

THE GRIFFIN INN AT GRIFFYDAM



See inside front cover for details

By Samuel T Stewart - February 2021

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH

The photograph depicts the Griffin Inn as it was in 1931 when Thomas Williamson was the licensee. Mrs. Williamson his standing outside with her son in arms and the pet dog.

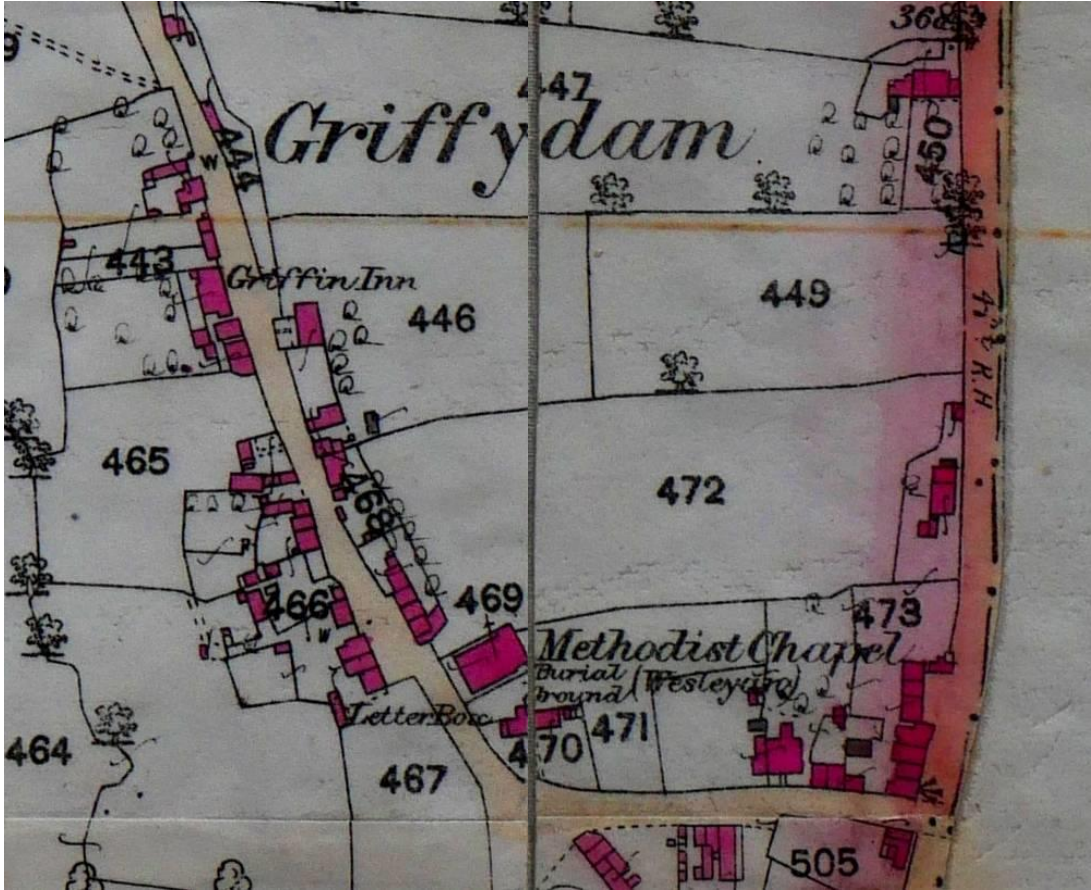
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**THE GRIFFIN INN ON ELDER LANE (FORMERLY MAIN STREET)
COLOURED VERSION OF 1885 ISSUED 6 INCH O/S MAP**



THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPER ARTICLE DESCRIBES THE GRIFFIN INN AS IT WAS IN 1895 WHEN PUT UP FOR AUCTION

It is reasonable to assume that the Griffin Inn inherited its name from the fabled Griffin which supposedly made its home at Griffydam Well just along the road, which was where the villagers obtained their drinking water from the natural spring that came up through the sandstones measures which lay along the Thringstone fault line.

Burton Chronicle – August 1st 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 12th, 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 Griffydam 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.

The Griffin Inn is described in the above auction advertisement as comprising.....
Cellar, Kitchen, Taproom, Parlour, and three Chambers

The license had been held by Fanny Bradley in 1893 and 1894, but at the time of the sale in 1895 it was held by Walter Bradley as presumably Fanny had died. The three adjoining cottages that were put up for auction at the same time and were occupied by William Hurst, John Cliff, and William Wileman, none of whom appear in the 1891 census. It does not state who owned the Inn and cottages in the advertisement, only who owns the land which bounds them.

The first licensee of the Griffin Inn recorded in the Ashby de la Zouch *full licensing records* was Thomas Haywood in 1852. Thomas (30) and **born in Griffydam** appears in the 1851 census as a bricklayer employing 6 men. He is with his wife Ann (29), daughter Rebecca (6) and son William Thomas (1). The 1841 census confirms that he was the first son of Thomas Haywood (50), a traveler, and his wife Frances (52).

In the 1861 census Thomas appears as a Victualler and builder at the Griffin Inn with his wife Ann still, but they now have seven children. In the 1871 census they still have five children living with them and two of the sons are bricklayers. Presumably Ann looked after the Inn during the day as was often the case. Thomas is shown as being the leaseholder or owner from 1872 to 1876 so it is not unreasonable to assume that he purchased the Inn in 1872.

Thomas is thought to have died in 1876 as his wife Ann is then shown in the licensing records as being the owner until **1897** so presumably the Inn was not sold in 1895. The author suggests that being a builder, Thomas Haywood had also built the three cottages that were put up for auction next to the Griffin Inn.

From 1897 to 1905 the licensing records do not show anyone holding the license for the Griffin Inn. However, there is a trade directory record for a Samuel Swanick as the licensee in 1901.

There is nothing in the Licensing records to suggest prior to 1851 that the Griffin Inn was an Ale House as was often the case. The evidence seems to suggest that the property was built in the late 1840's early 1850's specifically as an Inn, particularly as it incorporated a cellar. It would be necessary to check the old deeds for further proof.

**THE FOLLOWING IS TAKEN FROM THE ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH
FULL REGISTER OF LICENSEES 1842 - 1936**

NAME OF PUBLIC HOUSE	LICENSEE SURNAME	LICENSEE FIRST NAME	YEAR	MONTH	LEASE HOLDER OR OWNER
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1852	28-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1853	27-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1854	26-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1855	25-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1856	23-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1857	26-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1858	28-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1859	27-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1860	25-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1861	24-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1863	29-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1864	27-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1865	26-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1866	25-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1868	22-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1869	21-Aug	
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1872	31-Aug	Thomas Haywood
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1873	30-Aug	Thomas Haywood
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1874	29-Aug	Thomas Haywood
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1875	28-Aug	Thomas Haywood
Griffin	Haywood	Thomas	1876	26-Aug	Thomas Haywood
Griffin	Haywood	Ann	1877	25-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Haywood	Ann	1878	24-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Haywood	Ann	1879	23-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Haywood	Ann	1880	21-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Peters	George	1881	27-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Peters	George	1882	26-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Peters	George	1883	25-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Peters	George	1884	30-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Phillips	Jarvis	1885	29-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Phillips	Jarvis	1886	28-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Phillips	Jarvis	1887	27-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Phillips	Jarvis	1888	25-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Phillips	Jarvis	1889	24-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Phillips	Jarvis	1890	23-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Phillips	Jarvis	1891	22-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Phillips	Jarvis	1892	27-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Bradley	Fanny	1893	26-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Bradley	Fanny	1894	25-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Bradley	Walter	1895	31-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Hill	Silas	1896	29-Aug	Ann Haywood

Griffin	Percival	George (Part)			
Griffin	Bennett	William Henry	1897	28-Aug	Ann Haywood
Griffin	Swanwick	Samuel	1901		NOTE- In 1901, Samuel Swanick was aged 54 and born in Leicester. His wife, Mary J. Swanick was 53 and also born in Leicester
Griffin	Sneath	John William	1905	04-Feb	Marston Thompson & Evershed
Griffin	Mee	William	1906	03-Feb	Marston Thompson & Evershed
Griffin	Chivers	Harry	1907	02-Feb	Marston Thompson & Evershed
Griffin	Chivers	Harry	1908	08-Feb	Marston Thompson & Evershed
Griffin	Johnson	Frederick	1909	06-Feb	Marston Thompson & Evershed
Griffin	Johnson	Frederick	1910	12-Feb	NOTE – In 1911, Frederick Johnson was aged 33, a boot and shoe dealer, born in Coalville. His wife, Mary L. Johnson was aged 24 and born in Swannington James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Storer	George William	1911	11-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Edwards	George	1912	10-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Edwards	George	1913	08-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Edwards	George	1914	07-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Edwards	George	1915	06-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Edwards	George	1916	05-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Kilby	George	1917	03-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Kilby	George	1918	02-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Kilby	George	1919	01-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Kilby	George	1920	14-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Kilby	George	1921	12-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Williamson	Thomas	1922	11-Feb	Robert Halford, Nottingham
Griffin	Williamson	Thomas	1923	10-Feb	Robert Halford, Nottingham
Griffin	Williamson	Thomas	1924	09-Feb	Robert Halford, Nottingham
Griffin	Williamson	Thomas	1925	07-Feb	Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
Griffin	Williamson	Thomas	1926	06-Feb	Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
Griffin	Williamson	Thomas	1927	05-Feb	Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
Griffin	Williamson	Thomas	1928	04-Feb	Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
Griffin	Williamson	Thomas	1929	02-Feb	Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
Griffin	Williamson	Thomas	1930	01-Feb	Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
Griffin	Williamson	Thomas	1931	14-Feb	Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
Griffin	Williamson	Thomas	1932	13-Feb	Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
Griffin	York	Oliver	???		Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
Griffin	Driver	Thomas William	1933	11-Feb	Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
Griffin	Driver	Fanny Selina	1934	10-Feb	Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
Griffin	Driver	Fanny Selina	1935	09-Feb	Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
Griffin	Driver	Fanny Selina	1936	08-Feb	Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
Griffin	Moore	Herbert	1938 ?- 1940?		Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
Griffin	Stone	Benjamin	1941 to 1961		NOTE – Closed in 1961 Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd

SOME GOING'S ON AT THE GRIFFIN INN

Derby Mercury – March 3rd 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, Phillips was fine £5 and costs (£1 8s.), and Lakin and Mee each 10s. 6d. and costs (15s.)

Burton Chronicle – September 24th 1891

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

ASSAULTING A GRIFFYDAM INNKEEPER. – Jerimiah Rose, joiner, Belton, was summoned for assaulting Joseph Bradley, innkeeper, at Griffydam, on the 31st 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 defendant 5s. 6d. and costs or seven days.

Burton Chronicle – May 2nd 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 18th 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 symptoms 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 18th February, and he "signed off" on the 22nd 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 gait 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.

Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News – November 8th 1906

COALVILLE PETTY SESSIONS

WORTHINGTON LICENSING CASE (GRIFFIN INN - GRIFFYDAM). – George Knight, coal dealer, of Griffydham, 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 26th 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 Fox'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 Griffydham, 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 Griffydham, 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 & Oakham & Uppingham News – November 9th 1911

Ashby Petty Sessions

PUBLICAN CONVICTED. – George W. Storer, publican, Griffydham, was summoned for selling intoxicating drink during prohibited hours on the 29th of October, at Worthington ([Griffin Inn, Griffydham](#)). – 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-sty'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.

AN INQUEST ON A MYSTERIOUS DEATH HELD AT THE GRIFFIN INN

Leicester Chronicle – December 17th 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.**

Ptomaines are any of a group of amine compounds of unpleasant taste and odour formed in putrefying animal and vegetable matter and formerly thought to cause food poisoning

PHOTOGRAPHS



**The “Griffin Inn” Domino team c.1959
L to R – Albert Kilby, Jack Hill, Ben Stone, Albert Abbott, Harry Frear,
Thomas Hodges and Arthur Else**



George Henry Kilby

Griffin	Kilby	George Henry	1917	03-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Kilby	George Henry	1918	02-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Kilby	George henry	1919	01-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Kilby	George Henry	1920	14-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.
Griffin	Kilby	George Henry	1921	12-Feb	James Shipstone & Sons Ltd.



The above photograph is of George Henry Kilby, with his four sons from left to right:- Jack, Albert, Walter, Joe. He had a total of ten children. Following his 4 years as licensee of the Griffin Inn, he became landlord at the Waggon and Horses for 10 years, following which he became a coal miner and died in Griffydam in 1947.