FOLLOWING 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE, LOCAL COUPLE WOULD MAKE THE SAME CHOICE AGAIN



A recent photograph of Olga terrace, Swannington, where twin brothers Herbert and Walter Davies were living in 1939, three properties apart, (see the following publication text).
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Olga Terrace became part of Swannington in 1936, having previously been part of Thringstone

Olga Terrace was thought to have been named after Mary OLGA Iris Devy born 19th November 1895 in Ashby Road, Thringstone. Her father Samuel Devy was a brick manufacturer. It is believed he was at the California brickyard in the 1890s when bricks were wheelbarrowed via Tugby's Lane to build Olga Terrace (copyright Hough Mill Facebook)

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - Nov 2026

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Although their golden wedding anniversary was unmarked by any party celebrations, Mr and Mrs. Herbert Davies of 4 Olga terrace, Swannington, were able to rejoice in memories of a half - century's wedding happiness. *According to the 1939 register, living with them were their son James Henry and his wife Jane E. Also living in Olga Terrace (three doors further on) was his twin brother Walter, with wife Sarah and daughter Gertrude S.* ***Olga Terrace became part of Swannington in 1936 having previously been in Thringstone.***

Herbert and his wife Emma considers the other to be the best life - partner in the world. Both would make exactly the same choice if they had their time over again. No couple could say more than this.

They were married at Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on September 20th 1904 by the Rev. Joseph Hudson Kay. They have one son, *James Henry (b.15.1.1914) who was married to* Jane E and there are three grandchildren Mr. Davies is 77 years of age and was born on the 21st of august 1877 His wife Ellen is four years his junior and was born on the 24th of May 1881.

Mr. Davies worked for twenty years at Messrs Stableford's of Coalville. This was followed for two years at the Newbold Pipe yard, and a subsequent 23 years at Coleorton Colliery. His last job up to his retirement, was a road worker under the County Council. He had the cause to know a period of unemployment*. In the 1939 register, Herbert's occupation was given as a 'council roadman', as was his twin brother Walter.* A native of Pegg's Green, Mr. Davies had to trudge each day as a youngster from beyond the New Inn to Stableford's for 6.a.m. for a shilling a day.

When he married, his salary was about 24 shillings a week - if there was work available. Mr. Davies was born in Swannington. Both he and his wife *Ellen* are members of Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. Mr. Davies, was for many years a teacher and a superintendent of the Sunday School there. He was, indeed, assisting in the singing at the anniversaries until he was 76 years of age.

Lack of parental control is largely responsible for the decline today in Sunday school attendance today, according to Mr. Davies. He goes as far as to say that, whilst there were many bad things in the old days, the pendulum has swung too far in the other direction, until children of today are not so happy today as they were in his boyhood.

This old couple are grateful for the happiness and health which have been theirs so far as circumstances of their family life are concerned, these are epitomised by the fact that their son - who lives at Swannington - never misses giving them a call every day, just to see how they are going on

Mr and Mrs. Davies are members of the Swannington Retired People's Fellowship, to which they both pay glowing tributes. *This was established in **1951** and operated continuously for decades as one of the oldest remaining community groups in the area.*

Supplementary information

Herbert Davies, who was born on 21.8.1877, was one of seven children born to William (a coal miner b. Castle Donington) and Sarah (nee., Wardle b. Coleorton) who were living in Kidger's Lane, Pegg's Green in 1891, as they still were in 1901. Herbert was the Twin brother of Walter and they had the following siblings - Elizabeth, John J, William and Eliza (Twins) and Joseph. Both Walter and Herbert, aged 13, were Iron drillers at the Wagon works in the 1891 census (Stableford's, Coalville). By 1901, father William had died and Sarah was still living on Kidger's Lane as a widow with daughter Elizabeth(38) and twin sons Herbert and Walter (23) who are both given as Steam engine makers, probably still at Stableford's, Coalville.

Two of Herbert's brothers, William and John J, were tragically killed in the 1898 Whitwick Colliery Disaster at the age of 29 and 32. William is buried in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist graveyard with his father, who died in 1895 at the age of 59. The body of John J Davies was never recovered.

The family were strong Christians and Walter and his brother Herbert were prominent Griffydam Methodists. Walter was a lay preacher and Sunday School superintendent, his brother Herbert was apparently also superintendent and a teacher at the Sunday school at Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Church. Both Walter and Herbert were known to have attended all of the renowned Griffydam Love feasts for more than 60 years.





The former Stablefords factory at Coalville where Herbert Davies worked for 20 years. Mr. Davies had to trudge each day as a youngster from beyond the New Inn, Pegg's Green to Stableford's for a 6.a.m. start to

earn a shilling a day. Later, together with his twin brother they became iron drillers there.

Stableford & Co. (Stableford's Wagon Works) in Coalville primarily manufactured railway carriages, wagons, and railway rolling stock**.** Founded by John W. Stableford in the 1860s, the company grew into a major engineering hub that supplied transport equipment globally

- They built railway carriages, freight wagons, and railway plant equipment for domestic, colonial, and foreign networks. At its peak, the works employed between 900 and 1,200 men.
- **Bricks:** Alongside engineering, the founder operated a brick manufactory off High Street, producing local building bricks.
- **Foundry & Timber Goods:** They produced brass and iron castings, as well as operating a timber merchant business