She was crossing four fields, and in the third field, was knocked down by prisoner who pulled her about and tore her clothes. She called out "Murder". When she raised herself up, he struck her on the head, and she fell on the ground again. She felt prisoner's hand on the side of her dress where her pocket was. Her money was in the basket. – The landlady of the "Anchor" corroborated as to prisoner's knowing that prosecutrix had received the money. – The learned Judge directed an acquittal, on the grounds that there was no proof of any intention, on the part of the prisoner, to commit a felony.

### **Leicestershire Mercury – July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1859**

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** – On Monday, an inquest was held at Thringstone, upon Mary Ann Marshall deceased. It appeared that she was the daughter of John Marshall, collier, Griffydham, and two and a half years old. She had been staying a short time with her grandmother, Mrs. Horn, at Thringstone. In the neighbourhood was a well, the pump of which being out of order, a cover had been substituted for some time, and on Saturday, this cover having thoughtlessly being left open, deceased fell in. Her grandmother being told of what had happened by a little boy, made an alarm, and one of the neighbours, William Butler, a shoemaker,, got down by the pump, so that he could reach deceased with his foot, and tried to hold he up by it. She struggled off, however, and sunk in the water, and he had to procure a drag to get her out, when she was quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death", and recommended that the pump should be put into immediate repair, and the well completely closed, which Mr. Price, the owner, promised should be done.

### **Leicester Journal – April 1<sup>st</sup> 1859**

#### ***Cottages and Gardens at Griffydham in the Township of Worthington, in the County of Leicester***

#### **TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION BY MR. T. DAVENPORT**

At the house of Mr. T. Holt ([Hoult](#)), called THE RED LION INN, in Griffydham ([Peggs Green](#)), on Wednesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, 1859, at six o'clock in the evening, in one lot, and subject to conditions of sale to be there produced

All those four well and substantially built COTTAGES, or TENEMENTS, with the gardens and Apputenances thereto, situate near to Griffydham Chapel (**must be bottom chapel**), in Worthington aforesaid, now in the several occupations of W. Marlow, J. Wardle, Widow Platts, and Widow Ault.

The tenants will show the property and further information may be obtained of Mr. William Kidger, Thringstone, or of the auctioneer, and Messrs. E. and T. Fisher, Solicitors, Ashby de la Zouch.

**Leicester Chronicle – May 21<sup>st</sup> 1859**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, May 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Before T. M. Mowbray and G. Mowbray Esqr's., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz.**

Isacc Ward, Joseph Mee, Joseph Richards, and William Edwards, all of Griffydam, were brought up in custody of Sergeant Moore and P.C. Fardell, charged with fighting cocks on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> instant, at 1 a.m., at the house of Mr. John Nicklinson, the Waggon and Horses, at Griffydam. **Convicted and fined £1 10s.**

**AN ALTERNATIVE REPORT**

**Leicester Mercury – May 21<sup>st</sup> 1859**

Isaac Ward, Joseph Richards and William Edwards and Joseph Mee, were charged with unlawfully and wilfully aiding and abetting in the fighting of two cocks, at Griffydam, at 2 o'clock in the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Brown of Ashby, appeared for the defence. – Sergeant Moore said, on Wednesday morning about 1 o'clock, I was passing the Waggon and Horses public-house. It was moonlight. I heard a conversation relative to making a match to fighting cocks. Mee said that his cock should fight that night. I remained some time, and in a little while they came out at the back door with candles to commence the fight. It was Ward and Mee. They commenced fighting the cocks. I and the other constable who was with me got over the wall, and got close to them. There was a great noise, and the betting was "two to one" on the old cock'. Richards I apprehended, and he was very violent. I had great difficulty in apprehending him, and was compelled to use my truncheon, and he called out to his comrades to come back and give it to the.....The landlady was at the door with a light, and said, on our appearance, "Oh dear: I thought how it would be". I found the dead cock I now produce in the yard (cross-examined): I was standing in the garden, about twenty yards from them. They had candles. There were seven or eight present. I found the dead cock in the yard. We secured a man each, and were not able to secure more. I struck Richards three or four times with my staff. I will swear I did not strike him 18 times. I have not seen his arm since. I might poke him in the ribs. (By the Bench): I used no more violence than was necessary to secure him. I know Richards. I know all that were there. They blew the candles out. I saw the cocks fight. I do not know whether the cock in my possession has a broken leg. The fight came off in a small yard, not far from the public road. The whole of the parties were stooping down, witnessing the fight. Ward said he hoped I would be careful of the cock, as he would sooner we hurt him than that cock. – P.C. Fardell spoke positively to three of the parties, but not so distinctly to Edwards. His evidence generally corroborated that of the first witness. – Mr. Brown urged that Mee was not present, and also that the police used undue violence. – Inspector Ward wished to say that they had been at a good deal of trouble after these affairs, for some time; and also that Richards never complained of any ill-usage when he came before him, nor when he went before the Magistrate. – The Bench were unanimously of opinion that it was a bad case, but as it was the first that had come before them, they would not inflict the greatest penalty, but if ever the parties came before them in the future, they would be very severely dealt with. – **Fined 30s. each, or one month's imprisonment.**

**Leicester Chronicle – June 4<sup>th</sup> 1859**

John Nicolson, publican, of Griffydam, was charged by Inspector Ward with permitting cock-fighting on his premises, on the night of 11<sup>th</sup> May. The charge was proved by Sgt. Moore and P.C. Fardell, and **defendant was fined £3 including costs.**

**Leicester Chronicle – June 25<sup>th</sup> 1859**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Session before W. W. Abney, Esq.**

James Ward *alias* Edwards, collier, Griffydam, brought up in custody of Sergeant Moor, charged with stealing three fowls on Monday night, the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., the property of Mr. Richard Orton, surgeon, Thringstone, **was committed for trial at the next sessions.**

**ALTERNATIVE REPORT**

James Ward, *Alias Edwards*, collier, of Griffydam, was charged with stealing certain fowls, the property of Mr. Richard Orton, surgeon, Thringstone ([Pegg's Green](#)). – Mr. Orton stated that on examining his roost on Monday morning, the 13<sup>th</sup> inst., he found that three fowls had been stolen during the night, of which he gave information to P.C. Moore. He stated that on making inquiry he received such information as to cause him to go to prisoner's house, and on searching it, he found concealed under some straw the three fowls produced, which were skinned, their heads and legs also being cut off. – Prisoner made contradictory statements as



to the possession of the fowls, also as to being at home on the night of the robbery at eight o'clock. – Jonas Knight stated that he saw prisoner leave the Anchor ([Pegg's Green](#)) public house, which is near Mr. Orton's premises, about eleven o'clock. Prisoner's boots were compared by Serg. Moore with some impressions found near the roost, and also against the wall in Anchor Lane ([Pegg's Green](#)), and were found exactly to correspond. On prisoner being asked if he wanted to say anything in answer to the charge, he made a long rambling statement to the effect that he saw a man with a bundle near Mr. Orton's, and that when he saw him he threw the bundle down and ran away ; and on picking it up he found it to contain the fowls, which he took home. **Committed to the Sessions.**

William Hodges, collier, Griffydam, was charged with taking the cap off the head of George Thompson, of Tonge, and stealing it, at Breedon, on Wednesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. **Discharged with a caution.**

#### **Leicester Mercury – July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1859**

**Fatal Accident** – On Monday, an inquest was held at Thringstone, upon Mary Ann Marshall deceased. It appeared that she was the daughter of John Marshall, collier, Griffydam, and 2 ½ years old. She had been staying a short time with her grandmother, Mrs. Horn, at Thringstone. In the neighbourhood was a well, the pump of which being out of order, a cover had been substituted for some time, and on Saturday, this cover having been thoughtlessly left open, deceased fell in. Her grandmother, being told of what had happened by a little boy, made an alarm, and one of the neighbours, William Butler, a shoemaker, got down by the pump, so that he could reach deceased with his foot, and tried to hold her up by it. She struggled off, however, and sunk in the water, and he had to procure a drag to get her out, when she was quite dead. **The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death", and recommended that the pump should be put into immediate repair, and the well completely closed, which Mr. Price, the owner, promised should be done.**

#### **Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal – August 26<sup>th</sup> 1859**

##### **MARRIAGE**

**PLOWRIGHT – WARLE.** –At Coleorton, on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst., by Rev. F. Merewether, Mr. R. H. Plowright (Wesleyan School Master, Griffydam), to Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr. John wardle, Worthington Fields.

#### **Leicestershire Mercury – October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1859**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

**John Smith (alias *Navvy Jack*)** was charged with assaulting Christopher Siddons, of Pegg's Green, on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. Complainant, a little boy 13 years old, was questioned by the Chairman as to the nature of an oath. He said he could not read the bible. He stated that he worked for defendant, and on the day in question, something was wrong with one of the horses, which defendant said was his (witness's) fault, and beat him very much, and also kicked him many times. – Reuben Smallwood was called but failed to prove anything. – Defendant, in a very elaborate manner, laid his case before the Bench, and was extremely anxious they should have a "right understanding". He called Ralph Waterfield, who stated that he was present, but did not see defendant beat or ill-use complainant. – The Bench dismissed the case.

#### **Leicestershire Mercury – February 11<sup>th</sup> 1860**

##### **GRIFFYDAM ([PEGG'S GREEN](#))**

On Wednesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> inst., a meeting of the Griffydam Mutual Improvement Society was held in the new school of that place ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)). In the afternoon, a tea meeting took place, which was numerously attended ; after which a lecture was delivered by Rev. Mr. Doughty, of Ashby, his subject being "Energy". We are glad to observe that this most excellent lecture was numerously attended, and highly appreciated by the audience. Mr. Tucker, a gentleman from the Cape of Good Hope, was appointed chairman, and gave a graphic description of the commencement of the Caffre War in 1851, at which time he was in the colony. After a vote of thanks to the lecturer, the audience departed.

**Leicestershire Mercury – June 16<sup>th</sup> 1860**

DEATHS. – On the 4<sup>th</sup> inst., at Newbold Juxta, in this county, aged 82, Susannah, wife of Mr. John Poxon, who for upwards of fifty years was a member of the Wesleyan Society at Griffydam.

**Leicester Mercury – June 16<sup>th</sup> 1860**

**Market Bosworth Petty Sessions**

Titus Harris charged William Mee, collier, Griffydam, with stealing a steel, of the value of 1s., his property. This case was heard under the new Criminal Justice Act, and the depositions of several witnesses were taken at length. – **Committed to three calendar months hard labour.**

**Leicester Mercury – October 6<sup>th</sup> 1860**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions (before W. W. Abney Esq.)**

Hannah Phillipps, a young woman of Griffydam, was charged with wilfully damaging some barley, in a field at Pegg's Green, value 6d., the property of Joseph Lagor. – The case was adjourned from last court day, in order for complainant to produce a witness, which he did; **but the evidence not being sufficient to convict, the case was dismissed.**

**Leicester Mercury – December 8<sup>th</sup> 1860**

**Ashby de la Zouch Magisterial, Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

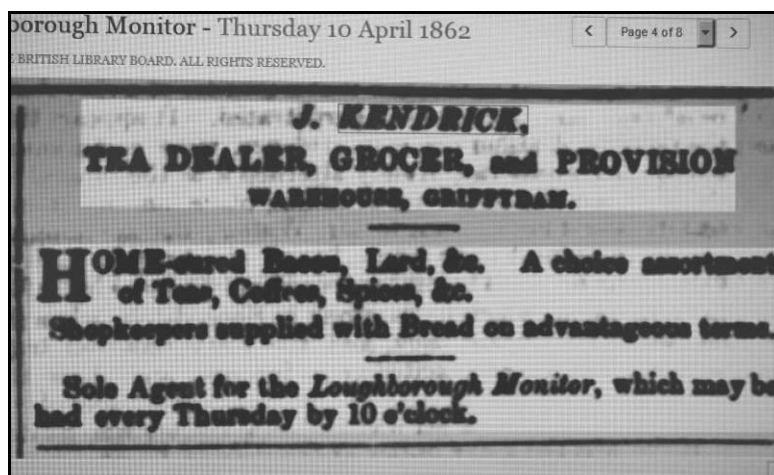
**Before W. W. Abney Esq.**

**Wm. Mee**, of Griffydam, was charged with being upon the premises of the Snibstone Colliery Company for an unlawful purpose. He was apprehended on the charge of breaking into an office and stealing some coppers from a till; but there was not sufficient evidence to convict him of that, and **he was committed for two months hard labour on the first indictment.**

**Loughborough Monitor – April 10<sup>th</sup> 1862**

**J. KENDRICK  
TEA DEALER, GROCER, AND PROVISIONS  
WAREHOUSE, GRIFFYDAM**

.....  
**HOME** – cured Bacon, Lard, &c. A choice assortment of Teas, Coffees, Spices, &c  
Shopkeepers supplied with Bread on advantageous terms  
Sole Agent for the Loughborough Monitor, which may be had every Thursday by 10 o'clock.



**Leicester Journal – May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1862**

**County Court**

**SPENCER v HOLT.** – This was a claim for an amount of loss sustained by an exchange of horses. Mr. Giles appeared for the plaintiff who is an earthenware dealer residing at Loughborough, the defendant being a butcher residing at Griffydam. It appeared that the plaintiff's horse being too big for him, took it into the fair held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, for the

purpose of selling it. Meeting the defendant and explaining of his wishes to dispose of the animal, the latter proposed to make an exchange, which was ultimately arranged, and paid plaintiff £1 10s. to boot, both parties warranting their animals to be sound and quiet. The plaintiff, however, found that the defendants mare was addicted to kicking every time she was put to the cart, and consequently quite useless for the purpose. He wrote to the defendant, informing him of the fact, and stating that unless he took his mare back again, and returned his horse, he should sell it by auction, and sue him for the loss. To this he made no reply. The mare was consequently sold, and realised only £2 9s. 10p. Plaintiff valued his horse at £7 10s., and called witnesses in corroboration of that estimate, and in proof of a warranty being given by the defendant. The latter, however, denied warranting his mare to be quiet, although she was a good worker. – His honour was quite satisfied that the defendant had represented the mare to be quiet in harness ; in fact, he knew that unless she were so, she would be of no service to the plaintiff, who is a potter, and would probably do him serious injury if he ventured to use her. The defendant had therefore practised an unjustifiable species of deception, and made a most absurd defence. – He would give a verdict for the amount sought, with costs.

### **Loughborough Monitor – August 21<sup>st</sup> 1862**

#### **OSGATHORPE**

The quiet little village of Osgathorpe was enlivened on Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, by a tea party being held on the pleasure ground in front of the hall, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Field. About 130 sat down to tea. The trays were gratuitously provided by ladies in the neighbourhood, and upwards of £4 was realised, which was appropriated to the defraying of expenses. After tea, the youthful part of the company enjoyed themselves with rural sports in a field adjoining, until nearly seven o'clock, when all adjourned to a shed comfortably fitted up. The chair having been taken by Mr. Clarke, of Castle Donington, speeches were delivered by the Re. T. Crosby, of Ashby de la Zouch ; Mr. Attwood, of Castle Donington ; Mr. Kendrick of Griffydham ; and other friends. After a unanimous vote of thanks to the ladies, who so kindly presided at the tea tables, and to the Chairman of the meeting, the company broke up, each one evidently satisfied and delighted with the proceedings of the day.

### **Leicestershire Mercury – October 18<sup>th</sup> 1862**

#### **STEALING BOOTS AND TROUSERS**

Thomas Marshall, collier, was indicted, and pleaded not guilty to stealing one pair of boots and one pair of trowsers, value, 12s., the property of John Smith, of Worthington, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September last. – Mr. Palmer prosecuted. – John Smith said he lived at Griffydham ; he put in his room the articles above named. That was on the night of the 10<sup>th</sup> of September ; prisoner slept with him. When he left the room the prisoner was in bed ; when he returned at dinner-time, the prisoner was gone, and the articles also. – P.C. Peberdy, of Whitwick said, having heard of the robbery he went into Staffordshire to Wednesbury, and apprehended him on the charge of robbing Smith, but he denied it ; he had got the trowsers and boots at the time, and said he brought the boots at Whitwick for 8s. 6d., and the trowsers at Ashby, and he did not know John Smith. – Prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to three months hard labour

### **Loughborough Monitor – January 1<sup>st</sup> 1863**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

On Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, some of the inhabitants of this neighbourhood were entertained in the Wesleyan Reform Chapel by a very historic, amusing, and instructive lecture given by Mr. Frere, a resident of Leicester. The attendance was moderately good, considering the rather unpropitious state of the weather, and all present seemed highly gratified by the lucid remarks made by the respected lecturer. Mr. Kendrick, a resident of Griffydham, occupied the post as president. At the close of the lecture a vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Dr. Wale and carried unanimously. As this was a novel thing in the neighbourhood, it is hoped, and was expressed at the time that such meetings should be of more frequent occurrence.

### **Leicester Chronicle – January 10<sup>th</sup> 1863**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions – Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Before W. W. Abney, T. Mowbray Esqrs., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz**

Daniel Kirk of Griffydham, charged George Burton, a lad, with throwing stones at his house door, and doing wilful damage to the amount of 3d. on Sunday evening last. It appears that several boys are in the constant habit of annoying the old man, Kirk, by throwing stones at the door every time they passed. **Fined 11s. or seven days.**

### **Derby Mercury April 29<sup>th</sup> 1863**

#### **LEICESTERSHIRE**

**APPREHENSION OF A NOTORIOUS HORSE STEALER,** - A very clever apprehension of a horse stealer, who has been very troublesome to the county, took place on Thursday, at Birmingham, by Sergeant Peberdy, of the county force stationed at Whitwick. Information was forwarded to the Chief-Constable (F. Goodyer, Esq.,) that a grey horse had been stolen from a lane at Griffydham, and he gave the necessary instructions to Sergeant Clarke and Sergeant Peberdy to endeavour to trace the offender. The robbery took place on Sunday, and a set of cart harness was at the same time stolen from a stable. On Wednesday the horse was traced by Peberdy and found in the market at Wolverhampton, having been sold by a man named Green ; the clue was followed up and Haywood was captured by Peberdy in a lodging-house at Birmingham with some of the stolen harness in his possession. Several horses have been stolen from this and the adjoining counties during the past year, for which the prisoner has been "wanted", and a warrant was issued for his apprehension so long ago as May, 1862, when he was seen carrying off a black entire donkey and harness, from a lane in the parish of Woodhouse. The prisoner is a pot hawker, a native of Coleorton, but residing some time back at Markfield. The horses stolen have generally belonged to poor persons in a humble position – the pony stolen on Sunday belonged to Edward Gough, a butcher, of Thringstone. It is very satisfactory that the efforts of the Chief-constable and the officers under his direction have resulted in securing the prisoner, who, it seems, for some time has pursued his depredations with impunity, through his knowledge of the county, and then his somewhere in the neighbourhood of Birmingham. He will be examined at Ashby.

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 9<sup>th</sup> 1863**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Before W. W. Abney Esq.**

John Haywood, remanded from last week, was again brought up, charged with stealing a grey horse, the property of Mr. Edward Gough, butcher, Thringstone, on the 19<sup>th</sup> ult., value £5. – Prosecutor identified the horse as his property. – Mrs. North, keeper of the toll-gate at Normanton le Heath, proved that the prisoner passed through the gate about six o'clock on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> ult., with the horse and harness in his possession. – Joseph Green, horse dealer, also proved purchasing the horse off the prisoner for 30s., he asked 55s. for it. – Sergeant Peberdy found the horse in the hands of the last witness at Wolverhampton fair, and apprehended the prisoner at Birmingham, with part of the harness in his possession, and he was committed for trial. – Prisoner was further charged with stealing a set of harness, the property of Joseph Lager, at Griffydham, on the same night. Part of this harness was found in prisoner's possession. **He was committed for trial on this charge also.**

### **Loughborough Monitor – July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1863**

**TO BE LET,** in a populous village, a **GROCERS SHOP,** with immediate possession. – For particulars, apply to MR. KENDRICK, Grocer, Griffydham.

### **Leicester Chronicle – July 11<sup>th</sup> 1863**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, July 4<sup>th</sup> – Before W. W. Abney Esq., chairman, T. Mowbray, G. Moore, and H. E. Smith, Esqrs., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz.**

Mr. J. Reed, overseer of Worthington, summoned R. Stacey of Griffydham, for the non-payment of two poor rates. – Defendant's wife appeared, and being asked by the magistrates why her husband did not pay, she said he did not mean to do so, and they might send him to prison as soon as they liked. **A distress warrant was therefore issued.**

### **Leicestershire Mercury – October 10<sup>th</sup> 1863**

#### **COUNTY PUBLIC OFFICE**

**LEICESTER ABBEY.** – George Walker, Griffydam, and Henry George Kirby, Thringstone, colliers, were charged with having in their possession at Leicester Abbey, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, when searched by P.C. Jabez Widdowson, four nets and net pegs, also 61 rabbits and six hares, which had been unlawfully obtained by going on land in search of game. Defendants did not appear. P.C. Widdowson stated that on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult., he met defendants in Abbey lane, and his suspicion caused him to search them. Nine other men were with them, but they ran away. On Walker he found nine rabbits, two hares, a net, seven net-pegs, and a stick. Told defendants he suspected they had been poaching. They said, "It is a .....hard case to be out all night, and have it taken from us". Kirby called out to the others to come back, and not to be taken in that way. He said also that they were a frightened lot, and he would never go out with them again. It was half-past five o'clock when he met them. The nets appeared to have been recently used, as they were wet. They were nearly new and made of good material, and they had on them bits of fur, briars, &c. The game he found was warm. – P.C. Lyner corroborated. He helped to search defendants. They had both been previously convicted of poaching at Ashby, under the new Act. Two poaching dogs were with them, which got away. Kirby gave the name of Henry Stevenson, Mountsorrel, which he afterwards found was wrong. – P.C. Farmer, of Ratby, stated that Walker said his name was John Ratcliffe, of Loughborough. Knew that that was false, and told Walker, and he afterwards gave his right name and address. – Superintendent. Burdett said defendants were most desperate characters. – Fined £5 each and costs, or three months' hard labour. The game to be sold and the proceeds handed to the county treasurer, and the nets to be destroyed, so as to be unfit for night poaching purposes.

### **Loughborough Monitor – December 10<sup>th</sup> 1863**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

W. Hodges and G. Platts, of Griffydam, were charged with breaking a number of windows in the house of a woman named Stacey, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November last. Mr. W. P. Dewes defended. Eliza Buckley, daughter of the woman Stacey, stated that she was awake by hearing a great noise of glass being smashed, and stones and bricks falling on her bed. She got up and saw the two prisoners in her garden, and two others at the gate. She went up to them when Hodges made use of a disgusting epithet, and took hold of her frock. Cross-examined by Mr. Dewes : Never saw the prisoner break the windows as she was in bed at the time. The magistrates said there was no evidence that prisoners broke the window, and the case was dismissed. This is the second time this unfortunate woman has had her windows smashed within the last three months.

### **Leicester Journal – August 12<sup>th</sup> 1864**

**GRIFFYDAM. – DIABOLICAL ACT.** – On the night of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst., some miscreant or miscreants spoiled a well of beautiful water by pouring into it a quantity of gas tar. The well belongs to Mr. Price, and now in the occupation of Mr. J. Walker, and in consequence of the long drought, it was the only well in the neighbourhood where the inhabitants could procure good water, and it was freely open to all, so that it is in fact a serious loss to the whole neighbourhood. The Police are on the look out, and we trust the dastardly perpetrator may yet be discovered

### **Leicester Journal – October 7<sup>th</sup> 1864**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch police Court**

#### **Murderous Assault at Osgathorpe**

At the Police Court on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, before W. W. Abney and H. E. Smith, Esqrs., Benjamin Platts, of Griffydam (a man well known to the police), Jesse Hodges, of Pegg's Green, and Aaron Stewart, of Coleorton, were charged by Wm. Gilbert, parish constable of Osgathorpe, with assaulting him whilst in the execution of his duty, on the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> instant. It appeared from the evidence of Gilbert, that he was sent for by Mr. Rennocks, landlord of the Royal Oak, to quell a disturbance an fight which had arisen there, Stewart being the ring leader. This he did at the time; but it being the wake, there were many people assembled in the village drinking, amongst whom were the prisoners, companion's of Stewart, who immediately sent for the "Griffydam lot", who were at another public house drinking. They immediately repaired to the scene of action, and declared that Stewart should fight in the

defence of everyone. Gilbert again attempted to interfere, and drew his staff. The three prisoners, with others not yet in custody, immediately seized him and dragged him out into the street, and while Platts took his staff and held him, the other prisoners brutally beat him about the head and face, kicking him also on other parts of his body, when he was rescued by his brother constable and others, who at once sent to Whitwick for the police. They were soon on the spot, but the prisoners had been decamped, after in vain attempting to gain an entrance into Rennock's house, where Gilbert had been taken. A warrant was immediately issued for their apprehension, which was placed in the hands of P.S. Peberdy, who succeeded in apprehending Platts at his house. P.C. Challoner captured Hodges, and P.C. Smith after some difficulty, descended No.2. Swannington Pit on Monday evening last, and captured Stewart whilst at work. He was much surprised at the officer's intrusion. – **The prisoners were all committed to trial at the next quarter session.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – October 15<sup>th</sup> 1864**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Friday October 7<sup>th</sup>**

Inspector Ward charged John Stewart, of Coleorton, with being drunk and disorderly at Griffydam, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. – P.C. Smith proved the case, and **defendant was fined £1 which he paid.**

#### **Leicester Journal – November 4<sup>th</sup> 1864**

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT No. 2 COLEORTON PIT (CALIFAT).** – On the 26<sup>th</sup> ult., Thomas Coulson, a miner, of Griffydam, met with a serious accident whilst at work in the above pit. He was engaged in loading a tub, when a large stone fell from the roof on his back, crushing him in a fearful manner. The poor fellow was extricated as soon as possible and taken home, where he still lies without the slightest hope of his recovery

#### **Leicester Chronicle – June 10<sup>th</sup> 1865**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions. – Before W. W. Abney and T. Moore Esquires.**

Benjamin Platts of Griffydam, was charged by Thomas Richards, of the same place, with assaulting him on the 28<sup>th</sup> last. – **Defendant was discharged.**

#### **Leicester Journal – August 18<sup>th</sup> 1865**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Police Court, August 9<sup>th</sup> – Before W. W. Abney, and H. E. Smith Esqrs.**

Thomas Hurst, of Griffydam, was charged by Jesse Atkins, of Belton, gamekeeper, with fishing, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, in private waters at Gracedieu, belonging to Ambrose Philips De Lisle, Esq., and taking therefrom fish to the value of 6s.- **The defendant, who did not appear, was fined 15s. 6d. costs, 6s. fine, and 6s. the value of the fish.**

**Cowardly Assault on Wife.** – John Jinks, labourer, Griffydam, was brought up in custody charged with assaulting his wife, Jane Jinks, at Griffydam, on the 6<sup>th</sup> ult. – Defendant denied the charge. – Complainant said her husband came home the worst for drink, and struck her in the face with his fist, which knocked her on the house floor. It was not the first time her husband had ill used her. – Defendant said, as he was entering some one threw a stone, which hit him in the face, making him insensible. If he had struck his wife it must have been while he was insensible. He did not remember striking her. – P.C. Hancock said defendant was a bad, worthless character, and had frequently ill-used his wife, who was a quiet woman, and one who worked hard to support her drunken husband and her family. – **Prisoner was committed to Leicester Gaol for one month with hard labour, without the option of a fine.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – December 9<sup>th</sup> and December 16<sup>th</sup> 1865**

*The complete record of the trial of Eliza Adkins from Pegg's Green for the murder of her son by drowning him in a well is far too long to record here so just the beginning and end have only been recorded. However, in the December 16<sup>th</sup> edition a poignant story appeared about this case, the whole of which has been included because of its significance in terms of hardship and social injustice in those times.*

**MURDER AT THRINGSTONE  
TRIAL & CONVICTION  
OF  
ELIZA ADKINS from Pegg's Green**

Mr. Justice Mellor took his seat at a quarter to ten o'clock this morning. The case of Eliza Adkins indicted for the murder of her child did not appear to create so much excitement as might have been expected, the court not being more numerously attended than ordinarily.

Beginning

Liza Adkins (42) was indicted for the wilful murder of Zadock Adkins, her son, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July. – Mr. Palmer and Mr. Graham prosecuted; and Mr. Merewether defended the prisoner. – The prisoner, a spare sorrowful looking woman, was dressed in a neat black gown and bonnet. On being arraigned on the indictment, she pleaded not guilty.

End

The clerk of the arraigns said:-Gentlemen of the Jury, are you agreed upon your verdict?

The Foreman; We are.

The clerk of the arraigns; Do you find the prisoner guilty, or not guilty ?

The Foreman; Guilty.

The clerk of the arraigns to the prisoner; You stand convicted of Wilful Murder; what have you to say why the Court should not give judgement against yourself to die, according to law?

The prisoner, almost inaudibly, "Nothing".

The Crier of the Court having commanded silence, his Lordship assumed the black cap, and addressed the prisoner in the following terms;- Eliza Adkins, after a careful investigation into the circumstances of this case, you have been convicted of the crime of wilful murder – the murder of your own son. I have no power to hold out to you any prospect of mercy, the prerogative of mercy rests with her majesty the Queen, acting under the advice of her Ministers; and I beseech you, therefore, not to indulge in any expectations which may turn out to be delusive; but I beseech you, with true repentance and with prayer, and supplication to that that great Being, who is long suffering, rich in mercy, and ready to forgive,, and confess your sins, so that haply through the confession and intercession of Christ our Saviour, your sin may be pardoned, and that you may therefore be forgiven, as regards that sin before the face of Almighty God. I have only to pass on you the sentence of the law, and that sentence is that you be taken from hence to the place from whence you came, , and from thence to the place of execution, and that you there be hanged by the neck till you shall be dead, and that your body afterwards be buried within the precincts of the prison in which you were last confined after your conviction, and may God in his infinite compassion have mercy upon your sole.; - His Lordship was deeply affected during the delivery of these remarks.

The prisoner, who maintained a calm and equable demeanour throughout the trial, was then removed from the dock, apparently quite unmoved by the awful sentence which had just been passed upon her.

### **THE THRINGSTONE MURDER**

Stories are all the vogue now – Christmas stories, told on cream-tinted paper, with gold edges on it, and with ever so much crimson and green on the covers; stories all about princesses, giants, and fairies, and showing how, in that highly desirable world of fiction, the bad people always come to grief, and the good ones "marry and live happily ever afterwards". No misery ever lasts very long in them; no ugly problems are left unsolved. The last pages, instead of being blistered with tears, as those of life are so often, wind up with a jolly settlement of everybody and everything. Let the little ones think it all true. Time enough for them to find out what a very different world they will have to deal with; and what agony, despair, and crime close the last chapters of many a story that God writes in the great book of Life which has Eternity on both sides of its covers. We have a little story to tell to the oldsters before they settle down to their Christmas dinners with that comfortable conviction which roast beef and plum pudding inspire, that everything has gone right since Christmas came. Our story is not very fit for Christmas, except to make the beef taste of tears, and the plum pudding stick in the throat with shame and pity. Before you set to work on these religious luxuries, good public, permit us to ask "if you have such a thing as two shillings about you". Of course you have, and the multiple of that sum for a number of weeks. Well, spend them now as you like; but last summer you might have brought a child's life and a woman's soul for two shillings a week sterling. People ought not to complain that "things are dear" when such a bargain as that can be made in England. Now, we repeat, it is too late; for the child's life – price one shilling – is gone to Him who in all his treasury of planets and suns has nothing richer or dearer than a child's life; and the woman's soul is so stained with murder, that the shilling is wanted now for five yards of hempen rope to choke it out of her on the gallows. In spite of

these particulars, so tantalising to a commercial people, the story, we say again is *not* a nice story; the details are very unpleasant, the characters stale and vulgar to the last degree, and the chief personage a widow of forty-two, haggard and grizzled before her time. Such as it is, however, this is how it was told at the Leicester Assizes. Eliza Adkins was the widow of a farm servant, who died and left her with one child, aged four. Let us note in passing that the story-books would have made some provision or other for an honest woman in such a case. Reality didn't. The mother went into service and put the child out to nurse; but that demands funds, and Eliza Adkins only just earned her own living; so she applied to the workhouse for two shillings weekly to maintain the child. The workhouse said she must come in with it, which she did. After she had been in Loughborough Workhouse a week, she left it, according to her own story, "because the treatment I received was so bad I could not stay, and because they dragged the child away and beat it, and I couldn't bear it". According to the story of the officials, confirmed by the guardians, she sent away because the workhouse was thoroughly comfortable, and because "these paupers" have a nasty way of liking to starve, and of bringing everybody into publicity and trouble.

Anyhow, Eliza Adkins, with the child tied on her back, and a basket containing a pair of little boots in it, some gooseberries, and a bit of rope, came forth. If the public prefers it, let us take the guardian's view, and say that people of her kind like starving. The next scene is in a cottage at Pegg's Green, where she called, and asked leave to sit down. There is nothing like direct narration in Christmas stories, so we will ask Sarah Castledine to go on here. She was the cottager, and she testified that "the prisoner had a child on her back, a boy about four years old, and asked if she could sit down, and she and the child sat down for about half an hour. She said she had come a long way, and had a long way to go to meet a friend. She asked if the water was still in the pits. The water had broken into some pits some time ago. I told her I thought they were at work again. She asked if there was as much charity given away as there used to be. I told her I thought not. The boy began to look tired and faint, and she took him on her knee, and he went to sleep. She said it had very bad boots on; she had a better pair, but she had taken them off to ease its feet. She was all of a tremble while she was at our house. When she left I was going out on an errand, and my mother said I could carry the child a little way. She said 'Oh, no; I will carry it myself. When it awakes it will walk as well as ever'. She left our house between eight and nine, and went in the direction of Thringstone, and I saw her no more". You must dip, good public into the last part of our story to do full justice to this little bit of narrative, and we doubt if you then will find any other Christmas tale of the day so interesting. "The friend she was going a long way to meet" was the good old friend of the poor and broken-hearted, whom it is wicked to go to meet, and for whom we must all wait – Death. She meant to drown the child and hang herself; loving the boy so well, meantime – the story books never thought of this! – that she takes off the boots that pinch him, as he toddles by her side "to meet the friend". "Are the pits full of water"? "No! her Friends Death won't be met there; but the well at Thringstone will do! She passes that about nightfall; and having made up her mind, Eliza Adkins fall to casual topics. "Much charity given away here"? she asks; Sarah Castledine "thinks not". Eliza Adkin obviously "thinks not too", since, for lack of two shillings a week, she is going to send her son presently to heaven, and herself, if the "pulpits" are "all right", to hell.. And look at these paupers who murder, and cottagers that poach. What a brutal set they are! Sarah Castledine, instigated by her mother, wants to carry the woman's child, and the widow, with the well and the rope in her mind, is yet woman enough not to trouble the poor people. Well, we have spoiled our story by telling all the plot; but we do think that the little conversation at Pegg's Green reads the better for what's coming.

"What's coming", has of course been guessed; the summer night passed, and Eliza Adkins turns up in the morning, at another cottage, without the child. Having murdered him, and meaning to murder herself, a lie or two more or less can't improve the Devil's bargain; so she says he died of croup, and that the neighbours clubbed 1s. 6d. to bury him. She tells Ann Lacy that; and again we digress to observe what an ungrateful set the poor are to the nice workhouses and the generous overseers.

"Oh!" says Ann Lacy, "dead and buried, is it? What reason you have to be thankful for taking him from the frowns of the world, and the frowns of the parish?" If kind Ann Lacy had known how much closer her bad grammar came to the truth than good grammar could have done, Eliza Atkins would have missed that little bit of parochial philosophy. But meantime somebody going to the well for water finds the child there, and fishes it out, with some gooseberries and grass. The constables immediately seek the mother, and find her at her sister-in-law's. The



well was kept locked; so Eliza Atkins, after all those incidents of changing the little shoes, and nursing the boy, and refusing to part with him for a minute to any body, had positively broken a hole in the well-cover by way of a gate to Death and Heaven. That was her view, and nothing else; witness her confession to the wife of the police inspector. She said to her, "I want you to see the magistrates. You will do it better than me, my heart will be so full. Then I shall feel more comfortable. It is trouble that has brought me to it. I wanted the parish to allow me two shillings a week. They would not, but said I must go into the house. I could have got my own living. I went into the house, but the treatment was so bad I could not stay. I went in on Saturday and stayed till the following Friday, and I did not know what to do for I had no home or friends in the world. I could have a place for myself, but I did not know what to do with the child. I could not bear to see it suffer any longer, and that made me do ill. God known I did not do it with any bad intent. I know the poor child is in Heaven now, out of all its troubles. If they had caught me that night they would not have had me, for I should have destroyed myself as well as the poor child. The poor child cried so much I could not bear to see it. I attempted to speak to it once, but was not allowed, and the child was dragged away and beat, and I was not allowed any supper, and it was more than I could bear". That's the workhouse, where "everybody was so kind", as the Loughborough Guardians say; and of course they spoke truly. To the magistrates the poor creature moaned out, "Through trouble I did it, because homeless and friendless; that is all I wish to say". On her trial she pleaded "not guilty", "in a low but firm voice", the reporters say, as if she did not expect the gentlemen to understand her way of meaning it. She was tried; she was sentenced; she lies for death at Leicester Gaol; and that's our Christmas story. If we thought any judge would hesitate to recommend the commutations of her sentence, we would not say a word, for out-and-out the kindness thing to Eliza Atkins would be to borrow her own piece of rope from the basket and send her from a world which she has little reason to love, and which for her could have little happiness in store. But of course her life will not be taken. All the rest of her days, however, must be doomed to prison-toil, and all her nights must be devoted to memories of the summer evening when one of the two found "Friend Death" at the bottom of a well. We can't of course object to the punishment; but let us also remember what it is to sit down and see your baby die on your lap, or else go back to Loughborough workhouse. We wish that Loughborough workhouse could have some sentence passed upon it, and that the tariff of lives and souls would get cheaper, so that somebody could buy them; and, above all, we wish that some better moral could be found for our story than "God help of the poor, and be patient with the Christianity of the nineteenth century".

**Leicester Mail – March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1866**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions – Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. – Before W. W. Abney and H. E. Smith Esqrs.**

Jane Marshall, of Griffydam, charged Ambrose Barkby of the same place, with an assault upon her, at Griffydam on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. From what complainant said, it appeared that on the night in question, she went to the Waggon and Horses public house to fetch some ale. Defendant was there, who began, as soon as she got up to the door, to pull her about and act very indecently towards her, at the same time using very disgusting language to her. Mr. W. Dewes appeared for the defendant, and called a witness named Lagar, who said he followed defendant out of the house to the doorway, and was sure no such insult was offered. It was certain bad language was used by defendant, but nothing more. – **Case dismissed.**

**Leicester Journal – March 1<sup>st</sup> 1867**

**Ashby Petty Sessions**

John Richard's of Pegg's Green, and George Platts of Griffydam, were severally charged with being drunk and riotous at Coleorton on the night of the 18<sup>th</sup> instant. Found £1 each including costs.

**Leicester Mail – March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1867**

**SWANNINGTON**

**SUDDEN DEATH.** – An inquest was held at Swannington, on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst., before the Coroner, J. Gregory, Esq., on the body of Frances Morley, deceased. – Sarah Morley said deceased was the child of her daughter, Mary Ann Morley, a single woman. It was a healthy child until about a week ago, when it appeared to take cold. On Friday she seemed in her usual health, but as her chest seemed affected, her mother went to Mr. Wale, druggist,

Griffydam, for something to relieve her. She brought some powders, a little of which was given to the deceased without appearing to do her any good. When brought down stairs she seemed worse, and while she was being nursed by her grandmother, she died suddenly in her lap. – Mary Ann Morley said the child which was hers was three years of age. She awoke about 3 o'clock on Friday morning and complained of being stifled at the chest, and asked for some water, which was given her. She lay quietly till between 6 and 7 o'clock, when she seemed worse.. – Mr. Henry Toone, surgeon of Whitwick, was of the opinion that deceased died from congestion of the lungs. He examined the powders obtained from Mr. Wale, the principle ingredients of which were calomel, and could have no effect in causing death. The severity of the weather was quite sufficient to occasion the attack from which the child died. – Mr. W. Wale having given evidence as to the composition of the powders, and his telling the mother of the child that she had better get a doctor, as from the symptoms he did not think that it would live. – The jury returned a verdict of Natural Causes.

#### **Leicester Mail – June 1<sup>st</sup> 1867**

##### **Griffydam, Leics – Valuable Freehold Messuages and Land – To be sold by Auction by Mr. Orchard**

On Tuesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 1867, at the house of Mr. Thomas Gostelow, the Waggon and Horses Inn, in Griffydam aforesaid, at Five o'clock in the evening, subject to such conditions as will be then produced.

All the four messuages, with the outbuildings, Gardens, and Appurtenances, situate at Griffydam aforesaid, now in the respective occupation of Thomas Weston, Thomas Massey, William Brooks and Stephen Smith.

And also all the two closes of very valuable old turf land adjoining the last described messuages, and containing another 2 Acres or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of the said Thomas Weston.

To view the property apply to the respective Tenants, and for further particulars to Mr. W. Knight, Willesley and Mr. John Knight, Stordon Grange, the Auctioneers or to Messrs. E. & T. Fisher, Solicitors, Ashby de la Zouch.

#### **Leicester Mercury – August 1<sup>st</sup> 1867**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> (before Rev. J. M. Echalaz)**

Thomas Heyward, of Griffydam, complained that his haystack had been maliciously set on fire on Thursday last. The police were ordered to search out the guilty parties. Mr. Heyward was the prosecutor in a charge at the late assizes for stealing hosiery goods, **the offenders being sentenced to three years penal servitude.**

#### **Leicester Journal – August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1867**

**Suicide at Griffydam.** – A labourer named King, aged 58, who had been oppressed with nervous debility during the last ten years, and more so than usual this summer, hung himself from one of the banisters of the house in which he lived at Griffydam, on Wednesday week, and effectually committed suicide. When he was discovered by the woman with whom he lived, he was quite dead. He left his work at the colliery about four months ago, and since then has not had more than a few days employment, and has been supported by the earnings of a woman named Marshall, who had lived with him for upwards of twenty years. On Friday, an inquest was held before J. Gregory, Esq., and evidence adduced to prove that since the deceased left the colliery, he had been lying a great deal in bed, and had been in a low way. – **A verdict of “Insanity” was returned.**

#### **Leicester Mail – March 28<sup>th</sup> 1868**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> – Before G. Moore Esq., the Rev. J. M. Echalaz, Captain Mowbray, and H. E. Smith Esq.**

**Drunk** – Inspector Ward charged Geo. Earp, collier, Griffydam with being drunk and riotous at Griffydam on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. – **P.C. H. Cheshire proved the case, and defendant was fined 13s., including costs.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – June 20<sup>th</sup> 1868**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**The “Fancy”.** – James Waring, a blacksmith residing at Pegg's Green, charged Michael Richard, collier, of the same place, under the Criminal Justice Act, with stealing one live tame fowl, his property on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult.

James Waring again charged Michael Richards with stealing a greyhound, value £10, his property. – Both cases dismissed.

**Leicester Chronicle – August 15<sup>th</sup> 1868**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions – Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup>**

Mary Waterfield, married woman, of Griffydam, charged Hannah Cliff and Harriet Cliff, of the same place, with assaulting her, at Griffydam, on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult. – **case dismissed; complainant to pay the costs**

**Leicester Chronicle – October 10<sup>th</sup> 1868**

**Ashby Petty Sessions, Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. – Before George Moore Esq., chairman, Captain Mowbray. And H. E. Smith Esq.**

Benjamin Platts, of Griffydam, **was fined £1 and costs, or one months hard labour**, for having committed a trespass on Sept. 16, at Thringstone, in search of game.

**Leicester Journal – October 30<sup>th</sup> 1868**

**Loughborough Police Court, October 28<sup>th</sup>. – Before E. C. Middleton Esq.**

Francis Hurst, a collier, of Griffydam, was remanded on a charge of having on the 26<sup>th</sup> inst., at Castle Donington, unlawfully uttered a counterfeit half-crown. Evidence was given to show that on more than one occasion that night he had offered the money after being told that it was counterfeit. **To reduce the intrinsic value of (a coin) by increasing the base-metal content**

**Leicester Mail – January 1869**

**Ashby de la Zouch Police Station**

Thomas Bucknall, waggoner to Mr. Richard Knight, farmer of Castle Donington, was charged with stealing 70lbs of clover, the property of his master, and Matthew Bakewell, Shopkeeper, of Griffydam, was charged with feloniously receiving the same, knowing it to have been stolen, on the 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. – Both prisoners were committed to the Assizes for trial, Bakewell being admitted to bail.

**Leicester Mail – July 27<sup>th</sup> 1869**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Mary Burton, of Griffydam, charged Thomas Cliff, with stealing apples from her father's garden, at Griffydam, on the 21<sup>st</sup> instant. – Ordered to pay £1 including costs or seven days.

**Leicester Journal – October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1869**

**County Court, October 14<sup>th</sup> – Before Mr. Serjt. Miller, judge.**

Clemy Platts and Mary Platts, of Griffydam, Judgement summonses were issues against both these persons. The statements made in court respecting them revealed a grievous state of immorality. They are both young unmarried women, living at home with their parents; each of them has a child. – They have been to gaol once for the debt, which is yet unpaid, although an offer was made by some person to pay part of it so that they might not go, but they would not permit this kindness to be done them and preferred prison. And it was said that they were ready to go to gaol again sooner than pay. **The judge, however, took precautions to prevent having their trip together a second time, by ordering that they should go to gaol at different times if they still refused to pay.**

**Leicester Mail – November 20<sup>th</sup> 1869**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday Nov.13<sup>th</sup>. – Before G. Moore Esq., Major Mowbray, and H. E. Smith, Esq.**

Joseph Waldram, collier, Griffydam, charged by Harriette Cliffe with non-payment of an order in bastardy. – **Was committed to gaol for three months**

**Leicester Journal – December 31<sup>st</sup> 1869**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, December 24<sup>th</sup>. – Before H. E. Smith and G. J. Moore Esqrs.**

Thomas Knight, labourer, and Benjamin Plant, collier, both of Griffydam, pleaded guilty to trespassing in search of game, on land in the occupation of Earl Ferrers, on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Dewes, in stating the case, said the defendants, with three others, were, in the day time, in a

plantation which abounded with all sorts of game, in the occupation of Earl Ferrers, beating it with dogs. **Fined £1. 1s. each and costs.**

**Leicester Mail – January 29<sup>th</sup> 1870**

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION  
BY MR. ORCHARD**

**MRS GOSTELOW'S, THE NEW ENGINE INN, PEGG'S GREEN**

All that croft of valuable old turf land situate in Thringstone, fronting the Anchor Lane, and containing 1a. 2r. 0p., or thereabouts, late in the occupation of Mrs. Knight (Deceased).

Possession may be had at Lady Day next.

To view the land, apply to Mr. Jonas Knight, Griffydam

**Leicester Guardian – February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1870**

**Ashby Petty Sessions**

Joseph Platts of Griffydam, bricklayer, was charged with having, on December 30<sup>th</sup>, at Griffydam, stolen a horse rug, the property of Mr. Toone, surgeon. Mr. Toone proved being at Griffydam on the night of 30<sup>th</sup> December, and leaving his horse and trap at the door of one of his patients, and on coming out again, he found his rug was gone ; also that some little time afterwards he met prisoner, who abused him **for having sent the crier before his door to cry it.** – John Underwood, servant to Mr. Toone, proved that before following his master into the patient's house, he tied the rug to the harness of the horse to prevent it from blowing away, and the rug then produced by P.C. Cheshire was his master's property and the one that was stolen on the night in question, and pointed out marks on the rug which had been made by him for the purpose of fastening it onto the harness, **also to having given instructions to the crier to cry the same,** offering 3s. reward. – P.C. Cheshire proved searching prisoner's house, and finding the rug produced on prisoner's bed. – Prisoner, in answer to the charge,, pleaded not guilty, and made a rambling statement, about having thought his wife had taken the rug back. – Committed for trial.

**Platts was subsequently tried at Leicester Crown Court and received a sentence of one weeks hard labour**

**Leicester Journal – February 18<sup>th</sup> 1870**

**Ashby County Court**

***Knight v Cheadle.*** – The plaintiff in this action, who is a collier of Griffydam, sought to recover the sum of £5 from the defendant, head keeper to Earl Ferrers, the value of a dog seized by defendant. – It appears that at a Petty Sessions held at Ashby, in December last, the plaintiff pleaded guilty to committing a trespass in pursuance of game, and was convicted; and at the time of this trespass, the plaintiff's dog was taken possession of by defendant as a gamekeeper. – The judge said, the keeper had done perfectly right in taking the dog, and it would be well if the plaintiff would take to honest industry instead of following his unlawful pursuits. – **Verdict for defendant.**

**Leicester Chronicle – March 11<sup>th</sup> 1870**

**LEICESTERSHIRE SPRING ASSIZES**

**County Court**

Joseph Platts who had pleaded guilty to stealing a horse rug, at Griffydam, was sentenced to **one weeks hard labour**

**Leicester Journal – April 8<sup>th</sup> 1870**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – J. Husbands and J. Atkins**

**Worthington Constables – J. Bird, J. Walker and John Kendrick**

**Leicester Journal – May 20<sup>th</sup> 1870**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, May 14<sup>th</sup> – Before Geo. Moore and H. E. Smith Esqrs.**

P.C. Cheshire charged James Upton, of Griffydam, with working a horse whilst in an unfit state in Worthington parish, on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. **He was fined £1, or in default seven days imprisonment.**

Thomas Upton, of Griffydam, was charged with allowing his horses to stray on the highway at Griffydam, on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult, P.S. Fardell said the animals had their legs tethered together, and were completely crippled. **The defendant was fined 1s. for each horse and the costs of the summons.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – November 19<sup>th</sup> 1870**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**DEATH FROM LOCK JAW.** – An inquest was held at Griffydam, in the parish of Worthington on Thursday last, before J. Gregory Esq., coroner, on the body of William Henry Hall. The case had caused some excitement in the neighbourhood, on account of rumours that lock-jaw, which was the cause of death, was the result of some ill usage the deceased had received at the hands of the parish constable and P.C. Ward. A considerable number of witnesses were examined, and F. Goodyer, Esq., (chief constable of the county), and Mr. W. N. Reeve, solicitor, were present to watch the proceedings on behalf of the County Police Authorities. The simple facts of the case appeared to be that the deceased who was a bricklayer, had been drinking a good deal on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of October, and that on both days the parish constables had been called to him. On the Monday he was so disorderly in the street, that the police officer and parish constable were obliged to remove him to a barn, where they laid him on some straw. He had previously been found lying helplessly drunk in the street near a wall, from which it was presumed he had fallen. He had then a bad wound at the back of the head, which the parish constable bound up when he placed him in the barn. The deceased was so noisy while there, that he was removed, and ordered to go home, which he refused to do until followed some distance by the officers. On the 9<sup>th</sup> November deceased was attended by Mr. Trevor Morris, M. D., who found him in bed at a house in the village, evidently suffering from lock-jaw. Deceased died on Monday last. – **After hearing the whole of the evidence, the jury unanimously agreed that deceased had met with his death accidentally, whilst in a state of intoxication, and this exonerated the parish constable and the policeman from all blame.**

#### **Leicester Journal October 27<sup>th</sup> 1871**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch**

**Police, Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.** – **Before George Moore Esq.** – George Brooks aged 9, and William Mellor, aged 10, both of Swannington, were charged with having on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October at Griffydam, feloniously broken and entered a certain School house their situate, called the Griffydam School, and therein previously stolen a hand bell and other articles the property of William Kidger and others, **remanded until Saturday next.**

#### **Leicester Journal – November 10<sup>th</sup> 1871**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – Before H.E. Smith Esq.**

George Brooks and William Mellor, both of Swannington, two boys, were remanded on Saturday last until today, were charged with having broken into the School House at Griffydam, and stealing there from two slates and other articles, the property of the trustees of the school. **The prisoners, who are respectively nine and ten years of age, were now on account of their youth, discharged from custody.**

#### **Leicester Journal – November 30<sup>th</sup> 1871**

**GRIFFYDAM.**– On Thursday last, an inquest was held before J. Gregory, Esq., Coroner, at Griffydam, upon Mary Anne Platts, deceased. – Hannah Hodges, wife of W. Hodges of Griffydam, said deceased was her sister, and the wife of Joseph Platts, a bricklayer and 31 years of age. Her husband works at Gresley Colliery, and goes there on Monday morning, and does not return home until Saturday night. She had seven children all living at home, the eldest being about twelve. Her sister expected her confinement in a month or six weeks. She had not complained in the least while being in the family way, and she seemed quite as well as ever last Friday. The last time she saw her was about seven that evening. The next morning, about eight o'clock, the children hooted from the bedroom, saying, "Come aunt, for we can't wake mother and her hands are cold". She ran to the house immediately, and Mrs. Walker, a neighbour, also followed her in. On going upstairs, she found her sister in bed, with the face off the pillow, but she was covered in the usual way with the bed clothes which were not in the least disturbed. Raised her up and Mrs. Walker rubbed her, but she was dead, and her arms and hands were cold. Sent for Dr. Johnson of Whitwick, who called and saw deceased. Her sister had exerted herself a great deal on Friday morning, by getting potatoes

out of a camp in the garden and carrying them into the house. There was nothing whatever about the room to lead her to think for a moment that she had taken anything to cause her death. – Jessie Platts gave corroborative evidence. – Dr. Christopher John Byron Johnson said, I was sent for on Saturday morning to see deceased, and I went and found her lying in bed dead, and she had been so some two or three hours. I examined the body and found no marks of violence, and there was no evidence whatever of anything injurious having been taken. She seemed far advanced in pregnancy. From the various circumstances connected with the death, I am of opinion that she died from apoplexy. – **Verdict, “Apoplexy.**

#### **Burton Chronicle – December 28<sup>th</sup> 1871**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

James Hurst, of Griffydam, collier, was charged by Frederick Jordan with having, on the 18<sup>th</sup> instant, at Breedon, done damage to a holly tree, to the amount of 6d. Defendant, who did not appear, was fined 6d. and costs.

#### **Leicester Journal – 12<sup>th</sup> January 1872**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, January 6<sup>th</sup> – Before the Rev. J. M. Echalaz, Major Mowbray, and H. E Smith Esq,**

Harriet Marshall, wife of Edward Marshall, of Griffydam, was charged with assaulting Eliza Atterbury, at Griffydam on the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult. Mr. Dewes appeared for Mrs. Marshall. – It appeared from the evidence that early on the morning in question, Mrs. Marshall was told by her husband, whom she thought at work, was with Mrs. Atterbury, at Eliza Haywood’s house, and had been for some time. She went there, and found Mrs. Atterbury sitting on her husband’s knee. Words ensued, and from words they got to blows, Mrs. Atterbury using the poker, and Mrs. Marshall the rolling pin; but the husband seeing Mrs. Atterbury getting the worse of it, held his wife’s hands whilst Atterbury beat her. Both parties bled very much. It was also proved that Eliza Haywood, although a single woman, had three children, and that Mrs. Atterbury had had one by Mrs. Marshall’s husband since she had been a widow; also that Mrs. Atterbury and Eliza Haywood led very immoral lives. **Case dismissed. – Mrs. Atterbury to pay costs.**

#### **Leicester Journal – February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1872**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch County Court**

Frederick Johnson, of Griffydam, Fishmonger, was charged with having, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, at Worthington, stolen two iron corner plates, the property of Mr. John Bayliss. – Mr. Dewes appeared on behalf of the prisoner. – The case was proved by George Ball, a night watchman. – **Sentenced to 14 days hard labour.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – June 1<sup>st</sup> 1872**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Thomas Bird, of Griffydam, and Michael Slattery, colliers, were severally charged with having, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, at Swannington, absented themselves from the services of Richard Worswick, and others, without lawful excuse.

#### **Leicester Journal – July 12<sup>th</sup> 1872**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, July 6<sup>th</sup> – Before Major Mowbray and Earl Ferrers**

Edward Marshall of Griffydam, collier, **was sentenced to one month’s imprisonment**, without the option of a fine, for assaulting his wife Harriet Marshall, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. This is not the first time the defendant has appeared before the Justices for assaulting his wife, and at two o’clock on the night in question, he struck her and knocked her down, and then dragged her down and beat her again.

#### **Leicester Journal – July 4<sup>th</sup> 1873**

##### **CRICKET**

**Ravenstone v Griffydam.** –This match was played on Saturday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, on the Ravenstone Ground, and resulted in favour of the former by an innings. Ravenstone scored 114 and Griffydam reached 29 in the first innings and 63 in the second. The players for Griffydam were E. Domond, K. Knight, J. Smith, W.Lane, T. Bird, W. Haywood, D. Abell, J. Rowell, J. Knight, S. Haywood and ? Hutchinson.

**Leicester Journal – July 11<sup>th</sup> 1873**

**Ashby de la Zouch Police Court, 5<sup>th</sup> July. – Before Rev. J. M. Echalaz, Major Mowbray and H. E. Smith Esq.**

John Ison of Griffydam, grocer, pleaded guilty to having in his shop, three weights which were deficient. – **Fined 10s 6d. and costs**

**Leicester Daily Post – August 16<sup>th</sup> 1873**

**GRIFFYDAM SCHOOLS**

**(GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST DAY SCHOOL, PEGG'S GREEN)**

The annual examination of the Griffydam Day Schools was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> instant, when the children acquitted themselves most satisfactorily. After the examination the company sat down to tea in the schoolroom, and owing to an unusual number present, the public meeting was adjourned to the chapel. After singing and prayer, the chair was taken by Mr. Kidger, who has taken a warm interest in the schools from its formation. Addresses were delivered by the Rev'ds, I. Kendall and R. Odery, Messrs. Ratcliffe (of Derby), Hunt (of Measham), and Crabtree, referring especially to the services rendered by Mr. Plowright, who had held the position of master from the commencement to the present date, a period of 25 years. In acknowledgement of these services, a number of his pupils and friends determined to present him with a tangible expression of their esteem, and at the close of the meeting, on behalf of the subscribers, the Rev. H. Burton, B.A. of London (an old pupil), presented a testimonial, consisting of a beautiful casket, bearing the following inscription :- "Presented to Mr. R. H. Plowright, with £150, by a number of his pupils and friends, as a mark of their esteem. August 5<sup>th</sup> 1873". In acknowledging the gift Mr. Plowright referred to his long and happy connection with the school, and to the satisfaction he felt at the position to which some of his pupils had attained, both in the ministry and in the departments of law, medicine, &c. Mr. Gray read a number of testimonials from absent friends, including clergymen, ministers, &c., all speaking in the highest terms of Mr. Plowright's qualifications as a teacher and a Christian. The meeting closed by singing the Doxology, &c.

**Leicester Journal – September 5<sup>th</sup> 1873**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, 30<sup>th</sup> August. – Before Rev. J. M. Echalaz, and H. E. Smith Esq. – Annual Brewster Session for the division.**

Joseph Lager, of Griffydam, beerhouse-keeper ([Traveller's Rest](#)), was charged with having on the 11<sup>th</sup> August, at Griffydam, refused to admit P.C. Corner. – P.C. Corner said, on passing defendant's house about twelve o'clock, I heard some men talking, and went round to the back door. I rapped several times, but no one came for about ten minutes. The defendant then came, and said there was no one in except two men who had been having supper. I asked to see the men; when he said they were gone. I said I wanted to see through the house, and he said I should not. I told him the name of one of the men I had seen through the window, and he said, yes, he is here. Went to the parlour door and found it fastened, and defendant refused to open it for me, and put his fist in my face. I remained there some twenty minutes, and then said I shall summon you. I left the house, and defendant's wife and daughter came after me, and said I should look through the house, but I refused them. – Mr. Dewes appeared for the defendant, and said I shall not call my witness now, for some gross perjury was or had been committed. But this case will be brought before you in another form, and I shall now leave the matter in your hands. **There was another witness to be examined, but the bench said they were satisfied, and a previous conviction for an offence on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1872, under the new act, having been proved against defendant, a fine of £3 and costs was inflicted, and this conviction ordered to be endorsed on his license.**

**Leicester Journal – November 28<sup>th</sup> 1873**

**Ashby Petty Sessions, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Before Major Mowbray and H. E. Smith, Esq.**

**John Kendrick, a grocer, at Griffydam, V Edward Crawford, oil merchant, Loughborough. – Claim £50 damages – Mr. Argyle, Tamworth appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Deane of Loughborough for defendant. – The jury were Messrs. J. Boden, Duffin, G. Carruthers, T. Dunicliffe, and George Bryan. –**

John Kendrick said he was a grocer at Griffydam. Defendant called on him on August 11<sup>th</sup>, and he ordered 12 gallons of the best petroleum. It came on the 13<sup>th</sup> in four three gallon tins. In a few days he opened one of the tins and poured the oil into one of his own cans, which was made for the purpose of selling the oil retail. His can was clean and there was a tap in it. When he opened the tin, he thought it did not smell as usual. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of August he was having his tea, and his wife went into the shop to trim the lamp, for he had no gas, and the shop was lighted by a lamp. She came back and took a candle to be able to see to draw some petroleum to put in the lamp. She had not been gone long before he heard shout out that the shop was on fire. He rushed in but could not get near to where the petroleum was, The shop was in flames, and filled with smoke. With difficulty he got out and fetched some water ; his face was burnt, and his whiskers singed off. The shop was spoiled, the window being burnt out, and the framework of the upper window also. He produced a detailed list of his loss. He wrote to defendant and told him what had happened, and he came over and wanted to take the oil back with him, but he plaintiff refused. Defendant told him if he would allow it he would have it examined, and if it were benzoline instead of petroleum, he would pay all damages. There was a little left in the tin, and he took it to Mr. Johnson of Ashby, to have it analysed, who said it was common benzoline. Mr. Johnson went over and examined the other three tins, and advised him to bury it and let no one touch it. Defendant again came over and wanted to see and examine the oil, and after some hesitation he allowed him. He poured a little into a pot and put a lighted match to it. The vapour ignited before the flame touched the liquor He asked the defendant if it was not benzoline, and he replied he could not understand it. Cross-examined by Mr. Deane : He did not allow defendant to take the oil because he thought he thought he was not the proper person to test his own oil.. For twelve months he had had oil from no one else. He had gunpowder in the shop. His wife took out two tins with her. It was kept at the other end of the shop on a shelf. The oil was kept on the floor in the corner.. – Hannah Kendrick, plaintiff's wife, said, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August she left her tea and went into the shop to trim the lamp. She trimmed it and then went to the tin for some oil. She set the candle down about a quarter of a yard from the tin. She put the measure under and turned the tap, when all went off into a flame. She screamed and called her husband, and then got out of the shop, taking with her two tin bottles, which were half full of gunpowder. They were properly corked up. She believed the detailed list produced by her husband was correct. She saw the defendant try the oil ; when he put the match over it it flashed off. Cross-examined : A policeman called at night, but he did not ask how the fire originated. She did not say a spark dropped and caused it. Re-examined : She said no spark fell. She was very careful, and the flame did not touch the oil. – Thomas Haywood builder, said he lived about 100 yards from plaintiff. He was about fifty yards off when he saw the fire. He went and found the shop in flames, and many things were burnt altogether, There was not much that was not burned or scorched. He had since cleaned, papered and painted the shop.. His charges were included in the list. He never heard any explosion of gunpowder. He waited till the fire was subdued.. – Mr. S. E. Johnson, pharmaceutical chemist, Ashby, said the plaintiff brought a vessel containing about half a pint of oil, which he examined and found it was the light spirit of benzoline. It threw off a vapour, which would ignite. He sent some of it to Mr. Young at Leicester by passenger train. – Joseph Young, analyst to the borough of Leicester and Rutland, said, he had examined samples produced. It was light benzoline ; none of the samples were petroleum. – Defendant was called, and said he dealt both in petroleum and bezoline. By act of Parliament he was not allowed to keep more than a small quantity in his front shop. He had a large cistern which would hold several hundred gallons, in some out buildings, and it was connected with the front shop by pipes and taps. He had a small cask of benzoline, containing about three gallons in the shop. He had also a large cistern, a long way off, containing benzoline, but these two were in no way connected. One would hold 40 gallons and the other several hundred. He got his oils from London. There was a test Society in London. He trusted to the firm he dealt with to send his oils genuine. He received the order for the 12 gallons of the best petroleum, and gave it to his daughter, who filled the tins in the front shop. He was in and out of the shop while she was filling them. The labels were his, and the writing on them his daughter's. The tins were similar to his. He was sure that there was not above a teaspoonful of oil when he tried it in the pot. He told plaintiff he could not account for it at all. It must have got changed, as all was drawn from one tap in the shop.. – Ellen Crawford, defendant's daughter, said, she assisted in the business. She put up the order on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August, among which was the plaintiff's order for petroleum. She drew it in the front shop from the petroleum cistern, into four three gallon tins. She did not leave the shop till the



tins were filled. There was only two or three gallons of benzoline in the front shop. The taps of the petroleum and benzoline casks were two or three yards apart. She afterwards labelled the tins. She called over the orders with one of the men, and saw the tins put into the wagon in care of the waggoner. – George Pulford, waggoner, said he filled the cistern with the oil, which came in five barrels from London. P.C. Corner said Mrs. Kendrick told him she thought the oil caught fire from a spark. He found a tin in the shop which looked like a gunpowder tin. – Mr. Deane and Mr. Argyle having addressed the Court at considerable length, his Honour summed up, and the jury retired. On returning into court, they gave a verdict for the plaintiff for £30 and costs.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – January 10<sup>th</sup> 1874**

##### **Griffydam**

**The Weather** – The alternate frost and thaw of the past week have made it dangerous to use the powers of locomotion. One woman, a Mrs. Smith, whilst attempting on Wednesday evening to cross the yard in which she resided, came to grief, for, owing to the slipperiness of the place, she fell and broke her arm.

#### **Leicester Journal – March 27<sup>th</sup> 1874**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

##### **Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – J. Husbands, J. Atkins**

**Worthington Constables – O. Sketchley, Griffydam – Joseph Smart**

#### **Leicester Journal – January 8<sup>th</sup> 1875**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

William Knight, of Griffydam, Butcher, pleaded guilty to having on the 18<sup>th</sup> December last, assaulted Eliza Knight, his wife. – The wife stated that on the day in question, she had to run out of the house to save herself and child from his violence, and as she was escaping through the door, he struck her on the back of the head with a knife, and she had since lived with her mother. – It was proved that in July last he was sentenced to twenty one days hard labour for a similar offence, and he was now committed for two months hard labour.

#### **Leicester Daily Mercury – May 1<sup>st</sup> 1875**

##### **Griffydam**

**Conscience Money** – A considerable amount of amusement has been caused in this village by the following circumstances:- Shakespeare has said “Conscience doth make cowards of us all”, and this has just received another illustration. As long as forty-six years ago, two lads in Griffydam were talking of birds nests, when the bigger one said he would tell the other of a nest if he would give him a halfpenny. The bargain made, and money paid, the younger of the two lads went off to fetch the contents of the nest, but the other one previous to the bargain had taken them. For forty-six years, the ghost of this “crime” has haunted him, and this year he has actually sent from Osgathorpe (where he now resides) an halfpenny, as a quietus to his conscience, to the man as a lad he deceived. It is needless to add that the greatest possible care is being taken of the halfpenny, it being an object of great curiosity.

#### **Leicester Daily Mercury – February 29<sup>th</sup> 1876**

##### **Griffydam**

**Attempted Horse Stealing** – An attempt was made to steal a horse belonging to Mr. Thomas Heywood, hosier, Griffydam, on Friday evening, when it was lying in a field belonging to Mr. Dabell, farmer. Mr. Dabell was travelling up his fields at a very late hour, and although very dark, perceived someone struggling with this young horse, when he gave an alarm, and the perpetrators soon made their escape, leaving a newly-made halter on the horse, which was already fixed, and made all right for travelling.

#### **Burton Chronicle – January 4<sup>th</sup> 1877**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Sydney Haywood, writing clerk, of Griffydam was charged with having on December 9<sup>th</sup>, at Thringstone, feloniously set fire to two stacks of Hay, the property of William Haywood. Mr. Hextall appeared for the prisoner. The chief evidence against the prisoner was that of Inspector Brewett, who compared footprints with the prisoner’s boots for a distance of 150 yards from prisoner’s house down the garden to a pass in the hedge which divides the garden

from the field in which the stacks were situated, and which stacks were within a distance of six feet from the hedge and just opposite to a pass in the hedge where the footmarks stopped ; also that prisoner did not attempt to get up after the alarm was raised to help to put the fire out. – These footprints were recounted for by the prisoner going down the garden on Saturday morning to watch a woman named Jane Barfoot, who had gone down the road. – The woman was called, and said she saw prisoner near to the bottom of the garden, as if watching her. – A lodger, named Garton, also stated that the prisoner passed him on the Saturday morning, and as he was doing so said, “Jane Barfoot has gone down the road, and I am going to watch her”. This witness also stated that he was lodging in the same house with the prisoner on the night in question, and did not hear any alarm. – Joseph Lager, father-in-law of the prisoner, said prisoner’s wife went upstairs first, then prisoner, and he immediately followed ; that to get to prisoner’s bedroom they would have to go through his (witness’s ) bedroom ; said that he could swear that no one ever passed through his room after he was in bed ; also that he was not aroused, neither did he hear any alarm whatever given in the night. – The prisoner was discharged.

#### **Leicester Journal – January 5<sup>th</sup> 1877**

Sidney Haywood of Griffydham, writing Clerk, was charged with having on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December, at Thringstone, feloniously set fire to two stacks of hay, the property of William Haywood. – Mr. Hextall appeared for the prisoner. – The chief evidence against the prisoner was that of Inspector Brewitt, who compared foot prints with the prisoner’s boots for a distance of about 150 yards from prisoner’s house. – Prisoner was discharged.

#### **Burton Chronicle – May 10<sup>th</sup> 1877**

**Joseph Lager**, Jun., collier, of Pegg’s Green, was charged with having, on the 26<sup>th</sup> uly., at Griffydham, stolen seven broccoli plants then growing in a garden belonging to Thomas Knight. On the evening in question, the plants were missed by Mr. Knight, who gave information to Police-constable Hancock, and suspicion having fallen upon the defendant on account of his having been seen loitering about, his house was searched and in the pantry eight plants were found, seven of which had been recently cut and had dew upon them. The seven were taken possession of by the officer, as were also the defendant’s clogs, which were taken into Mr. Knight’s garden, and the footprints made there exactly corresponded with defendant’s clogs. The plants also corresponded with the stalks in the garden. The defence was that he had got them out of his father’s garden on the 23<sup>rd</sup> ultimo. The defendant also called a child to give evidence on his behalf, but it knew nothing. The Bench said that the defendant had aggravated his case by putting the child in the witness box. **Fined £3 3s. and costs, or two months hard labour.**

#### **Leicester Journal – May 11<sup>th</sup> 1877**

##### **LOUGHBOROUGH**

**FATAL ACCIDENT.**- Mr. Coroner Deane held an inquest at the Waggon and Horses, Griffydham, on the 7<sup>th</sup> instant, on the body of Joseph Bailey, who was 70 years of age. Mr. Crabtree, landlord of the Railway Inn, said the deceased came to his house about nine o’clock, and stayed till near closing time. Finding he could not walk very steadily he went out with him for a short distance, talking about some work he was to do for him. The deceased then went towards a wall for a certain purpose, and standing on something that was not very level, he reeled back about a yard and a half, over balanced himself, and fell with his head against an awkward projection on the wall. Dr. Donovan was called in, but deceased had been dead some time before he arrived. He made a superficial examination of the body, and found a wound in the back portion of the head near the occipital bone, dislocation at the junction of the spine with the skull, and that dislocation causing a pressure on the spinal cord caused his death. Verdict, “Accidental Death”.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – May 12<sup>th</sup> 1877**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Joseph Lager the younger, of Pegg’s Green, collier, was charged with having, on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult., at Griffydham, stolen seven broccoli plants growing in a garden of Thomas Knight’s. On the evening in question the broccoli were missed by Mr. Knight, who gave information to P.C. Hancock. Suspicion having fallen upon the defendant on account of his having been seen loitering about the garden that night, his house was searched, and in the pantry eight broccoli were found, seven of which had been recently cut and had dew upon them. These seven

were taken possession of by P.C. Hancock, and the defendant's clogs taken to Mr. Knight's garden, and the footprints made in the garden exactly corresponded with defendant's clogs, which were of a peculiar form. The broccoli also corresponded with the stalks in the garden, some of them more than others, in account of the way they had been cut off. – The defence of the defendant was that he had got them out of his father's garden on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. The defendant also called a child to give evidence on his behalf, and it soon became evident that the child knew nothing about the plants except what it had been told to say. – The magistrates said the defendant had aggravated his case very much by putting the child in the witness box, **and fined him £3 3s. 0d. and costs or two months hard labour.**

**Leicester Chronicle – November 17<sup>th</sup> 1877**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WAR AND WORKINGMEN.** – A public meeting was held in the Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Griffydam on Saturday evening, in connection with the Workingmen's Peace Association, when there was a fair attendance. Mr. W. Wale ([chemist Griffydam](#)) presided, and, in opening the proceedings, said he heartily approved of the principles of the association. Mr. G. Johnson of Leicester, read a paper on "War", which was well received, and applauded by the meeting. Mr. W. Colver, secretary to the Leicester branch, next addressed the meeting at considerable length in support of the principles of peace. He remarked that if those who brought about wars had to fight them out, long ere this, something would have been established by which national disputes might be settled by conciliation rather than by the sword. Votes of thanks to the chairman and the deputation brought the meeting to a close.

**Leicester Journal – November 30<sup>th</sup> 1877**

#### **MARRIAGE OF LADY FLORA HASTINGS**

On Wednesday week a splendid banquet was given at Ashby de la Zouch, by Mr. Abney Hastings, to over 400 of his tenants and tradesmen in celebration of the marriage of his eldest daughter, Lady Flora Hastings, with the Duke of Norfolk. The town was throughout the day en fete, and numerous banners were displayed in the principal street, while from the keep of the ancient castle waved a large white flag with the Hastings "maunch" in the centre of it.....***The poor had not been forgotten. Mr. Hastings had taken special care of this, for Mr. James Thompson, the indefatigable steward at Donington Park, had received Mr. Hastings's order to ascertain the names and addresses of every aged and infirm woman, not only in Castle Donington, but in the villages around – Tonge, Breedon, Wilson, and Griffydam – and to each of them, whether tenants or not, was delivered one pond of tea. The thanks of the poor and their well-wishes for the future health and happiness of the newly-married pair were not less ardent than those of others.....***

**Leicester Journal – December 7<sup>th</sup> 1877**

#### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

Mary Ann Stanley (wife of Joseph Stanley) and Elizabeth Haywood (single woman), both of Griffydam, pleaded guilty to stealing 28lbs of turnips, the property of Samuel Peach of Griffydam, on the 14<sup>th</sup> ult. – It appears the turnips were placed in heaps in one of the prosecutor's fields, ready for camping, and prisoners were seen to leave the footpath, and go to one of the heaps and take a quantity of turnips. – Prosecutor said he had suffered considerably through his turnips having been stolen, and had been obliged to issue handbills offering a reward of £5 to anyone who could give information of any person having stolen his turnips. In this case he did not wish to press the charge. – The Justices said that prisoners ought to be much obliged to prosecutor for not pressing the charge, because if he had done so, they had no alternative but to send them to prison ; **but the charge not being pressed, the imprisonment would only be for one hour.**

**Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – June 15<sup>th</sup> 1878**

#### **MARRIAGES**

**MARRIOT – EARP.** –June 10, at the Register Office, Ashby de la Zouch ; John Joseph Marriot, of Coleorton, to Ann Earp of Griffydam

Tamworth Herald – September 30<sup>th</sup> 1876

Griffydam agent – William Wale – Chemist

*Tested by the Public Analytical Chemists.*

**JOHNSON'S**  
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**PURE TEA,**  
SECURED IN TINFOIL PACKETS.

*Free from all mineral colour, or other adulteration — wholesome & invigorating — of great strength and delicious flavour — and cheaper and better than any other Tea.*

Qualities from 2/- to 4/- per lb.

Sold by upwards of Three Thousand authorized Agents throughout the Kingdom.

LOCAL AGENTS:—

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| Athole: Barclay, Grocer        | Farnley: Barrett, Grocer           |
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| Edlington: Stonebridge, Grocer | Hampton-in-Arden: Butler, Grocer   |
| Alrewas: Nathan, Grocer        | Leam: Chemist                      |
| Barton: Hayward, Grocer        | Lichfield: Charrington, Chemist    |
| Blithfield: Lister, Chemist    | Market Harborough: Leadley, Grocer |
| Blithfield: Wale, Grocer       | New Arden: Grocer                  |
| Bloxwich: Jones, Chemist       | Worcester: Fuggle, Chemist         |
| Coventry: Brown, Provisioner   | Leicester: Barton, Grocer          |
| Coventry: Smith, Book-binder   | Stafford: Hawthorn, Grocer         |

Leicester Journal – July 5<sup>th</sup> 1878

#### Suicide at Griffydam

An inquest was held at the Red Lion Inn, Griffydam, before Mr. Deane, coroner, on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult., on the body of Joseph Freeman, 53 years of age, who was found dead in a field by Sarah Haywood with his throat cut. – Mr. Donovan, Surgeon, stated that he had attended the deceased for general debility, and he was in a desponding state, suffering from congestion of the lungs. Upon examining the body, he found a wound extending the length of the lower jaw, but not deep, except across the larynx, which was about two thirds severed. From the appearance of the cut, he had no doubt it was self inflicted. Deceased kept the “Rising Sun”, Griffydam. – Sarah Haywood said, on going to the spring to fetch a bucket of water, she saw a hat and some blood on the ground in a field adjoining the road, and on looking about saw the body in the brook. Charles Smedley being at Griffydam that day, and hearing that a man was in the brook went thither, and found the body of deceased lying sideways in the water. He and another lifted him out, and found that his throat was cut, and a razor lying about a yard and a half off the bank side. – **The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased cut his throat with a razor, not being at the time in a sound state of mind.**

Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – August 17<sup>th</sup> 1878

#### GRIFFYDAM & Pegg's Green

**WESLEYAN SERMONS.** – On Sunday, two impressive sermons were preached in the Wesleyan chapel, Griffydam by Mr. H. Adcock, of Burton on Trent, in aid of the Sunday School ([held at Griffydam Wesleyan Methodists Day School, Pegg's Green](#)),. The singing of the children was, as usual, worthy of praise. Mr. R. Knight presided at the harmonium. – On Monday the children had their annual treat in the schoolroom ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodists Day School, Pegg's Green](#)), and after tea indulged in the usual games in a field

kindly lent by Mr. P. ([Price](#)) Kidger, all enjoying themselves thoroughly, the weather being beautifully fine. There were a good number of parents and friends present, about eighty of whom sat down to tea, being more than for many years past. The collections were equal to former years, and the anniversary was a decided success

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – December 7<sup>th</sup> 1878**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

William Cutler of Swannington ; Charles Griffin of Swannington ; Samuel Holmes of Hugglescote ; W. Holland of Griffydam ; Samuel Bradford of Coleorton ; and William Hincks, of the parish of Ashby, were charged with neglecting to provide efficient elementary instruction for their respective children. – Orders to attend school were made in each case.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 15<sup>th</sup> 1879**

**TO BE LET**, with immediate possession, a detached house, pleasantly situated at Griffydam, four miles from Ashby de la Zouch, containing kitchen, house, parlour, and three bedrooms, garden and out-door appurtenances.. – Apply John Kendrick, Grocer, &c., Griffydam, near Ashby de la Zouch.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – June 14<sup>th</sup> 1879**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**ODD-FELLOWS' GATHERING.** – On Whit-Tuesday, the members of the Lodge, Nottingham Imperial Order of Oddfellows, assembled at their Lodge House, the Waggon and Horses (Mr. Thomas Costelow), when about sixty sat down to a sumptuous dinner, which was served up in the respected hosts well known style, the waiting being excellent. After the usual toasts, the health of of the host and hostess followed, and Mr. Costelow replied in feeling terms, expressing their pleasure that their efforts to provide a good dinner had been so fully appreciated.

### **Derby Mercury – August 13<sup>th</sup> 1879**

#### **COUNTY COURT**

**INTERPLEADER CASE.** – At a previous court Peter Jerrison, plasterer, Uxbridge Street, Burton, obtained judgement for a small amount against Messrs. Smart, Wildblood, and Co., brick and tile makers and builders, of Griffydam, and on an execution being levied Joseph Lager, beerseller, Griffydam ([Traveller's Rest](#)), put in a claim on the property and effects of the defendants under a bill of sale. The present action was therefore brought to try the validity of the bill. – Mr. E. B. Jennings appeared for the claimant, and Mr. Wilson for the execution creditor. – It appeared that the defendants commenced business on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January last, the claimant finding money for his Son-in-Law, Sidney Haywood, to become a partner. The defendant's soon found themselves involved in financial difficulties, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June, they applied to Lager for a loan of £100. In the same month they also borrowed from him two sums of £50 and £25. The claimant had to mortgage some property of which he was possessed to find the money, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June the bill of sale was given to him in consideration of the loans, the property assigned included that seized by the execution creditor. Mr. Jennings put in the bill of sale, which was objected to by Mr. Wilson. Mr. Jennings then proved the bill on oath, and in cross-examination he admitted that there was another interpleader action arising out of the same matter at Ashby County Court. Another party was the claimant in that action, which raised the question of the validity of the bill of sale in question. Mr. Wilson contended that there was no evidence before the court that the bill of sale was properly executed or registered. – Mr. Jennings urged that this production by him of the bill of sale, with the certificate attached to it, was sufficient evidence of the registration. – Joseph Lager, the claimant, then gave evidence of the loans by him to the firm, and of the raising of the money by the mortgage of his property. Part of the property assigned consisted of some house in course of erection in Shobnall-street, Burton, and he was finding money for the completion of these houses. Altogether, he had lent the firm £1,300 or £1,400. In cross-examination, he said he now represented the firm, and was carrying on the business under the bill of sale. – The judge held that there was not sufficient evidence as to the mortgage, and Mr. Jennings asked for a short adjournment so that he might produce it. This was granted, and at a later stage, on the mortgage being produced, it was agreed on both sides that the action should be adjourned till the next court, his Honour suggesting that the claimant should pay off the execution creditor. – Mr. Wilson said he should be happy to retire on those

terms ; and Mr. Bright, who had been instructed in another case for the Park Foundry Company, Derby, said he should be glad to retire on the terms suggested by his Honour. – The matter was then adjourned.

#### **Loughborough Journal – November 7<sup>th</sup> 1879**

William Knight, of Griffydam, butcher, was charged with having on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, at Coalville, exposed for sale beef which was unfit for food. The beef in question was seized by Mr. Samuel Heward, and shown to Dr. Donovan, who pronounced it totally unfit for the food of man. Mr. Heward then took the beef before a magistrate, who ordered it to be destroyed. Mr. Heward called as a witness on his behalf John Baker, of Pegg's Green, who said that about three weeks ago defendant purchased the cow from him and gave him 13s. 6d. for it. The cow was an old one but healthy. – Fined £6 6s. including costs, or two months imprisonment. – Mr. Dewes prosecuted on behalf of the Whitwick Local Board.

#### **Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser – January 7<sup>th</sup> 1880**

##### **PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED**

**SMART, SMART** and Co., Griffydam, Leicestershire, brick makers.

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 6<sup>th</sup> 1880**

##### **DIED**

**KENDRICK.** – Feb. 20, aged 21, at Plymouth, Elizabeth Ellen, daughter of John and Hannah Kendrick, of Griffydam. Deeply lamented.

#### **Burton Chronicle – April 29<sup>th</sup> 1880**

##### **ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH COUNTY COURT**

**LEACH v LAGER.** – Mr. Jesson for plaintiff, and Mr. Deane for defendant. The plaintiff sort to recover £35 16s. 5d., for work done by him for the defendant in the making of bricks since the latter took possession of the property of Messrs. Smart and Co., of Griffydam, under a bill of sale, in June, 1879. There appeared to be some question as to whether all the bricks in question were made after the date of the bill of sale, or whether some of them had not been made before, though sold after that date. An adjournment until the next court was asked for and granted.

#### **Leicester Journal – June 4<sup>th</sup> 1880**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

**James Leach v Joseph Lager.** – Mr. Jesson for plaintiff, and Mr. Deane, Loughborough, for defendant. – Plaintiff is a labourer, living at Swannington and the defendant is a beer seller at Griffydam ([Traveller's Rest](#)). The claim was for £26 15s. 5d. for work and labour done in the making and burning of bricks since the 5<sup>th</sup> of June. The case was adjourned from a previous Court day in order that it might be ascertained how many bricks the plaintiff had made since the defendant took possession of the Brick yard. – The defence was that plaintiff had not made the number of bricks in respect of which he claimed. – Judgement for plaintiff for plaintiff for £15, payable at the rate of £5 per month

#### **Leicester Journal – June 25<sup>th</sup> 1880**

**WORKING MEN'S PEACE ASSOCIATION,** - A very successful series of public meetings around the area in connection with the Workman's Peace Association was brought to a close on Saturday evening.....Amongst the addresses given was one from Kidger (Griffydam) .....Resolutions against large standing armies were passed unanimously at each meeting. Not less than 1000 persons have attended the meetings at the different villages, at which the best order has prevailed.

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1880**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Hannah Saddington, wife of John Saddington, collier, and Fanny Platts, wife of Benjamin Platts, both of Griffydam, were charged with having, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June last, stolen 7lbs. weight of coal, the property of William Hoults, in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill. – P.C. Hancock and prosecutor's wife proved the case. – The Bench pointed out the very serious position in which the two defendants had placed themselves, and expressed their regrets that two women of their apparent respectability and age should be charged with such an offence.

They were willing under all the circumstances to deal as lightly as possible with the defendants, and fined them each 5s., the costs to be paid by the county.

**Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – August 21<sup>st</sup> 1880**

**MARRIED**

**TERRILL-KENDRICK.** – Aug 17, at the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydam, by the Rev. John Nate, the Rev.S. H. Terrill, Wesleyan Minister, to Miss Sarah Kendrick, of Griffydam, Ashby de la Zouch.

**Leicester Chronicle – August 28<sup>th</sup> 1880**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE AGAINST A FARMER AND OTHERS**

**RESCUING A STACK FROM BAILIFFS**

*Sidney Heywood, farmer Griffydam; Oliver, his brother, Griffydam; William Hodges, labourer Griffydam; Arthur Draper, labourer, Griffydam; John Curtis, labourer and Thomas Haynes, Clerk, Ashby de la Zouch, were severally charged with unlawfully removing a stack of hay, at Griffydam, on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., whilst the bailiffs of the County Court were in possession of the same. Each of the defendants pleaded not guilty to the charge.*

The court was densely crowded, and the case was evidently watched with much interest. Mr. Musson, Deputy Registrar of the Ashby County Court, appeared to prosecute, and Mr. F. Stroud, of Nottingham, for defendants.

Mr. Musson briefly stated the facts of the case, which are these – On the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., the bailiffs of the Ashby County Court were sent to Griffydam, in pursuance of a judgment of the County Court, to take possession of a stack of hay belonging to Joseph Lager. On the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., the defendant Sidney Heywood went and said the hay belonged to him, and he should take it away. Notwithstanding the caution given him by the bailiff then in possession, the defendant Sidney Heywood, assisted by the other defendants, did remove the hay. In closing his remarks, Mr. Musson said it was a serious case, and he asked for heavy penalties in the cases of Sidney and Oliver Heywood, as he (Mr. Musson) believed that they were the ring leaders of the party.

Nathaniel Timms deposed, I am a bailiff of the Ashby County Court. I had a warrant of execution put into my hands against Joseph Lager of Griffydam. The warrant was dated August 9<sup>th</sup>, and the amount was £17 12s. I and Thompson, the other bailiff, executed the warrant on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. I remained there until August 13<sup>th</sup>. A regular distress notice was pinned on to the stack. Mrs. Heywood (Lager's daughter) refused to take it at the door. On Thursday, the defendant, Sidney Heywood, came into Chamber's public house, where I was staying, and said to me, "Nat, you're here, are you ; and have come to seize that hay, which is my property, and stands on my premises, and I shall take it away". I said "I hope you will not, for we have legally seized it, and if you do I think you will get into trouble ; if it belongs to you, there is a course of law for you to pursue. We have legally seized it and mean to keep it". He replied "I shall not interplead". Between five and six o'clock on the same evening, I saw Sidney Heywood and a man in the yard. Hurst did not stay. The other defendants came shortly after with a wagon ; Hodges mounted the stack, and began to throw the hay into the wagon. I requested them to leave the stack alone, and cautioned them. I can swear that the whole of the defendants assisted in removing the hay, and they entirely removed it away. They were at it during the night. I was watching them through a bedroom window in Chamber's public house. On the following Saturday, I and Thompson and P.C. Hancock saw the defendant Draper, and he admitted being there.

By Mr. Stroud : I got to the stack about three o'clock in the afternoon, and went into Chamber's public house ; I afterwards went to Sidney Heywood's, and saw Mrs. Heywood. I saw Thompson pin the paper on the stack while Mrs. Heywood was there. I swear I saw the paper on the stack. – In reply to Mr. Stroud, witness said he was not there whilst the hay was being removed. – John Chambers, landlord of the "Traveller's Rest", Griffydam, said he had lately taken to the house recently occupied by Joseph Lager.

He remembered the bailiffs Thomson and Timms coming to his house on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. They asked him if Lager was there? He replied "No". They asked him where he lived, and he said next door. He then saw them talking to Mrs. Heywood. Timms remained at his house, and witness found food for him. He saw a party of men removing the hay, but did not see Draper there. Mrs. Heywood offered to sell witness the hay on Thursday morning. It was standing on the same land as that Lager occupied before him.

By Mr. Stroud : When he took the public house, Sidney Heywood came and asked him to allow the stack to remain, saying it was his. He consented and intended to buy it. He did not see Sidney Heywood take any part in removing the hay. He was there ; but he did not see him touch it. – William Platts, jun., a pork butcher, residing at Griffydam, spoke as to seeing the defendants Sidney Heywood and Arthur Draper with a load of hay on the day in question. – By Mr. Stroud : His father owned some land at Griffydam. Sidney Heywood rented a field of his father. Witness saw the grass cut, and it was stacked close to Sidney Heywood's house. It was the stack in question. –

John King, Clerk at the County Court Office, said, on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> inst., he went to Griffydam to see the bailiff in possession. He saw Sidney Heywood, and, calling him on one side, asked him how it was he had removed the stack of hay? He replied "it was mine". Witness said "if it was yours, why did you not interplead ; you knew how to proceed"? He replied, yes I knew how to proceed ; but have been robbed enough, lately". Witness said "You'll get into bother". He replied "I don't care ; the hay was mine, and I meant having it".

John Bailey, another bailiff of the Ashby County Court, said on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst, he saw Oliver Heywood at the "New Inn", Ashby. He said "We've beat the Bums". Witness got 3s. 6d. for his days work.

This being the case for the prosecution, Mr. Stroud briefly addressed the Bench on behalf of the defendants. He admitted that the hay had been removed ; but contended that it was not so serious offence as Mr. Musson had represented. The stack of hay, undoubtedly, was the property of Sidney Heywood, and he thought the defendant was under the impression that he had a right to remove it. He (Mr. Stroud) hoped the Bench would deal as lightly as possible with the defendants.

William Platts, sen., farmer, Griffydam, was called for the defence. He said that Sidney Heywood was a tenant of his, and had been for four or five years. The stack in question was Sidney Heywood's property. He (witness) had known the defendant (Sidney Heywood) as a respectable man. He always paid his rent.

Elizabeth Eaglefield, cowkeeper, Worthington, said that she bought the stack of hay in question from Sidney Heywood on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst., for £14.

This was the case. The Bench retired to consult, and on returning into court, the Chairman said the Bench had found all the defendants guilty of the charge and that they were liable to a heavy penalty, but they had decided to take a lenient view of the case. Sidney Heywood who appeared to be the chief offender, would have to pay a fine of £2 10s. and 11s. costs, or one month ; the other defendants would be fined 1s. each and 11s. costs or seven days. The defendants were some little time in deciding whether to pay or go below, but eventually the cash was paid.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – September 4<sup>th</sup> 1880**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**A CHILD CHOKED BY A BONE.** – On Monday a child, named John Horne Seamin, whose parents live at Griffydam, was sucking a small fowl bone, which accidentally became fast in the throat, and before it could be extracted the child was choked. An inquest was held on the body last Wednesday evening, before Mr. A. D. Bartlett, deputy coroner.

### **Leicester Chronicle – September 11<sup>th</sup> 1880**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**COWARDLY ASSAULT ON A WIFE.** – John Jinks, labourer, Griffydam, was brought up in custody charged with assaulting his wife, Jane Jinks, at Griffydam, on the 6<sup>th</sup> ult. – Defendant denied the charge. – Complainant said her husband came home the worse for drink, and



struck her in the face with his fist, which knocked her on the house floor. It was not the first time her husband had ill-used her. – Defendant said, as he was entering someone threw a stone, which hit him in the face, making him insensible. If he had struck his wife it must have been while he was insensible. He did not remember striking her. – P.C. Hancock said defendant was a bad, worthless character, and had frequently ill-used his wife, who was a quiet woman, and one who worked hard to support her drunken husband and her family. – Prisoner was committed to Leicester Gaol for one month with hard labour, without the option of a fine

**Leicester Chronicle – September 11<sup>th</sup> 1880**

**Ashby Petty Sessions, Saturday – Before Major Mowbray and H. E. Smith Esq.**

Charles Springthorpe, of Pegg's Green, was charged with stealing two ducks, value 4s., on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, the property of Sir George Beaumont, Bart. – The case was proved by Edward Radford and Joseph Lord, who saw the ducks in the prisoner's hands. – The defendant pleaded not guilty, and stated that he saw the ducks on the grass, but did not touch them. – **The magistrates sentenced the prisoner to two months hard labour.**

**Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1880**

**GRIFFYDAM**

**A DASTARDLY ACT.** – A most dastardly and cruel outrage was committed at Griffydham a few days ago by some person or persons unknown. Whilst a mare belonging to John Kendrick was lying in a field at the place named, some evil disposed person or persons maliciously cut out the animal's tongue. A reward has been offered for information that shall lead to the discovery and conviction of the inhuman perpetrators of the outrage, and it is to be hoped they will speedily be brought to answer for the cruel deed before the proper authorities.

**Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – November 27<sup>th</sup> 1880**

**ASHBY COUNTY COURT**

**LEECH v LAGER, EAGLEFIELD claimant.** – This was an interpleader case adjourned from the last Court, Mr. Briggs appearing for the claimant, and Mr. Jesson for the execution creditor. – Mr. Briggs stated that Mrs. Eaglefield, the claimant, carried on a dairy business at Worthington. She purchased from a man named Sidney Haywood, a stack of hay which he represented as his property. She bargained for it on the fifth of August, and on the seventh paid the money £14 and received from Harwood a receipt for it. The stack was standing in the yard belonging to the Traveller's Rest Inn, at Griffydham. On the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> of August, the County Court Bailiff's seized the stack under an execution from that court against Lager, who was the father-in-Law of Haywood, the man who sold the stack. Lager occupied the Traveller's Rest, and he and Haywood had the occupation of two pieces of land, from off which the hay in question came. There was some arrangement between them that the stack should be Haywood's property. When Mrs. Eagle field heard that the bailiffs had seized the stack, she went to Haywood and demanded her money. Haywood thereupon went and rescued the stack from the bailiff's, for which act he was summoned before the magistrates and fined. – Plaintiff gave evidence in support of this statement. And in cross-examination by Mr. Jesson she stated she was asked by Haywood if she could buy the hay when it was lying about the field, but she replied that she would not buy it until it was properly done up. – Judgement for claimant

**Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – January 29<sup>th</sup> 1881**

**MARRIED**

**CHESTER – BLOOD.** – Jan. 19, at the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydham, by the Rev. S. J. Burrell. – Mr. William Chester, of Thringstone Mill, to Harriet, third daughter of Mr. John Blood, Alma House, Whitwick.

**Leicester Chronicle – August 13<sup>th</sup> 1881**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**A DISHONEST DOMESTIC.** – Jane Shaw (13), domestic servant, Griffydham, was charged with stealing 27s., the moneys of Charlotte Gostelow, on the 25<sup>th</sup> July. – The evidence showed that the prisoner had up to the 31<sup>st</sup> July been in the employ of the prosecutrix's uncle at Thringstone. About a week prior to the date, Miss Gostelow, who was staying with her uncle, went away on a visit. On returning she missed 10s. from her drawer, and shortly afterwards missed another 17s. Nothing was said at the time to the prisoner, but on the 31<sup>st</sup>

ult., she absconded. Information was given to the police, and the girl was subsequently arrested, when she admitted, having taken the money While Miss Gostelow was away. She stated that a young woman acquaintance had had part of it, and that this person and herself each brought a pair of boots with the money. –Prisoner's father, who was in Court, stated that he had had a great deal of trouble with is daughter, and he feared he could do nothing with her if he took her home again. – **Prisoner, who continued sobbing during the hearing of the case, was sent to gaol for seven days.**

**Leicester Chronicle – December 10<sup>th</sup> 1881**

**GRIFFYDAM (PEGG'S GREEN)**

**WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL. (Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green)**

– The public examination of this school was held on Wednesday, and proved very satisfactory. A public tea was then held and largely attended. An entertainment was then given by the friends, and several pieces were sung by the school choir, led by Mr. Barraclough, the master. The programme was well rendered. The instrumental part was sustained by a harmonium, played by Mr. Illesley (Coalville), bass viol by Mr. Vernon, and violin by Mr. Knight (Griffydam), whose excellent execution was loudly applauded. The vocalists were Miss L. Knight, Miss Coulson, Mr. Illesley, and Mr. Vernon, who displayed good taste, richness, and good expression, combined with clear articulation. Miss L. Knight was repeatedly encored. Mr. Plowright, formerly a schoolmaster in the village presided. Programme:- "Wedding March", Messrs. Illesley, Knight and Vernon ; song, "The children's home", Mr. Barraclough ; anthem, "I will extol thee", choir ; trio, "Forgive, blest shade", Miss Knight. Messrs. Vernon and Barraclough ; song, Miss L. Knight (encored) ; "The pilgrims of the night", choir ; song, "Far away yet ever near", Miss Coulson ; March, "Caliph of Bagdad", instrumental Messrs. Illesley, Knight, and Vernon ; song, "Poor old Joe", Mr. Barraclough ; "Grand March", instrumental, Messrs. Illesley, Knight and Bernon ; song, Miss Coulson (encored) ; school song "Ring the bell, watchman", choir ; song, Mr. Illesley (encored) ; song, "My old Kentucky home", Miss L. Knight.

**Leicester Chronicle – May 21<sup>st</sup> 1881**

**Griffydam and Pegg's Green**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.** – Thomas Peters, spar manufacturer, Pegg's Green, was charged with being drunk and riotous, at Griffydam on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. – Mr. Lawrence, Leicester defended. – P.S. Hardy and P.C. Hancock gave evidence. – Fined 10s. 6d. and 20s. costs.

**Leicester Chronicle – February 11<sup>th</sup> 1882**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday – before Major Mowbray (chairman) and H. E. Smith esq.**

**Assault** – William Freeman, collier, Griffydam, was charged with assaulting Wm. Stinson, at Griffydam, on the 14<sup>th</sup> ult. **After hearing the evidence the Bench fined defendant 6s. and 24s. costs, but in default of payment, he was sent to prison for seven days with hard labour.**

**Leicester Chronicle – March 18<sup>th</sup> 1883**

**BLUE RIBBON.** – A meeting was held in the Reform Wesleyan Chapel on Thursday, when addresses were given by Messrs. J. Vorley, of Leicester, Kendrick Barraclough, and others. Mt. J. Wale (**Griffydam chemist**) presided. Ninety seven pledges were taken.

**Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – May 27<sup>th</sup> 1882**

**MESSRS.**

**AULT, SPRECKLEY, AND Co.,**

**AT THE WAGGON AND HORSES, GRIFFYDAM, LEICESTERSHIRE**

**ON MONDAY THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 1882**

**AT 5 FOR 6 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING PROMPT**

**SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE SALE TO BE THEN PRODUCED**

All that close of Valuable Pasture Land, with the Kiln, Brick and Tile Open Shed, and other buildings standing thereon, called by the name of "The Brick Kiln Close", containing by survey

5a. 6r. 26p., or thereabouts, situate in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill, in a place there called "The Brand". And now in the occupation of Mr. Henry Toone.

There is an everlasting bed of clay of the very best quality, a good trade is being done, and sample bricks quarries and tiles can be seen in the yard.

The premises are adjoined by the Hinckley and Melbourne turnpike and the Brand Roads, and are within a mile of Worthington Railway Station.

The tenancy is a yearly one and produces, with a guaranteed minimum royalty of £21, the rental of £43.

Further particulars may be had of the auctioneers St. Mary's Gate, Derby, or Mr. Alfred Henry, Solicitor, 4, Market-place, Derby.

### **Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal – July 7<sup>th</sup> 1882**

#### **DERBY COUNTY COURT**

#### **ALLEGED WRONGFULL SEIZURE OF A HORSE AND CART**

**CHAMBERS v DOVE.** – In this case, the plaintiff was John Chambers, publican, ([Traveller's Rest](#)) of Griffydham, Leicestershire, and the defendant William Dove, of High-street, Melbourne. – Mr. Hextall appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Briggs for defendant. – The claim was for the wrongful seizure of a horse and cart valued at £23. The plaintiff stated that on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, George Gregory, a farmer, at Woodhouse, Melbourne, went to his house with a horse and cart. He purchased the horse and cart on the following morning, the price being £23, and he paid £20 down receiving a receipt from Gregory. They remained in his possession for some time, and his wife chalked her husband's father's name on it. About the middle of January witness was at Gregory's house when defendant and Mr. Nutt arrived, seized the horse and cart, and told witness if he interfered he would be taken into custody. The horse and cart were subsequently sold by auction by Mr. Doughty, at the New Inn, Melbourne. – Cross examined : the transaction between witness and Gregory was an honest and straight forward one. – Mrs. Chambers, Charles Gregory, and other witnesses were called, who gave corroborative evidence. – Mr. Briggs, on the part of the defendant, contended that the alleged sale was a fraudulent transaction between plaintiff and Gregory, for the purpose of enabling the latter to behave dishonestly to his creditors. He then called the defendant and other witness's to substantiate this contention, and to show that the seizure was a legal one, in accordance with with a judgement made in the Borough Court of Record. – HIS HONOUR was of opinion that the alleged sale was a sham, and that no money passed between plaintiff and Gregory for the horse and cart. He therefore gave a verdict for the defendant.

#### **Conclusion**

Gregory had debts in order to avoid his horse and cart being ceased, so he put it in the possession of Chambers. The judge believed the sale was a sham and no money passed hands and found for William Dove who Gregory was in debt to.

### **Leicester Journal – July 14<sup>th</sup> 1882**

#### **The School Attendance Committee for the Ashby Union**

Numerous people were charged with neglecting to cause their respective children to attend school as required by the by-laws. Included were Samuel Hinds and Benjamin Platts of Griffydham. Fines were inflicted in each case.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – January 13<sup>th</sup> 1883**

#### **Ashby Police Court**

Thomas Freeman of Griffydham, navy, was charged with having on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December at Whitwick, stolen one dead rabbit, the property of Selina Holloway. – Mrs. Holloway said, I am a beerhouse keeper, and on the day in question I had prepared a tame rabbit which I had killed that day for cooking, and at twenty minutes past four, I put in the oven of the tap room ; The defendant with others, was at this time in the tap room, and he said it was a fine rabbit and a leg would be nice. I noticed the defendant leave my house about ten minutes after this. He went out of my house sideways at a quarter to five. I missed the rabbit out of the oven and I gave information to P.C. Darby, and of my suspicion about the defendant, and in the evening P.C. Darby brought to me a rabbit, which I at once identified as the one that had been taken out of my oven. – P.C. Darby said : I followed the defendant to his brother's house at Griffydham, a distance of three miles, and at once he denied having been to Whitwick that day. On looking round I saw a partly cooked rabbit on a dish, and I then charged him with this

offence, when defendant said "Let me go to Mrs. Holloway and beg her pardon. I am sorry I ever brought the rabbit home. I see her put it in the oven, and as soon as her back was turned, I took it out and put it in my pocket". – **Sentenced to 21 days hard labour.**

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1883**

#### **THRINGSTONE**

**SUDDEN DEATH.** – On Friday of last week, Mr. Coroner Deane held an inquest at the Beaumont Arms, Thringstone, on the body of Ellen Eagle, the wife of Samuel Eagle, grocer aged, aged 87 years, who died very suddenly on the previous Wednesday. It appeared that the deceased started to walk to her brothers, Mr. J. Kendrick, grocer of Griffydham, and on the way fell down seriously ill. She was removed into the house of Thomas Elliot, where her brother saw her soon after. She was quite conscious, and expressed a belief that she should die. She did not speak afterwards, and died in about half an hour. Mr. J. Hatchet, surgeon, Ravenstone, who had attended the deceased for some time, attributed death to failure of the heart's action (syncope) from some disease or weakness of the heart. – The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes". [The Beaumont Arms would have been in Rotten Row, Coleorton which was part of the Township of Thringstone at the time as Samuel and his wife lived in Rotten Row.](#)

### **Leicester Chronicle – February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1883**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**AWFULLY SUDDEN DEATH.** – An awfully sudden death occurred in this village on Thursday. Mrs. Eagle, the wife of a baker of Coleorton, came on some business respecting a house which was undergoing some alterations, and was in apparently good health. On returning from the house, however, she felt very ill and went into a neighbour's – a Mr. Elliot's – and sat down. Her brother, Mr. John Kendrick, came immediately on being sent for, and Mrs. Eagle, turning to him, said "I am going to leave you", and expired in a few minutes.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – February 24<sup>th</sup> 1883**

**Ashby Petty Sessions.** – Sidney Haywood of Griffydham, hosier, was charged with having, on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst., assaulted P.C. Chapman while in the execution of his duty. – Mr. Rowlatt appeared for complainant, and Mr. Wilson for defendant. – P.C. Chapman said : At a quarter to eleven on the night in question I was on duty in Griffydham, and at the time was walking along the highway with Jonas Knight. I saw a man coming, and on my turning my light upon him I saw it was the defendant, and that he had a bag on his back. I said, "Sidney, what have you got"? He replied, "A hare", and I asked to see in the bag, and said, "I suspect you of having something unlawfully obtained, and I must search you". He then made as to run away. I caught hold of him and said I should search him. He immediately struck me with his fist on my right eye, and twice on my breast. I then said I should apprehend him for assaulting me. He became very violent, and threatened me. Defendant kicked me twice on the shins, and tried to bite me. I had to get a horse and cart and convey him to Ashby. – In answer to Mr. Wilson, Chapman said : He did not say he bought the hare at Nottingham until I got him to the police-station. – Jonas knight gave corroborative evidence as to meeting the defendant, but on Chapman seizing the bag and searching Haywood, a scuffle then ensued and he walked on. – In answer to Mr. Wilson, he said defendant told Chapman that he had bought the hare at Nottingham. – The defendant was fined £1 1s. and costs, or 21 days hard labour. – Elizabeth Haywood, wife of Sidney Haywood was also charged by P.C. Chapman with having assaulted him whilst having her husband in his custody. – Mr. Rowlatt said with the sanction of the Bench he should withdraw the summons, - The summons was accordingly withdrawn.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham and Uppingham News – March 29<sup>th</sup> 1883**

#### **GRIFFYDAM & [Pegg's Green](#)**

The annual love feast was held at the Wesleyan Chapel on Easter Monday afternoon, the building being filled to overflowing. The service was conducted by the Rev. G. Green, of Coalville, who preached a very impressive sermon at night to a crowded congregation. A collection was made at the close to defray the expenses incurred by putting two stoves in the chapel. Tea was also provided in the afternoon in the schoolroom ([Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)) for the friends who had come from a distance.

**Leicester Chronicle – April 7<sup>th</sup> 1883**

**KEEPING A DOG WITHOUT A LICENSE**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

David Sketchley, butcher, Griffydam, was charged by P.C. Chapman with keeping a dog without a license, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. – Defendant produced forms of exemption for the years 1881 and 1882, and said that the excise officer had omitted to send the form for this year. The dog in question was a shepherd dog and used only for that purpose. – The case was dismissed.

William Refern, labourer, Griffydam, was similarly charged, and was fined 15s. and 14s. costs.

**Leicester Journal – April 7<sup>th</sup> 1883**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – J. S. Knight and John Nicklinson**

**Worthington Constables – John Brid, Jonas Knight, jun., and Jos. Fletcher**

**Leicester Journal – May 4<sup>th</sup> 1883**

**DEATH OF TWO CHILDREN AT WHITWICK.** – On Saturday, Mr. Coroner Deane held an inquest at Pegg's Green, as to the deaths of two children. Thomas and Mary Ann Shakespear, aged four years and nearly two years respectively, who had died on Thursday night and Friday morning without having medical attendance, but both having been given some powders, obtained from Mr. [Wale](#) of Griffydam, It appeared from the evidence that both had been ill occasionally since they had measles two months ago, and Mr. Donovan stated that the boy had died from inflammation of the kidneys and pericardium, and the girl from inflammation of both lungs ; and that both probably might have been saved had they had proper medical attendance, but that the powders given had nothing to do with the fateful result.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham and Uppingham News – August 16<sup>th</sup> 1883**

**DEATH**

**KENDRICK.**- On the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., Mary Maria (Pollie), third daughter of John Kendrick, of Griffydam, aged 21 ; Deeply lamented.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham and Uppingham News – January 10<sup>th</sup> 1884**

**GRIFFYDAM**

**WORKMEN'S PEACE ASSOCIATION.** – A public meeting was held in the Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Griffydam, on Saturday evening, in connection with the above association, which was well attended considering the inclement state of the weather. Mr. William Colver presided, and able addresses were delivered by Messrs. S. Payne (Leicester), [William Wale](#), Griffydam, and J. Wale, (Borrowash, Derby). Hearty votes of thanks to the deputation and the friends for the use of the chapel brought the meeting to a close.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham and Uppingham News – January 24<sup>th</sup> 1884**

**MARRIAGE**

**KENDRICK – SWINGLES.** – On the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., at the Wesleyan Chapel, Kettering, by the Rev. W. L. Lewin, John Kendrick of Griffydam, Ashby de la Zouch, to Sarah Swingler, of Lubbenham.

**Leicester Chronicle – February 9<sup>th</sup> 1884**

Griffydam Wesleyan Day School ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)), – The committee of this school, engaged the services of Mr. James Young, who preached two sermons on Sunday last to attentive congregations ([in the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel](#)). On the following Monday evening Mr. Young delivered a lecture in the schoolroom ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)),, subject, "Humbugs". The chair was taken by Mr. B. Cheatle, of Ashby de la Zouch. Collections were taken to defray the current expenses of the day school.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham and Uppingham News – March 6<sup>th</sup> 1884**  
**GRIFFYDAM (Pegg's Green)**

**CONCERT.** – A concert took place on Monday evening at the Wesleyan day schoolrooms (Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green). A very good programme was performed, and the greatest satisfaction was expressed by the audience by the repeated encores given. The following contributed their services :- Misses Knight, Plowright (Plowright), Churville, Coulson and Rowell, Messrs Salt, E. J. Kendrick, Tivey (Melbourne), and Mr. Husbands. Mr. Bull, the schoolmaster, ably officiated as pianist. Mr. R. H. Plowright of Coleorton presided. The attendance was very good, notwithstanding the inclement weather. The profits will be devoted to the school funds.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham and Uppingham News – March 20<sup>th</sup> 1884**  
**GRIFFYDAM (Pegg's Green)**

**GOSPEL TEMPERANCE.** – On Monday an interesting entertainment was given in the day school (Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green), in connection with the gospel Temperance movement. The chair was occupied by Mr. William Crabtree, who in an able speech denounced the drink traffic as the nation's curse and a hindrance to the spread of Christianity. He was supported on the platform by Mr. John Kendrick, Mr. David Sketchley, Mr. S. Towers, Mr. Fairbrother, and Mr. Shakespeare. The last two gentlemen gave able speeches, each advocating the necessity of at once arriving at a decision in favour of this great movement for the emancipation of mankind from the slavery of drinkdom. The choir rendered good service, Miss Starbuck presiding at the harmonium. Solos were rendered by Miss. A. Kendrick and Miss. Coulson, which were deservedly admired. Mention of Mr. S. Towers recitation must not be omitted. Several young members also gave recitations.

**Leicester Journal – August 15<sup>th</sup> 1884**

**TO LET WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION**

**RED LION INN**, Griffydam (Peggs Green), near Coleorton, Leicestershire, with cottage and Butcher's Shop adjoining, - Apply Alton and Co., Wardwick brewery, Derby.

**Burton Chronicle – September 4<sup>th</sup> 1884**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**ASSAULT ON AN OLD MAN.** – Jarvis Phillips, of Coleorton, was charged with assaulting an old man named William Hault, aged seventy-eight, on the 4<sup>th</sup> August. – Mr. Musson prosecuted, and Mr. Jesson defended. – Complainant stated that on the day in question he was putting a fence round a stack, and was digging a post hole. Defendant came up and pushed him into the hole, hurting his shoulder. Complainant also said that defendant was drunk. – A boy named Henry Platts corroborated this evidence. – Both complainant and his witness said that the assault was committed between 11 and 12 o'clock a.m. – The defence was that defendant was at a public-house until after twelve o'clock on the morning in question, and that he was quite sober when he left. – William Reeves, of the Red Lion Inn, Griffydam (Pegg's Green) gave evidence in support of this statement. – The Bench were of the opinion that an assault had been committed, and defendant was fined 21s. and 23s. 6d. costs, or twenty one days.

**Leicester Chronicle – December 27<sup>th</sup> 1884**

**MARKET HARBOROUGH MAGISTERIAL COURT**

**ALLEGED THEFT OF PONY.** – William Knight of Griffydam, horse breaker, was brought up on remand, charged with stealing from a field at Great Bowden on the 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, a pony, the property of William Burditt, grazier. – Prosecutor said he saw the pony safe in his field at four o'clock on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. Went to the field about eight next morning, and found the gate thrown off the hooks and the pony missing. He tracked the animal through the gate and on to the road. Gave information to the police, and on the Saturday following was shown the pony at the Leicester police station.. He valued the animal at £15. – John Knight, groom of Market Harborough, said he saw prisoner at Harborough on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. On the latter day they had a pint of beer together at the Red Cow Inn, and subsequently went to the Talbot, where they had another. A second pint was ordered at the Talbot, when prisoner got up saying that he should be back in two or three minutes, but he did not return. – John Doleman, of Groby, farmer, said at 9. 30. on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., he saw prisoner at the Stamford Arms Inn. He showed witness the pony, which was tied to a ring at the door, and

said he had got it from a man against Rugby, and exchanged with him for another, drawing 10s. to the good. Prisoner told him he was going to take it to Griffydam. Prisoner, however, owing witness money on a previous transaction, the latter said, "I'll find you some work and pay you, and I'll keep the pony till you have paid off the old account you owe me. He thereupon took possession of the pony, and on the following Saturday drove it into Leicester. The pony was then identified by the police as having been the one stolen from Great Bowden. He handed it over to Inspector Wainwright. – The latter deposed to going to Groby and charging the prisoner with stealing the pony. He denied having stolen it, but said he met a man near to Rugby with a van and the pony, for which he gave him an old mare. – Committed for trial.

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – February 21<sup>st</sup> 1885**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Cooper Platts and Thomas Platts, two youths, residing at Griffydam, were severally charged with having, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Feb., at Pegg's Green, assaulted Daniel Burton, a rag and bone gatherer, - Mr. Wilkins appeared for the defence. – The complainant said that on the afternoon in question he was collecting rags and bones at Pegg's Green, and he saw the two defendants, and six or seven other lads. He had his bag upon his back, and he was walking along the road. The two defendants threw stones at him, and pulled at his bag, and followed him. – P.C. Chapman, in answer to the magistrates, said the boys were continually ill using the complainant, and that the complainant had been compelled to leave two or three houses because of the treatment he received from the lads, and upon serving the summons on the defendant, Thomas Platts, he said : "I did follow him up to his house, and I am sorry ; but why not summons others? – Fined 5s 6d. each and costs or seven days hard labour.

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1885**

**Sudden Death** – At the Rising Sun on Tuesday at Worthington ([Griffydam](#)), Mr. Deane held an enquiry into the death of Hannah Holland, aged nine months, daughter of Lucy and Jack Holland, of Griffydam. The child according to the evidence, had been ailing for several months. On Saturday night the mother noticed that she had difficulty in breathing. She applied an oatmeal and mustard plaster between the shoulders and on the chest. That seemed to relieve her. On Sunday morning a doctor was sent for, but as she was washing the child between ten and eleven o'clock she dropped her head and died. – Mr. J. J. Serrers, surgeon, of Osgathorpe, having made a post-mortem examination, said death resulted from tubercular meningitis, the lungs and the brain being covered with tubercles. – **Verdict accordingly.**

### **Derby Mercury – March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1886**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**SELLING DRINK IN PROHIBITED HOURS.** – Jarvis Phillips, landlord of the Griffin Arms, Griffydam, was charged with the above offence, and Aaron Lakin and Richard Mee for drinking after hours, and for assaulting the Police. The evidence showed that Lakin and Mee were on the premises after the hour for closing – 10 o'clock. The defence was that they were friends of Philips and his sisters and often stayed after 10, but no beer was consumed by them. The evidence for and against the alleged assault on the Police-constable (Chapman) who endeavoured to arrest Lakin on the evening of February 20, was very conflicting, and this charge was dismissed. On the minor offence, Philips was fine £5 and costs (£1 8s.), and Lakin and Mee each 10s. 6d. and costs (15s.)

### **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – August 28<sup>th</sup> 1886**

#### **ASHBY COUNTY COURT**

William Haywood v Frederick Haywood. – Plaintiff and defendant are brothers, and reside at Griffydam. There were originally two actions, plaintiff in one being defendant in the other. The first was an action for ejectment. The second an equity action, in which the plaintiff prayed that the trust of his father's will should be carried out. By an order of the Court, held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May last, the two actions were consolidated and the Registrar requested to take the evidence of all witnesses in writing, and submit the same to the judge, with any or all the arguments with respect to the solicitors. This was done and the matter came on at the last Court at Ashby, but not being finished it was adjourned to Leicester. – His honour now gave his decision, finding for Frederick Haywood in both actions. Costs to follow.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1886**  
**Ashby de la Zouch General Petty Sessions**

**SERIOUS NIGHT POACHING AFFRAY**

Samuel Watson, collier, Swannington ; Joseph Shakespeare, collier, Griffydam ; Peter King, collier, Griffydam ; and James Springthorpe, collier, Thringstone, were brought up in custody and severally charged with poaching on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., at Staunton Harold, on land in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Bird. The case created considerable interest, and the Court was crowded. – Mr. W. A. Musson appeared for the prosecution. – The prisoner Watson pleaded guilty to the charge, and the other prisoners not guilty. – Harvey Phuller, gamekeeper to Sir George Beaumont, said he was out on duty in company of several other keepers on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., about 1.30 (midnight). They were together in Lount Wood, where they had been watching for three or four hours. From something they heard, they all rushed out of the wood, and went into a field in the occupation of Thomas Bird. They saw a lot of men about a dozen yards off, and two of these men were doing something with a net. When they saw witness and the other keepers they ran away towards the gate, and in halting at the gate some of the men turned their faces towards witness and the others, and he plainly recognized the prisoner Shakespeare, and Shakespeare's dog came at witness. He had known Shakespeare for many years. They followed them through the gate for about 100 yards before they made another halt. Witness took the lead, and the other keepers were running behind. Some of the prisoners then began to throw stones and then made another start. They followed another hundred yards. The prisoners then wheeled round upon them. Seven of the men were ready to use sticks, and these were in the front. There were some others behind. Out of the seven in front four of them were directly opposite witness. The prisoner Watson was one, two others were not yet in custody, and he believed that the fourth man was the prisoner Springthorpe, but he could not swear to this. He recognized the prisoner King and Shakespeare amongst those behind. The four men with sticks came up, and witness was struck on the arm. The other men behind continued to throw stones. After this they again ran away, and the prisoner Watson was knocked down by his (Phuller's) dog, and he was then taken into custody. Afterwards several nets were found, and some rabbits and other things. – John Cox, gamekeeper to Lord Ferrers, said he was out with the other keepers on the night in question. He recognized the prisoner Shakespeare, who had a dog with him. He was also quite certain that Springthorpe and King were there. Witness was within three or four yards of the men, and could see them quite plainly. There were ten or twelve men there all together, and witness would swear that Shakespeare, King, and Springthorpe were part of the company. – William Whitmee, keeper to Sir George Beaumont, corroborated, and was quite positive that King, Shakespeare, and Springthorpe were among the other men. – William Keen, head gamekeeper to Lord Ferrers, said he brought Watson to Ashby on the night in question, and afterwards examined the field, and found there two nets (one of them partly set, some bags, and five other nets about 70 yards long, 42 net pegs, 27 rabbits and some sticks and stones. – This was the case for the prosecution. – Defendants had nothing to say, but Springthorpe called two witnesses, namely, William Wilton and Edward Morley, but they only spoke as to being in Shakespeare's company until 11 o'clock on the night of the affray. – The Bench retired, and on returning in Court the Chairman said they had decided to convict ; each of the prisoners would have to go to gaol for six weeks with hard labour, and at the expiration of that time to find sureties not to so offend again for twelve months, and in default of finding such sureties to be further imprisoned for six calendar months hard labour.

**Leicester Chronicle – December 25<sup>th</sup> 1886**

**ACCIDENT.** – An accident of a serious nature occurred at the Snibston Colliery on Tuesday morning. A man named Silas Pickering was driving a horse and a tub of coal down the pit, riding on the limmers. Suddenly the tracing of the horse broke, which passed over one of his legs, instantly breaking it. He was conveyed to his home at Griffydam, where his injuries were attended to.

**Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 19<sup>th</sup> 1887**

**CONCERT.** – On Wednesday (March 9) a very successful concert was given in the [Griffydam Wesleyan Day School at Pegg's Green](#) by ladies and gentlemen of the neighbourhood, when an excellent programme was rendered before a large and appreciative audience. Before the time announced for the commencement of the concert all the seats were occupied, those



coming late being able only to find standing room. Several instrumental pieces were played by a band under the leadership of Mr. Illsley, of Coalville, the instrumentalists being:- First Violins, - Messrs. Franks and Starkey ; Second violins:- Messrs. Knight and Ball ; Violoncello, Mr. Cliberi ; Piano, Mr. Illesley ; Cornet, Mr. Geary ; Contra basso, Mr. Burton.

The concert opened with the overture to "Tancredi" by the band. This was followed by the song, "True till death" by Mr. Johnson. Mr. May then sang the "Tug of War", after which the vocal duet, "Gipsy Countess", was very ably performed by Miss Knight and Mr. Johnson, and was deservedly encored. "Robin Adair", by Miss Plowright, also received an encore. The band then played a selection from "Figaro" which was followed by "Once again", which was beautifully sung by Mr. Farmer, who on being encored sang "The thorn". Miss Knight fairly brought down the house with beautiful rendering of "Waking or Dreaming", and she was vociferously encored. During the interval, a debate was held by 20 scholars, the subject being, "What should be the chief aims in life"?. The parts were rendered in a clear and masterly manner, the children stating their different ideas in a very intelligent way, and displaying the pains that had been taken by their teacher in its preparation. **PART II** opened with the overture to "L'Italiana" which was loudly applauded. The rest of the programme, which was encored all through, being:- Song, "Sally in our alley" by Mr. Farmer ; Song, "British tar" by Mr. May ; Song, "The best of friends must part" ; Piano Solo, "Martha" by Miss Plowright ; Selection, "Norma" by the band ; Song, "powder monkey" by Mr. Johnson.

The concert terminated by singing the National Anthem.

## **Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – February 18<sup>th</sup> 1888**

### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

#### **SELLING BREAD WITHOUT WEIGHING**

Superintendent Holloway charged a number of bakers and sellers of bread with having, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January, sold respectively to Dorothy Anne Holloway certain loaves of bread, otherwise than by weight such bread being not called "Fancy" or "French" bread or rolls. The defendants were.....Thringstone ([Rotten Row, Coleorton](#)) John Kendrick, Baker ; Herbert Rowell, baker, Griffydam.....All the defendants with the exception of Robinson and Underwood pleaded guilty. – Supt. Holloway stated that complaints had been made regarding the deficiency in weight of the bread, and the Chief Constable had directed that proceedings should be taken against the defendants. He accordingly obtained the assistance of Mrs. Holloway to make the sundry purchases. The case against Robinson was proceeded with first. – Mrs. Holloway stated that on the 27<sup>th</sup> January she went to the shop of the defendant, Robinson, at Coleorton. He was the seller of the bread. She saw the defendant and his wife, and asked for a loaf of bread, which the defendant supplied without weighing. Witness paid the defendant 2¼d. for the loaf, which was not "French " or "Fancy" bread, nor rolls. It was a half quarter cake loaf. – John Underwood was then charged with having, on the same date, unlawfully sold to Mrs. Holloway, a loaf, other than by weight. Witness stated that she then went to the defendant's shop at Whitwick , and he sold her a loaf, and he sold her a loaf, for which she paid 4½d. Defendant did not weight it. The bread was not "fancy" or "French" bread, nor rolls. – Supt. Holloway said that he weighed the bread and t5he deficiencies varied.

A 4lb. loaf supplied by John Kendrick, of Thringstone ([Rotten Row, Coleorton](#)), was 1oz 2 drs deficient .....Herbert Rowell, Griffydam, 2lb. loaf, 10 drs. Deficient.....With the exception of Robinson and Rowell, who sold 2lb. loaves the loaves purchased were supposed to be 4lb. loaves. – Supt. Holloway observed that the bread got lighter after keeping, and within twenty-four hours after purchase, he found another ounce deficiency. The bread purchased he weighed in the presence of the defendants respectively. Mrs. Biddle's bread, it was stated had not been baked that day ; the bread of the other defendants had. The defendants, with the exception of Robinson and Ward, bread sellers, were all bakers.

The Bench retired, and after consideration..... John Kendrick and Herbert Rowell were fined 5s. 6d., and costs amounting in all to 16s. 6d.,.....In each case the fine was paid, one of the defendants expressing her sorrow, and adding that she would never offend again.

**Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 17<sup>th</sup> 1888**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**UTTERING COUNTERFEIT COIN**

William Griffin, was charged with having, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst., uttered a counterfeit shilling at various public houses in the town, in payment for beer. – The Magistrates Clerk, addressing the Magistrates, observed that the procedure in this case would be to forward the Magisterial depositions to the mint authorities, who would decide the course the Bench should pursue in regard to the offence. – After consultation the Magistrates decided to accept bail in a sum of £10 for a fortnight, when the case will be decided. The witnesses were also bound to appear at the next sitting of the Court. – The prisoner was then liberated.

**Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – March 31<sup>st</sup> 1888**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**THE COUNTERFEIT COIN CASE**

William Griffin, collier, of Griffydam, on bail, surrendered to the charge of having uttered a counterfeit shilling at the house of Mr. David Field, at the Shoulder of Mutton Inn. – The facts of the case have already been reported. – The accused was now committed for trial at Leicester, on Tuesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. – Bail was accepted in three sums of £20 each, the father and brother of the accused offering securities.

**Leicester Journal – April 27<sup>th</sup> 1888**

**TO LET**, a SIX roomed HOUSE, good garden, with outbuildings, situate at Griffydam ; rent moderate ; also small field adjoining if required ; possession at once ; full particulars on application to J. Kendrick, Coleorton, Ashby de la Zouch

**Leicester Journal – April 5<sup>th</sup> 1889**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – Joseph Atkin and Joseph Knight**

**Worthington Constables – Geo. Barker and for Newbold Geo. Crabtree, jun ; Griffydam, Herbert Rowell**

**Leicester Chronicle – April 27<sup>th</sup> 1889**

**Ashby Petty Sessions – Before Mr. E. Smith (Chairman), Lord Loudon, and Mr. I Joyce**  
**REFUSING TO QUIT** – Charles Edward Preston, of Pegg's Green, Griffydam, was charged with being desired and refusing to quit the licensed premises, the prietress of which was Eliza Jackson at Pegg's Green, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April (*this was the Engine Inn*). Eliza Jackson stated that the defendant went to her house, and after being there a little while became disorderly, when she requested him to leave, and he refused. He then went outside and wanted to fight. – William Wardle also gave evidence. – Defendant stated that he simply remonstrated with a man named Burton in the house who was talking reproachfully of the Royal family. As a loyal subject he interfered, and wrote down in a pocket book the remarks made by Burton. He had no witnesses and wished the case to be adjourned. Mrs. Jackson who wished for an adjournment and the magistrates granted the request. – The case will be heard at the next fortnightly sessions.

**Burton Chronicle – May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1889**

**Ashby Petty Sessions**

**FERRETING AT COLEORTON.** – Stretton Platts, a collier, appeared on an adjourned summons to answer a charge of trespassing in search of game., on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. – Mr. Wilkins appeared for the prosecution. – On the day named, George Alcock, as assistant gamekeeper, saw the defendant behind a bush with a ferret in his hand in the wood at Coleorton at half-past one in the afternoon. He dropped on his knee and put the ferret in a rabbit hole. Alcock ran up to him and asked him what he was doing there, and defendant picked up the ferret and put it in his pocket. The defendant gave his name as Lovatt, but the keeper told him it was false, and that his proper name was Platts. Defendant refused to give up the ferret, whereupon Alcock told him he would here of it again, and followed Platts to Griffydam, where he lives. – In answer to the Bench, the witness said he had no doubt the man he now saw was the person he had seen with the ferret. – Joseph Lord, a woodman on

the Coleorton estate, was called, and said two or three days after the affair he asked defendant how he got on with Alcock and he replied that he could kill all such men as him (Alcock). In a conversation which took place about the case, witness told defendant if he had been there he would have taken the ferret from him, but defendant replied "You wouldn't". – In defence, Susan Batson, said that on the day named defendant was in her house, the "Rising Sun", Griffydham. He came between seven and eight in the morning, and again between eleven and twelve and stayed until between three and four in the afternoon. She had dinner with her children and gave the defendant a bit of bread and cheese. He left between three and four, and came in again between seven and eight, and had a pint of beer and then left. She saw nothing more of him till the next day. – By Mr. Wilkins : She saw defendant about a week after, and he asked her if she would come and tell the magistrates he was in and out of her house all day on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, as he had been summoned for game trespass, and that he was not the man. She remembered the occurrence, because the day after she went to Loughborough market, and had not been there before for three months. – In reply to the Bench, Police Constable Fox said the distance between the wood mentioned and the "Rising Sun" at "Griffydham was a mile and a half. – The Chairman said the Bench had decided to convict the defendant, and he would be fined 10s. 6d. and costs 15s. 6d, or fourteen day. – Mr. Beaumont did not adjudicate in this case. ([Being the Lord of the Manor and owner of the estate of course](#)).

#### **Burton Chronicle – June 20<sup>th</sup> 1889**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

**ASSAULT AT GRIFFYDAM.** – Stretton Platts, collier, Griffydham, was summoned for assaulting Henry Pope, of the same place. – Mr. W. Wilkins represented the complainant, who is a cowkeeper, at Griffydham. It appeared that a club feast took place at the "Waggon and Horses", Griffydham, on Whit-Tuesday, and on the following day, according to the usual custom, the landlord entertained his customers to a "feed" made up of what was left from the club dinner. Complainant and defendant were present at the latter event, and were drinking together. Pope had paid for a drink or two for Platts, and because he refused to pay for any more he was violently attacked by Platts on his way home, and sustained a black eye and other injuries about the face.- Defendant swore he was not present on the occasion and new nothing whatsoever of the affair. The Bench, however, believed complainant's story, fined defendant 10s 6d. and costs, 14s. 6d., or fourteen days

**A GRIFFYDAM TRADESMAN AND HIS WEIGHTS.** – Herbert Rowell, shopkeeper, Griffydham, was summoned by Superintendent Holloway for having an unjust weight for use in his shop. – Mr. Holloway said he went to defendant's shop and found a 2lb weight 6½ drams against the buyer. Nether Mr. Rowell or his wife were there, but he afterwards saw the former, who told him he was very sorry for what had occurred, and made an excuse that he had borrowed the weight from another person. Thirteen other weights in the shop were alright. – Fined 5s. 6d. and 12s. costs.

#### **Leicester Journal – July 5<sup>th</sup> 1889**

**ATTEMPTING TO COMMIT SUICIDE AT GRIFFYDAM.** – Thos. Smith Bird, a labourer of Griffydham, was charged with attempting to commit suicide at Griffydham on the 14<sup>th</sup> June. – The prisoner had been conveyed from Leicester Infirmary during the afternoon, AND PRESENTED A HAGGARD APPEARANCE. He was evidently "unhinged" mentally, and indifferent to the proceedings. – Joseph Richards, of Griffydham, said hat on the 14<sup>th</sup> ult., the prisoner's daughter ran to his house, and asked him to go to her father. He went, and saw the defendant standing against the door. He saw a razor covered with blood. When asked what he had been doing, and if he had been using the razor, the prisoner tried to obtain possession, and said, "That is my tool". Witness sent for a doctor. – **The prisoner was remanded.**

#### **Burton Chronicle – December 5<sup>th</sup> 1889**

##### **MESSRS. BELLAMY AND SON**

##### **GRIFFYDAM, NEAR ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH, LEICS**

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION** (by order of the mortgagee), by Messrs. BELLAMY and SON, at the Queen's Hotel, in Ashby de la Zouch, on TUESDAY, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 1889, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, and in the following or such other Lots as shall be determined upon at the time of sale :-

**Lot. 1.**

All that valuable FREEHOLD ESTATE known as the Griffydam Brick and Interlock House Tile and Earthenware Works, late in the occupation of Messrs. Lager and Lakin, comprising extensive Brick-and- Tile Drying sheds, with water Cisterns, Brick and Tile Work Sheds, Store Room, 3 large Kilns ; together with a Six-room DWELLING\_HOUSE, Out-buildings and Garden attached.

The above property covers an area of 2 acres 2 roods, or thereabouts, adjoins land belonging to Lord Donington, and is within easy distance of the Midland Railway. There is an inexhaustible supply of very superior Clay, specially adapted for the manufacture of House-Tiles and Earthenware Goods of the choicest quality, and to an enterprising firm this affords a rare opportunity for carrying on an extensive and lucrative business.

**Lot. 2.**

ALL that FREEHOLD COTTAGE and Garden, situate on Brand Hill, Griffydam, and now in the occupation of John Rowel.

**Lot. 3.**

ALL THAT old-established BEER HOUSE known as the "Travellers' Rest" situate at Griffydam, with Stabling for four Horses and Hay Loft over, Cow-House for four cows, Out-buildings and large Gardens. The House comprises Tap-room, Back Parlour, Front Sitting room, another Room, two Kitchens, six Bed-rooms, and large Cellar, together with a four-room COTTAGE adjoining. There is a good supply of hard and soft Water, and a very extensive frontage to the Highway leading from Griffydam and Hinckley.

For further particulars apply to the AUCTIONEERS  
Burton on Trent and Ashby de la Zouch, or to  
Messrs. JENNINGS, SON, and BURTON,  
Solicitors, Burton on Trent.

**Burton Chronicle – December 19<sup>th</sup> 1889**

**THE PROPERTY MARKET**

At the Queen's Head Hotel, on Tuesday evening, Messrs. Bellamy and Son offered for sale several lots of property situate at Griffydam, near Ashby. The first consisted of a freehold estate known as the Griffydam, brick, tile and earthenware works, late in the occupation of Messrs. Lagar and Lakin, together with a six room dwelling house. The property covers an area of two-and-a-half-acres, underlying which there is said to be an inexhaustible supply of clay adapted for house tiles and earthenware. Not a single offer was made, and the property was withdrawn.

The second lot – a freehold cottage and Garden at Brand Hill, Griffydam – was withdrawn at £35, and the remaining lot was disposed of privately to Mr. Emerson of Belton, for £300 ; it comprised the "Travellers Rest" beerhouse at Griffydam, with yard, outbuildings, and stabling for four horses. Messrs. Jennings & Son, Burton were the vendor's solicitors.

**Leicester Daily Mercury – April 7<sup>th</sup> 1890**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions – Before H. E. Smith Esq. (chairman), George Moore Esq., the Earl of Loudoun, Rev. C. T. Moore, and Mr. Ingle Joyce.**

1. John Bird, Wm. Bird, and Joseph Barkley, colliers, all of Griffydam, were charged with being on Mr, William Pepper's (licensed victualler) premises, Osgathorpe, during prohibited hours on the 16<sup>th</sup> March. – **They pleaded guilty, and were fined 2s 6d. and 10s 6d costs.**

2. Price Kidger, farmer, Pegg's Green, Griffydam, was charged with keeping a dog without a license on the 15<sup>th</sup>. – Defendant pleaded guilty, but said he was entitled to an exemption, which he had since obtained. – **Fined 2s 6d. and 12s. costs.**

3. Stretton Platts and George Knight, colliers, Griffydam, were charged with damaging a window, the property of Richard Radford, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March. – The damage was estimated at 5s. – Mr. Wilkins prosecuted on behalf of the owner. – Wm. Wilkins, a tailor, residing at Griffydam, said he saw the defendants pass his house just after ten o'clock, and shortly afterwards he heard a crashing of glass. He saw no one else pass. – Josiah Harwood said he was at the Waggon and Horses on the night in question. Defendants were there, and he thought both carried sticks. – P.C. Fox said he examined the window and found it broken. He also found on the sill some bark off a hazel stick, but he did not produce it. – For the defence, James Holland said he left the Waggon and Horses in on

the night in question with Platts, and they both went home. They both passed by Radford's house together. – **The case was dismissed.**

**Derby Mercury – April 30<sup>th</sup> 1890**

**GRIFFYDAM  
VALUABLE OLD PASTURE LAND AND COTTAGES  
TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY AUCTION  
BY GERMAN, GERMAN AND COOPER**

**At the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Griffydam, on FRIDAY, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1890, at five for six o'clock in the evening, the following Valuable Freehold Property :-**

All these FOUR COTTAGES, situate in Griffydam, approached from the highway leading from Griffydam to Worthington, in the occupation of Messrs. Smart, Bird and two unoccupied, together with the Gardens adjoining and necessary out - ?????? and all those TWO CLOSES of Valuable OLD PASTURE LAND, in the rear of the cottages, approached from the above mentioned highway by an occupation lane, containing 2A. OR, OP., or thereabouts, in the occupation of Henry Pope, and adjoining lands belonging to the Right Hon. Lord Donnington and others.

To view apply to the tenants, and further information may be obtained from the AUCTIONEERS ; or from

Messrs. SMITH and MAMMATT,  
Solicitors, Ashby de la Zouch

**Burton Chronicle – October 30<sup>th</sup> 1890**

**DISTRICT NEWS – ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH**

**WESLEYAN MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.** – On Friday evening, a meeting in connection with the above society was held in the large vestry adjoining the Wesleyan Chapel. There was a good attendance. The chair was taken by the Rev. H. Gibson (superintendent Minister), and there were also present, Revs. C. Whitfield (Wesleyan), A. Johnson (Primitive Methodist), Messrs. Spencer, Adcock, Chadwick, Woodward and others. After the preliminaries had been gone through, Mr. R. T. Hance (head master of Griffydam Wesleyan Schools) read a paper on "Prejudice". After defining the term "prejudice" the essayist went on to show its wide-spread prevalence and the manifold evils which attend it. He likewise spoke of the effect of prejudice with regard to the reading of fiction, the opening of places of amusement on the Sabbath, the visitation of theatres, and the practice of card playing. Religious prejudice was also dealt with in a clear and concise manner, and its evil effect on the various sects of the Christian community was shown. The paper was written in a terse and original style, and was read with considerable vigour and force. At the close of the reading of the essay, several persons criticised the paper, speaking of its merits and demerits. The essayist gracefully responded to the various criticisms, and the proceedings were terminated by singing and prayer. This is the first paper of the present session and it was generally acknowledged to be an able as well as an interesting one.

**The Leicester Chronicle – December 20<sup>th</sup> 1890**

**Griffydam – Failure of a grocer –**

The first meeting of the creditors of Sydney Haywood, of Griffydam, grocer, was held on Tuesday at the office of the Official Receiver at Leicester. The summary of debtor's statement of affairs showed gross liabilities £71. 7s. 1d., and assets £7, leaving a deficiency of £64. 7s. 1d. The debtor explained his failure by saying: "I gave up my work at Messrs. Stableford and Co, Coalville, about five months ago, and took a grocer's shop which has not answered". The official receiver's observations were: The receiving order was made on the debtor's own petition. He started in business at Griffydam as a grocer five months ago, with a capital of about £30, having previously been in the employ of Messrs. Stableford and Co., of Coalville. The business done has been very small, and insufficient to pay expenses. At the date of the receiving order, the landlord seized a quantity of hay for a year's rent of two fields occupied by the debtor, but it is not worth more than the amount due. The above liabilities include £30 borrowed money, and £5 rent of a house formerly occupied by the debtor, the remainder being for trade debts, only one of which exceeds £10 in amount. No books have been kept, and no deficiency account has been lodged. There will be no offer of composition, and the

debtor has been adjudged bankrupt. – **The matter has been left in the hands of the official receiver.**

#### **Burton Chronicle – March 19<sup>th</sup> 1891**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**A LOCAL BANKRUPTCY CASE.** – At the Leicester Bankruptcy court last week, Sidney Haywood, grocer, Griffydham, came up for his public examination. His liabilities were named at £71, and assets of £7 8s. – Mr. Sharp appeared for bankrupt, who said that he was formerly a labourer in the employ of Messrs. Stableford at Coalville. In June last year, hoping to improve his position, he took a grocer's shop. He had about £30 capital, mostly saved by his wife. He did not thoroughly understand the trade, but thought in a small place much knowledge would not be necessary. About twelve years ago he had £400, and invested in a brickyard, which failed. In July last he found that the grocery business would not pay, and then asked his principle creditor to rake some of his goods back, which he did, and he soon afterwards shut up the shop – Examination closed.

#### **Burton Chronicle – April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1891**

**ANNUAL LOVE FEAST.** – The annual circuit Love Feast was held at Griffydham Wesleyan Chapel on Easter Monday, commencing at half-past one o'clock. Wesleyan Methodists from all parts of the circuit were present, and the gathering was one of great spiritual blessing. At half-past four a large number sat down to tea in the school room, and a pleasant hour was spent; whilst at half-past six, services were held in the chapel, when the Rev. G. Barnley (supernumerary) preached an eloquent sermon suitable for the occasion. The Easter Love Feast is a time honoured institution, and is looked forward to with great interest by the Wesleyans in all parts of the circuit.

#### **Burton Chronicle – April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1891**

**A LOCAL LECTURER.** – On Good Friday a lecture was given in the Wesleyan Reform Chapel by Mr. J. A. Haywood, of Griffydham, entitled "Heroes and Heroines of time past". The chair was taken by Mr. C. Frearson of Griffydham. The lecturer spoke about the heroes and heroines of the Bible first : moses as a military hero, and of Joshua finishing the journey to Canaan ; David as a man who possessed a cultivated spirit, who fought with a giant : and he also spoke of Gideon, Samson, Jacob, Daniel, and the three Hebrew children. This he followed by reference to the heroes of invention, Geo. Stephenson, Eddison, and many others. Having incidentally alluded to Mr. Wale, of Griffydham, as a hero, he alluded to the heroes of the Reformation – Luther, Wycliffe, and others ; of heroines like Ruth, Rachael, Mary (of the Bible), and Lady Jane Grey. The lecturer's style was much appreciated, and it was thoroughly believed that the lecture was enjoyed by young and old. After the lecture a collection was taken, and the proceeds given towards the chapel debt, wick, it is hoped, will soon be cleared.

#### **Leicester Daily Post – April 20<sup>th</sup> 1891**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**ALLEDGED ASSAULT AT GRIFFYDAM.** – Sidney Haywood, of Griffydham, was summoned by Mary Ann Hill, single woman, for assaulting her on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst.,. – Complainant stated that defendant had thrown a bucket of water over her in the morning of the day. – By Mr. Sharp : Defendant lived at the bottom of a yard and witness lived at the top. She had not been in the habit of letting refuse down the incline on to the defendant's premises. – Deborah Haywood, defendant's daughter, said she was present at the time when her father was alleged to have assaulted complainant. She was positive no assault had taken place. – The Bench dismissed the case, and ordered the parties to pay their own costs.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – April 25<sup>th</sup> 1891**

**Griffydham School Sermons.** ([Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School](#), [Pegg's Green](#)) – In connection with the Wesleyan Day School ([Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School](#), [Pegg's Green](#)), the annual services in aid of the school funds were held in the chapel on Sunday and Monday, when addresses were given by Miss ??rewater, of London. On Sunday afternoon Miss Brewster took as her subject "Ruth, or woman's influence", while the subject on Sunday evening was "The home at Bethany". The subject on Monday night was "The beautiful in the life of Joseph". The congregations were good.

## **Burton Chronicle – June 4<sup>th</sup> 1891**

### **GRIFFYDAM**

**SERVICE OF SONG.** – On Saturday evening last, the 30<sup>th</sup> ult., at the Wesleyan Chapel, the popular service of song, “For the Master’s sake” or the “man with the white hat”, was rendered by the choir and a few friends. Tea was provided at five o’clock, and the service of song commenced at seven. There was not such a large company as was expected or desired, but those present seemed to thoroughly enjoy the service. Miss Cooper presided at the harmonium, and Mr. Hance, of the school, gave the connective readings. A good collection was taken, which will go to the fund for purchasing a new harmonium.

## **Daily Telegraph & Courier (London) – July 6<sup>th</sup> 1891**

**Part of a five column article headed London, Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> in the above newspaper.**

.....Ashby de la Zouch in Leicestershire. It is only 115 miles from London ;and in the year of her majesty’s accession it was deriving prestige and profit from the visitors who flocked to its recently-constructed “Ivanhoe” Baths – a splendid building in the Doris style – and dispensing water strongly impregnated with muriate of soda, containing by ten or twelve degrees a greater proportion of salt than sea water., and considered to be exceptionally efficacious in alleviating the agonies of rheumatism. **Then in the immediate vicinity of Ashby de la Zouch, there is a small but historic mineral spring called the Griffydham, the water of which was served at the table of MARY Queen of Scots when she was in the custody of the Earl of HUNTINGDON at Ashby Castle.** Another once renowned inland spa in Leicestershire, is Burton Lazars, which boasts a spring the water of which was formerly in high repute for curing leprosy.....

## **Burton Chronicle – July 16<sup>th</sup> 1891**

### **GRIFFYDAM & Peggs Green**

**SCHOOL SERMONS AND TREAT.** – The anniversary services (at the Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Chapel) in connection with the Wesleyan Sunday School (held at the Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Peggs Green) were held on Sunday week, when two excellent and impressive sermons were preached by Mr. H. Dagger, of Derby. The weather was rather unpropitious, rain falling very heavily in the afternoon, but improving towards evening. The congregations were not quite so good as usual on this account, but the financial result was very satisfactory. Special hymns were sung effectively and heartily by the children. – The children had their usual treat and tea the following Tuesday, there being a public tea in the school-room (at the Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Peggs Green)

## **Burton Chronicle – September 24<sup>th</sup> 1891**

### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**ASSAULTING A GRIFFYDAM INNKEEPER.** – Jerimiah Rose, joiner, Belton, was summoned for assaulting Joseph Bradley, innkeeper, at Griffydham, on the 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. – Complainant’s case was that defendant came to his house and called for some beer, with which he was served. He began to row about some change, which ended in his striking complainant with his fist. His conduct was so bad that he had to send for the parish constable to eject him. – Mr. Sharp, who represented the defendant, submitted that the dispute arose through the defendant being accused of taking up a shilling which he had previously put down to pay for some beer ; that, in fact, he had been “ringing the changes”. This he denied, and also the assault. – The Bench fined the the defendant 5s. 6d. and costs or seven days.

## **Burton Chronicle – October 8<sup>th</sup> 1891**

### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WAKE.** – The annual wake commenced on Sunday, and, according to ancient usage, should be continued during the present week. The exertions put forth, however, do not appear to have been very strenuous. A number of visitors entered the village on Sunday, and somewhat relieved the ordinary aspect of the place.

## **Burton Chronicle – October 15<sup>th</sup> 1891**

### **GRIFFYDAM & Peggs Green**

**DAY SCHOOL.** – The Wesleyan day school (Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Peggs Green) connected with this village have been painted and renovated. Various other improvements have been made, and buildings now present a neat and attractive appearance.

The managers have accepted the Government proposals, so that the school is now free. We are glad to hear that the introduction of the new scheme has considerably improved attendance, and that a number of new scholars have been admitted.

**THE HARVEST.** – Harvest thanksgiving services in connection with the Wesleyan Chapel at this village were celebrated on Sunday, when two appropriate and forceful sermons were preached by My. Isaac Brooks, of Normanton. The chapel was very prettily decorated with flowers and corn, while on tables in front of the preacher were to be seen a profusion of the good things which God provides for His children. The arrangements of the fruits and vegetables, together with the ornamentation of the chapel, reflected great credit upon those who cheerfully laboured in the work and gave of their substance to render the services a success. – A public tea was provided on Tuesday, after which the gifts of fruit, &c., were sold. The proceeds of the sale and the collections on Sunday go to the trust fund.

#### **Leicester Journal – January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1892**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch County Court**

##### **GRIFFYDAM – CLAIM FOR DAMAGES**

Joseph Ison, draper, claimed £13 damages from Thomas Knight, engine driver. Both parties live at Griffydam. – Mr. J. J. Sharp (Messrs. Sharp and Richardson, Coalville) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Jesson for the defendant. – Mr. Sharp in bringing the particulars of the case before the jury, he said the plaintiff travelled about with drapery. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, he was returning from a place called Barlestone, and on passing the house of defendant saw his greyhound bitch standing on the low wall in the front of the house. It began to bark, and jumping off the wall flew to the horse, frightening it and making it kick, with the results that it eventually broke off one shaft, smashed the splash board all to atoms, and the horse itself was very much injured. Plaintiff had brought the horse a month previously for 15 guineas, and just before the injuries it had received, he was offered £24 for it. The damage claimed by the plaintiff amounted to £13. – Plaintiff, in supporting this statement, added that he had a bull terrier dog under his cart, and defendant's dog went beneath to it. His horse then started kicking. – In reply to Mr. Jesson, plaintiff maintained that he was not mistaken as to the dog. If the dog (produced) belonged to Mr. Knight, it was the same as frightened his horse. He (plaintiff) kept his dog to look after the cart during the time he was waiting upon customers. It was not a vicious dog, and had never bitten anybody. – Mr. Sidney Sturgess, veterinary surgeon, Ashby, who said he saw the horse twenty-one days after the accident, described the injuries it received, which were principally confined to the hind legs. There was now an enlargement of one leg, and the horse was permanently scarred. Its worth in the future would depend on whether it turned out a kicker or not. – Edward Handford, horse breaker, Griffydam, also spoke to the plaintiff's dog occasionally running after his horse barking. – John Siddons, farmer, Osgathorpe, gave similar evidence. – Jabez Henson, blacksmith and horse dealer, Thringstone, deposed that he offered the plaintiff £24 for the horse before the accident. He knew a "party" who wanted a horse of that description. – Mr. Jesson submitted that there was no case for the jury, contending that the plaintiff was guilty of contributory negligence inasmuch as defendant's dog if it came upon the road was brought about by the plaintiff's dog. – His honour was of opinion that there was a case for the jury, and Mr. Jesson in the course of his address, maintained that plaintiff was mistaken in the identity of the dog. It was always kept at home, and on the night of the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, was out of the house. – Defendant, his wife, and other witnesses having given evidence, and both counsel and Judge addressed the jury, the latter retired. After a few minutes absence they returned into Court with a verdict in favour of plaintiff for £5 damages

#### **Burton Chronicle – February 4<sup>th</sup> 1892**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**GOSPEL TEMPERANCE BUILDING.** – A gospel temperance meeting was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydam on Wednesday week. The chair was taken by Mr. H. Rowell, and stirring addresses were given by Messrs. Geary Kendrick and E. Armson. The evils of drunkenness and the dangers of moderation were pointed out, and earnest appeals were made especially to parents and young persons, to ally themselves on the side of a gospel temperance. A varied programme of readings, recitations, and solos by the children and friends added variety and interest to the proceedings. The male soloists were Messrs. J. Knight and and Allars, while a solo from Sankey's collection was well-rendered by a girl



member of the Band of Hope – Sarah Astinds. A profitable meeting was concluded by the Benediction.

### **Burton Chronicle – February 25<sup>th</sup> 1892**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL.** – On Thursday a public tea was provided in the above chapel. Subsequently the choir, assisted by a few friends from Worthington, gave the service of song entitled “Elias Power”, or “Ease in Zion”. The musical portion of the service as a whole was effectively rendered by the choir. Solos were sung by Messrs. Allard, Freeman, H. Johnson, and E. Kendrick, all of whom deserve credit for their performances. In addition to those mentioned, the following took part in quartettes and duets : Messrs. G. Kendrick, and J. Johnson, and Misses Cooper and Adkin. Miss Cooper presided at the harmonium, and the connective readings were vigorously and expressively given by Mr. Hance. A collection was taken for the new harmonium fund.

### **Burton Chronicle – March 17<sup>th</sup> 1892**

#### **MEETING OF BOARD OF GUARDIANS AN AGGRIEVED RATEPAYER**

The Clerk read a letter from the Local Government Board, enclosing a communication which had been addressed to them by Mr. Sketchley, of Griffydham, relating to the poor rate collector for the parish (Mr. Cooper) and requesting to be furnished with the observations of the Guardians on the subject. – The communication which had been sent by Mr. Sketchley to the President of the Local Government Board was as follows :- “Sir, - I write to inform you that I am a freeholder of houses and land in the parishes of Thringstone, Swannington and Worthington, in the Union of Ashby de la Zouch, residing at Griffydham, in the parish of Worthington, and we are just on the eve of choosing parish-officers for the ensuing year. I take the liberty to inform you that the collectors of the poor-rate have done their work honourably and satisfactorily. They are appointed by the magistrates, except one – Mr. Thomas Cooper, of the Smoile, Worthington. He has not called on me or demanded a poor-rate for three years. Will you please be so kind to inform me if he can come upon me legally for the three years’ rates or any portion of them ? I am , sir, yours truly, Jesse Sketchley, Griffydham. – The reading of the letter caused great amusement amongst the Guardians. – In reply to questions, the CLERK said that Mr. Cooper had accounted for all the rates in his parish, and they had been paid over to the overseers. He had met Mr. Cooper this morning, who admitted it was quite correct, he had not collected the rate mentioned by Mr. Sketchley, but since the collector did not complain, and as the money had been paid, there was no reason for Mr. Sketchley to complain – (laughter and Hear, Hear) – Mr. J. P. White : I only wish I could have the same attention from the collector – (more laughter). – In answer to a question, the CLERK said that in several instances Mr. Cooper had paid the rates out of his own pocket, trusting to the honesty of his friends to be recouped, but if he had not sent the necessary demand note it was questionable whether he would be able to recover it legally from the parties concerned. – Mr. WHITE : What does Mr. Sketchley pay to the poor rate ? – The CLERK ; Three shillings per quarter – 12s. a year – (Laughter), - Mr WARD : There is evidently an improvement in the farmers’ prospects – (more laughter). – The CLERK was instructed to inform the Local Government Board that the rates referred to had been accounted for.

### **Burton Chronicle March 24<sup>th</sup> 1892**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**GOSPEL TEMPERANCE.** – Two very good meetings in furtherance of this cause have recently been held in the Wesleyan Chapel. The first meeting was on Shrove Tuesday under the chairmanship of Mr. G. Kendrick. Vigorous addresses were given by Messrs. Rowell and Hance, and the following interesting and varied programme was well sustained by those who took part : Recitation, J.Reid; violin solo, Mr. E Armson; recitation, Mary Ann Stevenson; solo, Mr. E. Kendrick; reading, Mr. hance; recitation, Mr. Davies; solo, Mr. J. Richards; recitation, Mr. A. Chaplin; duet (instrumental), Misses Richards and Cooper; recitation, Mr . A. Hinds; conference and song, by five girls – E. Chaplin, A. Hodges, F. Reid, M. Cox, and K. Pickering; quartette, Messrs. Cooper and Richards and Messrs. G. Kendrick and E. Kendrick. – Another meeting was held on Wednesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> inst., when with a good congregation and excellent addresses from Mr. Pike and Mr. Starkie, of Ashby, a most successful meeting resulted. The

chair was taken by Mr. Rowell, and the following programme was gone though :- Recitation, N. Fowkes; solo, Mr. E. Armson; recitation, Nellie Rowell, recitation, J. Reid; quartette, Misses Cooper and Richards, and Messrs. G. and E. Kendrick; recitation, Alice Hodges; recitation, J. Knight; recitation, W. Fowkes; duet Mr. E. Harman and E. Kendrick; quartette, M. Cox, F.Reid, K. Pickering, and A. Hosges; recitation, W. Davis; recitation, J. Stacey; recitation, Mabel Cox. Both meetings were well attended, and a number of pledges were taken.

### **Burton Chronicle – May 26<sup>th</sup> 1892**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN REFORM CHAPEL.** – The anniversary of the Sunday school in connection with the above chapel was celebrated on Sunday. Two sermons were preached (afternoon and evening) by the Rev. J. Dennis, of Wellingborough. The children and choir sang special hymns, and the juveniles also gave various recitations. On Monday a public tea was provided in the chapel in the afternoon. Previous to this the children paraded the village, and sang very sweetly at intervals, selections from their anniversary hymns. After they had been regaled with a good tea, they indulged in various amusements in a field kindly lent for the occasion.

### **Leicester Chronicle – April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1892**

#### **Reports of the Medical Officers.**

**Dr. Jamie (No.1. District)** - reported an outbreak of throat disease at Griffydam of a diphtheritic character, principally affecting children. The cases had not been officially notified to him as diphtheris, nor did the symptoms in most of the cases, correspond with the disease, but there was sufficient evidence to prove its infectious and dangerous nature, **several deaths** being attributable directly or indirectly to this cause. His enquiries led him to suspect a tainted milk supply, but the evidence of the origin of the outbreak was not conclusive

### **Burton Chronicle – June 30<sup>th</sup> 1892**

#### **Mr. McLAREN'S MEETINGS**

On Thursday evening Mr. MaLaren, with Mrs. McLaren, the Rev. T. Maine, Mr. J. P. Adcock, Mr. Pochin, and Mr. Biggs, agent, started on a tour from the Royal Hotel, Ashby, through Coleorton and Griffydam. At the former place, the party called at the school-room adjoining the Baptist Chapel on Coleorton Moor, where numerous workers in the liberal cause were met. A stay was made for about three quarter's of an hour, during which Mr. and Mrs. McLaren addressed the workers. – Mr. McLaren in the course of his remarks asked the workers particularly to avoid during the contest any unfair proceedings by which the Corrupt Practices Act could be brought into force. – The workers each expressed themselves hopeful and, indeed, sanguine of the result of the coming contest, and one of the workers, in answer to Mr. Biggs, the liberal agent asserted boldly, that in the various mines the miners were on the side of Mr. McLaren, and there was every reason to be hopeful. – The party then drove to the Wesleyan School-room, Griffydam ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green](#)), and at seven o'clock entered the room amidst loud applause. Mr. J. P. Adcock presided, and opened the proceedings with a short address. – Mr. C. B. McLaren, who was loudly applauded, said that he remembered the last meeting at Griffydam in that school-room, and the hearty reception accorded him on that occasion. He now had pleasure in firing the first shot at Griffydam – (applause). Miners had the intelligence to know who were their friends, and must know that in supporting a Liberal candidate they would be supporting one who would also support their own interests as well as the labour party. Let them vote for a man who would serve their interests, and thus benefit themselves.....The Liberal party always stood by the Nonconformists – Baptists, Wesleyans, and others – but on the other hand the Tory party had always supported the landlord interest in Parliament, and tended to suppress the growth of religious opinion, which they, (the Liberal party) valued so highly.....

### **Burton Chronicle - September 29<sup>th</sup> 1892**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**HARVEST SERVICES.** – On Sunday, the harvest services connected with the Wesleyan Reform Chapel were held, when special sermons were preached by Mr. Bodell (Gresley). The customary harvest decorations had been made, and the sanctuary presented an attractive appearance. The hymns rendered by the congregation and choir were specially adapted for the occasion. The usual thanksgivings collections were made, and will be devoted to the funds of the society.

## **Leicester Chronicle – November 19<sup>th</sup> 1892**

### **GRIFFYDAM (Pegg's Green)**

**TEMPERANCE MEETING.** – On Tuesday evening the first of the series of temperance meetings to be held during the winter months took place in the Griffydam Wesleyan schoolroom (**Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green**). There was a good attendance. The chair was taken by Mr. Herbert Rowell, of Griffydam. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. R. T. Hance, of Osgathorpe, and G. Kendrick, of Coleorton, interspersed with songs, solos, readings, and recitations.

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL.** - The internal alterations are at last complete. The lofty pulpit has been taken down, and a substantial and ornamental rostrum constructed. A platform for the use of the choir has also been arranged, and the whole of the improvements have been carried out by Mr. George Pike, of Ashby at a cost of more than £20. The sacred edifice has also been further improved by increased lighting facilities, and by a quantity of linoleum for covering the floor. The recent additions and alterations will supply a long-felt want. During the alterations, services have been held in the Providence Wesleyan Chapel, about a mile distant. The re-opening services, conducted by the Rev. W. D. Johnson, were well attended.

## **Leicester Chronicle – February 4<sup>th</sup> 1893**

### **IBSTOCK BAPTISTS v GRIFFYDAM SWIFTS**

Good form was shown by the Ibstock forwards, and the game ended in a victory for the visitors by two goals to none, this result being largely attributable to the splendid play of J. Sharpe. Baptist team – F. Baxter, goal ; R. Woodward, S. Thompson, backs ; T. Wright, E. Mee, H. Haylett, half backs ; Forwards – J. Sharpe, E. Ward, (right wing), A. Griffin (centre), S. Beeson, and T. Cooper (left wing).

## **Leicester Chronicle – May 27<sup>th</sup> 1893**

### **Sad Fatality at Swannington**

An enquiry was held by Mr. Deane, coroner, at the New Inn, Swannington (*Pegg's Green?*), on Thursday afternoon, into the circumstances attending the death of Edgar London Armson (24), plumber, Thringstone, which occurred on Wednesday whilst he was engaged repairing a well. – Mr. White Armson, grazier, St. George's Hill, Thringstone, said the deceased, who was his son and a plumber, lived with him. On the 17<sup>th</sup> inst., he went with his son to repair a pump, at the house of Mr. Johnson, Swannington Moor. About 11.30 a.m. deceased put a ladder down the well to the first stage and went down a distance of twelve feet. He saw his son try the stage. All at once he began to come up as quickly as he could. He had nearly reached the end of the ladder when he seemed as if all of his strength had gone. He loosed his hold of the ladder and fell backwards down the well. They did not try the air in the well before going down. Deceased said nothing to him. He (witness) had no experience of that kind of work, and only went to help him with the ladder. – Joseph Morley, collier, living at Pegg's Green, said that from what he heard he went to Mr. Johnson's house. He tried the air in the well by letting a candle down, and found there was "damp" (*known as choke damp in the coal mines which was fatal*) in the well up to within a yard of the top. He then went for the police, and with the assistance of James Leeson, a collier, of Griffydam, and a dad, the body of deceased was got out. He appeared to be quite dead. – Mr. Jno. James Serras, surgeon, Osgathorpe, who examined the body at the deceased's father's house, said there were no bones broken. There was only abrasions, doubtless caused by the fall. Death was due to asphyxia. – **A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned by the jury.**

## **Leicester Chronicle – March 4<sup>th</sup> 1893**

**Griffydam Swifts v Shepshed Church of England.** – Played at Griffydam on Saturday. The visitors won the toss and kicked downhill, Griffydam started but the visitor's forwards at once got hold and ran down, and Fowkes missing his kick, enabled them to score the first goal two minutes from the start. Immediately after, the home left wing broke away, and Shakespear sent in a magnificent shot, which just skimmed the cross bar. From the goal kick, the visitors left got possession and ran down, but J. Johnson returned with a fine kick. After midfield play, Pickering at last broke away, passed the half backs and backs in a tricky manner, and catered beautifully, enabling Oliver to equalise with a lightning shot. After this, both teams played desperately, the home side having slightly the best of the game. From a scrimmage in front of the visitor's goal, Pickering scored the second goal for the Swifts, nothing further resulting up

to half time. Re-starting, the homesters went down with a rush, and Bradford sent in a brilliant shot, which the goalkeeper saved at the expense of a corner, which was placed behind. From the goal kick, the visitors ran up, but H. Johnson returned with a huge kick, enabling the homesters to keep up the pressure. From a scrimmage in front of the visitor's goal, Hodges sent in a good shot, which would certainly have scored had not one of the backs deliberately fisted away. A free kick resulted but the ball was cleared. The home team continued to have the best of the game, which ended in favour of the swifts by two goals to one. Griffydham Players :- C. Platts, goal; W. Fowkes and J. Johnson, backs; H. Johnson, J. Hodges and S. Johnson, half backs; H. Pickering, J. Turner, T. Oliver, J. Bradford, and S. Shakespear, forwards. Referee, Mr. Robey of Ashby; Linesman, S. Edwards.



The Travellers Rest Football Team, 1900. Amongst them are:- Back row from L to R: Mr William Hodges, Mr Sam Shakespeare (Zions Hill), Mr Thomas Hodges (father of Sam Hodges), Mr Jack Stevenson (later landlord of the Red Lion 20's & 30's) Mr Hill (Anchor Lane), Middle Row: Mr Albert Haywood (Broomleys Road), Seated right, Mr Isiah Hodges (uncle of Sam Hodges).

**THE TRAVELERS REST FOOTBALL TEAM, GRIFFYDAM 1904  
(WAS THIS GRIFFYDAM SWIFTS ???)**

**Burton Chronicle July 6<sup>th</sup> 1893**

**GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.** (Sunday School held in the Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School at Pegg's Green) –

Services (at Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Chapel) in connection with the above were conducted on Sunday by Mr. J. D. Fern (Nottingham).

The weather was very fine, and a good congregation had the pleasure and benefits of hearing two thoroughly good sermons, combined with pleasant vocal and instrumental music, efficiently rendered by the children and an augmented choir and band. The collections were in advance of last year. – The following Tuesday the children had their annual tea in the day school (Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School, Pegg's Green), and then adjourned to a field (kindly lent by Mr. Kidger). A public tea followed.

**Burton Chronicle – August 31<sup>st</sup> 1893**

**GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL.** – On Sunday the chapel anniversary was held in the Wesleyan chapel, when two excellent sermons were preached (afternoon and evening) by the Re. Henry Gibson of Ashby. Suitable and appropriate hymns were rendered by the congregation and choir, Collections on behalf of the chapel funds were made at the close of each service. The Wesleyan society of Griffydham is one of the oldest in the Ashby circuit, the chapel having been built at a much earlier date than many in the surrounding districts. It is famous throughout the Nottingham and Derby districts for its annual love feast, to which Methodists from all corners of the circuit. The interior of the chapel has been much improved, a comparatively new rostrum has been added, and various alterations have been made, and

these, together with an efficient choir and a hearty congregation, tend to make the services attractive and successful.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – September 9<sup>th</sup> 1893**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions – Before Mr George Moore, Canon Beaumont, and Colin Partridge**

Joseph Leeson, a collier, of Griffydham, was summoned for assaulting Thos. Bird, a collier of the same place, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August. – Mr. Wm. Wilkins (Finner, Jesson, and Wilkins) defended Leeson, and attributed the result to a neighbour's quarrel arising out of the children. – Mr. Hall, the magistrate's clerk: and water butt. (laughter). – **Case dismissed, each party ordered to pay 7s. 6d. costs each.**

#### **Burton Chronicle – October 12<sup>th</sup> 1893**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**HARVEST SERVICES.** – Harvest thanksgiving services were held in the Wesleyan Chapel on Sunday, when two sermons were preached by the Rev. Simon Snowdon of Ashby. The weather was everything that could be desired, and the congregations were large and attentive. Suitable hymns were sung by the choir and congregation. The chapel was suitably decorated with corn, flowers, fruits, vegetables and berries. The usual collections were made at the close of the services.

#### **Burton Chronicle – December 14<sup>th</sup> 1893**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN REFORM CHAPEL.** – The usual "pleasant Saturday evening" was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. J. Haywood presided, and gave an interesting address. There was a very large audience, and it is very gratifying to notice that these meetings are becoming very popular among young men, many of whom are attracted there weekly. A reading was given by Mr. G. W. Platts, and was much appreciated, and solos were rendered by Miss C. Leech, Mr. J. Curtis, and Mr. Platts. Refreshments were served during the evening, and altogether the proceedings were most enjoyable.

#### **Burton Chronicle – January 4<sup>th</sup> 1894**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN REFORM CHAPEL.** – On Christmas Day the annual tea meeting was held, there being a very large attendance. The usual entertainment was afterwards held, the programme including songs, addresses, recitations, and readings. Mr. West of Bath, occupied the chair. The proceedings were very enjoyable, not the least interesting feature being the anthems by the choir, a solo by Mr. H. W. West, and a reading by Mr. Henry Leach. Hearty votes of thanks were passed to the chairman and all who had taken part in the entertainment.

#### **Burton Chronicle – April 5<sup>th</sup> 1894**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

**USING A GUN WITHOUT A LICENSE.** – Peter King, collier, Griffydham, was summoned for using a gun to kill game without a license, and Joseph Shakespear and Stretton Platts, also colliers, of the same place, were summoned for aiding and abetting King in committing the offence. – The complainant, W. Cox, gamekeeper for Mr. Everard, of Bardon Hall, gave evidence that he saw the defendants at Breedon on the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> March. Shakespear took a gun to pieces and put it in his pocket. He took it out again and gave it to King who went into a wheat field occupied by Mr. Mugglesfield, over which Mr. Everard has the right of shooting. They afterwards went into another field in the occupation of George Tauser, Platts was with them. – Evidence was called showing that Platts was in bed at the time of the alleged offence, and King and Shakespear were fined 10s. 6d. and 11s. 6d costs each or seven days.

#### **Burton Chronicle – May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1894**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**ANNIVERSARY.** – On Sunday Miss Brewster (London) paid her annual visit to Griffydham Wesleyan Chapel for the purpose of preaching anniversary sermons in connection with the Wesleyan Day School ([Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Day School at Pegg's Green](#)). There was an excellent attendance, both in the afternoon and evening, the spacious chapel being

well filled. The subject of Miss Brewster's discourses were "The little captive maid", and "Paul before King Agrippa" ; which were handled in a very impressive and intensely interesting manner. The platform was filled with children, who had been carefully trained by Messrs. Hance and G. Kendrick, the former officiating as conductor. The children sang in a pleasing manner, and did ample justice to their trainers. Mr. E. Kendrick presided at the harmonium with his usual skill. The services throughout were interesting and profitable. A collection was taken at the close of each service on behalf of the day school funds. – On Monday evening a lecture, entitled "The Royal Parable", was delivered in the Wesleyan Chapel by Miss Brewster, the chair being occupied Mr. G. Blakesley (Woodville). The lecture was very graphic, and was delivered in Miss Brewster's inimitable style. The proceeds will be devoted to day school purposes. It is gratifying to know that the Wesleyan schools, which are the only ones in the village, are under the management of Mr. R. T. Hance, and are in a very prosperous condition.

#### **Burton Chronicle – June 7<sup>th</sup> 1894**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**OUTBREAK OF MEASLES.** – A somewhat serious outbreak of measles has occurred at this village. The cases are numerous, and are at present confined to children. It is hoped that the precautionary measures which have been taken will eventually stamp out the malady. The outbreak is seriously affecting the attendance at school.

#### **Burton Chronicle – July 12<sup>th</sup> 1894**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL.** – On Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> inst, two sermons were preached in the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydam, on behalf of the Sunday School, By Mr. J. D. Fenn, of Nottingham. The congregations were large and the financial result very satisfactory. The children under the conductorship of Me. Ernest Kendrick, sang special hymns very creditably, and anthems were also rendered by the choir. A public tea was provided in the day school ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School at Pegg's Green](#)) on Tuesday, the children having been regaled in a similar manner. A large number of friends gathered at tea, and the rest of the afternoon and evening was spent in sports and games.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1894**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Thomas Hodges, collier, of Griffydam was summoned by Amy Smart, widow, of Griffydam, for the wilful damage to the extent of 1s. to the property of Selina Whirlidge, at Griffydam on the 29<sup>th</sup> September. – The defendant pleaded not guilty. – Mrs. Smart said that she saw a door, the property of Mrs. Whirlidge, which was damaged. She (prosecutrix) lived with the owner of the property, who could not attend owing to illness. – Wm. Toone of Pegg's Green, a pit lad, said that he "heard" the defendant throw a stone. He did not see the stone thrown. Defendant had stone in his hands. He heard the defendant say in answer to a question put by him as to who threw the stone ; "I threw it". It was dark at the time. – Defendant denied that he had admitted to witness that he threw at the door. – Case dismissed, and complainant ordered to pay 6s. costs.

#### **Nottinghamshire Guardian – November 24<sup>th</sup> 1894**

##### **A FRACAS AT HATHERN**

At Loughborough Petty Sessions on Wednesday, Benjamin Platts, William Holland, George Knight, John Bott, Thomas Hayward, colliers, and Frederick Cox, licensed Victualler ([Waggon and Horses](#)), Griffydam were summoned for being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of John E. Priestley, at Hathern, on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Defendants were further charged with damaging jugs and glasses at the King's Arms Inn, Hathern, on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Bott was charged with having assaulted the landlord of that house, and the same defendant, together with Knight and Holland, were charged with having assaulted John Smith, draughtsman, Hathern ; Knight was charged with having assaulted, Mrs. Smith, and Platts was charged with stealing a dead rabbit belonging to Smith. – Mr. H. Deane prosecuted, and Mr. R. S. Clifford was for the defence. – In opening the case Mr. Deane stated that on the Saturday night of Loughborough Fair, the defendant's came to the King's Arms, occupied by Mr. Priestley. Just before they arrived Mr. Smith and his wife came to the house, having with them a couple of rabbits. At the landlord's suggestion Smith put the rabbits on a ledge or bar

of the window. The defendants when they came were apparently sober, although they were inclined in the first instance to be "larkish", but the sort of lark they indulged in was a long way from respectable, or at any rate what respectable men would have indulged in upon such an occasion. Very shortly after the defendant's arrived one of the rabbits disappeared, and the landlord, who was in the room, made enquiry and investigation for it. One of the men was discovered endeavouring to conceal a rabbit by kicking it under a settee against which he was standing. The landlord endeavoured to get the rabbit, but the man said he would not give it up. Some words took place, until one of the men struck Smith a violent blow, and then all the defendants set upon him, attacking him in a most brutal way. The landlord protested, and asked the men to leave the house, but they refused to go. A general melee then ensued, and both Smith and the landlord were maltreated. Assistance was sent for, and Mrs. Smith, who had been out to obtain help, was attacked upon her return, someone striking her a violent blow in her ear. Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining the correct names and addresses of the defendants. They came in a cart, and upon the landlord asking for the name of the driver, he jumped in the cart and drove off. Considerable damage was done to jugs and glasses by the defendants, and a table was upset in the struggle. False names were given by the defendants, and it was only by the exertions of the sergeant of Police at Whitwick that the men were eventually traced and identified by the landlord. – Mr. Priestley was the first witness called, and bore out in evidence the statement of Mr. Deane. The damage done to utensils in the bar he estimated at 4s. – Cross examined : A table was knocked over, and witness had a difficulty in catching a paraffin lamp, which was upset at the same time. The defendants were not drunk when they entered the house. Mrs. Smith received a heavy blow, but witness could not say who from. The row took place about half-past nine at night. Bott struck witness. – John Smith, draughtsman at Hathern Terracotta works, said he went to the King's Arms, and about a quarter past nine o'clock the "Griffydham Tribe" arrived. Shortly after they came in he missed one of his rabbits, and noticing Platts trying to hide the rabbit a row ensued. Whilst he was struggling with one man, two more interfered, - For the defence, each of the accused gave evidence, stating that on the way from Loughborough Fair, they called at the house at Hathern "turn". The defendant Bott was the worse for drink. Platts denied attempting to steal the rabbit, Knight said he did not assault Mrs. Smith, and a general denial to the charges was given. – The Bench, however, decided to convict. The six defendants, for disorderly conduct and refusing to quit, were fined 20s. each, or 14 days in default ; for assaulting Mr. Priestley, the landlord, Bott was fined 20s., or 14 days ; Knight and Holland were each fined £1 for assaulting John Smith, the same charge against Bott being dismissed ; For assaulting Mrs. Smith, Knight was ordered to pay a further 20s., or undergo 14 days hard labour ; the charge against Platts of stealing the rabbit was withdrawn. – The fines in the aggregate amounted to £10.

### **Leicester Chronicle- December 1<sup>st</sup> 1894**

#### **Alleged Burglary at Griffydham**

##### **The Story of A Brooch**

At the Ashby de la Zouch police court, on Saturday, before Mr. George Moore (in the chair), the Hon. Paulyne Hastings, and the Rev. Canon Beaumont, Fanny Broadhurst, wife of Frank Broadhurst, collier, Griffydham, was charged with stealing on September 4<sup>th</sup> – 12s. and a gold brooch, the property of Mrs. Henry Lakin. – The accused, a young woman, carried a baby in her arms, and was accommodated with a seat. The case excited much interest, and many persons of the neighbourhood of Griffydham were in court. – The prosecutor, Henry Lakin, said he was a grazier, residing at Gelsmoor, Griffydham, and on the day in question went to a cricket match at Coleorton. He stopped till five o'clock and returned to see his beast. The house was secure, and he took the key, returning at 11 o'clock, and he went to bed with his wife. The following morning, in consequence of what his wife said, he inspected a box, and found the lock damaged. It was an ordinary chest in the bedroom, and had been forced open. Afterwards he went to see where "they" got in, and found an entrance had been effected through the window of the living room, which was broken. – By Mr. H. Deane: He left his wife in the house when he went to the cricket match, and she left at two o'clock. They both were away from the house from two to five o'clock. – Rebecca Lakin, wife of the last witness, said she left the house about two o'clock, and retired to bed about 11 p.m. Next morning she saw articles disarranged, and her suspicions were aroused. She found that a chest which she had locked had been forced open, and subsequently searched the house, missing a brooch from a dressing-table drawer. She also missed money from a china cream jug. There was 12s.

there in silver. She went with her husband, and saw where an entrance had been affected in the living room. The police brought her the brooch on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst., and she identified it. She had had it a number of years. – By Mr. H. Deane: I know the defendant by sight; she lives not far away, and hitherto I have known her to be a respectable woman. It was only by the pattern and general appearance of the brooch that she identified it. – Mr. Deane: Was it brought in the neighbourhood? – Witness: You must ask those that gave it to me. It is years since I had the brooch. I never had it repaired, only by myself with a common pin. – Mrs. Maria Charville said she was Mr. Lakin's sister, and wife of John Charville, of the Beaumont Arms, Coleorton. She gave her sister the brooch produced about 20 years ago. – P.S. Derby of Whitwick, said on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst., he went to the house of Frank Broadhurst, a collier, in company with P.C. Saunders, and told defendant's husband he would be obliged to search his house. Broadhurst expressed willingness, and the prisoner was present at the time. Witness found a box in a chest of drawers, and prisoner observed, "Don't disturb that, they are bills". Witness lifted the bills, and underneath found the brooch produced. He asked the husband how he accounted for the brooch being there. – Mr. Deane: Did you caution her? – Witness: I gave her no caution at that time; I asked her how she accounted for it being there. She said, "My sister, Mrs. Draper, gave it to me over 12 months ago". The husband said "Yes, she did: a master gave it to her with whom she lived at service at Leicester". Witness told them he would go and see Mrs. Draper, whereupon the prisoner observed, "My brother George gave it to me". He showed it to Mrs. Draper, and she said that. – Mr. Deane: Now, hen! – Witness, proceeding, said P.C. Saunders showed the brooch to somebody, and eventually witness applied for a warrant on Friday. He cautioned the prisoner after reading the warrant, and she said, "I will go and suffer, but I shall suffer innocently, I will not say anything about anyone else as I know they'll suffer". She sent her little girl for her mother, but Mrs. Draper came, and when she saw Mrs. Draper she asked, "Has my mother heard from George?" and also whether he was coming. Mrs. Draper, replied, "Yes, she has had a letter this morning, and he says he shall not come, as he knows nothing about it – only what he has told P.C. Saunders". – By Mr. Deane: – Witness was in the house twice searching. Defendant's husband gave him permission both times. He did not see the brooch until he found it in the box. He believed prisoner's husband unlocked the drawers. Witness did not ask Broadhurst to account for brooch being in the box. He spoke generally to prisoner and her husband. – P.C. Saunders corroborated. – Mr. Deane, for the defence, said there was not a shadow of evidence against the woman of burglary. He thought she was not the person whom one would expect to break into a house, which required force. The woman, if any charge should have been brought against her, should have been charged with receiving stolen property, but she had not received the brooch, nor was she seen committing the burglary or near the house. The brooch was sworn to by the prosecutor and her sister because of its curious pattern. There was a question whether the brooch was in the chest in Lakin's house before she left to go to Coleorton. However, it was found in the drawer, of which Broadhurst (not the prisoner) had the key, which latter was actually handed to the police by Broadhurst. That fact was in the prisoner's favour. The bench could not convict, and the woman could not be charged on any other offence. Would they on the evidence tendered commit the woman for trial, and subject her to agony and degradation? – **The magistrates decided that a prema facie case of housebreaking had not been made out, and dismissed the case. – Supt. Holloway immediately took up the gold brooch which lay on the table near him. The prisoner made no claim to it, and later it was handed to Mrs. Lakin.**

**Burton Chronicle – April 18<sup>th</sup> 1895**

**GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL.** – The annual Love Feast, which has been held for a longer period than the oldest inhabitants can remember, was held in the Griffydham Wesleyan Chapel on Easter Monday, and was attended by friends from all parts of the district. At half past four a public tea was provided in the Wesleyan school-room, and in the evening a sermon was preached in the Wesleyan Chapel by the Re. S. Snowdon, of Ashby. The proceeds of the tea and services will be devoted to the chapel trust funds.

**Burton Chronicle – May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1895**

**GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN REFORM CHAPEL.** – The Sunday school anniversary services were conducted on Sunday, when two sermons were preached by Mr. Evans of Youlgreave, Derbyshire.



Special hymns were rendered by the children and an anthem by the choir. The congregations were good. – On Monday, the children as usual paraded the streets singing, and were afterwards regaled with a good tea. A public tea was likewise provided.

#### **Burton Chronicle – June 27<sup>th</sup> 1895**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.** – The anniversary sermons in connection with the Griffydam Wesleyan Sunday school ([held at the Griffydam Wesleyan Day School, Pegg's Green](#)) were preached on Sunday last by Mr. J. Harrison, of Swadlincote, services being held at 2 and 6 o'clock. The preacher took as his afternoon text "Fight the good fight of faith : lay hold on eternal life", while the evening subject was "Discipleship". The children acquitted themselves very creditably, the augmented choir also contributing the anthems "The Lord is my shepherd", and "Ascribe to the Lord". This success is largely due to the energy and industry of the conductor (Mr. E. Kendrick) and also the accompanist (Miss Cooper). Other friends also assisted with various instruments. The children had their annual treat on Monday. After doing ample justice to a good tea, they adjourned to a meadow kindly lent by Mr. Waterfield, where the rest of the evening was spent in games of various kinds. A public tea was also held in the School-room, and a fairly good number sat down to the tables. ([The children's and public teas would have been held in the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School at Pegg's Green](#))

#### **Burton Chronicle – July 4<sup>th</sup> 1895**

##### **WESLEYAN QUARTERLY MEETING**

On Wednesday the quarterly meeting of the Ashby Wesleyan Methodist Circuit was held at Griffydam. The local preachers meeting was held in the chapel when there was a fair attendance, the Rev. W. D. Johnson presiding, and Rev. S. Snowdon officiating as secretary. Mr. Perry, of Whitwick, was examined, and unanimously admitted on full plan. There was a full discussion concerning the work in various parts of the circuit. An excellent tea, the gift of Mr. David Sketchley, of Griffydam, was provided in the school-room, a goodly number sitting down. Afterwards a hearty vote of thanks moved by Mr. Latham, seconded by Mr. J. P. Adcock, and supported by the Rev. W. D. Johnson, was unanimously presented to the donor, who suitably responded. Later on, the quarterly meeting was held in the Griffydam school-room, the Rev. W. D. Johnson in the chair. Among those present were Re. S. Snowden, Messrs. Stathan and Adcock (circuit stewards) and representatives from all part of the circuit. The financial statement showed a deficiency of £35 9s. 5d., whilst the numerical returns pointed to an increase of eight members during the quarter, the increase being chiefly subscribed by the Thringstone Wesleyan Society. A discussion as to the adoption of offertories in the various chapels took place, and the general felling seemed to be in favour of them, it being stated that the system had worked well in every instance in which it had been tried. The necessity for looking well after the class money was dwelt upon, and the tardiness with which some of the members meet their duties was regarded as a matter for regret. The Sabbath school returns showed a number of 1,656 on the books during the present quarter, whilst in the corresponding quarter of 1894 – 1,582 were reported, being an increase of 74 scholars. The necessity for increased labours in connection with temperance demonstration would be an effective means of arousing an increased interest in the movement. Messrs. G. R. Pike of Ashby, and W. Eggington of Ibstock, were, therefore, asked to see what means could be adopted for the furtherance of temperance work in the circuit. The question of securing the services of a district evangelist for certain places in the circuit was brought forward, but nothing definite was settled. The meeting was concluded in the usual way.

#### **Burton Chronicle – May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1895**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

##### **DRUNK OR ILL – WHICH? –**

John Chambers, licensed victualler, Griffydam, was charged with being drunk on his own licensed premises there on 18<sup>th</sup> April. – Police-constable Sanders said that at 9-30 on the night in question he, in company with police constable Jesson, visited the Griffin Inn at Griffydam, and found defendant in the tap-room with ten or a dozen more men. They were shouting, and were very disorderly. Witness told defendant he wanted to speak to him, and as defendant came towards him he could scarcely walk, and quite staggered. Witness told defendant there would have to be an altercation as his customers were quite masters of them. Defendant said "Yes, they are ; I've been upstairs all today ; and if I come down they start on

me and I have to go back again. There is a gallon of gin gone out of the cellar today, now". Witness said "You are drunk yourself. You can't look after the house if you get drunk yourself". Defendant said it was his head, whereupon witness said "Yes ; it's the drink that makes your head bad". After telling defendant he was responsible for the conduct of the house witness left, but returned at ten minutes past ten. Defendant was then in the Tap-Room, and was talking very loudly. Witness again accused defendant of being drunk, and defendant's daughter said, "Yes, he drinks till he does not know when he is having it. He was just going on with me because I fetched him a cup of milk and did not put any gin in it". – Cross examined ; He made enquiries with respect to the gin, and found that the customers had been helping themselves. Defendant's wife said he had been upstairs a long time. Defendant told witness that he had been suffering from Bright's disease, with complications, for four months.. Although a member of the ambulance, he could not say what the effects of Bright's disease would be upon defendant. The ambulance classes did not make doctors of them. Defendant said his head was bad. – Police-constable jesson gave corroborative evidence. Cross examined. – Witness came to conclusion that defendant was drunk from his staggering gait and confused talk. – The defence was that Chambers was not drunk, but that he was suffering from Bright's disease, the sympyoms of which were mistaken by the police for the effects of drink. – Defendant was called and deposed that he was in bed part of the day in question, and came down about 9 o'clock. The men in the tap room were enjoying themselves, but were not behaving disorderly. He had never had any gin in his life ; but was drinking milk when the police came in, and invited them to taste it if they doubted his word. He had been ill for a long time and had been attended by Dr. Burkett. – Cross examined : He had been downstairs two or three times during the day. As to what he had to drink during the day, it was principally milk, but he had a little rum in it once. Dr. Burkett said he had attended Chambers for acute Bright's disease and weak action of the heart. Witness first attended defendant on the 18<sup>th</sup> February., and he "signed off" on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Witness had told defendant that he must cease to have alcohol in any form, but that weak gin would do him least harm. His (witness's) opinion was that if defendant had not followed his instructions he would not have been alive now. He also advised defendant to lie in bed as much as he could owing to dropsy. The evidence of the police as to defendant's gate was quite consistent with symptoms of the complaint from which defendant was suffering. The effects of dropsy were always worse at night. In answer to Supt. Holloway, Dr. Burkett said defendant's disease would not account for thickness of speech. Defendant did not stagger on the occasion of his visits to witness's surgery at Whitwick. – Fined 5s. 6d. and costs.

**Burton Chronicle – August 1<sup>st</sup> 1895**

**BY GERMAN AND GERMAN  
GRIFFYDAM**

To be SOLD by AUCTION by GERMAN and GERMAN, at the ROYAL HOTEL, Ashby de la Zouch, on MONDAY, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1895, at Four for Five o'clock in the Afternoon, subject to such Conditions as will then be produced, in One Lot or in such other Lots as may be determined upon at the time of Sale, the following valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTY:-

All that Full-licensed PUBLIC HOUSE known as the "OLD GRIFFIN" Inn, situate at Griffydham aforesaid, and now in the occupation of Mr. Walter Bradley, with the Garden and Appurtenances thereto belonging.

The House comprises Cellar, Kitchen, Taproom, Parlour, and three Chambers  
ALSO ALL THOSE THREE COTTAGES with Gardens in the rear, in the occupation of William Hurst, John Cliff, and William Wileman.

The property has a frontage to the village street, and is bounded on both sides partly by land belonging to Lord Donnington and partly by land now or belonging to Mr. Thomas Massey.

For further particulars apply to the AUCTIONEERS, Ashby de la Zouch and Loughborough;

or to

MR. W. HOLLIS BRIGGS

Solicitor

Bank Chambers

Albert Street

Derby.

**Leicester Chronicle – September 7<sup>th</sup> 1895**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday – Before Rev. Canon Beaumont (in the chair) Mr. M. I. Joice, and the Rev. C. T. Moore.**

**Extraordinary charge of assault** – At the Petty Sessions at Ashby on Saturday, Arthur Marshall, collier, Swannington, was summoned for assaulting Alice Hall, single woman, of Griffydham, at the latter place, on the 17<sup>th</sup> August. – Mr. Musson appeared for the defendant. – The girl said she was under sixteen, and that the defendant assaulted her. He knocked at the door and walked in. She went upstairs and he followed her, threatening that he would assault her. He exposed himself. She screamed for help, and Mrs. Haywood came and ordered defendant downstairs, but he refused to go. Later he came down, and used bad language, and pushed Mrs. Haywood against the mangle and struck her.....**this report is too lengthy to include, and too many people are involved. However, the case was eventually dismissed and the girl was ordered to pay 9s.**

**Burton Chronicle – November 21<sup>st</sup> 1895**

**GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL.** – On Wednesday evening, the 13<sup>th</sup> inst., a Gospel Temperance and Band of Hope meeting was held in this chapel. There was a large congregation present, and an interesting programme of recitations and solos were gone through, interspersed with addresses by Messrs. Freeman and Hemsley, of Ashby, and Mr. D. Sketchley. A very enjoyable evening closed with the customary votes of thanks, and a large number of pledges were taken.

**Leicester Chronicle – November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1895**

**Loughborough Police Court, Monday – Before the Mayor (Councillor W. C. Burder)**

**Alleged Pocket-Picking at the Fair** – Walter Gilder, builder's labourer, Coalville, was charged with stealing half a sovereign and a handkerchief from the pocket of Maria Cliff, Griffydham, on Saturday evening. – Prosecutrix stated that about five o'clock on Saturday she went into Wall's show with some friends. She was in the gallery, and behind her were all children with the exception of the prisoner. During the performance she felt something at her pocket, and then found her handkerchief hanging out of her pocket. When she went into the show, she had a half-sovereign tied up in the corner of her handkerchief, and this she now missed. Prosecutrix turned round, and asked the prisoner to give her the money back again, and he said he had not got it. Prisoner said he was willing to go to the Police-station, but a friend of prosecutrix's fetched a constable into the show. Prisoner then said if he had had the money he had not got it then. A search was then made on the floor, but nothing found, and prisoner was taken to the police-station, and given into custody. – Oscar Haywood, bricklayer, Griffydham, said he was in the show at the same time as the prosecutrix. There was no one close behind her but the prisoner. Witness waited until after the play was over, and then searched the place, and under the staging found the half-sovereign. – John Wm. Holland, miner, Griffydham, having given evidence, P.C. Clements who was fetched by him, stated that whilst searching on the floor prisoner said he need not do that, as he would go to the station to be searched. – On this evidence was remanded till Wednesday, when he was brought before Ald. Wells and Mr. J. Harriman. – Mrs. Cliff, and the witnesses Haywood and Holland, and P.C. Clements repeated their evidence.. – Rosa Holland, who was also with the prosecutrix, stated that the prisoner stood behind her at first, and feeling somebody meddling with her dress, put her hand behind, and felt the prisoner taking his hand away. She did not say anything, but moved further along, and then prisoner stood behind Mrs. Cliff, who about five minutes later accused him of picking her pocket. – William Roulstone, a bricklayer, of Griffydham, also gave evidence. – Prisoner elected to be dealt with by the Court, and pleaded not guilty. He said he never touched the pocket, but that there were two boys near. He called a witness, who gave him a good character, and Sergt. Gotheridge said Deputy Chief Constable Smith had made enquiries, and found prisoner bore an excellent character prior to this. – **The chairman said but for defendant's good record they would have sent him to gaol. He would be fined £2 including costs.**

**Leicester Chronicle – January 26<sup>th</sup> 1895**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Sarah Davey, wife of Arthur Davey, of Griffydham, was charged with stealing an umbrella, value 2s. 6d., the property of Hannah Eames, at Ashby, on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. – Prosecutrix is a

single woman, of Annswell, Smisby. – Mr. Thomas Jesson, of Fisher Jesson and Wilkins, of Ashby appeared for the defendant, and asked that the case should be heard at an early stage, since the prosecutrix he understood, had an idea, that the taking of the article was not intentional. – Prosecutrix, a girl, in answer to Mr. Jesson, said she desired to withdraw the charge. – The magistrates acceded to her request, and the umbrella was restored to its owner.

#### **Leicester Journal – March 27<sup>th</sup> 1896**

##### **ASHBY DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCI**

**ASHBY.** – The monthly meeting of the rural district council was held at the Workhouse on Saturday afternoon, when Mr. J. H. Joyce presided, - The Surveyor reported that he had received notification of three cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Perpetual Fever at Swannington, one of Scarlet Fever and one of Typhoid fever at Coleorton. The new sewer at Ravenstone was working satisfactorily, and progress was being made with the drainage at Mr. Garners cottages at Netherseal. **He had made a house to house inspection at Griffydham. The sewer from a house and shop belonging to the late Lord Donnington and from the four cottages belonging to Mr. Wale discharged into the road, and the sewage allowed to stagnate there. There was no system of drainage in this part of the village. There was a field about 150 yards away where a tank might be placed. At Pegg's Green the sewage from several cottages ran into a field near the roadway. A tank could be placed within a short distance of this field.**

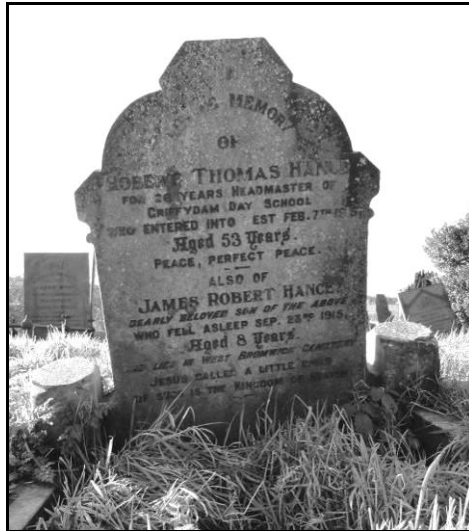
#### **Leicester Chronicle – July 11<sup>th</sup> 1896**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.** – The anniversary services of the Sunday School connected with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, were held on Sunday week. Two excellent sermons were preached by Mr. S. D. Fenn, of Nottingham, before good congregations. In the afternoon the preacher also read Psalm cxxxvi., the scholars taking up his refrain which occurs in each verse. Special hymns were well sung by the scholars, who had been carefully and ably trained by Mts. Johnson and Mr. Clarke. The choir also sang the anthem, "Cry out and shout, ye inhabitants of Zion". On Monday evening Mr. Fenn gave a powerfull address on "Our national drink bill, and what we got for it". Mr. W. F. Jones of Coalville, presided, and was supported by Re. R. Russell and Mr. S. Perry, of Whitwick. A good company sat down to tea on the following Wednesday, and in the evening the scholars enjoyed themselves with games in a field. The meetings were most successful throughout.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – October 31<sup>st</sup> 1896**

**Griffydham – Gospel Temperance Meeting.** – On Saturday evening a gospel temperance meeting was held at the Wesleyan Chapel, and was attended by a large congregation, Mr. John Johnson presiding. After the singing of a hymn, excellent addresses were given by the Rev. J. H. Chapman and **Mr. R. T. Hance (school headmaster)**, and an interesting programme was then gone through, including the following recitations:- A. Hardy, "Keep me from the ball"; Mr. J. Wright, "Buy your own cherries"; Miss S. C. Reid, "What the temperance people want"; Jas. Reid, "I'll never get drunk anymore"; Mr. J. Johnson, "Medical advice"; Solos were given by Miss Reid, "What will you do with Jesus"?; Mr. D. Sketchly, "The ninety and nine"; Miss Reid, "Jesus is tenderly calling"; a trio was rendered by Mrs. Johnson, Miss Johnson, and Miss Sketchley entitled "The temperance bells". Mr. J. Curtiss, a well-known temperance advocate, of Leicester, also gave a solo called "Men beware of the guilded snare". Mrs. H. Johnson presided at the organ with her accustomed ability, and also rendered great service with the refreshments. The evening was brought to a close after a hearty vote of thanks to all who had taken part in it.



THOMAS HANCE'S GRAVE IN GRIFFYDAM CEMETERY  
(SCHOOL HEADMASTER)

**Leicester Chronicle – December 19<sup>th</sup> 1896**

**Coalville Police Court, Friday – Before Canon Beaumont (in the chair), Rev. C. T. Moore, Mr. Jno. P. White, Mr. Jas Smith, Major Hatchett and Mr. W. D. Stableford.**

James Springthorpe and Peter King, colliers, Griffydam, were summoned for neglecting to send their children to school. – Mr. Sale, school attendance officer, prosecuted, and **defendants were fined 5s. each including costs.**

**Leicester Chronicle – November 20<sup>th</sup> 1897**

**The fatality at Griffydam** – An inquest was held at the Waggon and Horses Inn, Griffydam, on Saturday evening, before Mr. Coroner Deane, touching the death of Benjamin Barton, a farmer of Gelscoe, near Breedon, which occurred on Friday as the result of injuries received on the previous Tuesday, by being run over by a cart laden with coal. – P.C. Adcock identified the body, and said deceased was 55 years of age. – Thomas Booth, landlord of the Travellers' Rest, Griffydam, said the deceased called at his house at 3.45 on Tuesday, Nov. 9, in charge of a horse and cart laden with coal. He was with a collier named Hodges, and they left about five o'clock. When he drove away, deceased was standing on the shafts, leaning on the front of the cart, and he remarked that he should ride because his feet hurt him. About a quarter of an hour later, witness was told that he had been run over. – Jonas Knight, a bricklayer, of Griffydam, stated that about 5.15 he was going to his field, and when near the Waggon and Horses, heard someone call out. He then saw a man who told him there had been an accident, and on getting into the road saw the deceased lying on his face. Witness raised him, and in reply to his questions, deceased said he did not know how he fell off. He said his horse was a fresh one, and had gone up the road. Assistance was obtained and deceased moved to Mr. Richards. – Dr. Villiers of Osgathorpe, who was called in, deposed that the deceased's right collar-bone, right shoulder-blade, and several of the ribs on the right side were broken. The right lung had been injured by the broken ribs. Witness had attended the deceased till his death on Friday. He was conscious to the end, and told witness he was standing on the front of his cart, the horse was restive, and to steady himself he placed his hand upon the coal, which gave way, and he fell under the wheel. When witness first saw him he was perfectly sober. Death was due to exhaustion through injuries. – **A verdict of accidental death was returned.**

**Derby Mercury – Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> 1898**

**THE TERRIBLE COLLIERY DISASTER AT WHITWICK  
THE FUNERALS**

An extraordinary amount of interest was shown in the burial of the unfortunate victims who were recovered from the pit on Friday.

The bodies recovered were :-  
Charles Clamp, 27, unmarried

Joseph Shaw, 25, married  
William Davis, 30, married – Pegg's Green, buried Griffydam cemetery  
William Limb, 20, unmarried  
John Elliot, 40, married  
Joseph King, 30, married  
William Belcher, 30, married  
John William Platts, 23, unmarried – Swannington  
One not identified

The bodies which had been enclosed in elm coffins, remained throughout Saturday and Saturday night on the bandhouse, and in order to facilitate matters as much as possible it was arranged that all the funerals should start from the colliery, and call for the relatives of the deceased on the way to the respective burial places. Crowds of people visited the colliery during the early morning and when at half past twelve, the first two coffins were brought out and placed in the open hearses waiting to receive them a large crowd had gathered in the vicinity of the bandhouse. The first two bodies were those of William Davies of Pegg's Green and John Platts of Swannington – encased in coffins made in elm, and ornamented with brass furniture, bearing an inscription stating their names and the date of their deaths – and with as little delay as possible the sad little procession was formed, with the two bearers in front, followed by carriages containing the officials and others connected with the colliery. Before the time came for the burial of the two Coalville victims, the crowd at the colliery has assumed enormous proportions and the preparations for the conveyance of the remains of the hero of the dreadful calamity "Tieh" Clamp were watched with the deepest interest. Through the delay of in the return of the officials from Swannington and Griffydam, the procession was over half an hour late in leaving the colliery but when it eventually it set forth led by the Coalville Town band playing the "Dead March" in Saul, an enormous concourse of people followed in its wake.

#### **Burton Chronicle – June 9<sup>th</sup> 1898**

#### **SALE AT GRIFFYDAM Lot 66 All that Valuable FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSE**

Now used as a Post Office and Shop, in the occupation of Mr. Herbert Rowell, together with two FREEHOLD MESSUAGES adjoining.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – August 27<sup>th</sup> 1898**

**Death from Convulsions** – An inquest was held at the New Inn, Pegg's Green, before Mr. Coroner Deane, on Friday, touching the death of Hilda Nellie Shakespeare, aged six months. The child had been in the care of the Grandmother, and on Tuesday, it was seized with convulsions. The grandmother carried it two miles to Dr. Crosby, of Osgathorpe, but the baby died on the way. On the medical evidence the jury found that the death was due to infantile convulsions.

#### **Leicester Daily Mercury – December 17<sup>th</sup> 1898**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions – Saturday – Before the Hon. Paulyn Hastings (in the chair), the Rev. Canon Beaumont, and Rev. C. T. Moore**

**Cross-summonses** – Stretton Platts, collier, of Griffydam, was summoned for assaulting Wm. Hough, farmer, of Newbold, at Worthington, on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. – There was a cross-summons, Platts charging Hough with assault on the same date. – Mr. William Wilkins appeared for Hough, and Mr. J. J. Sharp for Platts. – Mr. Wilkins in opening the case, said that Hough was the son of Mr. Hough, estate agent of Coleorton. – His client said that they occupied some land at Coleorton. On the date given, at about 4.30 p.m., he heard the report of a gun, and then he saw Platts, who was taking a gun to pieces. He was about 100 yards away, and placed the gun in his side pocket, and turned to Wardle's field, where witness overtook him and said that he wanted to know who he was. Platts turned round, and said, "I'll knock your.....brains out if you say that I shot". Up to the time, witness had not referred to shooting. He told Platts that he could not permit trespassing, and Platts caught hold of him by the collar, and took his (witness's) gun and threw him down, and knelt on him, while his (witness's) gun was lying down by his side. Platts said that he would murder him.. In the struggle to free himself, he (witness) broke his neckerchief. When he got up he saw two guns

on the ground. Platts beat him about a dozen times with the stock of the barrel. The stock broke, and Platts then tried to put his gun together, and walked away towards Griffydam. – By Mr. Sharp: He (witness) had been shooting that day, but did not shoot at a partridge. There was a footpath leading to Griffydam on the field where he spoke to Platts. He (witness) did not dispute with Platts as to the possession of a partridge. He did not see a partridge in the possession of Platts. He did not strike him. Platts took his own and witness's gun away. He did not accuse him (witness) of striking him with the gun, and say that he would take it away. Platts had not been charged with trespass nor larceny of the gun. – By Mr. Wilkins: he did not see any partridge, and there was no reference to one. – This was the case for the prosecution. – Mr. Sharp for the defence, said that his client denied trying to strangle Hough, who struck him, and then he took the gun away from him. He could not say that his client had “a clean sheet”, as he had been at the court before. – Platts, sworn, said that he had been to Worthington with a man named Hurst, and was on a footpath in Wardle's field when Hough fired two barrels at two partridges. He (Platts) picked up a dead bird, and Hough asked for it. He refused and said, “I'm going to take this for me”. Hough followed him, and struck him with the stock of the gun and broke it. Then he turned round and gave him “a punch in the mouth as soon as he could”. He did not attempt to strangle him as there was no necessity. He (Hough) walked away when he struck him, and said that the gun belonged to Sir George Beaumont. – By Mr. Wilkins: Hurst was with him when Hough hit him on Wardle's ground, and left immediately the row began. – **Witnesses were called for the defence, and after a long hearing, the case against Hough was dismissed, and Platts was fined 21s. and costs.**

**Leicester Chronicle – December 17<sup>th</sup> 1898**

**Griffydam Mysterious Death** – An inquest was held on Wednesday evening, at the Griffin Inn, Griffydam, before Mr. Coroner Deane, touching the death of Louisa Jane Holland, the wife of a collier. – Jack Wm. Holland, the deceased's husband, said she was 54 years of age, and was in good health till Saturday when she had an attack of an old complaint. Next day she kept in bed, and complained of pain in her ankles and feet. She was also sick. On Monday morning she was worse, and the doctor was again sent for, but she died the same morning. – Dr. Crosby, of Osgathorpe, who was called in on the Sunday, said he suspected some internal irritation, as the symptoms were such as would exist as in a case of irritant poisoning. He was of the opinion that death was due to inflammation of the stomach and bowels, probably from poisoning from ptomaines. These were sometimes developed in the human body without any discoverable cause, and might also be developed from eating unwholesome or tinned foods. – Dr. Burkitt, who was called in consultation with the last witness, agreed as to the cause of death, but said that the food taken need not necessarily have been apparently putrid. – **The jury was agreed that death was caused by inflammation, probably due to ptomaine poisoning.**



**THE GRIFFIN INN IN 1931**

**Leicester Daily Mercury – December 17<sup>th</sup> 1898**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**CROSS-SUMMONSES.**- Stretton Platts, collier of Griffydam, was summoned for assaulting Wm. Hough, farmer, of Newbold, at Worthington on the 8h inst. – There was a cross-summons, Platts charging Hough with assault on the same date. – Mr. William Wilkins appeared for Hough, and Mr. J. J. Sharp for Platts. – Mr. Wilkins, in opening the case, said that Hough was the son of Mr. Hough, estate agent of Coleorton. – His client said that they occupied some land at Coleorton. On the date given at about 4. 30p.m., he heard the report of a gun, and then he saw platts, who was taking a gun to pieces. He was about 100 yards away, and he placed the gun in his side pocket, and turned to Wardle's field, where witness

overtook him, and said that he wanted to know who he was. Platts turned round and said, "I'll knock you.....brains out if you say that I shot". Up to the time the witness had not referred to shooting. He told platts that he could not permit trespassing, and Platts caught hold of him by the collar, and took his (witness's gun and threw him down, and knelt on him, while his (witness's) gun was lying loaded by his side. Platts said that he would murder him. In the struggle to free himself he (witness) broke his neckerchief. When he got up he saw two guns on the ground. Platts beat him about a dozen times with the stock of the barrel. The stock broke, and then Platts tried to put his gun together, and walked towards Griffydham. – By Mr. Sharp ; He (witness) had been shooting that day, but did not shoot at a partridge. There was a footpath heading towards Griffydham in the field where he spoke to Platts. He (witness) did not dispute with Platts as to the possession of a partridge. He did not see a partridge in the possession of Platts. He did not strike him. Platts took his own and witnesses gun away. He did not accuse him (witness) of striking him with the gun, and say that he would take it away. Platts had not been charged with trespass nor larceny of the gun.- By Mr. Wilkins : He did not see any partridge, and there was no reference to one. – This was the case for the prosecution. – Mr. Sharp for the defence, said that his client denied trying to strangle Hough, who struck him, and then he took the gun away from him. He could not say that his client had "a clean sheet", as he had been at the Court before. – Platts, sworn, said that he had been to Worthington with a man named Hurst, and was on a footpath in Wardle's field when Hough fired two barrels at two partridges. He (Platts) picked up a dead bird, and Hough asked for it. He refused, and said, "I'm going to take this for me". Hough followed him, and struck him with the stock of the gun and broke it. Then he turned round and gave him "a punch in the mouth as soon as he could". He did not attempt to strangle him, as there was no necessity. He (Hough) walked away when he struck him, and said that the gun belonged to Sir George (Beaumont). – By Mr. Wilkins ; Hurst was with him when Hough hit him on Wardle's ground, and left immediately the row began. – Witnesses were called for the defence, and after a long hearing, **the case against Hough was dismissed, and Platts was fined 21s. and costs.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – February 11<sup>th</sup> 1899**

##### **WHITWICK COLLIERY DISASTER**

The inquest on the three bodies brought to the bank on Monday last will be held this Friday afternoon. These three bodies were found about 90 yards from the spot where lay the previously discovered bodies. One was buried under a fall, the other two of the bodies have been identified as Benjamin Wileman of Swannington, and Thomas Benistone, of Whitwick. The other body has not been properly identified, but is believed to be that of John Edwards of Griffydham, Wileman was a Rural District Councillor and a Guardian.

#### **Burton Chronicle – April 20<sup>th</sup> 1899**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**PROPERTY SALE.**- On Tuesday Messrs. Leedham and Harrison (Burton) offered for sale at the Waggon and Horses Inn the freehold property known as Griffydham Brickworks, occupied by Mr. H. Powell, together with the adjoining dwelling house. The purchaser was Mr. Samuel Hinds. The solicitors to the vendors were Messrs. Small and Talbot

#### **Leicester Chronicle – September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1899**

##### **Ashby Police Court – Saturday – Before Canon Beaumont and F. Whetstone Esq.**

**Minor Offence** – William Platts, collier, Griffydham, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Griffydham on August 8<sup>th</sup>. – Mr. T. Jesson (Fisher, Jesson and Wilkins) defended. – P.C. Sharpe gave evidence of the state in which he saw defendant. – Mr. Jesson said defendant was in an excited condition on a consequence of a quarrel with his wife, but was not drunk. – **Defendant said he had had a row with his wife, but he was not drunk. – Fined 12s. including costs.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – December 9<sup>th</sup> 1899**

##### **Ashby Police Court, Saturday – Before Mr. Geo. Moore (chairman), Canon Beaumont, Rev. C. T. Moore, Mr. J. H. Joyce, the Hon. Paulyn Hastings, and Mr. J. Hassall.**

**Drunk on Licensed Premises** – Peter king and Arthur Edwards, colliers of Griffydham and Osgathorpe respectively, were summoned for being drunk on the licensed premises of William Batson, at Griffydham, on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. – P.C. Sharp stated that hearing a



disturbance at the Travellers Rest, he went there, and found it was caused by King, who was using foul and threatening language outside. He then went in and witness following found him and Edwards were drunk. When Edwards came out he staggered. King and his wife afterwards came out, and King was beastly drunk. – Bramwell Hegwood, called for the prosecution, said he never told Superintendent Holloway that either of the defendants were drunk. – For the defence, Geo. Eyre, collier of Griffydam, who met defendants a little after eight o'clock, said they were sober enough when he met them. He did not know where they were going; it might have been to the Traveller's Rest. – **Defendants were fined 5. 6d. each, and costs 16s. 6d., distress, or seven days.**

#### **Leicester Journal – December 20<sup>th</sup> 1889**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

**BREAKING PUBLIC HOUSE WINDOWS.** – Cooper Platts and James Holland, both of Griffydam, were charged with doing damage to a window in a house occupied by William Batson ([The Travellers Rest](#)), a beer-house keeper, at Griffydam on the 30<sup>th</sup> November. - Prosecutor said that just before eleven o'clock, the defendants rapped at the door. He spoke to them from the window upstairs and he moved from the window a yard or two when two half bricks were flung through the glass, breaking two panes, and afterwards another missile damaged the woodwork. He was positive that the defendants were those that had committed the damage, as he heard them talk beneath the window. He placed the damage at 2s. – Mrs. Batson and Rowell, the Parish Constable, also gave evidence, after which Mr. Sharpe address the Bench for the defence, and also called witnesses who swore that the defendants were not at the house at the period stated. – **The Magistrates dismissed the case.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – November 20<sup>th</sup> 1897**

##### **THE FATALITY AT GRIFFYDAM**

An inquest was held at the Waggon and Horses Inn, Griffydam, on Saturday evening, before Mr. Coroner Deane, touching the death of Benjamin Barton, a farmer of Gelscoe, near Breedon, which occurred on Friday as the result of injuries received on the previous Tuesday, by being run over by a cart laden with coal. O P.C. Adcock identified the body, and said deceased was 55 years of age. – Thomas Booth, landlord of the Travellers' Rest, Griffydam, said the deceased called at his house at 3.45 on Tuesday, Nov.9, in charge of a horse and cart laden with coal. He was with a collier named Hodges, and they left about five o'clock. When he drove away deceased was standing on the shafts, leaning on the front of the cart, and he remarked that he should ride because his feet hurt him. About a quarter of an hour later, witness was told that he had been run over. - Jonas Knight, a bricklayer, of Griffydam, stated that about 5.15 he was going to his field, and when near the Waggon and Horses heard someone call out. He then saw a man, who told him there had been an accident, and on getting into the road found the deceased laying on his face. Witness raised him, and in reply to his questions deceased said he did not know how he fell off. He said his horse was a fresh one, and had gone up the road. Assistance was obtained, and deceased moved to Mr. Richards. – Dr. Villiers of Osgathorpe, who was called in, deposed that the deceased's right collar-bone, right shoulder blade, and several of the ribs on the right side were broken. The right lung had been injured by the broken ribs. Witness had attended the deceased till his death on Friday. He was conscious till the end, and told witness he was standing on the front of his cart, the horse was restive, and to steady himself he placed his hand on the coal, which gave way, and he fell under the wheel. When witness first saw him he was perfectly sober. Death was due to exhaustion from the injuries. – A verdict of accidental death was returned,

#### **Burton Chronicle – January 25<sup>th</sup> 1900**

##### **Griffydam ([Pegg's Green](#))**

##### **DAY SCHOOL. ([GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST DAY SCHOOL, PEGG'S GREEN](#))**

– Various improvements in connection with Griffydam Wesleyan Day School have been made during the last year. A new floor has been laid in the upper schoolroom, and this, together with a supply of new desks, will render the teaching more comfortable and effective. The voluntary aid grant has proved a great boon to the school.

#### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – May 17<sup>th</sup> 1900**

##### **WANTED**

To purchase or on lease, land (near the railway) with good seams of clay for manufacturing purposes. – Apply, first instance, STINSON, Griffydam, Ashby de la Zouch.

### **Burton Chronicle – April 12<sup>th</sup> 1900**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**DAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.**(**GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL, PEGG'S GREEN**) – The anniversary services were held on Sunday in the Wesleyan Chapel (**Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel**). The preacher was the Rev. H. J. Bannister, of Melbourne, who had large and appreciative congregations both afternoon and evening. Two eminently suitable, convincing, and forceful discourses were delivered. The services appealed especially to the youthful portion of the congregation. The basis of the preacher's address in the afternoon was "There is a lad here", and at night his text was "Give us pulse to eat and water to drink". Special hymns were sung by the children who acquitted themselves very creditably. Two anthems were also rendered by the choir in good style. The musical portion of the service was under the conductorship of Mr. W. Richards, with Miss Lakin at the harmonium. A number of instrumentalists assisted. The congregations were large and the collections good.

### **Sporting Gazette – November 10<sup>th</sup> 1900**

#### **ESTATE SALES**

**MESSRS. GERMAN AND GERMAN.** – On Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., an attractive property will be submitted for disposal by Messrs. German and German at the Royal Hotel, Ashby de la Zouch. It consists of a large and important section of the Donington estate, situate in Leicestershire, and which was the property of the late Lord Donington. The property will be sold in lots. For business men of means with a taste for country life and sport in their intervals of leisure or retirement, and who wish for a safe and fairly remunerative investment, we should say the compact and beautiful estate of nearly 1,000 acres to be sold as one lot between Castle Donington and Ashby offers a chance not lightly to be lost. Possessed of excellent railway facilities, one can reach the station from Nottingham, Derby Burton, or Leicester whilst scanning the morning news, and then a short drive through the crisp morning air lands one at the newly-built and roomy sporting lodge between the main woods. Few estates of moderate size can boast finer views, or woodlands and farms better suited for rearing a good head of game. Whilst surrounded as it is by sport-loving owners, the expenses of preserving are lighter than on many less favoured estates. Although there is no residence beyond the shooting-box on this section, one of the farmhouses is well fitted for a gentleman's small residence, having been used before for that purpose, and enjoying a view across the greater part of Leicestershire. For a hunting man there are the Quorn, the Atherstone, the Meynell, and Lord Harrington's packs, offering the cream of the shires within easy reach. To the speculator, the small investor, the farmer, and the house hunter, the properties at Griffydam, and immediately round Ashby offer considerable attractions, for there are already signs of considerable development in the district, and Ashby de la Zouch appears not unlikely to become a place of considerable importance.

### **Leicester Chronicle – October 27<sup>th</sup> 1900**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Police Court**

Isaiah Hodges, collier, Griffydam, was summoned for assaulting Hannah Saddington, wife of a collier, of Griffydam, at Worthington on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. Defendant was also summoned for assaulting Ada Allen, wife of a collier, of Hucknall Torkard, at the same time. Mr. Sharp appeared for the defendant, who pleaded guilty, and was fined 5s. 6d., and £1 6s 6d. costs.

### **Leicester Chronicle – December 8<sup>th</sup> 1900**

**COLLIERY BYE-LAWS OFFENCE.** – George Earp, collier, of Griffydam, was summoned for failing to comply with special rule, No. 72, in force at Coleorton Colliery. – Frank Tatham, colliery manager, of Coleorton, was complainant. – The offence was that of allowing overhanging coal to remain unspragged, and defendant pleaded guilty. – Frank Tatham, manager, who discovered the matter, said the offence constituted a dangerous risk to life, and the prosecution was instituted as a warning to other colliers. There were six or seven tons of coal overhanging in a length of sixteen feet, with about 4ft. 6in. of a hole under. If an accident had happened a claim might have been made against the colliery under the compensations

act. – The chairman said that the defendant had been guilty of very gross negligence, and might have caused the death of more than one person.

### **Leicester Chronicle – December 8<sup>th</sup> 1900**

#### **COALVILLE**

**FUNERAL OF A TRADESMAN.** – On Thursday afternoon the body of the late Mr. Francis William Illsley, draper, of Belvoir road, who died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst., at Coalville, was laid to rest in the burial ground of the Wesleyan Chapel at Griffydham in the presence of numerous and sympathetic spectators. The following were the chief mourners : The widow of the deceased. Mr. B. Johnson, Mr. Knight, Mrs. Knight, Miss Illsley, Mr. J. Chambers, Mrs. Chambers (Derby), Mr. J. Coxon, <rs. Coxon, Mr. and Mrs. Elverston, Mrs. Sketchley, Mr. J. Fletcher, Mr. Scales, and Mr. W. Illsley. The service was conducted by the Rev. G. Wadsworth, Wesleyan Minister of Coalville. The oak coffin bore the following inscription : “Francis William Illsley. Died Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Aged 55 years”. It was laid in a brick grave. Every respect was shown in Belvoir road by fellow tradesmen and residents, and there were 17 wreaths of choice flowers, many of which were sent be residents.

### **Burton Chronicle – April 11<sup>th</sup> 1901**

#### **GRIFFYDAM (PEGG’S GREEN)**

**TEA AND LECTURE.** – A public tea was provided in the Wesleyan School-Room ([Griffydham Wesleyan Day School at Pegg’s Green](#)) on Good Friday. This was followed by a lecture entitled “Evan Evans”, by Mr. W. F. Jones of Coalville. Mr. J. Kennedy of Coalville occupied the chair. Both tea and lecture were well patronised, and thoroughly appreciated, and the proceeds will be devoted to the renovation fund.

**ANNUAL LOVE FEAST.** – On Easter Monday the annual circuit Love Feast was held at Griffydham. Early in the day the usually quiet village was alive with vehicles of various kinds, and large numbers of visitors thronged the place., some having come from Leicester and Derby to take part in the annual gathering. At 1.30 the service was held in the chapel, presided over by the superintendent minister. The building was packed, and a time of great blessing was spent, many stood bearing testimony to the saving and keeping power of Christ whilst the emblems of the feast were being distributed. Stirring hymns were sung, and the proceedings were marked by intense earnestness and enthusiasm. – At the close of the Love Feast tea was provided in the School-room. And the attendance was so large that several sittings were necessary. – In the evening, the Rev. G. W. Russell preached in the Wesleyan chapel to a large audience. The Love Feast, which is really a district one, is said to date back as far as the days of Wesley.

### **Burton Chronicle – September 19<sup>th</sup> 1901**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN REFORM CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETING.** – On Saturday, the Wesleyan Reform Quarterly tea was held in Griffydham Wesleyan Reform Chapel. There was a large attendance. The weather was favourable, and representatives from all parts of the circuit were present. The Rev. A. Holland, of Ellistown, circuit minister, presided. At three o’clock the local preachers meeting was held. One candidate was admitted as a local preacher on trial and another was continued for another quarter. At five o’clock a very substantial tea was provided in the adjoining schoolroom, and was heartily enjoyed by all present. Afterwards the business meeting was continued. It was stated that a site for a chapel had been secured at New Swannington. The reformers were at present worshipping in a house, and were desirous that the Wesleyan Reform circuit should supply them regularly with local preachers every Sunday. An application to that effect was, therefore, made to the quarterly meeting. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to accede to the request on condition that the worshippers in question placed themselves entirely under the control and direction of the Wesleyan Reform Union, and agreed to the rules and regulations laid down thereby. – The numerical and financial condition of the circuit was regarded as satisfactory

### **Burton Chronicle – July 17<sup>th</sup> 1902**

#### **GRIFFYDAM (PEGG’S GREEN)**

**WESLEYAN SCHOOL.**([GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL AT PEGG’S GREEN](#)) – His Majesty’s inspector’s report on the above school is in hand, and the school staff is to be

congratulated on the same, the highest grant being awarded. The report says : “The teachers deserve much credit for their painstaking efforts. The infants are under kind control and efficient instruction”.

#### **Burton Chronicle – January 1<sup>st</sup> 1903**

##### **GRIFFYDAM (PEGG'S GREEN)**

**HAM AND TONGUE TEA AND LANTERN LECTURE.** – Boxing day was the day chosen for the ham and tongue tea and lantern lecture in connection with the Griffydam Wesleyan Chapel, and the effort, which was in aid of the chapel fund, was successful in every respect. An excellent ham and tongue tea was held in the Wesleyan School-room ([Griffydam Wesleyan Day School, Peggs Green](#)), and, thanks to the effective catering of the lady friends, was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated. The room presented an attractive aspect, and a goodly number of visitors sat down. – In the evening, in the Chapel ([Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel](#)), the Rev. G. A Lampard of Coalville, gave an excellent lecture, the subject of which was “The life of Christ”. Mr. J. Hault, of Aston-on-Trent, presided. The lecturer was aided by a powerful magic lantern, by means of which a number of very effective lectures, illustrating scenes, and miracles in the life of the world's redeemer were thrown upon the screen. These were greatly appreciated by the large congregation, and was also the lecture itself, into which Mr. Lampard threw much enthusiasm and energy. The proceeds of the tea and lecture, which were very satisfactory, will be devoted to the chapel funds.

#### **The Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury – January 9<sup>th</sup> 1903**

##### **PLACES VACANT**

Young man (steady), 18 to 20, wanted on a small grass farm. Live in. One with knowledge of cutting and trussing hay preferred. Good wages to a steady young man. – Apply F. W. Cox, Griffydam, Ashby de la Zouch.

#### **Burton Chronicle – November 5<sup>th</sup> 1903**

##### **GRIFFYDAM (PEGG'S GREEN)**

**GRAND CONCERT.** – On Wednesday evening, a grand concert in aid of the chapel funds was held in the Griffydam Wesleyan ([Day](#)) School. There was a very large and appreciative audience, and an excellent programme was most effectively rendered. Miss G. Lakin, A.L.C.M. made a very efficient accompanist, and the Coalville Adult School Glee Choir rendered invaluable assistance. Mr. Frank T. Bellward, the character singer, was well received. The programme opened with a piano solo. “Venetian Song” (Royston Smith), by Miss G. Lakin A.L.C.M. whose performance was very creditable. This was followed by a glee by the choir, “Fair Flora decks”. Gordon Temple's sweet song, “O song devine” was given by Miss F. L. Amos, who responded to an encore with “O dry those tears”. Next came an excellent mandolin solo, “British Boys” (Harry Dacre), by Miss J. Lakin. Mr. Baker then sang, in good style, “When your hair grows whiter”, and in response to a redemand, gave “Come back to me”. The next item was the song, “Love the pedlar”, Miss L. Knight L.L.C.M. This was deservedly encored, and was responded to with “The style in the lane”. Mr. Hewes's song, “Anchored” was followed by another glee by the chor, “Soldiers Chorus” (Faust). Mr. Bellward's humerous song, “take them off”, was loudly applauded. Mr. Bellward responded with “I was on it”. This brought the fist part of the programme to a close, and a short interval followed. Part 2 opened with a piano solo, Les Gouttes d'Eau” ( Joseph Asher), by Miss Lakin A.L.C.M. The Glee Choir followed with the song, “With sighs, sweet rose”. The next item was the song, “Killarney”, well given by Miss Knight. Miss F. L. Amos then sang “Tatters” (Gerald Lane) with great effect. This was encored, and “The miller and the maid” given in response. Mr. J. Lakin then gave a mandolin solo, “De coon dat's got my heart”, which was much appreciated. Mr. Baker followed with the song, “The little hero”, and Miss Knight with the song “Twickenham Ferry”. Mr. Hewes then subscribed the song, “Queen of Angles”. The Glee choir's song, “Comrades in arms”, provoked great applause, and in response to a well-merited encore, the glee “Sleep gentle lady” was most sweetly rendered. Mr. Bellward then gave a character song, “When I think of the days”. This was loudly encored, and Mr. Bellward responded with a sketch, “Scene at a railway station”, which provoked much amusement. A very pleasant and successful evening was spent.

### **Burton Chronicle – April 28<sup>th</sup> 1904**

#### **GRIFFYDAM (PEGG'S GREEN)**

**WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL.** – On Saturday, the day school anniversary was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydam ([Pegg's Green](#)). The weather was all that could be desired, and as a result, the afternoon and evening services were well attended. The special preacher was the Rev. H. J. Bannister, of Melbourne, whose discourses were well adapted to the occasion. Special hymns were nicely sung by the children of the day school, and anthems by the choir. The afternoon anthem was "The heavenly War", whilst that in the evening, "From generation to generation", was well rendered by the children and choir. Mr. W. Richards was the conductor, and Miss G. Lakin accompanied. The collections realised £11 4s. 5½d.

### **Leicester Chronicle – October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1904**

**School Offence** – Geo Wardle, collier, Griffydam, was summoned for neglecting to send his child regularly to school. – Mr. Chas. Hart, school attendance officer, stated the case. – **A fine of 1s. and 1s 6d costs was imposed.**

### **Burton Chronicle – April 27<sup>th</sup> 1905**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**ANNUAL CIRCUIT LOVE FEAST.** – "Ye olde Love Feast" which has been celebrated every Easter Monday since the days of John Wesley, was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffydam, on Monday last. The weather was beautifully fine, and the crowds of visitors included people from all the surrounding villages, as well as Nottingham and even Birmingham. A strong contingent connected with the Derby Wesleyan Mission was present, and took an active part in the days proceedings. Long before the appointed time for holding the Lovefeast the chapel was filled to overflowing. At 1.30 the Lovefeast began. The meeting was presided over by the superintendent minister (Rev. G. Hepplewhite) and a collection was taken up on behalf of the chapel funds. The meeting was thrown open. People of all grades (including a returned missionary from India) boldly gave their religious experience. The proceedings were interspersed with the hearty singing of hymns, started spontaneously in various parts of the chapel. At 4.30 tea was provided in the Wesleyan School-room. Several sittings down were necessary. After tea, the Derby visitors, who had to return by an early train, held a very enjoyable service on Griffy Hill, vocal and instrumental music and bright practical addresses being the order of the day. At six o'clock a crowded service was held in the chapel. The Rev. J. Hudson Kay opened the service, after which the Rev. George Hepplewhite preached an excellent sermon based upon "The alabaster box of ointment". The service was immensely enjoyed, and was fraught with much spiritual blessing. The proceeds of Lovefeast, tea and sermon will be devoted to the trust funds.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – November 8<sup>th</sup> 1906**

#### **COALVILLE PETTY SESSIONS**

**WORTHINGTON LICENSING CASE ([GRIFFIN INN – GRIFFYDAM](#)).** – George Knight, coal dealer, of Griffydam, was summoned for being drunk on the licensed premises of Harry Chivers, Licensed Victualler, Worthington ([GRIFFYDAM](#)) and Chivers was summoned for permitting drunkenness, on the 26<sup>th</sup> October. – Mr. Rowlett appeared on behalf of the police, and Mr. J. J. Sharp defended. – P.S. Fox stated that in consequence of what he heard he entered the licensed premises in question and saw George Knight drunk. There were five others including the landlord, in the tap-room. Witness spoke to Knight, and then called the landlord apart, and drew his attention to Knight. The landlord said Knight had not been in very long, and he (the landlord) did not notice that "he was like this" when he came in. He would have him out. Witness told the landlord that Knight was in when witness passed about 5. Knight, when he came out, was drunk, and used bad language. Witness saw him home, as they (P.C. Jesson was with him) thought he would fall down. – Cross examined : Did not speak to Knight outside. Had known Knight a long time, but could not recognise his voice. – P.C. Jesson gave corroborative evidence. Knight was staggering all over the road when he left the inn. – Cross-Examined: He was certain it was Knight's voice he heard at 5 o'clock. Knight, as a rule, was a quiet man, and it was his shouting in the house which induced witness to conclude he was drunk. – Mr. Sharp urged that the case would not have come before the Bench but for the belief that Knight was in the house from 5 o'clock. He would call evidence, however, to show that a few minutes before 8 o'clock he was not at the inn. It was

a strong element in the minds of the police that he was in the house from 5 to 8, and hence in drink. The landlord was at the inn but 14 days before this alleged offence, and did not know the policeman. Knight was not in the house until three or four minutes before 8 o'clock. – Mr. Sharp called Knight to give evidence. – He said that his house would be from 300 to 400 yards from the Griffin Inn. He had not known Chivers until he came to the inn. He went to the inn just before 8 o'clock for the first time that day, and denied that, he was at the inn at 5 o'clock, Geo. Draper, Herbert Willton, and Martin Bott, entered the house about the same time that he did. He did not ask for anything to drink, being engaged in conversation. When he saw the sergeant he said to him, "Come in, and lets have a look at your face" and when he was asked to leave he did so quietly, and did not know that the officers were following behind. He was about the yard of his house all afternoon, and had tea between 4 and 5, and after reading the paper, fell asleep. – The landlord (Chivers) deposed that Knight came to his house a few minutes to 8 o'clock. He was not there at 5 o'clock. Knight and three young men went into the tap room. Witness was a stranger to the locality. Knight asked for nothing, and had nothing, but had he asked for anything he (Chivers) would have supplied him. There was nothing in his conduct to lead him (Chivers) to believe he was drunk. The sergeant told him that Knight had had enough, and he ordered him out, giving as his reason Sergeant Foxe's statement. He knew Knight in the fortnight as a respectable and honest dealer. – By Mr. Rowlatt : he told the sergeant that Knight had been in only a few minutes, and he got the man out because the sergeant told him, and also for the sergeant to see him walk out. Knight was not drunk. As a landlord of 14 days, he did what the sergeant told him, thinking it right. – Joseph Dimmock, of Griffydam, son-in-law and assistant to Chivers, stated that he knew Knight. He was not in the house at 5 o'clock. He had nothing to drink, and asked for nothing. Witness served the other men who entered about the same time. Witness saw the police officers and his father go out, return, and order Knight away. Knight was as sober as he was in Court. – By Mr. Rowlatt : There was not the slightest indication that Knight was drunk. He asked his father-in-law later in the evening why he was asked to leave. – Martin Bott, of Gelsmoor, collier, said Knight ordered nothing to drink at the inn, and when they had been in four or five minutes Sergeant Fox came in. Witness saw nothing in Knight's condition to lead him to believe that he was drunk. – Herbert Wilton, one of the party in the house, said he did not hear Knight ask for anything to drink and did not see him supplied with anything. In witness's opinion Knight was sober. – By Mr. Rowlatt : He told the police at the time Knight was not drunk. He did not know why Knight, a perfectly sober man, was turned out of the inn, and nothing was said when he left. – George Draper, collier, of Griffydam, who was in the house, also said Knight was sober. – By Mr. Sharp : Knight was not "turned out". The landlord said something to Knight, and the man left. – The Chairman said the case had been carefully considered. The evidence was so conflicting that it had been decided to dismiss the cases.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – May 28<sup>th</sup> 1908** **GRIFFYDAM**

**A Guardian's Funeral.** – On Thursday afternoon the body of Mr. Price Kidger, a member of the Ashby de la Zouch Board of Guardians, and a district councillor, was laid to rest in the Wesleyan burial ground at Griffydam, in the presence of a large concourse of relatives and friends. – The deceased, who died at the age of 67 years, had been a guardian for thirteen years and was also chairman of Thringstone Parish Council, being appointed after the demise of the Rev. C. E. Crane, previous to which he was vice chairman. He served too, on the Osgathorpe Parish Council by request, having land in that parish. The body was enclosed in an oak polished coffin, with heavy brass mountings, and a breast-plate bearing the inscription : "Price Kidger. Died May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1908 : aged 67 years". The mourners included the widow and Mrs. G. Kendrick (daughter); Mr Edward Price Kidger (eldest son), of Peggs Green, and Mrs. J. Baker (daughter) of Leicester Forest West, Hinckley; Mr. John Kidger (son), Bakewell St, Leicester, and Mrs. E. W. Goodhall (daughter), Ockbrook, Derby; Mr. F. W. Kidger and Mrs John Kidger (daughter-in-Law) of Bakewell St, Leicester and Mrs. A. S. Sleigh (daughter), of Willoughby, Loughborough. Others at the funeral included :- Mr. Jepson Turner (Green Hill House, Whitwick); Mr. C. E. Crane (Coalville); Mr. F. H. Walker (Ravenstone); Mr. James Burthor (Pegg's Green); Mr. F. W. Cox (Griffydam); Mr. C. Gadsby and Mr. Charles Spencer (Swannington); Mr. Jacon Webb (clerk, Snibston Colliery); Mr. W. Franks (an Ashby Guardian and rural district Councillor); Mr. Jno. Charville (Coleorton), Mr. H. Davies (Griffydam) and Mr. C. Gadsby (Osgathorpe).

There were numerous floral tokens from relatives and friends

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – April 30<sup>th</sup> 1908**

**SUDDEN DEATH.** – On Thursday, Susan Anna Batson, 57, wife of Wm, Batson, beer house keeper ([Rising Sun](#)), Griffydam, died suddenly. It appears that deceased had been in indifferent health for a considerable time, suffering from Asthma and pains in the region of the heart. Some months ago she was medically attended for chronic rheumatism.

### **Burton Chronicle – September 24<sup>th</sup> 1908**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**REFORM HARVEST FESTIVAL.** – This was held in the Wesleyan Reform Chapel on Sunday last, when two suitable sermons were preached by the Rev. A. Holland, of Ellistown. The chapel was suitably decorated with corn, fruits, flowers, and vegetables. Harvest music was rendered, and at the close of the afternoon and evening services a collection was taken up in aid of chapel funds.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1908**

#### **CYCLING ACCIDENT**

Whilst John Knight, collier, of Griffydam, was riding home from Coalville, on Saturday night, with William Platts, another collier, he ran into another cyclist named Thomas Court, of Park Road. Court was knocked from his machine, and had his head cut and received other injuries. Knight, who was also thrown, was more severely injured, and the Midland Railway ambulance carriage was requisitioned. He was taken to Dr. Jamie's surgery suffering from shock and concussion, and was afterwards taken to Griffydam in the ambulance carriage.

### **Derby Daily Telegraph – March 30<sup>th</sup> 1910**

#### **“The Love Feast” – Griffydam**

For a great number of years the “Love Feast” held annually at Griffydam has formed a rallying point for Wesleyans for a large district from places as far apart as Leicester, Derby, Long Eaton, Duffield, and many places nearer, such as Coalville, Whitwick, Breedon, Loughborough, Melbourne, Swannington etc. The “Love Feast” held on Easter Monday was again largely attended. The Rev. Mr. Maine, of Coalville, presided, and was supported by the Rev. Mr. Dalziell (Ashby) and the veteran preacher, Mr. John Harrison. The service began at 1. 30. and lasted till four o'clock, the chapel being crowded with a large and most enthusiastic congregation, members of whom gave spontaneous testimony to the Christian life, which was given to a running fire of interjected “Praise the Lord”, “Hallelujah”, and expressions of praise and approval. Some speakers, writes a correspondent, were lively, some were solemn, and some gave sacred songs, but all were obviously filled with great enthusiasm and earnestness. Some gave their testimony with tears running down their faces as they described their rescue from the depths of degradation. After some especially touching testimony, someone would burst out with a hymn, which was heartily taken up by the congregation, the refrain being sometimes repeated several times. These included “Amazing Love”, “Glory to the bleeding lamb”, “When the roll is called up yonder”, “When I get home”, “I need thee”, “When I survey the wondrous cross”, “All hail the power of Jesu's name” etc. At four o'clock a public tea was provided in the schoolroom. There was a service in the evening when the preacher was the Rev. H. Westlake, of Handsworth College. The chapel is in the Ashby circuit, and was erected in 1778, enlarged 1791, and restored and enlarged in 1862. It is in the parish of Worthington. Although to an outsider, the “Love Feast” might appear lacking in the refinement of modern worship, yet the heartiness and earnestness of those who took part shows that Nonconformity is still robust and capable of doing good Christian work.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – October 27<sup>th</sup> 1910**

#### **THE LOUGHBOROUGH LEAGUE**

#### **DIVISION II**

Griffydam strengthened their position at the top of the chart by defeating Loughborough Ivanhoe by six clear goals. This is Griffydam's sixth consecutive victory, their goal average to date being 21 against 7.

### **Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham & Uppingham News – March 4<sup>th</sup> 1909**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Edward Thorley, labourer, Griffydam, and Mary E. Lowe, housekeeper, were summoned for using indecent language at Griffydam on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February. – Thorley pleaded guilty,

adding that he was in a temper at the time, and did not know what he was saying. – The housekeeper did not appear. – P.C. Jesson said he heard the woman screaming “Murder” ! at 11 o'clock at night. She was drunk, and the disturbance was continued for some hours. – Thorley said he had been to Coalville, and had not tasted a drop of liquor, and when he got home he found the housekeeper intoxicated. It was the first time he had been before the magistrates in his life. – The Chairman said that defendant bore a good character, and he would be fined 10s. 6d., including costs. – The housekeeper was similarly fined.

#### **Burton Chronicle – August 11<sup>th</sup> 1910**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**FROMER GRIFFYDAM SCHOLARS** . – At the prize distribution at Ashby Grammar School the three young pupils, formerly scholars at Griffydam school, and who gained free scholarships, were very successful as prize winners, carrying off six prizes between them, viz., Reginald Pickering, English, mathematics, science and drawing ; John Leech, English and language ; William Bird, mathematics and science.

[They would have been educated at the Griffydam Wesleyan Day School at Pegg's Green.](#)

#### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – November 10<sup>th</sup> 1910**

##### **CASTLE DONINGTON TOWN v GRIFFYDAM**

At Castle Donington. – The game opened fast, Griffydam forcing matters. Barker was twice tested. The Dons had several reserves, but corners repeatedly fell to them. Griffydam occasionally got away and scored after thirty minutes. The Dons renewed the attack, missing several grand openings. Staples and Hodkins kept banging at goal, but nothing resulted. The Dons, made a big effort just before the interval, but Haywood saved.

##### **HALF TIME**

In the second half the Dons set about their task in real earnest, and scored nine goals, the visitors responding with one goal.

**RESULT – CASTLE DONINGTON TOWN 9 – GRIFFYDAM 2**

#### **Burton Chronicle – September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1910**

##### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN HARVEST FESTIVAL.** – Harvest Festival services were held at the Griffydam Wesleyan Chapel on Sunday. The ladies had exceeded their decorative art with an excellent supply of foliage, flowers and corn, and fruits and vegetables were also well in evidence. The Rev. A. E. Gardner, the newly settled minister at Measham, presented excellent sermons afternoon and evening. Harvest hymns were sung with much feeling, and the services were well attended. A good number sat down to tea on Monday, and later the fruits and vegetables were disposed of by sale, the total proceedings, which were devoted to the chapel funds amounting to £6.

#### **Leicester Daily Post – March 28<sup>th</sup> 1911**

##### **WORTHINGTON**

**CONSERVATIVE “SMOKER”.** – A smoking concert in connection with the Conservative and Unionist Association, attended by members from Girlsmoor (Gelsmoor), Griffydam, Newbold, and Staunton Harold was held at the Cross Keys Inn, on Saturday night. Mr. F. Tipetts, secretary of the Leicester Tariff Reform League, gave an address. Mr. J. H. Riley presided.

#### **Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1910**

##### **LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE – DIVISION II LOUGHBOROUGH OLYMPIC v GRIFFYDAM**

Played at Griffydam in fine weather. The home team won the toss, and set the “Brownies” to kick up the slope and face the sun. The visitors soon got going, and were very dangerous during the first few minutes, the ball hovering around the home team’s goal. One of the Griffydam players punched the ball out from a good shot, but the referee did not see the incident. The home team broke away on the left, and from a scrimmage, Brewin scored the first goal. Griffydam kept up the pressure, and they soon secured another goal. The “Brownies” were now playing a good game. Tolkee sent in a hot shot, which the keeper saved. From this point the visitors forced several corners, which were of now avail. The home team’s defence were playing a good game. The centre-forward got away, and after beating



nearly all the "Brownies" defence, passed the ball to the inside right, who appeared to be standing off-side. The player, however, shot the ball in the net and at the interval the score was:-

#### **GRIFFYDAM 3 – OLYMPIC 0**

On resuming the visitors could not get going, and a fourth goal was soon registered for the home team. A fifth point was disallowed. This livened the Brownies up, and Folkes, changing position with Jarram, began to worry the Griffydam defence, and from this point the home side did not get over the half way line again more than twice. The Olympic kept up the pressure with good staying power, which they found their opponents lacked, but bad luck dogged the visitors, and they could not score. Numerous corners were awarded to Loughborough, but it was wonderful how the ball was kept out of the net. Olympic kept up the pressure, and the ball was handled in the penalty area. Mitchell took the kick and scored. From this there was only one team (Olympic) in the game, and they gave the home defence a stiff task. Folkes centred the ball, and Jarram meeting it, banged it in the net. From the centre they pressed, and Mitchell just grazed the bar with a fast shot, and later Jarram hit the bar when the goalkeeper had given up the shot. The home goal had some miraculous escapes, but time came with the result :-

#### **GRIFFYDAM 4 – OLYMPIC 2**

**Leicester Daily Post – March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1911**

#### **LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE**

Griffydam reported Sileby Victoria Reserves for not fulfilling a fixture at Sileby on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The correspondence between the two clubs was read by the secretary, and Sileby were fined 2s 6d. for breaking the fixture, and ordered to pay 7s. 6d. expenses.

Loughborough Olympic reported Griffydam for being an hour late on February 25<sup>th</sup>. – **The secretary of Griffydam club said they were delayed at Griffydam owing to their centre forward being married that day. As full time was played Griffydam were only cautioned.**

**Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – April 13<sup>th</sup> 1911**

#### **LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE I DIVISION II**

#### **SILEBY VICTORIA RESERVES v GRIFFYDAM**

The visitors arrived late, and play was delayed nearly half an hour late. Sileby spoiled a good chance through offside play, but forced three corners, which were all cleared. The Vics. Continued to press, and many corners were given. Once the ball struck the ground in front of the net, and bounced clean over. Clarke, in the Sileby goal smartly fisted out, and the Griffydam custodian also saved very neatly on several occasions. A free kick for hands was given against the visitors, but the shot was well parried. Another corner fell to Sileby, but it was headed just wide. Another shot from a Sileby forward travelled wide, and then from a corner Taylor beat the visiting goal keeper. Immediately afterwards, the whistle blew for half time with score:-

#### **SILEBY VICTORIA RESERVES 1 – GRIFFYDAM 0**

Resuming, the wind was quieter for a little while, and play ruled even. The defence on each side was stronger than the attack. Offside spoiled a good opportunity for Griffydam, and a chance to Sileby was not taken advantage of. Griffydam pressed, and Clark fisted out, giving a corner, which was cleared. The wind was now giving the visitors a great advantage, but long shots always went wide or over the goal. Griffydam nearly scored, Clark saving splendidly at full length on the ground. The remainder of the play consisted in a bombardment of the Sileby goal, but the defence was grand, and the goalkeeper very safe. The end came with no addition to the score:-

#### **SILEBY VICTORIAL RESERVES 1 – GRIFFYDAM 0**

| DIVISION II.                                       |    |    |    |    |       |    |     |
|--|----|----|----|----|-------|----|-----|
| Loughborough Ivanhoe 2, Woodhouse 3.               |    |    |    |    |       |    |     |
| Ashby Reserves 1, Griffydam 0.                     |    |    |    |    |       |    |     |
|  | P. | W  | D. | L. | Goals |    |     |
|  |    |    |    |    | F.    | A. | Pt. |
| Kegworth Victoria .....                            | 15 | 11 | 2  | 2  | 61    | 18 | 24  |
| Griffydam .....                                    | 14 | 10 | 2  | 2  | 56    | 16 | 22  |
| Nathan's Escalier ...                              | 16 | 8  | 3  | 5  | 53    | 37 | 19  |
| *Loughborough Olympic                              | 14 | 8  | 2  | 4  | 31    | 25 | 16  |
| Castle Donington Res. ...                          | 15 | 6  | 3  | 6  | 22    | 37 | 15  |
| Woodhouse Imperial .....                           | 13 | 7  | 0  | 6  | 54    | 31 | 14  |
| Ashby Victoria Reserves..                          | 14 | 6  | 1  | 7  | 39    | 43 | 13  |
| Loughborough Ivanhoe ...                           | 13 | 1  | 1  | 11 | 17    | 45 | 3   |
| Deodon Villa .....                                 | 14 | 0  | 0  | 14 | 8     | 65 | 0   |
| *Two points deducted for playing non-eligible man. |    |    |    |    |       |    |     |

Leicester Daily Post – July 5<sup>th</sup> 1911

**FOOTBALL**  
**LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**

.....In Division II, Kegworth Victoria and Griffydam tied for the top place, and a match to decided the championship was won by Kegworth Victoria. He understood that Griffydam wanted very badly to win the cup, and had subscribed weekly during the whole season to a fund which was to present £10 10s. to the Loughborough Hospital in the event of their winning the cup. The sum was raised, but the cup was not won, so the hospital lost £10 10s.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – November 9<sup>th</sup> 1911**

**Ashby Petty Sessions**

**PUBLICAN CONVICTED.** – George W. Storer, publican, Griffydam, was summoned for selling intoxicating drink during prohibited hours on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, at Worthington ([Griffin Inn, Griffydam](#)). – Mr. Jesson defended. – The case was heard in conjunction with a charge against Herbert Reid, collier, of Worthington, for being founding the licensed premises of Storer during prohibited hours. – Sergeant Fox said that in consequence of complaints, he and P.C. Collis secreted themselves near the Griffin Inn at about 5. 30. on Sunday morning. At about 10.15 they noticed Reid come and get through a fence, and go near the pig-stye's in Storer's Yard, and call out "Hello ! Storer, are you there? Bring us four bottles of special". He had a basket with him. Storer fetched the basket and in a short time returned with it and put it down near the pig-sty. Witness and P.C. Collis separated, going in different directions, Collis meeting Reid, and witness going into the yard, and accusing Storer of supplying beer. Storer replied that it was really supplied the previous evening, and paid for ; but the arrangement was that he was to send it out the next morning. When, however, he saw Reid in the garden he thought he would give it to him then, and save himself a journey. – P.C. Collis said when he and Sergeant Fox went to Reid's house about the matter, Reid said he was very sorry ; but he had not been to fetch the beer for himself. – The defence was that Reid entered the house ([Griffin](#)) a few minutes before 10 on the Saturday night, and asked for half a gallon of ale and four bottles of Shipton's special. Storer gave Reid the half gallon, and told him that he should have the four bottles on Sunday, because he did not want to go right down the cellar that night. – Storer was fined 21s. and 15s. costs, and Reid 2s. 6d and 15s. costs.

**Leicester Chronicle – May 25<sup>th</sup> 1912**

**A Whitwick Nonagenarian's – interesting Recollections.**

Mr. John Batson, who lived with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bunce, in Brooks Lane, Whitwick, reached his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Monday. He hails from Hardwick, Buckinghamshire.

**Recollections appertaining to Griffydam –**

1. Prior to living at Whitwick he stayed with his son who was proprietor of the "Rising Sun" in Griffydam, until the public-house was permanently closed.
2. He was the first man to receive the old age pension at Griffydam Post Office

**Burton Chronicle – August 1<sup>st</sup> 1912**

**GRIFFYDAM**

**REFORM SCHOOL TREAT.** – On Saturday, the Wesleyan Reform Sunday school treat was held at Griffydam. Early in the afternoon the children and teachers assembled in the schoolroom and had tea and buns, after which they adjourned to a field kindly lent by Mr. Leech. Here cricket and games of various kinds were indulged in, after which each child was presented with nuts, sweets and gingerbreads and went home well pleased with the day's enjoyment.

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL .** – On Sunday the anniversary services were held in the Griffydam Wesleyan Chapel, when two very appropriate sermons were preached in the afternoon and evening by Mr. J. H. Butler, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Both services were well attended and the congregation were very interested. A pleasing feature in the day's services was the singing of special hymns by children and choir, who acquitted themselves with considerable vigour. At the close of each service a collection was taken up in aid of chapel funds. Methodism was introduced into Griffydam earlier than the year 1792, and John Wesley himself preached in the village at least once during his visits to the neighbourhood.

**Burton Chronicle – March 27<sup>th</sup> 1913**

**GRIFFYDAM**

**YE OLD LOVE FEAST.** – The annual Lovefeast which has been held at Griffydam longer than any living person can remember, was held on Easter Monday. At an early hour, the usually quiet and peaceful village was astir with traps, brakes, bicycles, and vehicles of all descriptions, and the Wesleyan Chapel was crowded with people, not only from the immediate neighbourhood, but even from Derby, Long Eaton, Leicester and other distant towns. The circuit minister, Rev. F. H. H. Sabbett was present. The Lovefeast was opened with singing and prayer, after which the spiritual emblems of bread and water were distributed. The meeting was then open for personal testimony, and many people to the saving and keeping power of of the Lord Jesus Christ. Bright and lively hymns were sung to old fashioned Methodist tunes. Tea was afterwards provided, a large number sitting down. In the evening the Rev. F. H. H. Sabbett, of Coalville preached a very earnest and appropriate sermon. The collection taken at the close, together with that taken at the Lovefeast, will be devoted to the chapel fund.

**Melton Mowbray Mercury & Oakham & Uppingham News – September 25<sup>th</sup> 1913**  
**NEW SWANNINGTON**

**CIRCUIT MEETING.** – The quarterly meeting of the Ashby de la Zouch Wesleyan Reform Circuit was held at New Swannington on Saturday. Representatives were present from Ibstock, Ellistown, Griffydam and Moira, Rev. G. H. Brown presiding. – A vote of sympathy with the widow of the late circuit president, Rev. A. Holland, was passed, and, appreciation of the services deceased rendered to the circuit for a period of over twenty years was ordered to be entered on the minutes. – An invitation to the General Committee of the Wesleyan Reform Union to hold their next half-yearly meeting in the Ashby Circuit was confirmed. – Reports of the successful annual conference of the union, recently held at High Wycombe, were received. – Several items of business were referred to the Circuit Committee to consider and report. These had reference to the proposed scheme for the better training of local preachers and other matters.

**Burton Chronicle – April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1914**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**BAD LANGUAGE TO CYCLISTS.** –Frederick Francs (28), collier, Griffydam, was summoned for using indecent language at Worthington on March 27<sup>th</sup>. – In defendant's absence, Police constable Bown said that at 10-15, he was on duty at five lane ends, and the defendant used the language to a lady and gentleman passing on bicycles. – Fined 7s. 6d. and 14s. costs, or seven days hard labour.

### **Coalville Times – Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> 1914**

Football in the second division. - Swannington Institute and Thornborough United have met twice, with no score on each occasion. The two Ibstock teams – Amateurs and Wanderers, also met without scoring on Good Friday. **Peggs Green have made two big wins, 10-0 against Whitwick Amateurs and 5-0 against Ashby and a draw 2-2 with Coleorton;** Swannington Robin Hood and Ravenstone United have met twice, a draw 2-2 at Swannington, and a win for Ravenstone 3-2, at Ravenstone, and Whitwick Amateurs suffered four defeats, being beaten 4-0 by Ibstock Wanderers, 3-0 by Ibstock Amateurs and 2-1 by Bagworth Town, in addition to the Peggs Green result.

### **Burton Chronicle – June 25<sup>th</sup> 1914**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL.** – The Wesleyan's held their Sunday school anniversary services on Sunday last., when the pulpit was occupied by Mr. J. H. Butler, of Ratby, who preached in the afternoon and evening. The services were well attended, and the audience were much interested in the singing of special hymns by the children and choir, Mr. Ernest Kendrick presiding at the harmonium. The collections were in aid of Sunday school funds.

### **Leicester Daily Post – February 8<sup>th</sup> 1915**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

**PUBLICAN CONVICTED.** – David Else, publican Worthington, was charged at Ashby, on Saturday, with being drunk in charge of a horse and carriage at Thringstone on 25<sup>th</sup> January. – Mr. Jesson appeared for the defendant, who is the licensee of the Waggon and Horses at Griffydham. – According to the evidence, defendant was driving along the road from Ashby to Thringstone, when the “tub” was overturned near Mr. Hull's Shop, ([just before Peggs Green / Swannington Island](#)) and defendant and a companion were thrown out. Defendant was stated to have been drunk. He admitted having had a number of “Whiskies” at Ashby, but denied that he was drunk. – Fined 21s. and 25s. costs.

### **Leicester Journal – February 12<sup>th</sup> 1915**

#### **GRIFFYDAM**

The death occurred at his residence at Osgathorpe, on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, of Mr. Robert T. Hance, who for 26 years had held the position of headmaster at the Griffydham Day School. The deceased had been in failing health for a considerable time, but his death was somewhat unexpected, and came as a surprise to a large circle of friends and acquaintances by whom he was highly esteemed. He was 53 years of age.

### **Leicester Chronicle April 24<sup>th</sup> 1915**

#### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**Poultry Raiders** – At Ashby Petty Sessions, on Saturday Maphali Smith, scissor grinder, and Absolom Smith, collier, both of Thringstone, were charged with stealing three live fowls, value 9s. the property of Mary Davis, at Breedon., on 16<sup>th</sup> of April and further with stealing three fowls, value 13s. 6d., the property of the Rev. G. Robinson, Thringstone, between 20<sup>th</sup> of March and 16<sup>th</sup> of April. – Defendants pleaded guilty. – P.S. Kirkland, Coalville, said together with P.C.'s Brown, Collis, and Jones. He saw the two defendants approaching noiselessly on the grass from the direction of the Waggon and Horses, at Griffydham. When witness went to them, a fowl cackled in Absolom Smith's pocket, and he was searched, the fowl being found in his coat pocket. The other defendant had two fowls concealed in the lining of his coat. – P.C. Collis remarked that he knew where the fowls came from, as they had been marked in accordance with his directions. They had a red paint mark under a feather. On going to the fowl house, witness found it was locked, but defendants admitted having pulled out the staple with the lock, and stealing the fowls. – P.C. Jones, giving evidence in the second charge, said that at 9 a.m. on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst., in company with P.C. Kirkland, he visited defendant's fowl house, and saw three fowls, which defendants said they had brought from Billesdon six weeks ago. Witness took the fowls to the Rev. Greenwood Robinson, vicar of Swannington, who identified them as his property. The defendants, when charged at Ashby, had denied the theft. Keys found on one prisoner fitted locks of the Vicar's premises. – **Superintendent Lockton deposed to receive numerous complaints, and prisoners were sent to prison for six weeks on each charge, the sentences being concurrent.**

John Edward Merriman of  
the "Sherwood Foresters"  
Born in Griffydham

**BEESTON GAZETTE AND ECHO – FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> 1916**

John was only 17 when he enlisted and for some time had lived with Mr. Blacknall, in West street, Hucknall but his birthplace was Griffydham, Leicestershire. He was wounded during the conflict and is currently being treated at the Woolwich Hospital



**The Coalville Times – May 1916**

**Coalville Police Court**

**Friday – Before Major Hatchett (in chair), Mr. H. J. Ford, Mr B.G. Hale and Mr J. W. West. The Chief Constable, Mr. E. Holmes, was present.**

***Bona Fide Traveller Question***

Thomas Price, Wm. Horrobin, Thos. Kenney, Herbert Lakin, John Roach, Salve Robinson, Joseph Moore and Wm. Brealey, all Whitwick colliers, were summoned for being found on the licensed premises of David Else, at Griffydham, in the parish of Worthington during prohibited hours, on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Else, the publican, was summoned for opening his premises for the sale of intoxicants during prohibited hours.

Mr George Rowlett (Leicester) prosecuted for the police, and Mr J. F. Jesson (Ashby) for the publican, pleaded guilty. Inspector Dobney stated that he went to the Waggon and Horses Inn, kept by Else, at 11.15 am on the date named (Easter Sunday). Twelve men were in the house, and a young lady, whom defendant admitted, was specially engaged for holiday times, was playing on the piano a waltz, entitled "Fairylane". Witness had measured the distance, and found eight of the men lived under three miles away. Defendant told witness that he asked the men if they had come far enough, and when they said they had, he thought he could he could serve them with ale and bread and cheese.

Mr Jesson said the young lady was not playing for dancing, as there were no other ladies present, and the men would pay more attention to their beer than dance with themselves. Defendant had been licensee of the house for two years, and he promised to be more careful in the future. Defendant was fined £5, or one month.

Of the eight men, only Kenney appeared, and he pleaded guilty. Inspector Dobney gave the distances from the houses of the defendants to the public house, and these were under three miles. Mr Rowlett pointed out that if men deliberately walked beyond three miles for the purpose of getting a drink they were not bone fide travelers, and publicans made a serious mistake in serving them. Kenney said it was the first time that he had ever been to the house.

He was found 10/- or seven days, and the other defendants 15/- each or 14 days. The chairman said the magistrates wished him to state that the fact of men having walked three miles or over on Sunday morning did not entitle them to drink, if they had gone for that purpose.

#### **Leicester Daily post – January 30<sup>th</sup> 1919**

**An Order.** – William Else, collier, Griffydam, summoned by Hilda Dandy, of Shepshed, for an affiliation order, denied on oath that he had never seen or spoken to the girl. Several witnesses having stated that they had seen them together, the Chairman cautioned the defendant, but he adhered to his denial. The Bench made an order of 7s 6d. a week and costs. – Mr. R. Lancaster appeared for the applicant.

#### **Leicester Daily Post – April 14<sup>th</sup> 1919**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

**DEAR WILD RABBIT.** – William Henry Bennet, dealer, Griffydam, was summoned under the Wild Rabbits Prices Order For selling a wild rabbit which weighed 2lbs 4oz. for 2s. 3d. (which was in excess of the above order), at Coalville. – Mr. J. F. Jesson prosecuted for the Coalville Food Control Committee, and Mr. J. J. Sharp defended. – Arthur Otty, Executive Officer, Coalville, said the price for wild rabbits brought : in the skin was 10d. per lb. – Mrs. Johnson said she purchased a rabbit from defendant, who said it weighed 2½lbs. with the skin on, and that there was a half penny a pound for carting. Witness paid him 2s..3d. for the rabbit, which he skinned for her, and he gave her a penny back for the skin. Witness had the rabbit weighed, and it was 2lbs. without the skin. – P.C. Bursall said rabbit skins fetched from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a dozen at marine store dealers. A skinned rabbit of 2lbs. would have a 5oz. skin. – Defendant produced the following notice fixed on his cart ; “Rabbits 10d. a pound in the skin ; 1/2d. extra for carting ; 1d. for each skin given back” The weight of the rabbit given sold to Mrs. Johnson was, he said, 2lbs. 9oz. The skin would weigh anything from seven to 12 ounces. – Mr. Sharp said that if the weight of the skin was as stated by defendant the price was correct. Defendant who had a previous conviction, was fined £5 5s., and ordered to pay £3 3s., advocate’s allowance, and 5s. for witness. £8 13s. in all, or 14 days.

#### **Leicester Daily Post – May 12<sup>th</sup> 1919**

##### **Ashby Sessions**

**Food Control Cases.** – Mr. W. P. Musson prosecuted in several cases on behalf of the Ashby Food Control Committee. – Wm. Henry Bennett, dealer, Griffydam, summoned for selling rabbits above the maximum price at Coleorton, pleaded guilty, and said he was practically ruined in rabbit-selling. He had lost £80 by the drop from 5s. to 1s. 6d. a dozen for rabbit-skins when he had 4,000 in stock. – A conviction for a similar offence was recorded, and defendant was fined £7 8s. costs, and £3 3s. advocate’s fee, the chairman remarking that it was doubtful if he ought not to have been imprisoned

#### **Leicester Daily Post – September 15<sup>th</sup> 1919**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

“SET PIECE OF THE DAY” Collapses. – The Magistrates’ Clerk referred to a series of summonses and cross-summonses for assault at Coleorton Wakes, as “the set piece of the day”. The principles were George H. Kilby and Joseph Kilby, colliers, Griffydam, who were summoned for assaulting George Henry Neville. – Joseph was also charged with assaulting Mrs. Neville, while there was a cross-summons against Neville for assaulting George H. and Norah Kilby. – Mr. J. F. Jesson appeared for the Nevilles, and Mr. J. J. Sharp for the Kilbys. – Mr. Jesson said it was a family feud arising out of the Wakes. – The case had been part

heard when the question of an adjournment caused Mr. Sharp to suggest that the peace of the family might be better served if the case stopped where it was. – a suggestion to which Mr. Jesson was not opposed, but he pointed out that the Bench should give a decision on his summonses first against the Kilby's. – After consultation, the Chairman said the Bench were prepared to dismiss the summonses against the Kilbys. – Mr. Sharp thereupon withdrew his charges against the Nevilles, and each side paid their own costs

#### **Sunday Illustrated – July 10<sup>th</sup> 1921**

##### **DEAD MANS HOARD STRANGE COINCIDENCE LEADS TO DISCOVERY From Our Own Correspondent**

A remarkable story of hoarded wealth came to light today at Griffydam near Coalville.

In this mining village lived for many years a cripple who was supposed to eke out a scanty living as a barber, assisted by charitable neighbours.

Recently he fell ill, was taken to the workhouse and died. Notes and coins worth £45 were found on him.

After the cripple had been buried, a relative came and asked the workhouse master for the key of the dead man's house. Almost at the same time appeared another visitor, also a relative with the same request.

His suspicions aroused, the master refused the key to the visitors but passed it to the relieving officer. A search in that house at Griffydam disclosed £102 18s. 6d. all in silver ; a war loan bond for £300 ; and a bank book showing £90 credit.

The whole sum, £537 has been banked pending a settlement with the relatives.

#### **Hampshire Advertiser – June 10<sup>th</sup> 1922**

**Percy James Hall**, 13, of Griffydam (Leicestershire), who has been admitted to Leicester Infirmary with a broken arm, caused by a fall when running, broke the same arm in a similar manner only three months ago.

#### **Derby Daily Telegraph – December 28<sup>th</sup> 1923**

**DERBY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION- MEDAL SEMI-FINAL** Findern and Griffydam met on Boxing Day at Findern, and played on a heavy ground at a pace associated with ideal conditions. Griffydam from the kick-off went down in overwhelming fashion, but they found a rock-like defence. The defence eventually turned the game in the home team's favour for some time ; then even play followed, and the visitors opened the scoring before the interval. On resuming, Findern made a great effort to pull the game out of the fire, and goals from Withers and Pagett put them ahead. By this time both teams looked tired. However, with about ten minutes to go, Griffydam rallied to such extent that they equalized four minutes from time. Both sides are to be congratulated on putting up such a clean hard game, and the return encounter should be worth seeing. Jack Pawley stood out as the man of the match.

#### **The Nottingham Evening Post – April 29<sup>th</sup> 1924**

Nearly a month after his admission to the Burton Infirmary, Joseph Cooper Platts, a Griffydam miner, aged 26 succumbed to injuries received at Messrs. Hall collieries, Swadlincote, where he was knocked down by a coal tub.

#### **Nottingham Journal – November 5<sup>th</sup> 1924**

##### **WOMAN'S END SAD STORY AT GRIFFYDAM INQUEST**

Deplorable conditions as to the housing of a collier's family were revealed at an inquest by Mr. H. J. Deane at Griffydam yesterday. The inquiry was in to the death of Phoebe Whyman (37) wife of Jack Whyman, collier, employed at Snibston Colliery.

The husband said he went to work on Sunday night at 9.30, and when he returned at 6.30 in the morning the child had been born and his wife was dead. They had eight children living and had buried three. Two children were living with his mother. The family occupied a home with one room upstairs and one down. He offered to stay at home with her on Sunday night, but she said she would be alright.

Harriet Emily Whyman, sister-in-law, said she was with deceased on Sunday night and they arranged for someone to call her. She was called and found deceased had given birth to a child and was downstairs.

Dr. Atkinson, Osgathorpe, said the woman was dead when he arrived. He attributed death to shock and inattention at birth.

The Coroner recorded a verdict accordingly, and said he came there intending to blame someone for this woman's death, but after the evidence he was unable to.

It was a scandal that people should be living in such a wretched hovel. There were two parents and six children living in two rooms

#### **Lancashire Evening Post – November 5<sup>th</sup> 1924**

##### **TEN PERSONS IN TWO- ROOM HOVEL**

Deplorable housing conditions were revealed at an inquest held by the North Leicestershire Coroner at Griffydham, near Coalville, last night, on Phoebe Whyman, the wife of Jack Whyman, a collier, who died after giving birth to her eleventh child. Eight children are living, and the family occupy a house of one room up and one room down, which the coroner described as a hovel. – A verdict that death was due to inattention at childbirth was returned.

#### **Kington Times – November 8<sup>th</sup> 1924**

##### **A GOLDEN WEDDING**

Sixty-five decendants attended the golden wedding celebration at Griffydham, Leicestershire, of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Morley, aged 73 and 71 respectively. Joe Bradford, of Birmingham Football Club, and William Bradford, who has played for both Birmingham and Brighton, are included among the grandchildren.

#### **Nottingham Journal – September 9<sup>th</sup> 1925**

**SURPRISE MEETING OF BROTHER AND SISTER AT HUCKNAL** A meeting after a separation of 40 years occurred at Hucknall the other day, when Mr. Thomas Miller, from the United States, surprised his sister living in Yorke Street by paying her a visit unawares.

When he presented himself at the house, Miss Miller thought he was a pedlar, and twice attempted to turn him away with the usual, "not today, mister"! before he made himself known.

It is 45 years since Mr. Miller went to America, leaving work at Linby Colliery to take up a post in the anthracite mines in Eastern Pennsylvania, where he now occupies an official position. Originally the family hailed from **GRIFFYDAM, LEICESTERSHIRE.**

Mr. Miller praised the Hucknall authorities for the cleanliness of the town's streets, which he finds a striking contrast to the muddy roads that he knew 45 years ago.

#### **Lancashire Evening Post – July 12<sup>th</sup> 1926**

##### **A COUPLE'S SUICIDE**

A verdict of "Joint Suicide" was returned at the inquest at Ashby de la Zouch on Thomas King, a Griffydham, Leicestershire, collier and his wife, Lucy King, whose bodies, bound together by the man's leather belt, were recovered from the Willesley Lake. Domestic quarrels were stated to have led up to the tragedy.

#### **Sheffield Independent – July 12<sup>th</sup> 1926**

##### **DROWNED TIED TOGETHER COUPLE WHO HAD SEPARATE ROOMS WIFE'S FALSE ACCUSATION**

A distressing story was told at the inquest at Ashby de la Zouch, on Saturday, on the bodies of a young man and his wife which were recovered by dragging operations from a lake in the district on Friday. The deceased were Thomas King (32), a coal miner, of Griffydham, and his wife Lucy, aged 30. they were taken from the lake clasped in each other's arms, or as a police witness said, "Higging one another". Mrs. King's feet were bound together by a man's necktie, and the couple's arms were tied together with a strap. A letter in the man's hand writing and some of the woman's clothing were found on the bank.

##### **ANOTHER CHILD**

The Coroner referring to the letter, said that the young couple had lived happily for a time, but on medical advice occupied separate rooms. When the husband learned that another child was expected he was considerably distressed. Mrs. King had said to her husband : "If I tell you you won't forgive me", and her husband had replied : "We will see".

She then made an accusation against another man, who, however, not only denied it, but threatened proceedings.



### **ALLEGATION WITHDRAWN**

On Thursday, at her mother's house, the woman withdrew the allegation in the presence of the man, and said to her husband : "I had to say something because you threatened my life".

It was arranged that the parties should meet at a solicitor's office in Ashby. The young couple afterwards went out together that night, and were not seen again.

In the letter he left, the husband said : "Oh, mother : get someone to look after my children. I could not stay any longer. Give heed to my words, O Lord consider my meditation".

The Coroner said it was a case of joint suicide during temporary insanity, and observed that the action of the man who had been accused by the woman had throughout been such as he would expect from one who was wrongfully accused.

### **Leicestershire Evening Post – July 13<sup>th</sup> 1926**

Hundreds of people attended the funeral of the victims of the Ashby drowning tragedy. – Thomas King, aged 26, a miner, and his wife, Lucy Maud, aged 27 – in the Wesleyan burial ground at Griffydam, Leicestershire, yesterday.

### **Birmingham Daily Gazette – October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1928**

#### **GRIFFYDAM BABY SHOW**

At a baby show held in the Council School at Griffydam near Coalville, on Saturday, organized by district nurse Ingleson, Dr. A. Hamilton (Coalville Medical Officer) and Dr. Garry (Osgathorpe) being the judges, the following were the awards.

Under 6 months. – 1, Alec Bird (Coleorton); 2, Baby Wilton (Pegg's Green)

Six to twelve months. – 1, Baby Ford (Swannington); 2, Baby Reid (Pegg's Green).

Twelve to eighteen months. – 1, Baby Hucknall (Coalville); 2, Baby Cresswell (Coalville).

The event was in connection with a show and sale of flowers, fruit, vegetables, etc., in aid of the funds of the Loughborough Hospital.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – March 16<sup>th</sup> 1929**

#### **Mr. J. Knight Death of 91 year old Appleby farmer**

By the death of Mr. Joseph Knight, a well known farmer, who was in his 91<sup>st</sup> year, Appleby (near Ashby de la Zouch) has lost one of its oldest inhabitants. Mr. Knight was well known in the Coalville district, having lived at Newbold for 80 years. The funeral service was held at Worthington Parish Church and the burial took place at Griffydam Cemetery. Many old friends attended the funeral.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – January 20<sup>th</sup> 1930**

#### **COALVILLE CONCERT PARTY**

The Coalville Primitive Methodist Concert Party gave a concert in the old [Griffydam Wesleyan Day School](#) at Griffydam ([Peggs Green](#)) in aid of the renovation fund of the Griffydam Wesleyan Church.

### **Dundee Courier – August 5<sup>th</sup> 1930**

#### **ELDERLY WOMAN AND CHILD KILLED STRUCK BY MOTOR BUS**

An elderly widow and a two year' old girl, whom she had unsuccessfully attempted to save, were both killed yesterday when knocked down by a motor bus at Griffydam, Leicestershire.

They were Mrs. Annetia Knight, aged 66 and Kathleen Mary Kinsey, who lived next door. The child after playing on the path outside her house, had crossed to the opposite side, and apparently, with the idea of preventing the child from recrossing the road, Mrs. Knight went over to her. As they were walking back, both were struck by the bus.

### **Nottingham Journal – August 14<sup>th</sup> 1930**

#### **PERILS OF THE ROADS GRIFFYDAM TRAGEDY RECALLED £50 CHEQUE PAID TO THE SON OF VICTIM**

**“The Nottingham Journal” under the Free Insurance,  
has promptly paid the sum of  
£50**

**To Mr. Jonas Knight, in respect of the death of his mother  
Mrs. A. Knight.  
Top road,  
Griffydham,  
Nr. Leicester**

**Who whilst crossing the road near her home, was knocked down by a motor omnibus and killed. The late Mrs. Knight who was a widow, was a registered reader of the “Nottingham Journal” and therefore insured against every form of accidental death**

**Signing the registration form is the work of a moment**

### **Leicester Evening Mail – July 25<sup>th</sup> 1931**

#### **GRIFFYDAM EXAM RESULTS**

Students of the Griffydham Evening Institute in examinations of the last session's work have obtained the following successes:-

St. John Ambulance certificates : J. W. Bird, A. C. Monk, S. Palmer, A. Sprinthorpe and S. G. Townsend.

Pitman's Shorthand elementary certificates : L. Leech, V. Marshall, W. E. Gould, and R. L. Williamson.

East Midland Educational Exams : Typewriting; Doris W. Foster (1<sup>st</sup> class), Louisa Leech and George Winston Fowkes (2<sup>nd</sup> Class).

Commercial arithmetic : Ross Walker (1<sup>st</sup> class), Eric Cusworth, George W. Fowkes and Veral Marshall (2<sup>nd</sup> class).

Prizes valued at 10s. each, have been awarded by the District Committee as follows : Commercial Course – Vera Marshall; Basketry and Canework – Hilda Stewart ([Author's aunt](#)); Woodwork – Divided between T. Francis and L. G. Townsend, Ambulance – John Weston.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – August 24<sup>th</sup> 1931**

#### **GRIFFIDAM'S EFFORT FOR CHARITY**

The people of Griffydham and district, near Coalville, on Saturday made their annual effort for the funds of the Loughborough Hospital. This took the form of a fete and flower show in a field near the Waggon and Horses Inn, owned by Mr. George Kilby.

The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. W. Taylor, of Ashby. There was a good exhibition of flowers, fruit and vegetables, and the attractions included various competitions. The proceedings were enlivened by selections by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Silver Prize Band. All the proceeds will be given to the hospital.

The results of the children's races were as follows:-

Girls, 6 to 8 years : 1, Peggy Smith, 2. Rose Robey.

Girls, 9 to 11 years : 1. Gwen Darby, 2. Lena Dawkins.

Girls, 12 to 14 years : 1. Phyllis Davies, 2. Lena Webster.

Boys, 9 to 11 years : 1. R. Fredson, 2. E. Francis.

Boys, 12 to 14 years : 1. S. Clamp, 2. M. Wilton.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1932**

#### **GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL**

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL STONE-LAYING**

#### **METHODIST ENTHUSIASM AT GRIFFYDAM**

Saturday was a great day with the Wesleyans of Griffydham, Near Coalville where the ceremony of laying a number of foundation stones of a new Sunday School created considerable enthusiasm. The Rev. S. Atkinson of Coalville presided over a large gathering.

The event was also the occasion of a visit from the president of the Nottingham and Derby district, the Rev. J. Freeman, of Belper, who, in an interesting address, said the Methodist church stood for evangelical religion – the unqualified and indestructible love of God for mankind. He went on to say how the Wesley's rediscovered this when the churches

of the country seemed to have forgotten it, and while John Wesley preached on it Charles Wesley sang about it. John Wesley preached it in Griffydam, but the people there did not accept it at first; they mobbed him, but they accepted it afterwards and built that fine old chapel which they were so proud of today.

Proceeding, the Rev. J. Freeman spoke of the importance of the class meetings and fellowship and of the part the Methodists had played in education.

#### **£816 BUILDING**

Mr. Herbert Rowell, who is aged 72, laid the first stone, for himself and his wife, and contributed £4.

Other stones were laid by, or on behalf of, - Mr. Walter Davies, superintendent for the Sunday School, who gave £20; Mr. & Mrs. R. Nichols, £5; Mr. & Mrs. W. Davies, senior £5; Mr. & Mrs. J. Knight, £5; he Misses E. and G. Davies, £5; Mr. & Mrs. J. Johnson, £3; Mr. & Mrs. L. Wesley Rowell, £3; Mrs. Walter Davies, junior, £3; Mr. & Mrs. Howkins, £3; Miss. A. Hodges, £3; Miss. May Johnson, for the Junior Guild, £3; and Miss H. Wilton, for the tennis committee, £3.

Mr. Joseph Rank, a Surrey miller, sent a cheque for £100. Altogether the sum of £736 had been raised towards the cost of the buildings, the contract price for which is £816.

After the stone-laying a public tea was held, and in the evening there was a great public meeting at which the speakers were the Rev. J. Freeman and the Rev. J. Scott, of Syston.

#### **Leicester Evening Mail – May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1932**

##### **GRIFFYDAM ANNIVERSARY**

Sunday school anniversary services were held yesterday at Griffydam Wesleyan Reform Church, the special preacher being the Rev. G. A. Metcalfe, of Sheffield. The children and the choir sang hymns and anthems.

#### **Leicester Evening Mail – August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1932**

##### **SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL FEATURE AT OSGATHORPE FETE**

Griffydam and district made its annual effort for the Loughborough Hospital on Saturday, when a fete was held in Mr. T. Tivey's field at Osgathorpe.

The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Taylor of Ashby, who was supported by a number of influential people, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Loughborough.

Snibston Colliery Band played selections, and amongst the attractions were various competitions, including a six a side football contest for schoolboys.

In the final, Snibston School defeated Griffydam by three goals to one. Joe Bradford, the Birmingham and International footballer, referred and presented the cup and medals.

Prizes were offered for onions, the winners being Messrs. A Hartshorn (Barrow-on-Soar), C. Brewin (Loughborough) and T. Clifford (Sawley).

In the evening there was a carnival dance in the Osgathorpe school.

#### **Nottingham Evening Post – December 24<sup>th</sup> 1932**

##### **FIGHT FOR CHILD'S LIFE DEATH UNDER ANAESTHETIC AT LOUGHBOROUGH ENLARGED THYMUS GLAND CORONER AND SAD CASE**

"I AM SORRY TO HOLD THIS INQUEST, PARTICULARLY AS THIS INSTITUTION HAS SUCH AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION OF FREEDOM FROM DEATH FROM ANAESTHESIA. It may be distressing to you, and also to Dr. McQuat to know that you have lost a patient, but I do not want you to feel that the fact that an inquest is held is a reflection ; it is simply a statutory duty".

These remarks were to-day addressed to Miss Denham Young, house surgeon at the Loughborough Hospital, by the coroner for North Leicestershire (Mr. H. J. Deane) who held an enquiry into the death of Colin Johnson, 1 year 11 months, son of Benjamin Harry Johnson, Bottom-lane, Griffydam.

##### **SUDDEN COLLAPSE**

Dr. Hilda Denholm Young, house surgeon, said that the child was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday last for an operation for an abscess on its neck. The operation was to be made by Dr. McQuat administered the unaesthetic herself. Chloroform was used in preference to

other, because the latter often caused bronchitis. She tested the child's heart and it appeared perfectly sound, but the child was anaemic and flabby.

The child was carried into the operating theatre and the operation commenced. A few drops of ether were administered as the child came out of the chloroform, but he turned pale and the doctor continued without the anaesthetic. The abscess had been opened when the doctor said : "The child has collapsed too much to go on". They dropped everything and applied artificial respiration and massage of the heart in an attempt to resuscitate him, but without success. The final resort, an injection into the heart muscle, failed also.

Describing the result of the post-mortem examination, Dr. Young said that the child had an excessively enlarged thymus gland, which weighed 28 grams against the average of 15 grams. An enlarged gland of this nature was liable to cause sudden death from the most trivial causes, and it was impossible to diagnose its presence before an operation. The coroner said that had it been known that the child was suffering from a condition which made it more susceptible to the effects of anaesthesia it was possible that a different anaesthetic would have been used.

He was, however satisfied that the operation was necessary, that it was properly confirmed, and that the anaesthetic was given with all reasonable precautions. In spite of this the child had died from shock following the administration of the anaesthetic, and that the condition was complicated by the presence of the enlarged thymus gland.

### **Leicester Evening mail – April 8<sup>th</sup> 1933**

#### **BIT OF "FOOLERY"**

William Hill, aged 22, miner, Griffydham, was at Ashby Police Court today summoned for wilful damage to glass value 3s., the property of Percy J. Hall, miner, Griffydham, on March 25, 1933. He pleaded guilty.

Police-constable Grant said he found the brick, which was produced, in front of Hall's window. He interviewed Hill, who admitting throwing the brick. He said he did not intend to throw the brick through the window. It was a bit of foolery.

He was fined £1 1s., and 5s. 6d costs.

### **Derby Daily Telegraph – May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1933**

Councilor Albert Ramsden, of Castle Donington, on Saturday opened a new tennis ground in connection with Griffydham Methodist Church

### **Leicester Evening Mail – Tuesday October 24<sup>th</sup> 1933**

#### **DEATH OF COLEORTON MAN WHO WAS POST MASTER FOR 34 YEARS**

The death has occurred at Coleorton of Mr. Ernest William Kendrick, aged 62, who was postmaster for 34 years. He was a member of the parish council. The funeral will take place to-morrow afternoon at the Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Church, where Mr. Kendrick was organist and choirmaster for more than 30 years.

### **Hull Daily Mail – February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1934**

**Posted in October at Griffydham (Leicester)**, an envelope containing a postal order and a request for a supply of fish, was received by a Grimsby fish merchant yesterday. A Post Office stamp on the letter indicated that it had been to Gisborne, New Zealand.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1934**

**GRIFFYDAM METHODISTS.** – The annual love feast was held in the Griffydham Methodist Church yesterday, conducted by the circuit ministers. A tea was held in the new school ([Sunday school](#)), and in the evening the Rev. G. H. Taylor, of Birmingham, preached.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – May 12<sup>th</sup> 1934**

#### **NEW LOUNT HAVE A REAL SHARPSHOOTER MATT ROWELL SCORES 106 GOALS THIS SEASON**

Sportsmen in the Coalville district will join me in congratulating Matt Rowell, New Lount Colliery's 22 year old centre-forward, who lives at Griffydham a few miles from Coalville.

When the colliery completed their season's programme last Saturday, by defeating Snibston United

3 – 1, at Hugglescote, thus being runners-up in the First Division of the Coalville League,

Rowell had obtained no fewer than 106 of their goals.

This is a remarkable scoring feat and it would be interesting to know if any other amateur player in Leicestershire can claim such a record. As far as I gather, such a feat has nothing to equal it in the district.

New Lount Colliery caused an end of the season sensation by defeating Snibston New Sports 10 – 0 in the final of the Swannington Charity Cup on the Station Hill ground, Swannington. Rowell also scored four of the goals in this match and so passed the hundred mark.

**Leicester Evening Mail – September 17<sup>th</sup> 1934**  
**GRIFFYDAM'S ANNUAL FETE**  
**£133 FOR HOSPITAL**

Griffydam and district people held their fourth annual effort for Loughborough Hospital on Saturday, when the fete was opened by Mrs. Welch, of Loughborough.

Mr. J. Pargeter presided at the opening ceremony, and was supported by Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Welch, Loughborough, and Mr. H. Pickering, Swannington.

Mr. Welch who is secretary of Loughborough Hospital, said that the expenses of the hospital were double what they were four or five years ago.

He was delighted to hear that Griffydam's efforts for the hospital had realized £133.

Mr. G. Martin is the Chairman of the committee; Mr. George Wilton secretary and Mrs. G. Killey treasurer.

Committee members were: Messrs. F. Francis, S. Driver, J. Horne, T. Hodges, C. Platts, F. Martin and D. Robey

**Leicester Evening Mail – October 1934**



Mick Upton (left) and Jack Hill at the well head. 1934.

In October 1934, two year old Owen Johnson of Bottom Road, Griffydam, fell 32 feet down his grandmother's well and was dramatically rescued by Mick Upton and Jack Hill, two Griffydam miners. Mrs Joseph Wesley, the child's grandmother, ran into the garden shouting, "The child's in the well." Mick slid down the rope tearing his hands. He said, "The rope was only fastened to the roller by a staple so Jack held onto the rope like grim death. At the bottom, my right foot dropped inside the bucket and my left foot went down into the water, but did not touch the bottom. I felt the child cling to it so I grabbed his clothing with my left hand and Jack started to haul us up. When we got halfway up the boy started to cry.

Owen Johnson reunited with his very relieved mother. 1934.

It is really the most terrible thing I have ever experienced. I don't know how the child is alive." Owen's injuries were remarkably light, being just a cut on the forehead and a few bruises.

Leicester Evening Mail. October 1934.

Flo Dimmock and her sister Alice at Griffydam. c. 1930.

**Leicester Evening Mail – November 13<sup>th</sup> 1934**

**GRIFFYDAM RESCUE  
PROPOSAL TO HONOUR MEN WHO SAVED BOY**

A movement is on foot to recognize in tangible form, the heroism of two Griffydam men who saved a two year old boy who had fallen down a 32ft well at Pegg's Green, Near Coalville, at the beginning of October.

The men are Mr. Mick Upton and Mr. Jack Hill, and an appeal, sponsored by the vicar, the Rev. Laurence W. Wray is being made to inhabitants of Griffydam and district for funds to make a presentation to the men.

The secretary of the appeal committee is Mr. E. J. Hinds, of Coleorton.

The rescued boy was Owen Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Johnson, of Bottom Road, Griffydam.

Mr. Upton descended the well and managed to reach the child, and both were hauled to safety by Mr. Hill. The action of Mr. Upton has been brought to the notice of the Royal Humane Society.

**Leicester Evening Mail – December 29<sup>th</sup> 1934**

**LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
GRIFFYDAM PRIMARY COUNCIL SCHOOL**

The committee invites TENDERS for the erection of the Griffydam Primary Council School to accommodate 100 children

Quantities may be obtained from the Architect, County Education Office, Grey Friars, Leicester, on Wednesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, 1935, upon payment of a deposit of two guineas. This amount will be returnable only if the Tenderer shall have sent in a bona-fide Tender and shall not have withdrawn the same. Conditions of Contract may be inspected at the Architect's office.

Tenders on the forms supplied, must reach the Office of the Clerk of the Council not later than first post on Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 1935. No Tender will be received except in the plain sealed envelope provided. Such envelopes shall not bear any mark or name indicating the sender.

The successful contractor will be required to enter into a bond with an approved guarantee company in a sum amounting to 20% of the total amount of the contract.

The committee do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

**LUCAS E. RUMSEY**

Clerk of the Council

10, New Street, Leicester  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> 1934.

C.12.29.

**Birmingham Daily Gazette – June 18<sup>th</sup> 1934**

**BURTON METHODIST CHAPEL**

In connection with the Burton-on-Trent and District Young Methodist Council, a summer rally was held at Griffydam on Saturday, when there was a special visit of the Rev. George Allan, the connexional secretary.

Meetings were held in the Methodist church conducted by the Rev. G. R. Mallinson (Coalville), and Mr. T. S. Starkie (Castle Donington), There was a tea, outdoor games and rambles, and a demonstration in the field adjoining the chapel, at which there was community singing.

**Leicester Evening Mail – March 4<sup>th</sup> 1935**

**GIFTS TO HEROES AT GRIFFYDAM  
MEN WHO RESCUED CHILD FROM WELL**

The gallant conduct of two Griffydam miners in rescuing a three-year-old boy who had fallen down a 30ft. well containing over 10ft. of water was recognized at a public gathering in the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School on Saturday night.

The man who descended the well, Mr. Everard Upton, was presented with the Royal Humane Society's certificate for life saving and the usual gratuity of £1 accompanying it, and also a clock subscribed by the villagers.

Mr. Roland Hill, a friend of Mr. Upton's who was with him at the time, and pulled Upton and the child out of the well on a winding rope, was also presented with a clock by the

people of the parish.

### **NO TIME TO MAKE TEST**

The presentations were made by the Vicar of Swannington, the Rev. L. W. Wray, at a concert in the school.

Mr. C. H. Pickering who presided, said that as miners they knew something of the gases which were often prevalent in wells. To test these, the usual method was to light a candle, and lower it into the well to see if it kept alight, but there was no time for the process on this occasion.

As soon as he knew the child was in the well, Mr. Upton descended the well at the risk of his own life. Mr. Pickering added that he was glad to know that the child, alive and well, was in the room that night.

He added: "I am delighted to know that we have men in this district, men who, when the occasion calls for it, are prepared to risk their lives to save others."

### **Leicester Evening Mail – April 5<sup>th</sup> 1935**

#### **JOINT JUBILEE NEWBOLD, GRIFFYDAM AND GELSMOOR**

Owing to the Worthington village having decided to have their own Jubilee celebrations, Newbold, Griffydam and Gelsmoor have had to amalgamate, and in this connection meetings have recently been held.

It has been to call in all the people in the three villages to a free meat tea. The children under 14 years of age will be presented with a Jubilee china cup and saucer.

Proceedings will open on Jubilee Day at 1p.m. with a service in the New Lount Colliery athletic field and children's sports will commence. There will be a tea for the children in the Newbold Schools and afterwards the children will be entertained to a picture show at the New Hall, Newbold, kindly loaned by Mr. E. Martin.

Tea for the elderly people will follow the children's tea. There will be sports for the adults and a dance.

The committee would welcome offers to help at the tea. Names should be given in at the general committee meeting, held every Tuesday night at seven o'clock in the New Hall, Newbold.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1935**

#### **VILLAGERS HELP THE HOSPITALS**

The hospitals of Derby, Leicester, Loughborough are to benefit by a fete on Saturday on the New Lount Colliery Sports Ground at Newbold (Gelsmoor)

It was the first annual effort to be organized by the villages of Newbold, Griffydam, Gelsmoor and Peggs Green. Mr. Frank Hodges, the managing director of the Leicestershire Colliery & Pipe Co., performed the opening ceremony, and Mr. J. G. Pickard said the Leicester Royal Infirmary would receive its 10,000<sup>th</sup> in-patient this year.

A fancy dress parade was headed by the Ibstock United Silver Prize Band and the Shardlow Jazz Band also took part in the parade of the district. A horticultural show, football match and ox-roasting were included in the programme.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – January 25<sup>th</sup> 1936**

#### **THEFT FROM CAR BY "GOOD SAMARITANS"**

##### **Griffydam men fined**

For stealing a dressing gown and a guilt tray from a suitcase on the back of a motor car at Griffydam on Christmas Eve, Lloyd George Townsend, a miner, and George Dimmock, farm labourer, both of Griffydam, were fined £2 and £1 respectively, and costs, at Ashby Police Court today.

They pleaded not guilty. Mr. H. Barnett Seravski, manager of a Birmingham furniture stores. Said that he was travelling in his car to Griffydam when he got stuck on an ice-bound hill. Several passengers and the driver of a bus which was also stuck on the hill assisted him to move the car.

##### **MISSING FROM CAR**

While they were doing so he looked round at the back of the car and thought he saw two men

interfering with the suitcase on the luggage grid. He got out and two or three men ran away. At the top of the hill he examined his case and found that it had been tampered with and later discovered that a dressing gown and a gilt tray of English needlework were missing.

Arnold Shaw, the driver of the bus, said that the two accused men were passengers in his bus and assisted to move the car.

William Morley, a publican of Griffydham ([Waggon and Horses](#)), said that he found the dressing gown and tray in some out-premises at the rear of his public-house. The two accused men came in and he said to them "What are you doing here"? One of them said "Those things belong to us". They took them away.

#### **TOOK THEM HOME**

Police-constable Grant said that he interviewed the accused and Townsend said "I've got them at my home", while Dimmock remarked "We found them in the outhouse". They admitted having had a lot of drink on the night in question.

In evidence Townsend said that when he saw Morley in the outhouse, Morley told him that the articles had been stolen and Townsend said "I will take them home". He took them and put them in a clothes box and said nothing to anybody until the constable inquired about them a week later. He then handed them over.

#### **Leicester Evening Mail – May 30<sup>th</sup> 1936**

##### **HOLIDAY BOXING AT COALVILLE**

##### **ERIC JONES TOPS THE BILL**

There is a big attraction for boxing fans at Coalville on Monday morning, when a good programme is being staged at the Palais de Dance, Owen Street. At the top of the bill is the local favourite Eric Jones, who appears in a twelve round contest with Les Haycox of Nottingham.

Another popular Coalville boxer, Harry Edwards, will be seen in a bout over six rounds with Jack Smeddon of Bagworth. Also on the programme is an eight round contest between Jim Ward, of Burton, and Stan Kirby of Measham, and another of six rounds between George Holland, of Griffydham, and Ike Hicklin, of Breedon.

The attractive programme commences at 11 o'clock.

#### **Leicester Evening Mail – November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1936**

##### **GRIFFYDAM'S NEW SCHOOL OPENED**

##### **COLONEL MARTIN ON COST OF EDUCATION**

.....  
The great advance made in elementary education during the last 30 years was commented upon by Mr. W. A. Brockington, County Director, in a speech at the opening of the new infants' school at Griffydham yesterday.

He said the infants' school should be on the model of a good home nursery. The most striking development was in the improvement in the education of the infants.

Referring to the friendliness between teachers and parents, he said the change was largely due to the bond of between them.

##### **PRESENTED WITH KEY**

Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. Martin, chairman of the Leicestershire Education Committee, unlocked the door of the school with a key presented to him by Captain E. G. Fowler, the architect. He said he had pleasure in declaring the school open. Mr. C. H. Pickering presided at a meeting held in the school

Colonel Martin said that since 1917, a scheme of reorganization in education had been going on in Leicestershire, and was now further advanced than in any other part of the country.

It was the intention of the Education Committee to extend to all children the advantages which the children of people with larger incomes had had at their disposal for so long. Ninety per cent. Of the older children in Leicestershire were attending modern schools.

##### **LOW COST**

The cost per head of education in Leicestershire was still substantially below the average for England as a whole. Thanks were accorded to Colonel Martin, on the motion of Alderman J.



A. Goodman, seconded by Mr. R. Hall, and thanks to the chairman were moved by Alderman J. W. West, seconded by Mr. H. Johnson.

Among those supporting the chairman on the platform in addition to Colonel Martin and Mr. Brockington :-

Mrs. Charles Booth, Gracedieu: Mrs. J. German, Ashby; the Archdeacon of Loughborough, the Rev. H. R. Canham, vicar of Worthington; Alderman J. W. West, Alderman J. A. Goodman, Alderman E. W. Tandy, Councillors W. Tapp, C. H. Parsons, J. G. Shields, Mr. T. Frith, Mr. H. Johnson, Mr. R. Hull, Captain Fowler, and Mr. R. H. Holt.

Others present included Messrs. C. F. Fox, J. M. Kidger, members of Ashby Rural Council; W. Smith, Worthington; J. Biddle, J. H. Webb, Thringstone; A. B. Moss, the contractor; C. V. Knighton, S. Elcock, headmaster of Griffydam Senior School; Miss Merrishaw, head mistress of the new school; and Mr. H. S. Johnson.

The school had been built to accommodate 100 children, with the possibility of doubling the accommodation if required in future years

### **Leicester Evening Mail – March 1<sup>st</sup> 1937**

#### **GRIFFYDAM LIBERALS**

Three hundred ??? attended a Liberal concert and meeting in the Miners' Welfare Institute, Pegg's Green, on Saturday evening, promoted by the Pegg's Green and Griffydam Liberal Association. The concert was given by the Loughborough Liberal Concert Party. Councillor W. G. E. Dyer (chairman of the Midland Liberal Agents) gave an address.

### **The Illustrated Leicester Chronicle – October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1937**

#### **ANOTHER FOOTBALL "FIND"**

The Coalville district has provided yet another footballer for a First Division Club, and must now have a record in this respect which is unequalled by any industrial district of its size. George Bramley, the 17 year old centre-half, of Whitwick White Cross, has been signed by Derby County, and on Wednesday played his first game for the Rams. He appeared for the colts against West Bromwich. He had a trial with Derby County 12 months ago, but was then too young to sign. After manager Jobey had travelled to Bramley's home at Osgathorpe and fixed him up for Derby, an offer was received by Bramley to play a trial with Leicester City this week.

Bramley is well known in Coalville. He attended the Coalville Grammar School for five years, and has lately been in the employ of Messrs. Marcroft's Wagons Ltd, Coalville. He has been keen on football since he was a youngster, and was **captain of the Griffydam village school team when he was only 11** years old. He played for Leicestershire as a schoolboy, and has a collection of cups and medals. He has played for Whitwick for the past three seasons, but not until this year did he appear in the first team.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1938**

**GRIFFYDAM METHODISTS.** – Griffydam Methodists held special services yesterday in connection with the opening of the church organ. A public tea followed and Mr. Fred Garnet, of Long Eaton, gave an organ recital.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – June 27<sup>th</sup> 1938**

#### **NEWBOLD'S GOLDEN OX**

Newbold and District Hospital's Committee claim a national record for the amount of money raised for the first slice of a roasted ox. When their fete for Leicester, Derby, Loughborough and Ashby Hospitals was held on Saturday, the first slice realized £161 10s. 6d.

Over 2,500 people attended and the record of last year, £315, is believed to have been broken.

A feature was the crowning of the beauty queen, Miss Gwen Warrington, of Griffydam, by Mrs. Frank Hodges.

The parade prize-winners were Mrs. Kidger, Miss Adcock, Mrs. Bomlroff, Miss Freda Griffin, Kenneth Springthorpe and G. Townsend.

Mrs. Hodges, who opened the fete, started the bidding for the first slice of the ox by offering £10 10s.

Griffydam (13 for three) beat Newbold (11 all out) for the Griffydam and District Charity Cricket Cup. Newbold Social Club won the tug-of-war. In the evening, dances were

held. Mr. Edward Martin is chairman of the committee; Mr. Idwal Taylor, hon. Secretary; and Mr. J. B. Mackie, hon. Treasurer.

**Leicester Evening Mail – May 16<sup>th</sup> 1939**

**POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS**

**MOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, pursuant to the provisions of the Telegraph Act, 1863 to 1926, that His Majesty's Postmaster General, having obtained the consent in that behalf of the body having the control of the public road described below, intends to place a Telegraphic line over anong and across the said public road, and for that purpose to erect and maintain posts in and upon the same under the powere conferred on him by the said Telegraph Acts.

**GRIFFYDAM**

**TOP ROAD AND REMPSTONE ROAD.** – From a point opposite the Telephone Kiosk to the junction of the Ashby – Rempstone road, along the south side of Rempstone Road for a distance of approximately 1,100 yards in a north easterly direction.

G. F. Findley  
Telephone Manager, G.P.O.

**Leicester Evening Mail – June 12<sup>th</sup> 1939**

**NEWBOLD BEAUTY QUEEN**

A 16 year old brunette, Miss Caroline Knight, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Knight, of Griffydam was on Saturday night chosen by Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Plowman as the beauty queen for the Newbold and District hospital fete which takes place on the New Lount Colliery Athletic Ground on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The selection was made at a dance at Newbold. The queen's six small attendants will be Misses Joyce Carter, Nina Rogers, Susanne McNeish and Maurteen Richards, of Newbold, and Lorna May Ashbridge and Freda Wilton, of Pegg's Green.

**Leicester Evening Mail – July 1<sup>st</sup> 1939**

**“QUEEN” CROWNED AT NEWBOLD HOSPITAL FETE**

The big event of the summer for the villagers of Newbold, Griffydam, Pegg's Green and Gelsmoor, took place on the New Lount Colliery Athletic ground today, when Miss Caroline Knight, of Griffydam, was crowned queen of Newbold Hospital fete. This is usually one of the most successful village efforts in the county. In the last for years, the Newbold and District Hospitals' Society has contributed £1,150 to the four hospitals which serve the district. The contribution from last years effort was £350.

**Leicester Evening Mail – May 6<sup>th</sup> 1940**

Mr. and Mrs. S. Johnson, of “Forest View”, Griffydam, celebrate their golden wedding anniversary this week. Mr. Johnson is 72 and his wife 71, and they were married at Ashby on May 8<sup>th</sup> 1890. All their married life has been spent at Griffydam. They had none children, seven of whom are living, and there are twenty five grandchildren and three great – grandchildren. Mr. Johnson worked as a coal miner for 40 years

Leicester Evening Mail – November 11<sup>th</sup> 1940



**LEICESTER'S NOVEMBER BRIDES.**—In this selection of wedding pictures taken during the weekend are (left to right) Miss M. D. Soutar, of Meynell-road, Leicester, and Mr. T. A. Smith, of Northampton, whose marriage took place at St. Barnabas' Church. The bridegroom is factory manager for Freeman, Hardy and Willis, Griffydam Platoon, "C" Company, Ashby Battalion of the Home Guard formed a guard of honour at the wedding at St. Peter's Church, Highfields, of Mr. E. F. Whyman, of Griffydam, and Miss E. Howe, of Baggrave-street, Leicester. Miss Margaret Bakewell, of Melrose-street, and Sergt. Joseph T. Owen, of the RAF, were married at St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Melton-road. The wedding of Gunner D. Putt, of Brunswick-street, and Miss F. Mee, of Eastbourne-road, took place at St. Barnabas' Church.

Leicester Evening Mail – March 13<sup>th</sup> 1941

#### **GRIFFYDAM HOME GUARD EFFORT**

As the result of a successful whist drive and dance organized by the Griffydam members of the Home Guard, the sum, the sum of £7 3s. has been handed to the Pegg's Green and Coleorton soldiers comfort fund.

Leicester Evening Mail – April 12<sup>th</sup> 1941

#### **BRICK BLOW ALLEGED**

**Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions.** – George Williamson and Ernest Hines, of Griffydam, were accused at Ashby of assault on Percy Joseph Hall at Griffydam on March 18.

Hall, a quarryman, said Hines threw a piece of brick at him, alleging that he (Hall) had previously thrown it at Hines' boy. This, Hall said, was untrue. Hines denied throwing the brick, and said Hall's cut on the face was suffered when he fell against the door. The case was dismissed.

Leicester Evening Mail – January 25<sup>th</sup> 1943

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### **WAR CHARITIES ACT – 1940**

#### **PEGG'S GREEN & GRIFFYDAM COMFORTS FUND**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that it is proposed to apply to the Leicestershire County Council for the registration under the above mentioned Act, to raise funds for men and women of H. M. Forces of Pegg's Green and Griffydam, and the administrative centre of which is situated at the

"Traveller's Rest", Griffydham. Any objection to the proposed registration should be sent in writing to the above named Council within 14 days from the date of this notice. Dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1943

p.25 J. R. Hill, Secretary.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – June 16<sup>th</sup> 1943**

#### **CHURCH RAILINGS: LINK WITH WESLEY**

It was reported to Ashby Rural Council that during the recent book drive, the number of books collected in the rural district was 29,530.

Mr. Cooper said they were very concerned about the railings at the Griffydham Methodist Church, and would like to be assured that they would not be taken away.

The surveyor said he had written to the authorities pointing out the Council's wishes. The Chairman said the railings were at a place where John Wesley once stayed ?? (not true – visited and preached), and the Council hoped that the railings would not be taken away.

### **Leicester Chronicle – July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1944**

L/ Corporal. Hodges, of Griffydham and Pte. Howkins, of Pegg's Green, have sent post cards home from Japanese prison camps, stating that they are quite well. They were obviously far from well as we know but clearly didn't want to upset their families

### **Leicester Evening Mail – 12<sup>th</sup> April 1947**

#### **GRIFFYDAM MAN HURT**

After a fall at his home, Mr. Rowell, of Griffydham Post Office, was taken to Loughborough Hospital for treatment to his leg,

### **Burton Observer and Chronicle – May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1947**

#### **GRIFFYDAM WOMAN SENT TO GAOL**

#### **CHILD TIED TO BEDPOST**

A sentence of 3 months imprisonment was passed by the Ashby de la Zouch magistrates on Saturday, on Connie Haywood (37), single, of Breedon Brand, Griffydham, for ill treating and neglecting her two and a half year old boy, which she denied.

Evidence was that the child and its mother were the occupants of a filthy bed and room, in which the dust was an inch thick ?? and there were between 200 and 300 empty cigarette packets on the mantelpiece ??

An inspector of the N.S.P.C.A. said the child was tied to a bed post with a strap and pieces of string. Although it was fairly well nourished and clean, the child appeared to be terrified, and while it was not physical cruelty, there was no doubt mental cruelty.

The woman's father created a scene in court on hearing the sentence, and tried to prevent his daughter being taken away. He was forcibly removed by the police.

The woman had declared in evidence that she loved her child, and that the case had been greatly exaggerated.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – June 5<sup>th</sup> 1947**

#### **GRIFFYDAM CYCLIST MADE FATAL SWERVE**

A verdict of accidental death was recorded by the Leicester City Coroner, Mr. E. G. B. Fowler, at the inquest on Thomas Alexander Haywood (65), general handyman, of Griffydham, who died at Leicester Royal Infirmary on June 2<sup>nd</sup> following a road accident.

The coroner said Haywood was cycling home when he had to avoid children playing. He had rather a lot to carry on his machine, and this apparently caused him to fall. He sustained concussion.

P.C. Grant of Coleorton said that the accident occurred on Top road, Griffydham. The road was dry, and in good condition. He found a pair of shears and a 3lb bag of flour attached to the handlebars.

**Derby Daily Telegraph – April 11<sup>th</sup> 1950**

**CELEBRATION OF ANCIENT METHODIST LOVE FEAST**

An ancient and almost extinct festival of the Methodist Church, a love feast, was celebrated yesterday at Griffydam, Methodist Church, near Castle Donington, ?? one of the oldest Methodist churches in the Midlands.

The festival was attended by worshipers from London and all over the Midlands. Six sacramental cups, each 100 years old and containing about a quart of water, were used during the celebration. Twin brothers Mr. Walter Davies and Mr. Herbert Davies, who with Mr. John Johnson, have attended all Griffydam love feasts for more than 60 years, again took an official part in the celebration.

A local superintendent minister stated today that the love feast was a ceremony similar to those performed by the very early Christians, and was introduced into the Methodist church at its inception.

The service takes the form of hymn, prayer and testimony by members of the congregation. During the ceremony water and biscuits are handed to each worshipper, but these have not the same religious significance as the bread and wine of the communion service.

**Leicester Daily Mercury – March 15<sup>th</sup> 1950**



Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Haywood who played at Sunday school anniversary services in the district for many years, are today celebrating their Golden wedding. Mr. Haywood, who was a driver on the L.M.S. railway until retirement in 1938, was for 52 years the conductor of the choir at the Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Griffydam. He played the violin and his wife was the organist at the services. Mr. Haywood has composed several anniversary hymns. Mr. and Mrs. Haywood are both 76 years old. They have two sons and a daughter and two grandchildren.

**Leicester Evening Mail – February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1949**

A colleague passing through the hamlet of Griffydam tells me of his surprise on seeing a large Belgium flag flying from a mast near the village general store. His conviction that some quaint local festival was being observed was strengthened by the sight of an elderly man in a military cap and uniform. Nothing extraordinary was going on. Inquiry proved that the military-looking man was just a local resident. As for the flag, the explanation came from the store-keeper, Mr. Jack Harris. He has flags of all nations and it happened to be Belgium's turn that day. They are all flown in rotation.

### **Nottingham Journal – April 29<sup>th</sup> 1950**

#### **MR. HALL'S "PRETTY COTTAGE"**

MINEWORKER Percy J. Hall, of Top road, Griffydam, may lose the "prettiest cottage in Newbold", unless Ashby de la Zouch Rural Council withdraws a demolition order.

Surface worker at New Lount Colliery, Mr. Hall became the owner of the cottage and an acre of ground with a bid of £80 at a recent sale.

It was disclosed at the sale, however, that the Council might issue a demolition order and since then negotiations have passed between Mr. Hall and the Council, who have asked him to submit plans. In the meantime Hall has employed a Thatcher to put on a new roof and plastering and other work has also been done at a cost of about £200.

But he has had another warning from the Council that the work should be stopped as the demolition order still stands and so, unless the Council alters its decision, Mr. Hall's efforts to provide himself with a cottage home may have been in vain.

He has written to Dr. M. Follick, M.P. for the Loughborough Division, in which the village of Newbold is situated, seeking his help.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – January 16<sup>th</sup> 1952**

**Griffydam death.** – Mrs. Nellie Johnson, one of Griffydam's oldest residents has died at the age of 80. In her younger days she was well known as an organist at local churches.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – March 27<sup>th</sup> 1952**

#### **SIGNED BY CITY**

The 19-year-old Coalville Town centre forward, David Anthony Sketchley has signed amateur forms with Leicester City. He is 5ft 9in. fast and a goal getter who has been making his mark in recent weeks. Last Saturday he scored three of six against south Normanton. His home is at Griffydam.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – January 26<sup>th</sup> 1953**

#### **MEMORY OF VILLAGE SHOPKEEPER**

**Before Mr. Jack Harris, the village shopkeeper, died at Griffydam, Near Coalville, leaving an estate of £2,301 14s. 6d. gross, he made provision for his friends – the pets that had been his companions, and the villagers whom he had come to know and love in his 20 years in the district.**

In Griffydam today with the publication of his will, they are remembering Jack Harris, whose real name was Mr. Horace Holt, by carrying out his wish that his parrot, cat, dog and budgerigar should be cared for.

As a permanent tribute to the village of his adoption, Mr. Harris has provided, through his will, that the clock on his shop – the only public timepiece in the village – should be maintained "so that the public may tell the time of day therefrom"

He left his freehold home and shop equally between his partner Harry Weston, of Griffydam and David Arthur Else (on attaining the age of 21 years). David, son of Mr. Arthur Else, a miner, and Mrs. Else of the nearby village of Newbold, is a 14 year old school boy at Coalville Broom- Leys School. He used to sit and keep Mr. Harris company in the shop and act as an unofficial assistant. The boy is also left Mr. Harris' one-seater car and some of his pets.

There were a number of other bequests – A grey African parrot was left to Mrs. Jackson, whose home is near the shop. Today she said, 'I am not a great admirer of parrots, but I am providing, and shall always make, a home for "Poly" because she was entrusted to me'.

Mr. Harris was known for his love of animals. In the garden at the rear of his shop he had a small cemetery with gravestones where the beloved pets which predeceased him are buried.

### **Leicester Evening Mail – January 20<sup>th</sup> 1954**

#### **'NO' TO POST OFFICE AT NEWBOLD**

People living at Newbold, a small community near Coleorton, where pensioners have to travel by bus to either Worthington, Griffydam or Coleorton to collect their money, cannot look forward to the time when it will have a post office.

Following an appeal by Ashby Rural Council, a letter was received at their meeting from the Head Postmaster at Leicester stating that it was impossible to accede to the council's request to open a sub-post office at Newbold.

The Head Postmaster pointed out that a license was held in Newbold for the sale of stamps of stamps, and that regulations permitted old-age pensioners to nominate an agent to collect their pensions.

The council decided that details of the existing post facilities at Newbold should be sent to the local MP with a request that he should press for the establishment of a sub-post office

**Leicester Evening Mail - September 28<sup>th</sup> 1954**

**FOUND CHAIR ON FIRE**

Miss Frances Davy, of Sun Hill House, Griffydam, left her home for a few minutes yesterday and returned to find an armchair near the hearth on fire.

With the help of neighbours, she put out the flames. Coalville County Fire Service were called, but the fire was out on their arrival.

**Leicester Evening Mail – November 12<sup>th</sup> 1954**

**NEW JUNIOR SCHOOL HAS BEEN A SUCCESS –  
COALVILLE GRAMMAR HEAD**

An experiment which led to the establishment of a junior school of Coalville Grammar School more than three miles away from the main building in the village of Griffydam was mentioned by the headmaster, Mr. T. A. Evans, at the prize giving.

When this step was first proposed to solve the problem of accommodation, he felt apprehensive. After a trial period, however, he had formed the view that, as a temporary solution to the school's difficulties, it had been a success. As to the possibility of a new building to house his school, he thought it would not be commenced for another ten years, if at all. "The present building is at least a handsome one", he declared. "It is the home and source of tradition, and many happy memories".....

**Burton Observer and Chronicle – March 7<sup>th</sup> 1957**

**MARRIED 60 YEARS AGO AT BREEDON CHURCH**

A couple who were married 60 years ago, in the year of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee, 1897, celebrated their diamond wedding with a large party at Hugglescote, on Saturday. They are Mr. Freeman William Platts, aged 82, and his wife Rhoda, 79, who have occupied the same house, No. 1 Crescent Road, Hugglescote, for nearly 40 years. They have three sons and a daughter, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Mr. Platts worked in Leicestershire coalmines for over 66 years and he recalls that when living at **Griffydam**, he had a daily walk of 12 miles to the South Leicestershire Colliery at Ellistown and back, besides having one-and-a-half miles to walk underground to the coal face. In those days all the coal was got with a pick. There were no coal cutting machines. When he retired at 75, he was working at Desford Colliery and was the oldest employee among 2,000 workers,

Mr. and Mrs. Platts were both born at Griffydam, near, Ashby, and lived there for some years after their wedding at Breedon-on-the- Hill Parish Church, before going to Hugglescote.

**Burton Observer and Chronicle – December 10<sup>th</sup> 1959**

**TENDER**

**ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**.....  
DEMOLITION OF PROPERTIES KNOWN AS THE  
COTTAGE, ELDER LANE, GRIFFYDAM, WORTHINGTON  
AND**

**EDWARD COTTAGES, GRIFFYDAM, COLEORTON ???  
.....**

Tenders are invited for the demolition of the above properties, clearance of the sites, and purchase of salvable materials there from.

Specifications and plans may be obtained from Mr. C. S. Curtis, Surveyor, Ashby de la Zouch Rural District Council, council offices, South Street, Ashby de la Zouch.

Tenders, in plain, sealed envelopes endorsed "Demolition of Properties", to be sent to the undersigned, not later than first post on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 1960.

J. E. R. WILKINSON

Clerk of the Council

### **Leicester Evening Mail – September 5<sup>th</sup> 1960**

#### **STOLE £20 FROM INFIRM MAN, 86**

After a hearing lasting for six hours at Ashby Magistrates Court on Saturday, William Peter King (33), a bricklayer's labourer, of 32a, Main street, Long Whatton, was convicted of the larceny in a dwelling house of £26 belonging to James Hall (85) of 31, Top-road, Griffydham, near Ashby.

King who had pleaded not guilty was fined £20, ordered to pay £10 7s. costs and to make restitution of £26 to Mr. Hall, at the rate of 10s. per week. He was also placed on probation for two years.

Mr. E. A. Crane, prosecuting, said Mr. Hall, who was retired, was so infirm by reason of his age, that he would not be able to assist at the court.

Sharing the house with him were his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Chadwick.

#### **IN TRUNK**

In a trunk in a bedroom was kept a wallet containing £26 including four £5 notes. Early last July, Mr. and Mrs. Chadwick went out for the afternoon, leaving Mr. Hall lying on a bed in the living room.. When they returned later in the day, they found the trunk had been disturbed, and that £26, including the four five pound notes were missing from the wallet.

Inquiries revealed that King, his wife and child had been seen in a small car near Mr. Hall's home while Mr. and Mrs. Chadwick were away. King was seen by the police and denied that he was there at the material time. The police also discovered that the following day King had paid both his milkman and grocery roundsman with £5 notes.

One of these notes had been recovered, and the prosecution submitted that Mrs. Chadwick could identify it as similar to one missing from the trunk, by reason of a figure written on it. The two police officers then interviewed King again who said he had borrowed £10 8s. from his father-in-law.

The father-in-law, Mr Joseph Frederick Saunt, of 172, Leicester road, Ibstock, was then interviewed and made a statement. That statement, Mr. Crane told the court, "clearly shows in the submission of the prosecution, that what King told the police about the £10 8s. is palpably untrue".

Mr. A E. Chadwick told the court King was a frequent visitor to the house and had on a number of occasions given him driving lessons.

### **Burton Observer and Chronicle – April 26<sup>th</sup> 1962**

#### **FORMER COLEORTON LADY IS 100**

#### **TAUGHT AT GRIFFYDAM SCHOOL FOR MANY YEARS**

A former Coleorton lady who taught at Griffydham School for many years has recently celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

She is Miss Mary Elizabeth Knight, of 48 Austen Avenue, Forest Fields, Nottingham, who had her birthday party in the Sherwood Hospital, Nottingham, where she had been since last September.

It was a grand day for Miss Knight, with a telegram of congratulations from the Queen, and a visit by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Alderman J. Llewellyn Davies.

Miss Knight was born at the Outwoods Farm, Coleorton, on the estate of the late Sir George Beaumont, and lived there until she was 79. Then, on the death of her brother, Mr. James Knight, she went to live with a cousin at Melbourne, with whom she stayed for just over a year.

She then went to live with her niece, Mrs. F. S. Coxon, at 48, Austen Avenue, Forest Fields, Nottingham, and stayed with her for 20 years until last September, when she was admitted to Sherwood Hospital.



Miss Knight is keenly interested in politics and world affairs, but unfortunately has been blind for many years. Mrs Coxon taught her aunt to read Braille when she was over 80, and this has been a blessing to her. Until she entered hospital, Miss Knight regularly had a weekly newspaper in Braille.

While she was a teacher at Griffydam school, Miss Knight walked to and from Coleorton every day, and in the evening she took her share of work on the farm.

With the Lord Mayor at Miss Knight's tea party in the hospital ward was the Lady Mayoress, the matron, and the hospital secretary, and pride of place was given to the telegram from the Queen, which, unfortunately, Miss Knight was unable to read.

This and other messages were read by well-wishers and visitors who gathered for her party.

**Leicester Evening Mail – January 28<sup>th</sup> 1963**

**ANOTHER SCHOOL CLOSURE**

Another recommended closure is that of Osgathorpe C.E. School, where there are only five pupils and the head mistress's resignation took effect from August last year.

Transport will be provided for the youngsters to attend Griffydam School.

**Burton Observer and Chronicle – September 26<sup>th</sup> 1968**

**ALL THE VILLAGE** turned out for the wedding, at the Wesleyan Reform Church at Griffydam, near Ashby, of farmer's daughter Miss Judith Ann Wright, and Mr. Clifford Alan Darby, both of that parish. One of the reasons was that although the little brick chapel was built over a century ago, theirs was the first wedding ever to take place there. Miss Wright, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Wright, of Brand Farm, Griffydam, and Mr. Darby, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Darby, of Littlehalls, Griffydam, insisted on being married at the chapel because they are both associated with the Sunday School there. In order that their wish should be carried out, and because the chapel is not licensed for weddings, it was necessary for the registrar to attend. The religious part of the service was conducted by the Rev. A. Halliday, who travelled specially from Sheffield. The couple are pictured signing the register after their unique wedding.



**Leicester Chronicle – December 24<sup>th</sup> 1970**

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR  
TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS OLD AND NEW**

**BOB AND MARGARET  
WAGGON AND HORSES  
GRIFFYDAM**

**Tel. Osgathorpe 339**

**Burton Observer and Chronicle – May 20<sup>th</sup> 1971**

**Death of a well known Griffydam Farmer**

The sudden death of Mr. Joseph Henry Sharp, a local farmer of “Breach House”, Elder Lane, Griffydam, occurred at Groby Road Hospital, Leicester.

The funeral service was held at Worthington Parish Church, conducted by the Rev. H.. Dane, of Newbold.

**Burton Observer and Chronicle – March 7<sup>th</sup> 1974**

**HUNT KILLS CAT – AND DEER IS INJURED**

No foxes were caught when the Quorn Hunt met at Griffydam, but there were two casualties – a deer and a cat. The cat was killed near Cloud Hill quarry, near Worthington.

A quarry worker said “A cat ran out of a ditch as the hounds went by in pursuit of a fox. The cat was killed by the hounds and I understand it was buried in a field by members of the hunt”.....**appalling, enough said !!**

**Burton Observer and Chronicle – July 7<sup>th</sup> 1978**

**POP STAR BUYS PUB**

A member of Leicester’s top pop group, Showaddywaddy, brought a pub last week. Malcolm Allured, attended at auction and bid for the Travellers’ Rest Inn at Griffydam, near Ashby. It was knocked down to him at £36,750 and he paid a further £10,600 for a piece of land adjoining the inn. The sale of the pub, declared surplus to the requirements of the brewery who own it, attracted a lively interest in the area. Mr. Willoughby Garton, of Leicester, who was responsible for the sale said: “There were so many people that they could not all get into the pub and the auction had to be held in the garden, bidding was brisk”. The transfer of the premises has been fixed for July 24<sup>th</sup> when the present tenant, Mr. Albert Abbott, who has been there for 25 years, will leave. The takeover date is on his 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday. He is not retiring but will concentrate on Electrical Contracting, a business he has run in conjunction with the public house. The new owner, Mr. Allured, aged 32, said: “I once had a small nightclub, and

this is going to be a restaurant as well, catering for all ages. "Its nice to have another interest as well as the band".

## **WORTHINGTON & GELSMOOR**

### **Leicester Chronicle – January 16<sup>th</sup> 1819**

The Poor of Coleorton and Worthington are indebted to the benevolence of Sir George Howland Beaumont, Bart. For a liberal donation of coals to upwards of one hundred families, who will be supplied with twelve hundred each, carried to their own doors by the tenants of the worthy baronet.

### **Leicester Chronicle – January 27<sup>th</sup> 1821**

A few days ago, a poor woman named Wardle, died after giving birth to her 20<sup>th</sup> child, in the 45<sup>th</sup> year of her age. It was somewhat remarkable, that she never suckled anyone of her offspring, no symptoms of milk ever appeared ; and that only six of her children survived her.

### **Leicester Chronicle – May 5<sup>th</sup> 1827**

**DEATH.** – On Friday last in London, John Mynors Bulstrode, Esq. of Worthington in this county, aged 45, late Major in the Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry. As a loyal subject, an excellent soldier, and an amiable man (adds our correspondent), his memory will long be cherished by a large circle of friends.

### **Leicester Chronicle – October 18<sup>th</sup> 1828**

**WILLIAM EDWARD**, aged 25, was indicted for stealing a piece of flannel, belonging to Sarah Smith, of Worthington, on the 9<sup>th</sup> October last. – Sarah Smith stated that she hung apiece of flannel on a hayrick to dry, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, which was gone the following morning, and did not see it again till November. – John Smith said he knew where the flannel had gone ; he went to a tailor who was making a pair of trousers of the flannel which was lost ; could swear to it by a particular mark that was on it. – William Adams, tailor, said that he knew the prisoner, and received some flannel from his wife, but had no conversation with the prisoner, nor did he promise to make anything for him. – **Acquitted.**

### **Leicester Journal – April 5<sup>th</sup> 1833**

#### **COLEORTON RAILWAY**

#### **In pursuance of a Standing Order of the House of Commons**

#### **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

That on the fifteenth day of this present month of April, a printed copy of a Bill, now depending in the Honourable the House of Commons, intituled, "A Bill for making and maintaining a Railway from the Termination of the Leicester and Swannington Railway, in the county of Leicester, to the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Railway, in the Township of Worthington, in the said county, and a Branch Railroad therefrom"; with a map of the said intended railway annexed thereto, will be deposited with the respective parish clerks of the parishes or places of Swannington, (including Thringstone), Worthington (including Newbold), Whitwick and Coleorton, in the said county of Leicester, for the inspection and examination of all persons concerned in such intended Railway and Bill.

Dated this fifth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

Dawes and Fisher  
Solicitors for the Bill

[This is what was known as the Coleorton Railway which terminated alongside the Cloud Hill Tramway at Worthington Rough. See "A History of the Coleorton Railway and the Charnwood Forest Canal" by Samuel T Stewart on the website.](#)

**Leicester Journal – August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1833**

**LEICESTERSHIRE SUMMER ASSIZES – Crown Court**

Mahaler Brookes, 17, charged with having broken into the dwelling house of Wm. Smith, at Worthington, and stealing therefrom a loaf of bread, a piece of bacon, and various other articles his property. When the prisoner was put to the bar, she pleaded guilty; but by the desire of the judge retracted her plea. – No evidence being offered, the judge said she must have had advisers if they wished her to plead guilty, he understood that it was her brother.

**Leicester Journal – October 25<sup>th</sup> 1833**

**TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT**

**THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL**, at Worthington, in Leicestershire, with the Gallery, Pews, &c. The chapel fronts to the public street, is modern built, in excellent repair, and might if necessary be converted into a commodious dwelling-house.

For further particulars, and to treat for the purchase, apply to Mr. John Farmer, or Mr. John Armson, of Worthington.

**Leicester Journal – January 2<sup>nd</sup> 1835**

**PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
FOR YOUNG LADIES**

**Worthington Lodge, Near Ashby-de-la-Zouch  
MRS. HYDE KELK**

**PURPOSES**, after the Christmas Vacation, receiving under her care and tuition **FOUR YOUNG LADIES, from six to ten years of age.**

Mrs . Kelk that from the experience she has had in the management of children, she shall be able to give satisfaction to those parents who may place their children under her care

**TERMS**

|                        |     |                   |
|------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Board and English..... | 18  | Guineas per annum |
| French.....            | 2   | ditto             |
| Drawing.....           | 2   | ditto             |
| Music.....             | 4   | ditto             |
| Washing.....           | 2 ½ | ditto             |

**NB. – A few Day Pupils will be taken**

**Worthington Lodge, Dec. 31, 1834**

**Leicester Journal – September 25<sup>th</sup> 1835**

**LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE REPORT  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24.**

**Before the Rev. j. Dudley, & C. M. Philips, Esq. M.P.**

John Heywood, of Worthington, charged by Samuel Radford, with an assault ; and Samuel Radford also charged by the said John Heywood – in each case the defendant to pay the costs ?????

**Leicester Journal – October 7<sup>th</sup> 1836**

**Manor of Worthington and Newbold with the members thereof,  
In the County of Leicester  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

That the next **COURT LEET** and **COURT BARON**, of the Right Honourable Washington Earl Ferrers, Lord of the Manor of Worthington and Newbold with the Members thereof, in the County of Leicester, will be holden at the house of **JOHN NICHLINSON**, called the Waggon and Horses, at Griffy Dam, within the said Manor, on Wednesday, the twenty sixth day of October, 1836, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon ; when and where all the Tenants of the said Manor, and the Freeholders and Inhabitants within the same, and all Persons whomsoever, who owe suit and service to the said Courts, or either of them, are personally to be and appear, then and there, to pay their Rents, and to perform their several suits and services, according to the custom of the said Manor.

Dated, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1836.

**GILBERT STEPHENS**

*Steward of the said Manor*

**Leicester Chronicle – July 6<sup>th</sup> 1839**

**THOMAS HUGHES** was summoned by the parish officers of Worthington, to show cause why he should not be ordered to maintain his mother, being a person of sufficient ability to do so. The complaint was withdrawn on the defendant undertaking that the parish should not be called upon again for relief.

**Leicester Journal – July 19<sup>th</sup> 1839**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Francis Wilton was brought up in the custody of the constable, to answer the complain of Mr. Benjamin walker, at Worthington Colliery, for having absconded from his service. The complainant not appearing to substantiate the charge, the defendant was liberated.

**Leicester Journal – October 18<sup>th</sup> 1839**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Hannah Williamson, of Worthington, preferred a charge of assault against Mary Statham, on Wednesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. Complainant stated that on going into the house of the defendant's father in law, she (the defendant) struck her. Joseph Forster stated that he saw Mary Statham strike the complainant – The matter was arranged

**Leicester journal – March 14<sup>th</sup> 1840**

**WORTHINGTON, LEICESTERSHIRE**

*To Farmers, Millers and Factors*

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION**

*BY Mr. GAMBLE*

On Monday and Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of March, 1840, all the live and dead Farming Stock in Trade, Implements, Household Furniture and other Effects, on the premises of Mr. Pratt, [Worthington Mill](#), aforesaid, who is leaving this country.

Descriptive Catalogues to be had six days prior to the day of sale. Sale each morning at eleven o'clock

**Leicester Journal – March 20<sup>th</sup> 1840**

*Freehold land and Cottages at Worthington and Thringstone, and a mortgage security for £100 on the Hinckley and Melbourne Turnpike Road.*

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION AT JOHN WATERFIELD'S THE BEAUMONT ARMS, THRINGSTONE ([adjacent to Coleorton Cross Roads](#))**

**LOT 1**

A Close of excellent Arable Land, called "The Brand Close", containing about 5 acres, situate on the **Brand in the Township of Worthington**, and lately occupied by Mr. JONAS KNIGHT, deceased.

**Leicester Journal – June 5<sup>th</sup> 1840**

.....On Wednesday last, another inquest was held at Worthington, on the body of Isaac Pearson, aged 82, who was accidentally killed on Monday, on the Coleorton Railway, by a wagon laden with lime, running over his body. **Verdict accordingly.**

**Leicester Journal – August 7<sup>th</sup> 1840**

*Freehold Estates, at Castle Cary, Somersetshire; Cartmel, Lancashire and Worthington, Leicestershire.*

**TO BE PEREMPTORILY SOLD**

Pursuant to an order of the High Court of Chancery, made in a cause of "**ASKEW v PEDDLE**", with the approbation of **SIR GRIFFIN WILSON**, one of the Master's of the said Court at Cartmel, in the County of Lancaster, at Castle Cary, in the County of Somerset, and at Worthington on the County of Leicester.

Certain Estates the property of the late **REVEREND ANTHONY ADAM ASKEW**, consisting of a Freehold Estate situate at Cartmel, near Milnthorpe, in the County of Lancaster, containing 87a. 2r. 39p. now in the occupation of **GEORGE MOSSOP**, and which

will be sold at the Cavendish Arms Inn, Cartmel, on Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of September next, at seven o'clock in the evening:-

Several Freehold Closes situate Ditchael, and Woodstone, in the County of Somerset, now in the several occupations of **JAMES HARDING** and **THOMAS PITMAN**, which will be sold at the George Inn, Castle Cary, on Thursday the third of September next, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

And a freehold estate at Worthington, in the County of Leicester, containing 29a. 3r. 33p. now in the occupation of **JOHN ARMSON**, and which will be sold at the "**William the Fourth Inn**", Worthington, on Wednesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> day of August next, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

#### **Leicester Journal – September 25<sup>th</sup> 1840**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Joseph Jackson, and Joseph Varnam, of Worthington were charged by Thomas, with driving at a faster rate than a walk on the Ashby Railway. It appeared from the evidence of William Smith, who was also driving a wagon on the railway, that on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. He was on the railway, when Jackson was driving one of the wagons, and flogged his horse and made it trot. Witness had not time to get out of the way, when he was knocked down, and was obliged to employ a surgeon. The informations were withdrawn on the defendants promising better for the future, agreeing to pay the doctor's bill and the costs.

#### **Leicester Journal – October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1840**

##### **MICHAELMAS QUARTER SESSIONS**

William Sowden, 19, was charged with obtaining five shillings, under false pretences, from William Homes of Worthington, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August last. – **Guilty. Six months hard labour**

#### **Leicester Journal – April 9<sup>th</sup> 1841**

##### **LEICESTERSHIRE EASTER SESSIONS**

John Roby, was charged with stealing about 1,500 spruce firs, from the nursery of Thomas Eden, of Worthington, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. – Thomas Harris, butcher, stated that Mr. Eden rented a nursery of him. He saw the prisoner in the day in question getting up about 1,500 spruce firs ; he told witness that he had obtained an order for them ; but he had not made a proper bargain for them with Eden ; witness understood that there was a difference of 2s. per thousand between them – Cross examined by Mr. Macaulay – The prisoner was a nurseryman, and had been in the habit of dealing with Mr. Eden. – Thomas Eden deposed, that he went into his nursery on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, and found a large number of his fir trees got up. Some days previous to that time, the prisoner came to him and wanted to purchase some firs, but he refused to transact business with him ; having,, as he said, been swindled out of £12 by the prisoner on a former occasion.. The firs dug up were worth about £6. Witness never gave him authority to take away the firs. In about a fortnight after, the prisoner went to him and said if he could set a price upon the trees, he would pay him for them. Witness told him that he could not do that, as he should be compounding a felony. – Cross-examined – Witness never set any price upon the firs to the prisoner. He had had transactions with the prisoner in January last, when he exchanged 1000 firs for 1000 larch ; he had sold the larch for about 5s. or 6s. per hundred. They were white spruce firs he exchanged for the larch. Prisoner owed him £12 for quick, ever since 1828. He had never tried to recover that amount by action ; he thought he might as well try to shoot the moon. – John Fairbrother stated, that the prisoner came to him on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, and enquired if Mr. Eden was at home. Witness replied that he was not. Prisoner then asked witness to assist him in getting up some trees in the nursery ; but he refused and said that if he did, Mr. Eden would send them both to hell. – John Clifford stated that Eden authorised him to sell the prisoner 1000 ash and 1000 elms ; but did not authorise him to sell firs. – Cross-examined. – Sold the prisoner 1000 ash and 1000 elms for Mr. Eden for £2. Witness occasionally worked in Eden's nursery. Some of the firs were four feet high. – The chairman here stopped the case, and said, from the evidence adduced, it did appear to him that a charge of felony had not been made out, therefore, the jury must acquit the prisoner. He was discharged accordingly.

**Leicester Chronicle – March 30<sup>th</sup> 1844**

**HIGHWAY ROBBERY**

**THOMAS CARTWRIGHT** (22 : READ AND WRITE WELL) **AND THOMAS SMART** (17 ; READ WELL AND WRITE IMPERFECTLY) **WERE CHARGED WITH FELONIOUSLY STEALING FROM THE PERSON OF** Thomas Gibson, on the 6<sup>th</sup> October last, three sovereigns, eight half-crowns, six shillings, and three sixpences. Mr. White appeared for the prosecution. The prosecutor is a labourer living at Belton. He stated in his evidence that he received his wages on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, intending to go to Ashby Races the next day. When he was there he saw both of the prisoners, and came home along with Smart. They called at the Malt Shovel at Worthington, about eight o'clock in the evening ; and in about an hour the other prisoner came in. On witness paying for the ale which they had drunk, he pulled a sovereign out of his pocket, instead of a shilling, and tendered it to the landlord, who returned it. Prosecutor then gave the landlord a shilling, and returned the sovereign to his pocket. The party left the public house together about eleven o' clock in the evening, and when they had proceeded a short distance the prisoners threw prosecutor on the ground, Cartwright attempting to throttle him whilst Smart rifled his pockets. They shortly afterwards left him, Smart having threatened to knock out his brains if he dared to make any noise : he gave information to the police next morning. Prosecutor knew the prisoners well. An attempt was made by the Judge and Cartwright to shake prosecutor's testimony, by their asking whether he had not been drinking and dancing with women at the public-house ; but he declared he had not. Policeman Beales of the County Force deposed to have apprehended Cartwright at Packington, when he said he would give prosecutor £5 to make it up, on his obtaining £50, which he expected at his Grandfather's death. Rose, another member of the County Force, apprehended Smart at Nuneaton. The prisoners were found guilty and sentenced – **Smart to fifteen years transportation and Cartwright to twelve months hard labour.**

**Leicester Journal – April 12<sup>th</sup> 1844**

**LOUGHBOROUGH PETTY SESSION**

.....The case of Cooke ([solicitor](#)) v Husbands ([Worthington parish constable](#)) of Worthington, again came on after an adjournment for three weeks.. Mr. Dudley addressed the defendant to the following effect :- In the case now before us, you acting in your capacity as parish constable, received from the Clerk at this Bench 2s. 6d., as the expenses of a witness named Statham, and in a petty and disgraceful manner kept back 6d. out of such pay ; this of itself constituted a fraudulent act, and in fact you swindled the poor witness out of part of his lawful remuneration. Some time after this, Statham's employer, being well aware that you had committed yourself, remonstrated with you, and in about 10 days or a fortnight after such remonstrance, you returned the 6d. to Statham, and not till then. The transaction was altogether so dishonourable, to deprive a poor witness of the paltry sum of 6d., and the character for integrity and usefulness, which you have hitherto borne, really astonishes myself and brother justice, that you should have been guilty of so mean an action. We have, however, decided, not to prosecute you further, although the credit of the Clerks at this Bench certainly require it, and it is in consequence of a slight irregularity in the charge made against you that we are inclined not to proceed further, and we really are sorry that you should sell your honour at so pitiful a price, as there was but a very slight difference which had kept you from incurring a heavy penalty of swindling ; and that we hope you will never be so insane to attempt to throw away your honesty for 6d., you are now dismissed. No costs were allowed but on Mr. Cooke applying for costs for his man Statham, the Bench allowed him 6s. from the poor box.

**Leicester Journal – July 19<sup>th</sup> 1844**

**COUNTY POLICE OFFICE**

Mary Mear, of Worthington, was charged with stealing a game cock, the property of Mr. Bostock, of Breedon-on-the-Hill. It appeared that the fowl had been turned down in a farm-yard at Worthington, and that the defendant's son-in-law had one also which answered the description of the prosecutor's. That on Monday night last he accidentally drove the wrong one into his hen roost ; as soon as the prosecutor went to the yard, he missed his cock, and on making inquiry, found that it was in the defendant's hen roost. The defendant then refused to give it up, and she was accordingly requested to attend the magistrates. A witness, who is noted, and has been for many years, as a breeder of these animals, attended and produced

his stud book, and proved that the fowl was one of his own breeding ; that it had certain marks about it by which he could identify it, and that he had sent it to the prosecutor only a short time before. The defendant being willing, after hearing this evidence, to restore the fowl to the proper owner, and there being no evidence adduced to show that it was taken with a felonious intent, the Magistrates discharged the defendant on paying the costs.

#### **Leicester Mercury – August 24<sup>th</sup> 1844**

Joseph Hall of Worthington, was committed to the house of correction for two months for leaving his wife and family chargeable to the parish of Worthington.

#### **Leicester Journal – June 25<sup>th</sup> 1847**

##### **DEATHS**

On Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. Aged 16, Isabella Susanna, second daughter of W. Hyde Kelk, Esq., of Worthington in this county.

#### **Leicester Mercury – December 30<sup>th</sup> 1848**

Last Sunday, Mr. Gregory held an inquest at Worthington, Nr, Ashby de la Zouch on the body of a new born male child, which was found under the following circumstances : On Saturday morning, William Richards, who keeps a weighing machine belonging to the Midland Railway Company ([coal wharf](#)), in the parish of Worthington, was at work in his garden, when he observed some thatch had been pulled off a small cabin, which stands in the corner of the garden. He accordingly went in, and saw some blood upon the floor, which appeared quite fresh. Observing that some loose stones in the fire place had been meddled with, he took them out, and quite at the bottom, he found the dead body of a new born child. There was not a single rag of clothing about the child, or anything about the cabin. Mr. Richards gave information and the body was removed to the old Swan Inn, where a post mortem examination was made by a Mr. Willey, Surgeon, who also examined the cabin, and was of the opinion that the mother had delivered it herself in the cabin ; and that the child was evidently born alive ; but that there was nothing externally or internally to show the cause of death, which might have been due to exposure to the cold, or of stones being placed upon it, - or the mother being able to afford it immediate assistance. **Verdict – Found dead, but no evidence to show who was the mother of the child or cause of death.**

#### **Leicester Mercury – April 28<sup>th</sup> 1849**

Joseph Walker of Worthington was charged by John Poxon, collector of rates for Worthington with refusing to pay the sum of 12s. 9d. rated upon him towards the relief of the poor there. Allowed to arrange.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – May 4<sup>th</sup> 1850**

##### **Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions**

Eliza Wood was charged by John Farmer, her master, who is a farmer residing at Worthington with refusing to obey his lawful commands. At the recommendation of the Bench, the defendant consented to pay the costs, and return into her service.

William Hough charged Thos. Walker with having, gone off the road with a horse and carriage, with intent to evade the payment of the toll then and there payable. **Fined 1s. and costs.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – June 15<sup>th</sup> 1850**

Lammas Fairbrother charged Thos. Mee, of Worthington with an assault. It has been a long time since we had occasion to notice so aggravated an assault as the one now complained of. It appeared the defendant Mee is a person well known as being a man of most abandoned character, one of those men who make a point of frequenting every fair and feast in the neighbourhood, for the sole purpose of fighting and getting drunk. On Whitsun Thursday last,



both these parties met at Breedon club feast, and as usual early in the morning, Mee began parading the town, challenging everyone he met to a fight. After a time, complainant went to him and said, you have been on with me all morning, let us have it out. The defendant finding he had got his match, declined,, upon which complainant placed his fingers upon defendant's cheek, and then shook hands ; for some hours after this both parties appeared friendly, when they met accidentally in the street, the defendant went up to complainant again, and insisted upon fighting ; complainant then said, "well, if it must come off, it must", and was in the act of pulling off his jacket, when defendant rushed up to him, seized him by his legs and threw him down, with his head upon the ground, inflicting a severe cut or wound upon complainant's head ; defendant then laid hold of the wound, and tore the flesh from the scalp, according to medical testimony for a length of eight or nine inches. Erysipelas afterwards came on, and for some time complainant's life was considered in danger, but he was now sufficiently recovered to attend before the magistrates. The defendant was fined £5, and bound over himself in £50, and ordered to find two sureties in £25 each.

#### **Leicester Mercury – August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1851**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Joseph Jackson of Worthington charged by Thomas Massey, of the same place, with an assault. From the evidence called, it appeared that defendant struck the plaintiff in the face, and bestowed a kick upon his seat of honour, and that it was a street quarrel. The accused pleaded the provocation he had received, and the Bench considering both parties to blame, dismissed the complaint and ordered the costs to be divided. – The same defendant was charged by Maria Wesson with an assault. The charge was of a similar character to the last, the favour of a kick having been bestowed upon the plaintiff by the accused who used some very offensive expressions respecting a certain grotesque obliquity of vision which she exhibits. It was charged in extenuation of this ungallant conduct that the lady spat in defendant's face, which caused him to "Lift up his heel" against her. This case was also dismissed, and the costs ordered to be divided.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – April 30<sup>th</sup> 1853**

Elizabeth Deeming, of Worthington (a very homely specimen of the gentle sex, on the awkward side of fifty), charged John Lakin of the same place with assaulting her on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, at a beer-house at Worthington, kept by the defendant's brother. Defendant admitted that he certainly did say, when the plaintiff came into his house, that he would have a kiss ; but she was so much alarmed at this threatening invasion of her charms, that according to the testimony of a witness named John Richards, she rushed upon the defendant as he sat in the chair, tumbled him down, and fell "a top of him". **Case dismissed.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – November 11<sup>th</sup> 1854**

##### **GUNPOWDER PLOT : MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE**

The following facts came out at an inquest held at Worthington on the 7<sup>th</sup> Inst., on the body of Elizabeth Mee, The deceased was the wife of a shoemaker, and was 33 years of age. On Saturday evening some boys had made a fire by the side of the road, in the town street, and the son of deceased went to see it. Someone let off a gun, just where the bonfire was, and the deceased hearing it said "Oh!" and dropped to the ground. She was put in a chair and carried in home and died immediately. When the gun was fired, deceased was standing about thirty yards off. She had been subject to a palpitation of the heart for years, and was timid and nervous of a gun. About three weeks ago, she was so ill with the palpitation that her life was considered in immediate danger ; but the last week she had seemed better than usual. She has left seven children. Mr. Orton, surgeon, who had attended her for years, proved that she had suffered from a disorganised condition of the heart. He had no doubt that the sudden alarm caused by the discharge of the gun produced a state of nervous excitement, and an increased action of the heart ; in consequence of which the rupture of some vessel in its vicinity took place, producing almost instant death. **The following verdict was returned ;-** "That the deceased died from disease of the heart, but that her death was accelerated by the improper discharge of a gun in the town street, and the jury requested that measures should be taken to prevent this sort of thing in the future."

### **Leicester Chronicle – November 25<sup>th</sup> 1854**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Ralph Waterfield of Worthington was charged by P. S. Platts with unlawfully firing a gun at that place upon the public highway, on the evening of Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> November. This lamentable occurrence is stated in the report of a coroner's inquest, held at Worthington, on view of the body of Elizabeth Mee, whose death was caused by the firing of the said gun, from nervous excitement ([see the Chronicle of the 11<sup>th</sup>](#)). The defendant having acknowledged the offence was convicted, and ordered to pay a fine and expenses, to the amount of £1 5s. 0d. Or in default, one months imprisonment with hard labour. (It will not be unrecognisable to state here, that "all persons of what age, sex, degree, or quality soever (we quote the words of the Act of Parliament) who shall let off fire-works or discharge guns in any public street, highway, road, or passage, are liable to a penalty of 40s ; and all persons who make, give, sell or offer for sale, any fireworks, shall, on the oath of two witnesses, forfeit £5, half to the poor, and half to the prosecutor, *to be levied by distress*". By the thoughtless but dangerous act of the youthful defendant, Waterfield, an industrious working man has been deprived of his wife at the age of 33, and seven young children have been left motherless.

### **Leicester Chronicle – September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1855**

At a **SPECIAL PETTY** sessions, held in the Court House, Ashby, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, before W. W. Abney, Esq., Ambrose Barkby was charged with committing wilful damage in a turnip field, in the Parish of Worthington belonging to Mr. Joseph Sharpe, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August. The charge was proved by Mr. Sharpe, Jun, who saw the defendant with turnips in his hands ; and when questioned by what right he had left the road and committed the trespass, he was extremely abusive. The witness's statement was confirmed by John Eames, a neighbour. **Convicted and fined £1 2s. 6d. including costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment to hard labour.**

James Lagar of Worthington charged Thomas Edwards and William Brookes with wilful injury, by breaking the boughs from fruit trees in complainant's orchard, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August. At eight o'clock in the morning complainant saw the two defendants throwing large stones from the highway, at his apple trees knocking off the fruit. Edwards broke through the hedge, and gathered up the fruit. The trees were broken and injured by the stones thrown. Complainant had been repeatedly robbed by such disorderly persons. **The defendants were convicted and fined 20s. costs, or fourteen days hard labour.**

### **Leicester Mercury – November 15<sup>th</sup> 1856**

#### **ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH PETTY SESSIONS**

William White, Michael Richards and Frederick Haywood, were charged by Elisha Senior, Gamekeeper to Earl Ferers with assaulting him on, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at Worthington. Complainant said he was at Worthington Wake, and met White, who asked him to lend him his gun to shoot a swallow. Told him to go on and walked as far as Tivey's Public House ([The Malt Shovel](#)). White followed him there and said he would like to punch his head. Told him to go away and said and said he did not want anything to do with him. White leaned his head forward, said he could get him and would like to worry him and laid held of complainant's dog's nose and twisted it. He also spat in his face (complainant's) thrice. Subsequently he went to Mee's Public House ([The Swan](#)), and White as he was going in seized him by the collar, and after teasing him some time struck him a severe blow with his fist. Upon that he (complainant) pulled off his coat and went at him in earnest. The other defendants then came up and assisted White. In the struggle, complainant fell down and on trying to get up, found his leg was injured. Being conveyed home, Mr. Dolman, of Melbourne, examined his leg and found a small bone broken, and the ankle severely damaged .....

### **Leicester Journal – November 28<sup>th</sup> 1856**

#### ***Freehold and Tithe-free Estate, at Worthington, near Breedon, Leicestershire* TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, By Mr. Chubb,**

At The Queen's Head Inn, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1856, at Twelve for One o'clock precisely.

A most valuable and Tithe-free ESTATE, consisting of a capital Farm-house, with every requisite Outbuilding, and 94 Acres of Land, in a ring fence, situate at Worthington, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, principally Old Turf and Water Meadow, of the first quality, and in high condition, having been for some years past in the occupation of Mr. Bulstrode, the owner.

Also several cottages belonging thereto

The celebrated Breedon Lime Works at Cloud Hill adjoin the Estate, and a branch of the Midland Railway and the Hinckley and Melbourne Turnpike Road pass through it, affording every facility for the transit of produce and manure.

**The Property is nearly adjoining the Church**, and the scenery around it is picturesque and attractive. It is surrounded by the preserves of the Earl Ferrers, the Earl of Stanford and Warrington, Sir George Beaumont, Bart., and John Curzon Esq.

The parochial payments are very low, and the property is within a convenient distance of the towns of Ashby, Loughborough, Burton and Derby.

Plans and Printed particulars may be had of J. M. Bulstrode Esq., Worthington, Near Ashby-de-la-Zouch; and of the Auctioneer, and Messr's GREEN and SMITH, Solicitors, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – December 13<sup>th</sup> 1856**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**Thomas Edwards, Henry Pope, and John Jessop**, three youths residing at Worthington, were charged by William Shipley Peters, gamekeeper to the Earl Ferrers, with trespassing in search of game, on lands belonging to the noble Earl at Worthington. **The defendants pleaded guilty, and were severally convicted and fined 6s. each and costs, amounting to 9s., and in default of payment, fourteen days imprisonment. The money not being forthcoming they were sent to prison.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – April 4<sup>th</sup> 1857**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**“THRIFTY” ROBBERIES.** – Eliza Fairbrother and Sarah Walker, household servants to Mr. Thomas Jesson, farmer of Gracedieu, were taken into custody on Friday, by P.C. Pole of Whitwick, charged with stealing from their master a quantity of Bacon, Pork, Cheese, and “scratchings”, (what is left when the lard is rendered). The stolen property was rolled up in two chemises of the prisoners, and concealed in the crib of the cow hovel. There was a written paper in each bundle, addressed to the parents of the prisoners, who reside at Blackbrook and Newbold, near Worthington, expressing a hope that the eatables would arrive safely and make them some “nice pies”. The police Officer apprehended the girls, and conveyed them to the lock-up at Ashby. The prisoners were remanded by W. W. Abney, Esq., to answer the charge on Saturday before the magistrates.

#### **Leicester Journal – June 5<sup>th</sup> 1857**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Joseph Burton, Edward Stanley, and Joseph Bird, all of Griffydam, were severally charged with attempting to take fish in a stream in Worthington, in which the Earl Ferrers has a private and exclusive right of fishing. The noble Earl withdrew from the Bench whilst the case was being heard. Stanley did not appear, and the serving of the summons being proved, the case was heard against the three defendants. – Elisha Senior, the Earl's gamekeeper, proved seeing the defendant's with a net on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. They set it in Worthington Brook, and poked into the holes with a stick. The witness spoke to the defendants, and they all ran away. – James Brookes and George Dunicliffe confirmed the complainant. – **Convicted and fined 5s. each and costs, amounting to 8s. 8d., in default, fourteen days imprisonment.**

#### **Leicester Journal – July 17<sup>th</sup> 1857**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Elizabeth Waterman charged George Cliff with an assault. Complainant stated that on Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of June she went to Worthington Church, and walked into a free seat. A man's hat was on the seat, and she removed it, and then felt a blow on her back, through the hind part of the seat, which was an open one. Defendant was sitting behind her. He is brother-in-law to complainant. There appeared to be a regular family feud between the

parties, and the magistrate dismissed the case, remarking upon the trumpety nature of it altogether.

**Leicester Chronicle – July 18<sup>th</sup> 1857**

**LEICESTER CROWN COURT**

At the beginning of the **CROWN COURT**, Castle, Thursday July 16, the **GRAND JURY** were summoned at ten o'clock, when Mr. Justice Cresswell took his seat on the bench. The jury consisted of 22 men plus the foreman.

Her majesty's proclamation against vice and immorality having been read, His Lordship addressed the Grand Jury. He was happy to find in this as in the last county where he had the honour of presiding over the Crown Court, there were very few cases for trial, and those attended with no particularly serious circumstances. There was only two on which he should make any remark. One was a charge against three persons robbing a warehouse. It appeared that in the month of March a warehouse was robbed of a considerable amount of property, and these three parties were seen near to the place at night ; but with reference to two of them, so far as he could judge, there was no evidence to connect them with the possession of the goods. There was nothing except that they were seen near to the place with the third party. With respect to him (Hodges) there were footmarks discovered near to the place where the property was afterwards found. That connected with his being seen near to the place of the robbery, were strong circumstances against him ; but with regard to the other two prisoners, unless better evidence was forthcoming, he was afraid the case must fail. With respect to the other case.....

**JOHN BANTON** (23), collier, **THOMAS HODGES** (25) hawker, and **GEORGE EARP** (on bail), were charged in the calendar with breaking and entering the warehouse of Thos. Haywood, at the Township of Worthington, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March last, and stealing there from nine dozen of cotton shirt bodies, value £5, ten dozen of cotton waistbands, value 6s. and two dozen of cotton stockings, value 12s. the property of the above Thomas Haywood. The Grand Jury ignored the bills against John Barton and George Earp. – Mr. Merewether conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Mundell the defence. – Thomas Haywood sworn : I am a hosier living in Worthington. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of March last I had some hosiery in my warehouse. I took it out of the warehouse and put it in my cellar. I looked at my warehouse window at seven o'clock in the morning, in consequence of information I received. I found the window taken out altogether. There were footmarks under the window. A person getting into the warehouse could get into the cellar. I missed the goods in question when I examined the place. – Cross examined by Mr. Mundell : The warehouse is used on Sundays for prayer meetings, and anybody goes there who pleases. I observed something particular in one of the footmarks. I soon acquainted the police. The prisoner's mother works for me. – Re-examined ; My warehouse is about eighty yards from the small chapel. – William Handford : I live about three hundred yards from Mr. Haywood. – On the Saturday when he lost his property I was coming home between twelve and one o'clock. I saw the prisoner, I know him. I had just got past the warehouse. There were two other persons a short distance from him. Ralph Mole sworn : I know the prisoner. I think I saw him on the night of the robbery about one o'clock. I was in the bedroom. I looked at him whilst he passed the window. – Ann Platts sworn ; I live near to the warehouse of Mr. Haywood. I remember the night of the robbery. I heard somebody in the warehouse walk on the floor and open the cellar door. I knew it was the cellar door because it always drags on the ground. It was one o'clock. I saw two men outside at the time I heard someone in the warehouse. – William Ward sworn : I live at Griffydam. My attention was directed to something lying in the yard. I went to it and found it was a bag of hosiery. I gave it to Police Officer Widdowson. The one now produced is the same one I found. – Joseph Herbert sworn : I am a policeman. I examined the window of the warehouse. I also noticed some footmarks of a peculiar shape. I covered them up. I apprehended the prisoner. I apprehended him before the bag was found. On being charged with the robbery, the prisoner said he was at home and in bed at half past eleven o'clock, and was not out afterwards. He said he came direct from Gostillo's and stayed nowhere until he got home. On the road he said he came from Nicholson's alone. That was for a few minutes afterwards. He said he neither saw or spoke to anybody. I took one of his boots off. He is crippled on one foot. I have examined the shoe I now produce with the footmarks in the garden, and they correspond exactly. There are several nails out of the shoe. – P.C. Widdowson produced the bag. – Mr. Mundell addressed the Jury at some length, and said that the circumstances of a man of good character seen

near to a warehouse on the night when the burglary was committed was very little ground to convict him upon. Besides, if three men were seen together, it was very singular that the very man amongst them who was least able to run away should be chosen as the one to go in and commit the robbery. The evidence as to the footprints was very slight, and they all knew how fallacious such evidence generally was. He then called witnesses as to character. – His **Lordship summed up, and the prisoner was pronounced guilty. – Sentence : Three years penal servitude.**

**The stolen items were apparently found in the graveyard at Worthington**

**Leicester Chronicle – September 9<sup>th</sup> 1857**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Before T. Mowbray, Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echelaz

William Cliff of Worthington, was charged by Sarah Mills, his brother's wife, with assaulting her on the, on the 20<sup>th</sup> August.. This was an old grudge, a quarrel having arisen between the parties in the church at a christening, a few weeks ago. The complainant, on this occasion, applied a vile epithet to the defendant's wife, when he stepped up and struck her a blow in the eye. The bench considered that much provocation had been given by the complainant, in the expression she used ; **they, therefore, only fined the defendant 2s. 6d., and 14s. 6d. expenses, giving him to understand that he would have been more heavily fined, as the complainant's eye was seriously hurt, had she not used her tongue too freely and offensively**

Joseph Jackson of Worthington, was charged by Thomas Mee, of that place, with assaulting him, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August. They had, with a mutual friend, *clubbed* for "a sup of drink" on the day in question, being Sunday ; but as the publican refused to supply the "lush", a quarrel ensued, and the assault complained of was the consequence. **The case was dismissed, and the complainant ordered to pay the costs, 10s. 6d.**

**Leicester Journal – June 4<sup>th</sup> 1858**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Emma Stinson of Worthington, summoned James Haywood, of the same place, for an assault. The following is the evidence:- Complainant said : I live at Worthington, and am a widow. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant I went into my garden and saw defendant abusing my child. I remonstrated with him and he came up with curses, and took me by the hair of the head, and abused me very much. He struck me on the head several times. (Cross-examined by Mr. Smith who appeared for the defendant). I struck the defendant's daughter, but she struck me first. My son never struck the defendant twice with his fists, nor did he hit me by mistake. – William Stinson said : I live with my mother, and I am seventeen years of age. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant, I heard someone screaming, so I went to the spot and found that defendant had got my mother down on the ground and was beating her. I am lame and got to the spot as well as I could, and defendant then began to abuse me, and knocked me down three times, and swore he would murder me. (Cross examined) I never knocked defendant down, nor did I strike him, but I tried to pull him off my mother. I never used the besom stick. I had then no stick in my hand. After this defendant's daughter struck my mother, and I interfered and struck the daughter on the head. – Mr. Smith then addressed the Bench on behalf of the defendant, and called three witnesses, who most positively swore that that the complainant was the aggressor, and that a severe blow was given her by her son in the melee.. – After a very patient hearing, the magistrates dismissed the case.

**Leicester Chronicle – November 6<sup>th</sup> 1858**

**Marriage** – On the 30<sup>th</sup> ult, at the Parochial Chapel, Worthington by the Rev. William Lush, Mr. William Hatton of Hathern to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. Joseph Stenson, of the former place. ***This was actually a church wedding***

**Leicester Chronicle – May 7<sup>th</sup> 1859**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

George Pope, labourer, of Worthington, was charged by W. Shipley Peters, gamekeeper to Lady Ferrers, of Staunton Harold, with trespassing in search of game on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. **Convicted and fined £1. including costs.**

John Edwards, labourer of Worthington, charged by the same keeper, with trespassing in search of game on 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. **Convicted and fined 15s. including costs.**

**Leicester Chronicle – September 10<sup>th</sup> 1859**

DEATH BY DROWNING. – An inquest was held at Worthington, on Wednesday last, on the body of a little boy, aged four years, the son of Robert Lakin, colliery bailiff, of Worthington. The boy it appears, was in the habit of playing about a pit near his father's house, and on Monday last his cap had fallen in the water, and, it is supposed that in trying to get it out he fell in and was drowned. – A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned ; and the father was requested to have the pit fenced more securely.

**Leicester Chronicle – October 8<sup>th</sup> 1859**

Henry Pope, labourer of Worthington, was charged by Edward Martin, clerk to Mr. Bostock, of Breedon, with assaulting him, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, and fined £1 13s. 6d. including costs, which money was paid.

**Leicester Chronicle – September 1<sup>st</sup> 1860**

**ASHBY – GENERAL ANNUAL LICENSING MEETING**

The general report of the division for the past year has been very satisfactory, except in two cases – one of a house kept by a person named Robinson at Ashby ; the other a house kept by John (James?) Tivey, at Worthington (**the Malt Shovel**). In both cases the licenses were suspended.

**Leicester Journal – September 7<sup>th</sup> 1860**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

John Haywood, parish constable of Worthington, charged Joseph Bird and William Hurst, of the same place, with being drunk and disorderly. Complainant stated that, on the 24<sup>th</sup> ult., he was called out to the defendants, who were fighting. On going to the spot, he found them drunk and fighting in the street. – The defendants admitted the offence, and expressed their regret. Convicted and fined 9d. each and costs.

**Leicester Chronicle – February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1861**

DEATHS. – On the 12<sup>th</sup> ult., at "The Cottage", Worthington, Grace, the last surviving daughter of the late John Mynors Bulstrode, Esq.

**Leicester Chronicle – April 13<sup>th</sup> 1861**

JOSEPH BREARLEY. – collier, pleaded guilty to stealing a silver watch, the property of Thomas Hill at Worthington, on March 27<sup>th</sup>, and was **sentenced to six weeks hard labour.**

**Leicester Chronicle – June 29<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Several persons from Worthington were summoned by Mr. Bulstrode, overseer, for non-payment of poor rates, which were allowed to be arranged out of court.

**Leicester Chronicle – July 13<sup>th</sup> 1861**

**Ashby Petty Sessions**

John Richards, collier, of Worthington, was charged with assaulting Ann Hodges at Worthington on the 29<sup>th</sup> ult. – Mr. Smith appeared for the defendant. – It appeared from the

evidence of complainant, that on the night in question, about eleven o'clock, she was going to the shop, and met defendant, who, after using some beastly language, put his arm around her, and grossly insulted her. She called her mother, who stated that when complainant came home she was in a very excited state, and appeared to have been very badly used. – Mr. Smith cross-examined both witnesses at length, and made an able defence for defendant, **but the Bench fined him £1 including costs, which was paid.**

Bought at Ashby. He said he did not know John Smith, and had never seen him in his life. **Three months hard labour.**

#### **Leicester Journal – May 9<sup>th</sup> 1862**

##### ***Freehold Public – House, Cottages and Premises* TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION**

***By Mr. T. Davenport,***

**At the Malt Shovel Inn, Worthington, on Monday, the fifth day of May next, at Six o'clock in the evening**

ALL that MESSUAGE or Old-licensed PUBLIC HOUSE, called the Malt Shovel, with the brew house, stable, cow-shed, and other outbuildings, and the garden thereto, containing altogether an acre of land, or thereabouts, and in the occupation of Mr. James Tivey

Also SIX DWELLING HOUSES, or TENEMENTS, adjoining, or near to the said Messuage, and in the several occupations of John Edwards and others.

The property is situate at Worthington, in the County of Leicester, fronting the main street there and also the road leading to Griffy Dam.

For further particulars apply to the auctioneer, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, or to Messrs. RICHARDSON and SMALL, Solicitors, Burton-on-Trent

Burton-on-Trent, 19<sup>th</sup> April 1862

#### **Leicester Chronicle – October 18<sup>th</sup> 1862**

THOMAS MARSHALL (18) collier, was indicted for stealing a pair of boots, and a pair of trousers, value 12s. the property of John Smith of Worthington, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September last. – Mr. Palmer prosecuted, - John Smith said he was a collier, and lived at Griffydam. The prisoner lodged at his father's house, and slept in the same room as he did. On the 10<sup>th</sup> Sept last he put in the bedroom a pair of boots and a pair of trousers. The boots were in the corner of the room and the trousers on the bed. The next morning he got up at 5 o'clock and left the prisoner in bed. When he came home in the afternoon about 5 o'clock, the prisoner and the articles stolen were gone.. Those produced were his property. – P.C. Peberdy said on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September he received information of the robbery, and went into Staffordshire and apprehended the prisoner at Wedgbury, on a charge of stealing a pair of boots and a pair of trousers at Worthington. Prisoner said he did not steal them. Then asked him how he came by the boots and trousers he was wearing, he said he bought the boots at Whitwick, and gave 8s. 6d. for them ; the trousers he

#### **Leicester Mercury – October 18<sup>th</sup> 1862**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

William Weston and Thomas Edwards were charged by P.C. Peberdy with creating a disturbance at Worthington on Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup> inst., being Worthington Wake, there were a great many persons assembled at the Public Houses drinking and quarrelling. **Fined 17s. or 1 months hard labour**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – December 6<sup>th</sup> 1862**

**DEATH FROM BURNING.** – An inquest was held at Worthington, on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult., on the body of William Smith, who had met with his death under the following circumstances :- It appeared that the deceased was four years old, and had been left by his parents, who were both from home on business, in charge of an elder boy, with strict instructions not to leave the house. The lad, however, disobeyed this order, and went out to slide, the deceased, in his absence, poked the fire, a cinder fell on his clothes, and he was quickly enveloped in flames, which a neighbour extinguished as quickly as possible, but not before deceased was badly burnt

about the chest and neck, from which injuries he ultimately died. – **Verdict, “Accidental Death”**

**Leicester Chronicle – February 21<sup>st</sup> 1863**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Josiah Walker, of Worthington, was charged with using threatening language towards his brother Thomas. **Bound over to keep the peace for three months, himself in £10, and one suety in the like amount.**

J. Barber, W. Chester, and W. Mee were charged with unlawfully disturbing the congregation in the Parish Church of Worthington on Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> ult. The churchwardens did not wish to press the charges against them, but as a caution to them and others felt bound to bring the case before the Bench – **After expressing their sorrow, and promising not to repeat the offence, the defendants were discharged on paying the expenses.**

Zilpha Massey charged her husband, J. Massey, with assaulting her, on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., at Worthington. Complainant stated that her husband, who is a blacksmith, was in the constant habit of coming home drunk at night, and if she had nothing nice for him to eat, he commenced beating her, and she could bear it no longer. – **Fined, including costs, £2 14s., or two months hard labour.**

**Leicester Chronicle – July 11<sup>th</sup> 1863**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Mr. J. Reed, overseer of Worthington summoned R. Stacey, of Griffydham, for the non-payment of two poor-rates. Defendant's wife appeared, and, upon being asked by the magistrates why her husband did not pay, she said he did not mean to do so, and they might send him to prison as soon as they liked. – **A distress warrant was therefore issued.**

**Leicester Journal – January 20<sup>th</sup> 1865**

**DEATH FROM CHOKING AT WORTHINGTON**

On Wednesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., Edward Burkin, an old man aged 83, living by himself at Worthington, was partaking of pig's-fry for dinner, and by some means got a piece of meat fast in his throat. A neighbour, hearing a noise, went to see what was the matter, and found the deceased lying on the floor. Medical assistance was at once sent for, but before any arrived life was extinct.

**Leicester Journal – October 27<sup>th</sup> 1865**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

William Farmer, of Worthington, farmer, was charged with doing damage to the amount of 2s. to the glass of a window, at Worthington, the property of James Husband. Mr. Dewes appeared for the complainant and Mr. Cheate for the defendant. – **Fined £2. and costs, in default fourteen days hard labour.**

**Leicester Chronicle – December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1865**

**DEATH FROM DROWNING.** – On Saturday last, an inquiry was held at Worthington, before J. Gregory, Esq., coroner, into the circumstances attending the death of a young woman named Ann Mee, a servant in the employ of Skeffington Dickenson Cowlshaw, Esq., of Barrow Hill Lodge, who met with her death in a somewhat singular manner. – Deceased was in her 20th year, and it appeared that on Thursday last, she had been engaged in washing some strainers, and was observed to go out of the house with some over her arm as if to hang them to dry in the usual place, upon a hedge near the house, and contiguous to a deep pit, but was never seen alive afterwards. Her absence attracted the attention of Mr. Cowlshaw, who made enquiries for her in the house, without gaining any tidings of her. He then became alarmed, as her mother told him that when she saw deceased in the afternoon she informed her that she had had a very curious dream that she was drowned. He immediately obtained assistance, made a rough drag, and searched the pit, where ultimately the body of the deceased was found cold and stiff. The evidence of the mother of deceased showed that she went to fetch a dress of her daughters on the day in question, when



deceased told her that she had dreamed she was drowned. Mrs. Mee then related a dream she had had to her daughter, who remarked that it was strange they should both have such curious dreams, and began to cry. Mrs. Mee thinking she did not like her situation told her that she had better leave and go home, but deceased replied that she was quite satisfied with her place, and did not wish to leave. Mrs. Mee then kissed her daughter and they parted never to meet alive. The deceased was of a cheerful and contented disposition, and no cause could be assigned for her getting into the pit, except that she slipped in accidentally. – **The jury returned a verdict of “Found Drowned”**

**Leicester Chronicle – May 15<sup>th</sup> 1866**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**ILLEGAL FISHING.** – John Hurst and Joseph Watson, colliers, Griffydham, were charged with taking four trout, value 1s. 6d. on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from a brook at Worthington, in which N. C. Curzon has the sole right of fishing. – The case was proved by Charles Hodgett, gamekeeper, and defendants were each **fined 6s. 9d. each damage, and 10s. 6d each costs.**

**Leicester Journal – October 26<sup>th</sup> 1866**

**ASHBY POLICE COURT**

James Eaglesfield, of Worthington, was fined 2s 6d., and costs for allowing two horses and an ass to stray on the highway at Worthington.

**Leicester Chronicle – April 12<sup>th</sup> 1867**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Henry Bostock, Thomas Cooke, and Frederick Jessop, all of Worthington, were remanded until Saturday next week, on a charge of stealing on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March, at Worthington, ten quarts of elder wine and five pints of ale, of the value of 8s., the goods of Joseph Adkin. It appeared from the evidence that Bostock, who is waggoner to Mr. Adkin, during his master's absence on the day in question, went into the cellar and carried the wine and ale in jugs into the stable, and then invited the other two prisoners to help him drink it. – Mr. Dewes, who appeared for Cooke and Jessop, said he hoped that the magistrates would take into consideration that his clients had been in prison nearly a fortnight, and that Bostock was the guilty party and not them. – Inspector Ward in answer to the Magistrates said the prisoners had behaved exceedingly well whilst in prison. – The magistrates, in passing sentence, said in taking into consideration the time they had already been confined, and their good conduct during that time, their sentence was that Cooke and Jessop be further imprisoned for one hour, and Bostock to 21 days hard labour at Leicester.

**Leicester Chronicle – September 28<sup>th</sup> 1867**

**OLD MAN DROWNED AT WORTHINGTON.** - An inquest was held at Worthington, on Wednesday, before J. Gregory, Esq., coroner, on the body of John Litherland deceased, who was a grazier, lived at Gelsmoor, in the township of Worthington. On Monday afternoon he had been out with his horse and gig, and on his return he fetched up his cows and milked them. He afterwards went into the house, and his niece who was residing with him, left him there whilst she went upstairs. When she came down, finding her uncle had gone out, she went into the yard to look for him. After looking about some minutes, she saw the lid of a well in the yard open, and deceased's cap lying on the ground a short distance off. She was afraid he was in the well, and raised an alarm. On the well being dragged by some neighbours, the body was discovered during the evening. It was the deceased's custom to go to the well to draw water for his horse every evening, and it is supposed from the fact of him being unwell for some short time past, and his having complained about giddiness in his head, that he went to the well for that purpose, and fell in accidentally. There was nothing in his conduct to lead his friends to suppose that he intended to commit suicide. – The Jury returned a verdict that deceased was found suffocated in the well, but whether he got in accidentally or purposely there was no evidence to satisfy them. Deceased was in his 66<sup>th</sup> year.

### **Leicester Journal – April 24<sup>th</sup> 1868**

#### **COLLIERY ACCIDENT**

An inquest was held at Worthington, on Thursday week, before J. Gregory, Esq., coroner, on the body of John halfpenny. Deceased was a banksman at the No. 2 pit of the Swannington Colliery, and was 59 years old. On Tuesday afternoon, the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, he was engaged on some wagons which were about being removed to the machine house, and was standing on the top of some slack in the second waggon when the wagons were started, and loosing his balance, he fell down, and the wheels of the hind wagon passed over his neck and chest, killing him on the spot. **The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.**

### **Leicester Journal – June 19<sup>th</sup> 1868**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

George Mee, cordwainer of Worthington ([Boot and Shoe maker](#)), was charged by Samuel Bailey with assaulting him at Worthington, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June. – These parties and also their witnesses had been drinking in a public house the greater part of the day, and being rivals in the shoe trade, they did all they could to annoy one another. – Case dismissed, each party to pay his own costs.....The defendant in the above case was charged by Mary Eaglesfield, housekeeper to Samuel Bailey, with an assault on her at the same time and place, but at the suggestion of the Magistrates, this case was withdrawn.

### **Leicester Chronicle – February 13<sup>th</sup> 1869**

#### **WORTHINGTON**

**SUICIDE.** – On Saturday, an inquest was held before J. Gregory, Esq., coroner, at Worthington, upon Richard Cooper, deceased. – Thos. Cooper said he was 85 years old, and the father of the deceased, who was a labourer, and 62 years old. He and the deceased lived together in the township of Worthington. Deceased had been in an ailing state of health for the last three years. He was about as usual on Thursday. A day or two before, he had wished him to go to a doctor, but he said he could not walk. Deceased occupied a room for himself, and went to bed about 7 o'clock on Thursday night. Towards 4 o'clock in the morning, he heard deceased coughing and making a lumbering noise, but did not go to him, as he used to cough at night. Next morning he got up between 6 and 7 o'clock, but did not go to his son's room, as he had no suspicion of anything wrong. About 8, or soon after, his grandson, Wm. Platts, came to see how deceased was, and he sent him up to deceased's room to ask if he would have a cup of tea ; and sometime after that he was informed that deceased had cut his throat and was dead. He did not know why deceased committed the act, as he was very subtle and close minded. – William Platts said deceased was his uncle. On Friday morning at his Grandfather's request, he went upstairs to see deceased, and on getting part of the way upstairs looked into deceased's room, the door of which was open, and saw blood upon the floor under the bed. He went up two stairs higher, and then could see deceased lying on his back in bed, and blood about his face. He was perfectly still and there was no noise of breathing. He was perfectly still, and there was no noise of breathing. He dared not go any further, and went down and told the next door neighbour, Charlotte Richards, and then his aunt Sarah, and a doctor was sent for. Deceased had been in a low way for some time. He had a stroke some time ago, which disabled him from following his regular employment. – Wm. Platts, father of the last witness, said, on receiving information of what had happened, he went and found deceased lying in bed. His throat had been cut by a razor, and on turning round he saw a razor with blood on it in a chair close to the bed. On further examining the bed, he found a pen knife lying on the counterpane, close to deceased's right hand. That was all over blood, and he believed deceased had used it, as the razor would not accomplish what he wanted, it was so dull and rusty. The windpipe was cut through. Deceased's mind and recollection had seemed to fail him. He seemed to make a great deal of trouble about not being able to go to work, and no doubt it had a strong influence in causing him to commit the act. A sister of deceased's, who died some sixteen years ago, was not sound of mind. – **Verdict, "Insanity"**

**Leicester Chronicle – September 10<sup>th</sup> 1870**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Wm. Mee, of the Swan Inn, Worthington, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of beer during prohibited hours, on Sunday, the 21<sup>st</sup> ult. – P.C. Weston said that owing to frequent complaints having been made, he watched the house of defendant, and saw a number of navies go into the house and defendant supplied them with drink. – Defendant said the navies did come into the house and asked for beer but he refused them ; he did, however, with water from a jug. – **Fined £2, including costs, or in default twenty one days hard labour.**

**Leicester Chronicle – November 19<sup>th</sup> 1870**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**WORTHINGTON**

**DEATH FROM LOCK JAW.** – An inquest was held at Griffydham, in the parish of Worthington on Thursday last, before J. Gregory Esq., coroner, on the body of William Henry Hall. The case had caused some excitement in the neighbourhood, on account of rumours that lock-jaw, which was the cause of death, was the result of some ill usage the deceased had received at the hands of the parish constable and P.C. Ward. A considerable number of witnesses were examined, and F. Goodyer, Esq., (chief constable of the county), and Mr. W. N. Reeve, solicitor, were present to watch the proceedings on behalf of the County Police Authorities. The simple facts of the case appeared to be that the deceased who was a bricklayer, had been drinking a good deal on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of October, and that on both days the parish constables had been called to him. On the Monday he was so disorderly in the street, that the police officer and parish constable were obliged to remove him to a barn, where they laid him on some straw. He had previously been found lying helplessly drunk in the street near a wall, from which it was presumed he had fallen. He had then a bad wound at the back of the head, which the parish constable bound up when he placed him in the barn. The deceased was so noisy while there, that he was removed, and ordered to go home, which he refused to do until followed some distance by the officers. On the 9<sup>th</sup> November deceased was attended by Mr. Trevor Morris, M. D., who found him in bed at a house in the village, evidently suffering from lock-jaw. Deceased died on Monday last. – **After hearing the whole of the evidence, the jury unanimously agreed that deceased had met with his death accidentally, whilst in a state of intoxication, and this exonerated the parish constable and the policeman from all blame.**

**Leicestershire Mercury United – December 10<sup>th</sup> 1870**

**ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH POLICE COURT**

**Before Henry Hetherington Smith, Esq.**

Mary Edwards, wife of Thomas Edwards, labourer, of Worthington, was charged with breaking and entering the dwelling house of Thomas Mee, at Worthington, on November 26<sup>th</sup>, and stealing a quantity of potatoes and wine, the property of Thomas Mee. – Ann Mee, proved that she lived next door to the prisoner, that she left home about half-past ten in the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> November ; that she locked the door, and after having locked it tried it so as to make herself sure it was ; that at three o'clock in the afternoon she gave the key to her husband's sister to unlock the door, and in about five minutes she returned, and from what was then told her she went herself down to her house, and on looking into the pantry she missed some potatoes, and on going into the cellar she missed a quantity of wine, She then went to the prisoner and charged her with having been into her house and stolen some potatoes and wine, but prisoner denied everything. The potatoes now produced were similar to those of her husband's, which were on the pantry floor. The house door was the only entrance to the house. She (witness) took a key out of prisoner's pocket that would unlock her house door. – Hannah Mee proved receiving the key from the last witness, and on trying to unlock the door she could not. She then lifted the latch up, and the door opened. She then went in and tried the pantry door, which was shut, and she tried to open it but could not. She then pushed against it and forced it a little way open, when she saw the prisoner with her back against the door, pushing to prevent her going in. She, however, succeeded in getting into the pantry, when the prisoner said, "I found the door open, and have been trying to make them hear, but cannot". – John Hault, baker, of King's Newton, said he saw the prisoner come out of Thomas Mee's house, and she had with her a bucket containing a quantity of potatoes,

and that she said to him, "I found the door open but I cannot make anyone hear". – P.C. Ward proved that on Saturday night last, at six o'clock, he received information of this robbery, and at once went in search of the prisoner, but did not succeed in apprehending her until nine o'clock on Sunday morning, when the prisoner, in answer to the charge, said "I have done nothing ; I was not there". – **Committed to take her trial at the ensuing Assizes.**

**It is difficult to make any sense of the above report !!**

**Leicester Chronicle – December 17<sup>th</sup> 1870**

**LEICESTERSHIRE WINTER ASSIZES**

**Before Mr. Justice Lush**

**BURGLARY**

**MARY EDWARDS** was charged with breaking into the dwelling house of Thomas Mee, at Worthington and stealing a bottle of wine and other articles. – Mr. Jacques prosecuted. – The wife of prosecutor deposed that prisoner lived next door to her. On the 26<sup>th</sup> November, she left the house and locked the door. In the afternoon she sent her sister to her home, and in consequence of what she said she went home, and found a gallon of potatoes and a bottle of elder wine missing. She went to the prisoner, and accused her of taking the potatoes and the wine. Told her she had a key which fitted the door. She denied it, and witness then seized her, and took a key out of her pocket, which she found fitted the door. – Prisoner here denied that she knew the key would open witness's door. – Hannah Mee spoke to going to her sister's house. She found the door closed, but unfastened. She found the prisoner in the pantry. She had some trouble in opening the pantry door, and someone was pushing at the back. On getting in she found prisoner with a bucket of potatoes in her hand. Prisoner said witness's sister had gone and left the door undone. – John Holt corroborated. – P.C. Ward spoke to apprehending prisoner, - **Guilty: Three months hard labour.**

**Leicester Chronicle – March 11<sup>th</sup> 1871**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

William Shaw, labourer, Worthington, was charged with having disturbed the Rev. J. O. Brook, whilst celebrating divine service in the church at Worthington, by smoking in the porch, - Abraham Frearson, the parish clerk, proved the case, and **defendant was fined 10s. 6d. and costs or or fourteen days imprisonment**

James Eaglesfield, of Worthington, was fined 10s. for allowing his asses to stray on the highway.....Defendant is an old offender.

**Leicester Chronicle – April 8<sup>th</sup> 1871**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

John Smith of Worthington, labourer, pleaded guilty to having cruelly illtreated a Stirk (a [yearling bullock or heifer](#)), the property of Mr. Stubbs, his master. – **Sentenced to 21 days hard labour.**

**Leicester Chronicle – October 14<sup>th</sup> 1871**

**ASHBY COUNTY COURT – THURS OCT 19<sup>TH</sup>.**

**William Houl v Thomas Haywood.** – Claim £3 4s., a set-off pleaded for £3 0s. – Mr. Higginson appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Wilson for the defendant. - Defendant is a builder living at Griffydham, and on passing plaintiff's brickyard one day, saw that he had a large stock of bricks, and asked him why he did not get rid of them. Plaintiff said that because no one wanted any. Defendant offered to get him a customer on the same terms he had been accustomed to sell bricks for his father, viz., 1s. per thousand. He took a sample of the bricks, and showed them to Mr. Lambert, agent for Messrs. Eckersley and Boyliss, the contractors for the formation of the new line between Worthington and Ashby. Mr. Lambert approved of the bricks, and said he would take all Mr. Houl had – about 60,000. Defendant said he had better see Mr. Houl about them. Mr. Lambert took the whole of plaintiff's stock, and in all had had from him 200,000. – Plaintiff said that he never engaged to give defendant a commission on the sale of bricks, but, in conversation with him, said if defendant could get him a customer, he should be very much obliged to him. – In the course of his examination, plaintiff said he was not a brick maker himself, but a brick manufacturer. – His Honour pointed out

that this was a distinction without a difference. – Mr. Lambert was called to prove that the defendant did not sell the bricks to him, but that he had bought them of plaintiff, though he did so as the result of Haywood's introduction. – His Honour said it appeared to him that there had been on the side of each party in this case a want of manly straightforward truthfulness. – It was quite clear to him that the whole truth had not come out. He was satisfied, however, that plaintiff had engaged to give defendant a commission if he found a customer for the bricks, and he should allow the claim of £3. – Verdict for plaintiff for 4s.

**Leicester Chronicle – November 18<sup>th</sup> 1871**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Ralph Smith of Worthington, an old offender, was fined £3 and costs for having, on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, used a lurcher dog for the purpose of taking game.....Mr. Hughes prosecuted Isaac Hulse, Worthington, engine driver, and Robert Brown of Newbold, stoker, who were charged with a similar offence, at Worthington, On October 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dewes prosecuted, and said that almost every man engaged on the new railway line now being formed between between Ashby and Worthington kept a running dog, consequently there was but little game, and the preserves were at the mercy of the navies. – **Fined £2 2s. and costs, or six weeks hard labour.**

**Leicester Chronicle – February 24<sup>th</sup> 1872**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSION**

.....Frederick Johnson, of Griffydham, fishmonger, was charged for that he had on the 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1872, at Worthington, feloniously stole two iron corner plates, the property of Mr. John Bayliss. – Mr. Dewes appeared on behalf of the prisoner. – George Ball, a night watchman in the employ of the prosecutor, said he was on duty on the night in question, and saw the prisoner come through a gap in the fence, with something in his hand. When he saw me he threw down what he had got in his hands, I said to him, Freddy, what is your game, but he made no answer, and followed his donkey and cart. Witness at once got over the fence to see what he had thrown down, and found the two corner plates now produced, which witness had but a short time before himself put against the tool chest. – **Sentenced to fourteen days hard labour.**

**Leicester Journal – April 5<sup>th</sup> 1872**

**ASHBY UNION – Board of Guardians  
SPECIAL SESSION**

**Overseers elected for Worthington were – W. Baxter, W.Wale, and John Simkin Knight.**

**Constables elected for Worthington were – James Husbands and Joseph Adkins**

**Leicester Journal – May 24<sup>th</sup> 1872**

**GUILSMORE (GELSMOOR) NEAR WORTHINGTON – A CHILD DROWNED**

On Tuesday afternoon, a sad incident occurred to a child named John Lakin, aged three years and six months, living with its aunt at Guilsmore (Gelsmoor) It appears that the deceased's parents live at Bedford, and that he had lately been residing with his aunt at the above place for the benefit of his health. Shortly after three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon he was playing in the house, when some ducks came into the place, and it is supposed that when driving them away, he followed them to a pond a short distance from the house, and slipped into it, as in the course of a few minutes, being missed, search was made for him, when he was found in the pond, quite dead.

**Leicester Chronicle – January 11<sup>th</sup> 1873**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**James Woollett**, of Coleorton, collier, was charged by Joseph Hewitt, of Worthington, collier with having assaulted him at Worthington on the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult. – Hewitt said : On the night in question on my return from Christmas boxing, I was struck across the face by someone. It was dark at the time, but as soon as the party spoke, I knew it was the defendant, and I could tell he had been drinking. I pulled my coat off to fight him, and he did the same ; but as soon

as I had mine off, he threw me down and commenced to kick me about my head, face, and body ; and the marks you now see are the effects of the injuries I then received. There was no one near us at the time. – Mr. Dewes, who appeared for the defendant, called Isaac Birch, who said that on the night in question he was returning home with Hewitt, but had occasion to loiter behind, and he had no sooner done so than he heard Hewitt using bad language and calling Woollett foul names, and very soon from words they came to blows. Both had their jackets off, and after it was all over Hewitt wished to fight him the next morning for £10, but Woollett refused to do so. – **Case dismissed.**

**Leicester Chronicle – July 12<sup>th</sup> 1873**

**LEICESTERSHIRE  
SUMMER ASSIZES  
CROWN COURT , Thursday,**

**Before Baron Bramwell  
(Jury – 21 men plus a foreman)**

**WILLIAM HOULT** (31), farmer and brick manufacturer, was charged with the manslaughter of Maria Weston, at Worthington on the 27<sup>th</sup> June. – Mr. Jacques prosecuted, and Mr. Merewether defended the prisoner. – Frederick Staniforth, labourer, living at Worthington, said on the 18<sup>th</sup> June he was standing near his master's house, on the road leading from Breedon to Worthington, at about eight o'clock. Prisoner came up in a basket trap, drawn by a pony. Prisoner passed him and stopped, and then turned towards Breedon. He beat the pony, which was galloping as fast as it could. – William Shaw, labourer, Worthington, said he was in the street in the village of Worthington about eight o'clock, and saw prisoner coming up with a pony and trap at a very fast pace. He had difficulty in getting out of the way of the pony and trap. – Mary Higglesfield said on the day in question she saw prisoner coming in a basket trap from Breedon. He was driving the pony very fast. Prisoner got up in the trap, and flogged the pony several times. – William Elliot, grocer, Worthington, spoke to seeing the prisoner driving at a furious pace at the time in question. – Josiah Weston, haggler, said the deceased was his mother. On the evening in question he was coming with a horse and cart from Griffydam to Worthington, and met prisoner with a pony and trap. He (witness) had to back his horse to get out of the way of prisoner. – By Mr. Merewether : His mother had been run over by a post-boy named Broadhurst previously. She was deaf, but could hear when spoken to loudly. – Ralph Smith, labourer, who lived on the road leading to Griffydam, said he was standing at his door on the evening in question, and saw the deceased, who was coming from Griffydam to Worthington. She was near the roadside. Saw prisoner come up, and heard him shout when about three yards off the deceased, "Get out of the way". He did not think there was time for her to get out of the way before the shaft struck her and knocked her down ; the pony trampled on her head, and the wheel passed over her. Prisoner, who was going very fast, whipped the pony after he had run over deceased. He told prisoner he had knocked deceased down, but he did not stop. Prisoner went on as far as his brickyard, which was about 300 yards off and then stopped. He (witness) went and picked deceased up. – By Mr. Merewether : Could not see prisoner if he had been looking in the direction he was coming when he first heard him, as there was a corner. The deceased was walking where the wheel of the trap would run. – James Cowlshaw, farmer, said he was riding on the road from Griffydam to Worthington on the evening in question, and saw prisoner driving at a furious rate. He rode on to the place where deceased was, and from information he received, he went after prisoner to the brickyard, and told him he had one over a woman, and injured her seriously. Prisoner replied he had as much right on the road as anyone else. He also added that he told her to get out of the way, but she would not. – Dr. Johnson, of Whitwick, said he saw deceased after the accident. He found several bruises on different parts of her body, and there was a bruise all up the leg, as also bruises on the head and temple. She was in a low state, and died on the 27<sup>th</sup>. He made a *post mortem* examination, and found the cause of death to be effusion of blood on the brain, caused by the injuries she had sustained. – Mr. Merewether, for the defence, said the deceased was deaf, but as the prisoner called out to her when three or four yards off, she had time to get out of the road. – His Lordship in summing up, pointed out that the jury must satisfy themselves that the death of the woman was due to the criminal negligence of the prisoner. They must judge for themselves, if they

found the death had been caused, whether the prisoner exercised proper caution. If they believed the evidence of the witnesses, the prisoner either could not or would not stop the pony when he saw the woman on the road. If he could not stop the pony, he had not been guilty of culpable negligence. If they found he had been guilty of culpable negligence, which had resulted in the death of this woman, and considered that he was a fit person for punishment, then they must find him guilty – The jury found the prisoner guilty, but recommended him to mercy on account of the deceased being deaf. – **His Lordship said the deceased had been killed entirely through prisoner's misconduct, which he considered a most cruel thing. Taking into account the recommendation of the jury, he should not sentence prisoner to hard labour, as that would make him the associate of thieves, but he should order him to be imprisoned for four months, and condemn him to pay the costs of this prosecution.**

**Leicester Chronicle – April 11<sup>th</sup> 1874**

**WORTHINGTON**

**THE CHURCH WINDOWS.** – A correspondent writes; People passing through this village cannot but be struck by the appearance of the church windows – not that there is anything particular about them, but the fact of their having to be covered with wire netting to prevent their being broken. Moreover, conspicuous over the door is a notice of reward for information of anyone known willfully to break them – a too common occurrence. One often wonders whether the cause

is attributable to the failure of the evangelising efforts of the Cure; or is the sacred edifice a mark of contempt for the ignorant?

**Leicester Chronicle – October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1874**

**WORTHINGTON**

**SUDDEN DEATH.** – Mrs. Blunt, the wife of Joseph Blunt, of Worthington died very suddenly on Wednesday night. It appears that she went out to accompany Mrs. Cowlshate part of the way home, and not returning in reasonable time search was made for her, when she was found dead by the railway side. This death has caused a profound gloom over Worthington, where she resided, as she was held in high estimation by the people for her kind a benevolent disposition.

**Leicester Journal – February 19<sup>th</sup> 1875**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

William Mee, of Worthington, carpenter, was charged with having on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February at Worthington, assaulted Hannah Reed, and the said Hannah Reed was charged with having at the same time and place assaulted Mary Ann Mee, wife of the said William Mee. – Mr. Dewes appeared on behalf of William Mee and Mary Ann Mee, his wife. – Witnesses were called on both sides, who proved that the disturbance was occasioned by a load of coals being taken on the day in question for William Mee, and in getting them in, they had to go on the causeway of Mrs. Reed. Both cases were dismissed, each party to pay their own costs.

**Leicester Chronicle – October 16<sup>th</sup> 1875**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Samuel Crane, of Worthington, labourer, pleaded guilty to having at Worthington on the 18<sup>th</sup> Sept, stolen a coat and 3 lbs weight of mutton, the property of Thos. Mee. From the evidence it appeared that prisoner had been lodging with the prosecutor, and on the morning in question he absconded, taking the coat and mutton with him ; and when apprehended at Leicester on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, he was wearing the coat. – Sentenced to one calendar month's imprisonment and hard labour.

**Leicester Chronicle – April 14<sup>th</sup> 1877**

**RURAL SANITATION IN LEICESTERSHIRE  
(FROM THE LONDON ECHO)**

Like many others I went out of town at Easter. Eschewing the hackneyed haunts of Hastings, Margate, the Isle of Wight, and other seaside resorts, I struck out a new line, and made for the Midlands. Leaving St. Pancras for the Trent Station, I travelled by the Ashby Railway through a fertile district, and visited such out-of-the-way places as will be indicated by the

names of Griffy-Dam, Lount, Tonge, Breedon Brand, Breedon, and Worthington, and I propose to narrate some of the things we heard and saw there. It is not my intention to attempt a description of the natural features of the country, although much might be said in praising of the charming varieties of hill, and dale, and wood. My concern is more with some of the blots which the cupidity of man has succeeded on making on the fair face of creation. One of the first things that attracted my attention as I drove along was the ruinous condition of the cottages and buildings. Roofless, doorless, windowless, are terms which convey but a faint idea of the actual condition of the things. Some are tenanted and others are tenantless, but they are alike ruinous and miserable. My first impression was that I had landed on one of those estates whose ownership has been the subject of litigation in the court of Chancery for generation after generation. But on enquiry I find that it is not so. The country here for miles around belongs to the "great man" who succeeded to the estates of a late Marquis, of unhappy celebrity in the racing world., and who has considerably increased the number of his broad acres by the purchase of adjoining estates. So struck was I with the utterly wretched condition of the cottages, that I put up at a roadside inn, and made a personal inspection of such as were conveniently within my reach, in order to satisfy myself that human beings were absolutely existing in such wretched and shapeless heaps of old bricks, decayed timber, and rotten thatch. The first cottages I approached formed a block of three, and if there can be a difference where all are so bad, they appeared to be a little better than the rest. The approach to these cottages was through filth of every conceivable, and even the most disgusting description. Lest our olfactory nerves should not make the discovery, a rustic, touching his cap, said, "Mind where you put your foot, Sir". The roofs of the outbuildings had fallen in years ago, and the walls were in a dangerous condition. Water closet there was none, and what had once formed an apology for one had long been in ruin. A man whom I accosted informed us that these cottages belonged to the "great man", and that he, the tenant, would willingly give the labour if the landlord would supply the materials necessary for the most urgent repairs. Passing onto another block, I find the same, or even worse, state of things existing. Piled up at the end was a great heap of ashes and refuse, the accumulation of years, and similar heaps existed here and there along the public roadway. Such was the dangerous state of these cottages that it was a marvel any tenants could be found to risk their lives in them, and yet they were tenanted. An old woman in one of them said they were also the property of the "great man" who would not spend a penny on them. They had not been so bad when her old man could work, but he had grown old, and so the shed had tumbled down, and the pigsty, and the washhouse, and the cottage looked as if it would speedily follow. The roof was so bad that in heavy rains, the water poured on to the bed in streams, but they managed to keep their heads dry by a tea tray suspended from the rafters. She thought the house would last her time – it would not be long. She was seventy-eight and her old man a little older – eighty-three. She had reared a large family in the house and did like to leave the old spot, but it was very hard to end their days in that fashion ; yet the owner would not help them, and they could not help themselves, and so they were like to bide a little longer until the end should come.

I made enquiry in the neighbourhood and found that these were only specimens of many more, and our hearts sickened at the thought. We have often been told, in that hackneyed phrase, that the property has its duties as well as its rights ; but where is the power to enforce the duties while the rights are exacted? It is the boast of conservatives that the present Government has improved the sanitary legislation of the country ; and, lo ! these evils still remain. It is true that in one of the sanitary districts here, where there is an active inspector, some good work has been done – cottages have been demolished, cesspools which overflowed into the wells have been removed, and drainage works are being done. But in the other district, the weak point of the Public Health Act of 1875 has been revealed. True, there is an inspector, but he is appointed by the Board of Guardians, and has to be elected annually. To them he has to report, and they determine what summonses shall be issued, and what works shall be done. But alas ! the Chairman of that Board is the land agent of the identical "great man" who owns the property where these nuisances exist. It does not require the wisdom of Solomen to foresee what in nine cases out of ten the result of such an arrangement would be.

Musing on these things I pursued my way, and presently came to the domain of another great man, where large sums of money have just been lavishly expended on stabling for his sud and kennels for his hounds. In these erections the most sanitary arrangements have been



adopted, and no expenses has been spared to make them light, airy, and healthy. As I looked on that picture and on this, I said alas ! alas ! not that horseflesh and dogflesh should be so well and carefully tended, so comfortably housed and fed : but that our fellow-men – the bone and sinew of England – should be left to suffer and die in hovels and sheds regarded as utterly unfit to shelter the animal creation.

**Leicester Chronicle – April 27<sup>th</sup> 1878**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**A Felo De Se.** - An inquest was held by Henry Deane, Esq., coroner, at the Railway Tavern Worthington, on Tuesday, as to the death of Joseph Read, aged 53, postman, Gilmore (*Gelsmoor*), Worthington. – Annie Read, daughter of the deceased, said on Thursday last she noticed that her father appeared rather strange. He had delivered his letters in the morning, and when he came in he lay down on the sofa, and took no notice of what was said. She accordingly sent for Doctor Joyce. – Catherine Watson said she had noticed that the deceased appeared to be down – spirited lately. On Thursday morning he delivered a letter to her, and he could then hardly walk or speak, and presently she saw him go into a field, and lean over a gate as though he were sick. She was present when he died on Saturday. He said he was much put about concerning something which had occurred. – Edward Read, one of the deceased's brothers, said that last Thursday he was sent for to his brother's house. His brother told him that he had taken a little laudanum – about a small bottle full. The bottle was produced. On Friday morning deceased said, "I have done very wrong, but I think I have made it alright again as regards the parish", and again, "I believe they have all forgiven me, except the Railway Company". Deceased was collector of rates, and the Railway Company were rate payers. – William Joyce, surgeon, Ashby, said that he was called to the deceased's house between twelve and one o'clock. He found him lying on the sofa, and said to him, "What's this Read?". He replied, "Well I did not send for you". For some time deceased appeared reluctant to answer questions, but at last he said, "I may as well tell you about it, I've taken some laudanum", and, in answer to a question as to the quantity, "I don't know, I drank it out of a bottle. I can suffer nothing in the next world worse than I am suffering in this". Witness asked why he said this. Deceased replied "Why the fact is I've got wrong with the rates. The parish made an 8d. rate and I collected a good one. I think I've made it right with the rest of them, but not with the Midland Railway Company". Witness said, "Have you tried them?". He replied "No, for they would have given me into custody at once, and I should have had to go to prison. I've neither eaten nor slept since I got it wrong". Witness endeavoured to get him to take an emetic, but he would not be persuaded, and said "I'll take my chance". He was then perfectly rational, and showed no symptoms of opium poisoning. The pupils were contracted, but there was no indication that he had taken a dangerous dose. He must have taken the poison two hours before witness saw him, and he would have expected to find stronger indications if a large dose had been taken. Witness endeavoured in every way to get him to take an emetic, but without effect. Next morning he received information that the deceased had been sick, and concluded that the effect had passed off, but about six o'clock he received an urgent message that the deceased was worse. He then found him in a state of collapse, and he administered brandy and stimulants. The deceased was incessantly sick. A very large dose of laudanum frequently acts as an emetic, and the state in which he found the man that evening rather pointed to the probability that he had taken a very large dose at a later, but this was merely a surmise. He could not connect the death of the deceased clearly with the dose of opium which he took on Thursday morning, for he would have expected different symptoms, and that the poison would have acted more rapidly. He could find no record of any case extending over 40 hours. The bottle produced was an ounce bottle, and would if full, contain a poisonous dose. – The coroner, in summing up to the jury, told them there were two things upon which to decide – what was the cause of the deceased's death, and if from poison, did he take it whilst in a sound state of mind? They had the evidence of witnesses to show that the deceased, before taking the poison, was going about his ordinary avocation. The medical evidence left it with them to decide whether he died from exhaustion following the effects of taking the small bottleful of laudanum, or whether afterwards he took another dose. The doctor certainly stated that he did not think the deceased could have died from the effects of what he took on Thursday. They had then the long, perfectly rational, detailed conversation with the doctor upon which to decide as to his state of mind. It was a very painful thing to find that a man had taken away his life deliberately. For his own part he thought that every man who took away his own life must be *ipso facto*, at least, temporarily

insane, but that had nothing to do with them. If they came to the conclusion that the deceased was quite sane, and that he died from the effects of poison administered by himself, they would have to show it by their verdict. – After an anxious and careful consideration, the jury found themselves compelled to return a verdict of *felo de se*, and an order was made for a private burial between nine and twelve o'clock that night.

**Laudanum is a tincture of opium containing approximately 10% powdered opium by weight. Reddish-brown and extremely bitter, laudanum contains almost all of the opium alkaloids, including morphine and codeine. Laudanum was historically used to treat a variety of conditions, but its principal use was as a pain medication and cough suppressant. Until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, laudanum was sold without a prescription and was a constituent of many patent medicines. Today, laudanum is recognized as addictive and is strictly regulated and controlled as such throughout most of the world.**

**Felo de se, Latin for “felon of him – or herself”, was a concept applied against the personal estates (assets) of adults who ended their own lives. Early English common law, among others, by this concept considered suicide a crime—a person found guilty of it, though dead, would ordinarily see penalties including forfeiture of property to the monarch and a shameful burial.**

#### **The Leicester Chronicle and Leicestershire Mercury – May 18<sup>th</sup> 1878**

##### **WORTHINGTON**

The anniversary sermons in connection with the Wesleyan Sunday School, were preached on Sunday, by Mr. J. Hunt, London, formerly of the Ashby circuit. The chapel was crowded, and many were unable to obtain admission. The children sang pieces suitable to the occasion. The collection amounted to £6 6s.

#### **Leicester Journal – February 21<sup>st</sup> 1879**

##### **ASHBY – MEETING OF BOARD OF GUARDIANS**

**From a medical report of Dr. Joyce, Medical Officer of Health in company with Inspector, Mr. Heward.....**but at Smisby the water supply was objectionable, the spring from which it was obtained being frequented by cattle, and the surroundings were of a filthy character. This has since been remedied, as Sir John Crewe has enclosed a suitable reservoir for the use of the inhabitants. A few cases of enteric or typhoid fever occurred at Worthington, in September. A person recovering from this disease came from Warrington ; two children living in the same house soon fell ill, and the fever spread to some adjoining cottages. Care was taken as to disinfection and removal of excrementitious matters, and I have not heard of any new cases in the neighbourhood for the last three months. During the year 231 notices have been issued in the district for the removal of nuisances, such as offensive accumulations of manure, &c., 211 of which have been complied with ; twenty new privies have been built where previously there was not sufficient privy accommodation, or where the old ones were situated in too close proximity to the dwelling houses, and in a few instances the cesspools have been done away with, and the privies converted into dry earth closets. Fifteen piggeries have been closed where they were situated so that swine became a nuisance. Five cases of overcrowding have come under my notice during the year, but these have now been remedied. Proceedings were taken in April last against James Moore for having exposed for sale the carcass of a cow which had died from a wasting disease. This was a flagrant case, and a conviction was obtained. A considerable sum has been spent during the year at Hugglescote, Swannington and Worthington The water supply is still deficient in some portions of the district, especially at Woodville and Oakthorpe.

## **Leicester Chronicle – May 31<sup>st</sup> 1879**

### **WORTHINGTON**

**SUICIDE.** – On Tuesday, an inquest was held at the Railway Tavern, Worthington, on the body of Benjamin Whyman, aged 53, who was found hanging by a skein of cotton on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. – Hannah Whyman said deceased, her brother, was a framework knitter, and had been staying with her for about four months. He had been ill some time, his lungs being affected. On Sunday, witness went to chapel, leaving deceased alone. She came back after chapel, went upstairs, and found him hanging by a skein of cotton fastened to a nail on the wall. He was dressed the same as when she had left him. He had been in a low way for some years, and was melancholy and irritable. He had refused medicine, thinking it was poison; had had an idea the people hissed at him when he went out, and had been heard to say it was time he was out of the way. – Aaron Whyman, nephew of the deceased, said he saw him hanging by a skein of cotton used for seaming, which was tied to a nail in the wall. – George Marriott said he cut deceased down, and he fell on to the bed close by. The skein was white, and was wrapped around his neck, and the end attached to a nail in the wall. – P.C. Hancock produced the skein. – **The jury found a verdict that the deceased committed suicide whilst temporarily insane.**

## **Leicester Chronicle – August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1879**

### **COUNTY COURT**

#### **Before Mr. Barrow, Judge**

John Green Evatt and another v William Hoult.

Mr. Jesson for plaintiff, and Mr. Wilson for defendant. –

Action to recover £5 advanced by Plaintiff's to defendant on the faith of a contract entered late by him with them to supply bricks to order at Worthington, and which were never supplied. – Plaintiff produced a receipt signed by the defendant for £5 on account of "bricks delivered at Worthington Station", thus omitting the words "to be", but evidence being given that this was a mere clerical error, **judgment was given for the plaintiffs for the amount claimed with costs.**

## **Leicester Journal – July 30<sup>th</sup> 1880**

Baxter and Wife v Dr. Hamilton. – An action to recover £50 as compensation for injuries sustained by the female plaintiff in a collision between the plaintiff's and defendant's traps. – The case was watched with considerable interest. – Mr. Deane (Loughborough) for plaintiffs, and Mr. Fowler (Leicester) for defendant. – The facts of the case were briefly these : On the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, plaintiff, **a Smith and Farrier, at Worthington**, in company with his wife, was returning home from Gresley with a pony and gig, and jogging along at a slow pace. Dr. Hamilton of Swadlincote, in company with a friend, came up behind his horse and trap at a sharp trot, and, before plaintiff could get out of the way, a collision occurred, in which the female plaintiff had her collar bone broken, and was otherwise injured. Dr. Hamilton told the plaintiffs at the time that he was a surgeon, and offered his assistance, but this was refused. The female plaintiff was confined to the house for seven weeks, during which she was attended by Dr. Hatchett, of Ravenstone. – For the defence, Mr. Fowler contended that the blame did not rest with his client, and that the plaintiff did not allow Dr. Hamilton sufficient room to pass, and, besides this, there was near to the scene of the collision an engine belonging to Messrs. Knowles and Co, which was working at the time, and the horse of Dr. Hamilton became frightened at its noise. – William Baxter stated that on April 19<sup>th</sup>, at 11.30 a.m., he was driving his pony and gig at a very slow pace between Woodville and Gresley. The road was about eight yards wide, and he was driving so that there was ample room for anything to pass on either side of his trap. Dr. Hamilton came behind at a sharp rate, and he (plaintiff) moved a little to his proper side to allow him to pass, but the wheel struck and caused the accident. – The female plaintiff gave similar evidence, only in such an amusing style to cause great laughter. As soon as she had recovered she went to Dr. Hamilton, and asked for some compensation, and the doctor said he should not give her a farthing. – Dr. Hatchett, of Ravenstone, stated the nature of the injuries, and said he had attended plaintiff from the 20<sup>th</sup> of April to the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. – A lad named Geo. Leach was also called in support of the case, but his evidence was of little importance. – his was plaintiff's case. – Dr. Hamilton said there was not sufficient room for him to pass, and the accident would not have occurred had it not been for the noise caused by the engine at work on the private railway of Messrs.

Knowles and Company. He very much regretted the accident. – Percy William Smith, a medical student, St. John's Wood, London, who was in company with Dr. Hamilton, gave similar evidence. – John Cutler, a clerk, and Arthur Wood, a pointsman at Messrs. Knowles and Co.'s., were called for the defence. – **His honour gave a verdict for the defendant.**

**Leicester Chronicle – August 28<sup>th</sup> 1880**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**  
**Before Major Mowbray (chairman), and H.E. Smith, Esq.**

**EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE AGAINST A FARMER AND OTHERS**

**RESCUING A STACK FROM BAILIFFS**

Sidney Heywood, farmer Griffydam; Oliver, his brother, Griffydam; William Hodges, labourer Griffydam; Arthur Draper, labourer, Griffydam; John Curtis, labourer and Thomas Haynes, Clerk, Ashby de la Zouch, were severally charged with unlawfully removing a stack of hay, at Griffydam, on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., whilst the bailiffs of the County Court were in possession of the same. Each of the defendants pleaded not guilty to the charge. The court was densely crowded, and the case was evidently watched with much interest. Mr. Musson, Deputy Registrar of the Ashby County Court, appeared to prosecute, and Mr. F. Stroud, of Nottingham, for defendants. Mr. Musson briefly stated the facts of the case, which are these – On the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., the bailiffs of the Ashby County Court were sent to Griffydam, in pursuance of a judgment of the County Court, to take possession of a stack of hay belonging to Joseph Lager. On the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., the defendant Sidney Heywood went and said the hay belonged to him, and he should take it away. Notwithstanding the caution given him by the bailiff then in possession, the defendant Sidney Heywood, assisted by the other defendants, did remove the hay. In closing his remarks, Mr. Musson said it was a serious case, and he asked for heavy penalties in the cases of Sidney and Oliver Heywood, as he (Mr. Musson) believed that they were the ring leaders of the party. – Nathaniel Timms deposed, I am a bailiff of the Ashby County Court. I had a warrant of execution put into my hands against Joseph Lager of Griffydam. The warrant was dated August 9<sup>th</sup>, and the amount was £17 12s. I and Thompson, the other bailiff, executed the warrant on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. I remained there until August 13<sup>th</sup>. A regular distress notice was pinned on to the stack. Mrs. Heywood (Lager's daughter) refused to take it at the door. On Thursday, the defendant, Sidney Heywood, came into Chamber's public house, where I was staying, and said to me, "Nat, you're here, are you ; and have come to seize that hay, which is my property, and stands on my premises, and I shall take it away". I said "I hope you will not, for we have legally seized it, and if you do I think you will get into trouble ; if it belongs to you, there is a course of law for you to pursue. We have legally seized it and mean to keep it". He replied "I shall not interplead". Between five and six o'clock on the same evening, I saw Sidney Heywood and a man in the yard. Hurst did not stay. The other defendants came shortly after with a wagon ; Hodges mounted the stack, and began to throw the hay into the wagon. I requested them to leave the stack alone, and cautioned them. I can swear that the whole of the defendants assisted in removing the hay, and they entirely removed it away. They were at it during the night. I was watching them through a bedroom window in Chamber's public house. On the following Saturday, I and Thompson and P.C. Hancock saw the defendant Draper, and he admitted being there. – By Mr. Stroud : I got to the stack about three o'clock in the afternoon, and went into Chamber's public house ; I afterwards went to Sidney Heywood's, and saw Mrs. Heywood. I saw Thompson pin the paper on the stack while Mrs. Heywood was there. I swear I saw the paper on the stack. – In reply to Mr. Stroud, witness said he was not there whilst the hay was being removed. – John Chambers, landlord of the "Traveller's Rest", Griffydam, said he had lately taken to the house recently occupied by Joseph Lager. He remembered the bailiffs Thomson and Timms coming to his house on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. They asked him if Lager was there? He relied "No". They asked him where he lived, and he said next door. He then saw them talking to Mrs. Heywood. Timms remained at his house, and witness found food for him. He saw a party of men removing the hay, but did not see Draper there. Mrs. Heywood offered to sell witness the hay on Thursday morning. It was standing on the same land as that Lager occupied before him. – By. Mr. Stroud : When he took the public house, Sidney Heywood came and asked him to allow the stack to remain, saying it was his. He consented and intended to buy it. He did not

see Sidney Heywood take any part in removing the hay. He was there ; but he did not see him touch it. – William Platts, jun., a pork butcher, residing at Griffydham, spoke as to seeing the defendants Sidney Heywood and Arthur Draper with a load of hay on the day in question. – By Mr. Stroud : His father owned some land at Griffydham. Sidney Heywood rented a field of his father. Witness saw the grass cut, and it was stacked close to Sidney Heywood's house. It was the stack in question. – John King, Clerk at the County Court Office, said, on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> inst., he went to Griffydham to see the bailiff in possession. He saw Sidney Heywood, and, calling him on one side, asked him how it was he had removed the stack of hay? He replied "it was mine". Witness said "if it was yours, why did you not interplead ; you knew how to proceed"? He replied, yes I knew how to proceed ; but have been robbed enough, lately". Witness said "You'll get into bother". He replied "I don't care ; the hay was mine, and I meant having it". – John Bailey, another bailiff of the Ashby County Court, said on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst, he saw Oliver Heywood at the "New Inn", Ashby. He said "We've beat the Bums". Witness got 3s. 6d. for his days work.- This being the case for the prosecution, Mr. Stroud briefly addressed the Bench on behalf of the defendants. He admitted that the hay and been removed ; but contended that it was not so serious offence as Mr. Musson had represented. The stack of hay, undoubtedly, was the property of Sidney Heywood, and he thought the defendant was under the impression that he had a right to remove it. He (Mr. Stroud) hoped the Bench would deal as lightly as possible with the defendants. – William Platts, sen., farmer, Griffydham, was called for the defence. He said that Sidney Heywood was a tenant of his, and had been for four or five years. The stack in question was Sidney Heywood's property. He (witness) had known the defendant (Sidney Heywood) as a respectable man. He always paid his rent. – Elizabeth Eaglefield, cowkeeper, Worthington, said that she bought the stack of hay in question from Sidney Heywood on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst., for £14. – This was the case. The Bench retired to consult, and on returning into court, the Chairman said the Bench had found all the defendants guilty of the charge and that they were liable to a heavy penalty, but they had decided to take a lenient view of the case. Sidney Heywood who appeared to be the chief offender, would have to pay a fine of £2 10s. and 11s. costs, or one month ; the other defendants would be fined 1s. each and 11s. costs or seven days. The defendants were some little time in deciding whether to pay or go below, but eventually the cash was paid.

#### **Leicester Journal – May 6<sup>th</sup> 1881**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

George Peters, of Worthington, Licensed Victualler ([of Waggon and Horses](#)), was charged by P. C. Hancock with being found drunk on the licensed premises of the Waggon and Horses Inn, at Worthington, on April 17<sup>th</sup>. – P.C. Hancock said on the evening in question he visited the Waggon and Horses Inn, and found defendant with his coat off and wanting to fight. He was drunk and very excited. – Mr. Lawrence, who appeared for the defendant, put him in the witness box. Defendant admitted that he had his coat off, and was very excited, but denied being drunk, for he had not been in the house very long. He had been asked to stand treat to some of his customers, and he went in for that purpose, but he had no sooner got in than a man wanted to fight him, and he pulled his coat off. – Several witnesses gave corroborative evidence. **Case dismissed.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – November 5<sup>th</sup> 1881**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS FOWL STEALING AT WORTHINGTON**

Joseph Parker, labourer, Worthington, was charged on remand with stealing a live tame fowl, the property of Herbert Hall, collier, Worthington, on the 15<sup>th</sup> October. – Prosecutor's wife said she was at home about 5.30 p.m., and heard a noise in the fowl-place. She went out to see what it was, and a man rushed out, carrying one of the fowls with him. Witness told him to leave the fowls, but he ran away with one. Her husband caught hold of him. They had a struggle and fell into a ditch. Hall handed the fowl to witness. It was her husband's property, and was worth 2s. 6d. – P.C. Chapman deposed to take prisoner into custody, when he said "I did take the fowl, but I did not mean to eat it. I wanted to sell it to get something to eat". – Prisoner now said he was badly off, and had nothing to eat. – **Prisoner, who bears a bad character, was sent to prison for two months hard labour.**

**Leicester journal – January 13<sup>th</sup> 1832**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

John Springthorpe and Thomas Stewart of Worthington, were charged by Caprain Freeman, school attendance officer for the Ashby Union, with neglecting to send their children to school, contrary to the by-laws. – **Fined 5s. each, including costs, or seven days.**

**Leicester Chronicle – January 28<sup>th</sup> 1882**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**STEALING A RABBIT TRAP.** – **George Eaglefield, labourer, Breedon-On-The-Hill**, was charged with stealing, on the 11<sup>th</sup> December last, a steel trap, value 2s. 6d., the property of Nathaniel Charles Curzon, Esq. – P.C. Hollioake, from information he received, went to defendant's mother's house, and searched in the orchard, and there found the trap produced marked with initials "N.C.C." – Two days after witness saw prisoner, and charged him with stealing the trap. He at once admitted his guilt, and said he took it from Mr. Garrat's hovel. – Thomas Garrat, farmer, Worthington, identified the trap as Mr. Curzon's property, and said it was taken from his (witness's) hovel. The hovel was locked, but the trap had been taken through a hole for drainage purposes. – **Prisoner, who pleaded guilty, had nothing to say in defence, and was fined 10s 6d. and 29s 2d. costs. The money was paid.**

**Leicester Chronicle – July 15<sup>th</sup> 1882**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSION**

**HIGHWAY OFFENCE.** – **Sidney Haywood, agent, Griffydam**, was charged by P.C. Holyoak with leaving a horse and trap uncared for an unusual length of time on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult., at Worthington. – Defendant denied the charge, and called a witness, who swore that defendant was only a few minutes in the house. – **Fined 2s. and 6s. 6d. costs.**

**JOSIAH WESTON AGAIN.** – **Josiah Weston, Higglor, Worthington** was once more charged with allowing a horse to stray on the Highway at Worthington. – Defendant did not appear. – **P.C. Holyoak proved the case. Fined 2s. 6d. and 6s. 6d. costs.**

**Leicester Chronicle – July 15<sup>th</sup> 1882**

**LEICESTERSHIRE SUMMER ASSIZES  
LARCENY OF POULTRY**

**WILLIAM JOHNSON (35), labourer, and GEORGE DALLMAN (26), labourer**, were charged with stealing four geese, three turkeys, and one drake, value £3 10s., the property of Thomas Edward Cooper, at Worthington on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. – Both prisoners pleaded guilty, and Dallman admitted a previous conviction. – **Dallman was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment with hard labour, and Johnson to four months imprisonment with hard labour.**

**Leicester Journal – August 25<sup>th</sup> 1882**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Jane Collins (wife of Chrls Collins), of Worthington, was charged with having, on the 6<sup>th</sup> July last, stolen one Benzoline lamp, the property of John Chambers. – From the evidence it appeared that Mr. Chambers keeps a beer house, at Worthington, and on this day the defendant and another woman went into the house and had 2 pints of ale ; that just before they went in the lamp was placed on the chimney piece, but soon after they had left the house it was missed, and on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August P.C. Holyoake went to Collin's house and saw the lamp and took it to Mrs. Chambers. Defendant followed him and said to Mrs. Chambers "you won't prosecute me I hope, for I have a lot of children, and so have you. I meant to have brought it back". **Fined 31s. including costs.**

**Leicester Chronicle – September 9<sup>th</sup> 1882**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**John Thomas Jessop, 13**, was charged with stealing a pocket knife, value 6d., the property of Joseph Smith, at Worthington, on the 14<sup>th</sup> August. – Several witnesses were examined in support of the charge, which the Bench thought had been proved. They did not wish,

however, to send the boy to prison, and he was therefore ordered to receive six strokes with the birch rod.

**Leicester Chronicle – September 30<sup>th</sup> 1882**

**LOUGHBOROUGH POLICE COURT**

**A WELL-TO-DO-BEGGAR.** – John Burton of Worthington was charged with begging at Sheepshed on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. – P.C. Keatin proved the case, and said that on searching the defendant he found 15s. 6 1/2d. in his possession. – Fined 15s., including costs, or fourteen days.

**Leicester Journal – April 6<sup>th</sup> 1883**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – J. S. Knight and John Nichlinson**

**Worthington Constables – Jonas Knight, jun., John Bird and Joseph Fletcher**

**Leicester Journal – April 4<sup>th</sup> 1884**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – C. T. Church and John Sharpe**

**Worthington Constables – George Barker, Jonas Knight (Griffydam) and Joseph Fletcher (Newbold)**

**Leicester Journal – July 4<sup>th</sup> 1884**

**WORTHINGTON, LEICESTERSHIRE**

A very valuable FREEHOLD FARM, forming one of the most desirable occupations of such a size in the Midlands, situate in the Township of Worthington, in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill, adjoining Worthington Station, from whence Derby is thirty minutes, and Ashby-de-la-Zouch fifteen minutes distant by Rail. It comprises a total area of:-

91a. 3r. 7p

More than half of which is Old Pasture, principally of very good quality, and well watered by a Trout Stream which runs through the entire length of the estate, the Arable portion being Turnip and Barley land.

The Farm House is a substantial structure, a few minutes walk from the Village and Church, with Garen, Orchard, and suitable Premises, the whole being in the occupation of Mr. J. V. Blunt, as a yearly tenant.

**Leicester Chronicle – April 4<sup>th</sup> 1885**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSION**

**John Cooper, sawyer, Linton,** was charged with using obscene language at the Worthington Railway Station, on the 28<sup>th</sup> February last. – Mr. C. H. Pike appeared on behalf of the company, - Defendant admitted the charge. – John Edwards, station master at Worthington, stated that when defendant was asked for his ticket he said he had neither ticket nor money, and on being told he must either find his ticket or pay the fare, he became very abusive. – Defendant said that he had dropped off to sleep, and was not quite awake when asked for his ticket, which he had in his pocket, - **Fined 2s. 6d and 13s. 6d. costs.**

**Leicester Journal – May 28<sup>th</sup> 1886**

**SAD DEATH THROUGH DRINKING.** – On Monday Mr. Henry Deane, coroner for North Leicestershire, held an inquest at the Old Swan Inn, Worthington, relative to the death of a woman named Ann Dakin, aged 70 years. – Jane Cooper, wife of James Cooper, labourer, said that deceased had lived in a home by herself. Witness lived close to her, and had been waiting on her. She had been ill lately and was attended by Dr. Serres of Osgathorpe. On Friday evening about five minutes past six o'clock, witness went into the house, and found deceased lying with her face on the floor and her legs in bed. Witness put her in bed and sent for a Mrs. Shaw, who came shortly afterwards. Witness spoke to the deceased, but she made no responses. And she then sent for the police and a medical man. She had found the

deceased in that position on many occasions, and had got up in the night and found her so. The deceased was addicted to drinking, and was in drink on Friday. Witness was with her on Friday about half past five o'clock, and she was not sober then. A half-gallon bottle of whiskey stood on the floor against the washstand, which she could reach by leaning out of bed, and a glass and jug of water were on the wash-stand. Witness had helped deceased to undress at three o'clock, as she was then helpless from drink. – **The jury returned a verdict that the cause of death was apoplexy, arising from a fall out of bed whilst drunk.**

**Leicester Journal – March 25<sup>th</sup> 1887**

**WORTHINGTON**

**PRESENTATION.**- On Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., a presentation was made to the Rev. J. O. Brook, who has resigned the living at Worthington after being vicar there for nineteen years. The present consisted of a valuable silver inkstand, which the parishioners gave as a slight token of the esteem with which they regarded Mr. Brook. The reverend gentleman held his farewell services last Sunday. The holy communion was administered at the Parish Church, and the evening service was held (as it has been the customary practice) in the village schoolroom. Mr. Brook's health has been failing of late, and he leaves the Midlands for the South of England. During his nineteen years residence at Worthington, he has carried out many valuable improvements in the parish. The schools and school house, which are now most commodious buildings, and well adapted for their purpose, have been entirely re-built, and Mr. Brook has also built a new vicarage house. He is an eloquent preacher, and active and energetic in all parish matters ; and his people deplore his state of health which prevents him continuing in these duties. His successor is the Rev. A. R. Parsons, curate of All Saints', Loughborough, who, however, will not commence his labours at Worthington till the beginning of May. Till that time, the church services will be taken by the Rev. W. B. Beaumont, Coleorton, and the Rev. G. Crossley, Breedon-on-the-Hill, who have kindly offered to officiate – the former at the schoolroom, Worthington, for the Sunday evening service ; and the latter at the Parish Church, Worthington, each Sunday morning.

**Leicester Journal – April 1<sup>st</sup> 1887**

**ASHBY UNION – Board of Guardians**

**SPECIAL SESSION**

**Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – T. Wilson, J. Allen**

**Worthington Constables – A. Adcock, A. Haywood, G. Crabtree**

**Leicester Journal – June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1887**

**WORTHINGTON**

**PAROCHIAL TEA AND CONCERT.** – The Rev. R. A. Parsons held his first service in the parish church, Worthington, on Sunday last week, and a public tea was given on Wednesday, followed by a concert. These took place in the village schoolroom. Of the Sunday services it may be sufficient to state that they were largely attended, by many of the Rev. Gentleman's late parishioners at Loughborough, driving over to the morning one. The lessons were read by Mr. T. M. Heward (Worthington) and Mr. Capp (Loughborough). The new vicar held a shortened service at the schoolroom on Sunday afternoon. The public tea on Wednesday was well attended, about 140 assembling for that purpose. Mrs. Parsons presided at one of the tables. The concert began at half-past seven, by which time the schoolroom (**Newbold**) was packed to overflowing. A capital programme was gone through, and the audience evinced every satisfaction with its contents. Previous to the performance of the last item in the first part, the new Vicar gave a brief address to the audience. He said that when the living was offered the first time to him, he had grave doubts about accepting it ; but on the offer being repeated, and after having taken counsel with the Bishop he had accepted it. The change from town to country life would be great, and he trusted his parishioners would be as lenient as possible to him ; but, at the same time, speak as plainly to him as he intended to speak to them. He announced his intention to holding Divine service at the parish church in the afternoon and evening, alternate with service in the schoolroom. He was pleased to see so many attend the tea and concert, and thought it would be an excellent plan if they could have one every month. He himself felt more inclined to sing a song than make a speech (laughter).



He hoped that next winter they would have a series of concerts. There was one thing he would like to see done – that was to have a commemoration of the Queen’s Jubilee in Worthington. Though that day would soon be upon them, he thought it was not too late to commence taking some steps to celebrate it ; and he hoped shortly to call a meeting to consider the matter (cheers). The concert was then proceeded with. Encores were numerous all through the evening, and none of the performers could complain of any lack of appreciation. The instrumental selections played by Mrs. R. J. Knight, W. Ball, and W. Briggs, were effectively rendered and loudly applauded. The duets by the Misses L. A. Knight and E. R. Walker, the Misses Calvert, and Messrs W. C. Farmer and W. Briggs gave great satisfaction ; and the same may be said by the sons of soloists. The Ashby Glee Party were enthusiastically received, and their humerous glees afforded much amusement. Indeed, the whole of the programme was carried out to the delight of the whole audience. A vote of thanks was proposed by the Rev. R. A. Parsons, to the organizers and performers of the concert, and was carried with acclamation. The National Anthem brought the concert to a termination. The following was the programme:-

Part 1. – Instrumental selection from “Figaro”, Messrs. R. J. Knight, W. Ball, and W. Briggs ; Glee Party “The Village Bells” (Randegger) ; Song, “Laddie”, Miss Varnam (encored) ; Duet, “Flow Gently Deva”, Mrssrs, W, C. Farmer and W. Briggs ; Song, “Measure your wants by your means”, Mr. A. Stimson ; Song Miss M. S. J. Calvert ; Song “Never give up”, Mr. Briigs ; Song, Miss L. A. Knight (encored) ; Glee party, “A Franklyn’s Dogge” (Mackenzie).

Part 2. – Instrumental selection from “Norma”, Messrs. R. J. Knight, W. Ball, and W. Briggs ; Glee party, “The Pearl Divers” (Hatton) ; Song, “The Pilgrim of Love”, Mr. W. C. Farmer (encored) ; Duet, “Sweet Convent Bells”, the Misses L. A Knight and E. R. Walker ; Song, “The Owl”, Mr. Briggs (encored) ; Duet, “Wanderings in the May Time”, the Misses Calvert ; Glee party, “The Pigs” (A. Lee) (encored) ; “God save the Queen”.

#### **Leicester Journal – December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1887**

##### **WORTHINGTON**

##### **CHURCH OF ENGLAND, TEMPERANCE SOCIETY**

A meeting was held in the Schoolroom (**Newbold**) on Monday evening, for the purpose of establishing a branch of the above society in the parish of Worthington. The Vicar (Rev. R. A. parsons) presided. There was a good attendance. After a hymn had been sung and prayer offered THE CHAIRMAN remarked that he was glad to see such a gathering of ladies and gentlemen who had come to the meeting that even. He had been at many temperance meetings in large towns where there had been a smaller attendance.....

#### **Leicester Journal – December 9<sup>th</sup> 1887**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**A BRUTAL HUSBAND.** – James Eaglefield, a higgler, Worthington, was charged with assaulting his wife, Mary, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November. – The prosecutrix, who appeared with her face much bruised and discoloured, said that while she was milking her cows in the shed on the day mentioned, her husband came up and pulled the stool from under her, and knocked her out of the shed. He hit her on the head with the stool, and threatened to knock her brains out. She had previously suffered from his violence, as he regularly beat and kicked her. The prosecutrix, who appeared to be a very respectable woman, went on to tell the Bench that he husband was constantly drinking, and that she had kept him for the last seven years without his earning a penny. All the cows were her own. She implored the protection of the Bench against her husband, who was continually beating her. – P.C. Prue said he had often heard at night defendant threatening his wife, and the latter had frequently complained to him, though he had not seen any actual violence. – **The Bench convicted defendant, and sent him to prison for six weeks hard labour.**

#### **Leicester Journal – February 10<sup>th</sup> 1888**

##### **WORTHINGTON**

**PAROCHIAL WORK.** – Encouraging signs of increased activity are apparent in the parish work of Worthington, owing mainly to the personal exertions and influence of the vicar, the Rev. R. A. Parsons. On Thursday evening last week the new Reading Rooms at Griffydham, which most decidedly will meet a long-felt want, were opened by the vicar. There was a large attendance. After a hymn and prayer, the vicar delivered a short address based on the words,

"Whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God". In the course of his remarks, the Rev, speaker dwelt on the fact that man was a complex being, consisting of soul, mind and body, each of which require nourishment and development. Mr. parsons advised every man to read the Bible and a fair newspaper. He afterwards declared the Reading-room open, and thirteen residents at Griffydham were appointed a committee of management. The Vicar acknowledged the receipt of a number of papers, magazines, &c.

On Saturday evening the first of a series of smoking concerts was given in the Reading-room at Newbold, which was well filled. A number of those present contributed songs, recitations, &c. Coffee and tobacco were provided, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent. During the proceedings the Vicar and Mr. J. Cartwright, of Loughborough, paid a visit to the room and gave short addresses. A parish magazine has been started and more than a hundred of the parishioners have given in their names as subscribers.

#### **Leicester Journal – February 24<sup>th</sup> 1888**

##### **Worthington Parish**

**BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.** – On Friday last, a meeting was held at Worthington, in the Newbold Schoolrooms, to hear an address from the Rev. R.Black, M.A., who attended as a deputation from the society. The Vicar (Rev. R. A. Parsons) presided. There was a good attendance. – Mr. Black delivered an interesting address, which was attentively listened to. The Rev. gentleman confined his remarks to the work of the society during the Queen's reign. – A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. J. Nicklinson, and seconded by Mr. Jonas Knight, was awarded the lecturer.

#### **Leicester Journal – January 4<sup>th</sup> 1889**

##### **WORTHINGTON**

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES:-** On Christmas Day the church was very prettily decorated. The lattice screen separating the chancel from the body of the church was covered with box and holly, and above it the text, "Glory to God in the Highest, peace on earth, good will to men". The pulpit before the word "Rejoice", worked in evergreen upon white ground. At the east end was a reredos of white wool, paneled with holly and ornamented with the text in white on a red ground, "The Word was made Flesh". On the super-altar, which was covered in white wool, stood a cross of holly and berries, with two vases. The font was wreathed with holly and white chrysanthemums, and various devices in evergreens adorned the walls of the church. The morning service was well attended, and was followed by a celebration of the Holy Communion. In the evening a service was held in the school (Newbold), which now contains a pulpit, reading desk and lectern. These were very tastefully decorated (principally in white wool and holly), the pulpit now bearing the text, "Emmanuel", in red letters. Another text spanned the end of the room, "Jesus the Son of the Highest". The lamp standards and walls had not been forgotten, and the school presented a very pretty appearance. The Vicar officiated at the services, preaching in the morning upon the text, "Let us go now even into Bethlehem", and in the evening upon the word "Emmanuel".

#### **Leicester Journal – March 8<sup>th</sup> 1889**

##### **WORTHINGTON**

**CRICKET CLUB CONCERT.** - A most successful concert took place in the School, Newbold on Thursday evening, the different items of the programme being much appreciated by the crowded audience. A pianoforte solo was played by Miss Cuthbert of Coleorton, and duets by Miss Cuthbert and Mr. Cuthbert. Songs were sung by Miss Garratt (Melbourne) and by the Misses Cutler and Godby and Messrs. Brown and Peplow, of Coalville.. Mr. S Brown ably officiated as accompanist. Violin solos were freely executed by Mr. Williscroft, of Ashby, and a quartette party, consisting of Mrs. Palmer, Miss Cutler, and Messrs. Nunley and Peplow, contributed to the evenings enjoyment. An attractive feature of the concert was the appearance, for the first time in Worthington, of Messrs. Price and Bellward, the well known character vocalists, whose performances "brought down the house". At the close of the concert a vote of thanks was proposed by the Vicar (the Rev. R. A. Parsons) to Mr. Nunley and the members of the Coalville Choral Union, and to the other performers. This was very heartily accorded, and the audience joined in singing "God save the Queen".

**Leicester Journal – April 5<sup>th</sup> 1889**

**ASHBY UNION – Board of Guardians  
SPECIAL SESSION  
Elections of Parish Overseers and Constables**

**Worthington Overseers – Joseph Atkin, Joseph Knight**

**Worthington Constables – George Barker and (for Newbold) George Crabtree, jun :  
Griffydam, Herbert Rowell.**

**Leicester Journal – July 5<sup>th</sup> 1889**

**WORTHINGTON CHURCH BAZAAR**

A bazaar in aid of the restoration of Worthington Church, and the provision of additional church accommodation in the outlying parts of the parish, was opened in the schoolroom at Newbold, on Tuesday afternoon, by the Countess Ferrers. The necessity for some considerable improvement of the ancient and dilapidated edifice which serves the purposes of church worship for the parishioners of Worthington, has long been keenly felt by all who frequent the church. Nor can the greater stranger who takes a cursory glance at the queer building depart without a strong conviction that even on the grounds of personal safety alone, it is high time something was done to restore the fast decaying and bulging walls of the old church. Notwithstanding the present unsightly appearance of the church, its great antiquity, which is apparent both externally and internally, has endeared it to the hearts of the villagers, and they have eagerly responded to the proposals initiated by the vicar (the Rev. R. A. Parsons) for arresting the process of decay and rendering the structure more comfortable and more attractive than it is at present. It is proposed in the course of restoration to p[reserve all the evidences of antiquity so strongly characteristic of the building, and only to modernize the interior, which looks clumsy and rude in the extreme. The church does not boast of any architectural beauty, and is devoid of any embellishment whatsoever. Built in the early English style, and resting on the crest of a hill at some distance from the village, it readily attracts the attention of the passers by from its commanding position. Unfortunately little is known of the history of the church. It is an oblong building, with a sloping roof, surmounted by a small belfry, and nothing to relieve the severity of the walls but the abutting antique porch and several small buttresses. The belfry is one of the distinguishing features, notwithstanding its insignificant proportions, as herein are contained bells that possibly rung in the infancy of the church. Only one is used, the other being cracked. Several inscriptions are carved in the metal, but they are at present undecipherable. The interior of the church is even more quaint than the exterior, and presents undoubted evidence of dilapidation. The walls incline out of the perpendicular in some places as much as two feet, and apparently, only their substantial nature prevents their total collapse. The windows are let into the wall in coarse open spaces, and the pews are rudely constructed oak benches, substantial but time worn. The yellow-washed walls and ceiling, the ill formed pews and nave, and the prevailing appearance of antiquity make the church very interesting to look at, and in the evening, when it is lighted by scattered oil lamps, the effect must be very singular. Recent investigations of the building disclosed the pleasing fact that the lower plastered ceiling hides a rich a richly carved oak roof, and hopes are entertained of its complete restoration. In undertaking the restoration of the church the Vicar has met with encouraging help not only from a strong committee of parishioners, but also from the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood. An architect has examined the building with a view to reporting upon the work required in the process of restoration and the probable cost, but the contents of his report have not at present been disclosed. A dilapidated church is by no means the only the only difficulty which has to be contended with in the spiritual oversight of this out-of-the-way parish, which extends over a circuit of seven miles or so, and embraces the hamlets of Newbold, Griffydam and Gelsmoor. At the former place there is a school, which is conveniently adapted for the purpose of worship ; but at Griffydam, there is no place where a service can be held conveniently, and a secondary object of the movement inaugurated with the bazaar on Tuesday, is to supply this need of a hamlet which comprises the most distant part of the struggling parish. A convenient *locale* for the bazaar was found in the commodious schools at Newbold.....the Rev. R. A. Parsons made a statement as to the objects of the bazaar. He said although the parish of Worthington was a secluded and distant one they did not feel altogether neglected, for in every work they had attempted they had always found a great many ready and willing helpers. It was one of the few parishes where they did not happen to be a resident land

owner, and yet they had nothing to complain of on that ground, because those who owned land in the parish were amongst their most ready and foremost supporters. The parish was split up into four parts, and that constituted one of the difficulties with which they had to contend, the four parts being widely separated. The church stood in the village of Worthington proper, and unfortunately it seemed to be in the spot where the smallest part of the parish lived. At Newbold the schoolroom, which was used as a mission room on Sundays, provided accommodation for the people living there, but at Griffydam (a mile and a half distant) there was no accommodation at all for public worship, and they very much hoped, when the church was restored, to erect a mission room in that part of the parish.....He believed that about fifty years ago an architect reported that "with or without extra pressure, the building might come down at any moment", and the statement had such effect on the parishioners that for a time the church was closed, but it was re-opened afterwards without any step having been taken to make it more secure. As to the proposed mission room for Griffydam, it was a matter of the very great necessity that accommodation should be found for the people in that struggling part of the parish. He therefore earnestly appealed to those present to help to provide a place suitable for them and to carry forward the work of the church.....**EARL FERRERS**, in the course of a brief address, said he thought the promoters must already feel encouraged by having a fine day and such a number of people present. He thought that looked well for the success of the bazaar and the cause of the Church. The Church at Worthington was very much older than many people were aware. Looking in a volume of Nichol's "Leicestershire" he found the following remark:- "The Church at Worthington possesses two bells, chalice and complete suit of vestments". The date of that was 1551. He could not find any date for the foundation of the Church, but the extract he had named made it nearly 300 years old. He thought nothing had been done in that time to restore the Church and they must now make up for the faults of their ancestors.....The proceeds of the first day amounted to £108, including £28 donations. The bazaar remained open on Wednesday.

**Leicester Journal – July 19<sup>th</sup> 1889**

**WORTHINGTON**

**THE CHURCH RESTORATION BAZAAR.** – The recent bazaar in aid of the restoration of the church proved very successful, the total receipts amounting to about £183. The expenses were heavy, but there will still be a substantial balance. Donations to the Bazaar Fund, in addition to those already acknowledged, were received from the following sympathizers, and many of whom were unable to be present at the bazaar:- The Rev W. B. Beaumont, £10 ; Mr. W. S. Fane, and Mr. F. W. Paget, £2 each ; The Rev. C. Crossley, £2 2s. ; Messrs. W. A. Musson, C. B. Lowe, W. U. Heygate, and the Rev. J. Clark, £1 1s. ; The Rev. C. T. Moore £1 ; and 10s. each from Mr. W. F. Beardsley, Mrs. Buckley, Miss Campbell, and Mr. John Fletcher. The cost of the restoration is estimated at £600. We should add that the stalls of the bazaar were most effectively draped by Mr. G. W. Howe, of Ashby, and that Mr. G. F. Boden, of the Queen's Head, Ashby, catered successfully for the refreshment department.

**Leicester Chronicle – February 15<sup>th</sup> 1890**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**ASSAULT.** – George Jessop, alias George Collins, waggoner, Wothington, was charged with assaulting Thos. Herbert Kerby, on the 25<sup>th</sup> January. – Defendant denied the charge. – Complainant stated that he and a man named Walker were having some words when defendant came up and threw a brick, which struck him in the eye. He became insensible, and was assisted into his house by his wife. He had had no quarrel with the defendant, and could give no reason why he had been assaulted by him. – Sarah Kerby, complainant's wife, corroborated. – Lewis Gidlow was also called by complainant, but this witness denied having seen the assault. – For the defence, Frank Bacon was called, and said he saw Kerby and Walker fighting. He did not see defendant throw a stone, which struck Kerby in the eye, but he did not see Kerby do much at Jessop. He struck at him with a brush, but he was then four yards off. – **Defendant was fined 10s. and 20s. costs, or seven days.. – The witness Gidlow was disallowed his costs, the Bench being of opinion that he had not given his evidence fairly.**

**Leicester Journal – July 10<sup>th</sup> 1891**

**RESTORATION OF ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH  
WORTHINGTON  
RE-OPENING SERVICE**

The antiquated and, in many respects, unique little Parish Church at Worthington has recently undergone a very necessary restoration, and if, owing to the lack of funds, the work has not been as complete as many could have desired, it has at least rendered the old edifice safe and convenient for purposes of public worship. The church, happily is singular in at least one respect, and that is that it has not an inch of ground beyond the external boundary of its walls.

On the west, north and east it abuts upon what are now the fields' gardens or gardens of adjoining owners, while the south side of the church is built alongside the town street. While the deplorable want of ground space materially cripples any possibility of adding to the attractiveness and utility of the sacred edifice, there is a much more serious aspect of the matter to which at present it forms an insuperable barrier. We refer to the immediate want of a burying ground for the hamlet of Worthington. The burials now take place either at the Griffydam Wesleyan Cemetery or at Breedon-on-the-Hill, both places being a considerable distance. That such an arrangement is highly unsatisfactory goes without saying, and it is much to be regretted that the attempts that have been made to acquire land adjoining the church for the purpose of a burying ground have resulted in disappointment.

It may also be remarked that during the recent restoration of the church doorway, hitherto concealed beneath the plaster, was discovered the north wall, the inference being that at one time there was a means of egress from the church in that direction either to a burying ground or to some path to which the public had access. The discovery of human remains during the progress of the work around the foundations of the church also tends to confirm the supposition that there were at one time burials in the church. It seems certain that a new burial ground must be found. At present, as far as the congregation is concerned there is but one entrance to the church, and that through a brick porch of very ancient date, situate on the side adjoining the road

As to the church itself, it had long prior to the recent restoration been in a ruinous state of repair. Half a century ago it appears to have been closed as dangerous, but was subsequently opened again for public worship, without have received any attention at the hands of a builder.

As to the antiquity of the building there can be no doubt, but as to the precise date of its erection, nothing definite is known.. There are however, distinct evidences of early Saxon architecture in the curiously narrow windows which have been carefully preserved, and probably in the plain old stone font which stands at the entrance. The nave of the church, indeed, is said to have been built by a Saxon family named Worthing ; but the nave roof and the chancel are probably of the fourteenth century. Tradition also relates that the church was injured by a cyclone which swept over the parish about the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and that the unsightly brick buttresses which greatly disfigure the building on all sides were then added. The roof was of oak, but for a number of years this had been hidden from view by another incongruity in the shape of a plaster ceiling which also shut out of sight the top of the three-light Norman window in the chancel. On the appointment of the Rev. R. A. Parsons as Vicar of the parish, nearly five years ago, he at once realized the necessity for immediate steps being taken to render the church not only comfortable but absolutely safe. Having received some kind promises of assistance from those who owned property in the parish, the Vicar was encouraged to proceed with his scheme of the church restoration, and as a preliminary step he obtained the advice of Mr. Temple-Moore, a London architect, who made a thorough inspection of the building, and presented a report, from what we make the following extract :- The church is a very interesting one, both from its architectural features and its position, and is on this account alone well worthy of preservation. It is now, however, in a bad state of repair, and I do not think it should be left unattended to much longer. The north and south walls have gone outwards along the greater part of the length of the church, about eight inches in the centre on the north side being the greatest variation from the perpendicular. The whole of the facing of the wall below the plinth, and the plinth in places, is in a bad state, and there are bad settlements, one at the north-west corner and another at the south-west. There are also settlements at both angles at the east end and another under the east window. If any other evidence beyond that of actual observation and experience had been needed to enforce the necessity of the scheme which the Vicar set on foot, it would certainly have been found in the report of the architect, who had no hesitation whatever in

certifying as to the absolute danger of the fabric in its then condition. Internally, too, a great work had to be taken in hand, for in addition to demolishing the far too many evidences of the plasterer's handicrafts on walls and ceilings, the floors, the seating and other features demanded attention. Nine months ago the work of restoration was entrusted to Messrs. Walker and Slater, of Derby, who have most satisfactorily carried it out according to the plan of Mr. Temple-Moore. The solidity of the structure has been assured by the addition of a new concrete foundation in some parts where the settlements had taken place, and the underpinning of the walls all round. Certain absolutely decayed portions of the building, especially the upper portions of the buttresses at the west end, have been replaced with substantial stonework. The interesting "leper window" in the chancel has been opened and glazed, and the roof has been covered with small red tiles. The bell-turret which was originally composed of wood and tiles, and afterwards of brickwork, has now been tiled to match the roof. As to the interior, it has undergone a complete metamorphosis. The ceiling has been removed, thus opening up the old oak roof which was found to be so decayed as to need practically a new one, though much of the old timber (including the old carved braces) has been replaced. Over the chancel the roof is semi-circular and is boarded with oak. The stonework of the wall has been laid bare and pointed throughout. In removing the plaster from the walls, some curious mural decoration was discovered. The characters, however, were not decipherable, but the painting was probably executed in the Elizabethan period, and photographs of it have been preserved. The oak chancel screen destroyed some years ago has been re-erected in a plain but substantial form. The old high, square pews have been removed and the boards have been used as paneling round the walls to a height of about three or four feet. Chairs are used temporarily in the nave but it is hoped to have seats when funds will permit of it. The west end has been considerably improved and part of it is used as an improvised vestry. The choir vestry is not yet made, but such a necessary ????? is contemplated and will probably be completed at a later date. Suitable curtains currently occupy the position assigned to the vestry screen. The floor of the nave is comprised of wood blocks : that of the chancel, red and white Mansfield stone. The church was formerly on one level throughout, but now the chancel floor is raised about six inches above the nave. The furniture of the church still requires considerable additions. There is at present no provisions made for the artificial lighting of the nave, but it is hoped to use defers lamps suspended from the principals of the roof by brass chains. The chancel will be lighted by means of candles placed in standards affixed to the choir stalls. The pulpit, prayer desks, and choir seats are only of a temporary character, and new ones are needed. A neat oak lectern has been presented to the church by the relative of the late Miss Nicklinson, of Worthington. It bears the following inscription on a brass plate, "To the glory of God, in memory of Sarah Nicklinson, who died August 8<sup>th</sup> 1889". The same family has also given a brass Alms dish, suitably inscribed, in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. Nicklinson. The altar table will demand attention, and there is a great need for a harmonium at the church. A new heating apparatus from Messrs. Messenger and Co's hot water system has been placed in the church and will be a considerable improvement on the old stoves, the piping of which so sorely disfigured the church. Until lately the church possessed but one sound bell, but through the kindness of friends, the turret now contains three. The large bell which had been in the church hundreds of years, was cracked, but it has been re-cast at the expense of Mr. Curzon. The bell which had been generally in use bears the date 1742 and the following inscription :- "God save His Church". A third bell bearing the inscription "Gloria in Excelsis" has been presented by Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, who have executed the whole of the work in connection with the bells. The total cost of the entire restoration has been about £1,000, and towards this £750 has been paid or promised, leaving a deficit of £250. The parish is but a poor one, and though the Vicar and the parishioners have done their utmost to aid the work, appeals have been made to friends outside for assistance. Nor have such appeals been in vain. About £50 has been realized through offertories at neighboring churches where the Vicar was allowed to plead the cause of the church. The patron of the living, Lord Scarsdale, has also approved the restoration of the church, and has contributed £20 towards the cost. Among the most generous supporters of the scheme is Mr. N. C. Curzon of Lockington Hall, who originally promised a donation of £100, but increased it by another £50 upon it being found that a new roof was required. Earl Ferrers also gave a donation of £100 and the Vicar, who is to be highly congratulated on the success which has attended his perseverance and energy in so worthy a cause, has received encouraging aid from numerous other quarters. It may be mentioned that in addition that a Mission Room at Griffydam and a Parish Room at Worthington have been acquired, and the

outlay upon these has had to be obtained concurrently with the larger amount required for the restoration of the church. In carrying on the arduous work, the Vicar has received most valuable aid from a numerous committee of Laymen resident in and around the parish

The final culmination of the work was seen on Wednesday, when the re-opening ceremony was conducted by the Lord Bishop of Peterborough. The event was the subject of a great deal of interest in the locality, not only on account of the ceremony itself, but also as it was the occasion of the first visit of the Bishop, who was greeted with a hearty welcome by an archway near the church. The quaint little edifice was quite filled with a congregation, which included several clergymen. The service was of the usual character on such occasions, the Bishop knocking at the door and asking for admittance, on gaining which he proclaimed "Peace to this House and all that dwell therein". The singing was led by the choir of All Saints', Loughborough, which also rendered a special anthem very creditably. The lesson was read by the Rev. Canon Beaumont, the prayers being intoned by the Rector, the Rev. R. A. Parsons

#### **Leicester Chronicle – May 7<sup>th</sup> 1892**

##### **ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**IN PURSUIT OF GAME.** – Mathew Lakin, James Holland, and Stretton Platts were summoned for trespassing on land in the occupation of Mr. Bird of Worthington, in search of hares. – Ellis, a gamekeeper to Lord Ferrers, stated that at three o'clock in the morning, while hiding under a hedge, he saw defendants do something to a hedge on the opposite side of the field. Afterwards with Greatbach, head keeper to Lord Ferrers, he found some nets which were quite fresh. – Mr. J. J. Sharpe spoke for the defendants, admitting that they were on the road spoken of by the prosecution, but not poaching. It was the first offence with Lakin and Holland, both of whom bore excellent characters, and who could not be concerned in such a charge. As to Platts, he was sorry that the case with him was different, and he (Mr. Sharpe) could see that Supt. Holloway had the conviction book ready, but he pleaded for leniency. – **Platts, having previously been convicted, was sentenced to two months hard labour, and was ordered to find surities, or be further imprisoned ; and Larkin and Holland were sentenced to a months hard labour each, and to find surities, or be imprisoned for a further term. – The sentence caused considerable sensation. – Platts was further charged with having in his possession on the same date a gun. To this he pleaded guilty. – A police-constable said that on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> April, while on duty on the Worthington road, he saw defendant and another man 120 yards in front. When they saw him defendants ran, and witness followed him and saw him throw a gun over a hedge. When witness overtook Platts, who was leaning on the railway bridge wall, he asked him what he had thrown over the wall. Platts said, "Nothing, what do you think?" Witness told him that he would look, and accordingly he went over the hedge, and found a gun in two parts, loaded and capped. – Fined 21s. and costs, in all £1 11s., or a month, the sentences to run concurrently. – Platts paid the fine.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – November 12<sup>th</sup> 1892**

##### **LECTURE AT LONG WHATTON**

On Friday evening the Rev A. L. Sparkes, M.A., vicar of Worthington, delivered a lecture upon his 25,000 miles of travel by land in the interior of South America, and exhibited various articles brought by him from the Argentine Republic, Paraguay, Brazil, the Canary Islands, &c. The chair was taken by the Rev. Thos. Mashader, M.A., rector, and there was a good attendance. The exhibition was open an hour previous to the lecture for ticket – holders, and comprised **birds eggs from the forests, skins**, bows and arrows, pottery, mats, lace, feathers, working rings, &c., the production of the Indian, Gaucho, and Spanish races of South America. The usual vote of thanks to the lecture and chairman were given at the close.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – December 17<sup>th</sup> 1892**

##### **WORTHINGTON**

The entertainment in aid of the Christmas tree fund for the children of the village proved so successful last week that a repetition was given on Wednesday evening. The Tableaux included representations of Mephistopheles (Mr. May), Faust (Mr. Mosedale), Marguerite (Miss Jalland), a group of children depicting nursery stories ; execution of Mary Queen of Scots, Joan of Arc, Pygmalion and Galatea, and the musical tableaux, "Where are you going

my pretty maid”, the latter rendered by Mr. W. Knight and Miss C. Sparkes. In the intervals songs were given by Messrs, Bellward, Cuthbert, May, and Miss Scott, with piano solos by Miss Sparkes. The vicar presided, and the performance was greatly enjoyed.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – January 7<sup>th</sup> 1893**

##### **WORTHINGTON**

**OPENING OF A LIBRARY.** – On Friday, a library for this village was formally opened under the presidency of the vicar, Rev. A. L. Sparkes. Earl Ferrers was present, and evinced much interest in the library, but there was only a small attendance. It was announced that some valuable books had been presented by Mr. Wm. Harris, of Leicester. **Afterwards a large Christmas tree was dismantled, and 250 children were presented with a toy, an orange and a bun each.**

#### **Leicester Chronicle – July 8<sup>th</sup> 1893**

##### **DEPUTY TO THE LEICESTER AND RUTLAND ASYLUM**

.....The members of the committee saw personally each of the patients belonging to the Ashby Union except a patient in bed, whom he saw in company with Dr. Higgins, the medical superintendent. The committee spent three hours in the institution. After interviewing the Ashby patients they were shown the kitchen and other portions of the institution, and the arrangements seemed exceedingly good. Some of the Ashby patients had been a long time in the Asylum – one being 40 years and two others 39 years. In one case, the superintendent thought that the patient could be removed, but after so long a period he (the chairman) thought the asylum had become her home ; and, as she expressed herself quite contented, the, the committee recommended that she should remain in the asylum. In another case Dr. Higgins said that a patient from Worthington was sufficiently sane to leave, but as she had been 29 years in the asylum the committee was unwilling to disturb her, and begged to recommend that she should be allowed to remain. A case from Packington, Dr. Higgins said, was quite harmless and could go back to the Workhouse, but the man said himself that he was satisfied and quite willing to stay, and the committee advised his doing so.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – January 6<sup>th</sup> 1894**

##### **WORTHINGTON**

**NEW YEAR'S PARTY.** – An enjoyable evening was spent by the young people on New Year's Day. After a substantial tea provided by Mrs. J. Knight, the vicar (Rev. A. L. Sparkes) distributed the prizes to members of the sewing and cutting-out class held under the County Council last winter, and the County Council certificates to those who had regularly attended the class in practical cooking. The following received handsome work-baskets as prizes for success in sewing and cutting out ; Mrs. Hartshorne, Mrs. Knight, Misses Bradford, Birch and Springthorpe. Certificates for practical cookery were presented to Mrs. Rothwell, Mrs. Davy, Misses E. Loakin, C. Springthorpe, A. Birch, M. Birch, S. Birch, S. A. Sketchley, Carrie Walker, Edith Walker, Eunice Sparkes, Marianne Sparkes, E. Bailey and B. Leedham. After the distribution there was an exhibition of knitting machines, followed by a dance.

#### **Leicester Chronicle – February 10<sup>th</sup> 1894**

George Davis, a farmer of Worthington, was summoned for assaulting Jane Collins, a widow, of the same place, on the 20<sup>th</sup> January. – Complainant stated that defendant knocked her down, kicked and struck her. His son after a time asked him to desist as he had “given her enough”. – By Mr. Sharpe (who defended)...there was some dispute as to pigs. She did not threaten defendant with a ??, ?? Miller, of Worthington, and Mrs. Hook corroborated – Defendant's son John said complainant called his father “all sorts” of names. He had seen her fighting with men, and she had asked him to fight her (Laughter). She was a pugnacious woman, and his father struck her. Witness denied that he told his father that he had given the woman enough. – Complainant (excitedly): Speak the truth Jack, and stare me in the face. (much laughter). – John Davis's wife and P.C. Adcock, having also given evidence, the case was dismissed and each party was ordered to pay 7s. 6d. cost.



### **Leicester Journal – February 19<sup>th</sup> 1897**

#### **ASHBY PETTY SESSION**

**A WIFE-BEATER SENT TO GAOL.** – At the Ashby Petty Sessions on Saturday, before Geo. Moore, Esq., Colonel Partridge, and John German Esq. – John Englefield, labourer, of Worthington, was summoned for assaulting his wife. – Mr. J. J. Sharp, solicitor, of Coalville, appeared for complainant, whose life, he said, was in jeopardy, and he asked the Bench to make an example of the defendant, who was an idle man, and had been kept by his wife for years. – Complainant stated that she was taking the cows out when her husband hit her in the face. He turned her out of the house, and she was afraid to live with him as he constantly ill-treated her. – Geo. Barker, parish constable, spoke as the defendant turning his wife out of the house, and P.C. Adcock said from what he heard “there were six of one and half a dozen of the other”. – The defendant, who had twice been convicted of assaults on his wife, was now committed to gaol for one month with hard labour. – Mr. Sharp asked the Bench to remit the costs but they declined.

### **Leicester Chronicle – April 10<sup>th</sup> 1897**

#### **COALVILLE PETTY SESSIONS**

**CRUELTY TO A MARE.** – Daniel Hinks, horse dealer, Worthington, was summoned by Inspector Craigen, for causing a horse to be cruelly ill treated, at Breedon-on-the-Hill, on the 16<sup>th</sup> ult. – Arthur Miller, 13, who had been in the defendant’s employ, said he took two loads of sticks to Mr. Hart’s at Breedon-on-the-Hill, under the defendant’s instructions. On the second journey the horse fell down, and witness had to get assistance. The horse had a sore back, and the defendant knew it, because witness had seen him scraping the matter from the wound. – P.C. Adcock said he saw the mare, which was harnessed, lying in the ditch, in about two feet of water. He tried to get the animal up, but it was quite helpless. He called a man named Burgin to his assistance, and they removed the saddle. There was a wound about two and a half inches in length on the back, and there was blood and matter on the saddle. Witness sent for the defendant, but after they had waited an hour. Mr. Mason, a blacksmith of Worthington, killed the animal. The defendant afterwards came up, and witness asked him how it was that he allowed the horse to be worked while in such a condition. He said that he hoped that the witness would not report it, but witness replied that he should do so as he had never seen a more cruel case in his life. Witness afterwards received communications from several people who had seen the horse on the road. He had previously cautioned the defendant that the mare was not fit to be worked, apart from the wound. – Tom Burgin, gamekeeper, Breedon, corroborated. – P.S. Darby said that he found out that the defendant bought the mare from Mr. Baxter, of Whitwick, for a sovereign, five weeks prior to the date of the charge. The defendant admitted that to witness. – Defendant denied that he gave orders for the mare to be worked, and said he was not aware that it was being worked. – Samuel Mason, blacksmith, Worthington, said he was with the defendant when he received information of the mare being down. Defendant said it could not be his horse, as it was not out to his knowledge. The defendant afterwards told witness to go and stick the horse. – The clerk : Why did he tell you to go and kill the horse if he did not know it was his? – Witness : He relied on what he was told, and came after me directly. – The boy Miller, recalled, said the mare was working during the five weeks it was in defendant’s possession. – Defendant was fined £2 2s., and costs £1 9s 6d., or 14 days hard labour.

### **Leicester Chronicle – April 17<sup>th</sup> 1897**

#### **BIRTH AT WORTHINGTON RAILWAY STATION**

On Monday, a woman named Kate Watson, of Worthington, near Staunton, Ashby de la Zouch, walked to Derby, a distance of about seven miles. She returned by train to Worthington Railway Station, where she gave birth to a child. Some commotion was caused by the event, and it was thought best by the officials to have the woman and child conveyed home. Accordingly a milk float was procured, and the woman, seated in a chair, was driven home with the baby, a distance of two miles. On arrival home it was found that the child was dead, and, according to the police constable: “No one knows whether it was born dead or alive”. The facts were reported to the coroner, who did not deem an inquest necessary.

**Leicester Chronicle – August 20<sup>th</sup> 1898**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**GAME TRESPASS.** – Jno. Miller, labourer, and James Collins, collier, both of Worthington, were summoned for trespassing in search of conies on land at Worthington in the occupation of Mr. Nicklinson. – John Chester, a bricklayer's labourer, of Lount, stated that he was working at Mr. Bird's farmhouse on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, and saw two men in a grass field. Miller went into a plantation, while the other stood outside with a dog. Both men afterwards went into the plantation, and dug at a rabbit hole. They had a rabbit or a ferret in their hand when they ran away, and witness and Mr. Bird ran after them. He spoke to Miller, and asked what he was doing, and he replied. "I don't know". Collins got on the railway and ran away. The dog, a collie, was caught. He was positive Collins was with Miller. – George Barkee, labourer, the complainant named in the summons, said in answer to the Bench that the field and plantation was the property of Mr. Curzon, but the field only was in the occupation of Mr. Nicklinson. – The clerk pointed out that the defendants were summoned for searching the conies on land in the occupation of Mr. Nicklinson. As the defendants appeared the summons could be amended. If they had not appeared, it could not be. – Barker said that the plantation was in Mr. Nicklinson's field. – Collins denied that he was there at all. He was in bed at the time. – Collins' mother said that the defendant Miller knew that Collins was not his companion on that date, - She gave evidence, and swore that her son was asleep at the time he was alleged to be searching for conies. She saw him in bed. – **Defendants were each fined 5s. 6d. and costs. Miller's costs were 9s. 3d., and Collins 12s. 3d. – Defendants were allowed seven days to pay.**

**Leicester Chronicle – February 18<sup>th</sup> 1899**

**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

**TRAVELLING WITHOUT A TICKET.**- Rosa Smith, single, of Swadlincote, was summoned for travelling on the Midland Railway at Worthington without having a previously paid her fare, with intent to defraud on the 16<sup>th</sup> January. – The defendant did not appear. – Mr. Turner (Beale and Co., of Birmingham) prosecuted on behalf of the Midland Railway Co. – He said there was a similar complaint against the defendant some time ago, when she made some excuse, as on the present occasion. – He called Mr. Beacon, stationmaster of Worthington, who stated that he saw the defendant, who told him that she lost her ticket at Melbourne. Her fare from Derby to Melbourne was 10½d. – Jno. Dutton, a detective, stated that when he saw the defendant on the 19<sup>th</sup> at her house she said she had a ticket, and lost it at Melbourne. Her father told her to tell the truth, and she then admitted that she had not obtained a ticket. – Other witnesses were in attendance, but the bench deemed that there was sufficient evidence. – **Fined 10s. 6d., and 15s. costs, distress, or 14 days.**

**Leicester Chronicle – December 15<sup>th</sup> 1900**

**ASHBY COUNTY COURT**

**Before his Honour, Judge Wightman-Wood**

**AN UNSUSTAINABLE ALIBI.** – George Cooper, of Newbold (on behalf of Harry Cooper, his grandson), sued Samuel Mason, blacksmith of Worthington, for £24 4s., being £20 damages and four guineas for medical attendance, nursing etc., on account of injuries, alleged to have been caused, by the defendant's negligence in driving on September 18<sup>th</sup>. – Mr. W. H. Quarrell of Ashby, was for plaintiff, and Mr. Henry Deane of Loughborough, for defendant. The case was heard with a jury. – Thomas Villiers Crosby, of Osgathorpe, said that he was called to attend the boy, who had a fracture of the right leg, and injuries such as would be caused by a wheel, and he was also suffering from shock, and at present could only get about on crutches. He had been laid up 11 weeks. Witness's charge for attendance, amounting to a guinea, had been paid. – George Cooper, miner, of Newbold, said that on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, about 9.15 p.m., he was on the road from Newbold to Coleorton, and had reached the hollow near Newbold School. His grandson, aged nine, was riding on a pony's back, and witness was leading it, walking on the near side. He was about a quarter of a mile past the Cross-Keys, and about 60 yards from the school, when he heard a horse and cart coming towards him, and which was only about 30 yards from him when he saw them, after turning a corner. There was only one man in the cart, which was going as hard as the horse could travel. Witness knew the man by his voice, and he was shouting to the horse to go on. It

was defendant, Samuel Mason whom he had known for 20 years. Witness shouted to him to stop. He was on his wrong side of the road, and went right onto the grass, and witness got into the hedge to avoid him. The wheel of defendant's cart caught the pony, and the boy was pulled off by the wheel. Defendant had no light on his cart as far as witness knew. Defendant still shouted "go on" to the horse, and went straight on, the horse galloping. Witness had had the boy medically attended, and had had to nurse him night and day for 11 weeks. The measurement of the road was 12 feet of hard road and 9 feet of grass on the side. – Cross-examined by Mr. Deane: The boy was riding bare-backed, with a halter, and witness had hold of the boy and halter. He had some difficulty in getting out of the way. The horse would be called a cob. Witness did not tell P.C. Sharp there were three persons in the cart. He went up to the Railway Tavern (which would be 600 yards away) the same night, after carrying the boy home, a distance of about a quarter of a mile. He got to the public-house about 20 minutes before ten, where he saw a man named Wright. It certainly was not ten o'clock, because there were men in the house, which closed at ten. He did not ask Wright how long Mason had been gone. The following day he made a statement to the constable, and saw him write it down, and Sharp told witness on the Sunday night he had seen defendant, and that Mason had said he was at home and in bed at nine o'clock. Witness had not sought out defendant on the subject, but he heard his brother talking to Mason, and went out of the house on to the road, and taxed defendant with it. Mason swore at witness, and told him he was wrong. – Maud Ewing, of Breedon, said she was passing the Railway Tavern in company with Miss Crabtree at about nine o'clock on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, and saw Mr. Mason go into the inn. After some time witness went on towards Newbold.. Mason had asked witness and her companion to ride, but they would not because of his condition. He was not sober. On the way to Newbold she saw Mason stop and get out of his cart and light a lamp. Her companion told witness it was Mason, whom witness knew. He was behind witness at the time, and defendant drove past them galloping; he was hitting the horse at the time. Witness saw the lamp alight as he passed, but could not see it when he had got along the road. A few yards further on, perhaps 20 yards, witness heard a smash and some shouting, and someone said, "Come here". Witness, being frightened, ran into a field, and went home. – Cross examined: Had seen defendant previous to that night. Thought she would have known it was defendant if Miss Crabtree had not told her. It was before defendant overtook witness that he stopped to see to the lamp. Witness had noticed it was out. Witness's attention was attracted by the approaching horse and cart. She could not describe the horse and cart, nor the man in charge beyond the fact that he had a long coat on, but she saw his face as he went by. – Re-examined: From where she stood near the embankment she could see defendant light his lamp, and could identify him. – Gertrude Crabtree, of Newbold, who was with the previous witness, corroborated. She was sure it was defendant. He was not sober when he asked witness to ride in the cart. – Chas. Wright of Gelsmoor, who was in the Railway tavern on the night named, said he saw defendant come into the house about nine o'clock. – Cross examined: When plaintiff called at the house, he did not mention defendant's name, but witness told him that Mason's cart was the last that left the house. – P.C. Sharp, of Coleorton, said that on the Wednesday after the occurrence Cooper made a complaint to him, and on the following day showed him the place where the accident had taken place. Witness saw the footmarks of the pony. There were 4ft. of grass on the left hand side of the road, and he saw wheel marks on the grass about twenty yards from where the accident happened. – Cross examined; the pocket-book in which witness made the note at the time had been accidentally destroyed. He saw Mason afterwards, and told him the nature of the complaint. Mason first of all denied that he was on that road at all that night, and afterwards admitted that he had been at Pearson's, which was near Crabtree's. He also said he got home at nine o'clock, and was in bed at 9. 30., and that a man named Barber could tell witness all he wanted to know. Witness went straight to Barber, who said Mason got home at nine o'clock. Witness went back to Mason, and asked him if he could refer witness to anyone to substantiate Barber's statement. Defendant referred him to two more witness, a porter at the station, and to Mr. Crabtree, at the Railway Tavern. – Mr. Deane, for the defence, said a mistake had been made, as defendant was not the person who caused the accident. Plaintiff fixed the time at ten minutes or a quarter past nine, and until P.C. Sharp had made his enquiries, some of the witnesses fixed the time later. At a quarter past nine he would be able to show that defendant was at home, a mile and a half away. – Samuel mason, defendant, said that on the date named he rode a mare to Ashby for Mr. Pearson, returning at eight o'clock. That would be a mile and a half from his home. At Pearson's house was Mrs. Cooper and her daughter Jessie.

It would be about a quarter to nine when he left the house, and Mr. Pearson lighted the candle lamp on his cart. Witness went to the public house, about 200 yards away, and went in, but he had never seen the two witnesses who had said he asked them to ride. He stayed about two minutes at the house. About 400 yards away, towards Newbold, near the four cross roads, but at no time did his light go out on the way. It was a 12 hands pit pony he was driving. It could not be mistaken for a cob or a horse. He ran into nobody, and drove straight home without any accident. A man named Barber helped witness to take the pony out, and the lamp was still burning. Witness's wife was present, and when he went indoors it was about ten past nine. Mr. Crabtree first told him of the accident. When P.C. Sharp came he only gave him the name of Barber as a witness. – Cross examined: He told Sharp from the first day that he had been on the road; he never knew plaintiff, the boy, or the pony. It was Barber who had referred Sharp to the porter and Mr. Crabtree. – Mark Pearson, of Girls Moor, corroborated. He followed Mason to the Public house, and saw a cart with a light going away. It would be about 10 minutes to nine. – Maud Cooper having given evidence, Jessie Pearson said Mason was sober when he left her father's house about a quarter to nine. – Defendant's wife corroborated her husband's statement. – Frederick Barber, of Worthington, said he had been in defendant's house on the night named, and left at nine o'clock, as he was required to be in his master's house by that time. He met Mason coming into his house, and after assisting him with the horse, and going home, a distance of about 100 yards, it was twenty minutes past nine when he went upstairs to bed. Sharp was the first person to speak to witness about the occurrence. Witness told him what he had now told the jury, and Sharp said he must be mistaken in the time, and asked him if he would alter his statement, and witness said no, since he was to speak the truth. – His honour said from the evidence there could be no question that the person who drove into plaintiff was to blame, and was guilty of negligent driving. The only question was, who was that person, and as to that they had the evidence of the two young ladies, who were perfect impartial witnesses. As to the defendant's case, his Honour doubted if the alibi which had been set up was an alibi at all, since the whole question lay in the difference of half an hour in the time spoken to by witnesses, and nobody in the case had any reason for particular accuracy as to the time of the occurrence. Moreover, how was it that defendant did not pass plaintiff and the boy? – **The jury found for plaintiff, with £5 damages for the grandfather, and £10 for the boy. – As the damages for the grandfather were in excess of those claimed, his Honour amended the finding, and gave judgment for £4 4s. for the grandfather, and £10 for the injury to the boy, with costs. – Defendant was ordered to pay £5 in a month, and £1 a month afterwards.**

#### **Leicester Daily Post – March 28<sup>th</sup> 1911**

##### **WORTHINGTON**

**CONSERVATIVE “SMOKER”.** – A smoking concert in connection with the Conservative and Unionist Association, attended by members from Girls Moor ([Gelsmoor](#)), Griffydham, Newbold, and Staunton Harold was held at the Cross Keys Inn, on Saturday night. Mr. F. Tipetts, secretary of the Leicester Tariff Reform League, gave an address. Mr. J. H. Riley presided.

#### **Leicester Daily Mercury – November 6<sup>th</sup> 1939**

Mr & Mrs. John Birch, of Highfield Street, Coalville, today celebrated the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of their wedding. They were married at **Breedon Church in 1876**, and have two sons, a daughter, seven grand children and four great grand children.

Mr. Birch is 84 years of age and his wife 83. Both were born at **Gelsmoor**, and have lived in the Coalville district all their lives. Mr. Birch is a none smoker and for 65 years he was a Sunday school teacher at Coalville Marlborough-Square Methodist Church where he was at one time secretary.

Mr. Birch was employed in the coal mines for 61 years and spent most of them working for the South Leicestershire Colliery Co, Snibston Mine at Coalville. After working at a brick-yard at the age of eight, he went down the pits when only ten years of age and as a young man worked twelve hours a day for 3s.

Mrs. Birch entered domestic service when she was only seven years of age.