

**A SOCIAL & INDUSTRIAL HISTORY OF
GRIFFYDAM AND PEGG'S GREEN**
(INCLUDING NUMEROUS OLD NEWSPAPER ARTICLES)



THIRD EDITION
BY SAMUEL T STEWART - JANUARY 2022

FOLLOWING THE INTEREST SHOWN IN THE FIRST EDITION OF THIS BOOK, THE AUTHOR, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE GRIFFYDAM HISTORY GROUP, WROTE A MUCH EXPANDED SECOND EDITION CONTAINING SIGNIFICANTLY MORE INFORMATION ON THE SOCIAL & INDUSTRIAL HISTORY OF THE VILLAGES OF GRIFFYDAM & PEGG'S GREEN. A NUMBER OF THE VILLAGE BOUNDARIES HAVE CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE LAST 200 YEARS, SO IT CAN BE VERY CONFUSING WHEN DECIDING WHICH VILLAGE CERTAIN FEATURES SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO. THEREFORE, THIS PUBLICATION NOW CONTAINS A SECTION COMMON TO GRIFFYDAM & PEGG'S GREEN WHERE THERE IS ANY DOUBT. THIS THIRD EDITION CONTAINS LINKS TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON VARIOUS TOPICS IN THE BOOK.

THE BOOK STILL FOCUSES ON PROVIDING A PLATFORM OF VARIED SUBJECTS OF INTEREST WITH RESPECT TO SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL HISTORY, WHICH IT IS HOPED WILL ACT AS A CATALYST TO PURSUADE READERS TO CARRY OUT FURTHER RESEARCH OF THEIR OWN.

NEWSPAPERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED GREATLY IN RECORDING LOCAL SOCIAL HISTORY, AND IT IS NO DIFFERENT HERE. THE AUTHOR TRUSTS THAT THE SELECTION OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES HE HAS CHOSEN TO INCLUDE, WHICH REFER TO THE AREA'S OF GRIFFYDAM AND PEGG'S GREEN ONLY, WILL PROVIDE A FLAVOUR OF WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE IN THE YEARS COVERED, WHICH OF COURSE CONTRASTS GREATLY WITH PRESENT TIMES.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BOOK, THE AUTHOR HAS APPENDED A SERIES OF OLD MAPS WITH SUPPORTING TEXT TO FAMILIARISE THE READER WITH THE AREA. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT NEITHER GRIFFYDAM NOR PEGG'S GREEN ARE MENTIONED ON JOHN SPEED'S OR BLOOME'S MAPS OF 1611 AND 1681 EVEN THOUGH OTHER LOCAL VILLAGES / HAMLETS ARE INCLUDED. THIS SUGGESTS THAT NEITHER HAD DEVELOPED INTO SETTLEMENTS / HAMLETS CONSIDERED BEING OF ANY IMPORTANCE BY 1681, ALTHOUGH RECORDS EXIST SHOWING THAT PEOPLE HAD SETTLED IN GRIFFYDAM AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 1600s.

PEOPLE WORKED EXTREMELY HARD PHYSICALLY AND FOR LONG HOURS IN THE PERIODS COVERED, PARTICULARLY IN THE LOCAL COAL MINES WHERE MANY LIVES WERE LOST; A NUMBER OF EXAMPLES OF THOSE LIVES LOST AT PEGG'S GREEN AND CALIFORNIA COLLIERY'S ARE RECORDED HERE IN BOTH NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND APPENDED LISTS. BESIDES THE "IMPORTANT" DEVELOPMENT OF PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY FROM 1830, THERE WERE SEVERAL SMALLER MINES DEVELOPED IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY BY LOCAL CONSORTIUMS UNDER THE MANOR OF PEGG'S GREEN, AND A SERIES OF TRAMROADS WERE CREATED ON WHICH HORSE DRAWN WAGGONS WERE USED TO TRANSPORT THE COAL.

LOCAL TURMPIKE ROADS WHICH CIRCUMNAVIGATED GRIFFYDAM, PEGG'S GREEN, & MOST OF GELSMOOR CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE ECONOMY OF THIS AREA AND HELPED TO STIMULATE THE MANY TRADES THAT WERE CARRIED ON THROUGH THE YEARS THEY WERE IN OPERATION.

COMMUNITY LIFE FOR THE WORKING CLASS IN DAYS GONE BY CENTRED ON THE LOCAL CHAPELS, PUBS AND NUMEROUS LOCAL FOOTBALL AND CRICKET TEAMS AND THE AREA WAS CERTAINLY WELL SERVED WITH THESE. LOCAL WAKES ALSO PROVIDED ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE VILLAGERS.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANKS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GRIFFYDAM HISTORY GROUP FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND INPUT AND ANYONE WHO HAS SUPPLIED PHOTOGRAPHS OR OTHER MATERIAL VIA THE GROUP FOR INCLUSION.

THANKS TO ANDREA BURTON FOR HER VALUABLE SOCIAL HISTORY SUBMISSIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE PEGGS GREEN SECTION.

THANKS TO JANE ELSON FOR SUPPLYING INFORMATION ON MISS FLORRIE JOHNSON'S RETIREMENT FROM GRIFFYDAM INFANT SCHOOL.

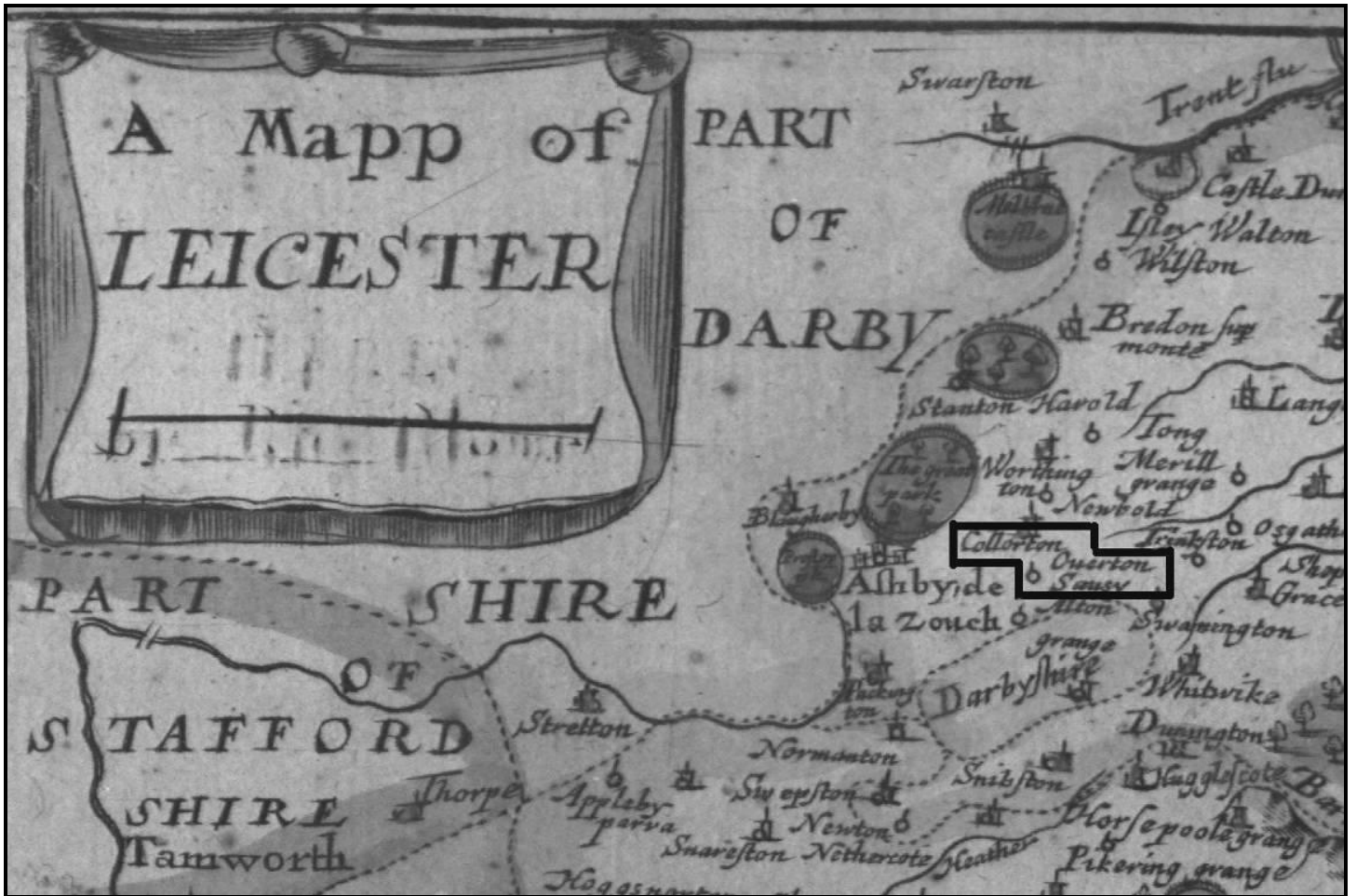
THANKS TO MICHAEL GREEN FOR HIS SUPPORT AND INPUT ON THE HISTORY OF METHODISM AND THE GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL AND GRAVEYARD.

THANKS TO GARY MARTIN FOR SUPPLYING HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS ON HIS COTTAGE AT 31, TOP ROAD, GRIFFYDAM WHICH HAS ENABLED AN INTERESTING AND IMPORTANT HISTORICAL ACCOUNT TO BE WRITTEN ABOUT THIS VERY OLD PROPERTY. THE WRITER ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES THE USE OF BOB UNDERWOODS ARTICLE IN THE COALVILLE TIMES ON THE HALL FAMILY WHO LIVED IN THIS PROPERTY AT ONE TIME.

THANKS TO THE OWNER'S OF 39, TOP ROAD, GRIFFYDAM FOR ALLOWING THE HISTORY OF THEIR COTTAGE TO BE PUBLISHED.

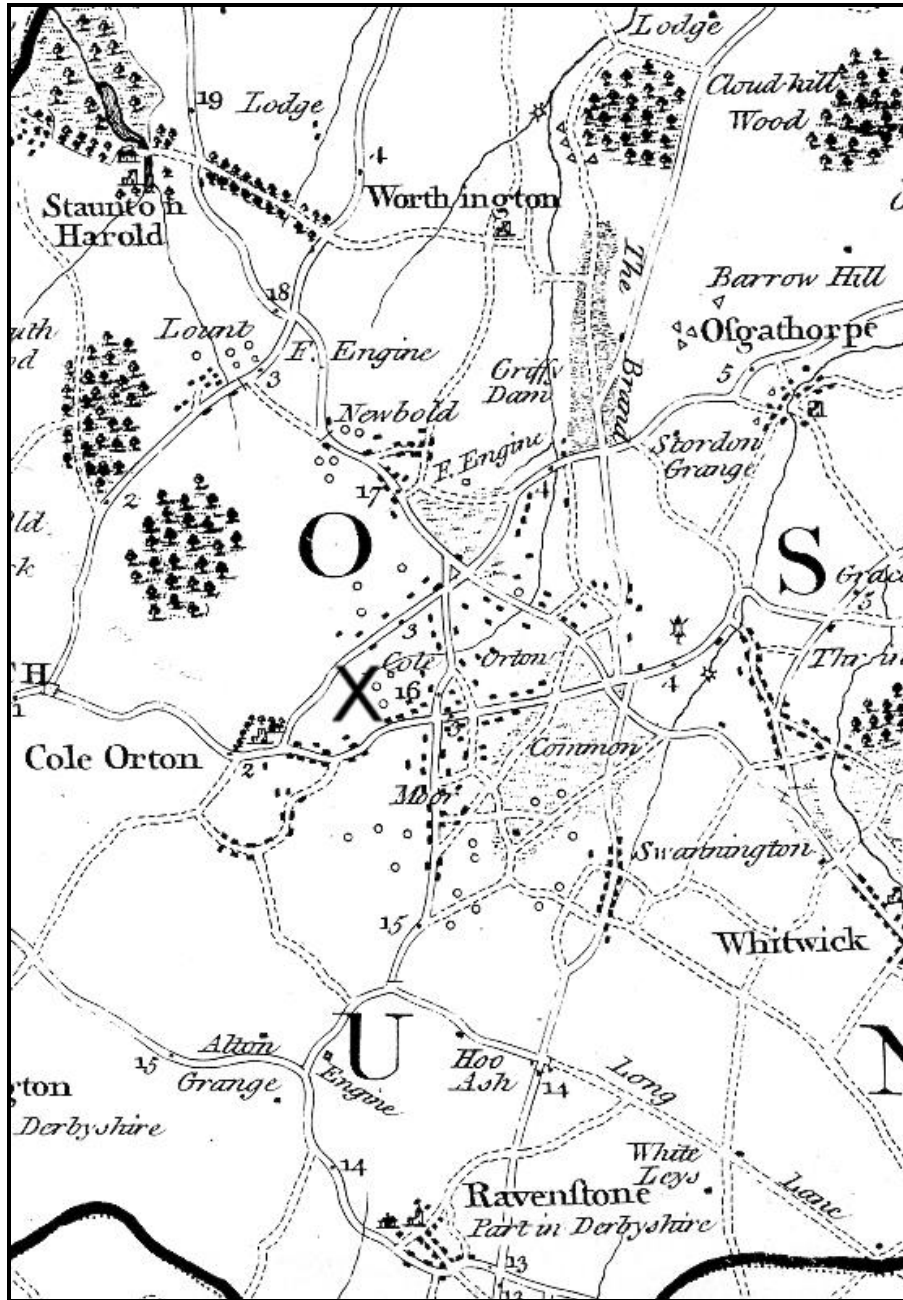
PART 1

OLD MAPS OF THE LOCALITY IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER



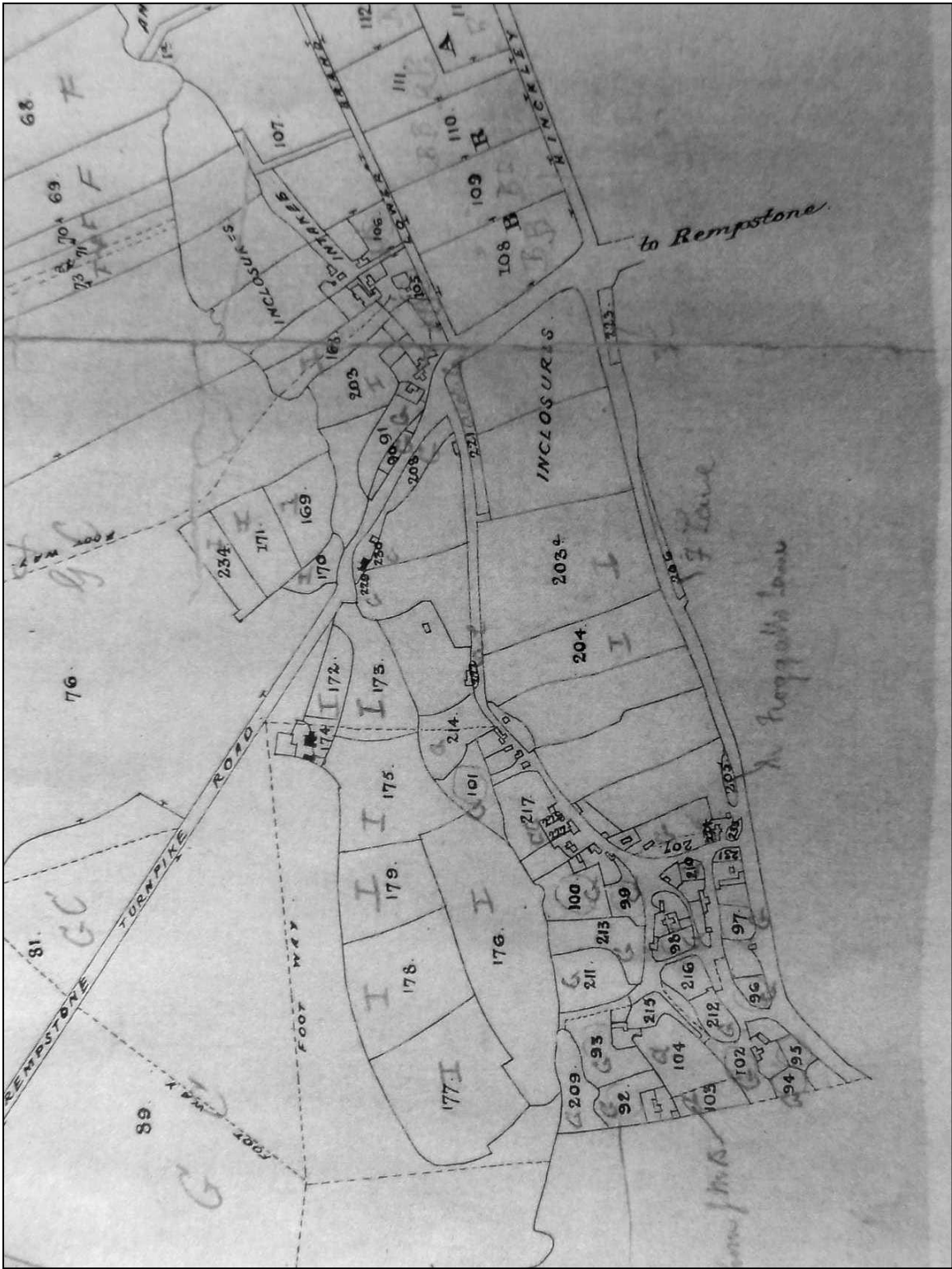
AN EXTRACT FROM BLOOME'S MAP OF 1681
WITH COLLORTON (COLEORTON) AND OVERTON SAUCY HIGHLIGHTED
GRIFFYDAM AND PEGG'S GREEN ARE NOT SHOWN FOR SOME REASON

PRIOR'S MAP OF 1777

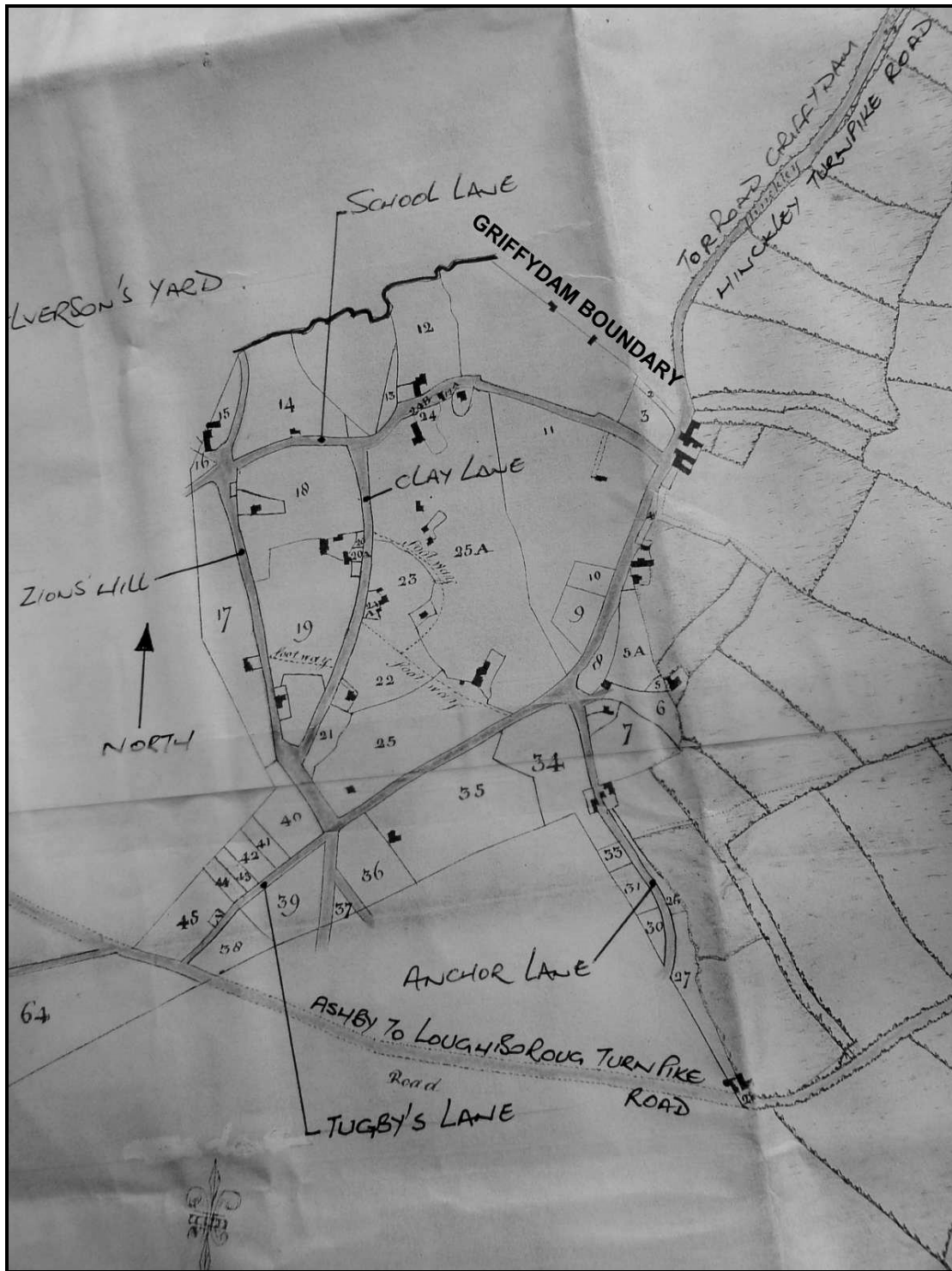


The above map was produced by the Rev. John Prior in 1777. He was an Ashby-De-La-Zouch clergyman, and was a master at the grammar school there. It was the first detailed map of the County since Saxton in Elizabethan times. The surveying, which lasted from 1775 to 1777, was carried out by Joseph Whyman who lived at Aston on Trent, Derbyshire and was a former pupil of John Prior. It shows **30 pit shafts** (designated by circles) in the Coleorton, Newbold and Lount area. Prior seems to have positioned the wording for Griffy Dam in the wrong place, even though the map appears to show the Top Road and what later became Elder Lane.

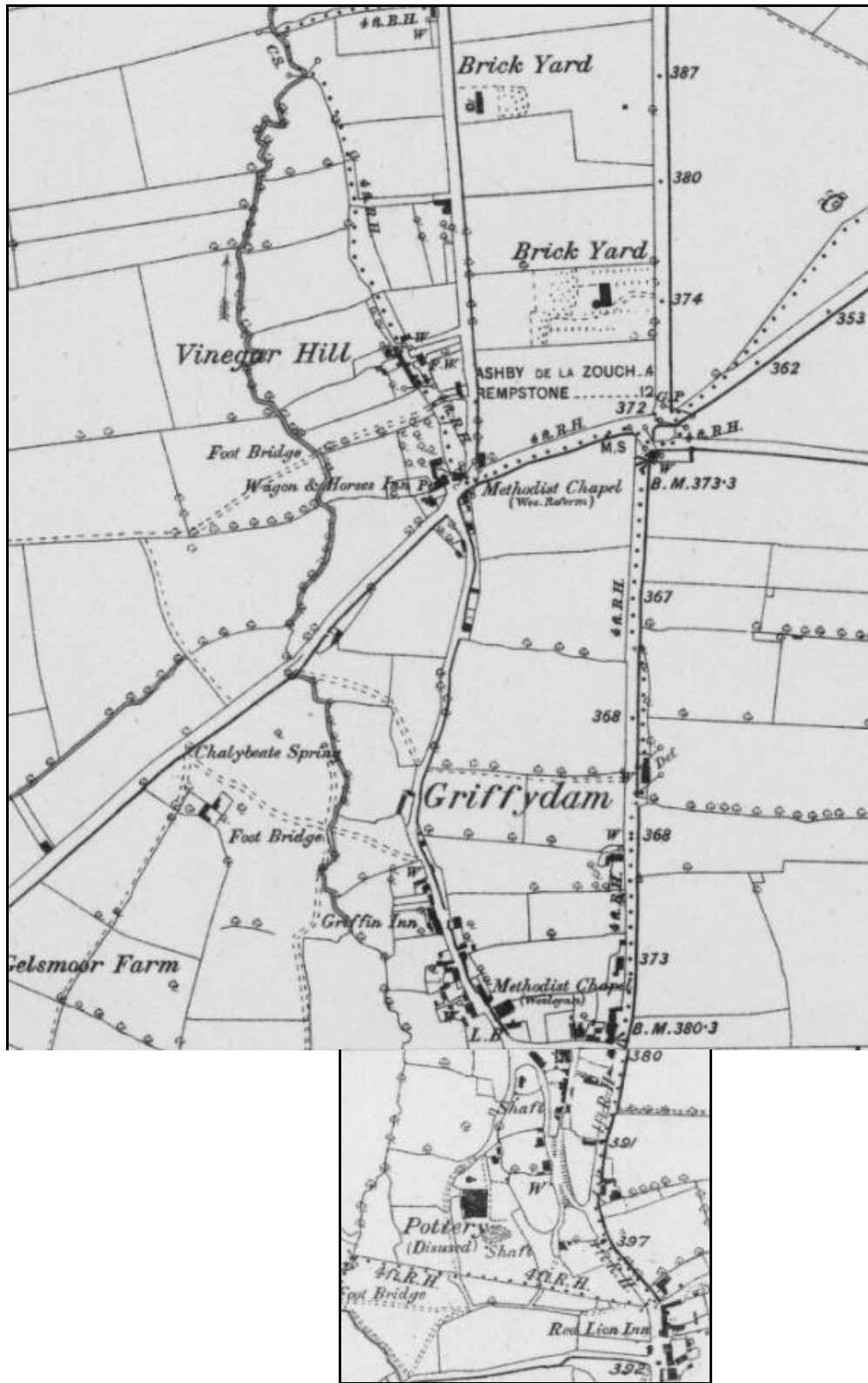
NORTH



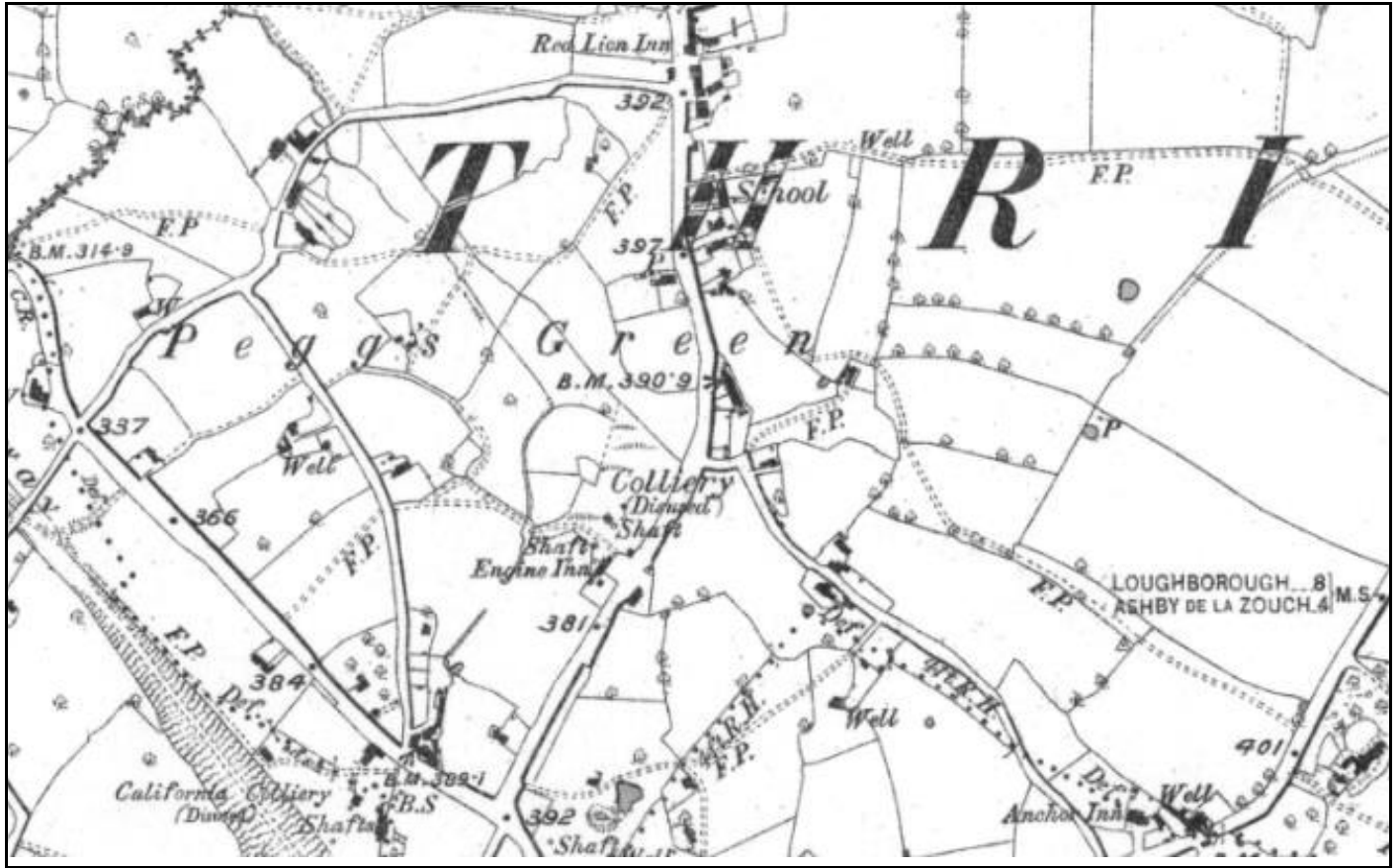
A SECTION FROM THE 1806 PARISH OF BREEDON "INCLOSURE" MAP CENTRED ON GRIFFYDAM AND THE BRAND - DRAWN FOR THE COMMISSIONERS BY WILLIAM HENRY SMITH, SURVEYORS



A SECTION FROM THE THRINGSTONE AND PEGG'S GREEN 1807 INCLOSURE MAP CENTRED ON THE AREA OF PEGG'S GREEN - DRAWN FOR THE COMMISSIONERS BY WILLIAM HENRY SMITH, SURVEYORS



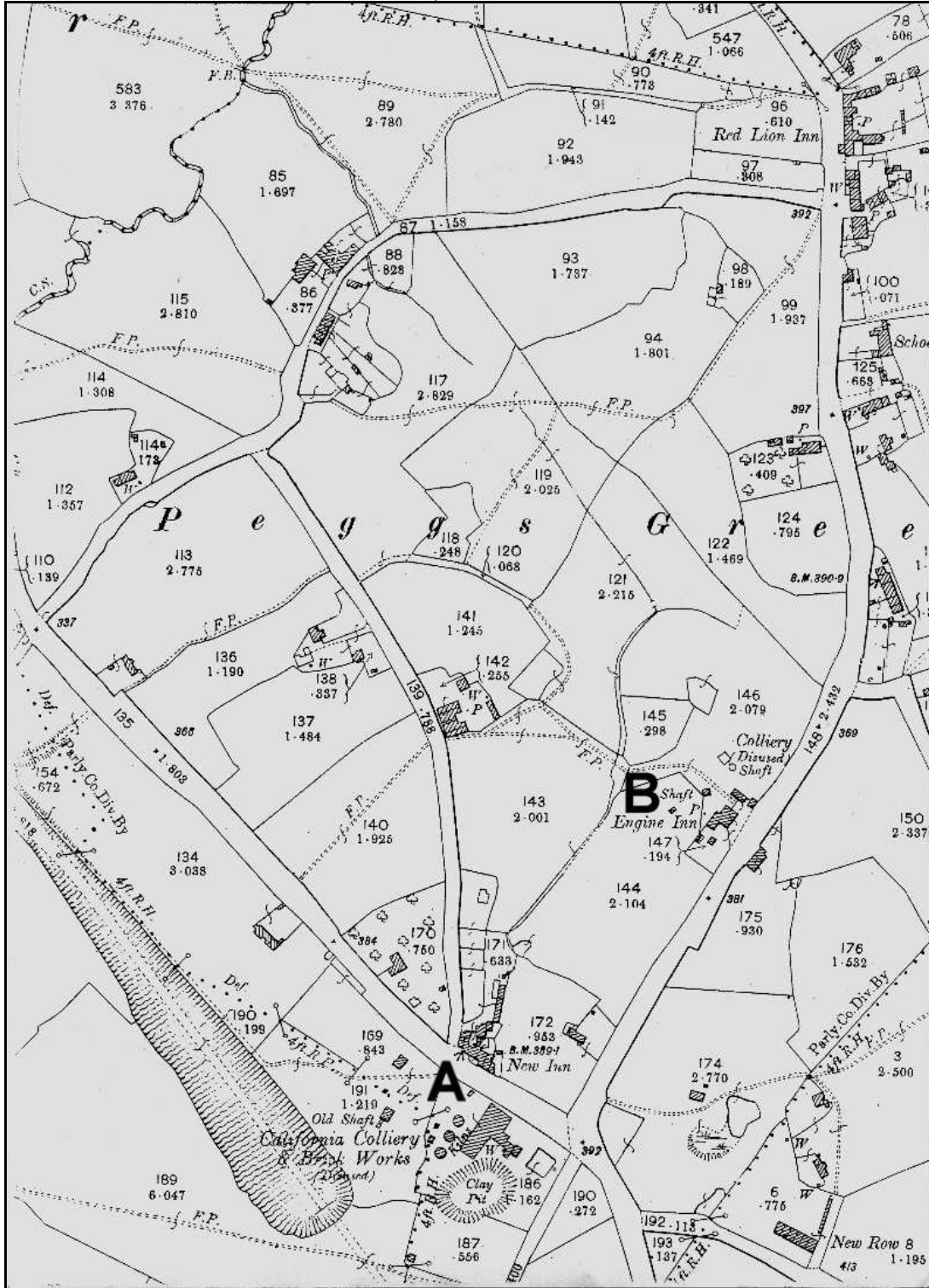
A SECTION FROM THE 1881/2 SURVEYED (1885 PUBLISHED) 6 INCH O/S MAP - SHOWING GRIFFYDAM FROM THE BRICKYARDS ON THE BRAND DOWN TO SCHOOL LANE & THE RED LION



A SECTION FROM THE 1881/2 SURVEYED (1885 PUBLISHED) 6 INCH O/S MAP - SHOWING PEGG'S GREEN FROM SCHOOL LANE & THE RED LION SOUTHWARDS

A SECTION FROM THE 1903 O/S MAP OF THE PEGG'S GREEN AREA

- A** – California Colliery (Coleorton No.1. Colliery) and Brickworks, opposite "The New Inn".
- B** – Peggs Green Colliery and next to it the "New Engine Inn" - The forerunner of this pub was the "Old Engine Inn" which was built close to Boultbody's coal mine in Elverston's Lane off Stoney Lane, Coleorton.

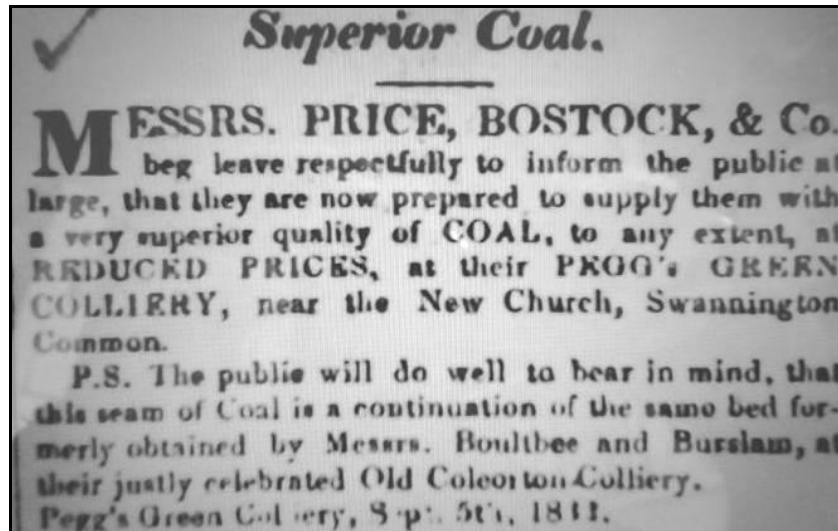


PART 2

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES 1832-1984

Leicester Chronicle - September 8th 1832

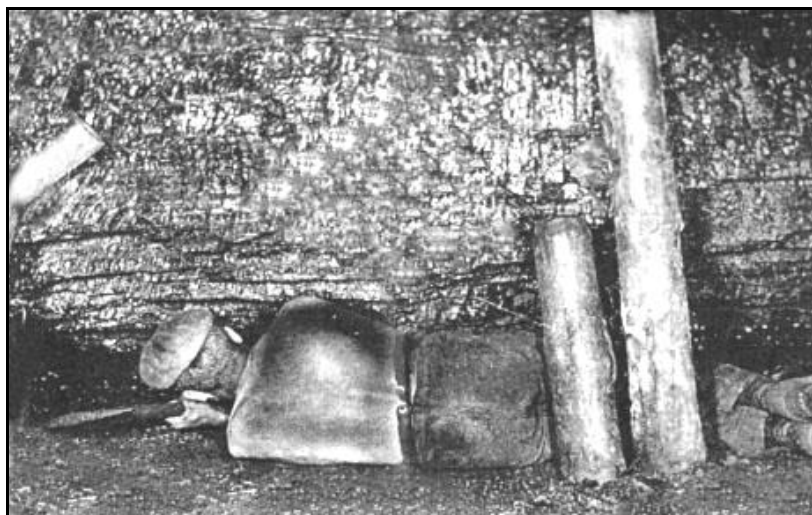
Messrs. Price, Bostock and Co. of Pegg's Green Colliery, Swannington Common, are now getting coal from a seam which is a continuance of the bed formerly obtained by Messrs. Boulton and Co. at the old Coleorton Colliery. They announce that any quantity may now be purchased at their pits at reduced prices.



Leicester Chronicle - February 10th 1838

Inquest on Fatal Accident at Pegg's Green -

On Wednesday evening, the 31st ult., Samuel Burrows aged about 24 or 25, went to work in a pit at Pegg's Green Colliery, for the first time; and at midnight, while engaged in breaking out the coal, a large stone, weighing upwards of a ton, fell from the roof, and crushed him to instant death. **Verdict accordingly.**



Leicester Journal - September 14th 1838

Accident - On Saturday week, an accident occurred at Pegg's Green Colliery which might have been attended with more serious consequences. A man named Birch had put a portion of powder into a cavity made in the coal for the purpose of blasting it, and laid the bag from which he had taken it a short distance from him, on the ground. As soon as the explosion had taken place, a portion of the touch paper, not burnt out, fell upon the bag unperceived by Birch, who went to take it up, when it suddenly ignited, burnt off his hair, whiskers &c., and severely injured his head and neck.

THE INQUEST

Leicester Chronicle - September 22nd 1838

DEATH FROM GUNPOWDER; FATAL RASHNESS. - An inquest was held on Tuesday at Thringstone, on the body of John Birch, a young man aged 19, who was severely burnt from the explosion of a bag containing two or three pounds of gunpowder, in the Pegg's Green Colliery, on Saturday fortnight. Four blasts had been made by drilling holes in the coal, at about two yards asunder; three of them had been fired, and the last, which was deceased's, had been loaded first, and was fired last. A bag of gunpowder belonging to the deceased had been laid by one Richard Wardle about six yards from the blast. After the blast had gone off, some paper which had been used in preparing the blast, fell in a lighted state upon the bag containing the deceased's powder. As soon as the other young men who were round, saw it, they ran away; but the deceased very thoughtlessly and incautiously went to knock the fire off the bag, for the purpose of saving the powder, when just as he was touching the bag with his hand the powder exploded, and blew the deceased backwards to the ground. He was picked up, and found much burnt on the stomach and front of his body; he lingered until Saturday last. - **Verdict, "Accidental Death".**

Leicester Chronicle - December 29th 1838

JAMES TYLER, blacksmith, of Thringston, in the employ of Messrs. Price and Co., at Pegg's Green Colliery, charged with stealing a large quantity of iron and horse shoe moulds, the property of the said company. - Committed to the sessions

Leicester Mercury - June 12th 1839

THE HURRICANE

This town and county - and, from what we hear, it would seem the greater part of the country - has been visited during the week by one of the most tremendous hurricanes which has been known for many years, whether we consider its violence or duration. It began on Sunday night, lulled somewhat in the course of the following day, again raged with violence on Monday night, and finally subsided early on Tuesday morning. To chronicle the disasters occasioned by the violence of the wind in this town and country would occupy several columns, there being scarcely a street in the town which was not strewn with broken slates, tiles and bricks, and hardly a farmer in the county who had not been injured to a greater or lesser extent; but as we cannot spare so much space, our readers must be content with the following particulars.....

The chimney at Pegg's Green Colliery, near Ibstock, (one of the finest in the country, being exactly 100 feet high) was blown down between five and six o' clock on Monday morning, scarcely thirty feet being left standing; fortunately no person or building was injured by the falling of the mass of brickwork.

Leicester Mercury - May 16th 1840

PEGG'S GREEN COAL,
Swannington Railway Wharf, Leicester.

WILLIAM J. WINDRAM

BEGS to announce that he has been appointed by Messrs. BOSTOCK, PRICE, AND Co., Sole Agent for the Sale of the above COAL, which he can with the greatest confidence recommend to his Friends and the Public as a *very superior Hard Coal, particularly clean and durable, and moderate in price.*

PRICE:—9s. 10d. per Ton at the Wharf; or 10s. 10d. delivered in any part of Leicester.

Orders forwarded to the Office, at the Wharf, or 27, Halford-street, will meet with prompt attention.

Leicester Journal - October 23rd 1840

Ashby De La Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday, October 17th. - 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 13th 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 4th 1841

Griffydam. - On Sunday last, August 29th, two sermons were preached in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Griffydam, 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 25th 1841

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday, September 18th.

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

Thomas Preston, of Griffydam, 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 31st 1842

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday December 14th

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

Leicester Chronicle - May 7th 1842

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

William Green of Whitwick, charged by John Price, agent to the Pegg's Green Colliery Company, with absenting himself from work; case adjourned for a week, in consequence of the Constable not having served the warrant

Leicester Mercury - May 13th 1843

Griffydam - Two sermons were preached in the Wesleyan Chapel here, yesterday week, by the Rev. Dr. Beaumont of Liverpool, and liberal collections made.

Leicester Mercury - March 9th 1844

SHOCKING DEATH IN A COAL PIT - An inquest was held at Thringstone, in this county, on Tuesday last, by John Gregory, Esq., on the body of Wm. Smith, about 35 years of age. From the depositions of witnesses it appears the deceased was employed at Pegg's Green Colliery, and on the Friday previous was employed in boring the coal for the purpose of putting in a charge of gunpowder. While thus employed, an immense mass of coal suddenly gave way, and, falling on him, literally buried him, with exception of his head. The poor fellow gave an alarm, and by prompt assistance, he was extricated in about five minutes, scarcely able to speak, and was carried home where he lingered till nine o'clock on Sunday morning. The deceased had been employed at boring "all his life", was an experienced workman, and had just before sounded the coal and thought it was to firm to give way without a "shot". Mr. Lomas, surgeon, who was sent for when the accident took place, stated that he had no hope from the first. The immense pressure of the coals had seriously injured the spine, the pelvis, and most of the internal viscera, from the effects of which he had no doubt death ensued. **Verdict, "Accidental Death".**

Leicester Chronicle - April 20th 1844

Ashby e la Zouch Petty Sessions, April 13th

George Perry, of Thringstone, **was committed for three months hard labour** for violating his contract with the Pegg's Green Colliery Company; and several men working at the same colliery were committed on the previous Monday for the same offences. - Some minor cases were disposed of and the following parties committed for trial; Sarah Yates, of Shackerstone; Robert Wheat and John Wilson of Whitwick.

Leicester Chronicle - January 20th 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 - April 19th 1844

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

George Perry of Thringstone, was charged by the Pegg's Green Colliery Company with neglecting his work. It appeared that the defendant had signed a written contract to serve the company as a Collier, to work six whole days, and to give 14 days notice before leaving. The defendant had given the notice, and since then had only worked a quarter of a day, thereby causing a severe loss to the company. The defendant said he had joined the Miner's Union, and he was obliged to do a certain portion of work, if he did more, he should have to forfeit 2s. 6d. per day. The Magistrates considered the case clearly proved, **and they committed him for three months to the house of correction to hard labour.** Several other men from the same colliery, who had signed similar contracts were committed for the same period on Monday last. It is believed that this mode of proceeding has had good effect, as the men at the Pegg's Green Colliery are for the most part of them now at work.

Leicester Chronicle - January 4th 1845

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

SAMUEL FREEMAN (25; Neither read nor write) was charged with stealing, on the 6th of December, two "picks" from the Pegg's Green Colliery. - Mr. Simpson conducted the prosecution. - Mr. John Price stated that a great number of picks had been lost from the colliery, and that he could swear positively to one of the picks produced as the property of himself and partners. Prisoner, who is a Blacksmith, had come to ask for work in the Blacksmith's shop at the colliery, on the very day the picks in question were missed. - Samuel Bonser, a labourer residing at Whitwick, deposed to meeting prisoner on the 6th December in the morning; prisoner asked him if he had anything to do, and, if not, if he would accompany him to Pegg's Green to ask for work? Witness said he had no objection; they went, neither got work, and, as they were coming away, prisoner pulled the picks out of his pocket, and said, "see what I have nipped". Witness advised him to go and restore them, or they would both get into trouble; but prisoner said no - he would go and swop them at Baltimore's; which he did, in witness's presence, for a poaching net. - Robert Baltimore, a barber at Whitwick, said that the prisoner came to him on the 6th December to ask him to swop the picks, and told him the things were his own - asking witness if he had ever known him to do anything wrong. He had a job to do, and had no tools. Witness then gave him a pocket knife, pair of pincers, a hand vice, and a net he had for "covering over fruit trees" and so keeping the blackbirds from getting at the cherries.....continuation not available.

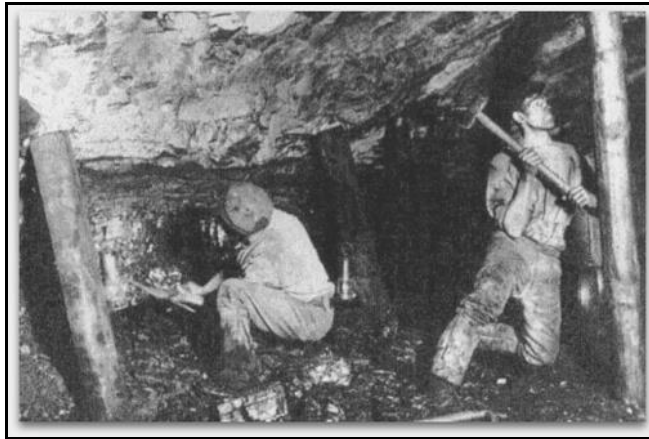
Leicester Chronicle - February 22nd 1845

Deaths - On the 11th inst., at Pegg's Green, Thringstone, aged 96, Catherine Gostelow. The deceased possessed a hardy and robust constitution, and was employed in a laborious out-door work after she had attained her 80th birthday.

Leicester Chronicle - April 5th 1845

FATAL COLLIERY ACCIDENT. - An inquest was held at Thringstone, in this county, on the 1st inst., before John Gregory, Gent., on the body of John Hutchinson of Sheepshead, aged twenty. Deceased had come from his home in search of employment, and, with a namesake, but not a relative, was engaged early on the Monday morning in pumping out water from one of the pits at Pegg's Green Colliery, when a large stone, weighing between 10 and 12 cwt., fell from the roof and crushed him to death; he only said "Oh dear". The stone covered nearly the whole of his body, and fell without any

warning; the roof was supported by timbers in the usual way, and no indication of it being unsafe had been perceived; the stone in question fell from between the supports. - Verdict; "Accidental death".



Leicester Mercury - December 16th 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 Mercury - June 7th 1851

A BOY DROWNED AT PEGG'S GREEN

On Thursday week, about 7 o'clock in the morning, Thomas Locker, a lad about sixteen, went with another youth to bathe in the reservoir at the Pegg's Green Colliery. He could swim a little, and tried to swim across, but when about the middle went down. A boy named Barkby, who was on the bank,

seeing him sink, called out for help, and Henry Smallwood, who was at work close by, immediately went in with his clothes on, and soon brought out deceased, and took him to the Engine Inn, where the usual efforts to restore animation were made, but without success. Mr. Price, part proprietor and manager of the colliery, hearing of the accident, sent off directly for Mr. Orton, surgeon, but his exertions were also fruitless. The reservoir was about six foot deep, and though strict orders were given that no one should bathe in it, the boys would occasionally transgress in the absence of Mr. Price.— **On Friday, Mr. Gregory held an inquest at Thringstone on the body of the deceased, when a verdict was returned of accidental death.**

Leicester Chronicle – March 5th 1853

Ashby de la Zouch petty Sessions, Saturday, February 26th – before Rev. J. M. Eschalaz and W. W. Abney, and Geo. Moore Esqrs.

Mary Robinson, a singular looking and diminutive young woman, of Griffydam, 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 12th 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 5th 1853

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions February 26th

Before W. W. Abney, Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz.

On the 23rd February, William Haywood of Griffydam, 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 6th 1853

On Saturday night a quantity of thistle-top kidney potatoes and a potato fork were stolen from the garden of Francis Elliot, Griffydam

Leicester Chronicle – August 20th 1853

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, August 13th. – 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 Griffydam, 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 29th 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 3rd 1853

FATAL COLLIERY ACCIDENT. - On the 24th ult., an inquest was held at Griffydam, upon Jarvis Marshall, deceased. He was about twenty years old, and employed as a loader in Pegg's Green Colliery. On Saturday, the 20th 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.**



Leicester Chronicle - May 13th 1854

Ashby Petty Sessions, May 6th

William Hurst of Pegg's Green was charged with assaulting Edward Boat, on the 29th 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 27th 1854

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, May 20th - 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 Hirst, on the night of Saturday, the 13th 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 27th 1854

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, May 20th - 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 16th and 17th Vict., cap.30. Complainant said, she lived at Griffydam, and on Saturday night the 13th 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 3rd 1855

Ashby de la Zouch Pety Sessions, February 24th - 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 10th. - **Fined £1 10s., including costs; in default of payment, one months hard labour.**

Leicester Mercury - June 23rd 1855

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday June 16th - Before Rev. J. M. Echalaz and E. A. Holden Esq.

Sarah Miller charged Mark Richards and George Hewitt with assaulting her on June 4th. Complainant said she was a married woman, and lived at Pegg's Green. On June 4th 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.**

Leicester Journal - March 27th 1857

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions March 21st - before W. W. Abney, Esq., and T. Mowbray, Esq.

John Bradford of Thringstone was charged with having on the 8th inst., stolen some pieces of wood valued at 8d and belonging to the Pegg's Green Colliery Company. It appeared from the evidence of P.C. Earpe, that whilst on duty during the night in question, he saw the prisoner come from the wood-yard near to Pegg's Green Colliery. He had some wood under his arm, and when he saw witness he lay down under the hedge, and put the wood in the hedge bottom. He afterwards said, "Master allows me to take it". This was denied by Mr. Wm. Kidger, one of the partners, and the wood was identified. In defence, prisoner said he was going through the yard, and took the wood, but did not know he was doing anything wrong. - **He was sentenced to 14 days imprisonment in the county house of correction.**

Leicester Chronicle - June 17th 1857

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, June 13th - 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 4th 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 23rd 1857

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, May 16th - 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 6th 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 20th 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 Chronicle October 3rd 1857

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions - Appleby House, September 30th - 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 Mercury - March 6th 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 (Wesleyan Day School), at Griffydam, on Tuesday evening last, March 2nd, 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 8th 1858

Ashby petty sessions, May 1st – Before W. W. Abney Esq.

John Robinson, better known by the name of Dr. Robinson, Griffydam, was charged by John Holyoak, labourer of the same place, with wilfully breaking his window on 6th 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 17th 1858

Ashby de la Zouch petty Sessions, Friday, July 9th – Before W. W. Abney Esq.

William Lager – Collier, Griffydam (who did not appear), was charged with stealing a quantity of cherries, from a tree at Pegg's Green, on the 28th 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 16th 1858

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, July 10th 1858

Before W. W. Abney, Esq., T. M. Mowbray Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz.

John Lagor of Griffydam 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 23rd 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 6th 1858

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday October 30th -

Before T. Mowbray Esq.

Monday November 1st. - 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 24th, 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.

Leicester Chronicle - January 29th 1859

**PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY
VICE CHANCELLORS COURT, MONDAY JANUARY 24TH**

PRICE v BOSTOCK

This case has occupied the court during several days.

The object of this Bill was to set aside an assignment of thirty shares, in the Pegg's Green Colliery, which is situated on the borders of Leicestershire, and abutting on Derbyshire, and consisting of ninety shares, such assignment being made by the defendants, Cowlshaw and Everard, to the other defendants, Messrs. Walker and Worswick, and to restrain the defendant Bostock from selling fifteen shares to Messrs. Walker and Worswick, the Plaintiffs Kidger and Price and the other defendants being the owners of the remaining shares. The circumstances of the case, by reason of what had taken place in various ways, in correspondence and otherwise, were extremely intricate, but the chief question was, whether the transaction now impeached was within the terms of the 12th clause of the partnership articles. That clause prescribed in substance that any partner in the collieries who should be desirous of withdrawing there from should first make an offer of his shares to members of his family, and, supposing they refused to purchase, then to the other partners, at a valuation, such acceptances, offers, and refusals to be in writing; and in such case other partners did not agree to purchase, then to be sold to some respectable party, who, previous to their admission as partners, should execute proper instruments to bind themselves to the performance of the articles. Cowlshaw and Everard were members of one family, the plaintiffs, Price and Kidger, of another, and the two Bostocks (John Bostock being alleged to have sold fifteen shares to Kidger), of another. In June 1856, Cowlshaw and Everard acted under the 12th clause of the articles. These offers met with various results. Price wrote, Bostock answered verbally, and Kidger offered £800; and, so on the 14th of October, 1856, the contract to sell to Messrs. Walker and Worswick took place, and this bill was filed to set aside the sale on the ground that Messrs. Cowlshaw and Everard could not sell until they had a written refusal from the parties to whom they were first bound to offer. This, the defendants contested they were not bound to give; not having made the offer, the remainder of what had to be done rested with whom the shares were offered; it was a question of legal right.

A large mass of evidence was read on both sides and Mr. Bailey was heard in reply. The Vice-Chancellor Kindersley, after stating the facts, said that this being a mining partnership each partner might have parted with his interest without the concurrence of the others, and the clause in question was introduced to restrain the exercise of that right. The intention appeared to have been to give a right of pre-emption to the members of the family; but whether that was carried out by the terms of the 12th clause might well be doubted (His honour and the clause). A great many questions not anticipated might arise on an instrument like this, though prepared, probably, with legal assistance. The interests of these families did not seem coincident, tightly or wrongly was immaterial; the result being that the Cowlshaws wished to retire, but did not make separate offers, as the plaintiffs contended they should have done, of their interests. The plaintiffs contended that the sale was invalid by reason of a separate offer not having been made, but his Honour thought that such contention could not prevail, but the objection lay as between the members of the family, and as between the partners generally; that each ought to have known that such offer was made. All the Cowlshaw family were simultaneously withdrawing, and when notice of that came to the other partners that must be taken as notice of such simultaneous act; and, indeed, Price and Kidger regarded it as having been done in concert, for in one instance accounts were asked for, as appeared in the correspondence, and there was no allegation of the necessity of a separate refusal in the bill, but at the bar it was raised for the first time. It was said that the offer ought to have been made on the members in the aggregate,

although sent to each; there was, however, no ground for this contention, for each knew the right for accepting, &c., depended upon the others. The contention was referred to in the bill, but not in the prayer, so little was it thought of. Now came the material part of the case- namely, that there should be no contract with strangers until there had been distinct refusal in writing from the members of the firm, and therefore anyone, by holding his tongue, could prevent the parting of shares with others. That was a most unlikely intention of the deed, and no one with candour or honesty would probably say that he understood it. If a rigid construction imposed it on members of the family, it did not impose it as regarded the firm generally, and certainly not as to strangers. There was no mention of the refusal referring to a member of the firm, and it appeared to his Honour there had been a valid offer to the members of the family; the next step to be taken was by the party to whom the offer was made, and if he was silent it was not the law that he could, after a reasonable time, object to a sale to a stranger. In reply to an offer there was no right to call for an account, but the delay in rejoining Mr. Price must have the benefit of; but the right to an account was denied, and the partnership articles warranted no such requirement Mr. Price by his conduct justified the Cowlshaws in assuming that there could be no sale to a stranger until he had refused in writing, and was, in fact, refusing to give an answer in writing, and now filing a bill on that foundation. With regards to Mr. Kidger, he offered £800, and asked verbally what would be given him "to stand ward" but his subsequent silence stood on the same ground as Mr. Price's, and neither made any communication for months after the contract, and were therefore not entitled to come for the assistance of the Court, and, as far as related to the Cowlshaws, the bill must be dismissed with costs. Bostock, having attempted to sell without making an offer, had abandoned that, but the bill must be dismissed against him without costs, but that abandonment did not rescind the whole. The question of the costs of certain affidavits was reserved. ***It was only approximately 12 months later that Pegg's Green Colliery closed.***

Leicester Chronicle - May 21st 1859

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, May 14th

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 11th 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 21st 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 11th 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 4th 1859

John Nicolson, publican, of Griffydam, was charged by Inspector Ward with permitting cock-fighting on his premises, on the night of 11th May. The charge was proved by Sgt. Moore and P.C. Fardell, and **defendant was fined £3 including costs.**

Leicester Chronicle - June 25th 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 12th inst., the property of Mr. Richard Orton, surgeon, Thringstone, **was committed for trial at the next sessions.**

Leicester Mercury - June 25th 1859

Ashby de la Zouch Magisterial, Saturday, June 18th - Before W. W. Abney Esq.

James Ward, *alias* Edwards, collier, of Griffydam, was charged with stealing certain fowls, the property of Mr. Richard Orton, surgeon, Thringstone. - Mr. Orton said that on examining his roost on Monday morning, the 13th inst., he found that three fowls had been stolen during the night, of which he gave information to P.S. 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 being cut off. - Prisoner made contradictory statements as to the possession of the fowls, also as to his being home on the night of the robbery at eight o'clock. - Jonas Knight stated that he saw prisoner leave the Anchor public-house, which is near Mr. Orton's premises, about eleven o'clock. Prisoner's boots were compared by Sergt. Moore with some impressions found near the roost, and also against a wall in the Anchor Lane, and were found to correspond. On prisoner being asked if he wished 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. Oton's, and that when he saw him he threw the bundle down and ran away; and on picking it up found it to contain the fowls, which he took home. **Committed to 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 15th inst. **Discharged with a caution.**

Leicester Mercury - July 23rd 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.**

Leicester Journal - December 23rd 1859

London Gazette - January 10th 1860

PEGGS GREEN COLLIERY, LEICESTERSHIRE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That the partnership heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned Thomas Bostock, John Price, William Kidger, John Knight, Benjamin Walker, and William Worswick, under the style or firm of "Bostock, Price and Co.," and sometimes called "The Peggs Green Colliery company", or under any other style or firm whatsoever, has been this day **DISSOLVED** by mutual consent

Dated the third day of December 1859

Loughborough Monitor - March 8th 1860

Electricity. - As a youth in the employ of Mr. Kidger, of Pegg's Green, was passing the end of Anchor Lane, to fetch up the cows, he was suddenly blown flat upon the ground, stiff and motionless, with his arms extended; had it not been for the timely assistance of Mr. Knight, farmer, death would have soon put an end to his sufferings; he was conveyed to his master's house on a cart; medical aid was immediately procured, and in a few hours he was restored. The cause is attributed to a current of electricity passing with the wind in that direction. Also, at the same time, it took off the top of a very large plum tree in Mr. Knight's garden.

Leicester Mercury - June 16th 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 6th 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 8th 1860

Ashby de la Zouch Magisterial, Saturday, December 1st

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.**

Leicester Mercury - October 19th 1861

Ashby petty Sessions

William Sissons of Pegg's Green, was charged with unlawfully assaulting and beating Sarah Glover, of Pegg's Green, on the 28th ult., and Ann Barker and Sarah Glover were charged with a cross-summons, for unlawfully assaulting Harriet Handford, at the same time. The evidence in this case was of the most conflicting nature, and appears to be as follows: Both parties are neighbours, and the quarrel arose over their children, which terminated in a "pitched battle" between the women, when the first defendant, who was in bed at the time, ran down the stairs and committed the first assault. - **The bench fined the defendant £2 or 6 weeks imprisonment, and dismissed the last case**

Leicester Chronicle - January 10th 1863

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions - Saturday, January 3rd.

Before W. W. Abney, T. Mowbray Esqurs., and the Rev. J. M. Echalaz

Daniel Kirk of Griffydam, 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.**

Leicester Chronicle - May 9th 1863

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday May 2nd - 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 19th 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 20th 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 Griffydam, on the same night. Part of this harness was found in prisoner's possession. **He was committed for trial on this charge also.**

Leicester Chronicle - July 11th 1863

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, July 4th - 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 Griffydam, 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.**

Leicester Journal - October 7th 1864

Ashby de la Zouch police Court

Murderous Assault at Osgathorpe

At the Police Court on the 29th 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 24th 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 issue 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 15th 1864

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Friday October 7th

Inspector Ward charged John Steward, of Coleorton, with being drunk and disorderly at Griffydam, on the 3rd inst. - P.C. Smith proved the case, and **defendant was fined £1 which he paid.**

Leicester Chronicle - June 10th 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 28th last. - **Defendant was discharged.**

Leicester Journal - August 18th 1865

Ashby de la Zouch Police Court, August 9th - 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 15th 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 6th 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 in 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 9th and December 16th 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 16th 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 29th 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 3rd 1866

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions - Saturday, February 24th. - 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 17th 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 Mail - June 1st 1867

Griffydam, Leics - Valuable Freehold Messuages and Land - To be sold by Auction by Mr. Orchard

On Tuesday, the 4th 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 1st 1867

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday July 25th (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 23rd 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 - February 29th 1868

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

ROBBING AN EMPLOYER - Mr. William Kidger, butcher, of Pegg's Green, (*Froggatt's Lane / School Lane*) charged William Knight, his servant, with stealing 30s., his property, on the 12th Oct. last. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. Kidger that on the above day, he sent him to pay a bill to Mr. Eagle, a shopkeeper, of Coleorton, giving him the 30s. He, however returned, and said that Mr. Eagle was not at home. He afterwards absconded from his employer, taking the money with him. - P.C. Cheshire proved apprehending the prisoner on a warrant, and telling him the charge. He admitted the offence, and said he had spent it. - **He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to two months' hard labour.**

Leicester Mail - March 28th 1868

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday March 21st - 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 9th inst. - P.C. H. Cheshire proved the case, and defendant was fined 13s., including costs.

Leicester Chronicle - June 20th 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 30th ult.

James Waring again charged Michael Richards with stealing a greyhound, value £10, his property. - Both cases dismissed.

Leicester Chronicle - August 15th 1868

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions - Saturday August 8th

Mary Waterfield, married woman, of Griffydam, charged Hannah Cliff and Harriet Cliff, of the same place, with assaulting her, at Griffydam, on the 28th ult. - **case dismissed; complainant to pay the costs**

Leicester Chronicle - October 10th 1868

Ashby Petty Sessions, Saturday, October 3rd. - 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 30th 1868

Loughborough Police Court, October 28th. - Before E. C. Middleton Esq.

Francis Hurst, a collier, of Griffydam, was remanded on a charge of having on the 26th 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.

Leicester Journal - April 23rd 1869

Ashby County Court

Sarah Glover and Elizabeth Smallwood, both of Pegg's Green, were charged with stealing coal on the 11th inst., from the Coleorton Colliery, the property of William Worswick and others. Glover pleaded guilty, **and was sentenced to 21 days hard labour.** There being a doubt in the case of Smallwood, she was discharged

Leicester Journal - October 22nd 1869

County Court, October 14th - 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 20th 1869

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday Nov. 13th. - 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 31st 1869

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, December 24th. - 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 18th 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 29th 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. Op., 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 Journal - May 20th 1870

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, May 14th - 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 5th 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 26th 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 Journal October 27th 1871

Ashby de la Zouch

Police, Monday, October 23rd. - Before George Moore Esq. - George Brooks aged 9, and William Mellor, aged 10, both of Swannington, were charged with having on the 17th 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 10th 1871

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, Saturday, November 4th - 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 therefrom 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 - 12th January 1872

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, January 6th - 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 23rd 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 23rd 1872

Ashby de la Zouch County Court

Frederick Johnson, of Griffydam, Fishmonger, was charged with having, on the 9th 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 Journal - July 12th 1872

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, July 6th - 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 1st 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 11th 1873

Ashby de la Zouch Police Court, 5th 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 Journal - September 5th 1873

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions, 30th August. - Before Rev. J. M. Echalaz, and H. E. Smith Esq. - Annual Brewster Session for the division.

Joseph Lager, of Griffydam, beerhouse-keeper, was charged with having on the 11th 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 12th 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 Chronicle - January 10th 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 Daily Mercury - May 1st 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 29th 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.

Leicester Chronicle - May 12th 1877

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

Joseph Lager the younger, of Pegg's Green, collier, was charged with having, on the 26th ult., at Griffydam, 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 23rd 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. Od. and costs or two months hard labour.**

Leicester Journal - July 5th 1878

Suicide at Griffydam

An inquest was held at the Red Lion Inn, Griffydam, before Mr. Deane, coroner, on the 28th 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.**

Loughborough Journal – November 7th 1879

William Knight, of Griffydam, butcher, was charged with having on the 17th 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

Leicester Chronicle – September 11th 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 8th 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.**

Leicester Chronicle – December 18th 1880

UNJUST WEIGHTS : A BAD CASE

John Bail, shop keeper, Pegg's Green, was charged with using on the 1st inst., 14 weights and one pair of scales, the same being incorrect. – Defendant did not appear. Mrs. Bail was, however, present to answer to the charge. – P.C. Hancock having proved the service of the summons, Inspector Holloway stated that he went to the defendant's shop on the day in question; saw Mrs. Bail, and asked her to produce her weights, as he wished to examine them. He found the weights incorrect, and one pair of flour scales weighed 8½ ounces against the purchaser. The weights and scales were produced. The defendant had been in business about 12 months. – Mrs. Bail said the weights and scales were borrowed. – **The Chairman stated that the bench were of opinion that this was a very bad case indeed, and the defendant would have to pay a fine of 40s. and 14s. costs, and in default of payment, there would be a distress or one months imprisonment**

Leicester Chronicle – February 11th 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 14th 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 – February 9th 1884

Griffydam Wesleyan Day School – The committee of this school, engaged the services of Mr. James Young, who preached two sermons on Sunday last to attentive congregations. On the following Monday evening Mr. Young delivered a lecture in the schoolroom, 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.

Leicester Chronicle - May 2nd 1885

Sudden Death - At the Rising Sun on Tuesday at Worthington, 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.**

Leicester Chronicle October 1st 1887

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

Extraordinary Charge of Assault near Ashby

At the Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions on Saturday, Peter King, collier, Griffydam, was charged with assaulting Louisa Ann Knight, at Griffydam, on the 17th inst. - Mr. Wilkins appeared for the defendant. - Complainant stated that she was in business at Coalville, and was in the habit of going home every Saturday night, and generally rode with Mr. Sketchley, who attended Coalville Market. Some of her friends usually came to meet her. She was going home on the night in question, and rode with Mr. Sketchley and another gentleman as far as they were going, but on this night there was no one to meet her as usual. As they were driving along she saw a man sitting in a dyke, and soon after she left Mr. Sketchley she perceived that some man was following her, She had an umbrella, a bag, and two parcels. It was a dark night, and a little after ten o'clock when she wished Mr. Sketchley "good night". When she got to the top of the hill, past Mr. Tugby's gate, the man came up to her and put his arm around her neck. She screamed out, and asked the man what he was going to do, and he replied, "I'll show you". He then threw her down in the road. She resisted, and he said he would let her get up if she would hold her noise. He then put his hand over her mouth to prevent her screaming. Witness, seeing the man put one hand in his pocket, took advantage of his only holding her by one hand and got away, leaving her, hat, umbrella, bag, and two parcels on the ground. She ran away as fast as she could to her uncle's, and as she was running the man shouted, "I'll give it to you if I get hold of you". She had no doubt about the prisoner being the man who assaulted her. - Cross examined; The man did not follow her when she ran away. She could run pretty well. When she got to her uncle's she stayed about two minutes. She had never seen prisoner before. Described the man's appearance to the police. Had not described the appearance of a man named Frederick Reed. She described the man's appearance to the police on Sunday morning, but did not see prisoner till Thursday night. Knew him by his height, shape, and voice. Was aware that three other men had been interviewed about being the persons who had assaulted her. - Robert J. knight, grocer, Gelsmoor, stated that complainant came to his house about 10.30 on the night in question, and said that she had been stopped on the road. She had no hat on, and her face was scratched. She did not mention any name, but described how the man who had stopped her was dressed. Accompanied complainant to the place and found her hat, umbrella and satchel. Did not know prisoner, and had not seen him before that night. Prisoner lived close to the place where the assault was committed. - Henry Jackson, Inn Keeper, Pegg's Green, said on the night of 17th September prisoner called at his house about six o'clock, and was served with a pint of beer. He left about seven o'clock with his wife, and they went in the direction of Whitwick, saying they were going to Whitwick Market. They came in again about quarter past nine. The wife left in a few minutes, and the prisoner left with the rest of the company at three minutes to ten, closing time. They bade each other good night, and defendant turned to the right, which would be in the direction of Mr. Robert Knight's house. - By Mr. Wilkins: Defendant went towards his own home. He went out with Thomas Morley. - Thomas Morley said he lived at Pegg's Green. On the night of the 17th he was at Jackson's public-house, and left with defendant at ten o'clock. Knew defendant very well. They walked together in direction of defendant's home. The alleged assault took place in the opposite direction. When

defendant left witness he went straight towards his home. This was about 1en minutes past ten. Did not see him again that night. The place where the assault took place would be 200 or 300 yards from where they parted. - his was the case for the prosecution, and Mr. Wilkins addressed the bench at some length, contending that it was highly improbable that Miss Knight could speak with certainty, seeing that the night was so dark, and that, as she admitted, she had never seen the prisoner before. Mr. Wilkins complained of the manner in which Miss Knight had identified the prisoner as the man who had assaulted her, and contended that the defendant should have been placed with a dozen or twenty men of his own size. Instead of this defendant was taken with two policemen for identification. Continuing, Mr. Wilkins said that unfortunately for his client the only person who could speak as to his whereabouts at the time was his wife, and she could not be called. But his instructions were that after defendant got home, just after 10 o'clock he had his supper and did not go out again. He would call a witness who would prove that defendant was at home some time after 10 o'clock, and taking all things in consideration he (Mr. Wilkins), thought there was grave doubt as to defendant being the man who had assaulted Miss Knight, and hoped that the bench would give him the benefit of such doubt. - Joanna Platts, a young woman 19 years of age, said she went to Whitwick Market with defendant and his wife on the night in question. On returning they called at Mr. Jackson's public-house. She and defendant's wife left together, leaving the husband there. As they were leaving, defendant told his wife to get the supper ready. She saw defendant when he got home just after 10 o'clock, and she left him in the house.- This was all the evidence, and the Bench retired. - After a few minutes absence they returned, and the Chairman said the Bench had given the case their careful consideration, and they had decided to convict. **The prisoner would be sentenced to 21 days hard labour. - Defendant's wife, who was in court, burst into tears upon hearing the sentence, and the prisoner looked surprised.**

Leicester Chronicle - April 27th 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 6th 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.

Leicester Daily Mercury - April 7th 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 16th 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 15th. - 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 22nd 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.**

The Leicester Chronicle - December 20th 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.**

Leicester Chronicle - April 25th 1891

Griffydam School Sermons. - In connection with the Wesleyan Day School, the annual services in aid of the school funds were held in the chapel on Sunday and Monday, when addresses were given by Miss Brewster, 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.



WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL, GRIFFYDAM

Leicester Chronicle – April 2nd 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

Leicester Chronicle – May 27th 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 Lorndon 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 17th 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 4th 1893

Griffydam Swifts v Shephed 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 lightening 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. Griffydam 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 TRAVELERS REST FOOTBALL TEAM, GRIFFYDAM 1904
(WAS THIS GRIFFYDAM SWIFTS ???)**

Leicester Chronicle - September 9th 1893

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions - Before Mr George Moore, Canon Beaumont, and Colin Partridge

Joseph Leeson, a collier, of Griffydam, was summoned for assaulting Thos. Bird, a collier of the same place, on the 23rd 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.**

Leicester Chronicle- December 1st 1894

Alleged Burglary at Griffydam

The Story of A Brooch

At the Ashby de la Zouch police court, on Saturday, before Mr. George Moore (in the chair), the Hon. Paulyn Hastings, and the Rev. Canon Beaumont, Fanny Broadhurst, wife of Frank Broadhurst, collier, Griffydam, was charged with stealing on September 4th - 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 Griffydam were in court. - The prosecutor, Henry Lakin, said he was a grazier, residing at Gelsmoor, Griffydam, 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 15th 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 15th 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 he 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.

Leicester Chronicle - September 7th 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 Griffydam, at the latter place, on the 17th 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.**

Leicester Chronicle - November 23rd 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, Griffydam, 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, Griffydam, 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, Griffydam, 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 Griffydam, 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 - October 31st 1896

Griffydam - 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 guiled 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 19th 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 20th 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.**

Leicester Chronicle - August 27th 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 17th 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 8th 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 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.**



THE GRIFFIN INN IN 1931

Leicester Chronicle - September 2nd 1899

Ashby Police Court - Saturday - Before Canon Beaumont and F. Whetstone Esq.

Minor Offence - William Platts, collier, Griffydam, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Griffydam on August 8th. - 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 9th 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 Griffydam and Osgathorpe respectively, were summoned for being drunk on the licensed premises of William Batson, at Griffydam, on the 17th 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 Chronicle - October 22nd 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.**

Leicester Chronicle - May 25th 1912

A Whitwick Nonacenerian'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 90th 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

Coalville Times - Friday April 24th 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.

Leicester Chronicle April 24th 1915

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

Poultry Raiders - At Ashby Petty Sessions, on Saturday Maphali Smith, scissor grinder, and Absolum Smith, collier, both of Thringstone, were charged with stealing three live fowls, value 9s. the property of Mary Davis, at Breedon., on 16th of April and further with stealing three fowls, value 13s. 6d., the property of the Re. G. Robinson, Thringstone, between 20th of March and 16th 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 Griffydam. When witness went to them, a fowl cackled in Absolum 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 16th 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.**

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, Salue Robinson, Joseph Moore and Wm. Brealey, all Whitwick colliers, were summoned for being found on the licensed premises of David Else, at Griffydam, in the parish of Worthington during prohibited hours, on April 23rd, 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 "Fairyland". 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.



Mick Upton (left) and Jack Hill at the well head. 1934.



Owen Johnson reunited with his very relieved mother. 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.

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.

PART 3

GRIFFYDAM HISTORY SECTION

Griffydam has quite a complex and chequered history, and the following is a chronological attempt to provide an understanding of this.

In older records, Griffydam is recorded with various spellings such as Griffith's Dam, Griffithdamm, Griffadham, Griffy Dam and Griffidam.

A number of reasons have been put forward as to how Griffydam got its name, but the most likely is that it came from the translation of the Scandinavian words 'Gryfja Damnr', meaning a cleft or valley, with a dam or stream. This suggests that a "small" settlement probably developed as far back as the time of the Viking invasion of 873. **See the later feature entitled "The "Tentas", Griffydam - From an Association with the Woollen Cloth Manufacturing Industry", which provides a more detailed explanation.**

VARIOUS RECORDS OF PEOPLE RESIDING IN GRIFFYDAM IN THE 17TH & 18TH CENTURIES

The earliest recorded Will of anyone residing in Griffydam dates back to Edward Warden of Griffydam, a carpenter by trade, who made his Will in 1614. More details are given in a later feature on local pottery finds.

Mr. Ian D J Hunt tells us in his thesis written in September 2004 and entitled "Rural Production in Transition" that the hamlet of Griffydam is referred to in rental agreements, when it was part of the ancient "Bradgate Estate" in 1656. At this time, Griffydam had 10 tenants recorded and the Brand Common 10 also.

Based on the several Sharpe Wills located, the Sharpe families must have settled in Griffydam in the 17th century:-

- *An interesting Will / Administrative document which is partly in Latin and difficult to read and interpret was that made by Mary Sharpe of "Griffadham" in 1676. She was the relict (widow) of the late Andrew Sharpe of Griffadham and appears to have inherited all his goods, chattles and credits. Mary Sharpe's signature was witness by T Boulton of Osgathorpe who would have been the Thomas Boulton living at Stordon Grange at the time who you can read about in the later feature on Stordon Grange. Surprisingly he made his mark when signing.*
- *An important Will made in 1733 by Andrew Sharp is transcribed later in the book under the feature "Where the dyeing process of woollen cloth was thought to have been carried out at Griffydam".*

Title deeds (DE 4579 now at L&RRO)

Lease and Release document dated 14/15th October 1720

1. William Dexter of **Griffith Damm** par. Breedon on the Hill, yeoman and Mary his wife.
2. Joseph Boulton of Swannington, yeoman and Thomas Boulton of Stordon Grange, *Gent*.
3. William Boulton of Osgathorpe, yeoman - part of a close (1 acre) in **Griffithdamm** adjoining a cottage occupied by William Dexter being the west part of the close from the cottage - Consideration £35.

Further reference to William Dexter is included under the later feature entitled "Probably Griffydam's Oldest Surviving Building".

The following paragraph is taken from "The History and Antiquities' of the County of Leicestershire 1800", Volume 3. Pt.2. by John Nichols:-

Griffy or Griffith Dam is a little hamlet, or Vill, within the Lordship of Worthington, situate near Cole Orton moor; and has within it a mineral spring, supposed to be Chalybeate. In the election of 1722, William Dexter polled as a freeholder in Griffy Dam. In the poll-book of 1775, two freeholders of Worthington James Radford, and Francis Swan (pot-carrier), are entered as resident at Griffy Dam.

Altogether, in the 1841 censuses, the three settlements of Newbold, Gelsmore and Griffydam returned 48 resident coal miners, 17 other labourers, 82 manufacturing operatives, 8 pottery makers, 4 pot sellers and 51 other trades-people. Among the 82 manufacturing operatives (90 if eight lace runners in Worthington village are included) were four wool combers and 31 framework knitters. The remaining number comprised mostly lace workers, who were probably employed from Castle Donnington, only 6 miles from Worthington, and a centre for lace manufacture at that time.

In 1854, Melville's Directory & Gazetteer of Leicestershire stated that **The Earl of Stamford and Warrington was now Lord of the Manor of Griffydam** within the Chapelry of Worthington. This is the only reference the writer has found of Griffydam being referred to as a manor.

According to Whites 1863 Directory, Worthington at that time still lay within the Parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill, and contained 802 inhabitants. Its township and chapelry now comprises the small hamlets of Griffydam or Griffith's Dam, and the liberty of Newbold Saucey or Newbold-Juxta-Worthington which contained 338 souls. Gelsmoor was subsequently added to these. Griffydam is described as comprising approximately 200 acres and belonged to the Earl of Stamford & Warrington and J Curzon, Esq.

In White's Directory of 1877, it is stated that Griffydam (200 Acres) now belongs to C.F.A. Hastings Esq., of Castle Donnington. Worthington probably became a Parish in its own right about 1880 when it was confirmed in Wright's Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland 1880, and then included the hamlets of Newbold, Gelsmoor and Griffydam.

The hamlet of Griffydam was part of the parish of Breedon on the Hill, but then c.1877 became part of the independent Chapelry and parish of Worthington, which also included the hamlets of Newbold and Gelsmoor also. The old Brand Common, often referred to as Breedon Brand, was once part of Breedon on the Hill parish, but at some point, apparently became one third owned by Worthington and two thirds by Griffydam. Presumably this happened when Worthington became an independent parish.

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 Griffydam. 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 2nd Baron in 1620 married Anne, youngest daughter of the 2nd Earl of Exeter, through whom the manor and borough of Stamford (Lincolnshire) was acquired. In 1628, Henry, 2nd 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.

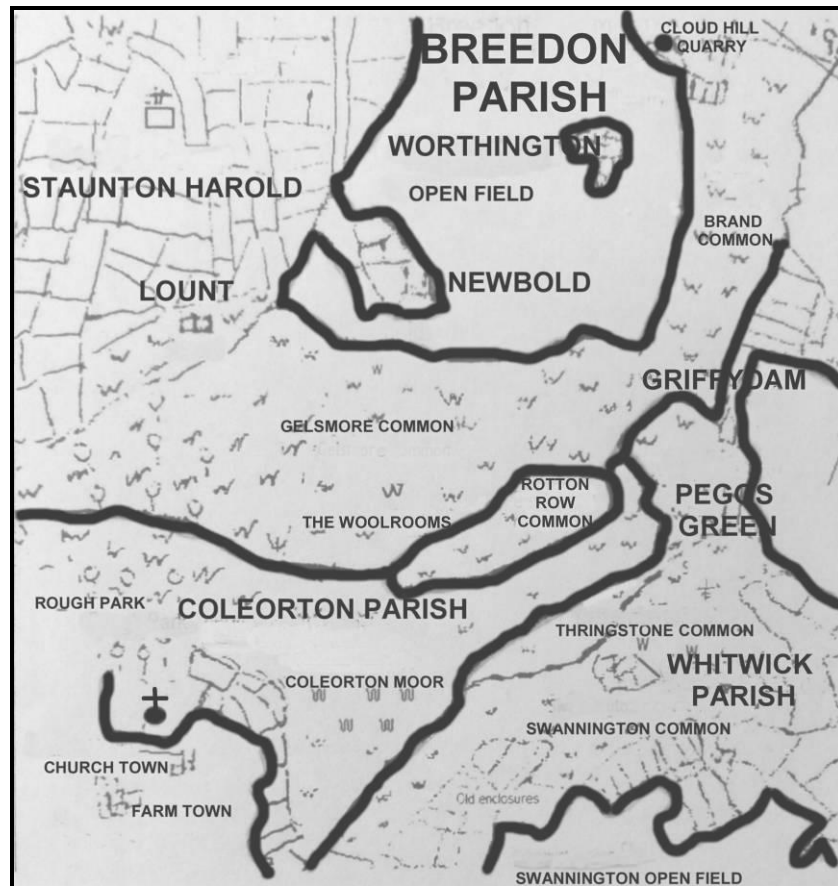
Harry Grey (1715-1768), elder son of the third Earl, married Mary in 1736. She was the only daughter of George Booth, second and last Earl of Warrington, through whom estates in Cheshire and Lancashire came to the Grey family. Through inheritance and marriage, estates at Enville (Staffordshire), and 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 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.

THE INCLOSURE OF LAND IN ENGLAND AND WALES

When reading the following, one must remember that centuries ago Griffydam was surrounded by large areas of open moor land such as; Gelsmoor Common, Brand Common, and Thringstone Common etc. These commons would have been mainly open land, unsuitable for cultivation, but ideal for rough grazing. Sheep were allowed to roam free over these moors, and in doing so they would have maintained the scrub vegetation.



The map is a basic attempt to provide a picture of the open moorland in the locality of Griffydam based on an old map probably from about 1760

A series of Acts of Parliament dating from 1604 were passed which empowered inclosure of open field and common and waste land in England and Wales. Inclosure is an old spelling which later became referred to as enclosure.

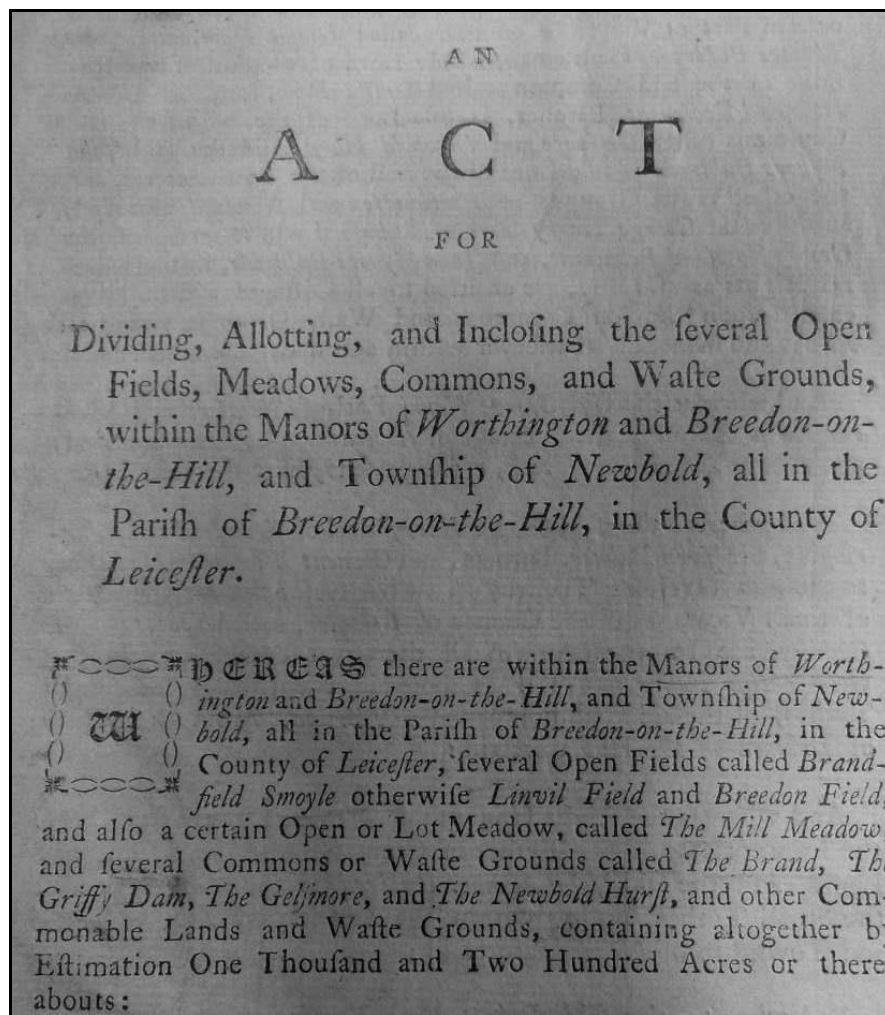
We are dealing here with a specific Act of Parliament passed in 1802 which included the dividing, allotting and inclosure of land. At this time, the Parish of Breedon on the Hill included the manor of Breedon, the chapelry, township and manor of Worthington and township of Newbold. Gelsmoor and Griffydam seem to have been part of the latter. The inclosure enactment for Worthington including Newbold, Gelsmoor and Griffydam was not apparently completed until 1806.

At the time of the inclosure, both George Harry, Earl of Stamford & Warrington and John Mynors Bulstrode, Gent were given as sole **Lords of the soil** of that common called Griffy Dam. Although we have no way of knowing the extent of the Griffydam common and waste land, it was probably relatively small. In 1863, the whole of the area of Griffydam was adjudged to be c.200 acres.

The original schedule for the enclosure is quite complex and in parts confusing, although it is very detailed in the information provided, which is quite unusual for this type of inclosure enactment schedule. There follows a list of allotted parcels of land and land intakes and the owners for **Griffydam only** which is supported by an extract from the map drawn for the commissioners by the surveyor William Henry Smith. **All the allotments of land are numbered, and can be cross referenced to the map, so we now have a very good picture of the village in 1806, which can certainly be recognised from what exists today.** The census information which follows later shows the development of the hamlet over a period of 95 years from 1806.

FROM THE 1806 SCHEDULE (ACCOMPANYING 1806 MAP SHOWN LATER)

The following illustrations of excerpts from the original schedule held at the Leicestershire and Rutland Record Office have been included for interest where Griffydam is specifically mentioned, however, for anyone who wishes to read the complete explanatory text of the Act, the writer recommends referring to "The History and Antiquities' of the County of Leicestershire 1800" by John Nichols, copies of which are held in Coalville Library and Ashby Museum.



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 *Gelsmore* 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:

All cottages or tenements standing upon the Brand and part of *Griffy Dam* are to be allotted to the Earl of *Stamford* and *Warrington*, as lord of the manor and soil. And all cottages and other buildings now standing upon the commons and waste grounds called the *Griffy Dam*, the *Gelsmore* and the *Newbold Hurst*, together with the gardens and intakes from such commons and waste ground used and enjoyed therewith, for or in respect of which, within 20 years immediately preceding the passing of this act, any rent or acknowledgement hath been paid to the said Sir *George Howland Beaumont* and *John Mynors Bullstrode*, or either of them, shall be deemed to belong to them the said Sir *George Howland Beaumont* and *John Mynors Bullstrode*, their heirs and assigns, according to their several and respective rights as lords as aforesaid, and shall be allotted to them according to their said several and respective rights by the said commissioners, upon a valuation to be made of such gardens and intakes, according to the unimproved state, and the quality and value of the common land adjoining thereto etc.

it shall be lawful for the said *George Harry* Earl of *Stamford* and *Warrington*, Sir *George Howland Beaumont*, and *John Mynors Bullstrode*, 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 Bullstrode*, 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-

**PREAMBLE RELATING TO LAND BORDERING ON THE HAMLET OF GRIFFYDAM
TO THE EAST WITHIN GELSMOOR (AS WRITTEN IN THE SCHEDULE)**

Tithe allotments for the R.H. Nathaniel Lord Scarsdale.

- 54 acres 9 perches, No. 89 on Gelsmoor Common including 17 cottages and several gardens and intakes containing together 28 acres 1 rood 29 perches (which cottages, gardens, intakes or such of them as Sir George H Beaumont was entitled to have had allocated to him are awarded by us to Lord Scarsdale with Sir George's consent). Bounded eastwardly by the inclosures 172, 173, 174, 175, 179 and the brook westwardly, by the Rempstone Road Turnpike and northwardly by the inclosures 174, 175, 176 and 177, and southwardly by the Hinckley Turnpike Road. To fence against the brook and west and south.

**In Exchange from Sir George H Beaumont for tithes given to him by Lord Scarsdale.
(The schedule appears to be suggesting that Lord Scarsdale has been allotted all the land on the east side of the brook including No.89 and the following inclosures).**

- An inclosure called the Dye House Close No. 173 containing 2 acres 1 rood and 19 perches.
- A farmhouse containing outbuildings, yard, garden, orchard No. 174 containing 2 roods and 22 perches.
- An inclosure called the croft No. 172 containing 2 roods.
- An inclosure called the Dye House Close No. 175 containing 3 acres and 29 perches.
- An inclosure called the meadow No. 176 containing 5 acres 2 roods and 6 perches.
- An inclosure called the far breach No. 177 containing 4 acres 2 roods 33 perches.
- An inclosure called the near breach No. 178 containing 3 acres 1 rood 36 perches.
- An inclosure called the middle breach No. 179 containing 2 acres 1 rood 17 perches.

**EXTRACTS FROM 1806 INCLOSURE SCHEDULE RELATING TO GRIFFYDAM ONLY AS
WRITTEN IN THE SCHEDULE**

From John Mynors Bulstrode.

(This appears to be in exchange for land elsewhere, but the schedule does not make clear who then has ownership of the allotments and which are rented or freehold)

- 1 rood 36 perches No.103 in Griffy Dam bounded outwardly by the allotment 102, westwardly by an intake belonging to Lord Stamford, northwardly by the allotment No. 104, and southwardly by the township of Thringstone (*this will be Pegg's Green at some point*).
- 1 acre 31 perches No. 104 at Griffy dam bounded eastwardly by the allotments 102 and 215, westwardly by allotments 92 and 93 and intakes belonging to Lord Stamford and secondly by the allotment 215 and an intake belonging to Lord Stamford.
- 3 houses and gardens Nos. 224 at Griffy Dam containing 8 perches in the occupation of Robert, Hannah and Thomas Heywood
- A garden No. 225 at Griffy Dam containing 10 perches in the occupancy of George Richards.
- A house and garden No. 226 at Griffy Dam containing 16 perches in the occupancy of John Dorkins.
- A house and garden No. 227 at Griffy Dam containing 8 perches in the occupancy of Benjamin Smallwood.
- Two houses and gardens No. 228 at Griffydam containing 30 perches in the occupancy of William Richards and Richard Winters.
- A house and garden No. 229 at Griffy Dam containing 8 perches in the occupancy of James Eames.
- 3 houses and gardens No.230 at Griffy Dam containing 22 perches in the occupancy of Charles Ward, George Stevenson and William Fowler.

- An intake No. 231 at Griffydam containing 18 perches in the occupancy of William Sharpe.

To The Lord of the soil ? - 1 Rood 36 perches No. 92 on Griffydam bounded eastwardly by the allotment 104 and an intake belonging to the said Earl, westwardly by the allotment 209, northwardly by the allotment 93 and westwardly by intake belonging to the said Earl and the Township of Thringstone. (*Presumably Earl of Stamford*).

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 inclosure 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 1/8th 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 inclosures 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 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 allotment213.
- 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.

CENSUS INFORMATION FOR THE HAMLET OF GRIFFYDAM

Because the census material is often difficult to read and interpret, there will always be some points of conjecture but the following information provides a reasonably accurate picture of what the social and industrial life was like in the hamlet of Griffydam during the periods covered.

1841 CENSUS

When the 1841 census for Griffydam was carried out, the Bottom Brand and Vinegar Hill north from the Waggon and Horses were still in the township and Chapelry of Worthington, which at that time was still part of the Parish of Breedon on the Hill. The liberty of Newbold/Newbold Hurst, Gelsmoor and Griffydam were hamlets included as part of the Township of Worthington.

The name Elder Lane had become established at this time, although there is no mention of "The Tentas" in the enumerator's survey, so this must have been named later. The places listed by the enumerator during his registration walk in the following order are Griffydam, Elder Lane, Chapel Row, Griffy Hill (the area of what is now the Tentas?), Chapel House and Froggat's Lane (part of an extension of the Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike, now known as Top Road). He starts his walk in what he states is Griffydam, but we feel certain based on evidence from John Bramley, a resident of Griffydam, that in fact the first 3 houses registered are the 3 Worthington Poor Houses situated between the Rempstone Road and Cart Brook (see map below), Another 4 houses are listed before the enumerator registers houses under Elder Lane. A separate 1841 census for Worthington rather confusingly includes the Waggon and Horses and another property which was presumably the thatched cottage to the east of it (see feature on wagon & Horses), as being in Griffydam. In the 1851 census the 3 poor houses are registered separately, now under Cartbrook, but still part of Griffydam.



Location of the three Worthington Poor Houses

There were 68 separate households inhabited in the 1841 census. 4 Houses were either unoccupied or being built. The total number of people (including children) living in Griffydam was 282 made up of 134 males and 148 females. 130 were 15 or under and 24 people were over 60, the oldest being 85(1), 80(2), 75(2). 73 people are listed as having a profession or trade, and it is assumed that they were all in employment at the time of the census. **In the 1841 census there were 5 houses listed on Vinegar Hill on the Bottom Brand with 26 inhabitants. This was not in Griffydam at this time and has not been included.**

13 women were listed as having a profession or trade not including those registered as having household duties - 2 Lace workers, 1 Lace agent, 2 Dress makers, 2 Grocers and 4 Stocking makers. plus a school mistress and a mid-wife. Eleven of these would have carried out their work at home as a cottage industry.

16 males and females are doing work associated with the hosiery / textile trade from home, including 7 male framework knitters

It is interesting to note that Griffydam had a mid-wife and School Mistress at this time.

The following is a list of the professions or trades:-

Stocking makers (4)	Dress makers (2)
Framework knitters (7)	Higler (1)
Woolcomber (1)	Hawkers (4)
Cordwainer - boot & shoe maker (1)	Traveller (1)
Shoemakers (2)	Joiner (1) possibly hosiery
Lace agent (1)	Pot Sellers (2)
Lace workers (2)	Bricklayer (1)
Farmers (5)	Painter (1)
Agricultural labourers (15)	Cooper (1)
Coal miners (8)	Pedlars (2)
Malster (1)	Gardener (1)
Grocers (3)	Wheaver (weaver) (1)
Shopkeeper (1)	Labourer (1)
Publican - Waggon and Horses (1)	Mid Wife (1)
School Mistress (1)	

Surprisingly, Griffydam had no paupers listed

1851 CENSUS

There were 72 separate households listed in the 1851 census. The total number of people (including children) living in Griffydam was 312 made up of 162 males and 150 females. 116 were 15 or under and 35 people were over 60 years of age, the oldest being 89. 139 people are listed as having a profession or trade, and it is assumed that they were all in employment at the time.

One of the noticeable differences between the 1841 and 1851 census is that 42 women were employed in a profession or trade in the 1851 census against 9 in the 1841. These were all professions or trades carried out at home of course as a cottage industry and do not include those registered as Household Duties.

Including males and females, more than a third are now employed in connection with the textile / hosiery industry. Lace workers have gone up from 2 to 17 (all females) which is presumably due to an increasing demand from Castle Donnington and Nottingham who put out work to cottage workers using lace agents. We can see that there has been an increase in the number of framework knitters from 7 to 10.

The number of agricultural labourers has reduced by 30% from 1841 and farmers have reduced from 5 to 2 although there are 2 cow-keepers probably listed as farmers previously.

There has also been an emergence of workers associated with the Spa industry in Griffydam, in parallel with the development of this localised industry in Coleorton, Thringstone and Pegg's Green.

The number of coal miners has remained stable at a surprisingly low number of ten.

There are now 2 publicans with the addition of the Griffin Inn to the Waggon & Horses.

The following is a list of the professions and trades:-

Publicans (2)	Lace Workers (17)	Seamer of hats (1)
Seamer of ? (1)	Seamers of stockings (3)	Tailors (4)
Cordwainers (2)	Knitters including fancy knitter (2)	Stone Miner (1)
Bricklayers (2)	Framework Knitters (10)	Grocer & Baker (1)
Grocers (3)	Seamer / Seamstress of Stockings (5)	Dress Makers (3)
Stocking worker/ maker/ (1)	Stocking Journeyman (1)	Labourers (8)
Knitter (5)		
Farmers (2)	Earthenware/pots Dealers/Hawkers (8)	Coal Miners (10)
Tailors (4)	Farm / Ag Labourers (11)	Gardeners (2)
Journeyman Spar Maker (2)	Spar Painters (2)	Spar Turner (1)
Spar Manf'r (1)	Spar Worker (1)	Traveller Spar Goods (1)
Petrification Maker (1)	Cooper (2)	Painter (1)
Labourer (Lime Burner) (2)	Colliery Labourer (1)	Brickmaker (1)
Pattern Mender (1)	Shoe Binder (1)	
Cow Keepers (2)	Washer Woman (1)	Worsted Knitter (1)
Carpenter/Joiner (1)	Millers Carter (1)	Whetstone Manf'r (1)
Journeyman Carpenter (1)	Crochet Knitter (1)	Servants (3)

There were 4 paupers listed

1861 CENSUS

There were 67 separate households listed in the 1861 census. 3 properties were listed as uninhabited. The total number of people (including children) living in Griffydam was 289 made up of 142 males and 147 females. 118 were 15 or under and the oldest person was 71. 143 people are listed as having a profession or trade, and it is assumed they were all in employment.

- In the 1861 census we can now see a sharp increase of 48 men involved with coal mining (coal miners (36), colliery labourers and a clerk). There are now no lace workers listed and framework knitters are down as the building of steam powered mechanised factories in the cities accelerate.
- Surprisingly, we find 14 dress makers and 15 seamstresses presumably due to the mid-Victorian fashion era and the availability of a wider range of materials. Again this would have been a cottage industry supporting larger dress making shops.
- There are 10 seamers of stockings compared with 36 at Pegg's Green for the same census.

The following is a list of the professions and trades:-

Tailor & Grocer (1)	Tailor (2)	Fancy knitter (2)
Coal miner (36)	Hawker / Dealer (7)	Stocking seamer (7)
Spar (bauble) Mf'r (2)	Carpenter (3)	Dress maker (14)
Ag labourer (14)		
Victualler & builder (1)	Colliery labourer (11)	Cordwainer (1)
Pupil teacher (2) aged 16	Blacksmith (1)	Blacksmith's labourer (1)
Seamstress (15)	Clerk at coal mine (1)	Carter & colliery labourer (1)
Carter (1)	Carter / Ag labourer (1)	Hosier & Druggist (1)
Framework knitter stockings (5)	Brickmaker (1)	Bricklayer labourer (1)
Wheelwright (1)	Grocer (1)	General servant (1)
Brickyard boy (1)	Miller (1)	Cooper (3)
Gardener (1)	Tollgate keeper (1)	Woolcomber (1) Joseph Haywood

There was only one pauper listed

1871 CENSUS

There were 64 separate households listed in the 1871 census. 10 properties were listed as uninhabited. The total number of people (including children) living in Griffydam was 275 made up of 131 males and 144 females. 103 were 15 or under and 27 people were over 60 years of age, the oldest being 88 years. 117 people are listed as having a profession or trade, and it is assumed they were all in work. **The Waggon & Horses and adjacent house not included by the enumerator for some reason.**

Profession and trades are listed below in the order which the enumerator walked, reading from left to right.

Noticeable differences between the 1851 and 1871 census are:-

- There is an 8% reduction in inhabited properties from 1851.
- There is a surprising decrease in the number of men working in the coal mining industry from the 1861 census. This is now 37 (1 unemployed) against 48 in the 1861 census. 17 being actual coal miners/ colliers.
- No lace workers listed again, presumably due to the mechanisation of this process in the factories.
- 22 women now listed as seamstresses, presumably due to the mid-Victorian fashion era and the availability of a wider range of materials. Again this would have been a cottage industry supporting dress making factories.
- Only 2 Framework Knitters are in work now, due to the mechanisation in factories at Leicester and Nottingham.
- Only 1 spar / bauble manufacturing business is now listed in Griffydam but we know from other sources that there were at least 3.
- It is interesting to note that there are 6 paupers listed but these are all elderly people.

The following is a list of the professions and trades:-

Hostler at colliery (3)	Seamstress (22)	Domestic servant (2)
Works at brickyard (1)	Framework knitter (2)	Colliers labourer (8)
Builder & innkeeper (Griffin) (1)	Bricklayer (1)	Carpenter & joiner (1)
Knitter (1)	Farmer's labourer (1)	Coal miner (17)
Cordwainer (1)	Hosiery (1)	Gardener (3)
Engine driver at colliery (3)	Banksman at colliery (4)	Stocking maker (1)
Stocking seamer (4)	Labourer (3)	Gardener (3)
Grocer (3)	Weighing clerk at colliery (1)	
Farm labourer (1)	Druggist Licensed (1)	Clerk at colliery (1)
	Pharmaceutical	
Seamer (1)	Greaser at pit (1)	Shop assistant (1)
General dealer (1)	Bacon seller (1)	Drover (1)
Cooper (1)	Beer House Keeper (Travellers R) (1)	
Butcher (1)	Horse driver at Brickyard (1)	Publican (Travellers Rest joint) (1)
Blacksmith's labourer (1)	Coal miner (unemployed) (1)	Tea Dealer (1)
Hosier employing 40 women (1)	Pot hawker (1)	Cooperative store keeper (1)
Toll collector (1)	Hawker (1)	Tailor (1)
Washer woman (1)	Cow keeper (2)	Dress maker (1)
Carpenter (1)	Spa Mf'r (Leonard Palmer) (1)	Navie (1)

6 paupers are listed as being retired

1881 CENSUS

It should be noted that this census now includes that part of The Brand recently allocated to Griffydam. There is no mention of the Waggon & Horses though for some reason.

There were 65 separate households listed in the 1881 census, one more than in the 1871. 8 properties were listed as uninhabited. The total number of people (including children) living in Griffydam was 269 made up of 137 males and 132 females. 90 were 15 or under and 11 people were over 65 years of age, the oldest being 96, who is listed as an invalid. 87 people are listed as having a profession or trade. Only 2 were unemployed.

- 34 people are now in jobs associated with the coal mining industry, 29 are listed as actual coal miners against 17 in 1871. This casts doubt in how the different jobs were being recorded, as several none coal mining jobs have no disappeared in comparison to the 1871 census.
- Seamstresses have reduced to 7 from the 22 employed in 1871.
- There are no framework knitters left, and jobs in the hosiery industry are gradually disappearing as this work has become mechanised and has moved to the large factories in the cities like Leicester and Nottingham.
- 4 Spar (bauble) Manufacturers are listed, although we know there were more than 4. This business as gradually increased from the 1850's and has provided a valuable source of income to the people employed, often to supplement the income of the coal miners etc.
- Although we know there were four public houses in operation at this time, only one publican is listed. It is likely that when the enumerator called they were out doing their other jobs like farming, coal mining etc.

The following is a list of the professions and trades:-

Seamstress (7)	Coal miners (29)	Wool Knitter (1)
Cow keeper (1)	Dress Maker (2)	Unemployed Miner (1)
Lime work labourer (2)	Plate Layer (1)	Brick Maker (2)
Grocer & Tailor (1)	Spar Manufacturer (3)	Farmer of 6½ acres (1)
Bricklayer (2)	Pit Banksman (1)	Carpenter & Joiner Apprentice
Carpenter (1)	Mould Maker (1)	
Wool Knitter (2)	Potter (1)	Unemployed at Brickworks (1)
Bag Hosier (1)	Coal Miners Labourer (3)	Farmer of 12 acres (1)
Employed at Brickworks (3)	Chemist (1)	Servant (2)
Bank Labourer (1)	Dressmaker (2)	Grocer & Baker (1)
Fireman (1)	Shoe Maker (1)	Ag Labourer (2)
Grocer (2)	Publican (2)	Hosier (1)
Tile Manufacturer (1)	Grocer's Apprentice (1)	

No paupers were listed

1891

There were 55 separate households listed in the 1891 census. This shows a drop of 14% from the 1871 census. 16 properties were listed as uninhabited. The total number of people (including children) living in Griffydam was 258 made up of 132 males and 126 females. 116 were 15 or under and 19 people were over 60 years of age, the oldest being 90, who is listed as a pauper. 98 people are listed as having a profession or trade. Only 1 was unemployed, and 6 worked from home.

- There is a 24% reduction in inhabited properties from 1851.
- 43 out of the 98 people listed as being in employment are now employed in the coal mining industry, which applies to most of the males, and it is now becoming clear that the hamlet is becoming dependent on this industry for its survival. (3 of the innkeepers were also listed as coal miners).

The following is a list of the professions and trades:-

General labourer (10)	General Servant (4)	Dress Maker (7)
Coal Miner (41)	Pauper (1)	Grocer (3)
Spar Manufacturer (2)	Ag Labourer (4)	Seamstress Shirts (1)
Carpenter & Joiner (1)	Domestic Servant (1)	Baker (2)
Cook Domestic (3)	Tailor (1)	Seamstress (1)
Colliery Labourer (2)	Tailoress (3)	Gardener's Apprentice (1)
House Keeper (1)	Bricklayer's Labourer (2)	Fancy Knitter (1)
Assurance Agent (1)	Brickyard Labourer (1)	Licensed Victuallers (4)

1901

There were 45 separate households listed in the 1901 census. This now shows a drop of 30% from the 1871 census. 7 properties were listed as uninhabited. The total number of people (including children) living in Griffydam was 210 made up of 111 males and 99 females. 85 were 15 or under and 20 people were over 60 years of age, the oldest being 79 years. 72 people are listed as having a profession or trade. The Waggon & Horses and adjacent house not included by the enumerator for some reason. Also houses on Vinegar Hill should have been included in this census.

- There was a 38% reduction in inhabited properties from 1851.
- 49 out of the 72 people listed as having a trade or profession are connected with the coal mining industry. We can see from the census breakdowns, that without the local coal mining industry, Griffydam could not have survived as a hamlet, as people would have needed to migrate elsewhere to seek work in order to support their families.

The following is a list of the professions and trades:-

Coal Miner Labourer U/G (3)	Pony Driver U/G (4)	Coal Miner Hewer (27)
Dress Maker (2)	Hosiery/Hose Seamer (3)	Sanitary Pipe Maker (2)
Assurance Agent (1)	Colliery Under Manager (1)	Coal Labourer A/G (3)
Coal Miner Filler (4)	Farm Labourer (1)	Agent British Workman Ass Co (1)
Baker (1)	Bricklayer Labourer (1)	Publican (3)
Labourer (1)	Grocer (3)	Clog Setter (1)
Coal Dealer (1)	Bricklayer (2)	Deputy, Coal Mine U/G (1)
Colliery Engine Driver A/G (1)	Grazier (1)	Cycle Agent (1)
Coal Miner Contractor (1)	Door Tender U/G (1)	Stone Quarry Labourer (1)

Notes

- When the 1841 census was carried out, only 1 beer house existed, that being the Waggon & Horses. This was later joined by The Griffin, The Rising Sun and The Travellers Rest. As men in Griffydam started to become increasingly employed in the coal mining industry then the demand for beer grew in parallel with it. However, it is noticeable that the Inn keepers are not always listed.

Click [Here](#) To View And Search The Griffydam Census Records

A REMARKABLE FIND OF PREHISTORIC ARTEFACTS' AT GRIFFYDAM

At the rear of the Griffydam Wesleyan Chapel are several allotments one of which is cultivated by David Maltby of Griffydam. Whilst digging his allotment, David found various historical artifacts' which are recorded in the following photographs.

PREHISTORIC FLINT TOOLS

The most important of the findings are undoubtedly the collection of flint tools shown in the first photograph. In the opinion of the Leicestershire Museum Service, these were flint tools that had been made some 5,000 years ago by a nomadic group of hunters. Although most likely passing through the area, this prehistoric group had clearly chosen an eminently sensible place for an encampment on a ridge overlooking the valley and close to a spring fed water supply which we can reasonably assume to have been what became commonly known as Griffy - Well which features earlier in the book.

If one considers that following the great ice age some 10,000 years ago Great Britain only became completely separated by sea water from mainland Europe circa 6000 BC. Before circa 4,500 BC, early and middle Stone-Age people were nomads, hunting and gathering wild plants. In the middle of the fifth millennium BC, a new way of life based on farming plants and animals, was introduced from the continent. The replacement of hunting and gathering was gradual and wasn't completed until the latter part of the third millennium BC in Britain.



© David Maltby

The above flints vary between 3cm in length and 2cm in width and could have been used for a variety of purposes such as scrapers, knives, arrowheads, borers, awls etc. Because the flakes are naturally very sharp, they can be used as a cutting tool often without further dressing or modification. As they tend to be quite small, they were often attached to wooden shafts. Flake & blade Knapping will produce many flakes before finding one suitable for reworking into a finished tool. The amount of waste flakes depends on the skill of the knapper & the quality of the flint.

Flint was formed in the chalk deposits in S England, 70 to 100 million years ago when water percolated through the chalk & dissolved the silicon molecules within the chalk. Over the years the silica built up to form layers or nodules of flint. The silica frequently grew around a fossil & this produced the curious shaped nodules. As there is little natural chalk in Leicestershire there are very few large flint stones to be found & most of the flint is in the form of smaller stones which presumably the glaciation process would have moved from other areas.

METHOD OF MAKING FLINT TOOLS

Flint was used as the raw material for making hard tools before any other material, and fortunately it does not decay. The knapping process starts by striking a stone core (see photograph below) to knock off the flakes which may then require further dressing to bring them to the desired shape and sharpness dependant on what they were to be used for.



A STONE CANNON BALL

The approximately 5 cm diameter carved round stone shown in the photograph below, and discovered in the same allotment as the flints, is a cannon ball almost certainly dating from the Civil War period when Ashby Castle and Coleorton Hall were occupied by the Royalists. A similar stone was found in The Woolrooms, Coleorton. Stone cannon balls were still commonly being used in the Civil War period although cheap iron balls had also been introduced. The British Museum website describes a stone of a similar diameter (1.901 inches) as being a Late Medieval or Post Medieval cannon ball dating between AD 1450-1750. This makes it a correct size for a Falconet cannon. Falconets were invented in the late 15th century and were used throughout the 16th and 17th centuries.



© David Maltby

**EXAMPLES OF CLAY SMOKING PIPES DUG UP IN GRIFFYDAM
(DATES GIVEN ARE APPROXIMATE)**



Found in the area of the Cunneries

© John Bramley



Moulded pipe-After 1750

Found in the allotments at the rear of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel

© David Maltby



After 1700

© David Maltby



After 1750

After 1710

After 1750

Found in a garden on Elder Lane

© Alan Robinson

Clay tobacco pipes were made in England shortly after the introduction of tobacco from North America, in about 1558. The evolution of clay pipes took many forms and the bowls made by 1580 had started to become barrel shaped form with a flat heel but had a small internal diameter, about 6mm, due to the high cost of imported tobacco. Stems were some 100-150mm long with a hole approximately 3mm in diameter down their length

As tobacco prices started to fall in the first half of the 17th C, the pipe bowl inside diameter by about 1640 had increased to about 10mm but the stems remained about the same length. After this date, the bowls grew progressively larger and the stems increased in length to 250-350mm. A pointed spur replaced the flat heel and this became the standard for the next 60 years or so. Generally 17th C pipes were plain but occasionally you may find milling or a plain ring around the top with a maker's mark. By about 1700 the bowls had become more elongated with a further increase in the bowl internal diameter to about 13mm, but the bore down the stem remained at about 3mm diameter.

Pipe designs evolved through small changes, and due to better manufacturing methods, the accuracy and finish improved, meaning that thinner walls on the bowls and more slender stems could be achieved. The diameter of the bowls continued to increase and by the mid 18th century moulded bowls were developed which enabled the makers to introduce fancy designs with in some cases advertising symbols on them such as Public houses, Masonic arms, Regimental badges etc. These were referred to as "fancy clays" or "fancies". **Examples of fancy clays are shown in the preceding photographs.**

By the mid 18th C, very long pipes known as Alderman or Straws had been introduced. These were some 450-600mm in length with a stem bore averaging 2.4mm. This was a remarkable achievement for such a long stem

After 1850, what was known as the "yard of Clay" or churchwarden pipe appeared, with stems up to 900mm in length. Decorated pipes greatly increased in numbers, however, the working man required a short stem pipe which could be gripped between their teeth whilst working.

As cigarettes and cigars became popular and more robust meerschaum and briar pipes were introduced, this caused the decline of the industry at a local level, and by the early 1900's the industry had largely disappeared. Specialist manufacturers continued to produce moulded pipes until 1992 when Pollocks of Manchester finally closed its doors.

GRIFFY WELL - LOCATED ON BOTTOM ROAD

A natural spring was situated at the junction of where the pathway which comes down from the Top Road to meet Bottom Road, although it has now dried up. It is marked **W** on the following map. Evidence of the area where the spring was situated can be seen today which is shown in the centre of the photograph below. The spring provided water for the hamlet until the 1930's The Griffy well rose from the sand stone that runs along the Thringstone Fault. The well was a focal point in the hamlet in days gone by and women would now doubt gather there to natter on balmy summer evenings whilst the men folk smoked their pipes.



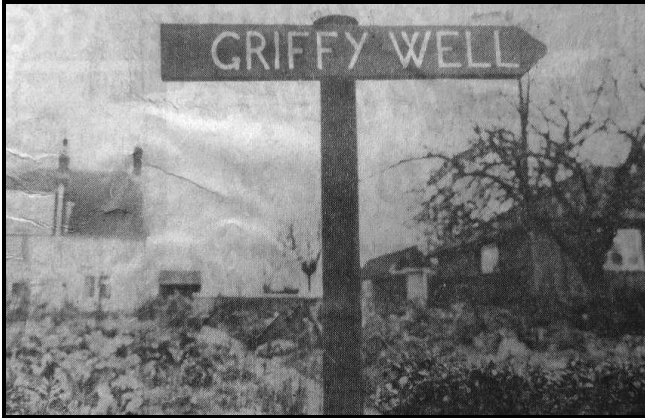
Recent photograph showing location of Griffy Well



2006 photograph of Griffy Well



2008 photograph



Finger post in 1978



Griffy Well is marked W in the centre of the 1885 O/S map above



The recently erected display board at the side of the well which features the rather fanciful story of the mythical beast

Edward Gibbon's revised 1722 edition of William Camden's *Britannia* stated the following, which suggests that "Griffy Well" was known even at this time, although the wording of the paragraph is somewhat convoluted:-

Colorton - the seat of H. de *Bellomontor Beaumont*, descended from the same famous Family with the Viscounts de *Bellomont*, but this family is lately extinct by the death of Thomas Lord *Beaumont*, who bequeathed his Estate to Sir George Beaumont Baronet, of Stoughton-Grange, near Leicester. **In this Parish of Cole-Overton (became Coleorton) is a noted mineral water call'd Griffy-dam.** (as others also have been lately discover'd in this County, at *Dunton* and *Cadeby*.) The place (*Coleorton*) hath the name of distinction, from *Pit-Coles*. being a bituminous earth harden'd by nature, and here (to the great profit of the Lord of the Manour) dug-up in such plenty, as to supply the neighbouring Country, all about, with firing. Not far from whence, is *Osgathorp*, where Thomas Harley, Citizen of London, built very convenient Houses for six poor Ministers Widows, with the allowance of 10 *l. per Ann.* to each; and also a Free-school, with a 40 *l. per ann.* good Stipend.

"Griffy Well" as it was known locally, must have been of some importance in days gone by, as in "The Post Office Directory of Leics & Rutland 1855", it states that "*Griffy Well at Griffydam is worthy of some attention*". The Well clearly attracted many inquisitive tourists up until recent times, and it was awarded its very own finger post. It also appeared in several travel and geographical books as a place to visit. For example, Leigh's Road book of England and Wales and the new *Universal Gazetteer / Geographical Dictionary* dated 1823 (held in Toronto University) both refer to it. The *London General Gazetteer* of 1825 also makes mention of Griffydam mineral waters. In the "Beauties of England 1791" by Philip Luckombe he states that "*near the town of Ashby de la Zouch is a noted mineral water called Griffydam*".

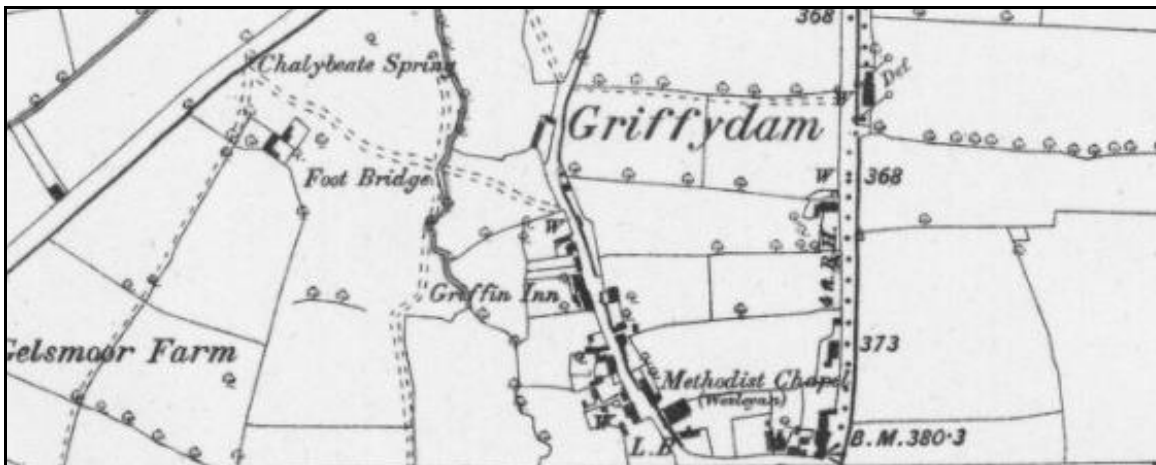
The author started his school life at the age of 4 in 1946 when he first attended Griffydam Primary School on the Top Road. This necessitated walking by Griffy Well which was a scary experience for little children, based around its folk law reputation as the home of a "Griffin Dragon". This was added to by the rather eccentric but friendly lady Miss Davey who lived in the house next to the well and allowed her chickens to roam throughout her house.

A CHALYBEATE SPRING AT GRIFFYDAM

There was also a Chalybeate Spring in the area of the "Cunneries" at the end of a footpath. The Cunneries was an area where rabbits were bred in Medieval times, and was roughly in the triangle formed in the fields between Elder Lane and the Rempstone Road. At one time, this was an area of natural beauty where an abundance of "Lady Smocks" grew, and it was used by the infant school on the Top Road for their nature walks when the author was at the school. Do we still do nature walks??

The approximate location of this spring is shown in the upper part of the map below at the end of a path near to the brook. Unlike Griffy-Well, this spring comes up from the coal measures. The word "chalybeate" is derived from the Latin word for steel, "chalybs", and indicates a mineral water containing iron salts. The spring still rises but the original site has been destroyed by recent tipping in the land above. The water running into the brook is now orange. The area of the brook in this vicinity is referred to as "Cart Brook" in the deeds of a house on Elder Lane fronting the land through which it runs and also in early census reports.

Early in the 17th century, chalybeate water was said to have health-giving properties and many people have promoted its qualities. Dudley North, 3rd Baron North discovered the chalybeate spring at Tunbridge Wells in 1606. Dudley North's physician claimed that the waters contained 'vitriol' and the waters of Tunbridge Wells could cure - *"the colic, the melancholy, and the vapours; it made the lean fat, the fat lean; it killed flat worms in the belly, loosened the clammy humours of the body, and dried the over-moist brain."*



Section from the 1881/2 surveyed O/S map published in 1885 showing the Chalybeate spring

Click [Here](#) To Read More About Griffydam's Springs

THE "TENTAS", GRIFFYDAM - NAMED FROM ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE WOVEN WOOLEN CLOTH INDUSTRY

When reading the following, one must remember that centuries ago Griffydam was surrounded by large areas of open moor land; Gelsmoor, Newbold Moor, Worthington Moor, Swannington Common, Coleorton Moor and Thringstone Moor were large areas of open land, unsuitable for cultivation, but ideal for rough grazing. Sheep were allowed to roam free over these moors, and in doing so they maintained the scrub vegetation, "The Woolrooms", a small hamlet between Griffydam and Coleorton, within Worthington Parish derived its name from an association with the former wool industry in medieval times. If the reader refers to the article on the Woolrooms, in the author's book entitled - "**A History of Coleorton and the Locality**", this gives an overview of the wool trade in the area, in days gone by. Another book entitled "**The Coleorton Sherwins 1739-1887**" gives an insight into the significant Wool Combing industry in Coleorton.

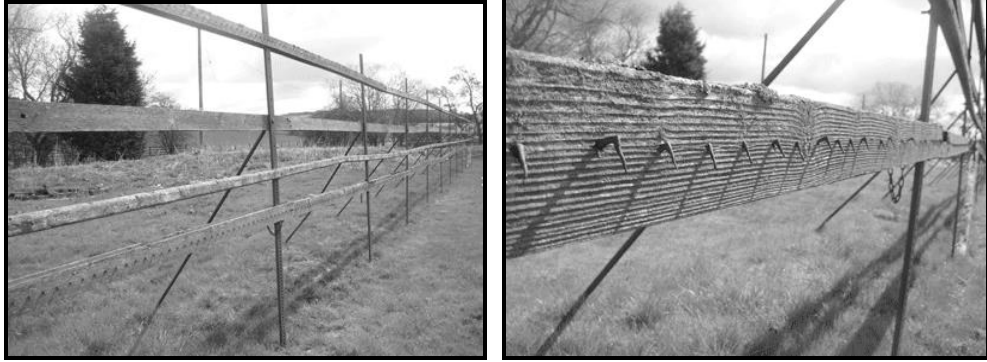
Robert Artless of Griffydam, in his will made in 1831, states his profession as a Woolcomber. In the 1841 census for Griffydam, Thomas Haywood, aged 40, was a Woolcomber, and John Stanage, aged 50, a weaver. In the 1861 census a Joseph Haywood is still given as a Woolcomber. The industry would be coming to an end at this time, and would have been at its height in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

The following is transcribed from a respected publication by H. Butler Johnson c.1910 entitled "Forgotten Industries":-

The name, the "Tenthouse", of a building in the hamlet of Griffydam affords a hint, and a hint only, of the making of cloth here at some former time; a tenthouse being the shed containing the tenter frame on which the cloth was stretched after being dyed. The modern expression "on tenterhooks" will doubtless be familiar to our readers.

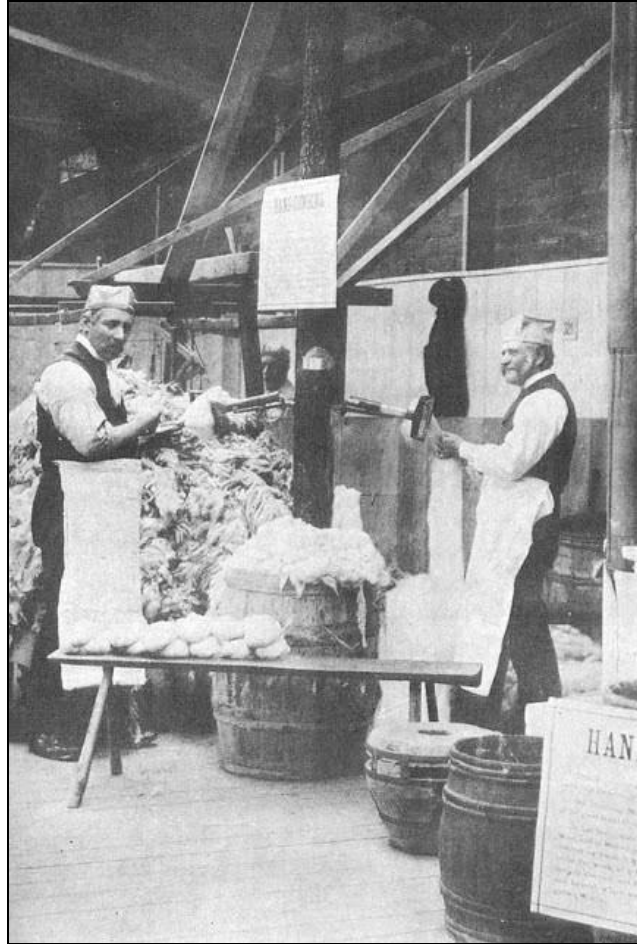
The author has unfortunately not been able to find exactly where this "Tenthouse" was located, however, it is not unreasonable to assume that "The Tentas" which runs from Griffydam Top Road (now Nottingham Rd) to where it meets Elder Lane is a slang derivation of "Tenthouse" or "Tenters". **In fact, in a set of 1919 deeds relating to the "White House" on the Tentas, an included map refers to it fronting "Tenthouse Road".**

Tenters were large wooden frames which were used as far back as the 14th century as part of the process of producing woollen cloth and a modern example of these is shown in the illustration below. After dyeing and fulling (see later explanation) the woven woollen cloth was stretched onto the tenterhooks to prevent shrinkage whilst drying out. Tenter is from the Latin *tendere*, meaning "to stretch"



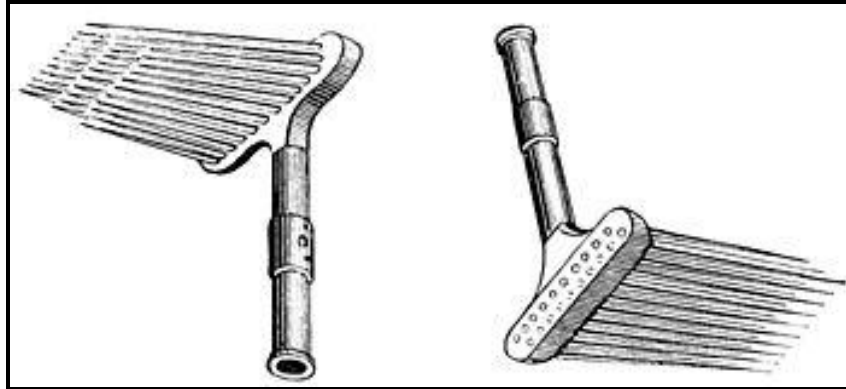
**An example of Tenter frames with their tenterhooks
ROBERT ARTLESS - WOOL COMBER OF GRIFFYDAM**

A Wool-Comber was one whose occupation was to comb wool in order to disentangle and straighten out the fibres in order to prepare them for spinning into what were known as worsted or woollen yarns dependant on what type of wool fleece the wool came from. Worsted yarns were of a fine texture suitable for making into clothing, stockings, gloves etc and woollen yarns were rougher in texture and thickness. Wool-combing at this time was generally carried out by hand in local communities such as Coleorton. The first machine to be really successful at combing fine wool (botany wool), was invented in 1843 by a Mr. Lister, and after that, machines began to be quickly introduced, bringing about the demise of the hand comber. The process, as shown in the photograph below, involved pulling the wool through fine toothed steel combs. However, there were many arguments surrounding the quality of the end product, price, waste etc dependent on whether the wool was combed by hand or on machines which came later.



Wool-combers at work

This method of combing the wool was a Flemish invention. The hand-comber employed two combs, one known as a "pad" comb, which was subsequently fixed to a post as shown in the above photograph. The raw material, after being properly prepared, washed, oiled, and separated into convenient handfuls, was secured into the comb prior to fixing to the post. However, it was necessary to heat the wool to a correct temperature to ensure successful combing. After the pad comb was charged with wool, the comb was placed in a comb-pot on a specially adapted stove until it reached the correct temperature. Once properly heated, and with one comb attached to the post, the other held in the hand, the process of combing began. Each comb became a working comb alternately, the teeth of one passing through the tuft of wool upon the other, until the fibers became perfectly smooth, straight, and free of short wool, or "noil," which was left imbedded in the comb-heads. The residue was called the "top". In the late 1700s, the "wool combers" would have earned 12s. to 14s. per week which compared very favorably with the spinners of wool, who earned in the order of 1s. 6d to 3s. per week. However, most of the wool spinning was carried out by women as a cottage industry as shown below. To put this into perspective, beef at that time was 3½ d. to 5d per pound, and milk 1½ d per quart.

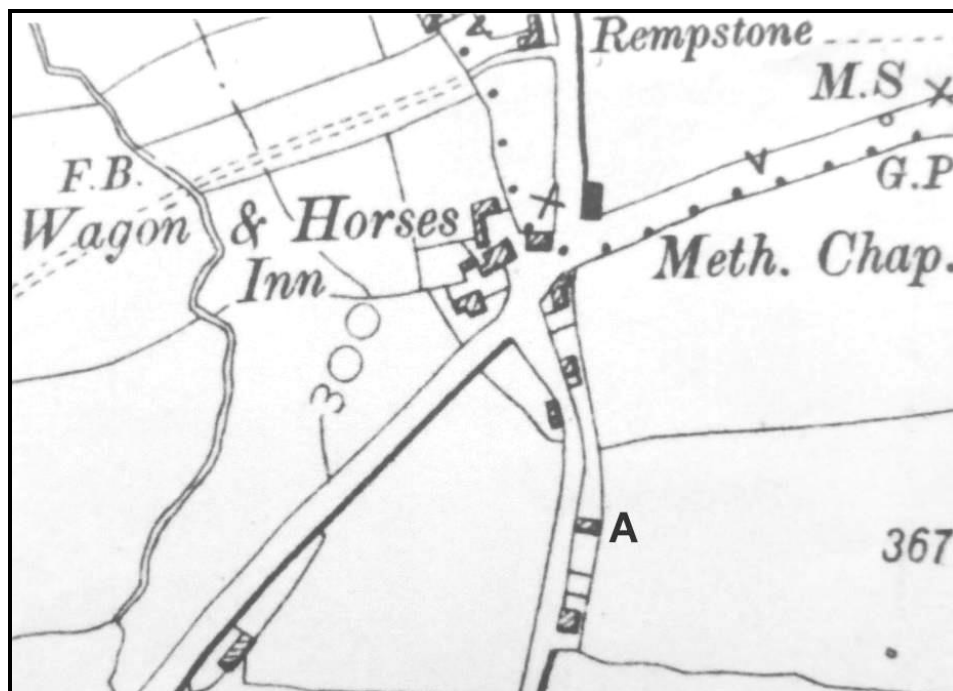


Typical Hand Comb



Turning the wool-comber's material into yarn on a spinning wheel was a cottage industry

When Robert Artless wrote his will on July 14th 1831 a copy of which follows, he owned a cottage and out-buildings in Elder Lane, Griffydam. The original part of the cottage still exists. It was built sometime between 1806 and 1830. When the enclosure map was drawn for the commissioners in 1806 there was no house shown. The cottage is the second house in on Elder Lane on the left hand side when entering the lane from the Rempstone Road. The location of the cottage is marked **A** on the 1903 O/S map below.



An extract from the 1903 O/S Map

An indenture dated 1830 refers to the sale of the 'piece, plot, parcel of land with messuage or tenement buildings' by Joseph, William and Thomas Kidger to Robert Artless.

It is interesting to note that in his will, Robert Artless is referred to as a Woolcomber and also in the 1831 indenture a 'Jersey Woolcomber'. Presumably Jersey refers to the now extinct breed of Jersey Sheep which were probably being used in the locality to provide a good grade of wool at the time. Leicestershire sheep provided a good supply of long stapled wool which was ideally suitable for worsted spinning and knitting as preferred by the framework knitters. The woven woolen cloth weavers did not demand or need such high quality wool.

An 1831 indenture dated 9th November and still in possession of the current owners, was then made between Robert Artless of Worthington (Griffydam) a 'Jersey Comber' and John Taylor of Worthington (Griffydam) a 'hardware dealer'. Robert Artless sold the plot to John Taylor for £11 14s. John Taylor died in 1843 in the 'Nottingham Union Workhouse', but he occupied this premises for a period before going into the workhouse.

On Aug 1st 1843, Thomas Taylor, the brother and heir of John Taylor sold it to William Holloway, a Yeoman from Coleorton for £6.

On the 16th September 1844, William Holloway sold the plot to a Thomas Barber, a cordwainer (boot & shoe maker) from Melbourne. Thomas Holloway borrowed £22 with interest from Thomas Barber to purchase the estate. William defaulted on the mortgage still owing Thomas £22 and large arrears of interest following when the property was transferred into Thomas's name. It appears that William Holloway may have occupied the premises after John Taylor. William then converted the dwelling into 2 tenements which were occupied by Richard Stacey and William Ball.

On the 21st Sept 1867 Thomas Barber sold the estate to Joseph Bailey, a Yeoman living on Breedon Brand. Executor's of Joseph Bailey's will were his friend Price Kidger of Thringstone (Pegg's Green)

who was a butcher and his Son in Law John Harteshorne. Please note the later feature under Pegg's Green entitled "Kidger's - A Respected Family of Farmers and Butchers". His instructions were to divide the proceeds of the estate equally between his 4 children Sam Bailey, Eliza (wife of George Wright), Mary (wife of William Gadesby), Jane (wife of John Harteshorne). The property at the time of indenture was occupied by John Smith.

In 1877, the estate was sold by Joseph Bailey to Samuel Eagle Esq., who ran a Bakery and Grocery business in Rotten Row, Coleorton (then part of Thringstone). In the 1891 census, Samuel was listed as being retired. He was clearly a man of some standing, as Kelly's 1891 trade directory includes him as a member of the court list. However, the estate was presumably acquired on a buy to let basis as an investment as Samuel and his wife Elizabeth never lived there. There is a land tax receipt paid by Mrs. Eagle in 1897 when a Mrs. Elizabeth Radford was the tenant. The property was passed from Samuel Eagle's wife Elizabeth to Elizabeth Ayre of Coleorton. The Ayre family were wealthy land owners and farmers in Coleorton.



An impression of what the original cottage may have looked like although at the time it was built it may have had a thatched roof

THE WILL OF ROBERT ARTLESS

This is the last will and Testament of me Robert
Artless of Griffydaw in the parish of Breedon on the
Mill in the County of Leicester Woolcomber I give devise
and bequeath all my real and personal Estate whatsoever
and wheresoever to my Sons in Law Richard Dolman
and Joseph Wardle In Trust to permit and suffer my
wife Mary to receive and take during her life (or so
long as she may remain a Widow) for her own use
all the rents and profits of my said real Estate and to
have and enjoy the use of my personal property - and
after the decease or second marriage of my said wife
In Trust to pay and discharge all my just debts and
particularly those hereafter mentioned that is to say a
debt of Twelve pounds due to Joseph Kidger, a debt of
Ten pounds due to my Daughter Sarah if she shall be
then living or being dead shall have left any child or
children and a debt of Three pounds due to my Daughter
Elizabeth if she shall be then living or being dead shall
have left any child or children - And my will further
is that the said Richard Dolman and Joseph Wardle
shall as soon as conveniently may be after the decease
or second marriage
of my said wife sell dispose of and convert into
money all my real and personal Estate ^{after} payment of
all my just debts funeral expenses and the expenses
attending the proving and executing of this my will
pay and apply the residue of the money to arise
from such sale of my said personal and real Estate
in equal parts shares and proportions amongst my
seven children hereinafter mentioned or amongst such
3 of them as may be then living - the child or children

of such of them as may be then dead taking the share which would have been payable to his her or their parent if then living - vizt my Daughters Mary Dolman, Elizabeth Dolman Sarah Wardle and Ellenor Harper - my sons Robert, Thomas and George. - I hereby appoint my said sons in Law Richard Dolman and Joseph Wardle Executors of this my Will and hereby revoking all former wills by me made I declare this to be my last. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this fourteenth day of July in the year of our Lord One Thousand - Eight Hundred and Thirty One. -

Robert Atteys

Signed sealed published and declared by the said Robert Atteys as and for his last will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses hereto.

37

John Nicklinson

William Johnson

16 June 1836

Benjamin Smallwood

Sole Probator the Executors Richard Dolman of the Parish of St. Andrew in the County of Sussex Sabourne and Joseph Wardle of the Parish of St. Andrew in the County of Sussex Sabourne the same County Sabourne the Executors named in the will of the deceased -

They having been first duly sworn as well to the full and true payment of the debts as also the Testators Goods Chattels and Credits without deducting any debts due and owing by them therefrom do all amount in value to the sum of Five Pounds and that the deceased died

Some day previous dated in the month of December 1836 signed by the Executors Richard Dolman and Joseph Wardle

Richard Davies

Surrogate to the Archbishop

THE PROCESSING OF WOOLEN WOVEN CLOTH

After a piece of cloth was woven on a manual hand loom, it still contained oil from the fleece, and dirt. The fabric therefore needed to be cleaned by a process called fulling. Prior to the invention of the "fulling mill", the woven cloth was manually "fulled" which was the description of a process where shrinking, scouring and cleansing the cloth by applying, water, heat and pressure to it in combination with fuller's earth and urine in a large bath. Depending on the part of England where this was carried out different descriptions developed for people who completed this part of the process, for example:- Walker in the north and midlands, Fuller in the south-east and Tucker in the south-west. The name Walker developed because the men and women who fulled the cloth did so in part by walking on it.

To prevent further shrinkage, the fuller would then stretch out the wet cloth on a tenter, and leave it to dry outdoors. The lengths of wet cloth were stretched on the tenter (from Latin *tendere*, meaning "to stretch") using tenterhooks (hooked nails driven through the wood) all around the perimeter of the frame to which the cloth's edges (selvedges) were fixed, so that as it dried, the cloth would retain its shape and size. In some areas, entire tenter-fields, larger open spaces full of tenters, were once common. It is thought that this method of processing woven woollen cloth was still carried on into the first half of the nineteenth century.

Development of water power via water wheels meant that the above process became outdated and was revolutionized in the form of a mechanized "Fulling Mill". Evidence suggests that a water wheel driven fulling mill existed in the area of Cart Brook, Griffydam - please see the following page for further details. In simple terms, the fulling mill consisted of a water driven wheel which had a series of cams on its shaft which operated wooden hammers which beat the cloth and replicated the previous manual processes of walking on it in a large bath. The constant kneading or hammering by the fulling stocks tightened the weave, and thickened the cloth. Apparently, the fulling mill was the first use of waterwheels for industrial purposes other than for the grinding of corn.

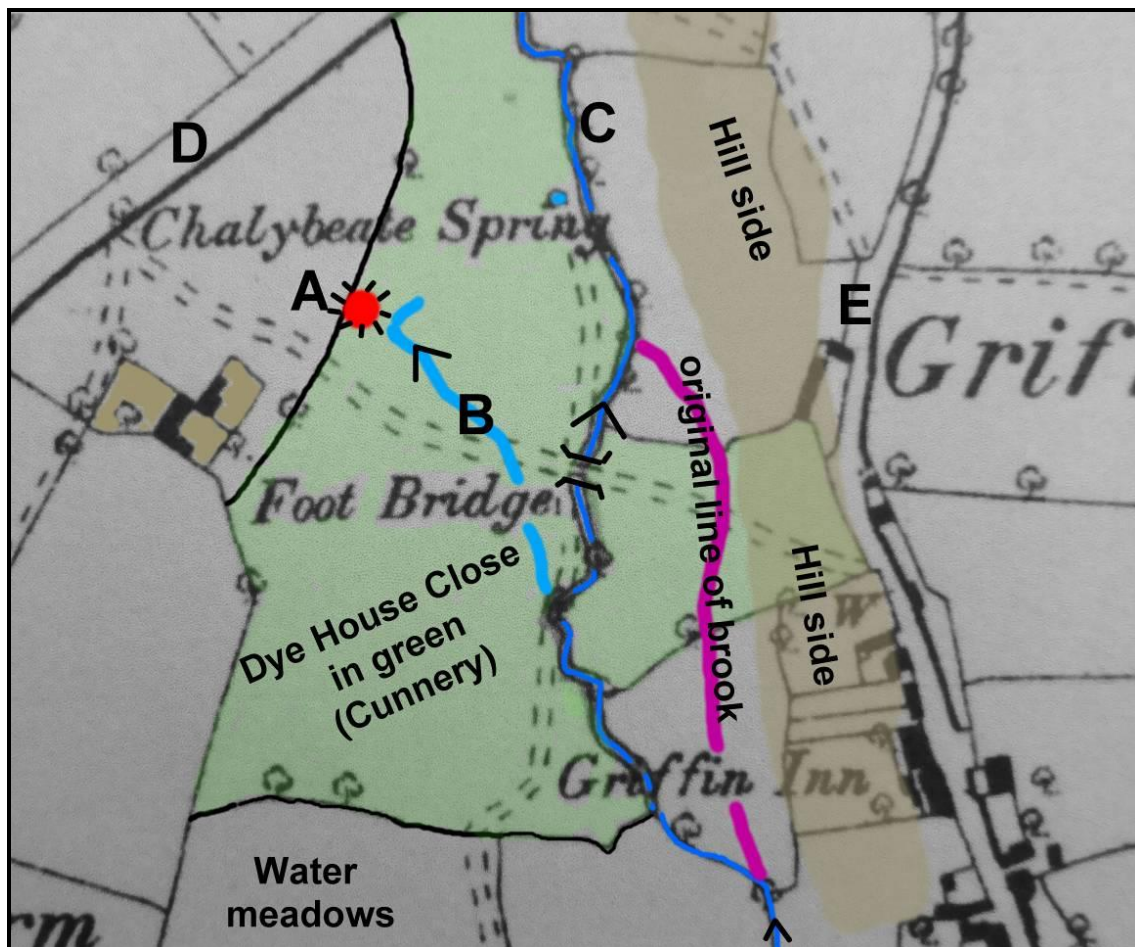


The above is an old illustration showing the principles of the fulling mill with wooden hammers operated by cams on the water wheel shaft for beating the cloth, together with a boiler which would have contained a mixture of water, fuller's earth and urine for wetting the cloth.

WHERE THE DYEING PROCESS OF WOOLEN CLOTH WAS CARRIED OUT AT GRIFFYDAM.

A number of reasons have been put forward as to how Griffydam got its name, but the most likely is that it came from the translation of the Scandinavian words 'Gryfja Damnr', meaning a cleft or valley, with a dam or stream. This suggests that a "small" settlement probably developed as far back as the time of the Viking invasion of 873. The illustration of the valley below the settlement of Griffydam undoubtedly confirms this view in our opinion.

In the old deeds of a property once situated on the west side of Elder Lane, and marked **E** on the following map, it confirms that it was located on "Dye House Close". The property was demolished in 1996. The three fields referred to as Dye House Close at the time of the 1806 inclosure are shown coloured green on the following map. This area is known as the cunneries where Rabbits were once farmed in medieval times and probably linked to Breedon Priory. The footpath which passes through the area is raised into a causeway either side of the footbridge over the brook which is known as "Cart Brook". There is evidence to suggest that the brook was diverted to what was believed to be the location of a "Fulling Mill" described above.



The above illustration is based on the 1885 O/S map. See the explanation and key to the map on the following page

A Possible site of a "Fulling Mill".

- B** Leat (water course) diverted from Cart Brook to drive fulling mill wheel
- C** Area known as Cart-brook as well as being the name given to the brook
- D** Rempstone Road
- E** The old property on Elder Lane which was demolished in 1996.

The footpath, shown as a dashed line through the area is raised into a causeway either side of the footbridge over the brook.

There can be no doubt in the author's mind that the following Will confirms the existence of a Shearing (not sheep shearing) and Cloth Dyeing trade being carried out on Dye House Close, most likely in the valley adjacent to the brook below the property marked E on the preceding map where a significant quantity of bricks can be found. There they would have had a continuous supply of water available, essential to the dyeing process.

TRANSCRIPTION INTO MODERN ENGLISH OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF ANDREW SHARPE 1733

ANDREW SHARPE OF GRIFFITH DAMM LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT DATED SEPTEMBER 8TH 1733

*In the name of God Amen, I Andrew Sharpe of Griffy Dam in the parish of Breedon and the County of Leicester, **Shearman Dyer**, being weak in body but of sound memory, blessed by God, do this 8th day of September in this year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and thirty three make and publish this last Will and Testament in the manner following, that is to say, first I give and bequeath to my son John Sharpe all my **coppers and furnaces in the Dye House and all other my tools and implements belonging to my trade of Shearing and Dyeing cloth** on condition he pay to my two sons Andrew Sharpe and William Sharpe or their assigns the sum of ten pounds of lawful money of Great Britain, that is to say to each of them five pounds in twelve months after my demise, but if my son John Sharpe shall default or refuse to pay the said sum of five pounds of lawful money of Great Britain to my son Andrew Sharpe and the sum of like lawful money to my son William Sharpe monthly, my express wish is that I give to my son John Sharpe only one shilling of lawful coins of Great Britain, and all my said **copper furnace in the Dye House and all other tools and implements belonging to my trade of shearing and dyeing of cloth**, that I therefore gave to my son John Sharpe, I give and bequeath them to my son Andrew Sharpe and my son William Sharpe and to their assigns to be equally divided between them. Also, I further give to my son William Sharpe all books of debts due to me and one copper and one long table in the house and one bedstead ?? and mat, one bed bolster and pillows with the blankets thereto belonging. Also, one set of curtains and two pairs of sheets. I also give to my two daughters, that is to say to my daughter Ann Sharpe and to my daughter Sarah Sharpe and to their assigns all the rest and residue of my household stuff, goods and chattels and personal estate whatsoever on condition they pay all my debts and defray my funeral expenses. And I make and ordain my daughter Anne Sharpe and my daughter Sarah Sharpe exortrixes of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking, disannulling and making void all former Wills and bequests by me made, and believing this to be my last Will and Testament. - In witness whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.*

*Signed, sealed and delivered, published, pronounced and declared
By the said Andrew Sharpe on and for his last Will and Testament*

Andrew Sharpe

*In the presence of us who were present at the signing and sealing thereof
And saw the interlinement? of and one copper and long table in the house
Being interlined betwixt the ?? and four with lines ? before the
Signing and sealing hereof.*

(own Signature)

*Eliz Doleman
Francis Doleman*

The reference to shearing in Andrew Sharpe's Will was not sheep shearing but was a method of removing nap from the woven cloth caused particularly when curly haired woolen yarns were used. After the fabric was dried following the fulling and cleaning process, a shearer would use razor sharp blades to remove the excess wool to give a finer finish to the cloth. After this, the nap was raised again often with the use of dried teasel plant heads, and the whole process repeated again until the smooth and soft quality of cloth required was achieved. The woolen cloth was stretched out onto hooks on a frame to make it taught whilst the shearing process was carried out. The dyeing of the cloth would normally have been carried out after shearing or napping but could have been carried out at various stages, either in the wool or yarn and then perhaps as a final process after shearing and napping to deepen the colour.

With wool being a readily available local commodity, and the fact that we have identified 3 woolcombers and a number of framework knitters in Griffydam, woolen cloth weaving would have taken place alongside framework knitting at Griffydam. In the 1841 census, John Stanage, a Wheaver (weaver) is listed, but hand weaving of woolen cloth was coming to an end by this time. **The weaving of wool cloth was carried out on hand looms and not framework knitting machines, and was a totally different process.**

An inventory on the possessions of Clement Jaram in Griffydam in 1689, lists Wool and looms in the house together with other things that belonged to the trade. This inventory is extremely difficult to transcribe and interpret due mainly to the spellings used, but it certainly demonstrates that Clement Jaram was a poor man and the total value of everything he possessed only came to £4 5s 8d, which was bolstered by £1 3s 4d for his looms and associated items. It was witnessed by Thomas and Joseph Boulton, who surprisingly only made their mark when doing so.

Often, as would probably have been the case in Griffydam, local weavers of woolen cloth would bring their cloth from other areas for fulling and dyeing, this being a specialized process which required a copious water supply. Shearing and napping, as well as dyeing, appears to have also been carried out by Andrew Sharpe in this case. Whether he also carried out the fulling of the cloth as well is not known for certain, but it is highly likely that he did.

A "clothier" could be one man and his family, who together performed most of the steps of cloth making. The majority of clothiers were not large concerns and it was usually a cottage type industry combining a little farming on the side, mainly raising vegetables and crops that did not require a lot of attention. Attached to the clothier's cottage would have been a piece of land that ranged in sized from one to fifteen acres. The clothier would have perhaps kept some animals: poultry, pigs, a cow or two, a horse and/ or an ass. Combing, carding and spinning were usually done by the clothier's wife and children or purchased from another local person specializing in these processes. The small clothier, assisted by his son or apprentice, would have warped the hand loom and carried out the weaving. For example, Robert Artless featured earlier was a Woolcomber living a few yards further down Elder Lane.

Click [Here](#) To Find Out More About The Trade Of Woollen Cloth Weaving in Griffydam

WILLIAM WALES - FRAMEWORK KNITTER, DRUGGIST & CHEMIST

In the preceding overview of census information on Griffydam, a number of Framework knitters are listed, 7 in 1841 and 10 in 1851 for example. The following is included to give the reader some insight into this important industry in rural communities, although by the mid 1800's it was in serious decline and being replaced by mechanisation in steam driven factories. Griffydam cannot be compared with Coleorton for example where a much larger number of wealthy framework knitters and employers operated.

In the 1841 census for Pegg's Green William Wales (aged 25) is living with a Framework Knitter (name not legible) and his profession along with another person appears to be Joining???. The writer has taken that as meaning seaming the pieces of hosiery together off the framework knitting machine. There is another Framework Knitter living there also, so it appears to be a cottage industry. This appears to be the catalyst for William to start his own hosiery cottage industry in Griffydam as described below.

In the "Post Office Directory of Leics & Rutland 1855", William Wales was listed as a framework knitter in Griffydam, which confirms the entry in the 1851 local census, listing William, aged 35 and born in Whitwick, as "*Stocking makers, cotton and thread*" with his wife Martha, who was born in Thringstone, as a "*seamer of stockings*". According to the 1861 census, four other framework knitters were employed in the house but William is given as "Family Hosier and Druggist". See the later feature entitled "William Wales - Chemist".

This is an excellent example of a cottage industry. The family was buried in Griffydam graveyard and their daughter Annie's gravestone can still be seen there. She died in 1859.

The property, still in existence as a private residence retains the name "Wales Cottage". It is just around the corner from the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on Elder Lane.

THE FRAMEWORK KNITTING INDUSTRY

In order to understand what was involved in "Framework Knitting", a brief explanation into the background of this industry follows. However, a great deal has been written locally on this important industry in the East Midlands and several books on the subject are available.

The early hosiery industry based on William Lee's knitting frame was centered on London, but for various reasons, the industry moved to the Midlands from the middle of the seventeenth century, and eventually the three counties of Leics, Notts & Derbys, became the main hosiery making areas of England. Leicestershire sheep provided a good supply of long stapled wool which was ideally suitable for worsted spinning and knitting (please note the article entitled "Robert Artless - Wool Comber", which deals with wool combing and the spinning of yarn, which provided the raw material for the framework knitters as well as woolen cloth weavers.

It is recorded that the first frame to be set up in Leicestershire was in 1640, and owned by William Iliffe at Hinckley and by 1750 there were about 1,800 knitting frames making woolen hose in Leicester and the surrounding areas. In the late 18th century, the most prosperous industry in many Leicestershire villages was framework knitting. A framework knitter was often referred to as a "Stockinger". It was a semi-skilled industry, and children from about 12 years of age could do the work, and in rural areas was a family cottage industry. In the late 1700's, framework-knitters locally would have earned between 7s. to 17s. per week dependant on various factors such as efficiency and whether they were sub-contracting or self employed etc.

In the early 1800's though, the knitting industry was in crisis. Due to the Napoleonic wars, the demand for hosiery declined steeply, leaving framework knitters without work and falling into poverty. This was the period when the common phrase "As poor as a Stockinger" came into being. As a result of this, many hosiers increased the frame rents which only made the situation worse. This eventually resulted in the Luddite disturbances, thought to have been originally instigated by Ned Ludd in Nottingham. Luddite attacks continued for several years, and the following incident suffered by William Sherwin of Coleorton is a typical example of their activities, but also confirms that he had significant interests in the framework knitting industry. Luddite attacks still continued, however, an act of Parliament introduced in 1812 that imposed the death penalty for machine breaking, helped to curb these activities

By the middle of the 19th century, competition was coming in from the introduction of the wide frame which enabled several items (stockings or gloves for example) to be made at once, but the rural knitters preferred the narrow frame, where only one stocking could be produced at once. By the end of the 19th century, steam driven-driven hosiery factories came into being which saw the end of the framework knitting industry, but also enabled those engaged in the hosiery trade to earn better wages.

In the London Morning Chronicle Newspaper Set 21st 1819, Middlesex, London, the following article appeared:-

The Leicester Framework Knitters

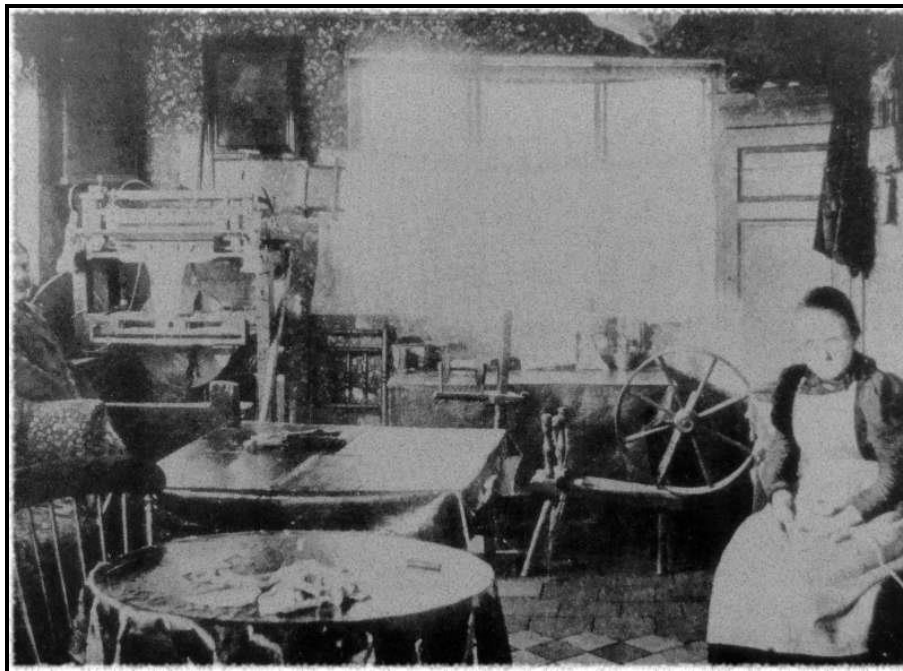
A frame-work knitter of this place, who keeps a shop of frames, and who was suspected of working under the statement prices, was placed upon an Ass, with his face to the tail, and carried through some of the principle streets, on Tuesday last, accompanied by a crowd of men and boys. The Mayor and Magistrates, with a view to putting a stop to such illegal proceedings, have issued hand-bills, offering a reward of 20 guineas for the apprehension of the ringleaders concerned in such outrage. The County Magistrates have also issued placards, expressing their strong disapprobation of the conduct of the frame-work knitters in some part of the County, and their determination to enforce the penalties of the law against all such as shall be found guilty of acts similar to those which have been made the subject of complaint before them.

On Friday a number of Jack Wires were taken from a number of frames at Heather, belonging to Mr Sherwin, of Coleorton, on the ground that the frames were working under the hosiers' statement. It seems the wires were drawn from the frames by a body of men who had gone from Ibstock for the purpose, and at the round-house of which place they afterwards deposited them.

On Saturday, Mr. Sherwin, having obtained warrants for five of the parties, repaired to the latter place to execute them, accompanied by ten persons on horseback. They were not, however, then to be found, and we have not heard since whether they have been apprehended. We understand the inhabitants were not very ceremonious in their conduct towards Mr. Sherwin and his assistants.



A "Framework Knitter" at work



A typical Framework Knitters house

Click [Here](#) To Read More About The Woollen Framework Industry

WILLIAM WALES - CHEMIST

William Wales was clearly an entrepreneurial gentleman who in his 20's, 30's and 40's appeared to have been running a successful framework knitting business at home. By 1861 though we are seeing "Druggist" added to his activities. However, by the 1871 census, William, who was 55, is now listed as a "Druggist and licensed pharmaceutical", but there is a "stocking seamer" and "framework knitter" still at the property, so he now appears to be running two businesses.

By the 1881 census, William and his wife are still in Griffydam, and William's occupation is now given as a "Chemist". Presumably his frame work knitting activities had come to an end by then.

The following paragraph comes from an article in the Coalville times dated 28/7/1978:-

A Mrs. Pearl Walker, who lived in Kingsway, Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear at the time the article was written, was born in Wales Cottage in Griffydam. She was a distant relative of John Massey (see the feature on Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel), who was her grandmother's uncle. She was also the great grand-daughter of "Doctor" Wales who was known around the district for his herbal cures.

The title "Doctor" was purely a courtesy one it seems, for the healer had no recognised qualification. He had however, a widespread fame for his skill and his kindness to people in sickness and in trouble.

Click [Here](#) To Discover More About William Wale

GRIFFYDAM POTTERY

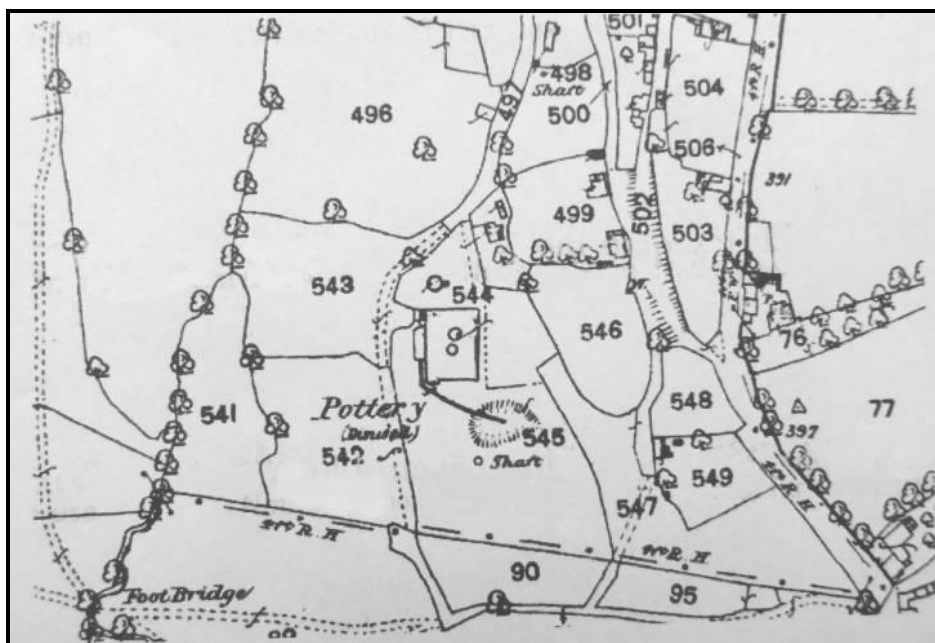
Below is a section of the 1882 O/S 1: 2,500 O/S map which identifies a disused pottery building adjacent to 544 at the end of the road which forks off Elder Lane marked 497. The rather large building has two round kilns in the centre and just to the north in the field, there is what appears to be a kiln also, although we can't be certain of that. The pottery is situated on what was referred to as Swann's Meadow at the time of the 1806 inclosure. The illustration next to the pottery and marked 545 is clearly the clay hole for the pottery. On the 1901 map, the pottery building, the shaft and the possible stand alone kiln have all gone, but the clay hole remains. On the 1925 map, even the clay hole has gone so it must have been filled in by this time. Everything points to a self contained small industrial complex being here perhaps back to the early 1800's.

The earliest record the author has found of a "potter" in Griffydam was a William Burton who is mentioned in a Lease and Release document dated 1830 (DE9109/50/1-2 now deposited at the L&RRO).

In the 1881 Griffydam census, a Joseph Bourne aged 40 and **born in Staffordshire** is listed as a **mould maker** living with his wife Francis aged 42 who was born in Griffydam. Living with them is her daughter Eliza Richards aged 23 (unmarried) and her children, suggesting this was Francis' second marriage. Eliza's children are a son Eli Richards (aged 15), who is given as a **potter**, and a son Thomas Richards aged 13. There is also a Grandson Joseph Richards aged 4. Following the path of the census enumerator's walk, it suggests they are living in the area of the pottery.

Thomas Coulson, aged 55 and born in *Sheepshed* was listed as a fireman in the 1881 census. This could have been at the brickworks kiln or the pottery kilns.

Again in the 1881 census, Rosy Hodges aged 22 and her sister Mary Hodges aged 19 who were the daughters of John and Hannah Hodges, are both given as working at terra works (Earth). This can be presumed to be the pottery and not the brickworks as references to people working there is clearly stated by the enumerator as working at brickworks. He would have no reason to change the description. No pottery workers are listed in the 1841, 1851, 61 or 71 censuses for Griffydam.



TWO COAL MINE SHAFTS ARE MARKED ON THE PRECEDING MAP AND THESE WERE OWNED / WORKED BY JOSEPH SMART AND SON (JAMES)

It is recorded that between 1874 and 1880, Joseph Smart & Son (brick and tile makers on the Lower Brand), worked a small pit at Griffydam, probably extracting coal leased by the Curzon family of Breedon. The company was registered in Ashby de la Zouch. It would have been severely limited by the "Thringstone Fault" to the north, and the workings of the former Pegg's Green Colliery in other directions.

It is believed that these shafts were sunk to provide coal for their brick and tile works on Breedon Brand, which was still in Breedon Parish at that time. There are two shafts depicted on the above map, one adjacent to the clay hole and the other to the north between 498 and 500. It is likely that one of the two shafts shown on the above map would have been the down shaft and the other an up or air shaft.

We cannot, at this stage, dismiss Joseph or James Smart having an involvement with the pottery, as in White's Directory of 1877 and Wright's Directory 1880, Joseph Smart & Co, including his son James, were listed as **Earthenware Manufacturers** in Griffydam. This is a term normally associated with the manufacture of pottery and not bricks and tiles.

EARTHENWARE POT SELLERS / CARRIERS / PEDLARS / HAWKERS AND DEALERS IN GRIFFYDAM

There is a great deal of evidence to show that a proliferation of pot sellers, pot carriers or pot hawkers as they were known are living in the area including Griffydam, up to the late 1800s, particularly in Coleorton where there were 49 recorded. Surprisingly, even as late as the 1851 census, there are 8 Earthenware Pot Sellers / Dealers / Hawkers recorded in Griffydam.

It is almost certain that these local hawkers initially obtained their pots from the several pottery manufacturers in Ticknall from the late 1500s. They would have transported their wares around the country to fairs etc in the early days by pack-horse. Initially, they would have only had muddy cart tracks to travel on but once the turnpike roads became established in the mid 1700s, Griffydam, Pegg's Green and Coleorton were well placed to take advantage of these, being surrounded by turnpike roads going in all directions, meaning horse and carts were able to carry larger quantities of wares with reduced breakages.

After Coleorton Pottery was opened opposite the Hamlet of Lount in 1835 (see the book entitled "Coleorton Pottery 1835-1938" by Samuel T Stewart) which coincided with the demise of the Ticknall potteries, hawkers were already obtaining pottery from there to sell. The potteries in South Derbyshire (Woodville, Swadlincote, Hartshorne, Measham etc) had become established from the 1790s which was another source of pots for the hawkers. **In fact, we have proof from our research into the property now known as 31, Top road, Griffydam that in 1823 John Bailey (Pot Seller) of Griffydam owed a large sum of money to pottery manufacturers in Stafford.**

Many examples of broken pottery has been unearthed in the vicinity of Elder Lane, Griffydam, This is almost certainly shards of broken pottery left from where a pot seller or hawker lived, possibly even dating from the days of the Warden family or Francis Swan mentioned in the following paragraph.

In the fields, known as Dye House Close (see earlier feature) a lot of pottery was dug up from the lower part of the valley through which the brook runs. The best examples found were given to Peter Liddle (Leicestershire Archaeologist & Historian) who said it was the best Cistercian Ware made in Ticknall, he had seen in the county - this is further confirmation that the pot sellers were obtaining their wares from Ticknall. The most common pottery shards found on the site are rims of Pancheons which are large shallow earthenware bowls or vessels wider at the top than at the bottom, and were used especially to stand milk in to let the cream separate. These were probably manufactured at Coleorton Pottery opposite the hamlet of Lount. It is thought likely that this pottery was likely to have been dumped there at some time.

The earliest known specialist pot seller in the Griffydam / Coleorton area was Edward Warden of Griffydam, a carpenter by trade. When his will was made in 1614 he listed a large number of debtors, many of whom could be identified from Ticknall. The references imply that Warden had paid in advance for the ware from the potters and that it was packed into "fatts" or casks for transport The Warden family continued to be involved in selling pots after Edward's death, and his son John, also of Griffydam, witnessed the will of the Ticknall pot maker Richard Gardener of Scaddows in 1614 and the inventory showed that John Warden owed him a debt of 26s. 8d. (from "Ticknall Pots & Potters" by Janet Spavold & Sue Brown).

In the poll-book of 1775, two freeholders of Worthington, James Radford, and Francis Swan (**pot-carrier**), are entered as being resident at Griffy Dam.

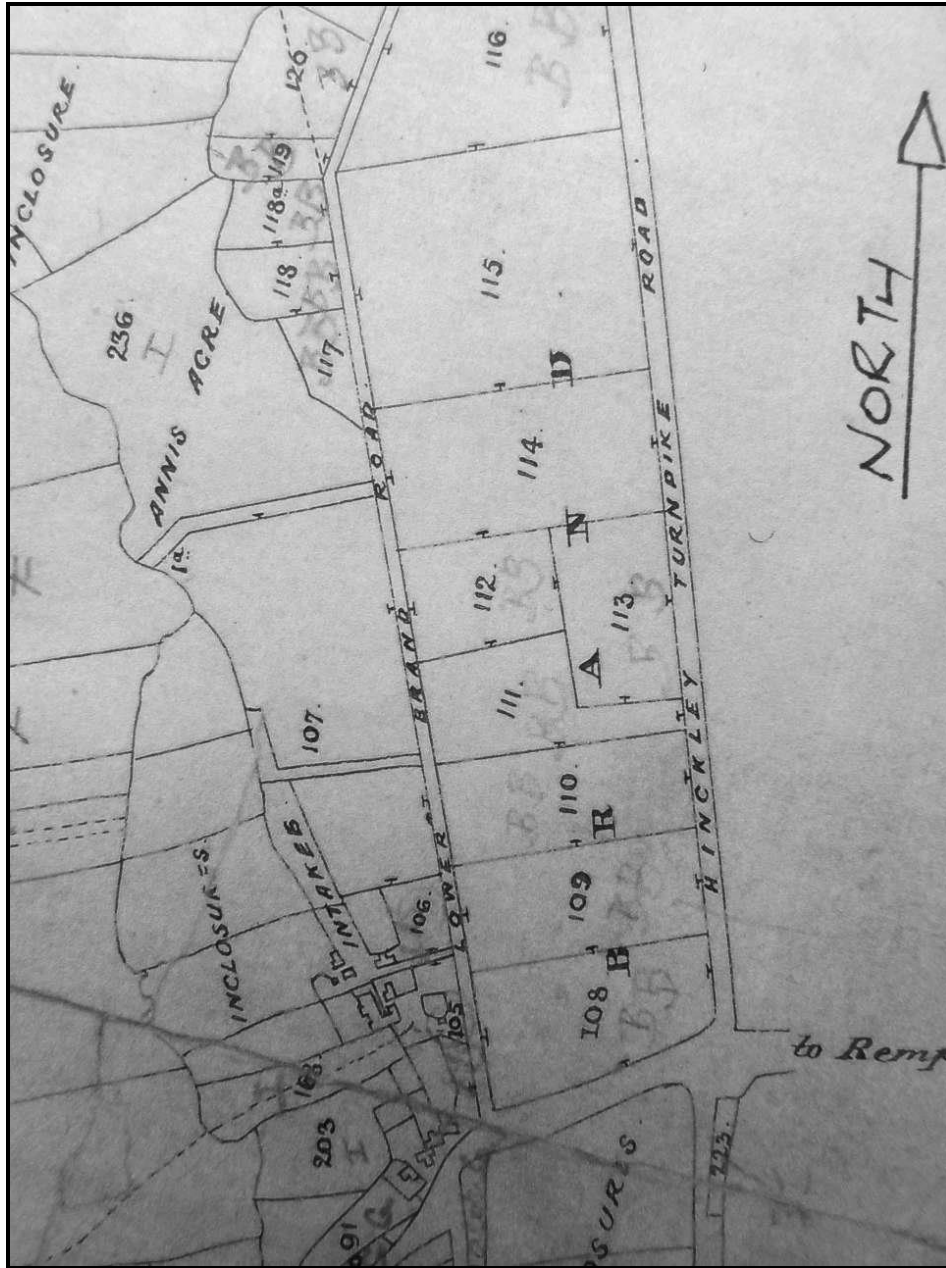


The above photographs showing various shards of pottery found on the site of a property in Elder Lane. This is further evidence of Pottery Sellers / Hawkers living in the area.

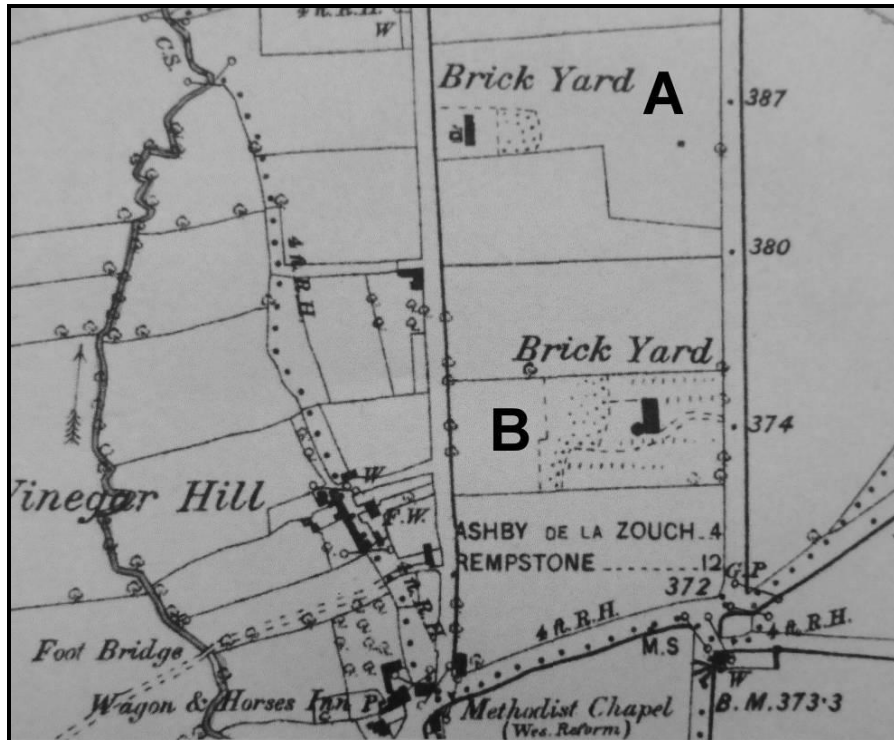
Click [Here](#) To Read More About Griffydam's Pottery Business

BRICK WORKS ON THE LOWER BRAND

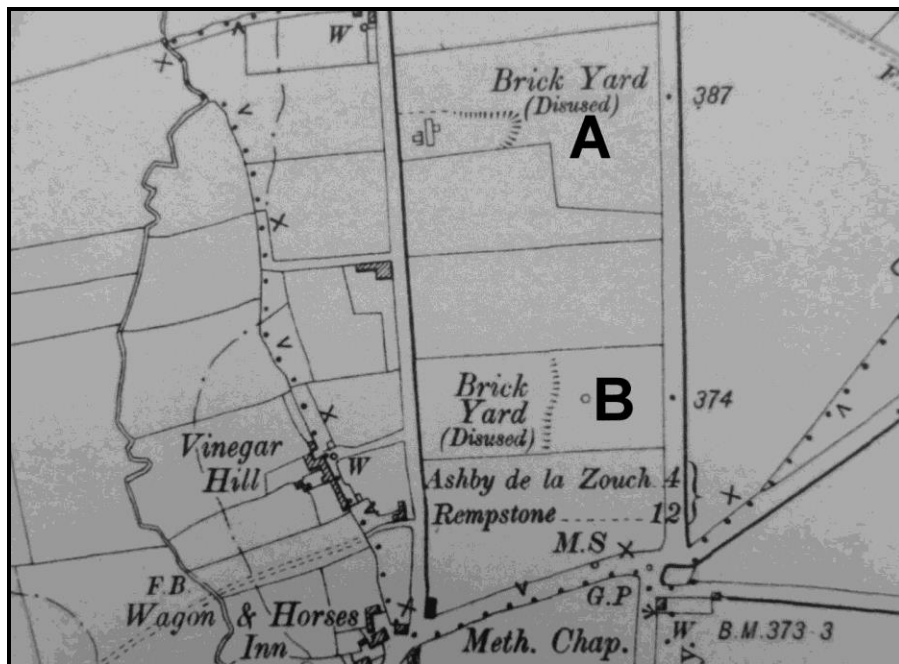
Below is an extract from the 1806 inclosure map of Lower Breedon Brand which does not indicate any brick works in the area of the fields from nos. 108 to 114. The inclosure schedule has no mention of brick works in that area either. 108 is the next field north of the current Wesleyan Reform Chapel opposite the former Waggon & Horses. Please note, that at this time the whole of Breedon Brand was in Breedon Parish and it was not until c.1880 that Worthington Parish was formed and the southerly two thirds of The Brand actually became part of Griffydam.



The 1885 O/S map below can be related to the preceding 1806 inclosure map and shows a Brick Yard marked **A** related to field Nos. 112/113 and a Brick Yard marked **B** related to field No.9.



The 1901 O/S map below shows both Brick Yards as being disused by that date.



It is thought that the Brick Yard designate **B** was significantly older than **A** and this utilised a round kiln. Brick making in this area could well have started during the Tudor period (see the following text).

THE DEVELOPMENT OF BRICK MAKING

Bricks produced by the traditional method in Britain were first used by the Romans. The structure of the industry and the methods used in it were developed over several centuries in response to the variety of physical, social and economic conditions encountered in different regions of the country.

The Saxons' and Normans' did not make bricks but brick making, as practiced on the Continent, was reintroduced into East Anglia only in the late thirteenth century and spread slowly to other parts of the country. Modern brick making really began in the Tudor period, made fashionable by Henry VIII's rebuilding of Hampton Court Palace. Kirby Muxloe Castle, the part built fortified manor house built by Lord Hastings, is regarded as the first brick building in the country and was started in 1480, employing Flemish brick makers to make the bricks. In the same period, the Greys started building the house at Bradgate. The Greys may have granted land on the Brand to one of his brick makers as local bricks date back to this period, enabling bricks to be used more widely.

Clay suitable for brick making was abundant and generally accessible in surface deposits in most locations and this generally determined where the small traditional brick making site was established, as was the case on The Brand.

By the middle of the eighteenth century bricks had become a fashionable and prevalent building material and most English parishes had at least one brick kiln to supply its needs. Although brick making was traditionally a relatively small industry, it formed an important part of the local economy in many areas, as it did in Griffydham. Little capital or plant was required to begin brick making operations when hand methods were used. As local building projects created a sufficient demand for bricks, new works often were opened to supplement the supplies available from permanent kilns. Brick Masters frequently were employed in other trades, such as farming or building, and entered the industry as a part-time occupation or for a short-term investment. Some even rented the land they worked. Once the brick clay was extracted to a certain level or building activity slumped, many operations closed down and the land was returned to cultivation.

A predominant feature of the traditional industry was its inherent seasonality. For the most part, the entire process of brick making was carried on in the open air and was subject to the uncertainties of the weather. The clay was usually dug out in the autumn or winter and left in heaps to break down the lumps and make it more easily worked. Tempering and moulding only commenced in March or April after the danger of winter frosts had passed. From then on, until the following autumn, brick makers worked extremely long hours, sometimes as much as thirteen hours a day, to maximize production during the spring and summer months (British Parliamentary Commission, hereafter BPP, Childrens' Employment Commission 1866, p.103).

Even during the brick making season, work frequently was obstructed by inclement weather. The newly moulded "green bricks" especially were vulnerable to damage. Before firing in the kiln, these were usually stacked in open-air "hacks" to dry for up to six weeks, protected from the weather by a covering of straw matting, tarpaulins and, later, wooden boards with louvers.

Sometimes, a few flimsy and temporary buildings were erected in the brickfields, such as rough thatched moulder's huts or lightweight drying sheds open at the sides (Samuel 1977, p.31- 32). In Nottingham and the Midland counties, drying sheds occasionally were warmed by flues running under the floors from the kilns to provide protection against frost (Rivington 1879, p.93). In most of the country, however, the temporary and seasonal character of the work meant that brick yard owners had little incentive to invest in buildings or expensive equipment. Natural environmental factors were

accommodated as far as possible and brick makers accepted a certain number of ruined bricks as an inevitable outcome of their business.

Even though the locality was well served with Turnpike roads, the difficulties and expense involved in transporting bricks, generally limited supplies to what could be produced locally, consequently, it was necessary to locate brickworks as close as possible to the source of demand rather than bring the finished products from any great distance.

We can safely assume that Griffydam's brick works only supplied bricks centred on the localities of Griffydam, Pegg's Green, Worthington, Osgathorpe etc. Sir George Beaumont had a thriving brickyard on Workhouse Lane in Coleorton and he supplied large volumes of bricks to his own coal mines in the area as well as for house building in Coleorton, Swannington and Pegg's Green, so there would have been significant competition. The Earls Ferrers had several brick making facilities on his estate also, which service his coal mining requirements.

The structure of the traditional brick making industry developed in response to these factors. It was made up of a large number of relatively small works dispersed throughout the country with concentrations around urban areas. Studies of regional brick making industries show that small enterprises rather than large-scale works were predominant until the end of the nineteenth century. Expansion of the industry when necessary was accomplished by an increase in the number of small works rather than a fundamental change in the size of individual firms (Bowley 1960, p.59-60; Samuel 1977, p.25). For example, one study of brick making in the South-East Midlands reported that in 1831 an average of 5.9 brick makers only were employed by 103 brickworks. An examination of trade directories in Oxfordshire for 1861 indicated that the 69 brickfields operating in that county employed fewer than five labourers each. This is borne out by the Griffydam, Gelsmoor, Pegg's Green, Coleorton and Worthington censuses information, where the number of people employed at the brickyards was minimal really.

As explained above, the system adopted for the organization of work in the traditional brick making industry was particularly suited to small-scale, temporary enterprises with low capital investment. In most areas the brickfield owner hired a brick master at a price per thousand bricks to superintend the site and take full responsibility for the output of the operations. He in turn contracted with moulders to temper, mould and hack the bricks. Each moulder then hired his own "gang" of subsidiary labourers and acted as their employer.

The above process of making bricks was becoming obsolete by the beginning of the 19th century and these methods, it is suggested, could have been used in what is believed to be the older of the two brickworks **B**. The two fields between the brickworks have had no clay extraction and clay was only taken from the actual brickwork sites.

Evidence has recently come to light to demonstrate that both brickworks **A & B** were adopting improved brick making methods by the end of the 19th century. Moulding machines were used to form the "Griffydam" brick examples shown later, and similarly with the tiles which also had impressed frogs. The quality of the named Griffydam bricks was far superior to its predecessors, being pressure formed, which required the use of puddling mills, with brick and tile making machinery. The layout of the site at **A** in particular shown on the OS maps indicates a well planned operation. The rectangular kiln, shown in the following photographs, is sited at a lower level than a manufacturing / drying building, so that the flue gases would warm the floor before being extracted through the chimney at the rear. This site would have been capable of continuous production throughout the year.

In the Leicester Chronicle 3rd October 1832, Samuel Bakewell was advertising brick making machines. One of the best known pressing machines was that patented in 1830 by Samuel Roscoe Bakewell, a brick manufacturer then residing in in Whiskin Street, St. James, Clerkenwell. His patent included an improved method for grinding and mixing clay using grinding stones in a pit. (British Patent No. 5985, 1830).

As the reader will appreciate, there is very little evidence left on the brick works sites now to base any research work on without a serious archaeological investigation. In fact, the brick works **B** is now a flat field. However, we are fortunate that there is some evidence of one of the brick kilns left on site **A**. It is believed that both the 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and the older 2 inch thick bricks (see following photographs) would have been made on the sites but we can't be sure which this particular kiln was used for.



The kiln would have originally had a brick domed top and possibly a flue would have been taken to a drying shed from it with a chimney to draw the hot air through to aid the drying process. There is no evidence left of the drying shed or chimney unfortunately



Photograph of the clay pit dug out in an area adjacent to the above kiln.

**BRICKS AND TILES USED IN AN OLD COTTAGE ON ELDER LANE
ONCE OWNED BY JOHN HAYWOOD IN 1806**



**This photograph of John Haywood's former house was taken in 1996
prior to the property being demolished**

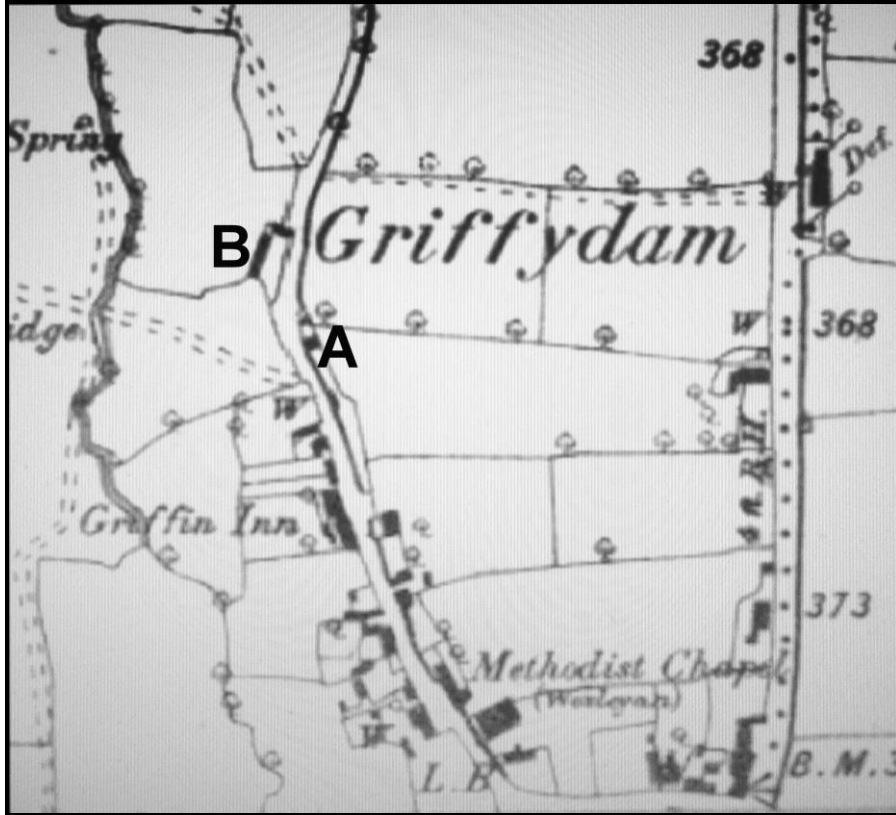
John Haywood was a Yeoman, and the location of his house is shown on the following maps. The house and out-buildings were demolished in 1996 and a new house built on the site. John Haywood married Mary Hodges on December 29th 1755 and they had six children. John Haywood died in 1812, and Mary in 1818 aged 86. They were both buried at Breedon. At the time of the 1806 inclosure Act, they acquired the house and field and other inclosures and property in the village as shown below, indicating that they were relatively affluent.

From the 1806 inclosure schedule:-

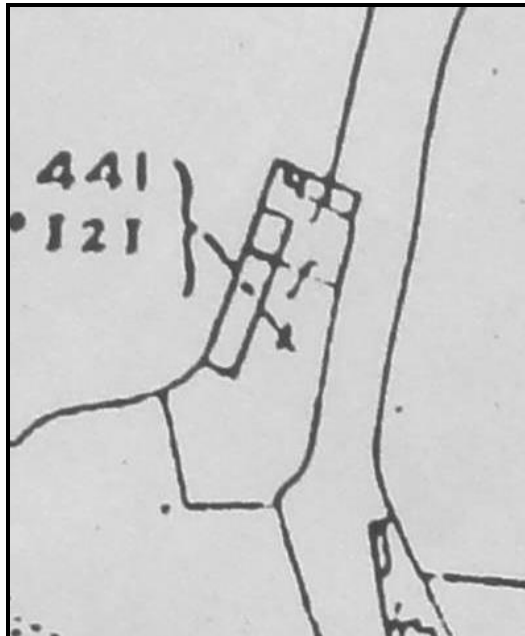
To John Haywood -

- 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**)

Being an old property, it contained evidence of various old bricks, tiles and building methods used in its construction and these have been used as an example to show the evolution of brick making particularly in relation to the Griffydam brickworks on the Lower Brand.



The location of John Haywood's House is shown marked B on the above 1855 O/S map.



The house and adjacent building is shown in a little more detail in the above extract from the 1801/2 surveyed O/S map

THE EVOLUTION OF BRICKS, TILES & PAVERS USED IN THE COTTAGE & OUTBUILDINGS

Old bricks in their many forms using various manufacturing methods is an extremely specialised subject. The following is a factual attempt to record what we have been able to find out about bricks used in buildings at Griffydam only, which were probably of a poor quality, hence all of the old houses here being rendered now. We have come to the conclusion that another brick works possibly existed in earlier times somewhere else in Griffydam, but have not been able to find any evidence to prove this.

A carefully study of the construction of John Haywood's cottage and outbuildings together with the materials used was carried out prior to demolition fortunately. It has enabled us to make a much more educated judgment on the evolution of the brickworks on the Lower Brand. Old 2" deep bricks were found in the outbuildings with a sheep and calf foot print in them (see **A** & **B** below). These would probably have been made in the 17th & 18th century respectively and could have been made on the Lower Brand or at a different site. We cannot be sure without further research work. These bricks were judged to have been of a Tudor type and much more highly fired than later bricks which were soft and weathered badly, hence the reason for the old houses in Griffydam being rendered. 2" bricks were salvaged and used in the fireplace. **The reason for the sheep and calf footprints in the bricks would have been because batches of soft wet hand made green bricks would have been left outside or under open roofs to dry prior to firing in the kiln and cattle and sheep would have walked over them.**

Brick **C** is a later 19th century machine made brick (9" x 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep) and thought to have been made at the brickworks **A** on the Lower Brand.





Examples of machine made pressed bricks from the Lower brand



This is a rare 'machine made paver', and the only other one found like this is at "The Hare & Hounds" (known as Mary's House) at Whitwick. Although we cannot prove it, this paver was most likely made at the brickworks **A** on the Lower Brand.



We should not forget that tiles were also made at the brickworks, and the above photograph shows tiles taken off the floors of the old cottage on Elder Lane and used on the fireplace hearth. Again as they were machine made, it is likely that these were manufactured at the brick works **A**.



Another example of a machine made roof tile used at the cottage suggesting again that these were made at the brick works **A**.

'JOSEPH SMART & SON' - GRIFFYDAM BRICK AND TILE WORKS (c.1845 - c.1880)

This article is not intended to suggest that Joseph Smart was the first brickmaker in Griffydam. In fact we believe from our research that brick making in a small way was being carried out on the Lower Brand in the early 18th century.

Joseph Smart was first listed in the 1851 census as a brick maker and he appears to be living next to the Waggon & Horses inn with his family. He is also recorded as still being a brick maker in the 1861/71 census records. Joseph was born in Ticknall in 1824, and his wife Elizabeth was born in Kimberly, Notts. His son James, also living in Griffydam, was born in 1847 in Ridings, Derbyshire and he married Selina. They had a daughter Elizabeth, who was born in 1870. We have no evidence to confirm whether Joseph Smart operated one or both of the brickwork sites on the Lower Brand.

The landlord of the "Waggon & Horses" from 1845 to 1864 was John Nicklinson who was also listed in 1851 as a brick maker, presumably working for Joseph Smart. John must have been a busy man, landlord of a pub, farmer and brick maker.

In the 1851 census for Pegg's Green, Henry Smart (25) and his wife Fanny (22), both born in Ticknall, are both listed as brick makers. Also listed as a brick maker in the Pegg's Green 1881 census was George Smart, aged 44, again born in Ticknall, and living with his wife Amy, aged 45, born in Breedon.

In the 1881 Griffydam census, Joseph Smart was recorded as still living in Griffydam, aged 57, and still as a brick maker, although we cannot take that as he was still operating the brickworks. His wife Elizabeth was 57, and they had four grandchildren living with them, Elizabeth aged 11, Annie aged 9, Charles aged 7 and Sarah R aged 5 who were all born in Griffydam. His son, James Smart isn't listed in the 1881 census, but Selina, had died in 1879, which would explain why the children are with their grandparents.

It is not unreasonable to assume that the entire Smarts' mentioned are related, and sufficient information has been provided to enable those interested to research their backgrounds further.

It is recorded in a genealogy research document published by a descendant in New Zealand it confirms that Joseph Smart left Ticknall and moved to Ashby-De-La-Zouch before coming to Griffydam and setting up his brickworks. By 1885, Joseph had actually moved to New Zealand where he apparently set up another brickworks.

The following advertisement in the Leicester Chronicle 9 Aug 1879 confirms that at some point, Joseph Smart and his son James had formed a partnership with a Wilham Wildblood and Sydney Haywood related to the Brickworks. The advert states they were trading as "Brick and Tile Merchants and Builders". The advertisement confirms that this partnership was dissolved 26th July 1879.

The only other connection we can find between the parties is on an indenture dated 24th May 1879 involving the purchase / sale of what is now 31, Top Road, Griffydam in 1879.

No further records relating to Joseph or James Smart had been found at the time of writing.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

THAT the PARTNERSHIP heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, JOSEPH SMART, JAMES SMART, WILLIAM WILDBLOOD, and SYDNEY HAYWOOD, trading as Brick and Tile Merchants and Builders, at Griffydam, in the County of Leicester, in the name of "Smart, Son, Wildblood, and Haywood," was this day dissolved by mutual consent.

Dated this 26th day of July, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine.

JOSEPH SMART,
JAMES SMART,
WILLIAM WILDBLOOD,
SYDNEY HAYWOOD.

Witness to the signing hereof by the said Joseph Smart & Sydney Haywood,
Edward B. Jennings,
Solicitor,
Burton-on-Trent.

Witness to the signing thereof by the said James Smart & William Wildblood,
George Burton,
Solicitor, Burton-on-Trent.

wa2365

WILLIAM HOULT' - BRICKWORKS - BOTTOM BRAND

The information regarding ownership of the brickyards on the bottom Brand gets very sketchy at this juncture. The following newspaper article clearly states that William Hoult owns or is running one of the brickworks in 1880, but the 1881 census shows Joseph Smart as still living in Griffydam and a brick maker. The only conclusion the author can come to is that he had sold the business to William Hoult as the result of the partnership with Wildblood and Haywood being dissolved and then carried on working for William Hoult for a short time.

Leicester Chronicle - July 3rd 1880

A Painful Case. - Hannah Saddington and Fanny Platts of Griffydam, two married women, of respectable appearance, were charged with stealing 87lbs. weight of coals, on the 21st ult., the property of William Hoult, brick manufacturer of Griffydam. - P.C. Hancock said: On Monday night at about quarter to eleven o'clock, I saw the two defendants coming from the direction of Mr. Hoult's, of Breedon parish. They were carrying something under their shawls. On seeing me they quickened their pace. I ran after them, overtook them, and said "What have you got here"? Mrs. Platts replied a bit of coal, master". I said, "I see its coal, and I suspect you have taken it from Hoult's brickyard". She relied "We have, our boys have been working for Mr. Hoult, and as he could not pay them their wages, he said we might have a bit of coal for it". I said "That may be so; but I shall take possession of the coal until I ascertain the truth of your statement. If I find it correct, all well and good; if not, you must take the consequences". The constable produced the coal in, two bags, one containing 44lbs. The other 43lbs. Sarah Hoult said: I am the wife of William Hoult, brickmaker, and live at Castle Donington. **We have a brickyard in the Bottom Brand.** On Tuesday morning defendants came to our house, at half-past one o'clock a.m. I was in bed and they called me up. I looked out of the window and said "Who's there"? They both answered "Come down; we are in great trouble". I replied "I shall not come down; tell me through the window". They both said "We have no coals, and we thought there would be no harm in fetching a bit, as the lad came for his money this afternoon and you did not give him all of it. We told him to ask you to let us have a bit of coal. But we have come to tell you that the

Policeman says he will take us to Ashby to-morrow, unless we got a paper from you to say you gave us permission". They then said "Do forgive us this time, and we will do anything for you; we will give you a weeks money of the lads". I replied "I cannot do anything in it, as we have had so much coal taken before". They replied "We have never taken any before". I said "That may be, but scarcely a day passes but something is being taken from the brickyard". They again asked me to forgive them, but I said, I could not for we had kept Griffydam in coals long enough. - This was the case for the prosecution. The defendants, who appeared to feel their position very keenly, pleaded poverty. They said their boys had been working in the brickyard, and could not get the whole of their money. Mrs Hoult was again called, and asked if such was the case, and she said it was not so. - The bench decided to convict, defendants desiring to have the case settled at once. - **After a severe reprimand from the Chairman, they were each ordered to pay a fine of 5s.**

It is clear from the above, that after the women were arrested at about a quarter to eleven o'clock, they then walked all the way to Hoult's house at Castle Donington to beg forgiveness, arriving there at half-past one in the morning!!

HENRY TOON - BRICKWORKS - BOTTOM BRAND

There follows copies of receipts for bricks brought from the brick works on the Lower Brand by Samuel Eagle Esq., together with a photograph of an actual brick. Samuel who had purchased a house on Elder Lane in 1877 on a buy to let basis previously ran a Bakers, Grocers and Sub-Post Office business in Rotten Row, Coleorton (actually in Thringstone at that time) which was taken over by John Kendrick from Griffydam who lived in property almost opposite Griffydam Infant School. **These receipts are important in that they are the only record discovered for the price of bricks (commons) from Griffydam brick works, which is shown as being 25 shillings a thousand in 1881.**

1881

Griffydam Brickyard
 Mr Eagle
 To Mr Toon

March 21 250 600 Bricks delivered
 22 150 do
 400 at 25p thou .. 10-0

April 30 Settled
 Mr Toon

1880	M ^r Eagle	
	To Hy Toon	97
March 4	500 Con Bricks Delivd	12.00
	April 2 nd Paid	
	Henry Toon	



Machine made pressed bricks made when Henry Toon was operating the brick works on the Lower brand



Click [Here](#) To Read More About The Brickworks On Breedon Brand

SOCIAL HISTORY INFORMATION - BRICKYARD CHILDREN

THE LEICESTER CHRONICLE DECEMBER 4TH 1869

GEORGE SMITH WAS A MANAGER OF THE WHITWICK COLLIERIES COMPANIES

We have received the following letter from Mr George Smith, of Coalville, which tells his own sad story. May we hope that during the forthcoming session of Parliament, the condition of the poor children in brickyards will have consideration.

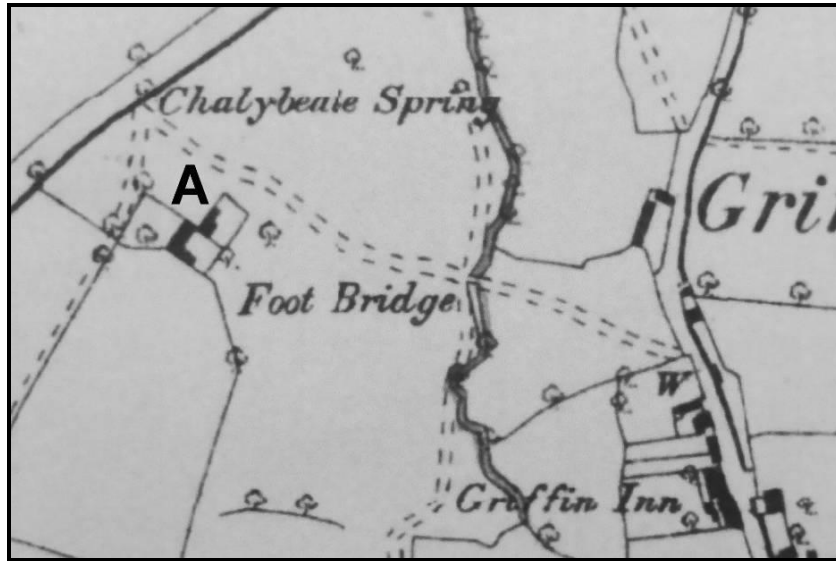
Where is the Clarkdon or Wilberforce of the present day who will plead the cause of the poor "little ones" who are suffering?

The following facts illustrate the deplorable conditions of the brickyard workers in Leicestershire and Derbyshire in 1869. Some of the boys employed are about 8 years old, each one is engaged in carrying 40-45lbs weight of clay on his head to the maker for 13 hrs a day, transversing a total of 14 miles. The girls employed are between 9 and 10 years of age. They are not engaged in carrying clay on their heads the whole of the day but are partly occupied in taking bricks to the kiln. Some of the children are in an almost nude state. Many of them in Derbyshire work what is called "eight hour shifts" which reckoning from 12pm on Sunday to 12pm on Saturday night following, make a weekly labour of 75 hours. To ascertain really what work these children have to do, we must suppose a brick maker (not over quick in his operations) making 3,500 bricks a day. The distant a child has to travel with mould, weighing four and a half pounds (with bricks in it ten and a half pounds), one way, and back to the brickmaker with mould only, is upon average 12 yards. This multiplied by 3,500 makes the total distance nearly 24 miles??, that each child has to walk every day carrying this weight with it. I assert (says Mr. Smith) without fear of contradiction, from 30 years general observation and practical experience, that masters are not gainers by employing children of such tender age. I feel strongly that girls should not be employed in brick and tileyards on any account, as the work is totally unfit for them. To see the girls engaged in such work, and at such unseasonable hours, mixed up with boys of the roughest class, must convey to the mind some idea of the sort of wives, with such training, they will make, and the kind of influence they will eventually bring to bear on society.

AN EXTRACT FROM "THE GRAPHIC, MAY 27TH 1871"

.....At the Social Science Congress last year, Mr Smith exhibited a lump of solid clay, weighing 43lbs, this, in a wet state had been taken three days previously from off the head of a child aged 9 years, who daily had to walk a distance of twelve and a half miles, half that distance being traversed while carrying this heavy burden. The calculation was thus made, the brickmaker manufacturing on average 3,000 bricks per day, these weighing some twelve tons, the whole of which has to be carried by two children from the clay heap to the brickmaker's table. The distance between the heap and the table is 35 yards, and the number of journeys to be made by each child to and from the clay heap, amounts, as above stated, to twelve and a half miles. The employment lasts thirteen hours per day, sometimes longer, except during the slack season. If the children are not sufficiently quick in their movements, they are punished with curses and blows from their task-masters. Mr Robert Baker in one of his official reports says he has seen a boy 5 years old being "broken in" as it is termed to the labour. "In one case a boy of 11 years of age was carrying 14lbs weight of clay upon his head, and as much more within his arms, from the temperer to the brickmaker, walking 8 miles per day upon the average of 6 days". This is painful, but still more so is the following statement, also by Mr. Baker: - "I have seen females of all ages, 19 or 20 together (some of them mothers of families), undistinguishable from men, save by the occasional peeping out of an ear-ring, sparsely clad, up to the bare knees in clay splashes, and evidently without the vestige of human delicacy, thus employed, that is, in carrying bricks". These women, so lost to all sense of shame, so unwomanly in appearance and habits, were, be it remembered, simply grown-up child-workers.....

WORTHINGTON POOR LAW COTTAGE IN GRIFFYDAM



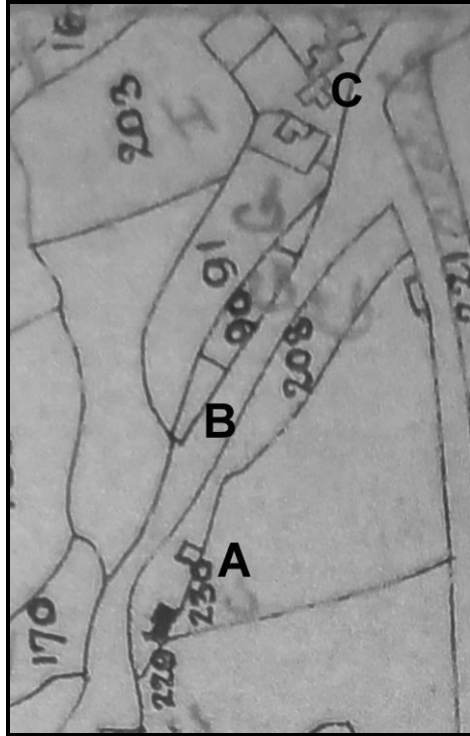
Poor Law cottage marked A - 1885 O/S Map

MAIN POINTS OF THE EARLY POOR LAW ACT

Statutes are available from 1531 onwards relating to the poor, and the parish in which they lived had social obligations. Paupers were on one hand stigmatised, and on the other supported, not only by subsistence payments, but by help with property repairs, rent, clothing and medical attention. Parish relief would have enabled survival and probably little more. The parish was responsible for maintaining its poor who were settled in the township. **The Poor Law Act of 1601** ordered the nomination of an overseer to maintain and set the poor to work, the funds for this being collected from the village. W. E. Tate (*The Parish Chest*, Phillimore 1983, p.189) cites the poor law settlement system as a reason why the parish could be described as a prison. Further acts had the result of closing the gates of the parish. Inhabitants born in a village were classed as settled and could have a certificate saying that their parish would support them if they required assistance. With this certificate it was possible to live outside the parish of origin. For those without certificates, temporary work for less than 52 weeks was possible if available, permanent tenure within the parish was not. With a few exceptions, if it was deemed possible that they could be an expense to the parish, they and their dependants were moved back to their place of settlement. Women carrying illegitimate offspring were questioned until they revealed the name of the father, without this information the parish would be put to the expense of supporting both mother and child. Youngsters were apprenticed, preferably outside the parish; they then became the responsibility of the parish where they worked. Every effort made by the Overseer was directed in avoiding adding to the burden of the rate paying parishioners. The idle poor and vagrants could be sent to a house of correction or even prison. **The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1697** introduced the degrading provision that every pauper, wife and children "*shall wear upon the shoulder of the right sleeve of the uppermost garment.....in an open and visible manner.....a large Roman P together with the first letter of the name of the parish.... in red or blue cloth*". This, and the penalties for non-compliance, were designed to discourage pauperism.

Under the 1806 inclosure Act, John Mynor Bulstrode, Gentleman of Worthington and Major in the Leicestershire Militia, aquired:-

- Three houses and gardens in Griffydam, marked No. 230 marked **A** on the 1806 inclosure map below, containing 22 perches and then in the occupancy of Charles Ward, George Stevenson and William Fowler.



This enlarged section of the 1806 map (although not to scale) can be related to the preceding 1885 O/S Map
B is the Rempstone Road and **C** is the Wagon & Horses

7TH MAY 1808

Jonas Knight of Breedon on the Hill, Butcher.

John Hackett of Breedon on the Hill, Gentleman, Lime-burner, Dealer and Chapman.

Samuel Gilbert of Worthington, Church Warden.

Thomas Radcliffe of Worthington, Farmer and **Administrator of the Poor Law**.

John Armson of Worthington, farmer and **Administrator of the Poor Law**.

In Vestry assembled, the above decided to sell the cottage and land. J. Knight and J. Hacket were authorized to purchase a cottage and garden from J. Bulstrode to be used under the provisions of the Poor Law Act 1601 (2).

4TH APRIL 1809

Joseph Wilton of Worthington, Labourer, purchased the cottage for the sum of £20, after it was decided by the **Poor Law Administration** to instruct J. Knight and J.Hacket to sell the property.

FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE HISTORY AND OWNERSHIP DETAILS OF THESE COTTAGES CAN BE OBTAINED VIA THE GRIFFYDAM HISTORY GROUP.

31 TOP ROAD - THOUGHT TO BE GRIFFYDAM'S OLDEST SURVIVING BUILDING



The cottage in the above photograph taken in the early 1980's was fortunately not demolished and is now an admirably renovated private dwelling house with the address of 31, Top Road, Griffydam. This building is very important historically, and has a very interesting past. When the lower walls of the property were exposed during renovation work it was observed that the lower courses were constructed of Charnwood granite blocks, probably taken off the fields. It is likely that it would have had a thatched roof initially, before being tiled at some point.

From old lease and release indentures and abstract of title documents, we can prove that this cottage originally dates back to the occupation and ownership of William Dexter in 1720. The chapel and part of the cemetery are also on land once owned by William Dexter.

<u>Title Deeds</u>		
37-38	Lease and Release	14,15 October 1720
	1. William Dexter of Griffithdamm par. Breedon on the Hill, yeoman and Mary his wife.	
	2. Joseph Boulton of Swanington, yeoman.	
	3. William Boulton of Osgathorpe, yeoman part of a close (1a.) in Griffithdamm adjoining a cottage occupied by 1. being the west part of the close from the cottage.	
	Consideration: £35	

Details of an Indenture Lease and Release record from 1720 mentioning William Dexter's cottage

The following paragraph is taken from "The History and Antiquities' of the County of Leicestershire 1800", Volume 3. Pt.2. by John Nichols:-

1. *Griffy or Griffith Dam is a little hamlet, or Vill, within the Lordship of Worthington, situate near Cole Orton moor; and has within it a mineral spring, supposed to be Chalybeate. In the election of 1722, William Dexter polled as a freeholder in Griffy Dam. In the poll-book of 1775, two freeholders of Worthington James Radford, and Francis Swan (pot-carrier), are entered as resident at Griffy Dam.*

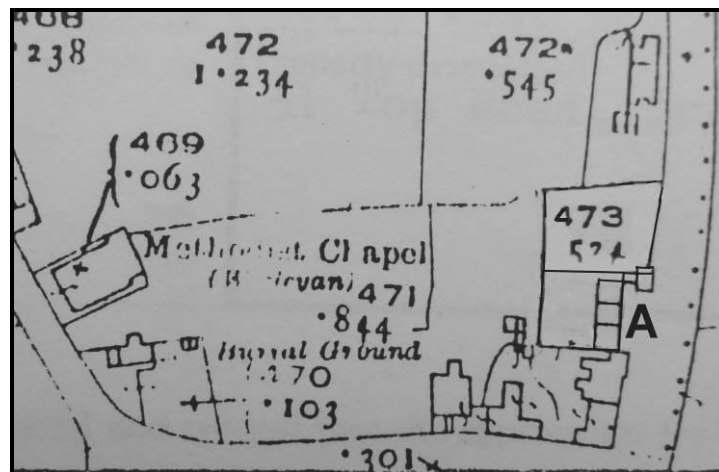
In an 1823 Indenture of Lease and Release the cottage is described as follows:-
All that messuage (cottage) or tenement with the out buildings and ground to the same belonging situate and ? Griffy dam aforesaid and which descended to John Bailey from his ancestors, having been formerly purchased from William Dexter. (Note - at this point the messuage (cottage) is described as one property).

In 1836 and 1865 "Abstract of Title Record" it confirms that **the single messuage (cottage) had been converted into three dwellings** and were in the possession of Phoebe Bailey, John Davis and John Hannage (**tenants**) and William Hodgson, Samuel Halls and and Benjamin Johnson (**tenants**) respectively.

In 1872 the following is stated - *All these three messuages (cottages) or tenements, formerly one messuage (cottage), with the outbuildings gardens and grounds the same belonging situate and being at Griffydam and then in the respective occupation of William Hodgson, Benjamin Johnson and Samuel Platts (**tenants**) and which said messuages (cottages) and hereditaments are bounded on the East by the Hinckley to Melbourne Turnpike Road, on the West by a croft belonging to the trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel at Griffy-dam aforesaid, on the North by a close and gardens belonging to Edmund Doman, and on the South by a garden and building belonging to Thomas Upton.*

In 1879, the following is stated - *All these three messuages (cottages) or tenements, formerly one messuage (cottage), with the outbuildings gardens and grounds the same belonging situate and being at Griffydam and then in the respective occupation of William Hodgson, Benjamin Johnson and Samuel Platts (**tenants**) and which said messuages and hereditaments are bounded on the East by the Hinckley to Melbourne Turnpike Road, on the West by a croft belonging to the trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel at Griffydam aforesaid, on the North by a close and gardens belonging to...(not given)... and on the South by a garden and buildings belonging to...(not given).....*

In 1881, the following is stated - *All these three messuages (cottages) or tenements, formerly one messuage (cottage), with the outbuildings gardens and grounds the same belonging situate and being at Griffydam and then in the respective occupation of Benjamin Johnson, Samuel Platts and Mr. Nutt (**tenants**) and which said messuages and hereditaments are bounded on the East by the Hinckley to Melbourne Turnpike Road, on the West by a croft belonging to the trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel at Griffydam aforesaid, on the North by a close and gardens belonging to...(not given)... and on the South by a garden and buildings belonging to...(not given).....*



The above map (1881/ 1882 surveyed) is the only one found that shows William Dexter's Message / Cottage divided into three. It is designated by the letter **A**

Note - Due to the numerous past owners of this property, and the complexities of the Indentures of Lease and Release and Abstract of Title agreements, it is not possible to record here all the details of the owners of this Messuage (Cottage). Below are a few selected examples:-

4 th /5 th April 1823	John Bailey (Pot Seller) of the 1 st part, William Bailey & William Batkin (Lane End, Stafford - Ornamenteers of China and earthenware) of the 2 nd part & Thomas Drewery (Lane End, Stafford - Manufacturer of Earthenware) of the 3 rd part.
1 st /2 nd June 1829	T. Drewery of the 1 st part, William Bailey and William Batkin of the 2 nd part, John Bailey of the 3 rd part and Ann Curzon of the 4 th part.
21 st May 1836	Phoebe Bailey & Joseph Bailey and William Bailey of the one part, and Ann Curzon of the other part. (<i>Phoebe Bailey, John Davis and John Hannage were tenants</i>)
16 th Sept 1865	Nathaniel Charles Curzon, William Curzon and Robert Curzon of the 1 st part, Joseph Bailey of the 2 nd part, and Edward Fisher the younger of the 3 rd part. (<i>William Hodgson, Samuel Halls and Benjamin Johnson tenants</i>).
26 th Oct 1872	Joseph Bailey of the 1 st part, James Smart of the 2 nd part and Thomas Burgh Dalby of the 3 rd part. (<i>William Hodgson, Benjamin Johnson and Samuel Platts were tenants</i>)
Recited Indenture 21 st March 1879	James Smart (Mortgagor) and Frederick Ratcliffe (Mortgagee)
Recited Indenture 24 th May 1879	James Smart of 1 st part, William Wildblood of the 2 nd part, Joseph Smart, James Smart and said William Wildblood and Sydney Haywood of the 3 rd part and the said Frederick Radcliffe of the 4 th part.
Sept 1881	Frederick Ratcliffe agreed absolute sale to Jesse Sketchley a Thringstone Farmer and Baker. (<i>Benjamin Johnson, Samuel Platts and Mr. Nutt were tenants</i>)
1935	Mrs. Sarah Ann Knight Sketchley (in trust) - Still referred to as three messuages or cottages.
Sept 1935	Thomas Henry Brearley (trustee), David Sketchley (trustee), Arthur Ault and Joseph Allt. In this conveyance it is confirmed that - All those three messuages or cottages now occupied as one messuage with the gardens and apputenances (out-buildings etc) thereto belonging situate at Griffydam aforesaid and now in the occupied and rented by Emma Hall..... (We can now see, that at this point, the messuage (cottage), formerly divided into three by 1836, has now been returned to one messuage (cottage).

From what can be ascertained from the various documents, the cottage from 1823 was always rented out by the various owners

There follows a feature on the Halls of Griffydam who apparently had rented and resided in this cottage from c. 1935 until 5.11.1965 when it was purchased by Percy Hall who unfortunately died intestate the following year 6.10.1966.

**THE FOLLOWING IS BASED UPON AN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN A COPY OF
THE COALVILLE TIMES AND WRITTEN BY BOB UNDERWOOD WHO WAS THE
GREAT GRAND SON OF JAMES HALL.**

James Hall was born into relative poverty in the 1880's. Sadly he inherited the burden of deafness that was also to afflict his seven children.

Jimmy, as he was known, was determined to make his way in the world, and worked in the local coal mines. To supplement his income, Jimmy established a flourishing local chimney sweep business around the local area, travelling to his customers in his trusty pony and trap.

The rest of the family, his wife and seven children (four sons and three daughters) rented and lived in the confines of the cottage at 31, Top Road, Griffydam, shown in the photograph at the beginning of this feature. Imagine how difficult life would have been. Three of the sons Wilfred, Percy and Raymond followed their father into the local coal mining industry and Percy looked after the pit ponies that were used to haul the tubs of coal.

Bob Underwood relates that come any family gathering, the talk would inevitably turn to reminiscences about long lost childhoods, no doubt forgetting the harsh times and concentrating more on Sunday rides out in the pony and trap. Mention was always made of getting dressed-up in order to attend the Wesleyan Chapel, which was only a stones throw from his cottage, and thereafter, line abreast, the family would be led by James Hall to the Traveller's Rest, there to imbibe a pre-lunch pint and whatever was appropriate for the ladies.

Apparently, all of the family, apart from Grace, were buried in the Wesleyan Chapel graveyard, although details of only three Halls can be found, which are recorded at the end of the book in the new area **D** of the graveyard. Presumably others were buried in unmarked graves.

The author of this book believes that Jimmy, presumably with his wife, had left the rented Griffydam cottage by the mid 1950's to live in a thatched cottage in the spinney opposite New Lount Colliery. This modernised property is still there.

Son Jack was employed on the railways. As years passed by, and his father and siblings moved away, Jack found himself and his brother Percy, both bachelors, living together. They were tragically parted when Percy was killed by an errant car driver as he walked from the Waggon & Horses public house in 1966 having purchased the cottage in 1965 which was previously rented. Percy died intestate.

The sisters, Grace, Ivy and Annie had left home to be married but, as was the norm at that time, they did not stray far.

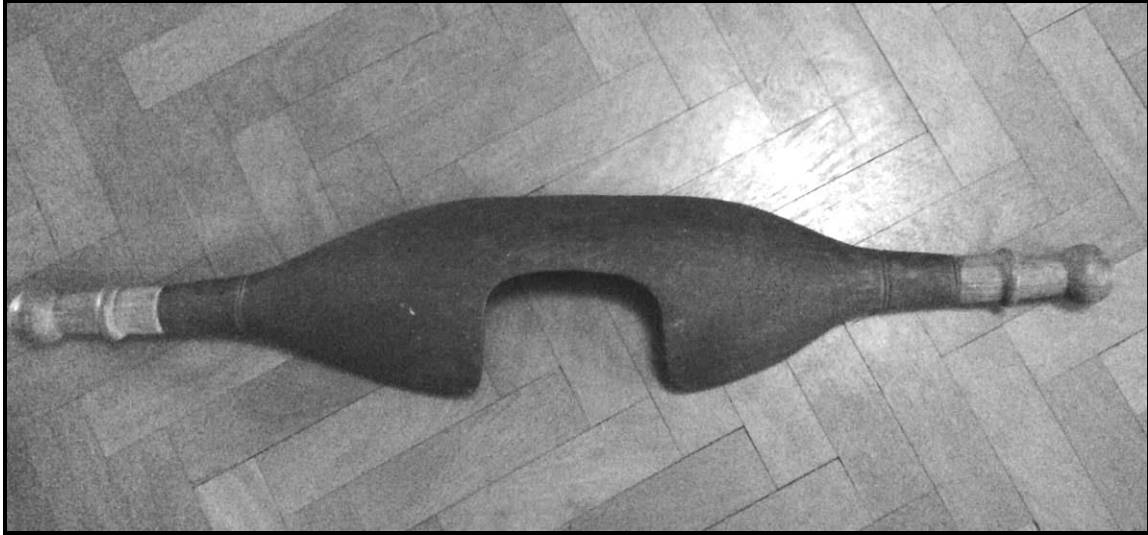
Jack continued to live on in the property but sadly died in 1983. Whilst Jack was alive there was always a water tub outside the front of the property (see photograph of cottage) into which the downpipe from the roof ran, and he always propped his bike up against this. He had chickens in the back garden and a little dog called Bobby. His rhubarb thrived and was delicious in pies as he watered it from his "night bucket". His sister visited him on occasions. Jack did his own cooking on the iron fire range in the main room which had a solid floor with rag / pegged rugs on it and he possessed a TV. He used to go to Redhall's Garage at Pegg's Green and and Holmes Butchers in Swannington for his shopping. When he was too infirm to ride his bike, Mr. Holmes used to deliver meat to him.

In the back garden, and still there, a soft water tank was discovered which was covered by a metal plate. Apparently these were found in most village properties in the area.

After Jack died, a yoke was found upstairs which was used to carry water from Griffy Well before mains water was put in during the 1950/60s?

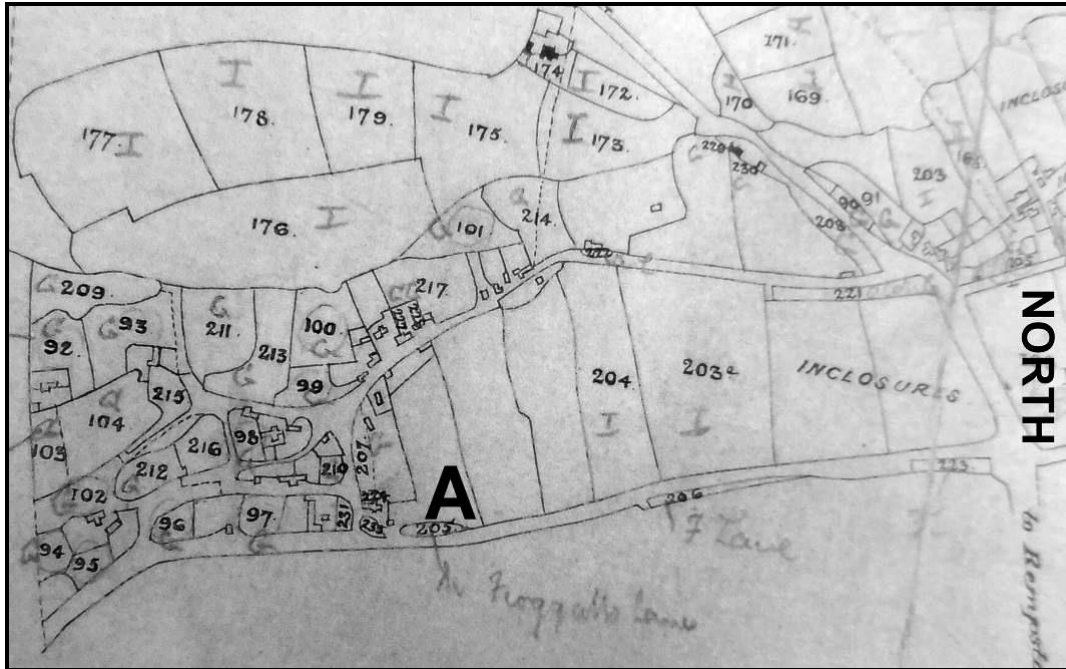
The yoke was rescued fortunately, and is now in the possession of Mr and Mrs Mason who live near Griffy Well. Mrs Mason was the granddaughter of James Hall referred to earlier and she relates that her mother used to go down to Griffy Well to fetch water.

Mr. Mason has restored the yoke and repaired the damaged end pieces.

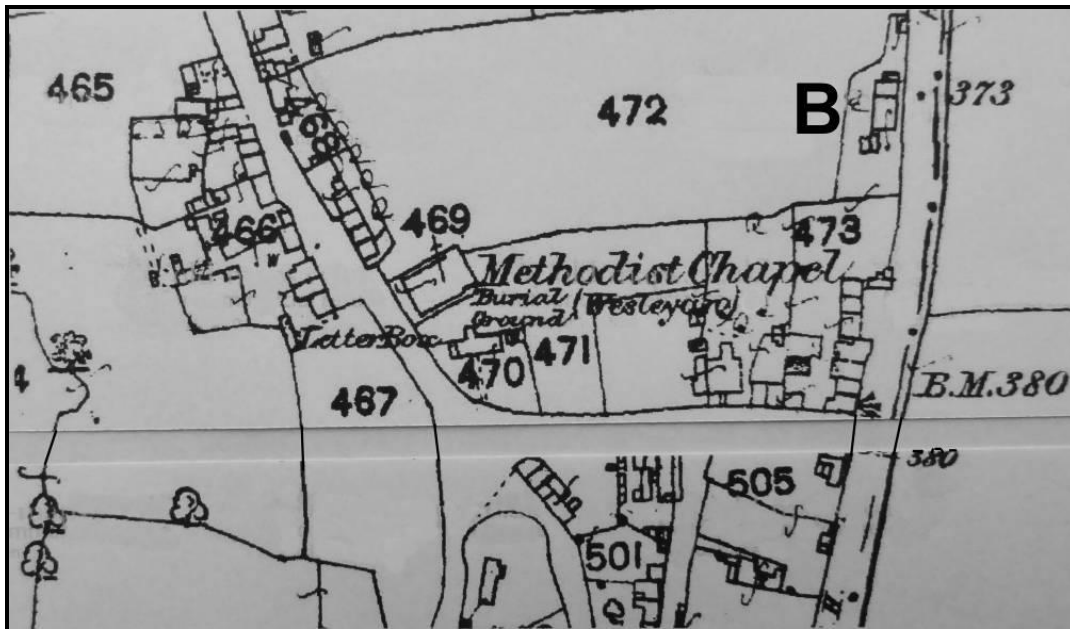


A SOCIAL HISTORY STUDY OF PROPERTY NUMBER 39, TOP ROAD, GRIFFYDAM

In the 1806 inclosure Act for the Parish of Breedon, an intake No. 205, containing 7 perches in area, and as shown on the following extract marked **A**, was awarded to John Burton and Samuel Clarke who were given as trustees of Griffydam Meeting House (the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel). John Burton was actually never a trustee of the Chapel it seems.

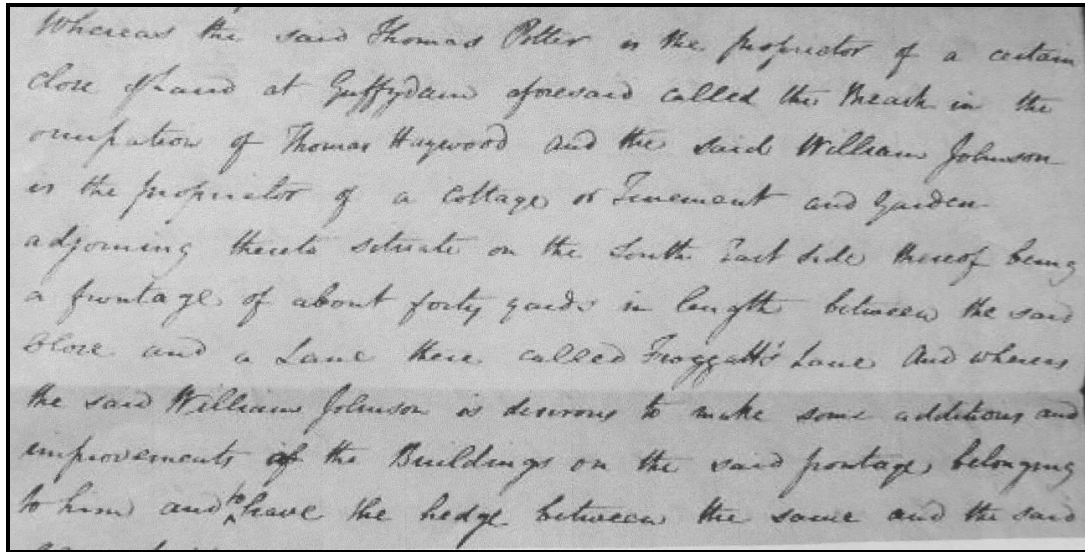


Extract from 1806 inclosure map - not to an accurate scale



The above 1881/1882 surveyed O/S map shows the 7 perch plot with a property on it marked **B** to the east of Breach Close (472).

We know from the following extract of an 1831 agreement, that a cottage and garden was in existence on plot 205, adjoining the Breech at that time, and William Johnson, a tailor, of Griffydam was the proprietor. Mr. Johnson was making an application to make some additions and changes to the property and garden. There is little doubt in the writer's mind that this property (now two semi-detached cottages) is around 200 years old. The cottage and garden had been conveyed to William Johnson by William Burton, a potter from Griffydam, and others on the 18th December 1830, for the sum of £24.



Whereas the said Thomas Potter is the proprietor of a certain close of land at Griffydam aforesaid called the Breach in the occupation of Thomas Heywood and the said William Johnson is the proprietor of a Cottage or Tenement and Garden adjoining the said close on the South East side thereof being a frontage of about forty yards in length between the said close and a Lane there called Froggatt's Lane and whereas the said William Johnson is desirous to make some additions and improvements of the Buildings on the said frontage belonging to him and to have the hedge between the same and the said

On the 10th June 1869, Elizabeth Johnson conveyed the two cottages and hereditaments to Sarah Robinson. In an indenture of 28th April 1871 between Sarah Robinson and Sarah Knight, the said Sarah Robinson conveyed the 7 perches formerly allotted to John Burton (as a trustee for Thomas Burton now deceased) with the house built by Thomas Burton, **now described as being converted into two cottages**, to Sarah Knight for the sum of £165. It states that the cottages were formerly in the occupation of William Burton, presumably a relative of John Burton, but were now in the occupation of Joseph Richards and John Davies as tenants.

Less than one year later, Sarah Knight transferred ownership to Edmund Doman whom she had married in September 1872. The ownership of the property becomes rather confusing at this stage, so we will move forward to the point where the 7 perches of land and property (now described as a messuage or dwelling house) is conveyed to the trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel in 1900 for the sum of £335.00, nearly doubling the properties value over a period of 30 years.

In the 1900 conveyance, it states that the premises were in the late occupation of John Kendrick.

The 1881 Griffydam census confirms John Kendrick (53) and his wife Hannah (51) plus four children are living in the property. John is given as a Grocer and born in Swebstone (1871 census states Normanton). Hannah was born in Thornton.

In the 1871 census they were listed as having eight children all born in Griffydam, but living in a different house - John E (14), Elizabeth E (12), Sarah (10), Mary M (8), Samuel E (7), Geary (4), Alice H (2), Ernest (2mths). In 1865 they had a son William, but it seems he only lived 6 mths. They had another son Arthur in 1873, making 10 children in all. Arthur doesn't appear till the 1881 census of course.

Sarah, Mary and Samuel had presumably left home by the 1881 census, and Elizabeth had died in 1880.

John's wife Hannah passed away in 1888 and John died in 1900. John, Hannah, Elizabeth and William are all buried in a single grave in Wesleyan Methodist Chapel cemetery. Ernest Kendrick's wife Hetty and son Winson are also buried there.

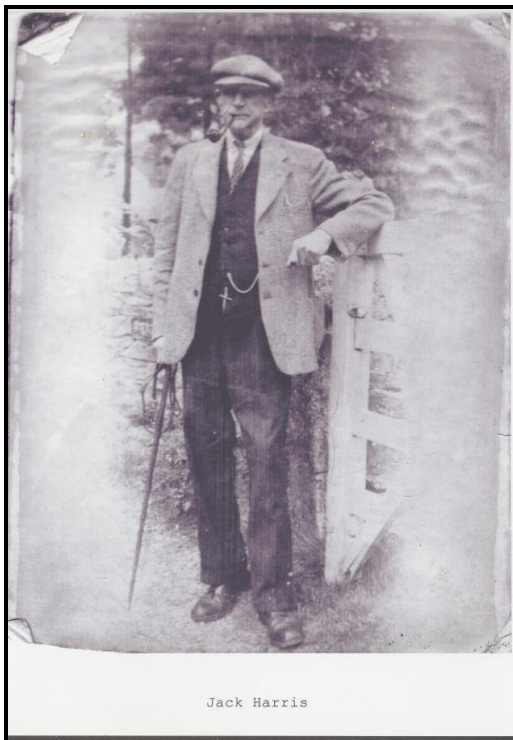
John Kendrick purchased Samuel Eagle Esquire's Bakery and Grocery business in Rotten Row, Coleorton (then part of Thringstone). In the 1891 census, Samuel was listed as being retired. The Kendricks took over his shop, and in 1884 it had become a sub-post office also with John Kendrick described as a baker, grocer and Sub Postmaster. John died in 1900 and his son Ernest is listed as proprietor in 1901. John's son Arthur had now joined them in the business. He was given as a journeyman baker.

Samuel Eagle Esq., was clearly a man of some standing, as Kelly's 1891 trade directory includes him as a member of the court list. Samuel Eagle purchased a cottage in Elder Lane, Griffydham in 1877 which is still there, and featured earlier in the book. However, this was presumably acquired on a buy to let basis as an investment as Samuel and his wife Elizabeth never lived there. There is a land tax receipt paid by Mrs. Eagle in 1897 when a Mrs. Elizabeth Radford was the tenant.

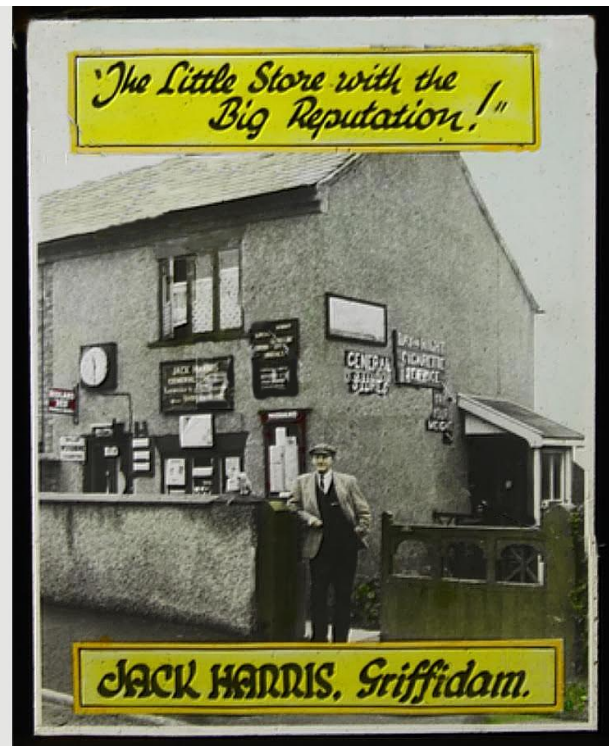
In 1932, the cottage/s and its 7 perches of land were in the ownership of Sydney and Frederick Johnson. Sydney was a retired miner and we believe Frederick was a railway worker.

By 1940 the property once again reverted to incorporating a shop owned by Jack Harris.

JACK HARRIS



Jack Harris



In 1940, Jack Harris opened a general store in part of what is now 39, Top Road, Griffydam. We assume Jack lived in the other part. This was originally two properties as described earlier.

Jack was a well known character in the locality, frequently leaving a 'back in five minutes' sign on the shop door. Often, the five minutes turned into hours. A half crown was glued to the shop counter to see how many customers would attempt to pick it up. His resident parrot was also famous for its wolf whistles.

Locals relate the story that Jack had a valuable gold watch with the inscription Sergeant Horace Hoult engraved on the back which he left to one of the people who used to look after his shop when he was away. Through this, it seems he became formerly known locally as Horace Hoult, and rumours circulated the village that he may have been was some kind of spy in his past life.

Jack drove a three-wheeler invalid car so he must have had some form of disability.

The Rex and Regal cinemas in Coalville regularly showed advertisements for Jack's shop, and it is thought the above photograph is one of these. Note that the 'y' in Griffydam is replaced with an 'i' which was how it was often spelt locally in those times we are told.

Jack was unmarried, and the shop was passed from Jack to Harry Weston and his wife Mary on his death. They used to deliver newspapers around the locality in their Morris Minor car.

In 1964, the property was extended, to form two separate private residences.

THE GRIFFYDAM BLACKSMITH

The "Post office Trade Directory of 1855" records that Joseph Mee was a Blacksmith at Griffydam. This is interesting, in that he would have been the grandfather of Edgar Mee who was at the Blacksmith's Shop in Pegg's Green in the 1950s (see later feature under Pegg's Green). Edgar related in his interview with the Coalville Times that his grandfather came to run the blacksmith's shop at Pegg's Green from Griffydam in the 1850's when the current blacksmith had been "transported" for stealing iron. In the Pegg's Green 1851 census, Joseph Mee is living with his family on Froggat's Lane (formerly an extension of the Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike road and now Griffydam, Top Road). His profession is given as a Blacksmith, and presumed to be working at the blacksmith's shop described below.

An old resident of the village described a rather strange shaped building, which was used as a "Blacksmith's Shop" on the north end of what was known as "Rose Cottage" shown in the photograph below. The same property is marked **B** on the following 1903 O/S map and the strange shaped extension can be clearly seen on the end of the cottage. The property was directly opposite the horse stables belonging to the Waggon & Horses which are marked **A** on the map. The Waggon & Horses is marked **C**.

Wagons would have continually broken down, with the horses losing shoes whilst travelling up Nickerson's (slang for Nicklinson) Hill on the Rempstone Turnpike Road. The horses stabled there could well have been used to assist in helping to pull the wagons weighing up to 4 tons up the steep hill. Other stables for horses presumably used for farm work as well were situated at the back of the Inn. In the sale documents of 1927 they had stabling for up to seven horses.

There is no blacksmith recorded in the 1851 census at Griffydam but in 1861 (after Joseph Mee had left to go to Pegg's Green) John Massey, aged 41, is listed as a blacksmith living with his wife Zilpha (47) and family members. No further records have been found of a blacksmith residing in Griffydam, until the September 1939 registration document lists George W Hyman and his son living at "Rose Cottage". The father's occupation is given as a "Shoeing Smith" and he was also a Special Contable. He was born on 7th May 1887. On the 1911 census he is listed as living on Derby Road, Ashby de la Zouch with his occupation given as "Blacksmith".



Photograph taken in the 1950's when Mrs. Richardson lived at the property. It was unfortunately demolished to make way for a later road modification scheme. The stables opposite had also been demolished by the time the photograph was taken.



1901 O/S map



In the old photograph above taken c.1895, the building on the RH side is the Wagon & Horses, The cottage in the centre is marked **D** on the above map and the edge of the building on the LH side was part of the Blacksmith's Shop extension to the cottage.

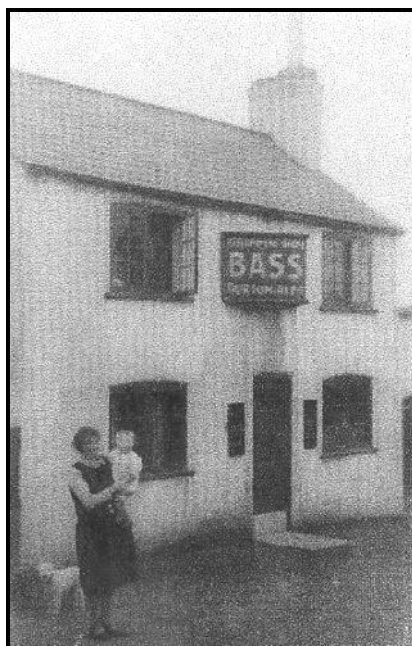
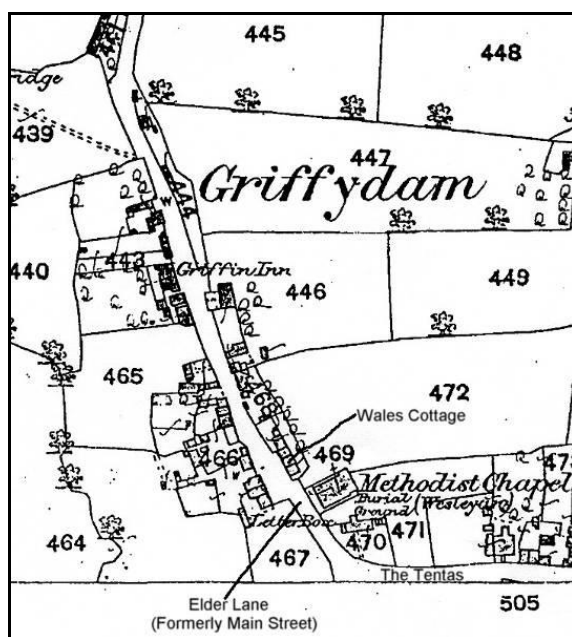
We do not have any history on the thatched cottage in the centre at the time of writing,

GRIFFYDAM INNS / PUBLIC HOUSES / ALE HOUSES

Landlord information is taken from Licensing records, Trade Directories, census records and newspaper articles.

THE GRIFFIN INN

The Inn's location is shown on the 1882 O/S map below. The building still exists today, but is now a private house which incorporates a name plate entitled "Griffin Inn". The pub actually closed in 1961, at which time Benny Stone and his wife Alice were the licensees.



This photograph showing the pub as it was in 1931. It was kept at that time by Mr & Mrs Tom Williamson. Mrs Williamson is standing outside with her son.

We know that the Griffin Inn was in existence in 1851, as Thomas Haywood was listed as the landlord. The Griffin Inn was recorded in Melville & Co's Directory & Gazetteer of Leics 1854 with Thomas Haywood as the landlord still. Thomas was also a builder, bricklayer and shoemaker, as it was normal at that time, for publicans to have at least two jobs. He was then recorded as the landlord in numerous directories until 1877. Wrights Directory of Leics and Rutland 1880 then records Mrs Ann Haywood as the landlady, so presumably her husband had died. In the 1901 census, Samuel Swanwick, aged 54 and born in Leicester, was listed as the landlord. In 1911, Frederick Johnson, aged 33 and born in Coalville, was listed as Licensed Victualler and Boot Dealer. He had a wife Mary L, aged 24 who was born in Swannington.

Landlords:-

1851 to 1876	Thomas Haywood
1876/7 to 1880	Ann Haywood
1880/1 to 1884	George Peters
1885 to 1891	Jarvis Phillips
1891 to 1892 part	Joseph Bradley
1893/4	Fanny Bradley

1895 part	Walter Bradley
1895 part	John Chambers
1896 part	Silas Hill
1896 part	George Percival
1897 to ??	William Henry Bennet
1901	Samuel Swanwick

In 1901 Samuel Swanwick was aged 54 and was born in Leicester. His wife, Mary J Swanick was 53 and also born in Leicester.

1905	John William Sneath
1906	William Mee
1907	Harry Chivers
1908-1911 part	Frederick Johnson
1911 part	Frederick Johnson

In 1911, Frederick Johnson was aged 33 and also a boot and shoe dealer and born in Coaloville. His wife Mary L Johnson was aged 24 and born in Swannington.

1911 part	George William Storer
1912-1916 part	George Edwards
1916part-1921 part	George Kilby
1921part-1932 part	Thomas Williamson
1932 part	Oliver York
1933 part	Thomas William Driver
1933 part-1936	Fanny Selina Driver
1938-1940?	Herbert Moore
1941-1961	Benjamin Stone (pub closed)



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

Click [Here](#) For Further Information On The Griffin Inn

THE WAGGON AND HORSES



1806 inclosure map



1885 O/S Map

A building opposite Elder Lane on the Rempstone Turnpike road, where the Waggon & Horses Inn now stands, is depicted on the 1806 inclosure map shown above. The inn would almost certainly have been a farm house originally, and the old alehouse records confirm that John Nicklinson Sn'r received a Victualler's license in 1806. It was quite common for a farmer to combine his farming activities with running an alehouse within his home. His wife would have taken responsibility for this during the daytime. Alehouses did not have to be named until the 1825 licensing Act, and the licensing records confirm its name in that year. Its name is thought to have derived from stabling kept there for horses to help pull waggons up the adjacent hill. This has always been known as Nickerson's Hill, obviously a slang derivative of Nicklinson.

The Waggon & Horses was still operating in 2014 after at least 208 years, however, it has now been converted into a private residence. John Nicklinson Senior was the landlord until 1844 when his son took over for a further 19 years.

It was recorded in the 1851 census, that John Nicklinson Junior was the Licensed Victualler. John was living with his wife Mary, son John, Daughter Sarah, and neice Hannah Handford. They also had a housekeeper Jos Brook and a servant Thos Waterfield. **John and his family were all born in Griffydam.**

In Melville & Co's Directory & Gazetteer of Leics 1854, John Nicklinson is listed as a farmer, as well as a publican, at the Wagon & Horses. In 1855, he was recorded in "The Post Office Directory of Leics & Rutland" as a Beer Retailer (Waggon and Horses), also as a farmer and brick maker. Presumably he was employed at Griffydam brick works (**see the feature on Griffydam Brickworks - Joseph Smart & Son**). The 1861 census shows John Nicklinson Jnr was still the landlord at the Waggon & Horses. He was still recorded as being there in 1863, but by 1871 he was living in Isley Walton as a farmer of 38 acres employing 5 labourers.

In the 1870 version of Harrod & Co's Postal Directory of Derbyshire and Leics, Thomas Gostelow (Costelow) is recorded as being Licensed Victualler and Butcher at the Wagon & Horses. In 1880 he was still at the pub. **Thomas Costelow and his wife Charlotte Harrison Costelow's graves are in Griffydam Cemetery.**

By 1891, Kelly's Directory of Derbys and Leics recorded that a Frederick W Cox was at the Waggon & Horses. The 1901 census confirms Frederick W Cox aged 44 as Inn Keeper & Grazier **and born in Dyke, Lincolnshire.** His wife was named Annie, aged 42, who was born in Ashby Folville.

The 1911 census lists Thomas Smith, aged 45, as Publican and Farmer (mainly agriculture) and born in Measham. His wife was named Harriet, aged 59, and born in Ticknall.

The Waggon and Horses was regularly used for public auctions and there is a record in the Leicester Chronicle 1880 showing that it was used to hold **Courts Leet** for the Manors of Newbold and Worthington.

Court leet, plural **Courts Leet**, or **Court Leets**, was an English criminal court for the punishment of small offences. The use of the word leet, denoting a territorial and a jurisdictional area, spread throughout England in the 14th century, and the term court leet came to mean a court in which a private lord assumed, for his own profit, jurisdiction that had previously been exercised by the sheriff. The court met twice a year under the presidency of the lord's steward, who, by the end of the 13th century, was almost always a professional lawyer and acted as judge. The two main functions of the court were to hold view of frankpledge (the pledge of responsibility made by each freeman) and to receive notices of accusation of crimes made by the juries, constituted in the Assize of Clarendon in 1166. Because serious cases were increasingly reserved to itinerant justices, the rights of trial of small, local courts became restricted to petty misdemeanors only. The 17th-century jurist Sir Edward Coke held that a court leet could not imprison but could only fine or apply other pecuniary penalties, and as time went on its capacity to enforce its judgments became progressively weaker. After the 16th century the duties of the court leet were increasingly transferred to the justice of the peace.



The Waggon & Horses as it was just prior to being converted into a private residence. The Methodist Wesleyan Reform Chapel (known as the "Chapel in the Valley" is to the right).

Landlords of the Waggon and Horses:-

1806-1844	John Nicklinson Snr
1845-1864	John Nicklinson Jnr
1864-1880	Thomas Gostelow (and butcher)
1880-1886	Thomas Wilkins
1887/88	William Cox
1889-1911	Frederick William Cox

In 1901 Frederick Cox was also a grazier, aged 44, and born in Dyke, Lincs. His wife Annie, aged 42 was born in Ashby Folville

1911/13	John Thomas Smith
In 1911 Thomas was aged 45 and was also a farmer (mainly agriculture)	
1914	David Else
1915-1918	David William Else
1919-1921	Frank Howard Burton
1922-1933	George Kilby
1934-1936	William Morley



The above photograph is of *George Henry Kilby*, who was landlord of the *Waggon and Horses* from 1922 - 1933 with his four sons from left to right:- *Jack, Albert, Walter, Joe*. He had a total of ten children. Prior to becoming landlord at the *Waggon and Horses*, he was **landlord at the Griffin Inn** for the previous five years. After leaving the *Waggon & Horses*, he became a coal miner and died in *Griffydam* in 1947.

In 1927, the owners of the *Waggon & Horses*, *Dorothy Sarah Brearley*, a farmer's wife, and *Ethel Elizabeth Nicholson* sold the house to *Zachary Smith & Co Ltd*, brewers of *Shardlow* who closed in 1930 and were taken over by *Marston Thompson and Evershed Ltd*. The latter owned numerous pubs in the area including the *New Engine Inn* at *Pegg's Green* at one time. Presumably *Zachary Smith* continued to rent the inn to *George Kilby* after they purchased it.

PARTICULARS.

THE WIDELY-KNOWN AND POPULAR
FULLY LICENSED COUNTRY INN

CALLED THE

“Wagon & Horses”

GRIFFYDAM,

occupying a unique position at the foot of Griffydam Hill, at the junction of the roads leading from Ashby-de-la-Zouch to Belton, Hathern and Loughborough, and the road leading from Coalville and Swannington to Breedon, Melbourne and Derby,

TOGETHER WITH

The excellent Buildings surrounding an enclosed Yard and fronting the Main Road,

A CAPITAL ORCHARD

well stocked with Fruit Trees and a useful Kitchen Garden adjoining in the rear,

The whole Property covering an area of 0a. 3r. 8p.

or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. George Kilby.

THE ACCOMMODATION IN THE LICENSED HOUSE comprises:—

On Ground Floor:—Large Tap Room, Large Club Room (which can be partitioned into two excellent Living Rooms), Sitting Room, Spacious Kitchen, Large Dairy and Pantry, Enclosed paved Yard, Coal Place and other Out-houses, and Four capital Bedrooms.

In the rear of the house there is a large paved enclosed Yard surrounded by the following useful Buildings:—Cow Sheds for 6 Cows, Stabling for 3 Horses, Loose Box and Stabling for 4 Horses with Granary over, Pig Styes, Calf House, Meal House with room over which could be converted into Bedroom, and other Buildings.

An enclosed Flower Garden to the front and a Kitchen Garden adjoining.

There is an excellent Orchard in the rear well stocked with full-bearing Fruit Trees.

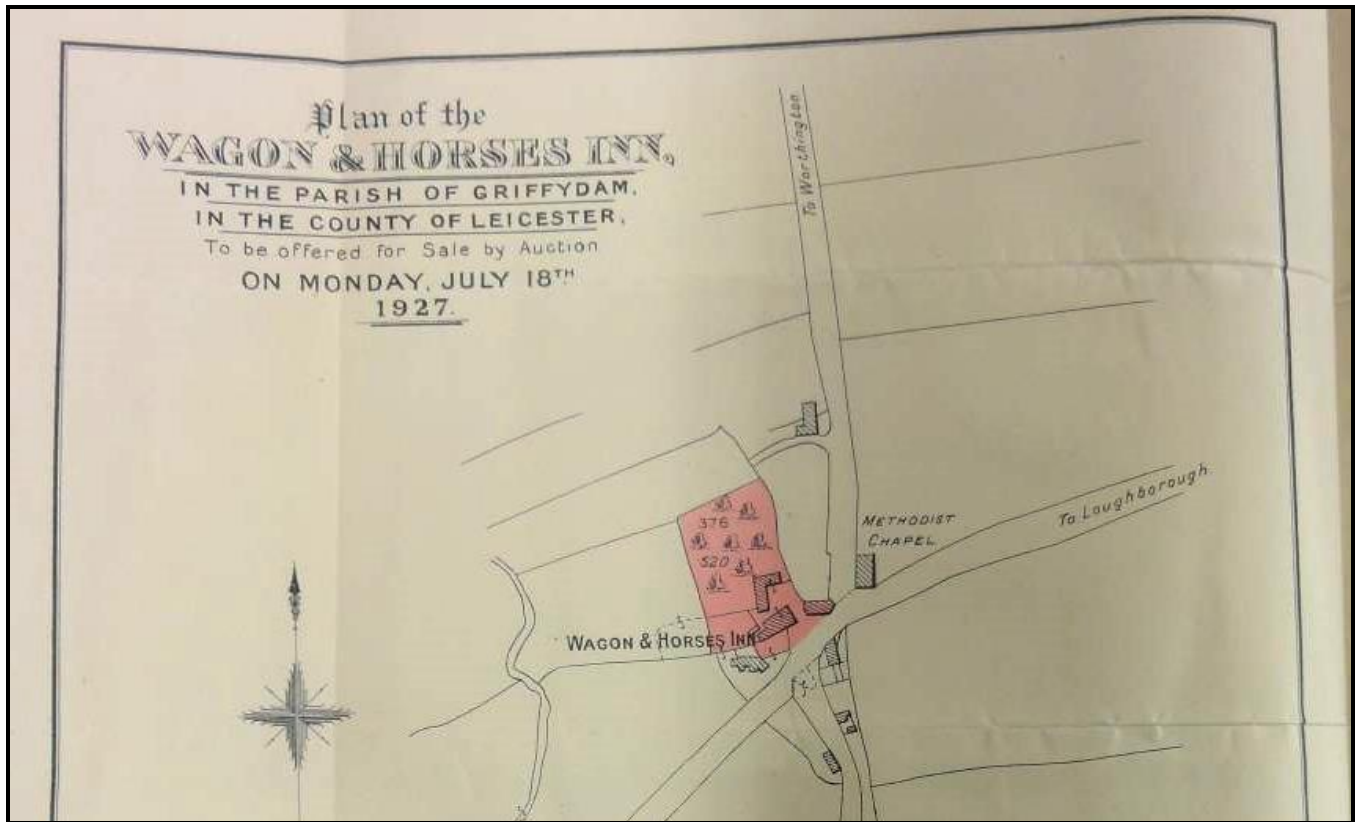
Particulars and Plan of the Property now ready and may be obtained at the Place of Sale; the Auctioneers' Offices; or from

Messrs. FISHERS,

Solicitors, ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.

Auction Offices, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Telephone 66.

The 1927 sales brochure for the auction held at the Wagon & Horses on July 18th 1927



Section of 1927 Map of Waggon & Horses and surrounding buildings which accompanied the sales document

The above map shows a building adjacent and to the east of the Waggon & Horses which apparently was a stable building which is not there anymore. The house on the opposite corner of Elder Lane is not there anymore either as it was demolished when road widening was carried out.

The detached building to the South-West appears to be on the site of the thatched cottage shown in the preceding old photograph and somewhat extended.

Click [Here](#) To Read More About The Waggon & Horses

THE RISING SUN



Enlarged section of the 1806 inclosure map.

The property which became 'The Rising Sun' was built on plot numbered 210 on the above map. This was on the lane that became the "tentas" and was on the oppositeside to the graveyard. The newspaper article below infers it was opened as an inn prior to 1869

Landlords: -

??	Jonas Knight	Wright's Directory
1878	Joseph Freeman (committed suicide)	Leicester Journal
1878	Mary Freeman	Ashby Sessions (License transferred Jul 20th)
Mid 1879 to Mid 1880	George Powdrill	Licensing records
Mid 1882 to Mid 1885	John Chambers	Licensing records
Mid 1886 to Mid 1893	William Batson	Licensing records
Mid 1893 to Mid 1897	William Baker	Licensing records
1901	Frederick H Walker	Census
1905	William Baker (Lic expired)	Licensing records
1908	Closed (see below)	

Melton Mowbray Mercury & Uppingham News - June 25th 1908

LEICESTERSHIRE LICENSING AUTHORITY

The Rising Sun, Worthington (Griffydam) - Supt. Lockton said this was an ante-1869 house. There was one license to every 119 persons in the village, the licenses numbering eight (*this would have included Pegg's Green*). The nearest to the house were The Griffin, 286 yards; the Red Lion, 352 yards and the Traveller's Rest, 250 yards. The house was structurally unsuitable, there being insufficient accommodation for the tenant and customers. The magistrates refused the license.

Leicester Journal - July 5th 1878

Suicide - An inquest was held at The Red Lion Inn, Griffydam, before Mr. Deane, Coroner on 28th 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 said that he had attended the deceased for general debility, and he was in a despondent 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 along 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.** Sarah Haywood said that on going to the spring to fetch a bucket of water (Chalybeate Spring near the brook), 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. Cheatle 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 from 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 Rural District Council

.....One case of Scarlet Fever occurred at Griffydam.....The medical Officer gave the owner of the cottages at Pegg's Green instructions to repair drains and erect new privies and ash bins and to the owner of "**The Rising Sun**", Griffydam, to repair privy etc.

THE TRAVELLER'S REST

The following advertisement for sale by auction of the Travellers Rest in 1890 provides a detailed insight into what the beer-house consisted of in those days. It indicates that it was a substantial property with a 4 bedroom cottage adjoining it on the left hand side.

Leicester Daily Mercury - October 20th 1890

**MESSR'S BELLAMY & SON
SALE BY AUCTION**

That old established beer-house, known as The Traveller's Rest, situate at Griffydam, with stabling for four horses, and hay loft over. cow houses for four cows, outbuildings and large gardens.

The house comprises Tap Room, Back Parlour, Front Sitting Room, Two Kitchens, Six Bedrooms and large Cellar 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 to Hinckley.

In the photograph below, taken in 1935, the adjoining cottage on the left is still there. Frank Richards was the landlord at the time, and his name is above the door. However, if we look at the following football team photograph we can see that between 1900 and 1935 one of the two entrance doors had been taken out and the upper and bottom side windows have been replaced by more modern, but sadly, less attractive windows. Also in 1900, there was no brewery advertising board above the doors. Text was just painted on the wall it appears. From 1921 to 1936 the Travellers Rest was owned by Officers' Brewery.



The following photograph taken in the 1960's shows a major change as the adjoining 4 bedroom cottage has been demolished by this time. Also, the attractive front window has been removed and been replaced by a modern bay. The brewery owners are now 'Mitchell & Butlers'.



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 TRAVELLERS REST FOOTBALL TEAM IN 1904 PICTURED OUTSIDE THE PUB
(Thought to be named the "Griffydam Swifts")**



The above is a remarkable photograph of a proud marksman and friend with their trophy of a rabbit standing outside the Travellers Rest. Their names were Mr. Hines and Mr. King. The photograph was taken c.1920.

Landlords: -

1870/1	Joseph Lager and Thomas Upton (Harrod & Co Postal Directory)
1872-1875	Joseph Lager and Thomas Upton
1875 (part)	Henry Southard and Joseph Lager
1876 (part)	Joseph Lager and William Redfern
1878/9	Joseph Lager
1880/1	John Chambers
1882-1885	Frederick Ratcliff
1886-1888	Robert Ratcliffe <i>Up to this date the pub is recorded as having no sign and was just listed as a wine and beer house</i>
1889/90	Robert Ratcliff
1890	Thomas Booth

1890/1	Joseph Bradley
1892	Tom Hardy
1893	Walter John Grey
1894-1896	Tom Hardy / Silas Hill
1897	Thomas Booth
1901 resident	William Batson (was landlord at The Rising Sun for 7 years)
It is thought that between 1897 & 1905 the pub was not in use and was being used as living accommodation only)	
1905-1908	John Emerson
1909-1912	Bartholomew Lawrence Wilson
1913	Thomas Wilson Coulson
1914-1922	John Michael Field (wife Alice Mahala)
1923	George Smith Wheatley
1924	John William Chadwick
1925-1933	Thomas Johnson
1934 part	Sarah Ann Johnson
1934-1936	Frank Richards
1941	Frederick Richards - Kelly's Directory
Circa 1952	Albert Abbot (still there in 1977)

A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES BATSON BORN IN GRIFFYDAM IN 1888

William Batson was landlord at the Travellers Rest in the 1901 census and was given as a beer retailer and coal miner hewer. He had also previously been landlord at the Rising Sun from mid 1886 to mid 1893. William was born in 1850 in Hardwick, Bucks and his wife Susan was born 1851 in Long Sutton, Lincs. They had three children born in Breedon - Mary born 1877, William John born 1882 and Eliza born 1884. After moving to the Rising Sun, they had three children there - Jemima born 1886, Charles born 1888, and George born 1889. In 1901, Charles Batson, aged 13, was employed as a coal miner (hewer u/ground) and residing at the family home, **The Travellers Rest**, with his parents and sibling Jemima. In the 1st W.W. Charles enlisted with the "Battalion - 1/5 Unit - Leicestershire Regiment Section at Ashby de la Zouch. During the fighting in France on the 14th of August 1917, in the morning a Battalion raiding party left Noyelles and marched up to the line. On the march up through Vermelles 11 men of B Coy were killed and 14 wounded by one shell. Charles died from his wounds on the 17th of August 1917. His burial place is Vi C 11, Bethune Town Cemetery and his burial commemoration is Bethume Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. His name is on the War Memorial Plaque in Holy Trinity Church, Ashby de la Zouch.

Click [Here](#) To Find Out More About The Travellers Rest And Rising Sun Beer Houses

**GRIFFYDAM INFANT SCHOOL (FORMERLY JUNIOR & PRIMARY) -
TOP ROAD, GRIFFYDAM - OPENED 1936**

The school was opened on November 2nd 1936 by Lt. Col. R. E. Martin C.M.G., Chairman of Leicestershire County Council as an infant school. It was built to take infant pupils who previously had to attend the senior school in School Lane. From 1949, pupils around the age of seven moved down to the senior school on School Lane which became a junior school and remained there until taking the 11+ examination. In 1954 the school on School Lane became an overflow for Coalville Grammar School. This meant that this school on the Top Road became an infant / junior school, later to become a Primary School. Miss Johnson who lived in the White house at the corner of the Tentas continued in her post as teacher there until she retired.



Front Row, Left to Right

Gerald Hall, Derek Darby, Colin Hodges, Brian Hubbard, Les Rowell, Kenneth Hill, Kay Bird, William Wilton, Keith Richards, ? McCewan

2nd Row Left to Right

Clifford Whyman, ?? , ? Hall, Betty Horne, ?? , ?? , ?? , Marjorie Collins, John Collins

3rd Row, Left to Right

Miss Florrie Johnson (Teacher), ? Smith (Evacuee), Stan Hodges, Pauline Hill, ?? , Brenda Leedham (Twin), Mureen Leedham (Twin), Betty Johnson, Marilyn Leeson, Stella Hodges, Harold Burton, Jackie Toone

Top Row Left to Right

Barbara Bradley, Nancy Bradford, June Pickering, Marlene Hodges, Joyce Marshall, Mirabelle King, ? , ? , Gwenda Bird, Rosemary Benson, Joyce Collins, **Miss Merishaw (Head Mistress)**

Photograph taken during 2nd W.W. - Note the Evacuee on the 3rd row



PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN 1949

Front Row, Left to Right

June Harrison, Coral Robinson, Marion Hodges, Patricia Holland, Marinda Johnson, ??, ??

2nd Row

Malcolm Pole, Clifford Marriott, Jennifer Worthington, Glenis Smith, Kenny Moore, Mavis Kilby, Marie Cook, Don Hubbard, Reggie Burton.

Top Row

Miss Florrie Johnson (Teacher), ??, Michael Chadwick, William Johnson, Lionel Westley, ??, ??, Trevor Stewart (author of this book)

MISS FLORRIE JOHNSON RETIRES AFTER ALMOST HALF A CENTURY AT ONE SCHOOL

The following is a transcription of an article in the Coalville Times, December 1971.

Miss Johnson, an infant teacher at the Griffydam primary School, retires at the end of this term after almost 50 years teaching at the school. Miss Johnson (65) lives at Top Road, Griffydam. She started as a student teacher at the school in June 1921, and has taught there since apart from a two-year stint at Hathern School.

A collection in the village to buy her a retirement gift raised £81. 12 and at ceremony in the village's Methodist Room last week she received a painting, a tea trolley, an electric fire and a cheque for £24.87. The presentation was made by Mr. Ken Hutchinson, chairman of the school managers. Miss Johnson, who had been acting headmistress at the school for a time, also received a bouquet from Jane Elston, the school captain.

Mr. S. Towers, headmaster of the school, said when he first took over, he felt the junior at the school. "Here was a teacher in whom I could put my trust". "She had a love of children, an ability to do her work and an ability to adapt to new methods. She may now look forward to a future free from the tensions of working life and a life time of devotions and service. It is nice to know that if we need her, she will only be across the road. We wish you a long and happy retirement".

Said Miss. Kitty Brown, former headmistress at the school: "Whatever we say in praise of her, we shall never have said the whole of it. I was with her for about 20 years and I could not have

had a more loyal colleague or a finer teacher through the whole of the country". "Our acquaintance goes back quite a long way", she added. Mrs. Brown spoke of the history of the school under herself and Miss. Johnson, including the war years. "She was always there to help me. "We always thought that someday we would retire together and no two people would be happier than we were". "It did not quite work out like that, but Miss. Johnson is not only the most loyal of colleagues but a very dear friend".

Mr. Hutchinson said "it was a special privilege for him to speak at the meeting and said the love and esteem in which Miss. Johnson was held was borne out by the number of people in the room and the number who had contributed to the gifts". "She has displayed an affection for the children which has gone well beyond the call of duty of a teacher. We hope you will accept these gifts and our heartfelt thanks for all you have done both in school and in the village".

Said Miss. Johnson: "I feel very happy this evening and sincerely thank all who have given so generously. I have spent many years here and have happy memories of the children". "I have loved and respected all of them and I know they have loved and respected me. I have spent quite a long time in the school and have grown to love it, and I shall be sorry to leave Mr. Towers and the children". "I thank all the managers for being so kind and those who have worked so hard behind the scenes to make the presentation possible".

Representatives of Leicestershire County Council's education dept were also present at the ceremony.



From L to R:-

Miss J. Townsend, Miss Florrie Johnson, Mr S. Towers, Mr K. Hutchinson, Jane Elson (School captain)

GRIFFYDAM SCHOOLS LOG BOOK - A SYNOPSIS OF ENTRIES

Date	School	Event
2/11/1936	Griffydam Infant School	School officially opened by Lt.Col. R . E. Martin C.M.G. - Chairman of Leicestershire County Council.
18/1/1937		Low attendance due to influenza epidemic .
6/4/1937		Cases of Diphtheria in the area.
12/5/1937		Holiday to celebrate the coronation of <i>George VI</i> .
23/6/1937		"The school drinking water supply failed. The well having dried up. Arrangements hve been made for drinking water to be fetched daily from Griffy Well until further arrangements can be made."
31/8/1937		22 children who had reached 8 years of age were transferred to Griffydam Senior School.
1/10/1937		57 children on roll. 13 children under 5 years.
13/6/1938		Epidemic of mumps.
30/8/1938		16 eight year old transferred to Senior School. 7 children admitted. n.o.r. 57.
29/8/1939		10 children transferred to Senior School. n.o.r. 47
1/9/1939		School closed because of "National emergency due to evacuated children coming to district".
7/9/1939		9 evacuees came from Birmingham
17/11/1939		The school was equipped with a drinking fountain in the playground and taps in the cloakroom. The water was supplied by Ashby Rural District Council.
28/11/1939		Blackout regulations were introduced.
2/2/1939		"Inclement Weather", the school was cut off by snow drifts on Top Road. Bad weather continued for several weeks.
7/6/1939		Epidemics of measles and German measles.
19/6/1939		Whooping cough epidemic.
27/7/1939		The Director of Education visited to make arrangements in event of an air raid .
13/8/1940		15 children transferred to Senior School.
31/10/1940		Miss Merrishaw was replaced by Miss Wright as Head Teacher.
28/11/1940		30 Birmingham evacuees arrived with their Headteacher Miss Bentley and staff. Classes had to be reorganised.
9/12/1940		There are now 44 local children and 42 evacuees.
10/4/41		Chicken Pox epidemic.
25/2/1941		48 local children and 39 evacuees. Some are children from London.
10/4/1941		School was kept open during Easter holidays for evacuee children.
4/7/1941		The school was closed until 21st in accordance with the Senior School so that the bigger children can assist in the hay field.

11/8/1941		Diphtheria immunisation.
6/1/1942		50 local children and 19 evacuees.
23/11/1942		Measles epidemic.
13/9/1943		12 children transferred to Senior School. 38 remaining.
24/9/1945		School closed for VE day celebrations.
30/7/1946		10 children transferred. 34 remaining.
9/2/1948		A new electric kettle was brought to school and fitted by Mr Knighton.
27/7/1948		16 pupils transferred to Senior School. 28 remaining.
30/9/1948	Griffydam Infant and Junior School, School Lane	"Today the infant school closes and the children are incorporated in the Griffydam Junior School (formerly Senior School). Miss Johnson continues as infant teacher and I take over as headteacher from Mr Elcock" - Miss K. Wright.
4/5/1949		"School reopened this morning in the Griffydam Infant School. Workmen are repairing ceilings ,walls and floors at the junior School so we have moved back temporarily back to the Infant School." (subsidence damage)
4/7/1949		Junior school reopened. 3 classes: Miss Johnson 28, Mrs Wright 22, Miss Wright 24.
3/2/1950		Epidemic of Measles.
6/9/1950		3 Classes - Miss Wright 27, Miss A King 24, Miss Johnson 36
16/6/1951		A party of children and their parents visited the Festival of Britain in London.
13/12/1951		The school had an Open day with a concert and exhibitions of work.
21/3/1951		The school wireless went missing. (Children listened to radio programmes as part of the curriculum).
1/4/1951		"Today we started hot dinners. 44 children had a hot meal."
9/7/1951	Griffydam Infant & Junior School - School Lane	School outing to Dudley Zoo.
22/5/53		Three days holiday for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth 1.
3/6/1953		56 adults and 40 children take part in a railway trip to London.
23/6/1953		59 children and 3 teachers visited the Regal cinema (in Coalville) to see the film "A Queen is Crowned".
27/6/1953		A local schools sportsday was held at New Lount Athletics Club (Gelsmoor Road). "We won the Coronation Shield".
16/6/1954		45 children and 40 adults visited Warwick and Stratford on Avon.
7/9/1954	Griffydam Infant and Junior School- Top Road	"Today we opened school in the former infant school..... Our building has been decorated and a new furnace installed during th summer holiday. Miss Wright has 28 children in class I and Miss Johnson has 31 children in class II. The dinners are now being served in the Methodist Sunday School by arrangement with the trustees. 44 children had dinner today.

5/6/1955		Today there was a joint school outing with Osgathorpe School to Matlock and Buxton.
28/2/1956		QESS exam (11+) - 9 candidates.
18/4/1956		60 pupils
4/9/1956		H.M.I report. "The washbasins are supplied with cold water only.....The Offices (toilets) are fitted with chemical closets, there being no main drainage in the village.....Physical education cannot be taken indoors.....Plain sewing, embroidery and soft-toy making is done by the junior girls....Selected broadcast lessons are taken.....Sound and enlightened teaching is being given.
8/1/1957		60 pupils.
26/2/1957		QESS for 9 pupils.
25/6/1957		School outing to the Vale of Evesham.
Date	Griffydam Primary School - Top Road	Notes
7/1/1958		46 pupils. 10 children left to live on new estate in Worthington.
23/5/1958		Epidemic of measles.
25/6/1958		School outing with Osgathorpe Infant School to Woburn Abbey.
9/9/1958		38 pupils. (No new building of houses due to subsidence). Mrs K Brown(Miss K. Wright) 21, Miss Johnson 17
11/6/1959		School trip to Whipsnade.
27/11/1959		Epidemic of Chicken Pox.
5/5/1960		Brooke Bond tea company gave an interesting travel film.
2/6/1960		School trip to the Wye Valley.
6/9/1960		35 pupils.
29/3/1961		Mrs Wright leaves after 12 months as junior teacher.
18/4/1961		Mr Towers takes over as Head Teacher. 39 pupils
22/6/1961		School trip to Whipsnade Zoo.
5/7/1961		Cricket match against Worthington school.
1/5/1962		46 pupils. No success in 11+ . New blackboards installed. Osgathorpe Infants to move to Griffydam.
11/9/1962		43 pupils including 5 children from Osgathorpe.
13/4/1964		Toilet extension and new stockroom being built.
11/6/1964		School outing to London Zoo.
21/7/1964		Visit to Twycross Zoo (top class).

8/9/1964		51 pupils.
25/5/1965		Regular weekly swimming began.
1/7/1966		Last year of 11+. Leicestershire Plan is being adopted (Comprehensive education).
10/11/1967		58 pupils. Introduction of "integrated subjects".
16/2/1968		22 children can now swim.
26/2/1968		Meteorological equipment arrived. Student teacher from Loughborough College arrived.
11/4/1968		Chicken pox epidemic.
1/5/1968		61 pupils. "The highest number for many years."
15/6/1968		First fete and sports' day. Mrs K. Brown, former Head Teacher was a guest. The funds raised were for a TV set.
26/8/1968		57 pupils.
25/4/1969		Residential visit to Henley Swann.
14/6/1969		Annual fete. School now divided into Houses: - Charnwood, Beacon, Gracedieu and Sharpley. A shield is awarded to the best House.
10/4/1970		Visit by School Meals Officer
13/4/1970		63 pupils.
21/9/1970		50 pupils. Measles outbreak.
15/2/1971		Decimalisation Day.
22/6/1971		Sports day.
30/6/1971		Trip to Whipsnade Zoo.
24/8/1971		Miss Johnson gave notice after 50 years teaching.
17/1/1972		New teacher : Miss Baker . Discussion with Attendance Officer over free meals for Miners' children during strike .
28/2/1972		Payment for school milk started for over 7 year olds (previously free). Two pence per bottle.
14/6/1972		Trip to Foxton Locks.
30/8/1972		59 pupils.
18/11/1972		Cooker delivered.
20/11/1972		Holiday for Queen's anniversary (20 years)
21/12/1972		Miss Baker left to emigrate.
4/1/1973		Miss McAusland started as new infant teacher.
10/1/1973		Cookery lessons started.

2/5/1973		The Head teacher and a number of pupils had x-rays as there are cases of TB in the village.
18/8/1973		An extra teacher has been appointed. Miss Lloyd joins Mr Towers and Miss McAusland. 60 pupils.
12/9/1973		Mrs Aldridge appointed as school secretary.
6/11/1973		The scullery is ready. The children now eat dinner at their desks.
10/12/1973		There are now 3 school meals staff:- Mrs Wardle, Mrs Wilton, Mrs Meadows.
18/12/1973		The school Christmas party was held in school, with food served from the new scullery.
20/12/1973		Visit to the cinema.
10/3/1974		Trip to Radcliffe Power station.
1/6/1974		Joint canal trip with Coleorton school.
28/6/1974		Mrs Finnemore left. (Miss McAusland)
28/8/1974		Miss Muir started as infant teacher. Mrs Barker - Junior teacher. Mr Towers - Head Teacher.
28/8/1974		4 children ate Laburnum seeds and had to go to Leicester Royal Infirmary by ambulance. They needed an overnight stay.
30/8/1974		The Laburnum tree removed.
11/4/1975		67 pupils.
17/12/1975		The school concert, Nativity Play and Carol service was a great success.
13/5/1976		The first cycling proficiency course.
18/5/1976		Visit to Dimmingsdale Nature Reserve.
3/6/1976		There was a talk by Mr Killick, Head of Ivanhoe School.
22/6/1976		64 pupils. Trip to Crich Tramway Museum.
12/11/1976		4 children visited the B.B.C. in London where a poem by one of the pupils was televised on "Merry-go-round".
22/11/1976		A sponsored walk raised £100.
8/12/1976		School Concert at the Beaumont Centre.
6/6/1977		Jubilee Week. Sports day, disco, fancy dress parade, villagers' tea party, football match, games night, Old Time Music Hall. The school was decorated for the occasion.
27/6/1977		School visit to Twycross Zoo.
31/8/1977		59 pupils.
21/10/1978		Mrs Barker left to have a baby. She was replaced by Mrs Bradfield.
9/1/1978		Visit to Nottingham Playhouse to see "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory".

13/5/1978		13 pupils had a week at Seahouses.
30/8/1978		57 pupils.
2/3/1979		Mrs Banks left, replaced by Mrs Josey. (Mr Towers, Mrs Bradfield)
7/1/1980		64 pupils.
19/5/1980		School meals transferred to Worthington.
11/7/1980		Mrs Bradfield left.
22/8/1980		60 pupils. Mrs Maltby started
21/5/1981		Visit to Elvaston Castle.
17/6/1981		Visit to Woollaton Park.
26/8/1981		47 pupils.
4/12/1981		Cinema visit to see "Bedknobs and Broomsticks".
8/1/1982		49 pupils. Heavy snow.
15/1/1982		School water system frozen. Fuel shortage.
21/5/1982		P.C. Kent gave a talk about not going with strangers.
12/6/1982		Fete and sports day.
15/6/1982		12 pupils visited Y.H.A. at Gradbach for 4 days.
28/6/1982		Visit to Gulliver's Kingdom, Matlock.
22/8/1982		Mrs Josey took over as Acting Head Teacher. Mrs Maltby appointed as acting scale 2 teacher. Mrs Wooding appointed as temporary, part-time teacher. 40 pupils. 9 children from Travellers staying on Lower Brand.
12/9/1982		3 children went to Boreatton Park with Newbold school on a P.G.A. adventure week.
22/9/1982		New school computer.
11/10/1982		Dr Hadley came with birds of prey.
12/10/1982		Film about Dr Barnadoes.
25/10/1982		Mr Bradley appointed as new Head Teacher. 37 pupils.
3/12/1982		School Bazaar raised £200.
9/12/1982		School Play "Old King Cole."
		End of Log Book.

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HIS MAJESTIES INSPECTOR'S REPORT - 1956

192 Autumn Term 1956.

Sept. 4th School reopened this morning. Eight children were admitted, three entrants and five Orghorpe children. There are now 59 on roll.

Class I.	34 children	Miss K. Wright
" II	25	Miss F. Johnson

Report received from H.M.I. Miss Griffin on visit made on June 20th.

This pleasant brick built school, opened in 1938, contains two classrooms, a staffroom, stockroom and children's cloakroom. Electric light and central heating are installed, but the washbasins are supplied with cold water only. The offices are fitted with chemical closets, there being no main drainage in the village. The hard-surfaced playground and the adjoining four-acre playing field are in good condition. Most of the furniture consists of dual desks too

heavy to be moved easily; consequently Physical Education cannot be taken indoors.

At the time of the Inspection there were sixty children on the roll organized in one class of Infants and one of Juniors. They were natural, friendly and self-reliant; they spoke easily and with some fluency but the quality of speech was not good.

The Head Mistress, appointed in 1940 is in charge of the junior class; her assistant came to the school on its opening. They work together well, being thoughtful on educational matters and willing to experiment. The work in both classes is graded for age and ability, and the older children have acquired the habit of working alone, or in small groups. The infant class has a good supply of teaching material, much of it home

made, and the children receive a pleasant introduction to school life. Reading is carefully taught, and there is a good supply of text books, and a pleasant selection of library books, both fiction and non-fiction is being built up. In addition books supplied by the schools county library service are available, and the travelling library calls at the school. The children do a considerable amount of free writing, a start being made in the infants' class with news sheets, diaries, and stories; in the junior class there is a great deal of recording on topics selected by the children, and on which much reading is done. The more able children in both classes have produced some interesting examples of written language.

Number work, which consists of some practical work and the solving of problems as well as practice in the four rules, attains a good standard. Painting is lively and model making is enjoyed in both classes and some interesting results were seen. Plain sewing, embroidery and soft toy making is done by the junior girls. Singing is enjoyed, and the tone is sweet. Selected broadcast lessons are taken, those on music being very much enjoyed.

Sound and enlightened teaching is being given in this school, and the results are commendable. In particular, good habits of work are being inculcated and the lively independence of the children shows that they profit from, and enjoy, the type of work which is being given.

Roland Hull.

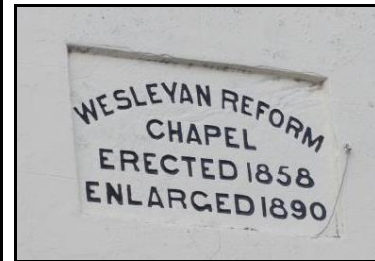
**GRIFFYDAM "WESLEYAN REFORM CHAPEL"
(ALSO KNOWN AS "THE CHAPEL IN THE VALLEY")**



Recent photographs of exterior



Harvest festival 1992



Interior of chapel



Sunday School Anniversary at the Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Griffydam c.1968 with the Waggon and Horses in the background.

Almost as soon as "the people called Methodists" eventually broke away from the Anglican Church, divisions and schisms developed. These arose principally not due to theology but to matters of government, which many found autocratic and overbearing. There were a number of offshoots, but the one that had the most reverberations was the formation of the Wesleyan Reform Society in 1849 as a result of what has become known as the "Fly Sheets" controversy. The Fly Sheets, anonymously written, sought to expose the arbitrary rule of the Wesleyan Conference. They were often disparaging towards certain personalities including the Conference Secretary Rev. Jabez Bunting. It was strongly suspected that the author was a Rev James Everett (who neither admitted or denied it) and he was expelled, along with two others, Samuel Dunn and William Griffiths. The controversy cost Wesleyan dearly. These had a host of sympathisers, who, in turn, were expelled for their sympathies. Early in 1850, four hundred delegates representing the "Reformers" met in the Albion Street Chapel, Moorfields, London, and a document, outlining a constitution was drawn up. This embraced sixteen points and was in conformity with the "Reform" proposals.

The new Griffydam Wesleyan Reform Chapel was opened on 27th April 1858 by Rev Jabez Burns DD of London, and services were conducted on 2nd May 1858 by Mr J W Acrill of Mansfield. Sabbath School was resumed on 16th May, when forty children attended.

The following are notes copied from the chapel minute book :-

"The Wesleyan Methodist Reformers at Griffydam being summarily turned out of the old house in which they had conducted their services for several years, by the interference of the newly appointed Steward of the Nobleman whose property it is, had no place in which to conduct their Sabbath School and hold their Religious Services. At this period, namely Nov 10th 1857, an application was made to Miss Mary Farmer of Worthington for a piece of ground on which to build a Chapel, she consented to give a piece (sic), but dying three days afterwards it fell through, she leaving the Field to her brothers, they at once consented to give a piece (sic) of land on which to erect a Chapel.

Richard Page was engaged to superintend the erection of the Chapel. John Ison was appointed Treasurer. The following were all appointed Trustees:-John Ison, Francis Pope, Joseph Smart, Thomas Coulson, Charles Walker, Richard Cooper, William Usherwood, William Stinson, John Biddle, William Harrison, James Langham and Richard Page.

The Chapel was extended in 1890 and was re-opened on the 9th of November by Mr J Parker.

The highlight of the Church calendar was the Sunday School Anniversary which was held on the first Sunday in May, when the children and choir would sing songs and hymns that they had been practicing for many weeks. There would always be a treat for the children some time after the event. In the early days there would be a tea, with sweets and games, in a local field, while in later years there would be a coach trip to the seaside (often Skegness or Wicksteed Park). All the local chapels and churches had a Sunday School Anniversary or "Sermons" and would close their own church to support others in the area. Today, the Chapel is open and active with normally two services on Sunday and various activities for all.

Prior to the Wesleyan Reform Society being formed in 1849, members of the new chapel would have attended the Wesleyan Primitive Methodist Chapel in Griffydam before worshipping at their "New House" prior to the chapel being erected.

GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL, 1778-2005



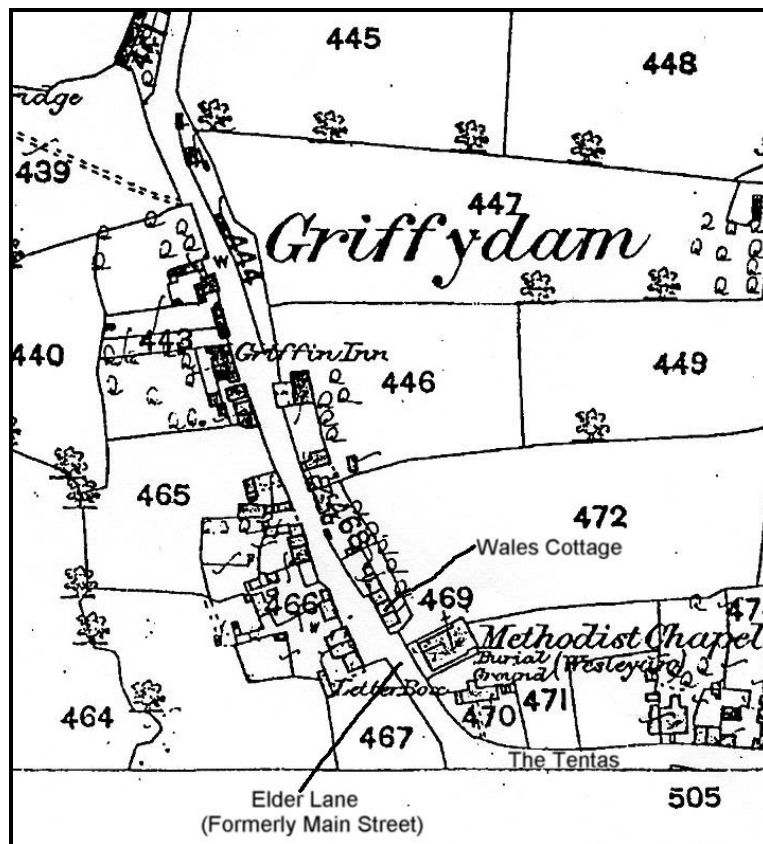
We are not sure when this photograph of the chapel was taken, but it was prior to the cottage originally built by William Garner on the graveyard being demolished, as this can just be discerned to the right of the photograph.

Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel is one of the oldest Methodist Chapels in the country, and is of significant historical importance. The Chapel has now being converted into a private residence. An audit of the old graves in the cemetery is appended, and there are many interesting and historically important graves there. Burials took place here from around the area, such as Coleorton, Peggs Green, Breedon, Lount, Swannington, Worthington, Stordon Grange and Newbold etc., as well as Griffydam. The Chapel closed in 2005, and the last service was held on Oct 16th at 3.00 p.m. The preacher was the Rev. Harry Jones, and the organist was David Haywood. The graveyard remains open for new burials.



Looking down Elder Lane

The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel is on the right with the end of the cottage, both originally built by William Garner, on the extreme right (more details on this later in the article). Wales Cottage (depicted on the map below) is lower down on the same side as the Chapel. The Griffin Inn is further down on the left.



Section from an old map showing the area around the chapel with William Garner's cottage on the plot marked 470



A further photograph of the Chapel, with the end of William Garner's cottage on the RH side



A Wedding re-enactment by children of the Sunday School - by the time this photograph was taken, William Garner's original cottage had been demolished. Note the Minister in the foreground and the horse on the RH side. Chris Richards, who currently lives at Newbold is behind the horse.



Plaque above front door 2011
METHODIST CHAPEL
ERECTED 1778 ENLARGED 1791
RESTORED AND ENLARGED 1862



The bust of "John Wesley"
which stood in the
Chapel to his memory



Internal photograph of Chapel taken from the upper gallery, thought to have been added during the chapel enlargement in 1862. The chapel then provided seating for approx 200 people.



Photograph of interior taken 2005 following closure. This shows John Wesley's bust moved to a position under the clock with a commemorative plaque underneath it.



Photograph taken at the opening of the new Sunday School building in 1932 on the LH side of the Chapel. This was built by Ramsdens' of Castle Donnington

Left to Right :-

- Walter Davies - Local Preacher and Sunday School Superintendent
- Frank Rowell
- Herbert Rowell - Local Preacher and Trustee (grandfather of Herbert Eric Rowell).
- John Johnson (Miss Florrie Johnson's Father) - Local Preacher and always first up to speak at the "Love Feast"
- Leonard Wesley Rowell (Steward for 40 years) with his son Herbert Eric Rowell



Internal photograph of the new Sunday School taken after the chapel closed

When the author's wife Sheila Stewart (nee Bannister) was at the Griffydam infant school on the top road in the 1950's, during which time Miss Florrie Johnson and Miss Kitty Wright (headmistress) were the teachers, all the children used to go down in double lines to the Chapel for their lunches, which were provided in the schoolroom attached to the Chapel on the left hand side. The lunches arrived in hot containers from an outside source, and were then dished out by Mrs. Silverwood and Mrs. Wilton. After the Christmas party at the school, they would also go down to the Schoolroom for their Christmas tea. Miss Florrie Johnson who died aged 99, and is buried in Griffydam Cemetery, was fondly remembered by her pupils, and a feature on her retirement appears earlier in the book.



The above photograph is of a Sunday School outing in the late 1940's

The people known to be in the photograph are **A** - Rose Bradford, **B** - Archie Burton, **C** - Dennis Else, **D** - Ron Burton, **E** - Mrs. Liguorish, **F** - Florence Hilda Burton.

Click [Here](#) To Read More About The Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Sunday Schools

It was recorded in the Methodist magazine of 1825, that John Wesley held a service in the fields at Griffydam in 1743, even before the chapel itself was built.

The beginning of Griffydam Methodism is attributed by Jane Sanson to William Garner who "was the means of forming a society and of erecting a chapel at Griffy-Dam where he resided for several years" (Methodist Magazine 1825 Pg 585). See the later feature entitled - "A History of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Burial Ground" for more details on William Garner.

John Wesley preached at Griffydam Chapel on at least two occasions - the second being on July 19th 1779 at the new chapel, when it was only one year old. In his journal he wrote.....*About 9 00 a.m. I preached in the Market Place at Loughborough, about noon at Griffydam and in the evening at Ashby.*

The Chapel was built in 1778, enlarged in 1791 and thrived for decades, and in 1862 it was refurbished and enlarged again to accommodate around 200 people. The building's certification as a place of worship is dated 1.6.1854 and it was registered for marriages on 8.2.1870.

There was already a fellowship of Methodists in the area when John's brother Charles, as early as 1743 and possibly earlier, "had preached the gospel to the poor at Cole Orton who heard it with great eagerness". John was invited by some of the Methodist converts to preach at Griffydam on one of his northern tours. He stood on the spot from which the preceding photograph of the Chapel was taken to deliver his sermon (Methodist Recorder March 1898).

News that Wesley intended preaching at Cole Orton had spread far and wide, and there was a large congregation. A local squire (Sir George Beaumont) who had great influence amongst the colliers, resolved if possible to hinder the preaching. He primed the men with liquor. Armed with truncheons, the swarthy guardian of orthodoxy gathered on the brow of the hill. John Massey, an athlete and renowned pugilist, the terror of every wake and fair in North Leicestershire, was appointed captain of the anti - Methodist gang. No doubt the little evangelist was aware of the plot against him. He calmly proceeded with song and prayer. As he was about to commence the sermon, Massey looked at him savagely, but thought he would just hear a little of what he had to say.

Under the spell of that wonderful voice, the athlete's heart began to beat violently, and a big tear rolled down the swarthy cheek. The colliers became impatient. One man cried out "John, why dunna ye give the word", John's reply must have come like a thunderbolt - " If any mon touches the praicher I'll straighten wi' im on th' pit bonk tomorrow mornin' ". There was not a man who wished to meet John Massey on the pit bank or anywhere else.

The converted collier became one of the most useful preachers in the neighbourhood. John Massey became a well-known and much loved preacher in the area drawing large crowds to hear him. It is believed that he was a member of the Tonge Society which met in Mr. John Hall's house there (now Brookside Farm). John Massey's preaching was accomplished. A regular visitor to the area was Wesley's heir apparent, the Rev. John Fletcher. On one occasion he had been appointed to preach at Tongue but was delayed so John Massey stepped into the breach. When Rev. Fletcher arrived the house was packed, so, instead of attempting to make his way through the crowd, he decided instead to stand at the back to listen and was greatly impressed by what he heard. At the end of the service, Fletcher shook his hand and congratulated him. There can be little doubt but that John Massey assisted John Hall in his missioning of Breedon, Worthington and Diseworth.

It is difficult to pinpoint the date of Massey's conversion at Coleorton Moor. While his brother Charles had visited Coleorton on 24th May 1743 and recorded in his journal "I preach the gospel to the poor at Coleorton who heard it with great eagerness", John Wesley did not record his visit. The

incident was related in the *Methodist Magazine* for 1856 where the author refers to almost a century having elapsed, so it puts Wesley's visit to around the 1760s when John Massey would be in his early 30s. He served his Lord well and did not pass to his reward until 1819 at the ripe old age of 87. Deborah died in 1820 aged 84 and was buried with her beloved husband in Griffydam's Methodist graveyard. They were living in Griffydam at that time.



There are a number of historically interesting grave stones in the cemetery, however, this is by far the most important in relation to Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. It is the head stone of John Massey & his wife Deborah who feature in the preceding article. Both John and Deborah have the earliest recorded birth dates in the graveyard - 1732 & 1736 respectively

THE EASTER MONDAY LOVE FEAST

Over many years a "Love Feast", the ancient Christian Agape, was held at Griffydam annually on Easter Monday, and this attracted people from Derby, Leicester, Birmingham, as well as towns and villages of the neighborhood. *The service commenced at half-past one, filling the whole afternoon and ending with a sermon, usually in the evening (from the Methodist Recorder).* Many conversions took place during the service. Water was passed around the worshippers in two-handled glass cups, and also slices of bread. This was based on the meal shared by early Christians and introduced by John Wesley into Methodism. This custom continued until about 1960, probably spanning some 200 years.

TWENTIETH CENTURY HISTORY

It seems fairly certain that Ashby was the first society in the present circuit, and Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was the oldest Methodist building still in use in the circuit in 1978, and the oldest in use in Leicestershire when it closed in 2005.

The last trustees appointed prior to the new Methodist constitution were:- Florence J. Johnson, L. Wesley Rowell, May Rowell, William and Gertrude Bird, May Clamp, Annie Hodges, Hilda M. Hutchinson, Herbert E. Rowell, John C. Campion, F. Mary Lacy, John c. Purling, William G. Conibear. The chairman of the meeting was the Rev. William M. Nicholas.

The extension which can be seen on the rear of the chapel was probably added in 1862. It was originally used as the vestry, but when the organ was purchased second hand from a Chapel in Leicester, it was put into the vestry area. The installers, Porrit's of Leicester, moved the pulpit forwards, and positioned the organ at the front. There was an outcry from the members about this, because it wasn't going to be possible to accommodate the platform for the anniversary, and this couldn't possibly be allowed to happen. Therefore, Wesley Rowell was approached to do something about it. This resulted in the church members led by Wes, man-handling it to the rear of the extension themselves. Eric Rowell, a senior citizen of Pegg's Green, and the son of Leonard Wesley Rowell who was chapel Steward for 40 years from 1939, related this story to the author. Eric was organ blower for many years until it was electrified. The organ was probably installed c.1940. In addition to his other chapel activities,

Eric was also grave-digger for 25 years, and followed his father Wesley into the profession. He explained that in those days, people needed to be buried quickly after death. A local person would often do the laying out of the body. Due to his father being Chapel Steward, people who had experienced bereavement would knock on their house door in Anchor Lane to request a grave to be dug. Eric relates the story that he would arrive home from his shift at Whitwick Pit, and on occasions, his mother would inform them that a double-grave needed digging as misses so and so's husband had died. His work clothes would be ready for him, and he and his father would have their tea, and then go down to dig the grave. He remembers that in the early days they would do this by candle-light. Eric took a great pride in his grave digging, and relates how in those days, the grave was dug to the shape of the coffin, and the coffin must lie exactly horizontally.

The Rowell family were staunch Methodists, and his grandfather, Herbert Rowell, was received on the full plan as a local preacher in 1886. He passed away in 1933. Herbert lived on the Tentas opposite the graveyard and ran a grocer's and bake-house there. He is listed in the 1901 census.

In those days, local preachers usually travelled around the district by horse and cart, which was certainly the case for Herbert Rowell. There is a rather amusing note recorded on the front cover of the 1898 Ashby Circuit Wesleyan Methodist Preacher's Plan, which reads:- *The treasurer of the "Local Preachers Horse Hire Fund" was a Mr. J. T. Broxholme.*

In the 1933 Ashby Circuit Wesleyan Methodist Preachers Plan, the following local officer positions were listed at Griffydam:-



Mr. Walter Davies



Leonard Wesley Rowell

Society Steward - Mr. Walter. Davies, Olga Terrace, Coleorton (Also local preacher and Sunday School superintendent)

Poor Stewards -	Mr. W. Rowell (became Chapel Steward for 40 years from 1939) Mrs. W. Davies.
Society Steward -	Mr. H. Johnson, Hill View, Griffydam (Also local preacher)
Chapel Stewards -	Mr. H. Johnson and Mr. S. Johnson.
Sunday School superintendent -	Mr Walter Davies.
Organists -	Miss Rowell, Griffydam, Miss Johnson and Mrs. Hull.
Wesley Guild Secretary -	Miss Johnson, Hill View.

THE WESLEY GUILD PARADE



**"The Wesley Guild Parade" marching down "The Tentas"
and on to Elder Lane near the Chapel in 1931.
The first gentleman on the left is Tom Saddington.**

The Wesley Guild originated as a youth movement aimed at countering secular influence, and retaining young people within the Church. The Guild idea was first suggested by the Wesleyan minister W. B. Fitzgerald, and was championed at the Liverpool Conference of 1896 by C. H. Kelly, Book Steward and former Secretary for Sunday School affairs.

The Guild, as it was approved by the Conference, was defined as a "Young People's Society closely linked to the Church, holding weekly or periodical meetings for devotional, literary or social purposes, and centring around various branches of Young People's work". There were however, no age limitations imposed, and the Guild gradually acquired a membership which was not particularly youthful.

Fitzgerald served as the first General Secretary of the Guild, and by 1909 there was 2,200 local Guilds with 152,000 members. There was then a sharp decrease attributable to the effects of the First World War, and an increase in secular attractions. From 1922 however, membership again increased, reaching a peak of 174,202 senior and 57,790 junior members in 1934, after which it again declined to a membership of between 25,000 and 50,000 by 1970.

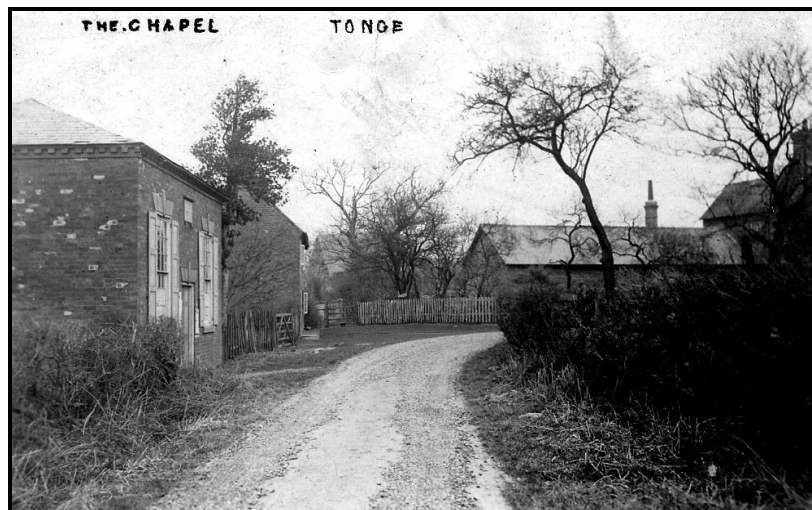
The Primitive Methodist equivalent named "Christian Endeavour" provided great competition between the two factions.

ARTEFACT FROM CHAPEL RESTORATION IN 1862

During the recent renovation of the chapel to convert it into a private residence, the owner Mr. M. Stretton, discovered part of a pew seat pictured below. This is an important find as the engravings confirm that this was made at the time the chapel was restored and enlarged in 1862. The initials could be those of the carpenter who made the pew leg and possibly stand for Thomas G..... There were three carpenters in the Griffydam 1861, census, but unfortunately no one with these initials, however, the search goes on !



The writer is of the view that the original chapel would have been a single story building and when it was restored and enlarged in 1862 a second story was added to include the balcony shown in a preceding photograph. An example of what the original building may have looked like prior to this is depicted in the photograph below of the old Tonge Wesleyan Methodist Chapel shown on the left. This was typical of numerous local methodist chapels at that time, and some have survived as just single story buildings to the present day.



Click [Here](#) To Read More About Griffydam's Wesleyan Methodist & Wesleyan Reform Chapels

A HISTORY OF THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL BURIAL GROUND

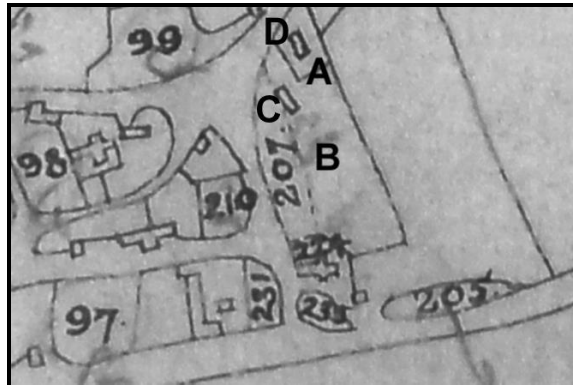
A HEADSTONE TO THE GRAVE OF MARY KNIGHT READS:-

*Sacred
To the memory of
Mary Knight
Who departed this life
March 12th 1811
Aged 69 years
She had been a member of
The Methodist Society for
More than 50 years and she
Knew well in whom she had believed*

Assuming that "more than 50 years" means what it says rather than "for as long as can be remembered", the Griffydam society had been in existence since before 1761. It was in 1759 that the Rev Walter Sellon became curate at Breedon on the Hill and Smisby and it was he who ignited the fire which took Methodism to the villages and hamlets of North West Leicestershire, including Griffydam, through the likes of John Hall, John Massey and others.

Rev Sellon had also been curate at Long Whatton for a year and whilst there he had impressed one of the villagers William Garner so much so that when he left there for Breedon and Smisby, William, with others, would travel to listen to him, and it was on one occasion whilst hearing the Rev Sellon preach that we are told he found peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

By trade William Garner was a bricklayer. He moved from Long Whatton to Worthington and, in July 1776, he and Ralph Pope, who appears to have been his labourer, bought part of a close comprising one acre in Griffiths Damm for £57 15s. This was adjoining a cottage at one time owned by William Dexter, being the west part of the close. It was bounded on the south by Griffy Hill, later to become the Tentas. The close is marked **B** on a section from the 1806 inclosure map below.



In April 1778, they sold part of their land marked **A** described as situated in the north corner of the one acre close and being 16 yards in width to Elder Lane, 20 yards on the north side, 18 yards on the south and 16 yards at the remaining end. The building now erecting and to be erected on the plot of land to be used as a place of public worship called a Methodist Meeting House". It was sold to the following trustees for £6 13s:-

John Hall of Tonge, yeoman
Thomas Varnham of Lount, farmer
John Farmer of Ogasthorpe, farmer
William Newbold of Packington, flax dresser
Robert Heathcote of Packington, tammy weaver
Samuel Clarke of Ashby de la Zouch, framesmith
John Skermer of Tonge, maltster
John Massey of the Gelsmoore, collier
Matthew Finch of Swannington, collier

By reason of his occupation in a cottage marked **C** that William Garner had built to the south side of where the future chapel **D** was to be erected, there can be little doubt that William Garner would have played a prominent part in the erection of the chapel itself which opened in 1778. The Methodist Magazine dated 1825 refers to William Garner building the chapel and residing there for many years.

At this time apparently, there had been no thought of a graveyard adjacent to the Chapel, nor did William Garner and Ralph Pope retain the remainder of the close to enable it to be used for this purpose since, in 1783, they sold the land together with the cottage which had been erected by William Garner to William Haywood and William Follows, who appeared to have no connection with the Methodists, for £80. 10s.

However, in 1789, this piece of land was acquired by Methodist trustees, Samuel Clarke of Ashby, hosier and Matthew Ingle of Ashby, grazier for the same price. It seems the reasons for the purchase were twofold. Firstly, it was clear that the congregation had grown to such an extent that more land would be required to extend the chapel which took place in 1791 and, secondly, land was needed as a graveyard. The area of land was far in excess of that which would be required for an extension to the Chapel alone and it had been realised that burials in the nearest graveyard, which was some distance away was proving inconvenient. A side benefit following on from the acquisition of the remainder of the close was that William Garner's former cottage lying to the south of the chapel was used first as the preacher's house then later the caretaker's. The last person to occupy it was apparently a Mrs. Witham (from Eric Rowell).

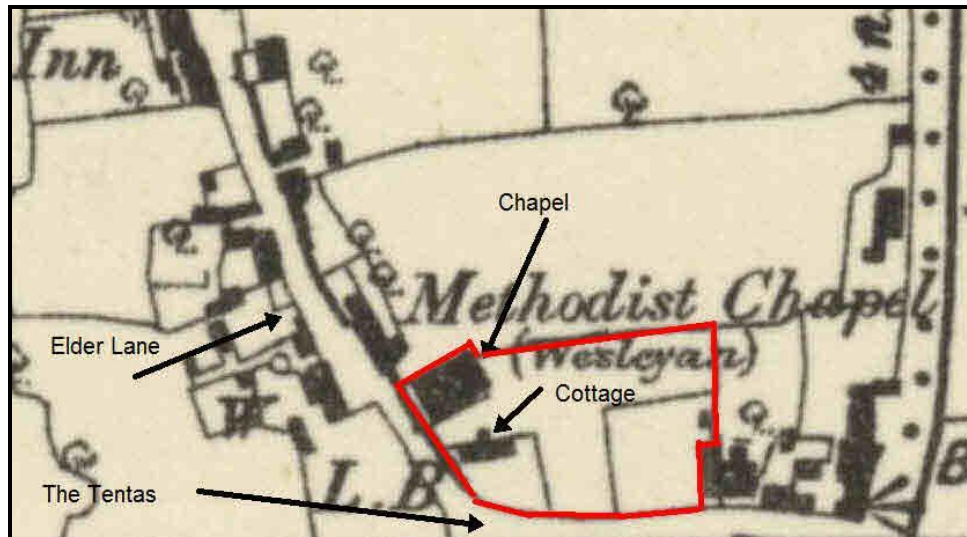
There is some confusion in respect to the purchase of the land by Samuel Clarke and Mathew Ingle, as in the 1806 inclosure agreement at Griffydam, what appears to be a strip of land marked 207 adjacent to Griffy Hill (later the Tents) was awarded as an intake to John Burton and Samuel Clarke, both given as trustees of Griffydam Meeting House. This suggests that this strip of land was in dispute or was never part of the original one acre plot.

1806 inclosure allotment - 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. *(Until the end of the 18th century nonconformist places of worship were called meeting houses but around the turn of the century they were often referred to in the alternatives of meeting house or chapel, and it wasn't long before meeting house was dropped altogether).*

Unfortunately, no old burial records exist so it cannot be said with certainty therefore, that the land had been used for burials since 1789. However, one cannot imagine that would not have been the case as providing a burial ground could have been the only reason for acquiring such a large area of land.

In 1813, the whole area of land including the chapel, cottage and "burying" ground was now being described as comprising 1 acre and 11 perches and lying in a ring fence. This was now brought into the common ownership of new trustees, these being:-

Ambrose Beaumont of Melbourne, surgeon
Thomas Gilbert of Osgathorpe, cordwainer
Samuel Shakespear of Staunton Harold, farmer
John Bindley of Ashby de la Zouch, felmonger
John Knight of Newbold, farmer
Richard Smith of Newbold, farmer
David Wardle of Worthington, coal bailiff
William Woodward of Southwood, farmer
William Kidger of Thringstone, grocer

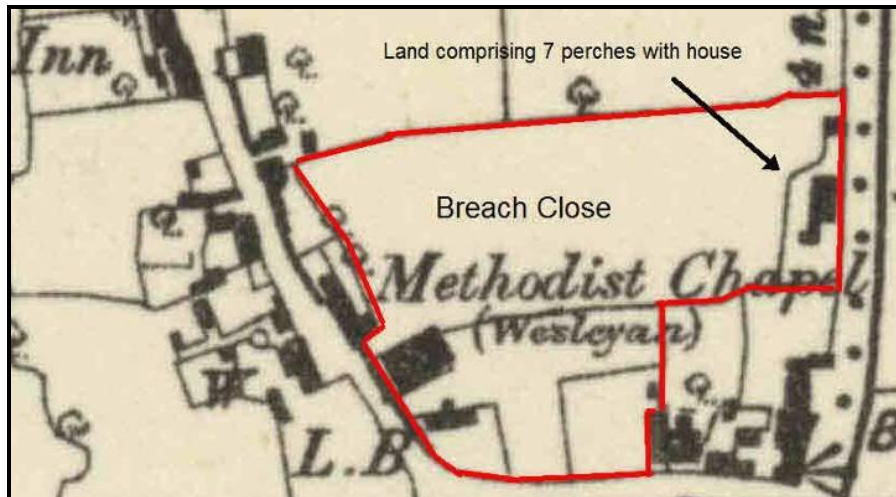


The site of the chapel, cottage and graveyard superimposed on the 1885 OS map and shown edged red.

For decades, the chapel thrived, and in 1862 it was refurbished and enlarged again to accommodate around 200 people.

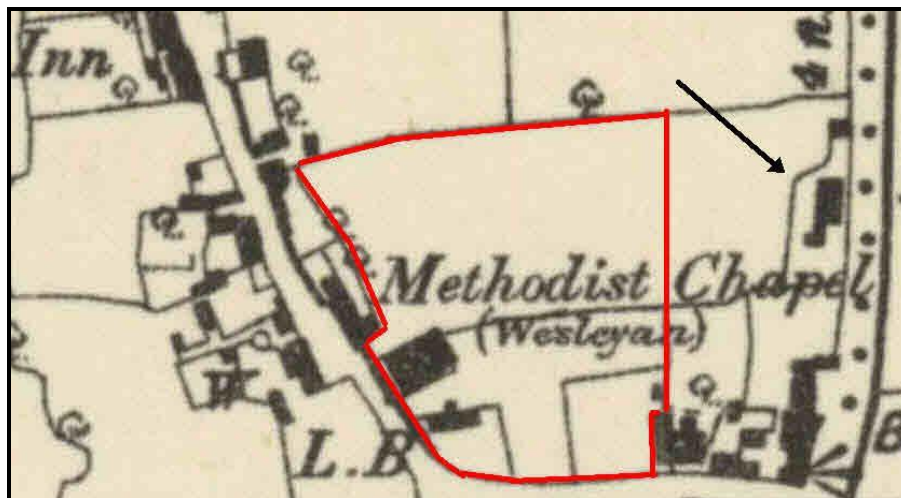
By the end of the 19th century, it had become clear that the graveyard would soon be full and that additional land was needed to extend it, so, on 19th December 1900, some 2 acres of land on the north being formerly described as at Griffy Hill and known as Breach Close along with adjoining land on the east comprising 7 perches (just under half an acre) together with the house on it was bought for £335.00 by the chapel trustees who were:-

John Pearson Adcock of Ashby de la Zouch, merchant miller
William Wells of Ashby de la Zouch, general dealer
David Sketchley of Griffydam, farmer
Herbert Rowell of Griffydam, grocer
John Wardle of Worthington, farmer
Charles Chester of Worthington, farmer
Robert Hazelwood Plowright of Swannington, schoolmaster
Joseph Luger of Coalville, butcher
John Willars Weston of Thringstone, draper
Henry Spencer of Twickenham, gentleman



The enlarged site following the 1900 purchase

For reasons that are unclear, the house with seven perches of land together with some two thirds of an acre of Breach Close on the east were sold off in 1919.



The site following the 1919 sale

Griffydham Chapel was sadly closed in 2005, but the graveyard remains open for new burials. Burials here took place from around the area, such as Coleorton, Peggs Green, Breedon, Lount, Swannington, Worthington, Stordon Grange and Newbold etc., as well as Griffydham.

IMPORTANT ADDENDUM TO ABOVE CEMETERY INFORMATION

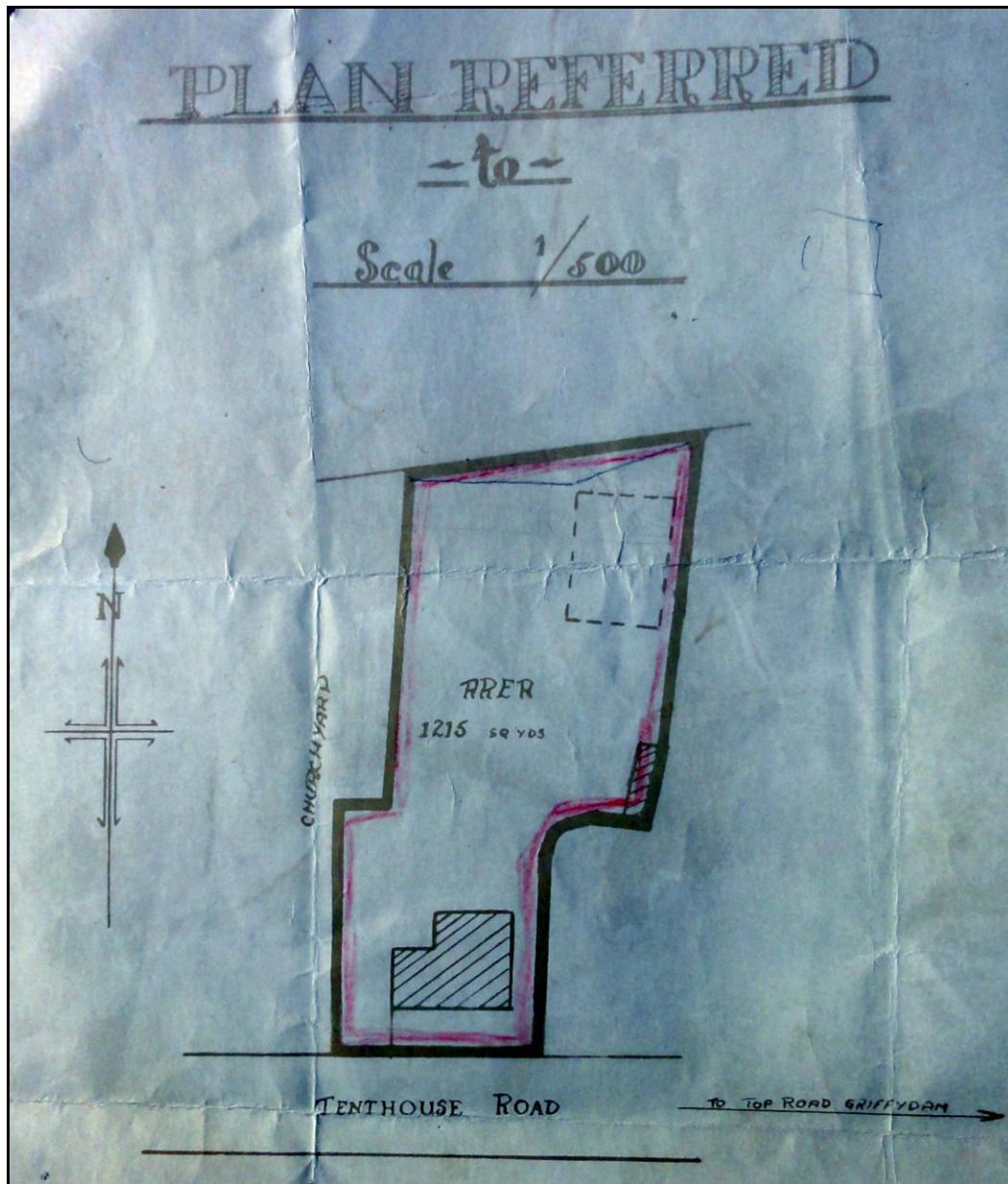
Following the publication of the second edition of this book, deeds have become available, which provide previously unknown additional information about the area of land owned by the chapel trustees prior to the 1919 sale. The author's interpretation of the deeds is as follows:-

It appears from how the deeds are worded, that in 1813, a messuage was built on a piece of land owned by the chapel trustees. This is currently known as the "White House" and we know was formerly a

"manse" used by a minister at one time, although we do not have information on which particular minister that was. This piece of land (area 1,215 acres) was in addition to that shown on the preceding maps. It is that piece of land with buildings shown immediately to the east of the cemetery plot and fronting "The tentas" road and can be related to the following map attached to the deeds.

The message / tenements, yard, garden and outbuildings were sold in 1919 by the trustees of the chapel to Mathew Henry Rowell (uncle of the author) for £190.

The reader will note that the "Tentas" as we now know it, was referred to on the map as "Tenthouse Road".



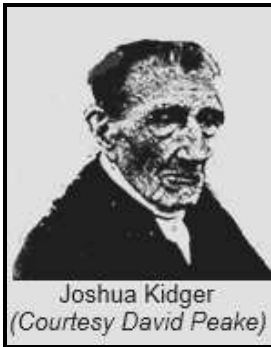
OUR METHODIST ANCESTORS by Michael Green

To complete this story, the memoirs of John Kidger taken from the Wesleyan Methodist Recorder of 1826 follow on:-

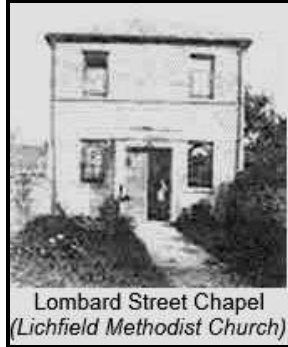
THE KIDGERS

William Kidger was born at Newbold in 1770 and his brother, Joshua, at Worthington in 1775 to William Kidger, a colliery overseer, and his wife, Mary. In his youth, William had attended Anglican services, but the turning point in his spiritual life occurred when, at the age of 21, he went to the Griffydam chapel in March 1791 to listen to the preaching of the sermon which followed John Wesley's death. He then became an ardent member there and played an important part in the great revival of 1794 when the Ashby circuit increased its membership from 450 to 700. As a result of his role in that revival, the then minister, Rev Joseph Pescod, appointed him a class leader.

Little is known about Joshua's early life. It would seem though, that he continued to live in the area until at least 1804, as the Griffydam Baptism Register records that his youngest daughter, Ann, was baptised on 7th October 1804 having been born in Swannington. He then appears in 1811 in Lichfield at Gallows Wharf, on the former Wryley and Essington canal, the wharf taking its name from the gallows erected nearby in 1532. All places where dissenters (non-Anglicans) worshipped had either to be registered with the bishop or the justices sitting at Quarter Sessions. Many of these records still exist and we know that one of the signatories to an application to register a house at the wharf in 1811 was Joshua Kidger. Joshua was the wharfinger (wharf manager) and the house was presumably his. What had brought Joshua Kidger to Lichfield is not known. Obviously, he was one of those instrumental in establishing a Wesleyan society there which was done, we are told, with the aid of preachers from Birmingham. The society soon grew to such an extent that it was not long before there was a desire for a chapel and a suitable site was found in Lombard Street, Lichfield and, on the application to register it in 1813, the signature of "J Kedger" appears. Joshua was well enough off to be able to employ an ostler who it is said found a purse containing money. Despite extensive enquiries the money was unclaimed and it became the first donation towards the chapel



Joshua Kidger
(Courtesy David Peake)



Lombard Street Chapel
(Lichfield Methodist Church)



Burial ground at Griffydam

The Lombard Street chapel opened in 1814. Interestingly, it seems that Joshua brought with him a feature of the Griffydam chapel which was the associated burial ground. Methodist chapels rarely had them, but the land in front of the chapel was set aside for one, albeit on a far smaller scale! Amongst the trustees of the chapel were William, his brother, and James Burton from Swannington but there is no evidence that either had played any active role in its establishment.

It was necessary for Joshua to find further help with the work at the newly erected chapel and this time he called on another member of the family. This was John who was, William's son and Joshua's nephew, who was born in 1795 at Griffydam. On 27th December 1812 aged 17 he had been converted along with around 12 others at a prayer meeting at the Griffydam chapel. It was while working at a colliery near Alfreton, where he had been appointed a class leader at a chapel nearby, that he was

called in the spring of 1815. He was engaged at Lombard Street for 2 - 3 years before returning to North West Leicestershire to live with his parents in Coleorton from where he moved in 1820 to Belton to carry on a grocer's business. He opened his house to both itinerant and local preachers and, in his mid-twenties, married Mary, one of the daughters of James and Ann Burton (founder of JMA) of Swannington. Sadly the marriage was only a short one. At the age of 29 he died on 30th April 1825 of scarlet fever.

William carried on his work at Griffydam and was particularly interested in the mission field. He continued as a class leader until his death aged 55 from a stroke on 14th October 1825 which followed a period of intense nursing of his wife and other close members of the family through cholera.

Joshua remained in Lichfield, presumably with the Lombard Street cause. He left the wharf and established a grocer's and tea dealer's shop in Bird Street, Lichfield. Later, by way of complete contrast, he became a house agent and coal dealer! He died on 12th May 1861.

There is an interesting footnote. Not only were the Kidgers connected with Lichfield but there was also a link with Tamworth too as Joshua and John were parties to the lease and trust deed of Tamworth's second Wesleyan chapel in Bolebridge Street built in 1816.

**MR JOHN KIDGER - A LOCAL MAN'S CONVERSION TO METHODISM TAKEN FROM
"THE METHODIST RECORDER 1826"**

BIOGRAPHY.

From the Wesleyan Methodist Magazine.

MEMOIR OF MR. JOHN KIDGER,
Of Belton, Leicestershire:
BY THE REV. B. SLATER.

Mr. John Kidger, eldest son of Mr. William and Elizabeth Kidger, was born at Griffydam, in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch circuit, June 7th, 1795. Educated in the strictest principles of Christianity, he was preserved from the grosser follies of the age, but did not fully embrace the salvation of the gospel until he was about seventeen years old. At a prayer-meeting he was truly awakened, made to feel his wretched condition as a sinner, and began to cry to God for mercy. His amiable mother, not knowing of the anguish of his mind, conversed with him concerning the absolute necessity of a change of heart. He was so deeply impressed with this conversation, and so powerfully affected, that he retired to an out-building to give vent to the feelings of his soul, and cried with the publican, "God be merciful to me a sinner." It was in December, 1812, that he was thus awakened. His convictions continued about eight or nine days; and on the 27th of December, he and twelve or fourteen others, at the same prayer-meeting, were enabled to believe in Jesus Christ, and to rejoice in the pardoning mercy of God.

A short period after his conversion, he was removed to a situation, as agent in a colliery, near Alfreton, in Derbyshire. His religious and moral worth was soon discovered, and he was appointed to be the leader of a class.

In the spring of 1815 he was called to leave his beloved friends in Derbyshire, to reside at Lichfield. Before his removal to this

VOL. IX. *June*, 1826. 27

city he enjoyed much of God, and, I believe, walked before him in simplicity and uprightness; yet he had not acquired a very extensive and accurate knowledge of Christian doctrine, and was therefore less capable of encountering the sophisms of those who wrest the Scriptures to their own serious injury. Being occasionally in company with a person who lowered the standard of Christian faith, he was attacked on the subject of assurance; and at length embraced the notion that a man may be in the favour of God, and not know it. When on a visit at his father's, he entered into conversation with several of his old friends on that subject. His pious and sensible father saw with grief that the new views which his son had imbibed retarded his progress in piety, and injured his usefulness in the church. His bowels yearned over his son, now fallen in some measure from the grace he had once received; and he addressed to him the following admonitory letter, which was rendered, by the blessing of God, a means of John's entire recovery:—

“My dear John,—Since you returned to Litchfield, I have reconsidered the conversation we had when you were at Cole-orton, and I assure you that I do not recollect a single circumstance of your whole life that has given me so much pain of mind. How very different were your visits when you came to see us from Derbyshire! I believe, in those days it was your only aim to receive good and to do good: but the spirit in which you last came was very different; your aim appeared to me, and to others, to make proselytes to a set of opinions which could not have the least tendency to make people either more holy or more happy. You contend about opinions as if they were your Saviour; but were you as orthodox as the greatest divine that ever lived, without holiness you would be eternally lost. I would ask you, John, as in the presence of God, What has your new creed done for you?—Are you more humble, holy, and happy? Has it created in you a more ardent desire to have souls converted to God? Does the reflection, that mankind in general are hastening to endless ruin, affect you more now than when you first received Christ? Do you mourn over a perishing world more than formerly? Do you see it to be your duty, more than usual, to visit the sick and the dying? Do you pray more in private, and more in public? Are you more watchful, more spiritual, in your conversation? If your new opinions have produced these blessed effects, hold them fast; but if the contrary, (which I am sure is the case,) frankly acknowledge it to the Lord, and amend your ways.

“I want you, my dear John, and myself likewise, to get possessed of that faith which works by love, and purifies the heart; a faith that will secure our justification with God, and be productive of such works as will justify us in the sight of men.

“Do not say that it is our ignorance that prevents us from believing as you do. Detest the thought ‘that you are the man, and wisdom will die with you.’ I recollect a person who spoke at one of our love-feasts. He blessed God that though he could not say he grew in love, yet he could say he grew in knowledge. The preacher justly replied, ‘Bro-

ther, that is the experience of devils: they grow in knowledge, but to love they are strangers.'

"For Christ's sake, John, be watchful: examine yourself whether you be in the faith. God, I fear, has somewhat against you. I am afraid you are falling from God. Oh that I may be mistaken! I had rather follow you to your grave than that you should become an apostate. I would rather see you working at the most laborious employment, and reduced to the lowest degree of poverty, and yet living in the enjoyment of real religion, than see you in the most prosperous circumstances, and destitute of the life of God in your soul.

"Oh, pray that the zeal of God's house may eat you up! Labour all you can to promote God's glory; visit the sick, especially the sick poor; if this duty be a cross, take it up. Conduct yourself in a becoming manner before all men; let your words be few; think much, read much, pray much. Let your principal book be the book of God. Desire to know its contents, not that you may be able to cavil about particular tenets; but in order that your judgment may be informed, and your mind be renewed. Do not treat sacred things in a light and trifling manner. The Bible contains a revelation of the mind of God to man;—do not hastily make up your mind about peculiar tenets, against which some of the most holy men now living have raised their voice. Do not lightly esteem the preachers of God's word. I should be very much grieved to hear you say any thing disrespectful of them. Oh John! I should consider it the greatest honour to have a son that lived and died a Methodist preacher.

"I am of opinion that those, in general, who are for so much refinement in religion, content themselves with the form of it, and leave the power and spirit of it for the enjoyment of others.

"I conclude by praying that God will bless and preserve you from every evil, and make you holy and happy. I am your affectionate father,

WILLIAM KIDGER.

"Coleorton, July 24, 1815."

This letter produced the most happy effects. From this period John acquired a love of reading, and began to think closely on what he read and heard. Alluding to this period, he says, in a letter to a friend,—“My mind was roused from its natural dormancy. Before this period I was in the habit of believing all I read and heard, without examination: but then I met with persons who overturned all my received opinions. By this means I saw the necessity of thinking for myself.” Having abandoned the erroneous opinions he had entertained, and received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit, he believed it to be his duty to preach the gospel; and he was admitted on the plan, as a local preacher. His talents were respectable; and he was highly esteemed in Lichfield and its neighbourhood. He entered on the sacred work under a full conviction of the worth of immortal souls.—His manner in the pulpit was peculiarly solemn: for it was his anxious wish to reach the consciences of his hearers. His views of the sacred function will appear in his own words:—

"I feel," says he, "that a preacher of the gospel needs much religion: for when he goes beyond his own experience on the subject of personal godliness, he can but feebly enforce the truths upon which he expatiates. A person may have some idea of the warmth of a climate by ascertaining the latitude in which it lies; but he can give the best description of it who has felt its warmth in his own person. Christ is frequently spoken of under the idea of a sun: it is especially upon his church that he shines; and all the members of it feel his genial rays in proportion as they live near to him." Many of the preachers who knew our young friend thought that he ought to be employed in our itinerant work;—and the late Mr. Benson advised him to hold himself in readiness for the various examinations through which the preachers have to pass, prior to their entering into the ministry: but he was prevented by his revered father; whose chief objection was a fear lest he should run before he was sent of God. He continued, however, to preach in a local capacity, with great acceptance and considerable usefulness, to the end of his life.

After residing at Lichfield two or three years, he returned to his father's house, where he continued till March, 1820, when he entered into business for himself, at Belton, a village in the Loughborough circuit, a short distance from Cole-orton. The itinerant and local preachers were hospitably entertained at his house: he was a liberal supporter of the cause of Christ in that neighbourhood, and a great friend to the poor and the sick.

In August, 1820, he was married to Miss Burton, daughter of Mr. James Burton, of Swannington. He and his amiable partner conducted themselves with so much propriety as to gain the confidence and esteem of those with whom they transacted business. They were remarkably conscientious in the sanctification of the sabbath; and though frequently pressed by some of their customers to infringe upon its sacred duties, they resolutely refused. On one occasion, John was closely pressed on the sabbath day for an article in his shop, when it was said that it would be wanted very early on the Monday morning, and that it had been forgotten on Saturday night. He replied that he would rise at any hour after the termination of the sabbath; but that, sooner than transact business on the Lord's day, he would lose all that he had in the world.

The career of this excellent young man was but short. He attended a missionary meeting at the Griffydham chapel, on April 20, 1825, when he was called upon to second a resolution on a subject very congenial with the ardour of his soul,—the general outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all Christian missions. He entered into the subject with considerable fervour. I was present on the occasion, and witnessed with delight the glow of

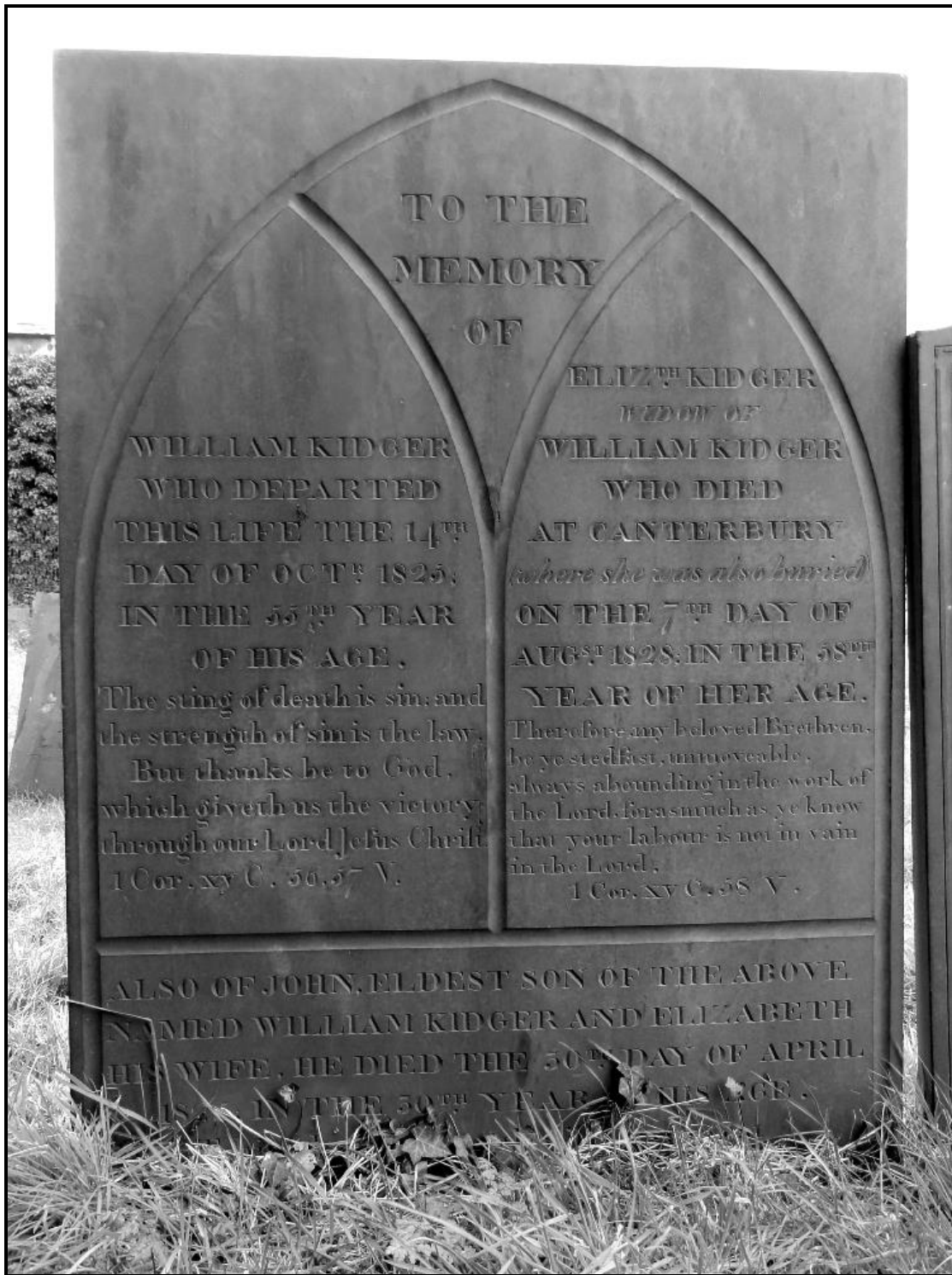
pious feeling in my young friend. On returning home from this meeting, he felt some symptoms of ill health ; and on the next day he was seized with the scarlet fever, accompanied with an affection in the throat. His complaints baffled the power of medicine ; and after nine days of severe affliction, he departed this life in the triumph of faith. He died April 30th, 1825, aged twenty-nine years.

From the whole, it appears our young friend lived to Christ. In all things he walked circumspectly, labouring "to have always a conscience void of offence towards God and towards man."— He had been made a blessing to many souls in Belton and its vicinity, and I believe felt the force of the apostolic caution, "Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed." He remarked on his deathbed, that he frequently had been invited by travellers to accompany them to the inn, and spend an hour ; and though there might have been no harm in this, yet he had invariably refused, because, he added, he thought it best to "abstain from all appearance of evil."

As he lived to Christ, so in Christ he died. In one of his last letters to his sister, after exhorting her to strong confidence in God, assuring her that "they who trust in him shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be moved," he said, "I still feel my greatest pleasure in working for the good of souls. The words of the poet are the language of my heart :—

‘ Happy, if with my latest breath,
I may but gasp his name !
Preach him to all, and cry in death,
Behold ! behold the Lamb ! ’ ”

His desire was granted, and he now rests from his labours.



William, Elizabeth and their son John Kidger's Gravestone in the Methodist graveyard. Elizabeth died in Canterbury and was buried there. She presumably went to live there after the death of her husband and son in the same year.

**GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL
CEMETERY AUDIT
CARRIED OUT BY SAMUEL T STEWART IN 2013 & UPDATED IN 2017**



View of the Chapel and old part of Cemetery from "The Tents"

The older part of Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Cemetery is of significant historical importance, and as far as the writer is aware, no old burial records exist for this. It was therefore agreed between the author and the Rev Alan Dawson, that an audit should be carried out for those gravestones that are currently accessible and readable. This audit would also prove useful in providing information for those who are researching their ancestors, who may be buried there. It was decided not to audit the relatively recent burial area **D** at this time, as these deaths will have been registered in the normal way (hopefully). However, these are now partially recorded at the end.

Although the Chapel is now closed, the cemetery remains open for new burials. It should be remembered, that burials took place here from a wide area, including Coleorton, Peggs Green, Breedon, Lount, Swannington, Worthington, Stordon Grange and Newbold, in addition to Griffydam of course.

The path through the cemetery provides a natural boundary between areas **A / B** and **C / D**. Due to the difficulty in defining the exact boundary lines in the other direction, there may be some slight overlap of grave stones on the boundaries for **A** and **C**, however, there is an old path line which can still be discerned. Together with the information given below for gravestones in each area, it should only take a short time to locate a particular grave. The Chapel has now been sold, and converted into a private residence. Some of the gravestones situated on land in close proximity to the Chapel, which has been allocated to the purchaser will be moved to a specified area at a later date. A small number of gravestones currently situated behind a safety fence at the rear of the Chapel could not be audited properly, but reference to these has been made.

The graveyard remains in the ownership of the Methodist Church and is overseen by the Griffydam Management Committee comprising of the Superintendent Minister (Chairman), a Supernumerary Minister (who manages burials), the Circuit Treasurer, an allotment holder, a former member of Griffydam Methodist Church and a Methodist historian (Secretary).

A plain black tablet in the Chapel bears the following inscription: "Opposite lies interred the remains of Elizabeth, wife of the Rev W. Stokes, who died 24th November 1829, aged 26. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints". The young wife lies buried under the floor of the chapel. She died in the minister's house" (taken from the Methodist Recorder).

There is however, some conjecture about this, as it also thought that the overgrown grave immediately adjacent to the side of the chapel which is enclosed by iron railings is where she was buried, based on the reference to "Opposite lies interred....." probably referring to this grave.

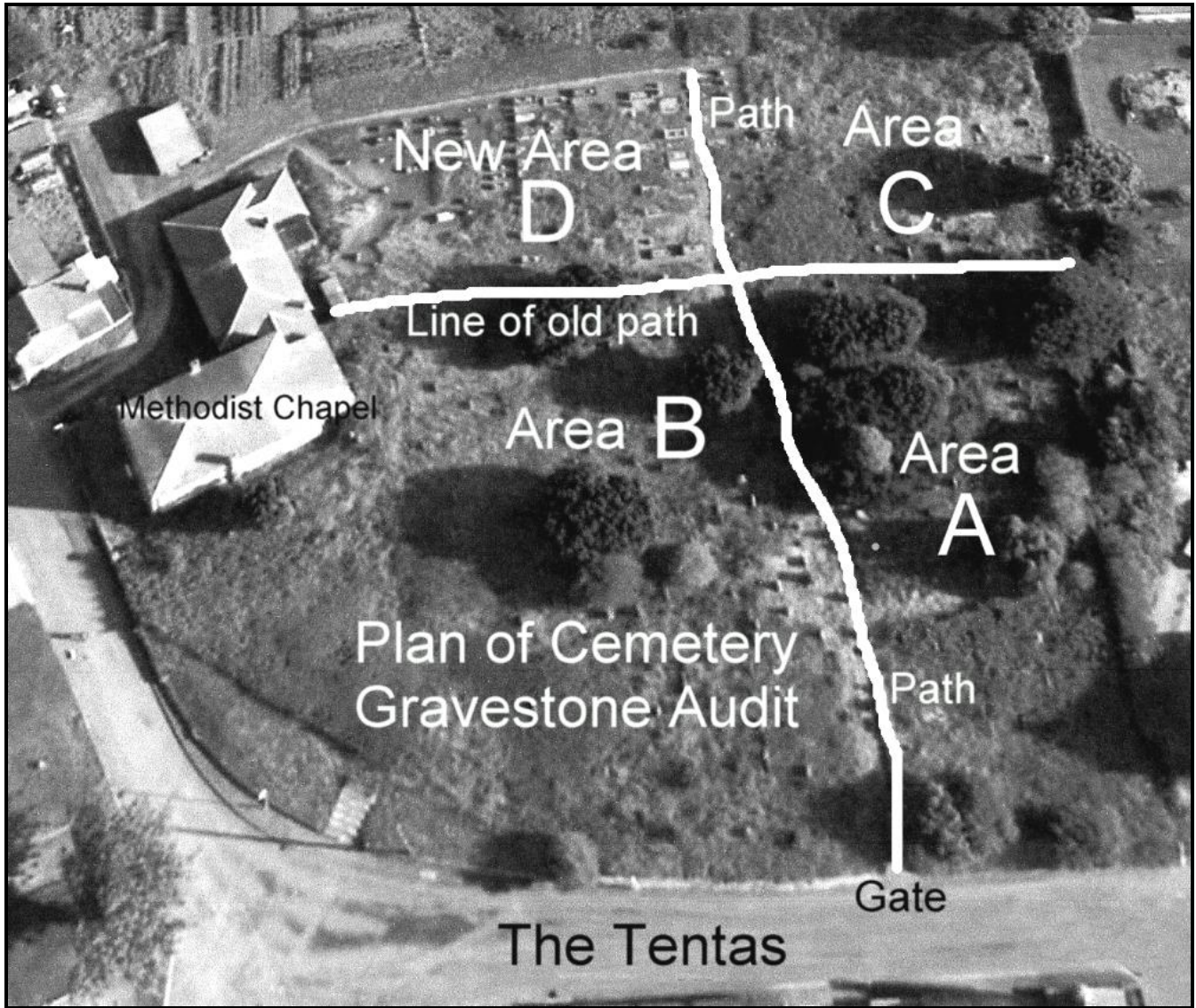


"LEST WE FORGET"

(See grave number 30 - Area A)

A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES BATSON BORN IN GRIFFYDAM IN 1888

William Batson who was landlord at the Travellers Rest in 1901 and was given as a beer retailer and coal miner hewer. He had also previously been landlord at the Rising Sun from mid 1886 to mid 1893. William was born in 1850 in Hardwick, Bucks and his wife Susan was born 1851 in Long Sutton, Lincs. They had three children born in Breedon - Mary born 1877, William John born 1882 and Eliza born 1884. After moving to the Rising Sun, they had three children there - Jemima born 1886, Charles born 1888, and George born 1889. In 1901, Charles Batson, aged 13, was employed as a coal miner (hewer u/ground) and residing at the family home, **The Travellers Rest**, with his parents and sibling Jemima. In the 1st W.W. Charles enlisted with the "Battalion - 1/5 Unit - Leicestershire Regiment Section at Ashby de la Zouch. During the fighting in France on the 14th of August 1917, in the morning a Battalion raiding party left Noyelles and marched up to the line. On the march up through Vermelles 11 men of B Coy were killed and 14 wounded by one shell. Charles died from his wounds on the 17th of August 1917. His burial place is Vi C 11, Bethune Town Cemetery and his burial commemoration is Bethune Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. His name is on the War Memorial Plaque in Holy Trinity Church, Ashby de la Zouch.



Due to the fact that the older graves are not maintained, certain areas have become difficult and dangerous to walk around. Therefore, care and respect should naturally be observed by anyone inspecting the gravestones, and should only be done if information on a particular gravestone is sort. This will minimize further damage to the graveyard.

Area A

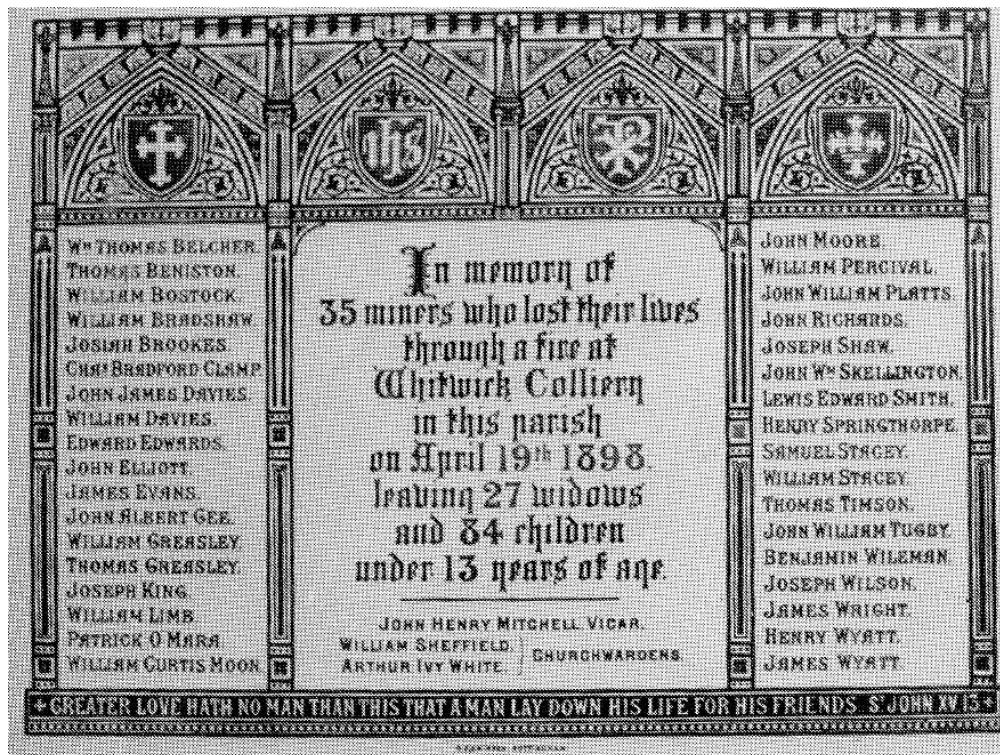
No	Name	Born	Age	Died	Lived	Status
1	William Bailey	1829	68	Jun 21 st 1897		Husband
	Maria Bailey	1833	81	Jun 19 th 1914		Wife
2	John Harrison	1845	57	Mar 3 rd 1902		Husband
	Hannah Harrison	1847	67	Apr 10 th 1914		Wife
3	Lawrence Birch	1893	82	Dec 17 th 1975	Coleorton	
4	Walter Platts	1887	26	Sep 5 th 1913		Son of Thomas and Emma Platts
5	Fanny Weston	1840	76	Sep 19 th 1916	Worthington	Wife
	Josiah Weston	1831	86	Feb 22 nd 1917	Worthington	Husband
6	Robert Plowright	Dec 2 nd 1862	56	Jul 9 th 1918	Swannington	Eldest son of Robert H & Sarah Plowright
7	William Edward Knight	1872	50	Sep 4 th 1922		
8	Eleanor Knight	1846	80	Jul 23 rd 1926	Newbold	Wife
	Joseph Knight	1839		Mar 11 th 1929	Newbold	Husband
9	Frederick Morley	1855	72	Jun 21 st 1927		Husband
	Julia Morley	1857	82	Aug 3 rd 1939		Wife
	Frederick Morley Howkins	1925	5	Apr 22 nd 1930		Grandson
10	George Henry Hewitt	1863	82	Jan 24 th 1945		Husband
	Jane Hewitt	1869	36	Feb 23 rd 1905		Wife
11	Charles Wright	1844	66	May 1 st 1910	Coleorton	Husband
	Ann Wright	1841	64	Oct 7 th 1905	Coleorton	Wife
12	Maria Rowse	1843	62	Oct 21 st 1905	Swannington	Daughter of William and Mary Rowse
13	Ezra Harwood	1862	53	Jan 3 rd 1915		
14	George Henry Hewitt	1893	25	Jul 14 th 1918		
15	Aaron Whyman	1857	60	Oct 12 th 1917		Husband
	Emma Whyman	1852	40	Aug 8 th 1892		Wife
16	Maria Knight	1848	71	Mar 25 th 1919		Wife of Jonas Knight
17	Rebecca Haywood	Nov 5 th 1844	78	Nov 4 th 1922		Daughter of Thomas and Ann Haywood
18	Herbert Elliot	1885	87	Feb 16 th 1972		Father
	Frances Elliot	1910	16	Apr 1 st 1926		Daughter
	David Elliot	1921	9	May 29 th 1930		Son
	Esther	1885	94	Dec 27 th 1979		Wife
19	Charles Jones	1875	54	May 4 th 1929		Husband
	Maria Jones	1872	88	Jan 5 th 1960		Wife
20	John Ison	1822	82	Dec 2 nd 1904	Griffydham	Husband
	Charlotte Ison	1829	85	May 10 th 1914		Wife
21	Sarah Nicklinton	1837	77	Nov 21 st 1914		Wife
	William Cooper Platts	1842	76	Oct 25 th 1918		Husband

22	Wilson Wright Fanny Wright	1855 1851	64 80	Oct 15 th 1919 Apr 3 rd 1931	Outwoods Worth'n	Husband Wife
23	William Wardle Cathrine Wardle	1844 1843	80 83	May 27 th 1924 Oct 29 th 1926		Husband Wife
24	William Sant Horsfield	1855	71	Oct 9 th 1926		
25	Thomas William Witham	1898	31	Mar 11 th 1929		
26	Handford John Haywood	1866	63	Dec 13 th 1929		
27	Jonas Knight Fanny Knight	1844 1852	62 55	Jun 9 th 1906 Jun 17 th 1907	Gelsmoor Gelsmoor	Husband Wife
28	John Simpkin Knight Mary Ann Knight	1835 1839	74 94	July 4 th 1909 Mar 9 th 1933	Outwoods Worth'n	Husband Wife
29	John James Knight	1875	66	Jan 27 th 1941	Outwoods Farm	
30	16637 Private A Shakespeare. 3rd Btl. Leicester Regiment		22	Aug 27th 1917		
31	David Gilbert Harold Alwyn Gilbert	1863 1907	71 21	May 29 th 1934 Sept 28 th 1928		Husband of Mary Ann Youngest son
32	George Edwin Marriot Martha Marriot	1849 1845	73 83	Apr 4 th 1922 Aug 22 nd 1928		Husband Wife
33	William Bird Sarah Bird William Bird	1857 1867 1892	80 58 23	Oct 8 th 1937 Dec 15 th 1925 Sept 25th 1915		Husband Wife Son (Killed in action in Great War)
34	Clara Maria Reed Miriam Reed	1885 1915	95 12	1980 1927		Mother Sister
35	Nancy	1924	8 m	July 14 th 1925		Daughter of Howard & Sarah Burton
36	Harry Burton Nellie Burton	1884	41	Apr 7 th 1925 Sep 14 th 1959		Husband Wife
37	John Jackson Barker Fanny Mee Barker	1850 1857	74 78	Jan 27 th 1924 July 21 st 1935		Husband Wife
38	Joseph Freeman Betsy Freeman	1855 1853	66 78	Jan 18 th 1921 Sept 16 th 1931	Of Gelsmoor	Husband Wife
39	Lois Horne Joseph Horne	1860 1859	59 81	Nov 11 th 1919 Jun 25 th 1940		Wife Husband
40	Benjamin Johnson Mary Johnson Amelia Marshall			Dec 29 th 1923 Feb 26 th 1925 Dec 3 rd 1953		Husband Wife Daughter married name
41	Joseph Brooks Nicklinson	1856	68	Nov 20 th 1924	Sweepstone Fields	
42	Joseph Ward Turner James Turner Elizabeth Turner	1899 1866 1852	27 63 87	July 3 rd 1926 Jan 18 th 1929 Apr 8 th 1939		
43	Sidney Johnson Sarah Harriet Johnson Pte John Sidney Johnson 1896 Leics Reg Margaret Addie Johnson	1869 1870 1896 1903	77 81 22 25	Sept 1 st 1946 Oct 3 rd 1951 Missing Mar 22nd 1918 1928		Husband Wife Grandson ? Daughterr ?

44	Jane Statham Joseph Statham	1828 1826	82 90	Apr 18 th 1910 Sept 16 th 1916	Of Coleorton	Wife
45	John Hartshorne Jane Hartshorne	1830 1829	74 82	Feb 17 th 1904 Sept 2 nd 1911	Of Coleorton	Husband Wife
46	Michael Richards Maria Richards	1832 1833	69 75	Aug 7 th 1901 Jan 14 th 1908		Husband Wife
47	Grace Rouse George Underwood Rouse	1839 1839	64 82	Sept 14 th 1903 May 9 th 1921		Wife Husband
48	Francis William Illsley	1845	55	Dec 3 rd 1900	Of Coalville	
49	Ann Sketchley David Sketchley	1846 1844	55 75	June 8 th 1901 Mar 29 th 1919	Of Griffydham	Wife Husband
50	Hannah Rowell Charles Rowell	1825 1830	71 81	Mar 3 rd 1896 Apr 12 th 1911		Wife Husband
51	Amos Platts	1866	19	June 1 st 1885		Son of William & Jane Platts
52	John Farmer Sarah Farmer	1799 1791	81 85	July 18 th 1880 Dec 22 nd 1876	Of Worthington	Husband
53	Richard Slingsby	1801	78	Mar 19 th 1879	Of Griffydham	
54	Phoebe Stewart Sarah Jane Stewart	1834 1867	38 5	Mar 31 1872 Dec 11 th 1872		Mum Daughter
55	William Platts	1805	66	Aug 17 th 1871		
56	Joseph Smith Richards Mary Richards	Apr 23 rd 1805 Sep 20 th 1806	71 79	Dec 2 nd 1876 Apr 11 th 1885	Of Gelsmoor, Worthington	Husband Wife
57	Harry Brooks	1847	26	Jan 20 th 1873	Of Swannington	Son of Robert & Elizabeth Brooks
58	William Rouse Mary Rouse	1818 1810	50 75	May 5 th 1868 Oct 23 rd 1885		Husband Wife
59	Frederick Allen Philips	1868	22	Mar 31 st 1890		
60	Ann Turner Mark Turner	1833 1832	65 70	Ayg 11 th 1898 Mar 5 th 1902		Wife Husband
61	Thomas Upton Mary Upton	1800 1800	82 83	Oct 18 th 1882 Feb 22 nd 1883		Husband Wife
62	John Cooper Fowkes John Cooper George Eliza Fowkes	1832 1885	50 4	June 13 th 1882 Dec 9 th 1889	Of Coleorton	Grandson Grandad Grandson
63	John Harrison Hannah Harrison	1845 1847	57 67	Mar 3 rd 1902 Apr 10 th 1914	Of Lount	Husband Wife
64	William Bailey Maria Bailey	1831 1833	66 81	Jun 21 st 1897 June 19 th 1914		Husband Wife
65	Robert Oaton	1780	90	July 9 th 1870	Of Sutton Coldfield late Swanningtom	
66	Sarah Ann Fowkes George Fowkes	1825 1823	76 81	Apr 6 th 1901 Dec 3 rd 1904		Wife Husband

67	Mary Ann Willet James Willett	Feb 12 th 1843 Aug 23 rd 1838	60 74	Mar 22 nd 1903 Sept 21 st 1912	Of Coleorton	Wife Husband
68	May Leech	1892	6	Oct 19 th 1898		Daughter of Henry and Sarah Leech
69	Elizabeth Ann Bath	1888	6	June 18 th 1894	New Swannington	Daughter of Alfred & Hannah Bath
70	Francis Pope Hannah Pope	1811 1813	68 72	Jan 28 th 1879 July 23 rd 1885		Husband Relict
71	William Davies William Davies	1836 1869	59 29	Dec 14 th 1895 Apr 19th 1898	Peggs Green	Father Son - Lost his life in the Whitwick Colliery Disaster

The writer understands that William's brother John James Davies' body was not recovered from the pit.



A memorial in Whitwick Parish Church to the 35 miners who were killed in Whitwick Colliery fire of April 1898.

72	William Stinson	1828	63	May 28 th 1891	Coleorton	
73	Ellen Rowell	1876	16	Feb 26 th 1892		Son & Daughter of John & Eliza Rowell
	Thomas Rowell	1882	14	Aug 9 th 1896		
74	Annie	41/2 Months				Daughter of John & C. Mary Johnson
75	Edward Johnson Jane Johnson Joseph and Maria	1811 1823	76 64	Jan 12 th 1887 Apr 9 th 1887	Gelsmoor Gelsmoor	Husband Wife Children died in infancy
76	James Adcock Knight Sarah Ann Knight	1837 1854	76 75	July 13 th 1913 Mar 4 th 1929		Husband Wife
77	Thomas Smith Mary Smith	1810 1815	84 82	Dec 16 th 1894 Apr 14 th 1897		Husband Wife

78	William Farmer 1833 Hannah Farmer	1833 1832	41 80	Oct 28 th 1874 May 5 th 1912	Osgathorpe	Husband Wife
79	Mary Gray Jane Gray	1860 1858	15 20	May 12 th 1875 Jan 16 th 1878		Daughters of Thomas Henry & James Gray
80	Simeon Stacey 1840 Francis Stacey	79 1846	 98	Jan 14 th 1919 Jan 7 th 1944	Of Gelsmoor	Husband
81	Sarah Wardle John Wardle	1806 1809	67 73	Apr 26 th 1873 Dec 4 th 1882	Worthington Fields	Wife Husband
82	Jessie Sketchley Mary (Knight) Sketchley	25.9.1815 1838	78 69	Jan 12 th 1893 Dec 24 th 1907	Griffy Hill	Husband Wife
83	Harriet Sketchley Jessey Sketchley			Jan 30 th 1817 Feb 8 th 1872	Griffy Hill	Wife Husband
84	John Lakin William Lakin George Lakin Elizabeth Lakin		60 1856 30 1851 35 1829 79			Husband & Father Son Son Wife & Mother

Both sons killed in accident due to Choke Damp at Staunton

In 1886, an accident occurred at Staunton Harold Colliery because of a combination of “ a complete lack of practical knowledge” and “disregard for all rules and regulations” by the management when re-opening old workings, with the result that four persons - three members of the management and a pony driver - were overcome by choke damp. The ventilation system was deficient in every respect, and all the necessary precautions required, such as making adequate bore holes, were neglected. (Taken from “The Leics & South Derbys Miners Vol 1)

85	Hannah Nicklinson William Haywood	1833 1832	53 61	Mar 13 th 1886 July 13 th 1893	Griffydham	Wife Husband
86	John Nicklinson John Nicklinson	1814 1848	76 70	Dec 15 th 1890 Nov 6 th 1918	Worthington Fields St. George's Hill	Father Son
87	Margaret Nicklinson Sarah Nicklinson	1820 1850	60 39	Aug 22 nd 1880 Aug 8 th 1889	Isley Walton	Mum & wife of John Daughter
88	Francis George	1878	3y 3m	Nov 22 nd 1881		Aged 3 yrs 3 Mths
89	Lydia Shaw	1811	66	July 15 th 1877		Wife of Thomas Shaw
90	Joseph Hickling Joseph Lovett	1822 1878	55 8m	Jun 26 th 1877 Feb 6 th 1879	Swannington	Father Son - 8 Mths
91	Joseph Chester Sarah Chester Eliza Chester Sarah Chester	1821 1821 Aug 18 th 1848 1856	82 94 109 70	Apr 19 th 1903 June 21 st 1915 Sept 13 th 1857 Feb 9 th 1926	Of “Springfield” Swannington	Husband Wife Youngest Daughter
92	John Vernon Hannah Vernon	1816 1825	73 84	Oct 8 th 1889 Feb 14 th 1909		Husband Wife
93	Henry Cooper	1850	44	Dec 1 st 1894	Worthington	
94	John Fletcher Ann Fletcher	1807 1808	83 91	Jun 23 rd 1890 Jul 13 th 1899	Gelsmoor	Husband Relict
95	Sarah Cooper Thomas E Cooper	1848 1848	42 53	Jan 24 th 1890 Sep 5 th 1901	 Gelsmoor	Wife - Of the Smoyle Worthington Husband
96	Benjamin Johnson	1876	14	Jan 18 th 1890		Son of Mary and Benjamin Johnson
97	Emma Willet	1847	40	Mar 19 th 1887	Newbold, Worth'n	

98	Jane Platts	1821	56	Dec 2 nd 1877		Wife of John Platts
99	Joseph Platts Mary Platts	1831 1831	60 77	Mar 3 rd 1891 Mar 21 st 1908		Husband Wife
100	Albert Jones	1903	10	Jan 26 th 1913		
101	Thomas Costelow Charlotte Harrison Costelow	1827 1827	65 90	May 11 th 1892 Dec 11 th 1917		Husband Widow
102	Hannah Reed Edward Reed	1828 1834	63 72	May 27 th 1891 Aug 30 th 1906	Of Woodville late of Gelsmoor	Wife Husband
103	Hannah Hickling Charles Frederick Lovett	1834 1877	52 16	Jan 20 th 1886 Aug 15 th 1893		Wife of Joseph Hickling of Swannington Only son of Levi & Bessie Lovett
104	William Costelow	1826	60	Feb 24 th 1886		
105	John Haywood Mary Haywood	1806 1806	73 75	Jul 3 rd 1879 Mar 30 th 1881		Husband Wife
106	Maria Pebody	1851	18	May 29 th 1869	Of Swannington	Only daughter of John & Elizabeth Pebody
107	Hannah Kendrick Elizabeth Ellen Kendrick William Kendrick John Kendrick	1830 1859 1865 1828	58 21 6m 72	Dec 22 nd 1888 Feb 20 th 1880 Feb 11 th 1866 Jul 25 th 1900		Wife Daughter Infant 6 Mths Husband & Father
108	Mary Pitt John Pitt Mary Pitt	1785 1792 1821	80 77 46	Oct 14 th 1865 May 19 th 1869 July 22 nd 1867		Wife Husband Daughter
109	William Hickling Hannah Hickling	1821 1827	66 39	Jan 22 nd 1887 Aug 14 th 1866	Late of Coleorton Died at Finedon Coleorton	Husband Wife
110	Elizabeth Brinsley	1789	76	Jun 26 th 1865	Of Swannington	Wife of William Brinsley
111	Mary Bird Thomas Bird	1811 1811	55 75	Apr 8 th 1866 Mar 24 th 1886		Wife Husband
112	Sarah Ward	1799	66	Dec 25 th 1865		Daughter of Thomas & Mary Ward of Coleorton
113	William Richards	1820	52	Dec 4 th 1872	Of Newbold	
114	Joseph Fletcher Sarah Fletcher	1814 1816	54 67	Jul 22 nd 1868 Dec 15 th 1883		Husband Wife
115	John Chester Mary Chester	1794 1791	78 75	Apr 15 th 1872 Jul 11 th 1866	Of Swannington	Husband Wife
116	John Knight Elizabeth Knight	1793 1799	72 71	Oct 22 nd 1865 Jan 18 th 1870	Of Peggs Green	Husband Wife
117	Catherine Platts	1794	67	Jul 11 th 1861		
118	Joseph Whirledge	1803	61	Jun 12 th 1864		
119	Railings around grave - Can't read					
120	William Knight Sarah Knight	1803 1804	67 67	1870 1871		Husband Wife

121	John Litherland Elizabeth Litherland	1800 1790	67 80	Sept 23 rd 1867 1870		Husband Wife
122	Gilbert Hurst	1840	26	Sept 6 th 1866		
123	Thomas Hurst	1807	57	Nov 18 th 1864	Of Thringstone	
124	William Wayne Esther Wayne	1813 1816	66 48	Dec 11 th 1879 Apr 6 th 1864		Husband Wife
125	William Deacon Elizabeth Deacon	1787 1795	77 69	Jul 3 rd 1864 Nov 16 th 1864	Of Newbold	Husband Wife
126	Thomas Birch Rebecca Birch	1807 1807	57 68	May 4 th 1864 Jan 6 th 1875		Husband Wife
127	Edward Marshall Harriet Marshall	1855 1845	58 84	Jan 22 nd 1913 Mar 10 th 1929		Husband Wife
128	Colin		2			Grandson
129	Robert Hazlewood Plowright Sarah Plowright	1825 1838	79 87	Jan 21 st 1904 Jan 31 st 1925		Husband Wife

Area B

1	Ann Kidger Edward Price Kidger	1845 1872	85 88	Feb 17 th 1930 Aug 5 th 1960	Breedon Brand Breedon Brand	Wife Husband
2	Joseph Roe Elizabeth Roe	1830 1835	74 70	Apr 7 th 1904 May 24 th 1905	Breedon Brand Breedon Brand	Husband Wife
3	Henry Lakin Rebecca Lakin	Apr 18 th 1834 1837	66 88	Mar 8 th 1900 Jan 27 th 1925	Gelsmoor Gelsmoor	Husband Wife
4	Helen Nicklinson Ethel Elizabeth Nick'son	1868 1896	79 94	Sep 25 th 1947 Jan 23 rd 1990		Widow of Joseph Brook Nicklinson Daughter
5	Matthew Bott Mary Ann James Harry	1851 1849 1889	70 70 17	Mar 23 rd 1921 Mar 12 th 1919 Nov 6 th 1906	Coleorton Coleorton Coleorton	Husband Wife Son
6	Price Kidger Sarah Elizabeth Kidger	1847 1841	61 69	May 18 th 1908 Dec 7 th 1910	Peggs Green Peggs Green	Husband Wife
7						
8	William Stevenson	1841	71	Jun 29 th 1912		
9	Stinson Fairbrother William Stinson Fairbrother	1892 1909	22 4	Jan 26 th 1914 Nov 8 th 1913		Son of Robert & Dinah Fairbrother Grandson
10	Robert Thomas Hance James Robert Hance	1862 1907	53 8	Feb 7 th 1915 Sep 23 rd 1915		H'Master of G'Dam School for 26 years Son-Lies in West Bromwich cemetery
11	Mary Hannah Stevenson	1882	33	Feb 15 th 1915	Peggs Green	Daughter of William & Mary Ann Stevenson

12	Maria Crane	1826	85	Feb 4 th 1911	St. George's Hill Swannington	
13	Annie Wardle			July 3 rd 1908	Weston Underwood, Derby	Wife
	William Radcliffe Wardle			Jan 25 th 1929		Husband
14	S.F.			1913		
15	Aurthur Draper	1858	74	May 10 th 1932		Husband
	Mary Draper	1865	87	May 25 th 1952		Wife
16	Clara Draper	1901	51/2 m	Sep 17 th 1907		Daughter of Aurthur & Mary Draper
17	James Richards	1847	62	July 14 th 1909		Husband
	Sarah Richards	1843	63	Feb 27 th 1906		Wife
18	Clara Rowell	1895	23	Sept 22 nd 1918		Daughter of Herbert & Maria Rowell
	Maria Rowell	1858	74	June 27 th 1932		Mum
	Herbert Rowell	1858	74	Dec 23 rd 1932		Dad
	Frank Rowell	1878	70	Aug 2 nd 1948		Son
19	James Willet Cooper	1869	32	Feb 11 th 1901		Son of Mark & Mary Cooper
20	Thomas Stinson	1856	46	May 29 th 1902	Cresswell	Husband
	Albert Stinson	1887	23	Nov 16 th 1910		Son, died in New Zealand
	Eliza Stinson	1858	77	Aug 30 th 1935	Cresswell	Wife
21	Annie Wale	1845	14	July 20 th 1859		Daughter of William & Martha Wale
22	Henry Lakin	1814	41	Dec 9 th 1855		
23	Thomas Richards	1805	64	Apr 23 rd 1869	Coleorton	Husband
	Rebecca Richards	1808	80	Apr 23 rd 1888		Wife
24	Charles	1844	21	Jan 3 rd 1865		Son of Thomas & Rebecca Richards
25	Ann Reed	1817	40	Dec 28 th 1857		Daughter of Joseph & Mary Reed
26						
27	Jane Hoult	1827	34	May 22 nd 1861		Daughter of Thomas & Elizabeth Hoult
28	Mary Hoult	1824	53	Jan 3 rd 1877		Sister to Jane
29	Thomas Hoult	1832	68	Feb 23 rd 1900		Husband
	Hannah Hoult	1835	88	Feb 7 th 1923		Wife
30	Thomas Hoult	1796	63	Mar 30 th 1859		Husband
	Elizabeth Hoult	1791	78	July 31 st 1869		Wife
31	Reuben Waldron	1862	11	June 19 th 1873		Son of Reuben & Jane Waldron
32	Sarah Burt	1830	30	Sept 16 th 1860	Breedon	Daughter of James & Elizabeth Burt
33	Samuel Gilbert	1783	80	Jan 11 th 1863		Husband
	Ann Gilbert	1785	89	Feb 22 nd 1874		Wife
34	Sarah Wood	1812	59	May 19 th 1871		

35	William Whyman Harriet Whyman	1830 1828	31 53	June 17 th ? 1861 Aug 5 th 1881?	Griffydarn	Husband Relict of William & Wife of Mathew Bakewell
36	Hannah Kinsley John Kinsley	1795 1791	68 68	May 29 th 1863 ?? 2 nd 1859		Wife Husband
37	Thomas Richards	1823	34	Jan 6 th 1857		Son of John & Jane Richards
38	Jane Richards	1797	61	Apr 7 th 1858		Wife of John Richards
39	John Richards	1830	32	May 14 th 1862		Son of John & Jane Richards
40	Samuel Stinson	1818	39	Mar 1 st 1857		
41	John Toon	1838	21	Dec 25 th 1859		Son of Thomas & Ann Toon
42	Frances Elliot	1828	38	Oct 9 th 1866		
43	Joseph Sheffield Shaw	1836	27	June 24 th 1863		
44	James Miller	1843	16?	Dec 1 st 1859		Son of ? & Sarah Miller
45	Thomas & Mary Ann Marriot		6&7	17 th / 22 nd Oct ????		Twins of John & Emma Marriot
46	James and Mary	1854	6m	Mar 2 nd 1855		Son & Daughter of ???cheater
47	Joseph Edeston Fowkes	1849	10	Aug 1 st 1859		Son of George & Sarah Ann Fowkes
48	John Edward Marriot Emma Marriot	1816 1819	60 64	Aug 21 st 1876 Oct 12 th 1883		Husband Wife
49	Joseph Brooks	1815	41	June 7 th 1856		Son of Thomas & Frances Brooks
50	John Thompson Hannah Thompson	1775 1778	89 75	Oct 25 th 1864 June 14 th 1853		Husband Wife
51	Robert Lakin Sarah Lakin	1809 1813	58 72	June 7 th 1867 Apr 3 rd 1885		Husband Wife
52	John Lakin	1839	14	Dec 3 rd 1853		Son of Robert & Sarah Lakin (51)
53	Robert Lakin			Apr 9 th 1854		Son of William & Hannah Rest of Gravestone buried in ground
54	George Cooper George Aurthur Cooper Harriet Cooper John Henry Cooper	1857 1863 1865 1866	2 10m 7m 7m	May 15 th 1859 Feb 8 th 1864 July 8 th 1865 Dec 14 th 1867		Rest of Gravestone sunk
55	Lizzie Richards	1853	19	Aug 10 th 1872	Newbold	4 th daughter of James & Sarah Richards of
56	Joseph Webster	1842	11	May 12 th 1853		Son of John & Sarah Webster
57	William Knight	1792	92	Feb 21 st 1884	Of Willesley	Husband of Mary Knight
58	Mary Knight	1794	67	Oct 5 th 1861		Wife of William Knight

59	Charles Robbins	1775	82	Apr 26 th 1857		
60	Broken Grave Can't Read					
61	??inah Cooper	1813	39	May 7 th 1852		
62	Thomas Cooper Sarah Cooper	1786	69	Apr 29 th 1855 1870	Of Newbold	Husband Wife
63	Elizabeth Hickling	1790	77	Mar 8 th 1867	Of Griffydham	
64	William Whyman Martha Whyman	1793 1792	80 83	Feb 19 th 1873 May 4 th 1875		Husband Wife
65	Thomas Ison Mary Ison	1791 1787	72 84	Dec 28 th 1863 Feb 4 th 1871		Husband Wife
66	John Knight Ann Knight	1764 1769	83 64	Jan 13 th 1847 Aug 16 th 1833	Stordon Grange	Husband Wife
67	??? Massey	1780	57	Sept 11 th 1837		
68	Benjamin Platts Amy Platts	1766 1770	70 78	Feb 18 th 1836 July 12 th 1848	Of Griffudam Of Griffydham	Husband Wife
69	Amy Platts	1836	3	Nov 24 th 1839		All Children of William & Elizabeth Platts
	William Platts	1837	13m	Dec 25 th 1839		
	Thomas Stretton Platts	1841	9m	June 7 th 1842		
	Thomas Oliver Platts	1843	11weeks	Nov 12 th 1843		
	Clara Platts	1853	6m	Mar 1 st 1854		
70	Joseph Leeson	1861	36	Oct 27 th 1897	Of Coleorton	Husband of Phoebe Leeson
71	Joseph Leeson Sarah Leeson Horton Leeson	1795 1810 Jan 25 th 1845	51 79 4	Nov 14 th 1846 June 30 th 1889 Nov 30 th 1849		Husband Wife Son
72	Thomas Leeson	1834	6yrs 4m	Sept 28 th 1840		Son of Joseph & Sarah Leeson
73	Sarah Marson	1771	64	Aug 10 th 1835		Wife of James Marson
74	Emily Dodd	1838	7	Mar 7 th 1845		
75	Kezia Toone	1857	3	Jan 22 nd 1860		Daughter of Charles & Martha Toone
76	Elizabeth Tugby	1801	69	Apr 26 th 1870		Wife of John Tugby
77	Sarah Tugby	1840	19	May 13 th 1859		4 th Daughter of John & Elizabeth Tugby (76)
78	Amy Scott	1812	27	Nov 22 nd 1839		Wife of Robert Scott
79	Eli Haywood	1818	20	Mar 20 th 1838		
80	Margaret Haywood Zilpha Massey	1778 1813	74 71	Feb 20 th 1852 Nov 25 th 1884		Daughter of Margaret
81	Elizabeth Statham	1821	20	Jan 13 th 1841		
82	Robert Hartless Mary Hartless Thomas Hartless	1770 1770 1811	65 87 29	Jan 4 th 1835 Feb 4 th 1857 Jun 23 rd 1840		Husband Relict of Robert Son

83	Robert Hartless	1804	29	Nov 11 th 1833		
84	S. Elliot			1838		
85	Thomas Brooks Frances Brooks	1790 1792	82 88	June 7 th 1872 Sept 30 th 1880	Of Griffydham	Husband Wife
				Also of four daughters interned near this grave		
86	Catherine Stinson Tugby	1837	20	July 20 th 1857		3 rd Daughter of John & Elizabeth Tugby (76)
87	Joseph Guthridge	1795	42	Sept 16 th 1837		
88	Ann Tugby	1832	18	Feb 24 th 1850		2 nd Daughter of John & Elizabeth Tugby (76)
89	Mary Hickling	1848	2yrs 11m	June 25 th 1851		Daughter of William & Hannah Hickling
90	Amy Harvey	1792	55	Apr 12 th 1847		Wife of John Harvey
91	Susanah Farmer Thomas Farmer	1767	69	May 27 th 1836	Of Worthington	Wife of John Farmer Son
				Gravestone Sunk		
92	Miss Mary Farmer	1804	53	Nov 12 th 1857	Of Worthington	
93	Thomas Haywood William Haywood Frances Haywood	1791 1818 1788	68 22 63	Feb 7 th 1859 June 4 th 1840 Oct 19 th 1851		Husband Son Wife & Mother
94	John Hall	1813	21	Feb 19 th 1834		Son of Joseph & Mary Hall
95	William Lakin Hannah Lakin	1803 1808	70 80	Apr 10 th 1873 June 21 st 1888	Of Coleorton	Husband Wife
96	Joseph Else Elizabeth Else	1768 1772	68 61	Apr 5 th 1836 June 21 st 1833		Husband Wife
97	Herbert Bird	1859	1	May 28 th 1860		Son of Joseph & Selina Bird
98	Elizabeth Hodges	1841	23	Mar 24 th 1864		Wife of Joseph Hodges
99	Thomas Hodges	1770	66	Apr 26 th 1836		
100	Richard Fletcher Mary Fletcher	1775 1774	59 72	Nov 27 th 1834 Dec 24 th 1846		Husband Relict
101	Ann Fletcher	1817	26	Feb 15 th 1843		
102	Joseph Knight Hannah Knight Hanah Hoult	1777 1775 1810	80 72 43	Oct 2 nd 1857 Apr 24 th 1847 Mar 6 th 1853		Husband Wife Daughter
103	Joseph Knight Hannah Knight Thomas ????? 1801	1749 1753 33	86 86	Nov 6 th 1835 July 6 th 1839 Dec 23 rd 1834		Husband Wife Grandson
104	Ann Fletcher	1811	23	June 2 nd 1834	Of Breedon Brand	Daughter of George & Elizabeth Fletcher
105	Frances Dent		??	June 9 th 1826		Daughter of Frances & Sarah Dent
106	William Stinson	1745	82	Oct 27 th 1827		

107	Mary Stinson	Mar 31 st 1741	70	Mar 16 th 1811		Wife William Stinson (106)
108	Thomas Costelow	1828	6	Jul 27 th 1834		
109	William Stinson	1776	30	Feb 12 th 1806		
110	Ann Hodson	1777	41	Jan 26 th 1818	Of Swannington	Wife of James Hodson
Left six children - Ann, James, Mary, Cathrine, Hannah and Amos - James and Amos have become citizens of the United States						
111	Mary Hodson	1773	34	Apr 11 th 1807		Wife of James Hodson
112	Mary Knight	1751	60	Mar 12 th 1811		She had been a member of the Methodist Society for more than 50 years and she knew well in whom she had believed
113	Hannah Walker	1797	22	June 1 st 1819		Wife of James Walker (My days on earth were few, They withered like the morning dew, When I could stay no longer here, I left my friends and kindred dear, therefore prepare make no delay, I suddenly was snatched away)
114	Hannah Knight	1751	60	Mar 12 th 1811		Wife of James Knight
115	Thomas Haywood Ann Haywood	1821 1822	56 79	June 29 th 1877 Jan 5 th 1901		Husband Wife
116	Thomas Smith	1783	28	Jan 8 th 1811		
117	Rebecka Haywood	1829	3Yrs 10m	Feb 18 th 1833		Daughter of Thomas & Frances Haywood
118	Joseph Potter Amy Potter	1749 1753	84 68	Dec 17 th ? 1833 Apr 22 nd 1821	Of Swannington	Husband Wife
119	William Walker	1818	16m	Feb 6 th 1820		Son of Sarah of Swannington
120	Thomas Gibson Amy Gibson	1825 1852	27 2Yrs 7m	May 12 th 1852 Jan 16 th 1855		Father Daughter
121	William Earp	1824	2Yrs	April 11 th 1826		Son of William & Frances
122	Selina Smith	1840	6	Nov 28 th 1846		Daughter of Samuel & Frances
123	William Johnson Millicent Johnson	1776 1777	77 63	Apr 30 th 1853 Dec 16 th 1840	Of Griffydam	Husband Wife
124	Joseph Johnson Sarah Johnson	1781 1783	77 68	Aug 31 st 1858 Apr 24 th 1851	Of Worthington	Husband Wife- Interred at Castle Donnington
125	Sarah Rowse (Dent)	1808	81	May 23 rd 1889	Of Swannington	Wife of John Rowse (126)
126	John Rowse Caroline Rowse	1801 1834	39 7	May 14 th 1840 May 3 rd 1841		Daughter of John & Sarah Rowse (Dent)

127	Benjamin Smallwood	1770	82	Mar 22 nd 1852	
128	George Handford Isabella			Apr Apr 3 rd 1822 To Do - inaccessible	
129	Charles Yeomans Elizabeth Yeomans	1750 1741	65 82	July 10 th 1815 Feb 28 th 1823	Husband Wife
130	Thomas Handford Isabella Handford	1789 1791	67 58	May 23 rd 1856 June 2 nd 1849	Husband Wife
131	Isabella Cliff	1858	2Yrs 5m	June 25 th 1860	Daughter of George & Hannah
132	Richard Wardle Ann Wardle	1785	65 66	Apr 22 nd 1851 To Do - inaccessible	
133	William Wardle		To Do - inaccessible		Of Coleorton
134	Maria Anne Wardle		To Do - inaccessible		Of Coleorton Wife of William (133)
135	William		To Do - inaccessible		
136	John Field Capella Field	1758 1761	84 78	Apr 5 th 1842 Jan 4 th 1839	Husband Wife
137	Harriet Bird Smith Thomas Bird Smith	1853 1853	27 47	Nov 11 th 1880 Feb 11 th 1900	Wife Husband
138	Ann King	1795	61	1856	Wife of Alfred King
139	Thomas Costelow Catherine Costelow	1779 1791	81 85	Mar 29 th 1860 Jan 6 th 1876	Husband Wife
140	William Springthorpe	1803	67	Oct 16 th 1870	
141	Elizabeth Pope	1774	81	Mar 21 st 1855	Widow of the late Ralph Pope Sn'r
142	Sarah Smith Samuel Smith Frances Smith	1809 1818 1815	84 88 42	Nov 20 th 1893 Mar 7 th 1906 Nov 25 th 1857	Wife of Samuel Smith Husband Wife of Samuel Smith
143	Thomas Walker	1849	4Y 5 m	1853	Only child of James & Emma Walker
144	Mary Walker Thomas Walker	1793 1792	59 67	Oct 28 th 1852 Jan 27 th 1859	Wife Husband
145	Joseph Brookes Sarah Brookes	1792 1798	66 50	Mar 23 rd 1858 Feb 23 rd 1848	Of Newbold Husband Wife
146	Joseph Edwards	1836	29	Nov 8 th 1865	Of Newbold
147	Jane Stewart Ann Stewart	1832	31	Sept 16 th 1863	Wife of Moses Stewart Daughter died in infancy
148	Joseph Walker	1799	57	Mar 20 th 1856	
149	Reuben Stevenson	1814	44	Oct 19 th 1858	
150	Sarah Farmer	1843	22	Sept ? 1865	Of the Gelsmoor Niece of John & Sarah Vernon
151	Sarah Vernon	1809	52	June 10 th 1861	Wife of John Vernon

152	William Willett	1861	16	Nov 11 th 1877		
153	Mary Smith Dolman	1835	24	Sep 24 th 1859		Wife of Thomas Dolman of Whitwick
	Joseph Smith Dolman	1842	18	Jan 6 th 1860		Son of Mary
154	John Nicklinson	1774	71	Dec 4 th 1845		Husband
	Elizabeth Nicklinson	1778	71	Feb 4 th 1849		Relict
155	Hannah Nicklinson	1803	41	July 14 th 1844		Daughter of John & Elizabeth Dickinson (154)
156	Martha Stewart	1832	31	May 11 th 1863		Wife of John Stewart
157	Joseph Roe	1797	65	Dec 30 th 1862		Husband
	Ann Roe	1796	78	July 22 nd 1874		Wife
158	William Knight	1778	84	Feb 21 st 1862	Of Worthington	Husband
	Catherine Knight	1785	84	Jan 4 th 1869		Wife - Died at Willesley
159	William Vernon	1789	72	Mar 7 th 1861	Late of Swann'ton	Husband
	Martha Vernon	1784	68	Apr 3 rd 1852		Wife
160	Thomas Kidger Ayre	1838	22	July 7 th 1860		Son of Thomas Kidger & Elizabeth Ayre of Thringstone
161	Thomas Pickard	1812	42	Mar 1 st 1854		Husband of Charlotte Pickard (162)
162	Charlotte Pickard	1812	37	Oct 27 th 1849		Wife of Thomas Pickard (161)
	Harriet Pickard	1849	10m	Apr 10 th 1850		Daughter
163	William Knight Fletcher	1842	8	Aug 2 nd 1850		Son of John & Ann Fletcher
164	Hannah Deacon	1780	65	July 11 th 1845		
165	Mattilda Faith Chambers	1841	29	Feb 4 th 1870		Wife of Joseph Allt. Daughter of Ralph & Elizabeth Mould
166	John Cooper	1774	87	Apr 12 th 1861		
	Sarah Cooper	1773	82	Jan 31 st 1855		
167	Henry Knight	1808	46	May 19 th 1854		
168	Joseph Wilton	1754	91	Aug 10 th 1845		
	Susanna Cowson	1829	19	June 24 th 1848		
169	Thomas Whyman	1822	81	Jan 3 rd 1903		Husband
	Sarah Whyman	1822	57	Mar 19 th 1879		Wife
170	Maria Dolman	1829	29	Sept 3 rd 1858		Wife of Thomas Dolman
171	Charles Darby	1854	1	Mar 22 nd 1855??		Beloved children of William & Ann Darby
	Eliza Darby	1854	11m	Apr 2 nd 1855??		
172	John Bailey	1774	57	Oct 11 th 1831		Husband
	Phoebe Bailey	1775	77	Dec 25 th 1852		Wife
173	Isaac Waterfield	1830	8	May 27 th 1838		

174	Elizabeth Elverson	1769	58	Oct 1 st 1827		Husband
	James Elverson	1767	66	June 12 th 1833		Wife
	John Elverson	1794	68	Dec 9 th 1862		Son

Written on gravestone - The ancestors of the above are buried in Whitwick Churchyard - The stone was erected by the sons of James & Elizabeth Elverson who now reside in Newark N.J. - U.S.America.

175	Thomas Platts	1761	71	Jan 10 th 1832		Husband
	Frances Platts	1761	73	June 12 th 1834		Wife
176	Thomas Platts	1801	71	Dec 14 th 1872		Husband
	Elizabeth Platts	1801	69	Nov 26 th 1870		Wife
177	Charles Knight			Nov 14 th 1858		Sunk Gravestone
178	John Knight	1824	19	Nov 7 th 1843		Son of William & Mary Knight of Willesley
179	James Sharpe	1760	76	Jun 12 th 1836		
180	Ann Sharpe	1755	71	Apr 7 th 1826	Of Newbold	Wife of James Sharpe (179)
181	Francis Doman	1789	94	Dec 12 th 1883	Of Coleorton	Husband
	Elizabeth Doman	1799	73	Dec 7 th 1872		Wife
182	John Knight	1801	69	Sept 24 th 1870	Late of Stordon Grange	Husband
	Ann Knight	Oct 29 th 1804	71	Feb 27 th 1875		Relict
183	Richard Doman	1784	59	Mar 15 th 1843		
184	Sarah Watson	1852	14Wks	Nov 15 th 1852		2 Children of William & Emily Watson
	Arthur Watson					Sunk Gravestone
185	William Watson	1844	12	May 24 th 1856		
	Emma Watson	1858	1	Feb 18 th 1859		Sunk Gravestone
186	Edward Kinsey	1746	86	Feb 3 rd 1832	Late of Mousley	
	Hannah Storer	1798	33	Apr 29 th 1831		Wife of John Storer
187	Abraham Hancock		24			Died in the Lord
	George Ross Hancock					Died in his infancy
188	Sarah Hoult	1822	4	Aug 23 rd 1826		
	Elizabeth Hoult	1830	7	May 8 th 1837		
189	Thomas Green Henson	1827	2Yrs 6m	Nov 15 th 1829		
190	Mary Robinson	1798	32	Oct 11 th 1830		
191	George Hurst	1882	6	Dec 23 rd 1888		
192	James Radford	1804	21	Oct 26 th 1825		Son of James & Hannah Radford
193	John Bakewell	1773	56	Mar 1 st 1829		Husband
	Ann Bakewell	1776	78	Oct 31 st 1854		Relict
194	Patience Bakewell	1817	55	Dec 19 th 1872		Wife of Matthew Bakewell
195	Jane Halfpenny	1808	21	July 26 th 1829		Daughter of Henry & Jane Halfpenny
196	William Knight	1767	72	Sept 28 th 1839		Husband
	Mary Knight	1769	85	May 10 th 1854		Wife

197	William Kidger Hannah Kidger William Kidger	1803 1799 1831	87 81 53	Dec 2 nd 1890 Oct 7 th 1880 Feb 6 th 1884		Husband Wife 2 nd son
198	Joseph Knight	1831	17Y 9m	Feb 10 th 1849		Son of William & Mary Knight (196)
199	Elizabeth Burton James Burton	1798 1831	32 6	Aug 25 th 1830 Dec 29 th 1837		Daughter of William & Mary Knight. Died in childbirth Son of James & Elizabeth Burton
200	William Kidger Elizabeth Kidger John Kidger	1770 1770 Jun 7 th 1795	55 58 29	Oct 14 th 1825 Aug 7 th 1828 Apr 30 th 1825		Husband Wife Eldest Son
201	Sarah Kidger	1833	4Y 5m	July 25 th 1837		Daughter of William & Hannah Kidger (197)
202	William Price Kidger Sarah Kidger	1870 1873	10Wks 5Y 2m	Aug 19 th 1870 Apr 10 th 1878		Eldest son of Price & Elizabeth Kidger Interned in grave 201
203	Jonas Knight	1772	68	Jan 15 th 1840		Husband of Mary 204
204	Mary Knight	1775	61	Apr 9 th 1836		Wife of Jonas 203
205	Edward Price Sarah Price	1771 1772	73 86	Sep 25 th 1844 Dec 19 th 1858		Husband Wife
206	David Wardle Ann Wardle	1754 1761	87 78	Jan 31 st 1841 Oct 9 th 1839		Husband Wife
207	Sarah Coltman	1794	63	Mar 30 th 1857		
208	George Cooper	1811	27	Mar 22 nd 1838		
209	William Elliot Hannah Elliot	1823 1814	52 62	Jan 4 th 1875)ct 12 th 1876	Of Worthington	Husband Relict
210	Cannot Read Gravestone					
211	Mary Roper		31			Daughter of Francis & Sarah Dent
212	Harriet Thompson	1834	6	Sept 22 nd 1840		
213	Sarah Pare Martha Pare Martha Storer Pare	1770 1811 1830	62 7 16 Mths	Nov 9 th 1832 Feb 25 th 1818 Feb 4 th 1832		Wife of John Pare Daughter of William & Susanah Pare & Grandaughter of Sarah & John Pare
214	John Massey Deborah Massey	1732 1736	87 84	Aug 23 rd 1819 July 18 th 1820		Husband Wife
215	John Birch	1819	19	Sept 10 th 1838		Son of Isacc & Hannah Birch
216	Mary Durant			Mar 27 th 1821		Daughter of John & Elizabeth Durant
217	Sarah Walker Thomas Walker	1763	70	Jan 3 rd 1833		Wife Husband
218	William Stevenson	1801	30	Mar 3 rd 1831		

219	James Gilbert Hannah	1791	76	Aug 29 th 1867 Gravestone sunk	Husband ?? Wife ??
220	Samuel Gilbert Margaret Gilbert	1805 ??	35 ??	Apr 16 th 1840 ??	Husband Wife
221	Ann Hu ????		59		
222	Thomas Gilbert Martha Gilbert Emma	1788 1788 1816	58 35 13	Aug 22 nd 1846 Oct 26 th 1823 1829	Husband Wife Daughter
223	William Birch	1834	18	Mar 30 th 1852	Eldest son of Thomas & Rebecca Birch
224	John Adcock	1804	18	Apr 13 th 1822	Son of Robert & Mary Adcock (225)
225	Robert Adcock Mary Adcock	1778 1783	77 85	Oct 11 th 1855 Jul 6 th 1868	Husband Wife
226	Thomas Smith Joseph Smith	1846 1849	4Y 6m 1Y 5m	Mar 27 th 1851 Apr 3 rd 1851	Children of Thomas & Priscilla Smith
227	Richard Wainwright Sarah Wainwright	1773 1778	63 67	May 18 th 1836 Apr 30 th 1845	Husband Wife
228	Harriet Handford	1831	22	Mar 21 st 1853	Youngest daughter of Thomas & Isabella Handford
229	Joseph Swann Mary Swann	1761 1768	87 80	Mar 5 th 1848 May 4 th 1848	Husband Wife
230	Tamar Smallwood	1763	71	Mar 9 th 1834	Wife of Benjamin Smallwood
231	Elizabeth Smallwood	1800	20?	May 7 th 1820	
232	Hannah Haywood	1805	69	Dec 1 st 1874	Wife of Joseph Haywood
233	James Burton Ann Burton	1773 1770	78 62	Nov 29 th 1851 Dec 12 th 1832	Of Swannington Husband Wife
234	Elizabeth Knight	1838	11	Apr 12 th 1849	Daughter of John & Ann Knight of Stordon Grange
235	Sarah Ann Knight			May 5 th 1831	Daughter of John & Ann Knight of Stordon Grange
236	Robert Henson	1770	78	Aug 3 rd 1848	Of Thringstone
237	Eliza Price	1808	27	July 12 th 1835	Wife of John Price
238	Mary Burton	1810	19	May 7 th 1829	Wife of W.O.Burton & only daughter of Robert & Sarah Hanson of Thringstone (could be Henson)
239	Ann Lakin William Shaw Lakin	1835 1852	32 15	Dec 13 th 1867 Dec 1 st 1867	Wife of James Lakin Son of James & Ann Lakin
240	George Handford Sarah Handford	1776 1792	73 46	Feb 18 th 1849 Jan 7 th 1838	Husband Wife
241	Sarah Wardle	1741	71	Nov 28 th 1812	Wife of William Wardle

Area C

1	Nancy Doreen Blakey	1930	5	Dec 20 1935	
2	Phylis Mary Dimmock	1921	9	Apr 15 th 1930	Child of Francis & Eliza Dimmock
	Diane Joy Stone	Sept 20 th 1944	50	Feb 15 th 1994	Much loved wife mother & friend
3	John Bradford	1870	60	Feb 25 th 1930	Husband
	Fanny Bradford	1870	80	Mar 13 th 1950	Wife
4	George Knight	1862	67	Aug 14 th 1929	Husband
	Annita Knight	1864	66	Aug 3 rd 1930	Wife
5	Samuel Walker	1879	51	May 15 th 1930	Husband
	Catherine Walker	1878	83	Apr 15 th 1961	Wife
6	Enoch Bird	1857	74	Apr 2 nd 1931	Husband
	Susannah Bird	1851	80	Nov 17 th 1931	Wife
7	James Richards	1875	59	Apr 17 th 1934	Husband
	Bertha Mary Richards	1876	82	Oct 20 th 1958	Wife
	Dorothy Eileen Richards	1915	94	Dec 3 rd 2009	Daughter
8	Thomas Johnson	1881	53	Jan 12 th 1934	Husband
	Sarah Ann Johnson	1893	79	Aug 15 th 1972	Wife
9	Herbert Hull	1869	62	Apr 26 th 1931	
10	Eliza Ann Knighton			June 19 th 1931	Wife
	Robert Willis Knighton			Aug 27 th 1904	Husband
	Robert Percy Knighton				Son Interned at Flint North Wales
	Wilfred Knighton				Son Interned at Flint North Wales
11	Fannie Kilby	1870	62	Mar 1 st 1932	Wife
	George Henry Kilby	1864	82	Oct 11 th 1946	Husband
12	Edith Ellen Whyman	1889	43	June 3 rd 1932	Wife
	Thomas Whyman	1889	56	Nov 16 th 1945	Husband
13	Annie Holland	1873	59	July 6 th 1932	Wife
	James Holland	1869	77	Jan 27 th 1946	Husband
14	Dorothy Wilton	1919	15	Aug 17 th 1934	
15	Sydney Robert Warrington	1899	36	Jan 1 st 1935	Husband of Lillian Mable
16	James William Whyman	1908	27	Mar 8 th 1935	
17	Fred Hodges		97	Died 97 Years	Son of Thomas & Sarah Hodges
18	Albert Hedley Lakin	1882	51	Apr 10 th 1933	Husband
	Edith Annie Lakin	1885	51	Dec 28 th 1936	Wife
19	Sarah Frearson Goodman	1858	74	Oct 5 th 1932	Wife
	Alderman John Aurthur Goodman J.P.	1861	84	July 11 th 1945	Husband
20	Gladys Mary Marshall	1904	28	Oct 3 rd 1932	Daughter ?
	Sarah Ellen Marshall	1878	73	Mar 17 th 1951	Mother ?
21	Kenneth George Marshall	1910	46	Oct 12 th 1956	

22	Edward Gamble	1890	57	June 8 th 1947	
23	Wallace Barkby 1921 Sgt. George Barkby	1921 1913	26 28	May 29 th 1947 Dec 10 th 1941	Killed in action in Malaya
24	Charles Edwards Olive Esther Edwards	1891 1897	73 38	Oct 6 th 1964 Aug 5 th 1935	Husband Wife
25	James Orton Leeson	1895	38	May 31 st 1933	
26	Thomas William Driver	1885	48	Apr 4 th 1933	
27	John Waterfield Annie Elizabet Waterfield James Waterfield	1862 1862 1890	84 74 45	Nov 21 st 1946 Feb 17 th 1936 Dec 17 th 1935	Husband Wife Son
28	Leslie Herbert Hodges Herbert Hodges	1918 1895	17 56	Sept 23 rd 1935 Nov 2 nd 1951	Son Father
29	Ernest Kendrick Hetty Kendrick Winson Oswald Kendrick	1871 1875 1894	62 79 61	Oct 21 st 1933 Nov 21 st 1954 May 8 th 1955	Husband Wife
30	Kezia Whyman	1880	60	Jan 20 th 1940	
31	George Gilbert Harriet Gilbert	1875 1878	62 84	Jan 5 th 1937 March 20 th 1962	Husband Wife
32	John Thomas Nichols Margaret Nichols	1873 1869	63 69	Oct 22 nd 1936 Nov 15 th 1938	Husband Wife
33	Herbert Nichols	1876	60	March 24 th 1936	
34	Ellen Draper George William Draper	1888 1887	60 77	Jan 19 th 1948 Jan 24 th 1964	Wife Husband
35	George Barkby Sarah Alice Barkby	1886 1894	63 81	June 30 th 1949 Apr 24 th 1975	Husband Wife
36	Alice Elizabeth Booth Harold Samuel Booth	1934 1893	58 55	July 27 th 1992 June 8 th 1948	Wife Husband
37	Ann Adcock John Thomas Adcock	1870 1871	86 78	Nov 23 rd 1956 Mar 21 st 1949	Wife Husband
38	Florence May Clements Roy Clements	1909 1930	46 26	March 7 th 1955 March 11 th 1956	Sister Brother
39	Winifred Springthorpe	1925	29	Jan 9 th 1954	
40	John Bird Florence Bird	1889 1895	71 55	Apr 26 th 1960 July 18 th 1950	Husband Wife
41	Emma Marshall John Marshall Beatrice	1871 1872 1898	79 85 77	1950 1957 1975	Of "Wordsworth" The Outwoods Coleorton
42	Thomas Henry Townsend	1912	24	May 7 th 1936	
43	James Burton	1902	35	Feb 20 th 1937	
44	George Wilton Mary Hannah Wilton	1882 1879	57 71	Oct 25 th 1939 Feb 17 th 1950	Husband Wife
45	Joseph Derby Sarah Darby	1871 1874	67 72	Nov 5 th 1938 Aug 16 th 1946	Husband Wife
46	Herbert Hodges Eliza Jane Hodges	1864 1868	73 72	July 7 th 1937 Aug 6 th 1940	Husband Wife

47	Annie Leech John Leech	1877 1870	61 91	July 16 th 1938 May 14 th 1961	Wife Husband
48	Alietha Annie Townsend	1893 ?	60 ?	1953 ?	
49	Will Draper	1899	54	Jan 6 th 1953	Brother
50	Elizabeth Ann Johnson John William Johnson	1894 1889	58 87	Dec 4 th 1952 Dec 1 st 1976	Wife Husband
51	Frances Wright William Wright	1892	59	Nov 9 th 1951 Aug 14 th 1958	Wife Husband
52	Joseph Barkby Hannah Barkby	1882 1887	69 85	Aug 31 st 1951 May 28 th 1972	Husband Wife
53	James Hall Mary Ann Hall	1854 1862	89 84	Sept 7 th 1943 Sept 23 rd 1946	Husband Wife
54	John Morley Wilton Mary Ann Wilton	1874 1876	85 80	Jan 24 th 1959 Aug 9 th 1956	Husband Wife
55	William Hill Eliza Hill	1873 1886	84 81	May 30 th 1957 May 27 th 1967	Husband Wife
56	Laura Mary Richards	1871	80	Apr 17 th 1951	
57	Thomas Smith Ethel Smith	1900 1892	51 85	Oct 22 nd 1951 May 4 th 1977	Husband Wife
58	John Bernard Walster	1945	7	Oct 5 th 1952	
59	Helen Wilton Joseph Wilton	1880 1878	73 83	Oct 21 st 1953 Jan 18 th 1961	Wife Husband
60	Lucy Wilton Thomas Wilton	1876 1880	80 74	Feb 12 th 1956 Oct 16 th 1954	Wife Husband
61	James Stewart Clara Stewart Hilda Stewart	1878 1880 1910	86 84 65	June 2 nd 1964 Oct 4 th 1964 June 20 th 1975	Husband Wife Daughter
62	Alfred Bird Gertrude Bird	1898 1901	55 97	Oct 24 th 1953 Feb 1 st 1998	Husband Wife
63	Edith Haywood George Haywood	1909 1907	44 85	Feb 15 th 1953 Jan 25 th 1992	Wife Husband
64	Joseph Haywood Lizzie Haywood Sarah Wright Ronald Haywood Eveline Haywood	1877 1878 1880 15.6.1917 26.9.1917	75 80 82 87 80	June 28 th 1952 Apr 17 th 1958 Nov 19 th 1962 27.6.2004 8.8.1997	Husband Wife Sister to Lizzie
65	George Frederick Stevenson	1884	64	July 2 nd 1948	
66	James Wright	1885	64	Oct 11 th 1949	
67	Sarah Ann Hodges Thomas Hodges Robert James Hodges	1879 1876 1977	66 87 20	Jan 3 rd 1945 Aug 24 th 1963 Aug 23 rd 1997	Wife Husband ?
68	Sarah Elizabeth Stevenson John Stevenson	1877 1876	69 71	Sept 22 nd 1946 Feb 22 nd 1947	Wife Husband
69	John Johnson Catherine Mary Johnson	1873 1873	78 94	Apr 9 th 1951 July 1 st 1967	Husband Wife

70	Thomas Clamp May Clamp	1910	59	Aug 25 th 1969 Mar 25 th 1983	Husband Wife
71	Joseph W Horne Mabel Letitia	1884 1883	70 91	June 11 th 1954 March 6 th 1974	Husband Wife
72	Leonard Thomas Horne Lily Horne	1898 1897	56 83	Oct 23 rd 1954 Jan 31 st 1980	Husband Wife
73	Millicent H Wilton	1911	44	Jan 30 th 1955	Sister

Area D - New Graves (1917 – 1999)

Surname	First Names	Died	Month	Day	Aged	Born	Status
ASHBRIDGE	Francis Norman	1957	5	31	27	1930	Husband
BARKBY	Ambrose	1981			(80)	1901	
BARKBY	George B	1965	4	4	88	1877	Father
BARKBY	George Henry	1962	9	16	50	1912	
BARKBY	Leonard	1963	8	18	55	1908	Son of Frederick & Violet
BARKBY	Mary	1961	1	20	83	1877	Mother
BARKBY	Sarah	1991			(90)	1901	
BERKIN	Frederick Henry	1970	9	4	56	1914	Husband & Father
BOTT	Mathew	1986	3	17	82	1904	
BOTT	Emily	1969	1	5	82	1887	
BOTT	Isabel	1993			73	1920	Sister of Kathleen, from Coleorton
BOTT	Kathleen	1997			84	1913	Sister of Isabel, from Coleorton
BROOKS	Joyce May	1989	10	18	58	1931	
BUCKLEY	Elsie May	1980	5	30	83	1897	Mother
BUCKLEY	Frederick Irwin	1973	12	5	79	1894	Father
BURTON	Howard Leslie	1994	3	4	36	1958	Son, Brother, Uncle - Died tragically
CAVE	Barbara Leslie Jane	1992	11	20	39	1953	Wife & Mother
CLAYFIELD	Annie Amelia	1993	10	27	83	31.10.1909	
COLLINS	James William	1968	7	22	63	1905	
COLLINS	Martha Elizabeth	1970	5	4	67	1903	
COOK	FLORENCE VERA	1985	8	26	65	1920	Wife & Mother
COOK	John Horace	1961	4	30	44	1917	Husband & Father
EARP	George William	1959	9	22	52	1907	
ELLIOT	Daphne O	1992	3	15			
FEARN	Elizabeth	1957	2	19	77	1880	
FEARN	Frederick	1960	2	10	77	1883	
FOWKES	Annie	1986	1	7	95	1891	"Reunited" (husband Wright)
FOWKES	George	1976	5	25	83	1893	Husband & Father
FOWKES	Mary Jane	1966			77	1889	
FOWKES	Newton	1917			31	1886	
FOWKES	Sarah Elizabeth	1992	11	13	101	1891	Wife & Mother
FOWKES	Wright	1967	6	6	78	1889	
FRETTSOME	Joseph	1997	9	7	70	1927	Husband
FRETTSOME	Frank	1959	12	3	69	1890	
FRETTSOME	Bertha	1980	7	29	89	1891	
GILBERT	David William	1956	10	6	26	1930	Son & Brother
GILBERT	Florence	1977	12	5	84	1893	Mother
GILBERT	George Harry	1964	10	6	70	1894	Father
GOACHER	George Thomas	1972	5	15	78	1894	Dad
GOACHER	Graham John	1984	7	3	24	1960	Died tragically, only son of ?

GOACHER	Laura May	1964	2	8	67	1897	Mam
HALL	Dorothy Mahala	1987	6	9	84	1903	Mum
HALL	Terrence Wilfred	1987	11	17	51	1936	Son of Wilfred & Dorothy
HALL	Wilfred James	1981	7	3	79	1902	Dad
HARDY	Florence May	1994	7	27	80	1914	Parent (wife of Kenneth)
HARDY	Kenneth Sutton	1958	7	15	39	1919	Parent (Husband of Florence)
HILL	George	1961	10	26	78	1883	Husband, father
HILL	Mary Maria	1963	5	29	73	1890	Wife, mother
HITCHCOCK	Melanie Jayne	1995	2	25	30	1965	Wife, Daughter, Sister
HODGES	Emmeline	1990	3	4	99	1890	Wife, mother
HODGES	Frederick	1971	2	10	81	1889	
HODGES	Frederick	1967	10	24	74	1893	
HODGES	Frederick Turner	1967	10	8	45	1932	Son (of Frederick & Violet)
HODGES	Mark	1976	8	18	63	1913	
HODGES	Sarah Ann	1991	12	30	80	1911	
HODGES	Violet	1981	12	31	86	1895	Wife of Frederick
HODGES	William David	1994	2	3	4m	11.10.1994	Son & Brother
HUTCHINSON	Barbara Elaine	1967	1	24	35	1932	Daughter of Ida May Leeson
HUTCHINSON	Bernard	1971	1	10	72	1899	Husband of Louisa Sabina
HUTCHINSON	Kenneth H	1983	11	3	61	1922	Husband & Father
HUTCHINSON	Louisa Sabina	1989	4	26	92	1897	Wife
JACKSON	Minnie (Annie)	1978	6	30	69	1909	Wife & Mother
JAMES	Emlyn	1991	1	14	85	1906	Husband, father, GG
JOHNSON	Benjamin Hubert	1976			77	1899	Husband
JOHNSON	Winifred	1975			76	1899	Wife
KILBY	Agnes Lina	1957	3	15	65	1892	My wife
KILBY	Joseph Frederick	1967	1	26	71	1896	
KILBY	Mary Ellen	1974	11	21	74	1900	Mother
KILBY	Walter Frank	1974	2	25	69	1905	Father
KILBY	John William	1965	4	24	65	1900	
KIRK	George	1967	7	23	75	1892	Husband & Father
KIRK	Sarah Emma	1978	5	28	84	1894	Wife & Mother
LEECH	Amy Annie	1957	10	12	55	1902	Daughter & Sister
LEESON	Elizabeth	1962	11	17	67	1895	Wife & Mother
LEESON	Ida May	1959	5	18	54	1905	Wife & Mother
LEESON	Thomas Henry	1980	4	13	87	1893	
LOWE	Hellen	1996	7	18	52	1944	Wife & Mother
MARSHALL	Tom	1973			(51)	1922	Husband
MORLEY	Lewis	1959	8	13			
MORLEY	Sarah E	1956	11	26			
NICHOLLS	Gladys Nellie	1978			(68)	1910	
NICHOLLS	John	1994			(80)	1914	Husband of (Gladys), Father of ?
NICHLINSON	Joseph Osbourne	1961	4	12	64	1897	Husband & Father
NICHLINSON	Gertrude Stella	1969	2	4	71	1898	Wife & Mother
PEARCE	Alexander Louis	1991			(83)	1908	Husband
PEARCE	Eva	1991			(83)	1908	
PHIPPS	Elizabeth	1956	5	23	80	1876	Mother of Frederick
PHIPPS	Frederick	1993	5		78	1915	Son of Elizabeth
PICKERING	Alan	1972	4	27			
PICKERING	Donald	1982	8	17	52	1930	Husband & Father
PLATTS	Charles William	1980	4	22	86	1894	Husband & Father
PLATTS	Daisy Annie	1976	9	18	86	1890	Wife & Mother
RAMSELL	Ethel Salena	1988	4	29	77	1911	Wife, Mother & G. Mother
RAMSELL	John William	1997	12	14	84	1913	Husband, Father, G.G.
ROWELL	Eva	1971	10	4			Mother
ROWELL	George	1972	2	18			Father

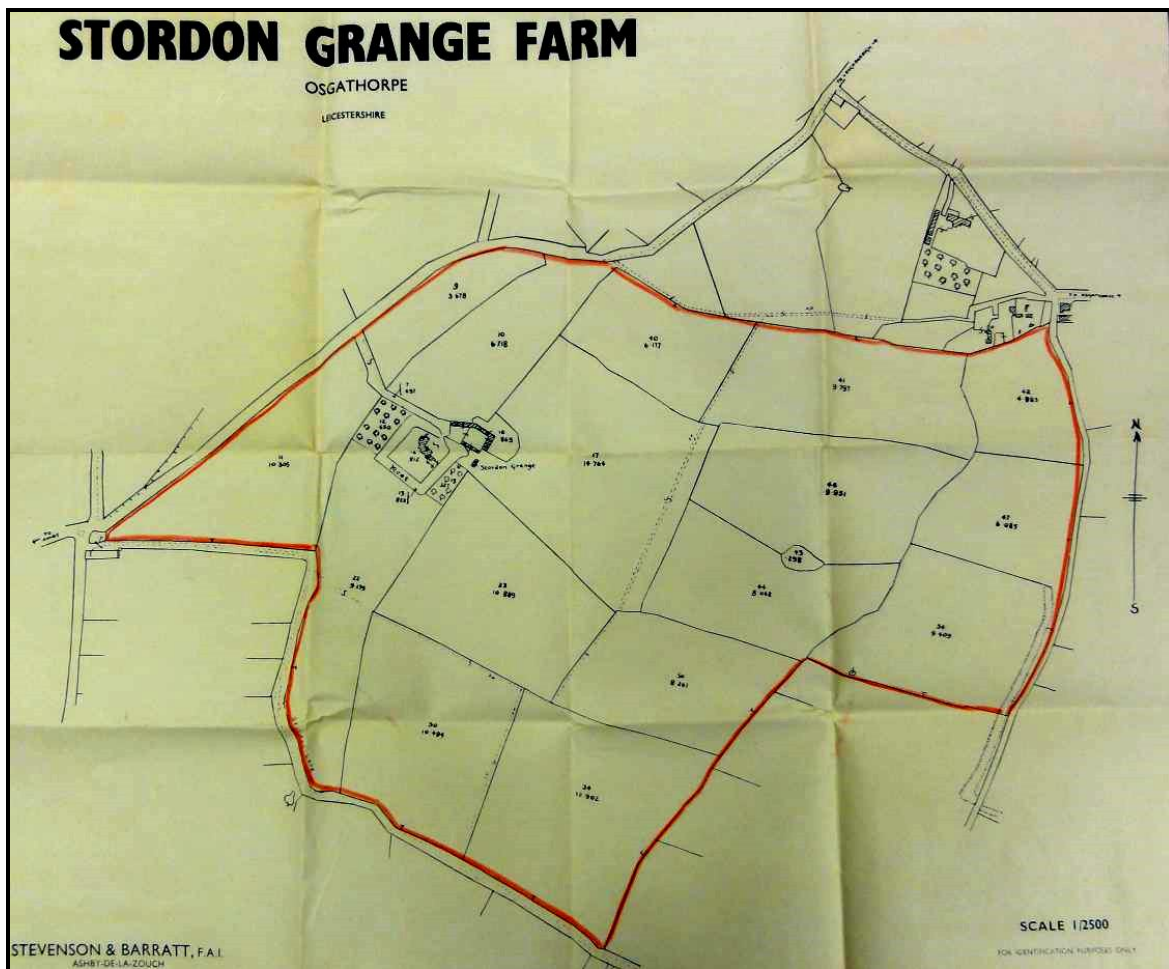
SHARPE	Charles Frank	1991	4	22	69	1922	Father
SHARPE	Elizabeth Ena	1987	7	28	68	1919	Mother
SKETCHLEY	David	1985	7	23	75	1910	
SKETCHLEY	Sarah Ann Knight	1972	6	11	93	1879	
SKETCHLEY	Winifred May	1981	5	14	78	1903	Wife of David Sketchley
SMALLWOOD	Mary Elizabeth	1985	10	27	89	1896	Wife, Mother, GG.
SMALLWOOD	David	1970	1	27	71	1899	Husband, Father
SMITH	William	1956	5	14	78	1878	Husband, Father
SMITH	Charles	1993	8	21	69	1924	Husband
STANLEY	Louis Edward	1963	4	25	53	1910	Husband & Father
STEWART	Ada	1960	5	3	81	1879	Wife
STEWART	Samuel	1955	7	8	76	1879	Husband
STINSON	Joseph						Parent
STINSON	Minnie						Parent
TURNER	James	1963	2	19	65	1898	Husband & Father
TURNER	Mary	1975	5	2	76	1899	Wife & Mother
WATSON	Bryan Mervyn	1994	9	27	64	5.11.29	Husband, Father, G.F.
WATSON	Dorothy	1998	8	11	94	1904	
WATSON	Freda Peggy	1999	1	20	72	1927	
WATSON	John Desmond	1991	1	26	65	1926	
WATSON	John Harry	1961	1	13	57	1904	Husband of Dorothy W
WATSON	Peter Emlyn	1993	12	22	60	1933	
WEBSTER	Ada Evelyn	1973	9	4	57	1916	
WEBSTER	Edwin D	1983	9	28	67	1916	
WEBSTER	Henry	1955	8	3	70	1885	Husband & Father
WEBSTER	Mary Harper	1965	4	4	84	1881	
WEBSTER	Rebecca Amelia	1960	5	26	75	1885	Mother
WEBSTER	Thomas Reginald	1960	5	25	50	1910	Son of William & Mary W
WEBSTER	William	1963	1	5	83	1880	
WESTON	Graham	1998	12	11	43	1955	Son
WHITE	Brenda May	1995	1	8	62	1933	Wife
WHITE	Peter	1984	3	29	54	1930	Husband
WILTON	Annie	1965	9	13	65	1900	Wife
WILTON	Herbert W	1968	1	4	83	1884	Husband & Father
WILTON	Mary	1981	10	1	47	1934	Wife & Mother

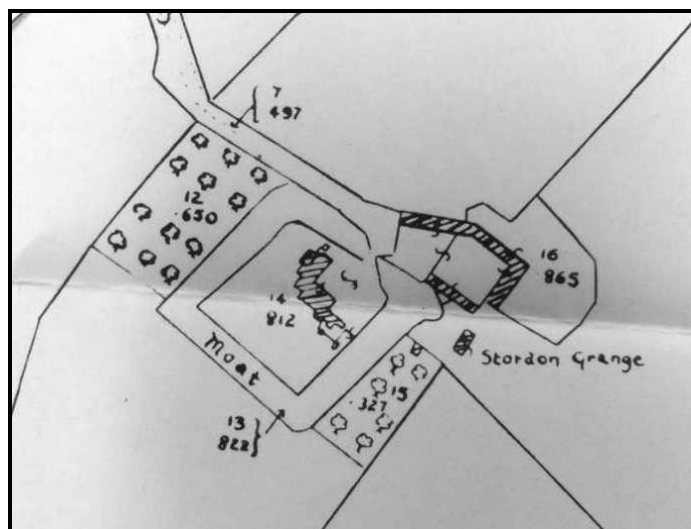
NOTES

STORDON GRANGE - BETWEEN GRIFFYDAM & OSGATHORPE

It was felt, that due to its immediate proximity to Griffydam, a record of the historically important "Stordon Grange" should be included. There has been no other history of Stordon Grange written as far as the author of this book is aware.

"Stordon Grange", which was recorded as being given historical building status, prior to it being demolished c.1965, was in the Parish of Osgathorpe from 1936. It was in Thringstone Civil Parish, prior to boundary changes carried out in 1936, which resulted in 482 acres of land being transferred to Osgathorpe. This included "The Moated Farmhouse of Stordon Grange". Below, is an extract from a map showing the location of the property, which was on the Rempstone Road towards Osgathorpe, just after the staggered cross roads. There follows an actual plan of the Grange as it was prior to its sale in 1961.





Plan prior to sale in 1961

The Boulton families were very influential in the locality at one time, and were wealthy coal mine and land owners. A particular branch of the family had business associations with the Beaumonts of Coleorton. Joseph Boulton (1700 - 1789) became land agent in 1757 to the Beaumont family estate. In 1760, he was granted a 21 year lease of a Beaumont Colliery, farm and woods, however, this relationship ended in rather unfortunate circumstances, but that is another story, which is recorded in "A History of Coleorton and the Locality" by Samuel T Stewart.

It is likely that Stordon Grange was of monastic origin, and built in the 15th / 16th century, although we have no actual proof of that. Monastic Granges were basically farms which worked the land owned by a monastery, Abbey or Priory. This is based on the premise that it lay between the Priors of Breedon and Grace Dieu. Garendon Abbey owned a great deal of land in the area in those times also. The writer has found no written evidence to confirm it was a Monastic Grange. A book entitled "Monastic Granges of Leicestershire" by Paul Courtney, which includes Garendon Abbey, Breedon and Grace Dieu Priors, does not mention it, although all other Granges are included. There is no mention found of Stordon Grange under any of the relevant sections of "The history of Antiques of the County of Leicester 1800", Volume 3 Part 2 by John Nichols. In a book entitled "Memorials of Old Leicestershire", which is edited by Alice Dryden, there is a section entitled "The Beaumonts of Grace-Dieu" by M. Jourdain, in which limited reference is made to it as follows :-

"Thomas Beaumont died in 1458, leaving two sons, John and Thomas. Of these, John succeeded to the Coleorton Estate; Thomas, the second son, married Anne Moton of Peckleton, in the County of Leicester, and resided in Thringstone - probably at the old moated house, still standing, known as Stordon Grange; and it was his grandson, John Beaumont, who was one of the commissioners, and the first Beaumont owner of Grace-Dieu".....

It has been established that circa 1700, Thomas Boulton (who we will refer to as the elder), entered upon a 99 year lease of Stordon Grange, which was held under the ancient family of the "Beaumonts of Coleorton". It is known that he was still living at Stordon Grange in 1750.

The following is taken from a synopsis of Poor Law and Parish Charity in Osgathorpe by Robert Jones:- After having given inadequate accounts in 1715 as churchwarden, Benjamin Waldrum further exhibited his shortcomings as overseer in 1722. The parish meeting refused to accept the details of his accounts again because they were so unreasonable and ordered that they be "not entered here for others to copie after". Even the inadequacies of Ben Waldrum do not compare with the escapade of

William Boulton of Stordon Grange:-

"William Boulton served the office of overseer of ye poor for ye year 1723, his accompts was given up and the spare money was drunk at Bradfords by ye persons there met (etc) but he took them home (I not being there) and afterwards lost ye same".

Thomas Boulton Junior, who was the grandson of Thomas Boulton the elder, subsequently came into possession of the lease under the terms of his "grandfathers" will, when his father Thomas Boulton Senior (the Rector of Brailsford) died in 1780. Thomas junior was actually living with his grandfather (Thomas Boulton the elder) at Stordon Grange at the time he died in 1750, at the age of 88. He was buried at Breedon-On-The-Hill Parish Church. Thomas was aged 26 at the time his grandfather died, and had married Jane Bage in 1749. They had 11 children by this marriage, between 1753 and 1770. Thomas junior died in 1785, and his wife Jane died in 1789 at the ages of 61 and 57 respectively. It would appear that the lease still had some years to run, with his son Robert taking on the tenancy. Robert was apparently succeeded by his son Thomas, who left Stordon with his wife Sophia in 1818. Stordon Grange was thought to have been occupied by four consecutive generations of the Boulton family.

In their latter years of occupancy, it is possible that the Boulton's rented Stordon Grange from the Beaumont's on an annual basis only and there seemed to be some conflict of ownership in the early 1800's as described later.

It is worth mentioning that two of the sons of Thomas and Jane Boulton were recognised artists. Thomas was a portrait painter, and apparently the less talented of the two. John was a sporting artist and described as follows in the Leicester Mercury dated 24th May 1967 :-

John Boulton, who studied under Sir Joshua Reynolds, was the son of the squire of Stordon Grange, and would have been a young man in the 18th century - "his finest hour came, when King George III appointed him as his animal painter, and gave him a house in Windsor Great Park.

As further confirmation that Stordon Grange was owned by the Beaumonts, the following was included in the John Crocker (local historian) archives :-

11 Feb 1799. A letter re consents to the intended enclosure of Thringstone (1807) includes reference to - Sir George Beaumont Imp. of great tithes, also owner of Stordon Grange Farm. 110A.

Long after the Boultons had left Stordon Grange c.1818, and the Knight family was in residence, a visit to the Grange was made in Feb 1891 by one of the Boulton descendants. The following description is given on the Boulton website, which it is assumed came from that visit:-

The moat encloses a house with a courtyard and a garden, and during the last century was accessible by a drawbridge, which is now supplanted by a small brick bridge or causeway. The dwelling belongs to that class of small country house, which a century or two ago, were inhabited by the less wealthy landed gentry, and has now passed into the occupation of tenant farmers

It lies in a small hollow, entirely secluded from all other habitations, at a little distance from a high road. It realizes the idea of a lonely moated grange, and might readily be passed within a short distance without suspicion of its proximity. The moat is supplied with water by the natural drainage of the slopes which surround it. Without the moat, there may be noted a large orchard of ancient apple trees which were probably planted by our forefathers, and a large farmyard with improvements of the modern order, which cannot date back many years. Within the moat, the courtyard, bounded on two sides by the house, occupies the north - east angle of the enclosure.

On the west side some fine elm trees, which must have been saplings in in the latter time of the Boulton occupation, overshadow the roof. On the south side, an old fashioned garden has in its centre, a gnarled and ancient cedar under which our forefathers must have often played in their childhood years. It may be older even than our families connection with the place. It has been said, that Thomas Boulton built the house; this is certainly not true in the full sense, but it probably incorrectly represents a fact.

An ancient stone chimney, perhaps of the 15th century is an evident relic of the older house. Lying close to Charnley Forest, the original Grange was probably a half timbered building with chimneys of freestone. It seems very likely from the appearance of the present house, that Thomas Boulton re-built this in brick, of which the exterior walls are now chiefly composed. The rooms are rather small and low according to our present ideas, but are larger and higher than in many small houses. The drawing room is lined with Wainscot panelling. The staircase is of good and bold design, and it leads to nests of bedrooms, one within another, which would not suit modern ideas. There is a tradition, that in one of the rooms of a long window, now uninhabited, the Beaumont (Francis) who is associated with Fletcher, wrote some of his dramas. The idea, true or not, witnesses to the antiquity of this place.



The above photographs were taken in the late 1800's when the Knights were in residence at Stordon Grange



**This photograph, probably taken in the early 1900's
whilst the Knights were in residence**



**This photograph, although similar to the above, has the addition of a window on the left, and
was taken later with snow on the ground. The building had clearly undergone some external
refurbishment at this time, and there is evidence of the addition of a window.**

The writer has confirmed that the Boulbbees were still at Stordon Grange in 1816, as the following marriage announcement was recorded in "The New Monthly Magazine Vol 5 & Universal Register Jan-June 1816 (Library of University of Michigan) - Married at Osgathorpe, Thos Boulbbe Esq., of Stordon Grange to Ann, second daughter of James Lager Esq., of Coleorton Hall Farm.

In "The Gentleman's Magazine Vol 81 - Dec 31st 1797, the following marriage announcement appeared - At Sutton Bonnington Co. Nottingham, Mr J F Stamford to Miss Frances Boulbbe, daughter of the late Mr. Boulbbe of Stordon Grange.

In "The Monthly Magazine Vol 2 1796" (Michigan University), the following marriage announcement appeared - Sir T Perkins Bart of Bunny Park to Miss J Boulbbe of Stordon Grange Leicester.
These marriage announcements confirm that the Boulbbees of Stordon Grange mixed in upper class circles.

At the time of the "Thringstone and Peggs Green Enclosures Award" in 1807, the plots that surrounded Stordon Grange (Nos 76,77 and 78) were owned by Sir George Beaumont. A Rev Francis Harris had been allocated plot numbers 61,11 and 18 as compensation, and allowed to gather tithes and Easter offerings from this land. There appeared to have been legal proceedings between Sir George Beaumont and the Rev. Harris as to who actually owned Stordon Grange around this time. Interestingly, Stordon Grange was indicated on the enclosure map (not named), and was not numbered. It did not form part of the enclosure award either. It should be remembered that the original Beaumont 99 year lease would have expired well before this time, and it was probably being rented from whoever the rightful owner was, at that time.

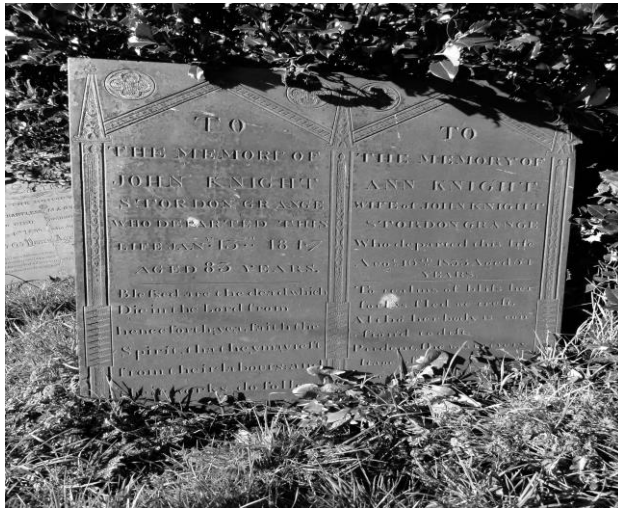
A reference from the John Crocker archives (local historian) states :-
9th July 1804 - Bulls Head, Thringstone. Mr Hodgkinson for Sir George Beaumont to Rev Harris's claim to Stordon Grange Farm. Ordered Harris be informed, and to bring evidence in support.

The Boulbbees had left Stordon Grange by 1818.

A gravestone in Griffydam Methodist Wesleyan Cemetery states the following, which suggests that John and Ann Knight were living at Stordon Grange by 1831 :- *Sarah Ann Knight Died May 5th 1831 - Daughter of John and Ann Knight of Stordon Grange.*



There are two gravestones in Griffydam Cemetery for separate John & Ann Knight couples, which state they were of Stordon Grange, as shown in the photographs below. However, due to the bottom of Sarah Ann's gravestone above being half buried in the ground, we do not know when she was born, without excavating the headstone. It is therefore not known which couple were her Mum and Dad. There is also another headstone in memory of Elizabeth Knight, daughter of John and Ann of Stordon Grange. She was born in 1838 and died Apr 12th 1849 and would have been the daughter of John and Ann in the RH photograph below.



**John Knight b.1764 / d.1847
Ann Knight (nee Price) b.1769 / d.1833**



**John Knight b.1801 d.1870
Ann Knight b.1804 / d.1875**

The first gravestone states that John and Ann Knight are of Stordon Grange in 1831.

It is not unreasonable to assume that the three John Knights in the three graves shown, were grandfather, son and grandson.

In the 1851 census John and Ann Knight aged 49 and 46 respectively are living at Stordon Grange with their 5 children. Also 3 servants are listed who have additional jobs as Dairy Maid, Waggoner and Cowman. John Knight is given as being a farmer of 133 acres and employing 4 labourers.

In the 1861 census, John and Ann Knight (aged 59 and 56 respectively) are still farming at Stordon Grange. 6 children are now living with them, 5 of whom are doing various jobs on the farm. They now have one servant. John is now given as being a farmer of 150 acres with 2 labourers and 2 boys.

The 1871 census is very strange in that it lists Louisa Knight (sister, aged 19) as a farmer of 155 acres employing 2 men and 2 boys. There are 2 female and 1 male servant indoors listed. On the day the census was taken we can only assume that other members of the family were away.

In the 1881 census Fred Knight is listed as a farmer at Storden Grange and living with his wife Harriet and 3 children, a domestic servant and 2 farm servants. A nurse was also visiting presumably because they had a daughter that was only 4 days old, and could afford this luxury.

In the 1891 census John William Knight is listed as a farmer at Stordon Grange and living with his wife Sarah and 9 children.

In the 1901 census Fred Knight is listed as a farmer living with his wife Harriet and 3 children, a visitor (nurse), a domestic servant and 2 farm servants.



In Loving Memory of John William Knight of Stordon Grange who died October 8th, 1920 aged 78 years. Also his wife Sarah Hannah who died Sept 17th 1924 aged 78 years. Also of Clara Louisa daughter of the above at rest Sept 23rd 1906. Aged 28 Years

The first two John Knights appeared to be non-conformists as they were buried in Griffydham Methodist Wesleyan Cemetery, however, John William Knight was buried in St. Mary's Anglican Parish Church, Osgathorpe. The following obituary appeared in the Wesleyan Magazine on page 724, which, by the date of death, and age given, must refer to the first John Knight, and describes his dedication to the Wesleyan movement.

Jan. 13th.—At Coleorton, in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Circuit, aged eighty-two, Mr. John Knight, an old disciple, having been sixty years a member of the Wesleyan society, and for twenty years a Leader. In all the relations of life, he was pious, prudent, and faithful. The prevailing state of his mind was peace. He lived at the foot of the cross. His death was sudden; but he was found ready.

W. J. B.

The author was informed by one of the Knights descendants, that they finally left Stordon Grange in 1924, which presumably coincided with the death of Sarah Hannah Knight whose grave is shown in the preceding photograph in St. Mary's Church graveyard at Osgathorpe, and includes her husband and daughter.

After the Knights vacated Stordon Grange, it was purchased by the Co-op, but reportedly, they sold it soon afterwards, having lost a lot of money because they employed a farm manager who couldn't farm. The Co-op sold it to a Mr. Joseph Nicklinson. He passed away in 1961 and Stordon Grange was put up for auction by Stevenson & Barratt on the 25th of September 1961. See the following sales documents.

By 1965, Stordon Grange had been demolished, and the rubble from the buildings used to fill the moat. A new house was built in between the original site of Stordon Grange and the road in 1962. Sadly no trace of the old Stordon Grange is now thought to exist.

By direction of the Administrators of J. O. Nickinson, deceased.

WITH VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION

**THE VALUABLE FREEHOLD
AGRICULTURAL HOLDING**

**STORDON GRANGE
FARM**

OSGATHORPE
Nr. Loughborough, Leicestershire

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION
(Unless Sold Previously by Private Treaty) on

MONDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER, 1961

Auctioneers :
STEVENSON & BARRATT, F.A.I.,
Chartered Auctioneers & Estate Agents
Ashby-de-la-Zouch. (Tel. 66)
and at Newark-on-Trent, Notts.

Solicitors :
Messrs. H. PIPES & CO.,
Melbourne,
Derbyshire.
(Tel. 113.)

Particulars

**STORDON GRANGE FARM
OSGATHORPE LEICESTERSHIRE**

The FARMHOUSE AND BUILDINGS stand well back from the main road and are approached by a hard farm drive from the main road.

The FARMHOUSE, part of which dates back about 300 years, is built of stone and brick having a tiled roof and contains the following accommodation:—

DINING ROOM with fireplace fitted cupboards and corner cupboard; TWO SITTING ROOMS (one with modern tiled fireplace); KITCHEN with range and fitted cupboards; SCULLERY with sink (cold taps over) and electric water heater; Pantry; FOUR BEDROOMS; back Staircase leading to two bedrooms and attic. Outside: Two Storeplaces; Coalplace; Earth Closet.

The FARMBUILDINGS are conveniently arranged around an open yard and comprise:—

Range of brick and tile Buildings forming two Pigstyes; GARAGE with loft over; THREE LOOSE BOXES; STABLE; TWO HAY BARNs; GRAIN PIT; MIXING PLACE with loft over; HAY PLACE; COWSHED for 20 with feeding passage, concrete divisions and floor, tap.

Range of brick and tile Buildings forming LOOSE BOX; COWSHED for 12 with concrete divisions and floor, tap. Open Cart Shed; DAIRY with concrete floor, tap, electric power point. Brick and tile FOUR BAY IMPLEMENT SHED.

The LAND which lies very compactly around the homestead in a ring fence, is well known for its feeding qualities. The majority of the pasture fields are watered by troughs from the main supply and many of the fields are serviced by good hard roads.

Click [Here](#) For More Information On Stordon Grange
Click [Here](#) To Read More About Joseph Boulton The First Of Griffydham

PART 4

JOINT PEGG'S GREEN & GRIFFYDAM HISTORY

A FEATURE ON VICTORIAN BAUBLE MANUFACTURING CARRIED OUT IN BOTH PEGG'S GREEN AND GRIFFYDAM WHICH STARTED c.1828

A local industry which endured until the end of the 19th century was the making of ornaments of various kinds out of Derbyshire Spa, a marble-like gypsum which is found at Chellaston, near Derby, some ten miles away. An ornament, or gaud of small actual utility, formerly classed as a plaything, was termed a bauble. Hence, the small workshops connected with this trade in the district, were always referred to as "Bauble Shops"; an interesting survival of a word now scarcely or ever heard. Details of people the author has traced who were engaged in this work, in Griffydam and Pegg's Green follow later. Numerous people were also engaged in this activity in the Coleorton, Thringstone and Whitwick areas also.

One can only surmise as to how this industry, which demanded artistic taste and skill, came to be established in a coalfield, many miles from the source of the raw material. In the "Middle Ages" the image makers, tomb makers, and Alabaster workers of Nottingham and Burton-On-Trent were famous throughout England and the continent. Their supplies of Alabaster, or Marble, - hence the term, "Alabastermen" - were obtained from Chellaston and Gotham, where Gypsum today is extensively mined. We incline to the opinion, that our local industries were a minor offshoot of the greater one at Nottingham or Burton; Alabaster workers from these towns drifted into the Cole Orton coalfield in times of stress, in search of work, and then established their bauble making in the local area to supplement their income

The local industry became quite important to the economy in Coleorton, Thringstone, Whitwick, Pegg's Green and Griffydam during the Victorian era.

THE BAUBLE MANUFACTURING PROCESS

Firstly, we should remind ourselves that the natural Spar would have had to be delivered from Chellaston, about 10 miles from the local area, in large blocks by horse and cart. We can only imagine how long that would have taken. The cost per ton in the mid 1850's, would probably have been in the order of 10s to 15s depending on colour and quality. The local peddlers would have perhaps collected smaller pieces from Chellaston for selling on to the bauble makers. The manufacturer would then have had to saw the block into suitable shapes for the items to be made, in what would have been an extremely dusty environment. The circular ornaments would have been turned on a treadle lathe to the required design. *During the turning process, they would have been smoothed with a wet pumice paste. In some cases, dependant on the design, the baubles were made in separate pieces which were then glued together with spar dust, resin and the white of an egg. The bauble was finished by being warmed and waxed before final polishing with fullers earth* (reference a "Lost Leicestershire Industry" by J.A. Daniell). The baubles were sometimes decorated by painting, as on the Tulip Vase above, but this would not have been long lasting. For ease of manufacture (turning and drilling only) the great percentage were circular in shape. The skill in making baubles should not be underestimated, particularly due to the variance in the structure and quality of the material, and many of the people had no previous experience of this.

SALES OF BAUBLES

Very few baubles were made for sale locally, although there was a market for them at St. Bernard's Abbey and other Monasteries for selling to visitors by the monks. The largest and most lucrative markets were at Fairs / Wakes, places like Matlock and sea-side towns like Weston-Super-Mare. A substantial industry did grow up in Matlock much earlier than in this locality. It is noticeable that within Bauble making families, there were often people listed as "Hawkers of Spar", who were clearly engaged in selling the Baubles made at home to these markets, from their barrows, during the season. Like any good salesman, they would have been ultimately responsible for the output of the manufacturer. The cost of the items shown in the following photographs would have varied from say a few pence for the small simple items, to perhaps say 4s for the more complex one like the watch stand shown later.

The industry came to an end at the end of the 19th century due to an influx of cheap imports from abroad, and a change in fashion.

LOCAL BAUBLE MANUFACTURERS



**JOSEPH ASHTON - BAUBLE MANUFACTURER IN PEGG'S GREEN
SELLING HIS WARES AT WESTON SUPER MARE c.1851.**

Joseph Ashton was one of the more successful local people involved in this industry and he had his workshop somewhere in Pegg's Green according to the 1851 census. He was born in St. Michael's, Derby. He was the son-in-law of John Spinks, also a spar manufacturer, and was living with him and his wife Martha in 1851. John Spinks was aged 78 in 1851 and was born in Derby All Saints and was on

"Parish Relief" at that time. John's son William, aged 19 was also living with them in 1851, as was his brother Samuel, both given as Petrificationers, an art which is dealt with later. Clearly the whole family was involved in the business.

Joseph Ashton combined beer house keeping with bauble making, and was Landlord of the "Cricketers Arms" in Leicester Rd, Whitwick according to "Harrods Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland" in 1870. He was listed in "The History, Gazetteer & Directory of Leicestershire & Rutland 1877", as a Spar Ornament Manufacturer. Joseph was reported as still operating as a beer retailer and Spar Ornament maker in 1895 in Leicester Road, Whitwick.

SURVIVING BAUBLE SHOPS IN THE 1890's

- **James Peters in Work House Lane** (now Moor Lane), Coleorton, whose business was later transferred to Thringstone, where it remained in being until his death.
- **Charles Platts Elder Lane, Griffydam.** Charles Platts was first mentioned as a "spar manufacturer" in the 1851 census at 17 years of age, so presumably he had developed an early talent for this work. Further information on Charles Platts follows.
- **Leonard Palmer whose business appears to have been located on the Tents opposite the chapel next building to Herbert Rowell (grocer and baker).** He is listed in the 1861, 1871 and 1891 census as a Spar manufacturer. He is also listed in trade directories dated 1870, 1875, 1877, 1880 and 1892 as a Spar Turner / Manufacturer in Griffydam, which suggests that he was operating a successful business.

SPAR / BAUBLE MANUFACTURERS RECORDED IN GRIFFYDAM AND PEGG'S GREEN

Joseph Ashton (Pegg's Green), John Spinks (Pegg's Green), Samuel Barlow (Pegg's Green), James Ford, George Ford & Edwin Ford (Griffydam), Charles Platts (Elder Lane, Griffydam), Jabez Wilkinson (Griffydam), William Robinson, (journeyman Griffydam), Leonard Palmer (The Tents, Griffydam), John Tugby (Pegg's Green), Arthur Whyman (Pegg's Green) possibly working for John Tugby, George Peters (Elder Lane, Griffydam), Oliver Farnsworth (Elder Lane, Griffydam), John, Joseph Samuel & William Spinks (Pegg's Green), Peter Morley (Pegg's Green)

SIX EXAMPLES OF VICTORIAN BAUBLES (some made locally)



**Watch stand kept in Leicester Museum
Made on Coleorton Moor**



Watch Stand



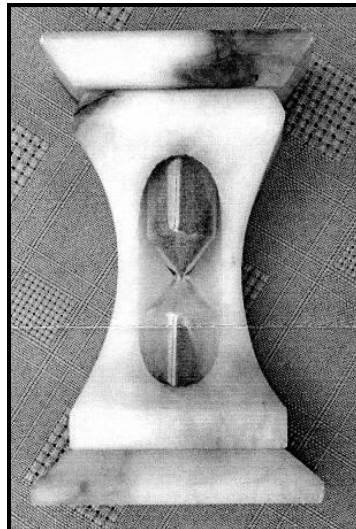
Tobacco Jar



Picture Frame - Haddon Hall



Pair of Candlesticks



Egg Timer

EXAMPLES OF VICTORIAN BAUBLES MADE IN WHITWICK



Trinket Bowl with two birds
Ht 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches Dia 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches



Pen and ink holder
Ht 2 inches Dia 3 inches



Tulip Vase
Ht. 5 inches



Candlestick
Ht. 5 inches

CHARLES PLATTS - BAUBLE MANUFACTURER ON ELDER LANE, GRIFFYDAM



The upper photograph is of the cottage where Charles Platts' lived in Elder Lane, Griffydham, where he manufactured baubles over a long period of time, and is marked **A** on the following map. Charles was born in Worthington. The cottage was demolished in the 1950's. The old cottages in the distance on the left, marked **B** on the following map were also demolished in 1996 to make way for a new property (more about the later in a separate feature). The photograph above shows fragments of baubles which were found when a ditch was opened for pipe work in relation to a new house built on the site adjacent to the above cottage. The following photograph shows the exact location of where the fragments were discovered. Charles is first recorded as living in the above cottage in the 1841 census at the age of 7. He was recorded as a "Spar manufacturer" in the 1851 census at the age of 17, and similarly in the 1861 census at 27. In the 1881 census, he is still recorded as a "Spar Manufacturer" living with his

wife Mary, who was born in Market Bosworth, and they are aged 46 & 42 respectively. If we now fast forward to the 1901 census, he is listed as being a "Retired Bauble Manufacturer" at the age of 64 still living with his wife Mary. Strangely he seems to have gained 7 years in age since the 1861 census.



The area of bare earth on the RH side of the above photograph is where the ditch was excavated and the bauble fragments found. The area behind the gate was where the old cottage was situated.



SPAR / BAUBLE MANUFACTURERS IN GRIFFYDAM & PEGG'S GREEN

THE FORD FAMILY OF GRIFFYDAM (James, George and Edwin)

This is a good example of people moving to the area from Derbyshire to work in the Spar / bauble industry locally.

- In the 1851 census, James Ford, aged 58, who was born in Darley, Derbys., is listed as a Spar Manufacturer. He is living with his wife Ann, aged 56, who was born in Langley, Derbys. Also in the household is William Richardson (servant), aged 45 and listed as a journeyman spar maker. He was born in Ashbourne, Derbyshire.
- In the 1851 census, a George Ford, aged 32, is living next door with his wife Mary Ann, aged 26, and daughter Ann. George is listed as a Spar Painter. They were all born in Derby. Presumably George is the son of James above and will be painting baubles made by his father and other makers. Below is an example of a painted bauble.



The Fords' were presumably living in adjoining cottages, which were somewhere on the Top Road, and the last recorded by the enumerator before Waterloo cottages at the Rempstone Rd cross roads.

- In the 1851 census, Edwin Ford, aged 26, who was born in St. Alkmunds, Derby is listed as a "**Petrifaction Maker**". He is living with his wife Elizabeth, aged 35, who was born in Etwall, Derbyshire, and is presumably brother to George. They appear to be living near to the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.
- James Ford, presumably another brother, aged 24 and born in Derby P.N.P. is listed in the 1851 census as a Spar Manufacturer also.

LEONARD PALMER - GRIFFYDAM

Leonard Palmer's business was indicated by the census enumerator's walk as being located near to the chapel, and the author understands lots of spar shards are found in that area also. His Spar manufacturing business appears to have been the last surviving in Griffydham and Pegg's Green.

Leonard, who was born in Ravenstone, is listed in the 1861, 1871 and 1891 census as a Spar manufacturer.

He is also listed in trade directories dated 1870, 1875, 1877, 1880 and 1892 as a Spar Manufacturer / Turner suggesting that he was running a sizeable operation.

JOHN TUGBY - TUGBY'S LANE - PEGG'S GREEN

In 1851 census, John Tugby (54) and Philip Jacques (52), employing 5 and 6 men respectively were Spar Manufacturers near Peggs Green, both were born in Coleorton. John Tugby's son Thomas was living at home as a "Hawker" so was probably selling his father's wares.

A John Tugby was recorded as the landlord at "The New Inn" in 1846, and baptism records list him as a publican in 1843. It can therefore be assumed that this is the same John Tugby listed in the 1851 census. Baptism records for St. George's Church, Swannington, also show that in 1832 he was a Hawker, and in 1840 a Spar worker. "The History, Gazetteer & Directory of Leicestershire & Rutland 1863", lists John Tugby as a Spar Manufacturer, but there is no mention of the New Inn, although he was recorded as being there still in 1855.

The author is of the view that the name "Tugby's Lane" would have originated from this family either living there at one time or being the location of John's bauble making workshop.

Leicester Mercury - January 29th 1859

Pegg's Green, Coleorton -

On Monday evening, January 17th, Mr. Tugby, Spar Manufacturer, gave his usual treat to his workmen of a good supper. *This indicates a sizeable business being run by John Tugby.*

PETER MORLEY - PEGG'S GREEN

In the 1861 census Peter Morley, aged 22, is listed as a Spar Manufacturer

GEORGE PETERS & OLIVER FARNSWOTH - GRIFFYDAM

George Peters, born in Whitwick, first appears in the 1881 census as a Spar Manufacturer. Lodging with him is Oliver Farnsworth, born on Derby, also listed as a Spar Manufacturer.

JOSEPH ASHTON PLUS JOHN, JOSEPH, SAMUEL AND WILLIAM SPINKS - PEGG'S GREEN

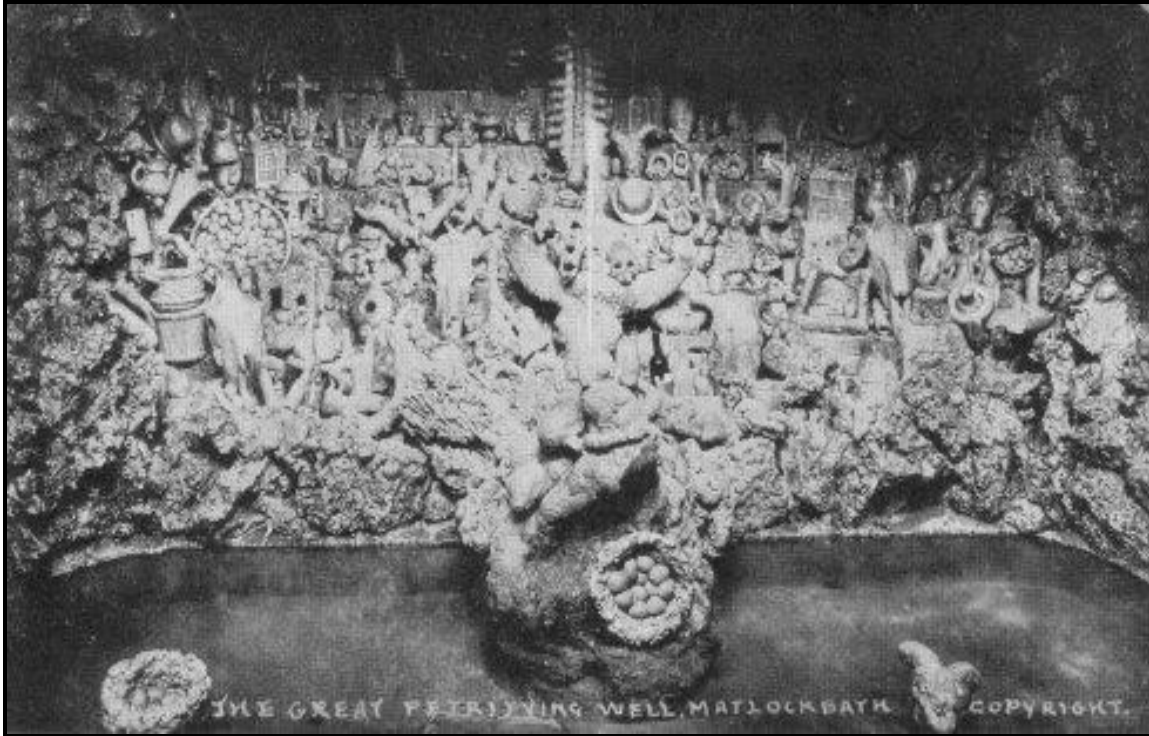
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SAMUEL BARTON - PEGGS GREEN

Samuel Barton aged 36 and born in Derby was listed as a **Petrifactioner** in the 1851 census.

PETRIFACTIONERS



An old postcard showing "The Great Petrifying Well", Matlock Bath, with its many and varied items undergoing petrification

The writer has included the following feature due to the fact that Edwin Ford of Griffydam and John and William Spinks and Samuel Barton of Pegg's Green were listed as a "Petrifaction Maker".

In the 1851 local area census records, there were 8 people listed as Petrificationers, 5 of them being in Whitwick. This appears to be an older general term used in the 18th century, when the Spar working industry was established in Derbyshire, and was used to describe Spar / Bauble manufacturers until early Victorian times. Later, the term Spar Manufacturers was used for bauble makers, which was carried out in premises known as Bauble Shops. This causes some confusion however, as a separate and specialised industry existed, called "Petrifaction". The best explanations the writer has found of what a "Petrifactioner" did is given below.

This industry flourished in Matlock at one time, and provided great entertainment for the visitors. The author leans towards the view, that the term "Petrifactioners" included in the 1841 and 1851 local census records and earlier baptism and marriage records were in fact Spar / Bauble manufacturers as well as "Petrifactioners". Many Spar / Bauble workers owned Petrifying Wells as a side line, in order to supplement their income.

The only references found to a "Petrifying Spring" in the locality, was at Gelsmoor, Worthington which is specifically mentioned in "The Post Office Directory of Leics & Rutland 1855 and Whites Directory's dated 1863 & 1877.

Presumably, with the prevalence of limestone in the area, there would have been a number of springs coming up through the strata, providing the right conditions for petrification.

1. A Petrificationer, is a person who uses the natural waters of an area to coat an object in Calcium Carbonate. The objects, usually children's shoes, crockery, dolls, etc. were dunked for a period in the water, when retrieved, they had obtained a stone like appearance from the build up of CaCO_3 on the outside. Matlock, being in a limestone area, was particularly suitable for doing this, and the technique was used as a bit of a holiday / fairground style attraction in the town. It was very common up until the turn of the 19th century.

2. Petrification working, as it is called, became an important, and certainly not the least lucrative branch of the "curiosity" business at Matlock, there being several wells in the tufa (the calcareous and siliceous rock deposits of springs, lakes, or ground water), where this curious and interesting operation of nature was carried on.

The process of incrustation is an exceedingly simple one, the articles to be operated on (embracing almost every conceivable object, but chiefly birds' nests, baskets of fruit, moss, and the leaves and branches of trees) are placed on stands, and the water that filtrates through the tufa allowed to drip gently upon them; the moisture in percolating through the concrete mass becomes strongly impregnated with lime, and on reaching the open air, rapidly evaporates. A calcareous deposit is formed, that in time completely incrusts the object on which it falls, and gives to it the appearance and hardness of stone.

Click [Here](#) To Read More About Spar Ornament/Bauble Making In the Local Area

SCHOOLS REFERRED TO AS GRIFFYDAM BUT GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN PEGG'S GREEN

GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL 1853 - 1914

On the 27th December 1851, a Grant & Release of freehold ground by reference to Model Deed for purposes of a Wesleyan Day & Sabbath School, was made for land in Thringstone (Pegg's Green) for the education of children & adults, or children only of labouring, manufacturing and other poorer classes in the district of Griffydam, Newbold, Worthington, Froggatt's Lane, Thringstone, Pegg's Green, Swannington, Coleorton & Osgathorpe.

The earliest record the writer can find of a school building recorded as being at Griffydam, is in the Post Office Directory of Leics & Rutland 1855. In this, it states that Griffydam has a National School. This was in fact the "Wesleyan Day School", which had a close relationship with the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. According to "The History, Gazetteer & Directory of Leics & Rutland 1863", the large Wesleyan Day School was built and opened in 1853 at a cost of £850, to accommodate 200 pupils. The school was in the Nottingham District of The Ashby Circuit.

The Griffydam Day School was the historical forerunner of the schools in Griffydam. The following is an attempt to provide the reader with an insight into these important religion based educational schools established in the mid 1800's.



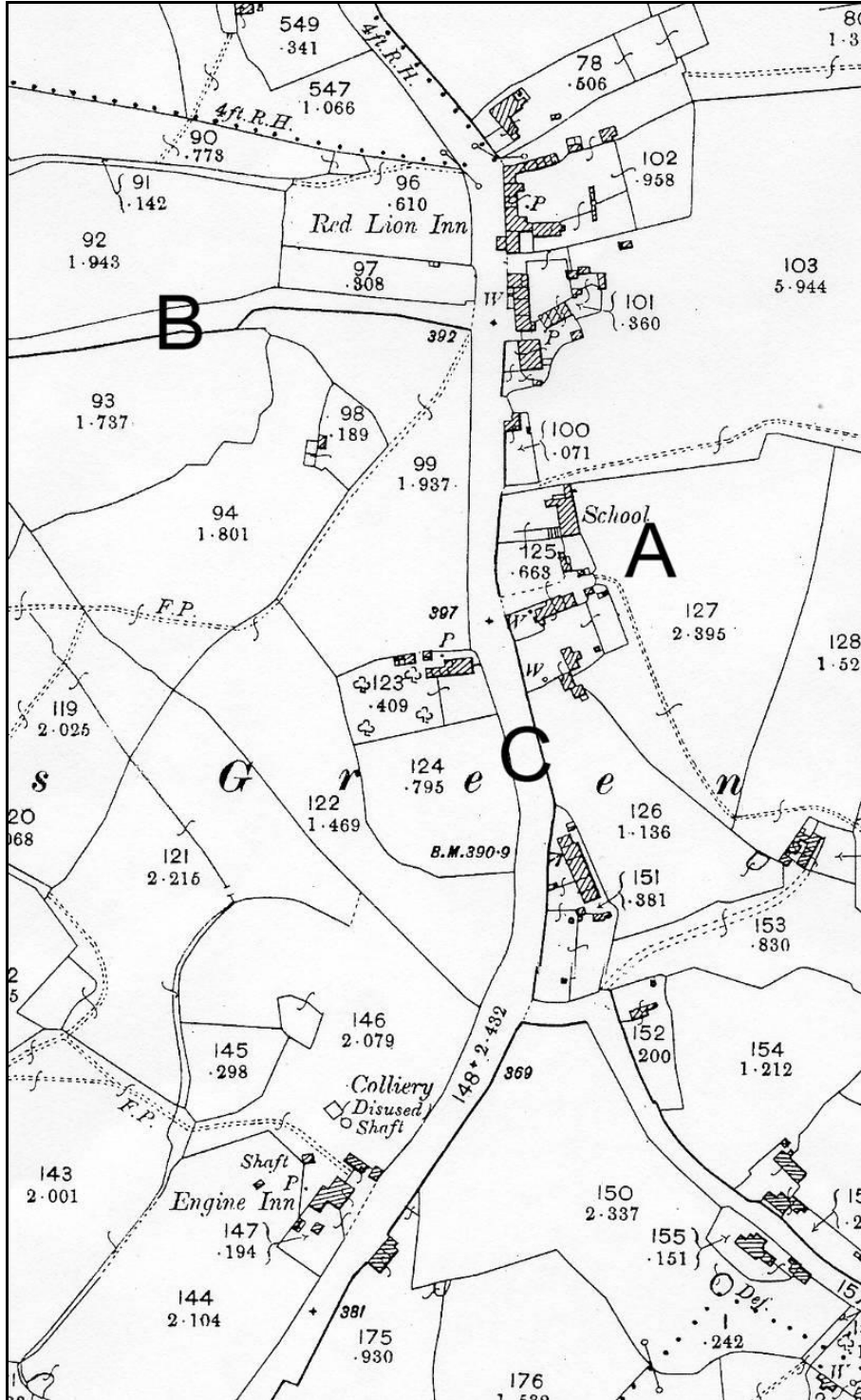
The above is a recent photograph of the surviving commemorative stone plaque from the front of the Wesleyan Day School. This is currently used as a cover for an old well in a garden on Nottingham Road, Griffydam, and is probably the only thing that has survived from the building.

The original wording on the plaque would have been:-

**WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL
OPENED 1853
ERECTED
BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION
WITH AID FROM**

PARLIAMENTARY GRANTS

LOCATION OF THE WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL



MAP DATED 1903

A = Griffydham Wesleyan Day School

B = School Lane
C = Nottingham Road

John Wesley was convinced of the importance of education and following the advice of his friend Dr. Philip Doddridge, opened schools at The Foundry in London, and at Newcastle and Kingswood. Following the upsurge in interest in education which accompanied the extension of franchise in 1832, the Methodist Conference commissioned William Atherton, Richard Treffry and Samuel Jackson to report on Methodist schools, coming to the conclusion that if the Church were to prosper, the system of Sunday Schools (3,339 in number at that time, with 59,277 teachers and 341,442 pupils) should be augmented by day-schools with teachers educated to high school level. The Rev. John Scott proposed in 1843 that 700 new Methodist day-schools be established within seven years. Though a steady increase was achieved, that ambitious target could not be reached, in part limited by the number of suitably qualified teachers, mostly coming from the institution founded in Glasgow by David Stow. The outcome of the Wesleyan Education Report for 1844 was that planning began for a permanent Wesleyan teacher-training college, resulting in the foundation of Westminster Training College at Horseferry Road, Westminster in 1851, with the Rev. Scott its first principle. The first state funding for primary schools was made in 1833.

PLAN OF WESLEYAN EDUCATION SANCTIONED BY THE CONFERENCE IN 1841

SCHOOLS

The committee proposes for the adoption of all schools, now or hereafter, to be connected with Wesleyan Methodism, the following:-

PRINCIPLES, viz.,

Religious Instruction and Worship

Such schools shall be of distinctly religious character; and, as practical means to realize this important purpose the following elementary arrangements are deemed indispensable; viz. -

1. The Bible, in the Authorized Version only, shall be the basis of all religious instruction; and a certain portion of everyday, at least half an hour each morning and afternoon, shall be set apart for the devotional reading of the Holy Scriptures, with explanations by the Teacher or Visitor.
2. The authorized Wesleyan Catechisms shall be used in all our Sunday and Day Schools, except in special case, wherein the Parent or Guardian of a child shall express a decided objection; and, in addition to the use of our printed Catechisms, in order that the understanding as well as the memory of each child may be exercised in the elements of Sacred Knowledge, the interrogative or conversational mode of teaching shall be employed in communicating religious instruction.
3. Christian Psalmody, in which the Wesleyan Hymn Books shall be used, shall form apart of the daily exercises.
4. The school duties shall uniformly begin and end with Prayers.
5. The children of our Sunday and Day Schools shall be conducted to Public Worship in some of our Chapels every Sabbath Day; but those children whose parents distinctly request it, shall be allowed to attend their own place of worship, on condition that assurance be given that such attendance takes place regularly every Lord's Day in the company and under the charge of their parents, adult relatives, or masters.

TEACHERS

1. Every teacher employed in the Day or Infant Schools, or trained for them, shall be of a *decidedly religious character*, and in connection with the Wesleyan-Methodist society.

2. Every teacher shall be recommended by, or receive testimonials from, the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit in which he or she resides; and, previously to his or her actual appointment, shall be examined by the General Committee of Education, or by persons deputed to examine on their behalf, in conformity with their recognized principle.
3. The general ability of Teachers to communicate knowledge, their being "apt to teach", and of their love of the work of teaching, shall be practically tested previously to their definite engagement; and it shall be required, as the lowest qualification, that they be competent to give instructions in the essential doctrines of Christianity, the grammatical structure, reading, and writing of the English language, in Arithmetic and Geography, and in the elements of Sacred and General History.

SCHOOL HOUSES

1. All the School-Rooms or Houses built, or to be built, for Wesleyan Schools, shall be held in trust for the Connexion, in a manner similar to the settlement of Chapel property among the Wesleyan-Methodists.
2. The Trust-Deeds shall contain a proviso to the effect that no doctrine contrary to Wesleyan Methodism shall be taught in any of the schools of the Connexion. The previous regulation concerning Catechisms is to be understood in conformity with this article.

STATISTICS

The secretary of each school shall be requested to furnish an annual Report of the state thereof to the General Committee in London, in the manner which will be pointed out by schedules to be provided for that purpose, and transmitted to the Superintendent of each circuit, previously to the May District-Meeting. Such local reports are required in order to a general Report of the whole of our school operatives.

Grants were paid by the Wesleyan Education Committee towards the outfitting and maintenance of schools.

EXAMINATIONS

Examinations of Pupil - Teachers in religious knowledge were made. This involved five years of examinations following a candidate's examination for new teachers. Examples of questions for the March 1876 examinations are given below:-

Candidates

1. What law did God give to our first parents in paradise and what evil did they bring upon themselves by not keeping it?
2. What is it to believe in Christ?
3. What is the grace of God, and how are we to seek it?
4. Give an account of the visit of the wise men to Jesus, and say what Herod did after it
5. The Sermon on the Mount opens with nine verses which begin with the same word. Write as many of these verses as you can.
6. Both the Sixth and Seventh Chapters of St. Matthew's Gospel contain teachings of Jesus about prayer. Write what is said on this subject in either of these chapters.

Fifth year

1. How did the death of Christ satisfy Divine justice?
2. How did Christ train up his Apostles for their public service?
3. Mention the principal events in the life of Solomon; and give a description of his temple.
4. Give an outline of the reign of King Rehoboam; include an account of "the great disruption" and its consequences.
5. What was Peter's answer to Jesus's question, - "Whom say ye that I am"? Explain the meaning of his words, - Upon this rock will I build my church"; "I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven".
6. Point out respects in which the Parables of Jesus differ from fables; and show how these

characteristics are exemplified in the Parables of the Sower.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESLEYAN COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION 1855-1859

The 21st Annual Report of the Wesley Committee of Education 1855-1859, contained the following report, just a few years after the school opened when 82 pupils were on the register:-

"Griffydham, (Ashby-de-la-Zouch) Mixed, 82. - This school continues under the teacher by whom it was opened, and has been successfully conducted for many years. The tone of this school is of the best kind ; the discipline kind but effective. The progress, measured by ordinary rules, would possibly deemed in some points not sufficiently marked ; but the teacher has impressed his own individuality on his modes, and the children turn out well under his teaching. The school is greatly valued in the locality, and suffers no loss, however schools may multiply around it".

EXTRACTS FROM GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL LOG BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1863

In the Leicestershire Record Office at Wigston, there is a log book for the School dated 1862 to 1873. The reference is E/LB/364/1, and it certainly makes for interesting reading for anyone wishing to find out further information on school activities in those days. The writer felt it would be appropriate to record a selection of comments made by the various teachers in those days.

1862

Fri Dec 12th Season holiday coming - 2 Weeks.

1863

Mon Jan 5th Re-opened school with 75 Scholars.
Thu Jan 8th Children improved in discipline.
Mon Jan 12th Began with Monitors Committee visited.
Tue Jan 13th Committee visited children gave satisfaction.
Fri Jan 16th Closed the week with 80 children.
Tue Jan 20th Reading improved.
Wed Jan 21st Very Wintry - Not many scholars.
Mon Feb 2nd Children reprimanded for being late.
Tue Feb 3rd Improvement in punctuality.
Tue Feb 10th Examination in reading.
Wed Feb 11th Class attendance - 89 present.
Thu Feb 12th Drill in discipline.
Fri Feb 20th Children received a singing lesson.
Mon Feb 23rd Examination of reading.
Tue Feb 24th Examination of writing.
Wed Feb 25th Examination of Spelling.
Thu Feb 26th Examination of Arithmetic.
Tue Mar 3rd Preparing for H.M. visit.
Wed Mar 4th The examination - 109 present.
Tue Mar 10th Holiday for Prince of Wales.
Wed Mar 18th Punishes boy for stealing marbles.
Tue Apr 7th Commenced school with 56 scholars.
Mon Jun 1st Re-opened school with 98 children.
Wed Jun 17th Sent a little girl home to be washed.
Mon Jun 29th Found it hard to get school peace.
Thu Jul 2nd Punishes 3 boys for bathing (swimming?) instead of coming to school.

Thu Jul 9th 1st class backward in arithmetic.
 Mon Jul 13th Day School Sermons preached by A. T. Jans??.
 Tue Jul 14th Bad attendance - children at hay-making.
 Thu Jul 16th Taught the children how to write tables on slates.
 Tue Jul 21st T.G.L. kept for stealing a child's dinner.
 Wed Jul 22nd Number present 102.
 Fri Jul 24th T.G.L. repeats the crime so severely punished.
 Mon Jul 27th 2 boys ran away.
 Tue Jul 28th The above boys severely punished.
 Wed Aug 5th Made the quarterly account out for Mr. Kidger (he was presumably the butcher at the bottom of Froggat's Lane (now School Lane) and was secretary of the school.
 Thu Aug 6th Received a letter from Mrs Cowlson complaining of her children's dinner being taken by other children.
 Fri Aug 7th The school is being closed for a month this mid-summer instead of 3 weeks, to have one week at Xmas instead of the usual fortnight.
 Mon Sep 7th Re-opening of school, in consequence of the great amount of sickness now prevalent amongst the scholars, we open with only 62.
 Tue Sep 8th The children appear to have forgotten everything.
 Thu Sept 10th Had to work very hard due to the monitors bad attendance.
 Fri Sep 11th The numbers have very considerably decreased due to the "Gleaning".
 Mon Sep 14th Numbers increased, 87 present, admitted 5 fresh scholars.
 Thu Sep 17th Just as children were leaving 2 boys began fighting.
 Fri Sep 18th Punished the above boys for fighting and running away. I acquainted Mr. Plowright upon the conduct of his boys in helping them to fight.

The following Principal Teachers were listed:-

January 1870 - Letitia Walker - Principal Teacher
 Certified teacher of the first years third division
 William Schlock - H.M. Inspector

1869 - Mary Ann Ryder - Principal Teacher

1866 - Meneen Fanny Mogford - Principal Teacher
 Examined for certificate 1865
 William Scoltock H.M. Inspector

1865 - Hannah McNeal - Principal Teacher
 Certified Dec 1864
 William Scoltock H.M. Inspector

Dec 22nd 1864
 Rebecca Haywood - Principal Teacher
 T. Ellen Lister resigns her duties commensurate with the school C.T. 3/3

The inspectors report was written in the Log Book by William Kidger (School Secretary):-

Inspectors Report May 17th 1865:-
The instruction and discipline are in some respects satisfactory, but there seems to be a rather want of life and spirit in the teaching. A summary register for the weekly, quarterly and yearly averages is

required. Floor dirty. proper books should be provided for the first standard. The instructions in sewing should be improved.

William Kidger, Secretary.

FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESLEYAN COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION 1875-1879

In 1876 James C. Jarvis of **Griffydam** took the third year examination.

Robert H. Plowright of **Griffydam** is mentioned in list of teachers with his birth date of 1846. He would have been the Teacher / Master at this time.

A grant for £10 towards the outfit of Griffydam School in 1875.

FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESLEYAN COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION 1880-1884

S. Barraclough is listed as the Teacher / Master at **Griffydam** - No. of children 145 with average attendance of 100. *In the 1881 census for Pegg's Green, Samuel Barraclough was listed as a School Master aged 24 and born in Manchester. He was lodging with Mary A. Tugby, a widow, aged 49.* At some point in this period William Ball has taken over from S. Barraclough as Teacher / Master at **Griffydam School**.

Agnes K. Goodman (teacher) took the second year examination.

In 1883 a grant of £10 for maintenance was awarded to **Griffydam School**.

FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESLEYAN COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION 1885-1889

Under **Griffydam**:-

Edith E. Goodman took the 4th year teacher's exam and achieved 72 marks.

Walter J. Plowright took the 3rd year exam and achieved 56 marks.

FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESLEYAN COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION 1890-1894

Robert T. Hance is now shown as the Teacher / Master at **Griffydam School**.

During this period the highest number of pupils was 139 with an average attendance of 107.

FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESLEYAN COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION 1895-1899

In this period Elsie A. Sutton of **Griffydam School** took the first year exam and achieved a marks of 68.

Robert T. Hance was still the Teacher / Master at **Griffydam School** with 124 pupils and an average attendance of 103.

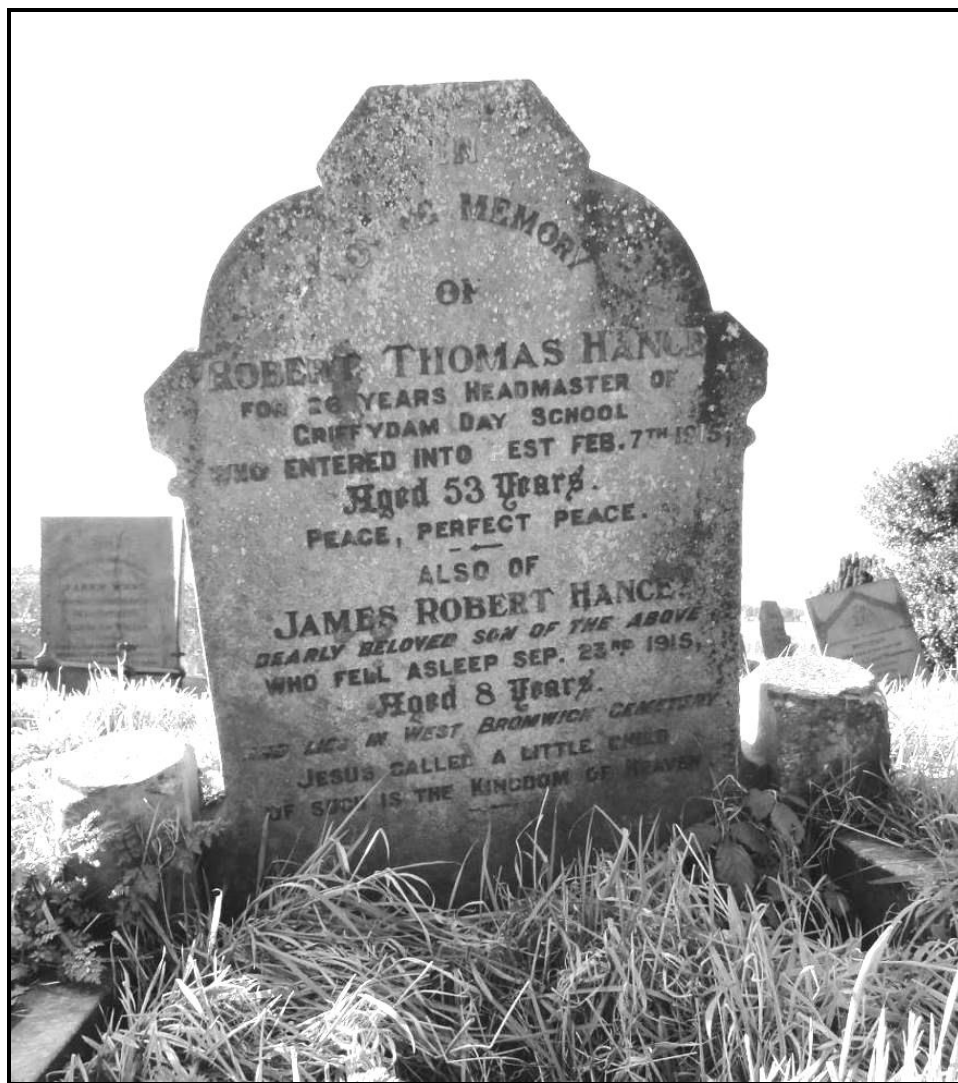
FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESLEYAN COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION 1900-1901

During this period Robert T. Hance was still the Teacher / Master at **Griffydam School** with 111 pupils and an average attendance of 101.

A recently discovered school register shows the last pupil admitted was on the 2nd March 1920. **He was named George Thomas Rouse and his last school was given as Hobart, Tasmania** He was 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old when he started. After its closure, it was also used as an overflow school for the new school which had been built on the hill c.1915. Finally, it became a local Institute / Adult School, where such things as sewing classes were held there, taught by Mrs. Knighton from Coleorton .

ROBERT THOMAS HANCE

The author's mother, Agnes Stewart (nee. Bird) who was born in 1901 in Anchor Lane, Peggs Green, attended the Wesleyan Day School. She related that Bobby Hance (Robert Thomas) who was the headmaster was very strict, and always walked around with his cane in his hand. She recalled the saying that "Bobby Hance could make you dance" which clearly related to the cane. He was headmaster of this school for 26 years, and died Feb 7th 1915. He was buried in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel graveyard, and below is a photograph of his gravestone. He was recorded as being the last headmaster at the school.



BOBBY HANCE'S GRAVESTONE
IN GRIFFYDAM WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL CEMETERY

The following, is an extract from an old newspaper article filed at Coalville Library with no date or reference appended, but is clearly the recollections of a senior resident of the locality. The text is a little confusing:-

The Wesleyan Day School, which appears to have been by far the most popular in the area, has been demolished within comparatively recent years, after it had existed for many years as a ruined shell of a building. Mr. R. T. Hance was the last headmaster and the school was attended by non-conformist children from as far afield as Osgathorpe and Worthington. Actually, this school stood outside the Parish of Coleorton, but that made no difference to its Coleorton supporters.

The scholars held their anniversaries and "sat up" in Chapel to sing special hymns, with Miss Lakin as organist. It was not surprising that the scholars enjoyed more than average enjoyment from the attendees, and willingly responded to the summons which was given each day, by the ringing of a bell from the school steps. The great event of the year was the school concert, with performances spread over two or three evenings, and the youngsters were regaled with buns and coffee (camp coffee?) at the end of each evening.



BEST ATTENDANCE PHOTOGRAPH 1905



BEST ATTENDANCE PHOTOGRAPH 1908



BEST ATTENDANCE PHOTOGRAPH 1909



WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL 1913

On the following page are two examples from the Wesleyan Day School registers:-

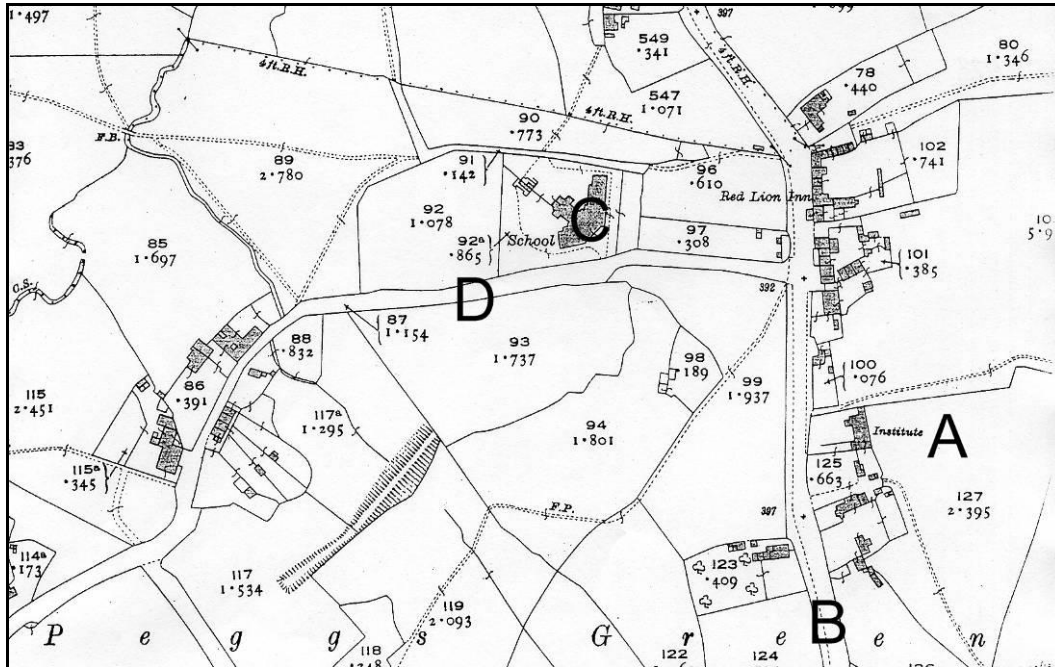
UPPER

This features the writers mother Agnes Bird from Pegg's Green who was born on the 3rd June 1901 and started school on the 5th June 1905. She left at the age of 14 on 12th Feb 1915 with a certificate of attendance.

LOWER

This features another resident of Pegg's Green John Archie Burton who was born on the 6th May 1899 and started school on the 12th Dec 1904. He left at the age of 13 on the 26th July 1912 with a Certificate of Attendance

GRIFFYDAM SCHOOL ON SCHOOL LANE HILL - BUILT c. 1915
 (Used as an elementary, junior and senior school during its life)



1923 O/S map

- A** - Formerly Griffydam Wesleyan Day School
which was subsequently used as an adult education institute
- B** - Nottingham Road (Griffydam Top Road)
- C** - Griffydam Senior School built c.1915.
- D** - School Lane

The new Griffydam Senior School, shown on the map above marked **C**, was built on what is now School Lane c.1915. It has now been converted into a private residence.

Margaret Barkby, born and bred in Coleorton, started attending the new school in 1923/4 and stayed there until 1930, before moving to Broom Leys School. The headmaster at that time was known as Daddy Elcock. Mr. Kirk was the woodwork master, and other teachers were Mr. Danvers, Miss Florrie Johnson, Miss Starbuck and Miss Morley.

Len Benson (aged 91), who sadly passed away last year, was a former resident of The Woolrooms, Coleorton, attended the new school on the hill from 1927 to 1936. He recalled that he also attended the old Wesleyan Day School for a short time at the beginning. It was thought that even though the above 1923 map shows the old school being used as an institute, it was still utilised when required, to take the overflow from the new school on the hill.

Len recalled the following teacher's names also - Headmaster Daddy Elcock, who Len thought lived at Osgathorpe during his time, Avro Harrison (also took PE), Miss Merrishaw (see pupil photograph of Griffydam Infant School), John Burden, Miss Johnson (see pupil photograph for Griffydam Infant School), Ms. Mitchell (lived in Griffydam), Ms. Watson (lived near Kidger's Butchers), Mr Clark (also

known as "Bulldog Clark"), and said to be ex-navy.



**Photographs of Griffydam Senior School
taken just prior to it being converted into a private residence**



● Can any of our readers identify the faces on this class of 1940 at Griffydam Senior School, taken in 1940? Spruced up for the photographer, every lad except the big fellow on the right has apparently dipped into his dad's Brylcreem and, apart from one, they all wear jackets. And nine out of the 14 girls wear that adolescent passion-killer, the gymslip.

Photograph from The Coalville Times 19.1.96



Class V 1940

Photographs were taken during the 2nd W.W. - Note the named Evacuees in the bottom one.

1st Row Left to Right

Eric King, Gordon Clemence

2nd Row Left to Right

Mary Toone, Margaret Sanderson, Mary Kilby, Thelma Bath, ?? , May Moorhouse, Jose King, Hetti Hall (Anchor Lane), Connie Rowell (Olga Terrace)

3rd Row Left to Right

Alan Williamson (Tentas), Roy Harrison, **Henry Wells (Evacuee)**, Eric Rowell,

Herbert Hodges, Lesley Webster, **Walter Sibbets (Evacuee)**, Roy Clemence,
Dennis Thursford (Evacuee, brother to June Thursford)

Top Row Left to Right

Frances Harris (Teacher), **June Thursford (Evacuee)**, Lorna Ashbridge (Olga Terrace),
 Daphe Hull, **Greta Stewart (sister of the writer)**, ?? , Edna Hodges



● Mr Ben Wilton, of Martinshaw Close, Groby, has sent in this old photograph of Griffydham School taken in 1928.

They are (from left, back row): T Reed, B Bird, Abbott, S Warrington, J Wilton, T Morley and H Fern.

Front row: B Wilson, H Leeson, D Robinson, M Pepper, F Else and E Mason.



Football Team 1928/29 season - Mr.Elcock (headmaster) is on the RH side

The writer attended this school in 1950 after coming down from the Infant School on the Top Road almost opposite the Tentas. He passed the 11+ exam there before moving on to Ashby Grammar School. Soon afterwards this school became an overflow school for children attending Coalville Grammar School. They were brought in by bus from the outlying districts.

SUMMARY OF THE LOG BOOK OF GRIFFYDAM SENIOR SCHOOL DURING THE PERIOD 1939-1948 (key social events only are identified)

THE 1918 AND 1936 EDUCATION ACTS

The 1918 Education act rationalised free education for all children and included both educational as well as medical provision. This is demonstrated in the Log book, regular visits are made by the school nurse, oculist, dentist and local doctors. It also requires the Local Educational Authority LEA to provide and supervise a range of the schools. Managers acted in a similar role to today's Governors.

The 1918 Act raised the school leaving age from 12 to 14 and made provision for a system of part-time 'continuation day' classes for those in work aged 14-18. It abolished all fees in state elementary schools and widened the provision of medical inspection, nursery schools, and special needs education.

The greater part of the financial burden of education - some 60 per cent - was transferred from the local authorities to central government. This was partly to foster a greater sense of professionalism among teachers by allowing them improved salaries and pensions.

However, many of these innovative changes could only be implemented in part, or not at all, due to cuts in public expenditure forced by the economic depression of the 1920s.

The 1936 Education act raised the school leaving age to 15, but empowered LEAs to issue employment certificates to allow 14 year olds to work rather than attend school in certain circumstances - for example, where a family would suffer 'exceptional hardship' if the child did not work

The Log Book is covered by "article 23" which states that "Every School must have a Diary or Log Book which should be a bare record of the events which constitute the history of the school. The log book was signed by the school manager who was Mr C. H. Pickering until his death on 22/5/1943 when it continued to be signed by Roland Hull. The headmaster during the period covered was Mr E.E. Elcock, who after retirement continued to live in the Harley Grammar School house in Osgathorpe where he lived during the period covered. He also played the Church Organ. *He was known by the children as Daddy Elcock.*

The reader should bear in mind that the following records are from the period during the 1939 - 1945 2nd World War. Note the difference between "The Griffydam Wesleyan Day School" log book recordings of 1862/3 shown earlier.

1939

16 - Feb	Log book begins
7-17 April	Easter holidays. Outside toilets were lime washed. These privy's had galvanized pans under wooden seats with holes in them that were emptied fortnightly by the council. Griffydam junior school had indoor flushing toilets 26th Sept 1964.
18-Apr	1 hour's art and craftwork introduced for each class. Recommendation from HM Inspector.
4-May	School collected 140 eggs for Loughborough Hospital. NHS did not commence until Feb 1948. Hospitals were supported by local collections.
11-May	Head advised that in the event of war, 100 senior girls would be allocated to the school from Birmingham.
19-May	L.E.A. visited to make arrangements to feed evacuees.
24-May	Empire day holiday
21-Jun	Band of Hope Union gives senior children a lesson on "The Hygiene of Food and Drink". This was a temperance organisation formed in response to excessive drinking in the 1800's. From 1909 onwards the school syllabus included education on alcohol and its related problems etc.

	Originally, this included the promotion of 'temperance'. The misuse of alcohol was thought to relate to the misuse of food. The educational approach today relates it to the misuse of drugs.
5-Jul	Schools Sports, the last until after the war
28-Jul	Last day of Term.
29-Aug	First day of new term.
1-Sep	School closed for the reception of 57 children evacuated from Birmingham and accompanied by the Head Mistress and two assistants. The number of evacuees changing throughout the war, with some children returning to parents.
4-Sep	War declared on Germany. School closed until further notice.
11-Sep	School reopens.
3-Oct	School numbers increase from 166 to 221 due to influx of evacuees.
17-22 Oct	Holiday, but evacuees attend school.
12-Dec	Birmingham teachers take Christmas holidays in rota, to ensure supervision of evacuees during Christmas.
19-Dec	Dr Murray sees undernourished children. Unemployment as a result of the Great depression was still high at the beginning of the war and the conversion of manufacturing to a war footing was not immediate.
1940	
15-Jan	Boy injured finger, taken to Dr Garry at Osgathorpe. National Health system did not begin until 1948. At this time Doctors were private and would carry out minor surgery and dispensing.
29-Jan	3 to 4 feet (0.9-1.2m) of Snow made road impassable, 10 children arrived soaked and sent home. 2 hours to walk from Osgathorpe
31-Jan	Teacher conscripted into the Army From the outbreak of war. Men from 18 to 41 were conscripted for military service. In 1942, women between 20 to 30 and men from 18 to 51 were conscripted. There were exemptions e.g. married women, miners, vital war work.
12-Feb	Roads still bad but full attendance
17-Feb	6" (150mm) snow fell
10-Apr	11+ examinations Pupils who passed could go to Grammar School if families could afford the cost of uniforms etc. otherwise the children would remain until leaving age
23-Apr	13 cases of measles all from Thringstone reported to Schools Medical Officer. A highly contagious infection, complications occur in about 30% include diarrheal, blindness, inflammation of the brain, and pneumonia. There were no vaccinations or antibiotics to treat complications
23-Apr	136 eggs collected for Loughborough Hospital. January 1940 butter and sugar were rationed. Eggs were rationed in Jun 1942 when dried eggs became available on ration.
10-May	School closed until 21st May
14-May	School opens as a result of Government wireless announcement. Radio was being increasingly used by the government to make announcements
24-May	Empire day holiday
21-Jun	County Handicraft Teachers transferred to Armament Production
21-Jun to 8-Jul	Midsummer Holiday introduced Holidays have been changed to enable children to help in haymaking
12-Jul	School garden inspected U-boat blockade made importing food difficult and a 'Dig for Victory' campaign encouraged everyone to grow more food.
6-Sep	Attendance better as less disturbance from air raid warnings Battle of Britain Jul 10 to 31 Oct. During this period German Airforce carried out heavy daylight bombing raids. After this period bombing raids were at night. The children would have seen the horizon lit up on the 14th Nov. when Coventry one of the finest medieval cities in Europe was destroyed completely.
15-Nov	Band of Hope Union gives senior children a lesson on "The Hygiene of Food and Drink"
29-Nov	22 children evacuated from Birmingham
5-Dec	41 children evacuated from Birmingham It is likely the 1939 evacuees returned home and the commencement of heavy bombing in the 1940s necessitated the evacuation Air Raid children and teachers spent from 1-35 until 3-00 in air raid shelter

1941

- 20-Jan Heavy snow. No buses in the afternoon. All children had to walk home.
27-Jan Roads better and buses came
25-Feb Shrove Tuesday holiday in the afternoon
3-4 Apr 11+ exams
9-May War Weapons week.
Involved the whole community generating money for the war effort. EG National Saving certificate or knitting gloves for military.
26-May Head discusses Fire Prevention Order 1941
Due to the Germans increasing use of incendiary bombs, Local Authorities required males between 18 and 60 to spend 48 hours a month as fire wardens.
4-Jul School closed for Haymaking
26 Sep-13th Oct School closed for potato picking, some of the boys continued to do this for the rest of the month.
6-Nov Diphtheria immunisation 2nd treatment.
13-Nov Band of Hope Union gives senior children a lesson on "The Hygiene of Food and Drink"
17-Nov School start at 9-30 until February.
12-Dec Two prizes and 33 certificates awarded by band of hope for essays.
16-Dec Supplementary clothing coupons given to 13 children.

1942

- 20-Jan Heavy snow, 76 local children attend.
23-Jan More snow, less than 50% attend.
4-Feb 96 children attend due to snow.
17-Feb Shrove Tuesday holiday in the afternoon
26-27 Mar 11+ exams - A.S. Exam
20-Apr Head attend meeting on the employment of children in Agriculture.
20-Apr Signs of subsidence have appeared on western side of the building.
1-May Representative of New Lount Colliery Co inspect school buildings.
15-May 11+ oral exam.
11-Jun School medical officer examines leavers and carries out a nutrition survey.
29-Sep Head attend meeting on the employment of children in potato harvest in October.
2-Oct School closes for 3 weeks - Presumably to pick potatoes.
23-Nov School start at 9-30 until February.
24-Nov Lists of 181 children and 6 Teachers sent to ARP warden.

1943

- 10-Mar Representative of New Lount Colliery Co inspect school buildings.
17-Mar Joiner from New Lount Colliery Co attends to 5 doors.
1-2 Apr 11+
14-May Book drive brings in 473 books and 459 magazines.
18-May 11+ oral exam.
10-Sep Band of Hope Union gives senior children a lesson on "The Hygiene of Food and Drink".
15-Nov School start at 9-30 until February.
15-Nov Extra Clothing coupons requests for 43 pupils.
28-29 Nov Heavy Snow - no buses or milk.

1944

- 2-3 Mar 11 +
21-Mar Head attends meeting on "Salvage Drive".
1-May 11+ oral exam.
24-May Head attends meeting on Board Education Circular 1654 supply of teachers and transference of pupils to Secondary Schools at 13.
14-Jun Diphtheria immunisation .
21-Jun Book drive brings in 346 books.
26-Jul School Sports held on Games Field first time since 1939.
17-Nov 4 weeks with only 3 teachers'. Older boys sent on farm work
20-Nov Extra Clothing coupons requests for 47 pupils.
25-Nov Last Evacuees return to Birmingham.
27-Nov Boiler broken as class temperatures are 4 °C. Children sent home .

15-Dec	Boiler fully repaired.
1945	
18-Jan	Lecture by the National Council for Animals' welfare.
26-30 Jan	Snow and frosts -4 °C.
1-2 Mar	11+
2-May	11+ oral exam.
8-9 May	End of War in Europe 2 days holiday.
5-Jul	Parliamentary Election. Head is Presiding Officer. Held at Griffydam Primary School "this school not being used as previously"
16-23 Jul	Midland Red bus drivers on strike, children have to walk to school.
24-Sep	V.E. Day holiday
28-Sep	Many children permitted to go potato picking for 2 weeks weather good.
19-Oct	Still dry. Rain water storage emptied and sediment removed.
29-Oct	Heavy Rain penetrates through roof.
9-Nov	Band of Hope Union gives senior children a lesson on "The Hygiene of Food and Drink".
4-Dec	Extra Clothing coupons requests for 60 pupils.
1946	
9-Jan	Workmen doing repairs.
21-23 Jan	Snow and frosts.
7-8 Mar	11+
15-Mar	Only 4 children been immunised against Diptheria. 3 parents refused.
7-May	Woodwork commences on Mr Lawson's release from War work for 5 years.
7-May	11+ oral exam
15-Jul	Children go to Miners Institute to see a film called Safety First.
10-Oct	240 bread units were issued to children who spend week potato picking.
15-Oct	New Boiler fitted, heating for the first time since spring.
6-Nov	264 bread unit were issued to children who spend week potato picking W/E 18 Oct.
1947	
27-Jan	Snow, 78 children present.
28-Jan	More snow, 79 children present.
29-Jan	More snow and frost. 69 children present. Buses late. At 10am -9 °C. Milk delivered at 3pm and bottle frozen solid.
4-Feb	More snow and frost, 46 children present, buses late.
7-Feb	Exceptionally cold school kept comfortably warm. No milk for a week.
10-Feb	More snow 1.5m to 1.8m drifts Rempstone road blocked.
12-Feb	Rempstone Rd drifts cleared to allow one way traffic. Bus gets through from Osgathorpe.
19-Feb	First milk delivery since the 3 rd . Road travel no better.
5-6th Mar	Greatest blizzard in living memory. Roads have been covered in snow and ice for six weeks. Drifts 2 to 2.5 m deep.
7-Mar	Friday, few local children that arrived sent home.
11-Mar	The Miners Institute is considered to see if is a suitable place for mid-day meals. But no cooking facilities or water supply.
6-7 Mar	11+ postponed bad weather.
13-14 Mar	11+ exams.
26-Mar	Head attends meeting regarding potato picking.
25-Apr	Subsidence damage to Floors inspected.
2-May	11+ oral exam.
14-May	Fireguards measured for Domestic science room.
4-Jun	Meeting to move senior children to Broom Leys.
30-Jul	Woodwork benches sent to Ashby Grammar school.
10-Sep	Senior pupils transferred to Broom Leys and Hugglescote Sec Modern Schools.
20-Nov	44 Juniors taught by Head and Miss A King.
26-Apr	Holiday, for marriage of Princess Elizabeth.
30-Sep	Holiday, Silver Wedding King and Queen.
	Mr. E. E. Elcock retires after 22 year.

TEACHER RECORDS FROM LOG BOOK

Miss Gwendolene G Hull	Headmistress of Vicarage Rd Senior Girls School Birmingham To establish the 57 children evacuated	26 Sept 1939 returned 2 October	
<u>Teachers before 26th September 1939</u>			Role
Mr E E Elcock	Headmaster	3rd Year Senior Mixed	29
Mr Douglas W Preston		2nd Year Senior Mixed	31
Miss Elizabeth K Lumsden		1st Year Senior Mixed	41
Miss Barbara M Armson		St IV & V Juniors Mixed	35
Miss Frances Harris		St II & III Juniors Mixed	30
Mr Lawson	Handicraft		
Miss M Harris	Domestic Science	Arrived 4 Sept 1939	
			166
<u>Teachers at 3rd October 1939</u>			
Mr E E Elcock	Headmaster	3rd Year Senior Mixed & Gardening	39
Miss Catherine Lloyd ##	Transferred from Vicarage Rd Senior Girls School Birmingham 26 Sept 1939	3rd Year Senior Mixed	40
Miss Elizabeth K Lumsden	previously 1st year	3rd Year Senior Mixed	36
Mr Douglas W Preston		2nd Year Senior Mixed	25
Miss Anne Clucas ##	Transferred from Vicarage Rd Senior Girls School Birmingham 26 Sept 1939	1st & 2nd Year Senior Mixed, backward Children	
Miss Barbara M Armson		St IV & V Juniors Mixed	41
Miss Frances Harris	Becomes Mrs Stapleton 2 Jan 1944	St II & III Juniors Mixed	40
Mr Lawson	Handicraft	Transferred for armament work to Loughborough College returned 7 May 1946	
Miss M Harris	Domestic Science		
			221
## Teachers from Birmingham change regularly		Difference	55
Miss Winchurch	6 Feb 1940 Teacher transferred from Birmingham	2nd Aug	

Mr Rowell	6 Feb 1940 Teacher		
Miss Barbara M Armson	Becomes head at Newtown Linford	7 Jan 1941	
Miss E Clifford	Teacher	Started 21 July 1941 left 22 Apr 1943 for school in Harrow	
Miss Audrey Alison King	Student Teacher	Started 1 Sept 1941	
Miss Elizabeth K Lumsden	Teacher	Left 19 Dec 1941 for Fifeshire	
Miss Waldron	No record of Miss Harris leaving	Left for S Charnwood 30 Jul 1943	
Miss G M Williams	Domestic Science	Starts 16 Aug 1943 left 21 Jul 1944	
Mrs Stapleton		Left 29 Feb for Leicester	
Mrs Haywood		Left 16 Medical reasons 16 May 1944	
Miss J Hawkins	Domestic Science	Started 4 Sep 1944 Left 30 Jul 1945 for Portsmouth	
Miss M Griffiths	Domestic Science	Started 14 Sep 1945 left 29 July 1946	
Miss King		Name appears in 1945	
Miss Foster		Name appears in 1945	
1 st October 1948 School becomes Infants & Junior			
Miss Kitty Wright	Headmistress	Class I	26
Miss A King		Class II	24
Miss K J Johnson		Class III	24
			74

Click [Here](#) To Read About Griffydam Schools

LOCAL TURNPIKE ROADS WHICH CIRCUMNAVIGATED GRIFFYDAM, PEGG'S GREEN & PART OF GELSMOOR

HIGHWAYS ACT 1555 - This was the first legislation of any importance which affected roads. It transferred responsibility for the upkeep of the King's highways to the parishes. Each parishioner owning a plowland in tillage, or keeping a draught or plough, was liable to supply a cart for four days a year for use in road repair. Each able bodied house holder or tenant was required to give four days 'Statute labour a year' (increased in 1691 to six). It was possible to pay a fine to commute this, or else provide a substitute (LRFHS Journal 145 2011).

The takeover of major roads by the turnpike trusts had begun in the country in 1726, with the main London road through Harborough via Leicester to Loughborough. In 1753-4, the roads from Hinckley, Coventry, Uppingham, Narborough and Ashby were turnpiked, and a number of other roads were added. In the 1760's, toll bars at which the finance for the maintenance of the roads was collected from travelers" were established.

Following the introduction of maintained Turnpike Roads, the local areas of Griffydam, Pegg's Green, Gelsmoor, Swannington, Coleorton, Newbold and Lount were fortunate in being well served by a network of these, which made the transportation of goods such as coal, lime and pottery etc, to outlying places much more efficient. In former times, horse drawn wagons and carriages had to use unmaintained cart tracks where particularly during inclement weather, horse and carts and carriages would have become stuck and broken down in the muddy and deep ruts which would have formed. Waggons with loads of up to 7 tons and being pulled by up to 8 horses were not unusual when hauling lime or coal.

Turnpike trusts were bodies set up by individual acts of Parliament, with powers to collect road tolls for maintaining the principal roads in Britain from the 17th century, but especially during the 18th and 19th centuries. At their peak, in the 1830s, over 1,000 trusts administered around 30,000 miles (48,000 km) of turnpike road in England and Wales, taking tolls at almost 8,000 toll-gates and side-bars. They declined with the coming of the canals and railways and then the Local Government Act of 1888 gave responsibility for maintaining main roads to county councils and county borough councils. From the 1880's, Toll Houses and Gates were being sold off and many were demolished.

The Trusts were empowered to construct metalled (broken stone and cinders) roads along the lengths of which were situated bars or gates, which were opened to allow passage on payment of a toll. Tolls were fixed according to a scale, depending upon the type of vehicle, animal or travelers passing the point; the tolls being advertised on a Toll Board on a pole or adjacent building (see the following photographs and details of tolls payable).

Toll Gates (normally associated with a Toll Gate house) and Toll Bars where the tolls were collected, were located at strategic points, and where possible, at the junction with other roads. For example, the toll gate and house built on Lount cross-roads replaced three toll bars. These were at Newbold, one to the east of the hamlet of Lount, and one on the Melbourne road. Toll Gate houses were often built in a hexagonal shape, so that views of the traffic would not be impeded at junctions. See the following photographs of the hexagonal Lount cross-roads Toll Gate House, also referred to as the "Round House", which was demolished in 1930 due to a serious car accident there.

The Rempstone turnpike ran along the North West side of Griffydam and formed the boundary of the village on that side. To the east of the village from the Rempstone cross roads, Froggat's Lane (now the Top Road and Nottingham Road), first recorded in 1806 at the time of the inclosure Act, was in fact a branch of the Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike road which intersected with the main turnpike road at Pegg's Green, approximately where Tugby's Lane is now. This carried on North from Rempstone cross roads, bypassing Cloud Hill Bar on the way to Redwood Gate, Breedon.

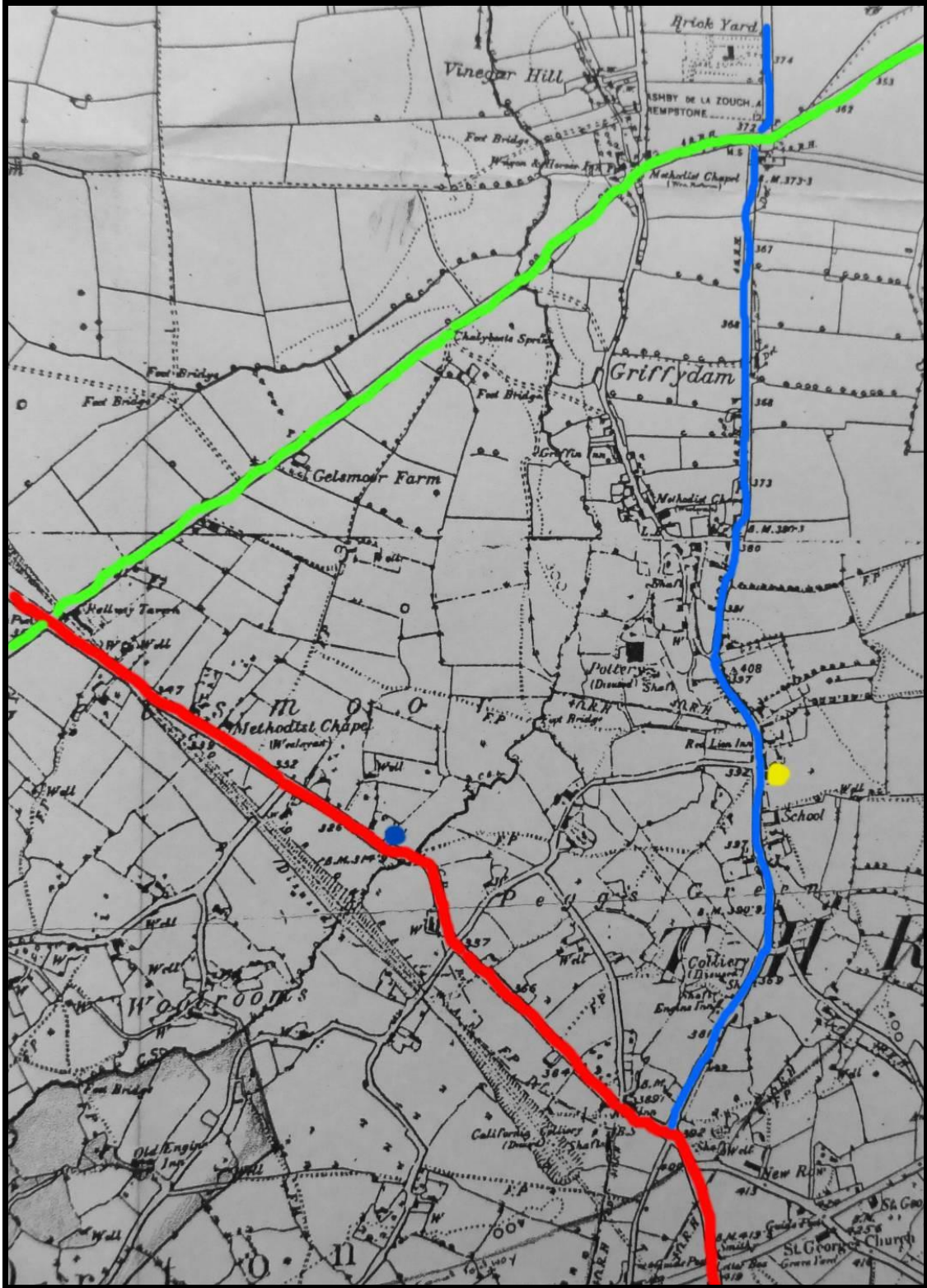
The main Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike headed North West after Swannington, by-passing Pegg's Green and on to Gelsmoor, where it intersected with the Rempstone turnpike. It then went through to Lount and on to Melbourne.

The following 1885 map has been used to superimpose on it, the route of the Hinckley To Melbourne turnpike (coloured red), the branch of the Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike to Breedon (coloured blue) and Rempstone turnpike (coloured green).

According to numerous records, and as shown on the 1836 O/S map, there was a Toll Gate House and gate on Froggats' Lane, at the position marked by a yellow dot. This was located just within the Pegg's Green boundary.

A further Toll Gate House and Bar / Gate was located at Cart Brook also, which is marked by a blue dot on the map; this was in Gelsmoor just north of Cart Brook which formed the boundary at that point between Pegg's Green and Gelsmoor according to the 1806 inclosure map.

We have only been able to identify 4 toll gate collectors in the census records but it is difficult to say whether they were at Froggat's Lane Toll Gate or Cart Brook with any certainty; these being Fanny Bacon, Sarah Wood, Etienne Bakewll and Mary Ball.



Based on 1885 O/S map



The above are a selection of unused Toll Gate and Toll Bar tickets from c.1860 to the closure of turnpikes c.1880, two of which are for Froggatt's Lane & Cartbrook

THE FOLLOWING IS THE EARLIEST RECORD THE WRITER HAS FOUND FOR THE LETTING /AUCTIONING OF TURNPIKE TOLLS:-

In 1809, the following was recorded in the "Leicester Journal and Midland counties Advertiser" Volume LV111 iss:2961 dated 20.10.1809 and 17.11.1809. regarding the auctioning / letting of Turnpike Tolls:-

TURN PIKE TOLLS TO LET - Notice is herewith given that the tolls arising at the several toll gates and Bars under-mentioned, erected upon the Turnpike Road leading from Hinckley to Melbourne, coming in the County of Leics, and the several branches thereof, will be let by auction to the best bidder or bidders, at the Bull's Head in Market Bosworth on Wednesday the 22nd of November next, between the hours of 2 and 6, in the manner directed by the Act passed in the thirteenth year of the Reign of his present Majesty, for "regulating turnpike roads", which tolls let the last year for the following sums, and will be put at the same sums - "Hinckley and Stapleton Gates" £121; Osbaston Gate and 4 Bars £120; Heather and Sweptstone £116; Hoo Ash, Old Lane, **Froggatt's Lane**, Etigene (Engine?) Cartbrook, Newbold and Swannington >£386) Stauton £53 Redwood £50. Whoever happens to be the takers of the said tolls, must at the same time pay a deposit of ten per cent of the rent agreed for, and be prepared to take yearly.

HINCKLEY AND MELBOURNE TURNPIKE ROAD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

THAT the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates and Bars hereafter-mentioned, erected upon the Turnpike-road between Hinckley and Melbourne Common, the several Branches thereof, in the Counties of Leicester and Derby,

WILL BE LET BY AUCTION,

To the Best Bidder, at the House of Mr. Trivett, the Dir's Arms Inn, in Market Bosworth, in the County of Leicester, on Friday, the 21st day of November, 1856, between the Hours of Eleven and Two, for the Term of One Year, commencing the First Day of January next, in the manner directed by the Acts passed in the third and fourth years of his Majesty King George the Fourth, for regulating Turnpike Roads, which Tolls produced the last year the several sums hereafter mentioned, clear of the expenses of collecting them, and will be put up at such sums and in such lots as the Trustees present shall think fit.

	£.	s.	d.
Hinckley Gate and Stapleton Gate and Bar...	98	0	0
Cadeby Machine, Gate, and Bar	82	0	0
Osbaston Gate and Bars	98	0	0
Sweepstone Gate and Bar	51	0	0
Pisc Lane Gate and Bar, and Heather Mill Bar	76	0	0
Hoo Ash Lane and Old Lane Gates, and Swanington Bar	42	0	0
Froggatt's Lane Gate, Pegg's Green Bar, Engine Gate and Cartbrook Bar, and Newbold Gate and Bar	204	0	0
Redwood Gate and Bar	55	0	0
Staunton Gate and Bar	44	0	0

Whoever happens to be the best Bidder, must at the same time pay One Month's Rent in advance of the rent at which such Tolls may be Let, and give security with sufficient sureties to the satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for the payment of the rest of the Money Monthly.

The Renters of Gates that stand in arrears will not be allowed to bid.

EDWARD FISHER,

Clerk to the Trustees.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch,
16th October, 1856.

1856 Newspaper advertisement for auction of Toll Gates and Toll Bars

TURNPIKE TRUST.

Expiration of the Local Act of Parliament and Sale
of the Toll Houses and Gates.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That in consequence of the Abolition of the Tolls on this Road on the
1st day of November, 1880, the

**MATERIALS OF THE TOLL HOUSES
AND THE TURNPIKE GATES,
WILL BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION,
For removal immediately after that day, by**

MESSRS. GERMAN, GERMAN, AND LOWE,

Subject to such Conditions as will be read at the Time of Sale, and at the following times and places:

- LOT 1.—THE HINCKLEY GATE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *Thursday, the 28th day of October, 1880, at 11 o'clock* in the Forenoon precisely, at the Hinckley Gate.
- LOT 2.—THE STAPLETON GATE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day, at 11.30 o'clock* in the Forenoon precisely, at the Stapleton Gate.
- LOT 3.—THE CADEBY MACHINE GATE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day, at 12 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Cadeby Machine Gate.
- LOT 4.—THE OSBASTON BAR TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day, at 12.30 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Osbaston Bar.
- LOT 5.—THE OSBASTON GATE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day at 12.45 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely at the Osbaston Gate Toll House.
- LOT 6.—THE BELCHER'S BAR TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day, at 3 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Belcher's Bar.
- LOT 7.—THE PISCA LANE BAR TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day, at 3.30 o'clock* in the Afternoon, at Pisca Lane Bar.
- LOT 8.—THE HEATHER MILL BAR TOLL HOUSE and Bar, on *the same day at 4 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Heather Mill Bar.
- LOT 9.—THE SWEPSTONE BAR TOLL HOUSE and Bar, on *the same day, at 4.30 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Sweepstone Bar.
- LOT 10.—THE OLD LANE GATE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *Friday, the 29th day of October, 1880, at 10.30 o'clock* in the Forenoon precisely, at the Old Lane Gate.
- LOT 11.—THE SWANNINGTON BAR TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day, at 11 o'clock* in the Forenoon at Swannington Bar.
- LOT 12.—THE FROGGATT'S LANE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day at 11.30 o'clock* in the Forenoon precisely, at the Froggatt's Lane Gate.
- LOT 13.—THE FROGGATT'S LANE BAR TOLL HOUSE and Bar on *the same day at 11.45 o'clock* in the Forenoon precisely, at the Froggatt's Lane Bar.
- LOT 14.—THE CLOUDWOOD BAR TOLL HUT and Bar, on *the same day, at 12.30 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Redwood Gate.
- LOT 15.—THE REDWOOD GATE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day at 12.30 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Redwood Gate.
- LOT 16.—THE ENGINE GATE TOLL HOUSE and Gate, on *the same day, at 2 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Engine Gate.
- LOT 17.—THE CARTBROOK BAR TOLL HOUSE and Bar, on *the same day at 2.30 o'clock* in the Afternoon precisely, at the Cartbrook Bar.

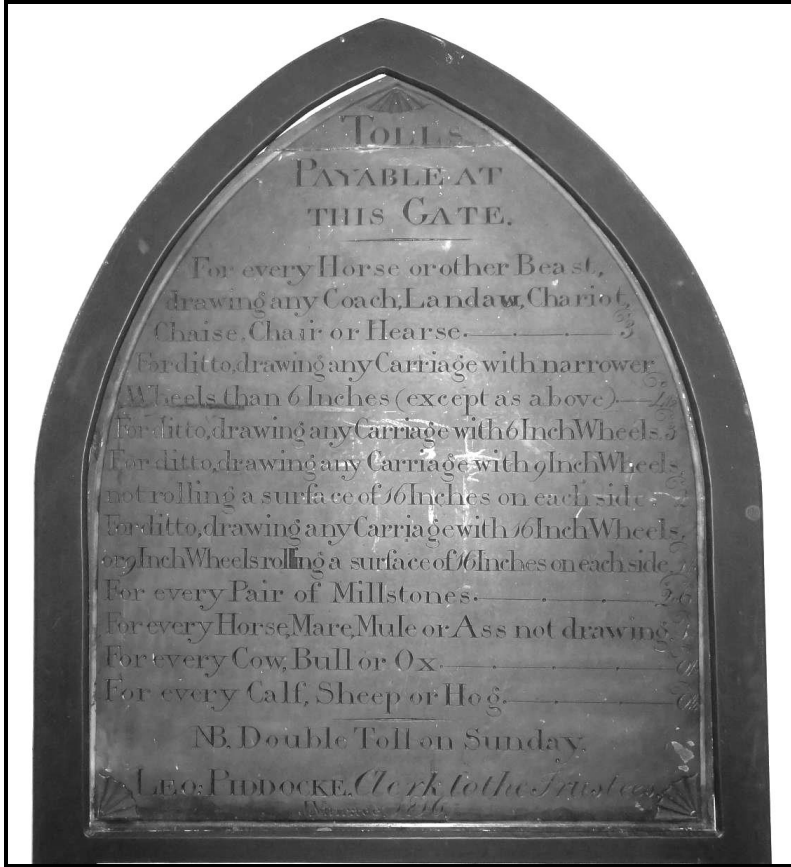
The above is an example of an auction for local Toll Houses and Gates / Bars in 1880

**LOUNT CROSS ROADS TOLL GATE HOUSE AT THE JUNCTION OF THE HINCKLEY TO
MELBOURNE AND TAMWORTH TO SAWLEY TURNPIKE ROADS**



The old Toll Gate house on Lount cross roads - Demolished c.1930. Photographs by kind permission of Ashby Museum





Lount Tolls Tariff Board (dated 1836) is shown mounted above the door in the preceding photographs. Photograph by kind permission of Ashby de la Zouch Museum.

TOLLS ON TARRIF BOARD

For every horse or other beast drawing any Coach, Landau, Chariot, Chaise, Chair or Hearse	- 3d
For ditto drawing any carriage with narrower wheels than 6 inches (except as above)	- 4½d
For ditto, drawing any carriage with 6 inches wheels	- 3d
For ditto, drawing any carriage with 9 inch wheels, not rolling a surface of 16 inches on either side	- 2d
For ditto, drawing any carriage with 16 inches wheels or 9 inches wheels, rolling a surface of 16 inches on either side	- 3½d
For every pair of millstones	- 2s. 6d
For every Horse, Mare, Mule or Ass not drawing	- 1d
For every Cow, Bull, or Ox	- ½d
For every Calf, Sheep or Hog	- ¼d

NB. DOUBLE TOLL ON SUNDAYS



Those Toll Gate Houses built in the early 19th century often had a distinctive bay front to give the pikeman a clear view of the road, and to provide a display area for the Toll Board. In 1840, according to the Turnpike Returns in Parliamentary Papers, there were over 5,000 tollhouses operating in England. These were sold off in the 1880s when the turnpikes were closed. Many were demolished but several hundred have survived as domestic houses, with distinctive features of the old tollhouse still visible. The notice on the wall of this Toll House is "for sale by auction" and the photograph was c.1880.

Click [Here](#) To Learn More About Local Turnpike Roads

AN INSIGHT INTO PAUPERS / PAUPERISM

The general meaning of a pauper is "a poor person". In several of both the Griffydam and Pegg's Green census records Pauper's are referred to. For example, in the 1851 Griffydam and Pegg's Green census a total of 6 paupers are still listed. There is even a record of a retired pauper in Griffydam in 1861 and in the Griffydam 1871 census, there are 6 paupers listed, but these are all elderly people, well past retirement age. We have little detailed information on pauperism in Pegg's Green and Griffydam in the 17th and 18th centuries, but like any other villages in those times paupers would have been resident in the parish. As the book is donated to social history, it was felt that we should at least report on the terrible experience of paupers.

The writer has come by documents relating to pauperism in Osgathorpe and it was felt these examples could be used in relation to its neighbours Griffydam and Pegg's Green. These were supplied by Robert Jones of Ashby Museum who at one time lived in Osgathorpe and carried out research work there. The following is a synopsis only.

Statutes are available from 1531 onwards relating to the poor, and the parish in which they lived had social obligations. Paupers were on one hand stigmatised, and on the other supported, not only by subsistence payments, but by help with property repairs, rent, clothing and medical attention. Parish relief would have enabled survival and probably little more. The overseer of the poor in Osgathorpe in 1746 recorded "*delivered 10/5 to Elizabeth Hodkinson who was ready to starve*". She was buried in February 1747, age not known.

The parish was responsible for maintaining its poor who were settled in the township. The Poor Law Act of 1601 ordered the nomination of an overseer to maintain and set the poor to work, the funds for this being collected from the village. W. E. Tate (*The Parish Chest*, Phillimore 1983, p.189) cites the poor law settlement system as a reason why the parish could be described as a prison. Further acts had the result of closing the gates of the parish. Inhabitants born in a village were classed as settled and could have a certificate saying that their parish would support them if they required assistance. With this certificate it was possible to live outside the parish of origin. For those without certificates, temporary work for less than 52 weeks was possible if available. Permanent tenure within the parish was not. With a few exceptions, if it was deemed possible that they could be an expense to the parish, they and their dependants were moved back to their place of settlement. Women carrying illegitimate offspring were questioned until they revealed the name of the father, without this information the parish would be put to the expense of supporting both mother and child. Youngsters were apprenticed, preferably outside the parish; they then became the responsibility of the parish where they worked. Every effort made by the Overseer was directed in avoiding adding to the burden of the rate paying parishioners. All the accounts were prepared annually and presented at the Easter parish meeting. The Overseer also had to attend monthly 'vestry' meetings, and was chosen in rotation from amongst the most considerable householders, yeomen and tradesmen of Osgathorpe. Suffice it to say that there are among their numbers plenty of Yeomen, husbandmen and gentlemen, and the family relationships between them over the years are most interesting. A hard core of parish worthies!!

16 years are hardly long enough to find out whether Osgathorpe was benevolent or harsh in its treatment of the 'impotent' poor. However, during the period of study, only three removal certificates survived.....*returning the Smith family to Breedon in 1718, the Wooton family to Gotham in 1721, and the Ward family with their nine month old baby to Findern in 1731.*

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1697 introduced the degrading provision that every pauper, wife and children "shall wear upon the shoulder of the right sleeve of the uppermost

garment.....in an open and visible manner.....a large Roman P together with the first letter of the name of the parish....in red or blue cloth". This, and the penalties for non-compliance, were designed to discourage pauperism.

References to 'badging' in the surviving accounts include:-

1721	"Paid to the poor about badging For going to Nottingham to badge Mason"	£1.0 .0. 2/8
1724	"Going to Nottingham to badge Bayley family"	2/-
1727	"Clothing and badging"	

The only other reference is in the vestry minutes of 1770:-

"At a meeting the first day of April 1770 in order by us whose names are under written.....that all people that Receive Relief shall come in (and) shall ware the P Leater according to Act of Parlement"
It is not known what encouraged the vestry to take action 80 odd years after the Act came into force as not long after the 1697 Act had been introduced the poor were excused wearing the badge "on proof of very decent and orderly behaviour".

PAUPERS RECEIVING HELP FROM THE PARISH

Between 1712 and 1727 11 families received help from the parish and appear in the overseer's accounts.

Case 1 Thomas Orton.

Mary, who married Thomas in 1693, was part of the large North family of Osgathorpe and Belton. At the time when they received payment of 6p per week in 1712 there would have been many of Mary's relatives in the village, some fairly prosperous. Aunts had married into the Roe and Bradley families both of whom were churchwardens. The inventory of one John North in 1714 was that of a man who was comfortably off even though described as a 'labourer'. It is assumed that the Ortons received no help from the North family however large and comfortable they were. Did Mary marry without the family's approval or had estrangement come gradually over the 19 years of their marriage before they became paupers? The Ortons received 1/6 worth of coal on top of the 6p per week in 1712. Mary died on the 8th April 1713 and the parish paid 1/- for "bread at wifes funeral". Thomas continued to live alone receiving 1/- each week for 42 weeks reducing to 6p weekly until he died on October 4th 1714.

Case 2 Mary Duall or Dowell.

Mary received 4p each week from the parish from 1712 to 1715, in 1716 this was increased to 6p and then to 1/- in 1725 she also benefited from a collection in 1721 which raised £1.6.10. Mary Dowell does not appear in the parish registers so we don't know how old she was or who her relatives were. In addition to the weekly payments she received assistance in practical ways, in 1716 the parish paid for 2/- worth of coal and had her chimney mended. The following year "helping in the wind to preserve [her] thatch" and further repairs to the chimney cost 10p. Further house repairs and deliveries of coal were paid for up to 1725.

Case 3. Jane Gadsby.

The only entry for Jane Gadsby in the parish register is that for her burial in 1728. The parish had been paying her rent for lodgings sometimes with Ben Waldrum from 1712. The rent varied between 4p and 6p each week. No other payments were recorded and no other details are known.

Case 4. John Brown(e), Thomas, William, Mary and 'Browns' girls'.

John Brown received 6p per week in 1712. The 'girls' Sarah and Mary(?) received 1/- each week in 1713 and went to lodge with Ann North in 1714 after which the only entries were for shoes and clothes in 1714 for Sarah and coals for Mary in 1749. Thomas Brown's wife's lodgings were paid for in 1719 at the rate of 6p per week. "For caring for head" in 1727 one Mantadon was paid but the amount is illegible, then Tom Brown received 2/- per week. John and Thomas died in 1727 and 1729 respectively but it is not possible, from the parish register, to unravel the relationships, neither do Sarah or Mary appear in the church records. William Browne however is probably the son of John and features in the overseer's accounts by virtue of having his shirt [or shift] washed in 1714.

Case 5. John Joynes.

John was paid 6p per week in 1712 and received various amounts in 1714 "several times in his sickness". In addition John received coal, barley, and hay at intervals from 1714 to his death in 1730. Elizabeth his wife or daughter received coal in 1749 so the intermittent support to the family continued. John Joynes had been married twice and at least 6 children survived to become adults. This probably accounts for

subistence payments only having been made in one year, 1714, the family being able to keep him apart from occasional larger purchases.

Case 6. Susan (or Susannah) Hall.

The parish paid for her lodgings with Ann North in 1714 at 6p per week until her death in 1715 aged 29. She was also a member of a large Osgathorpe family.

Case 7. John Smith.

John Smith received a payment of 10/- in 1714 and the parish also paid Dr Gerey's bill for 5/4.

Case 8. Richard Wootton [or Whotton].

Richard's rent was paid by the parish from 1716 to 1719. In 1720 he lived with his brother who was paid 6p per week for six weeks until Richard was removed from the parish back to his place of settlement in Gotham in 1721. In the intervening period he had been supported by a "woman helping him when he was ill" in 1717 and by having his housework and washing done in 1718, 1719 and 1720. Richard Whotton started to become a 'charge to the parish' in 1716 but it was not until 1721 that the overseer finally got round to getting the justices to issue the removal document. The mystery is compounded by the entry in the parish register recording the christening of their daughter Alice on the 1st of June 1722. It is partly solved by the settlement certificate of 22nd January 1721 signed by one of the same justices who had endorsed the removal order the same day. What caused the delay and the last minute change of mind? Could it have been because the Wootton family were well established in Osgathorpe. Thomas Wootton had been a churchwarden in 1677, 1685, 1695 and 1715, were they were looking after their own? Strangely 1722 also marks the last entry of a Wootton in the parish register. Did they leave or just perhaps leave the church? Further confusion is added by entries in the accounts of Nicholas Kiddiar, overseer in 1720, for "*hors and expense of going to Gotham*" and Robert Morley in 1721 for £1.0.0 for "*carrying Richard Whootton and his wife to Gotham*". We have a removal order which was apparently executed, a settlement certificate for permission to live in Osgathorpe and a baptism entry in the register for a child whose parents had been removed back to Gotham the year before she was christened in Osgathorpe. [Check Gotham parish records 1700-1740]

Case 9. The Bayley (Bailey) Family.

The only entry in these accounts for "*badging*" at a cost of 2/- in 1724 occurs for the Bayley family. This refers to the Poor Badge to be worn by paupers (explanation later). Also interesting is the payment of £1.15.0 "*for Mr Wildebores frame rent for Bayley*" plus carriage of 1/-. Bayleys' house rent was paid by the parish at £2 per year and Josh Bayley was supplied with "*half a strike of barley then one strike per week in 1726*". Clothing and bedding and subsistence were found for Thomas Bayley through to 1749 and a Mary Bayley was given a paupers burial in 1744.

Case 10. George Tomlinson.

George Tomlinson was ill in 1726 and 1727. He received wheat, barley, coal, and meat in addition to money and "*other things at the shop during his illness*". In 1727 he received 2/- a week reducing to 1/- and died in 1734. George, and his wife Ann who died in 1730, had three surviving children of whom at least one lived with his family in the parish.

Case 11 Widow Elizabeth Willows.

The lady, who is recorded as doing the washing for paupers, herself received assistance in 1727.

Another provision of the Poor Law was that the overseer found work for those receiving relief. The only example of this is in 1725 when the Overseer paid a Mr Wildebore £1.15.0 for the rent of a frame for Bayley. The Overseer was enabling the Bayleys to work as framework knitters by hiring a frame and paying their rent. Unfortunately no other references survive. Six out of the 11 recipients of relief were ill or recovering from sickness, it is suspected that 2 more were too old to be given work. Medical attention was paid for in two cases. [find out who Dr Gerey was]. Reference to the village “house for the use of the poor” does not appear in the records until 1776 when John Bradley’s house was so designated. Paupers mentioned in the overseers accounts were lodged with other villagers or remained in their own homes.

In 1714 John Stinson, the village shoe maker, was paid 1/1 for mending Sarah Brown’s shoes and for a further 2 repairs in the same year he was paid 1p. The same girl was supplied with a shift made out of hemp cloth value 4/- including thread, an un-named garment made out of “2 ½ yards of Linsey Woolsey at 13p per yard and thread made at a cost of 3p, a hat (3p) and an apron cost 14p”. A gown was made out of 7 yards the same material ‘Linsey Woolsey’ for 10/10 including thread and [beading]. By the end of the same year her shoes must have been beyond mending as 2/6 was paid to Stinson for a new pair. Sarah finished the accounts year with another hat value 8p. John Brown received a coat cost 10/6 in 1725 and 10 yards of cloth at 10p per yard with thread and “the making” in 1726. Further entries detail clothing bought in 1749 for Thomas Bailey; a “westcote, a new pair of shoose and a new pair of stockings”.

A large proportion of the levies collected was spent on administering the system.

1712 “2 warrents [purpose not known] 1/6
expenses for monthly meeting

*paid for an order to remove a child from Ben Waldrums
a warrent for the new overseer of the poor 2/6
a warrant for Ben Waldrums expenses at Loughborough
paid for removing the child to Normanton
expenses for the gathering of the levies.”*

1713 John Bradley, the overseer, had to visit Nottingham and Loughborough
1714 William Allen also visited Loughborough twice in addition to monthly meetings and a visit to Ashby regarding the “coming hither” of one Smith.

Visits to Nottingham to pay £3.10.0 on behalf of Thomas Bailey became fairly regular until 1717. Were these the annual payments of the knitting frame rent? If so, why Nottingham? Loughborough was the nearest local centre of framework knitting outwork? The fees paid to the overseers for collecting the levies complete the accounts.

Examples are given of a removal certificate from Osgathorpe, a settlement certificate issued by Ashby for a family wanting to live in Osgathorpe, and the accounts of 1718.

After having giving inadequate accounts in 1715 as churchwarden Benjamin Waldrum further exhibited his shortcomings as overseer in 1722. The parish meeting refused to accept the details of his accounts again because they were so unreasonable and ordered that they be “not entered here for others to copie after”. Even the inadequacies of Ben Waldrum do not compare with the escapade of William Boulton of Stordon Grange.

“William Boulton served the office of overseer of ye poor for ye year 1723 his accompts was given up and the spare money was drank at Bradfords by ye persons there met [etc] but he took them home (I not being there) and afterwards lost ye same”.

The anguish of the parish clerk is felt even after 275 years.

AN ACT FOR THE BETTER RELIEF AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE POOR (Gilbert's)

- Parishes may unite and nominate Guardians of the Poor, to be appointed by two JP's, salaried and incorporated. A visitor to supervise them and the Governor of the Poor House.
- Overseers in such parishes only to collect rates.
- Only the impotent to go to the Poor House; Guardians to maintain and provide for the able-bodied poor elsewhere, hire them out to labour, and make up any deficiency in wages.
- Any JP may order outdoor relief, or order Guardians to provide housing or find employment, for a complaint.

PART 5

PEGG'S GREEN HISTORY SECTION

Thringstone was for a long time a chapelry and Township within the parish of Whitwick but became an independent and autonomous parish in its own right in 1875. It incorporated the outlying hamlets of **Pegg's Green** and Rotten Row which was an island of land within Coleorton parish. Rotten Row and the manor of Thringstone was purchased by Joseph Boulton Senior of Coleorton in 1764 for £1,600 from a Mr. Busby. Joseph Boulton was still in possession in 1872.

When the commons were enclosed in 1806, Joseph Boulton owned the liberty of Pegg's Green.

Thringstone parish was abolished in 1936 and **Pegg's Green** and the area known as Rotten Row were incorporated into Coleorton parish. Thringstone is now an un-parished area and therefore has no parish council.

It is interesting to compare the census information for Pegg's Green with that for Griffydam which follows.

CENSUS INFORMATION

1841 CENSUS - PEGG'S GREEN

When compared to the 1841 Griffydam census, Pegg's Green displays a much wider range of occupations although one must bare in mind that 34 males are involved in the coal mining industry against 8 in Griffydam obviously due to the Pegg's Green Colliery being developed. Pegg's Green included hat makers / hatters which Griffydam didn't. There were 13 women lace runners in Pegg's Green against 2 in Griffydam.

There were 60 separate households listed in the 1841 census for Pegg's Green. 3 properties were listed as uninhabited. The total number of people (including children) living in Pegg's Green were 298, made up of 130 males and 168 females. 136 were 15 or under and 16 people were over 60 years of age, the oldest being 80 years. 117 people are listed as having a profession or trade (including labourers), but that cannot be taken that they were all in employment at the time the census was taken.

Miller (1)	Publican / Victualer (2)	Frame Smith (1)
Lace Runner (13)	Cordwainer (2)	Farmer (3)
Groom (1)	Framework knitter (15)	Traveller (1)
Wheelwright (1)	Blacksmith (2)	
Engineer (3)	Higler (1)	Coal Miners (12) + Colliers (17)
Petrifactioner (1)	Lime worker (1)	Shoe Maker (1)
Butcher (2)	Ag labourer (7)	Labourer (2)
Hat Maker / Hatters (6)	Grocer (2)	Hawker / hawker of pots (3)
Coal master (1)	Mineral Lawyer (1)	Petrifactioner (3)
Labourer (3)	Male servant (2)	Female servant (2)
Carpenter (2)	Shoe maker (1)	Butcher (2)

HAT MAKERS (MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS HATTERS)

A respected thesis by Ian D J Hunt dated September 2004, states that there were 8 hatters in Pegg's Green in 1841 but the writer could only find 6 listed in the census. The names of those found were:-

Thomas Middleton (40) Hatter, Isaac Waterfield (40) Hat Maker, Fanny ? (15) Hatter, John Elverson (47) Hatter, James Platts (61) Hatter, Henry Mathews? (15) Hatter.

The following is an extract from "Vanished Industries" by H. Butler Johnson, thought to have been written c.1910. Although referring to Coleorton it does provide the reader with an insight into this local cottage industry.:-

An industry that is now only known by tradition, once flourished in and around Cole Orton. This was the making of hats, the headquarters of the trade being at Ashby-De-La-Zouche. As regards the Cole Orton branch of it, the business of hat making seems to have centred on Elverson's Yard, members of the family of that, being engaged in it over a long series of years. One of the family, James Elverson, who died in 1823, was a maker of both silk and beaver hats which were taken on horseback around the countryside and sold to residents. James Elverson would seem to have seen the best days of the hat making industry.

The Rev J. Curtis, the Leicestershire historian, writing in the year 1831, records that the trade was then dying out at Ashby and Coleorton.

Hat making in a simpler form, lived on at Cole Orton until the 1870's. This involved the fashioning of the poke bonnets, then affected by the Victorian generation of the fair sex. One of the last, if not the last, to carry on the trade was an old lady of the name of Betty Cooper, whom some still alive will remember travelling the countryside carrying the cardboard boxes containing her wares slung over her shoulder. She lived, we are informed, in a cottage nearly opposite to the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Coleorton village (Chapel built 1839 in Chapel Lane on the Lower Moor).

The 1841 census for Coleorton Moor lists two people as Hat Makers (John Waterfield and William Toon) and two as Hatters (Thomas Gilbert and Thomas Whirledge).

Elverson's Yard in Stoney Lane, Coleorton and referred to above is only a quarter of a mile from Pegg's Green. We are told that James Elverson made both silk and beaver felt hats and as John Elverson, his son, was one of those listed as making hats in Pegg's Green, it seems likely that he would have made these as well.

Originally, a high class hat would have been made out of beaver fur. Beavers were hunted nearly to extinction, first in Europe, then in North America. Other furs were tried, muskrat and coypu made acceptable hats but rabbits are fast breeders and they were local.

Therefore, in the 18th and 19th century, a lot of men's felt hats were made using hare and rabbit fur. In order to make this fur stick together to form felt, hatters brushed it with mercury nitrate which was extremely toxic. If you inhaled, it found its way into the blood stream. This therefore affected the brain causing shaking, slurring and forgetfulness, which led eventually to confusion, mental distress and death.

'Bowing' and 'Blowing' are technical hatting terms for what is essentially the same thing: getting fur into the right condition for felting into a hat. Bowing is the old fashioned way of preparing fur. The fur has already been removed from the rabbit skins using a knife but it is still dirty, perhaps with

small bits of skin in it, and it is in clumps. It needs to be clean and fluffy to felt well and therefore it needed bowing. A small out building would have been used to carry out the work. The fur would have been placed onto a willow hurdle (like a flat basket) on the table. Suspended a few inches above the table was the hatter's bow. It looked like a large violin bow, about 2 metres long, made of wood and strung with catgut. The hatter struck the catgut with a wooden peg, and it vibrated. All the fur underneath vibrated too - it flew into the air, gradually settling back down. By passing the vibrating bow back and forth over the fur many times, the fur would be fluffed up. All the dirty bits would fall down through the slats of the hurdle, and the fluffy fur would be clean and soft and ready to felt.

The hand making process was skilled and complex and the writer recommends anyone wishing to know more about this industry should refer to Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council Museum site for hat making.

It has been suggested that the saying "Mad as a Hatter" came from this industry.

1851 CENSUS - PEGG'S GREEN

There were 75 separate households inhabited in the 1851 census. 4 Houses were unoccupied. The total number of people (including children) living in Pegg's Green was 308 made up of 142 males and 166 females. 139 were 15 or under and 5 people were over 60, the oldest being 79? 137 people are listed as having a profession or trade but that cannot be taken that they all were in employment at the time of the census.

Coal miners (39)	Lace workers (21)	Seamstress (9)
Stocking maker (8)	Petrifactioner (1)	Spar (bauble) Mf'r (7)
Ag Labourer (13)	Pauper (2)	Blacksmith (3)
Blacksmith at colliery (1)	Blacksmith Apprentice (1)	Carpenter (3)
School Master (1)	Gardener (1)	Blacksmith at Coleorton Coll'y (1)
Butcher (2)	Tailor (1)	Farmer (1)
Apprentice cabinet maker (1)	House servant (3)	Errand boy (1)
Wheelright (1)	Dress maker (3)	Victualler (1)
Hawker (1)	Hawker of earthenware (1)	Timber sawyer (1)
Miller (1)	Hawker of Spar (1)	Cordwainer (1)
Brickmaker (1)	Clerk Pegg's Green colliery (1)	General servant (2)
Farm servant (1)	Landed proprietor (1)	

Since the 1841 census 15 more houses have been built in Pegg's Green, but the total population has only increased by 10. 4 houses were unoccupied.

One of the most noticeable differences between the 1841 Griffydam census and Pegg's Green is the number of coal miners, 39 in Pegg's Green (up from 24 in 1841), as against 10 in Griffydam These would have all most likely been employed at P.G. Colliery as it was the only one locally in operation at that time.

It was a surprise to find that there were no framework knitters in P. G. when 10 were listed in G.

Lace workers were similar with G. at 17 against P. G. at 21.

There were 4 paupers in P.G. against 2 in G.

There were 4 blacksmiths plus an apprentice in P.G. against none in G. 1 of the blacksmiths was at P.G. colliery and the other at Coleorton.

P.G. only had one hawker of Earthenware but G had 8 with various titles.

P.G. had 1 farmer and a total of 13 Ag labourers. Griffydam had 2 farmers and 2 cowkeepers but only 11 farm workers.

1861 CENSUS - PEGG'S GREEN

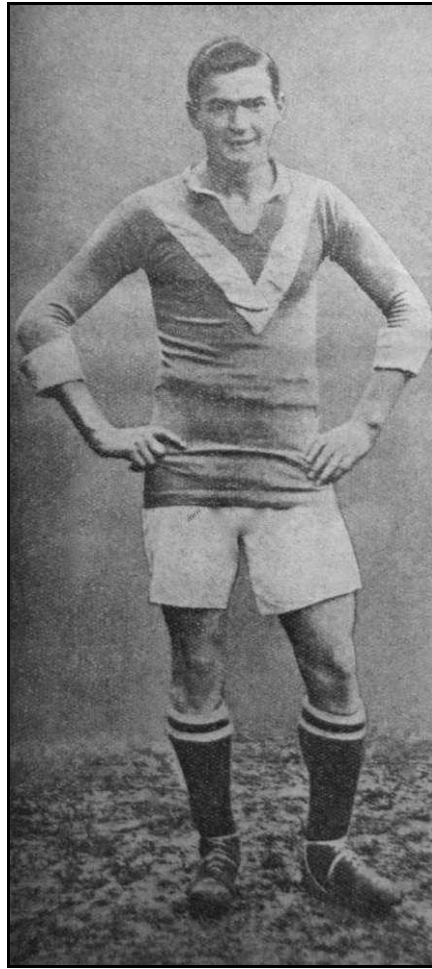
There were 73 separate households recorded as inhabited in the 1861 census. 3 Houses were unoccupied. The total number of people (including children) living in Pegg's Green was 327 made up of 145 males and 182 females. 139 were 15 or under and 18 people were over 60, the oldest being 83. 146 people are listed as having a profession or trade including labourers, but that cannot be taken that they all were in employment at the time of the census.

Painter (1)	Dress maker (5)	Domestic servant (4)
Coal Miner (53)	Hostler at Coal mine (1)	Engine driver coal mine (1)
Carpenter (2)	Ag labourer (1)	Seamer of stockings (36)
Labourer (3)	Hawker of drapery (1)	Knitter of gloves (1)
Petrifactioner (2)	Blacksmith (3)	Farmer of 19 acres (1)
Farmer of 18 acres (1)	Grocer /Farmer 245 acres (1)	Dairy maid (1)
Labourer (1)	(8 labourers, 3 boys on farm)	
Tailor (2)	Cordwainer (1)	Boot & Shoe leather (1)
Binder of boots (2)	Charwoman (2)	Nurse girl (1)
Lace worker (1)	Civil engineer (1)	Vest maker (2)
Farm bailiff (1)	Shopman (1)	Butcher (2)
Agricultural servant (2)	Stocking weaver (2)	Spar (bauble) mf'r (1)
Toll gate keeper (1)	Brick maker (1)	Carter (1)
Higler (1)	Sawyer of wood (1)	

The most notable things about this census is that a total of 55 men are employed in the coal mines and 36 women are seamers of stockings. There is no other main source of employment in Pegg's Green besides the coal mine. This is the period of course when hosiery manufacture was now starting to be transferred to the steam driven factories in the big city, so less support was now required from the outlying village cottage industries.

It was decided not to do any further analysis of Pegg's Green censuses due to the fact that the village was so dependant on coal mining for employment, as was Griffydam. Anyone wishing to investigate the Pegg's Green censuses further can do so easily on Ancestry now.

PEGG'S GREENS FAMOUS FOOTBALLING SON - JOE BRADFORD



**Club photograph of Joe Bradford when playing for Birmingham City in 1923
Note the state of the pitch - unlike the snooker table surfaces of today.**

Joe Bradford, born in Pegg's Green, was a highly rated centre forward. He was reputed to be a fine header of the ball and could play using either foot to dribble, pass and shoot.

Joe started his football career after the end of W.W.1., playing for Coalville Town and Pegg's Green Victoria. In 1920, Bradford scored fourteen goals in a match for Peggs Green Victoria against Birstall Rovers. After trials with Derby County and Aston Villa he joined Birmingham on February 12th 1920 for a transfer fee of £100 with an extra £25 payable when he made his debut. He actually made his Football League debut for Birmingham at West Ham Utd on Christmas day 1920, scoring in a 1 - 1 draw at Upton Park. Joe made 445 appearances for them in all completions over the next 15 seasons, scoring a total of 267 goals

He ended his spell with Birmingham in May 1935 with a record of having scored 249 league goals, and becoming Birmingham's all time leading goal scorer. In his first season he only played 5 times when Birmingham won the Second Division Championship. After 1923 he was hardly ever out of the team and formed a memorable partnership with Johnny Crosbie. Joe won an FA Charity Shield medal in 1923, scoring for the Professionals against The Amateurs at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea's ground. After this, he was capped 12 times for England, and went on to score 7 goals. He scored on his debut against

Ireland in 1923 at Windsor Park. His England career ended in November 1930. Joe also played five times for the Football League, and famously scored 5 goals in a match against The Irish League in September 1929.

Joe was top of the club's scoring charts in all but one season between 1921/22 and 1932/33, and if goals in all competitions are counted, he was top scorer in all of those seasons. He scored 4 goals against Cardiff City in September 1927 and Blackburn Rovers in February 1931. He also scored 11 other hat-tricks for Birmingham. He was also the scorer of the only Birmingham goal in the 1931 FA Cup Final in which they were defeated by West Bromwich Albion.

Joe joined Bristol City in May 1935, scoring once in five league appearances in the autumn of 1935, and he hung up his boots at the end of the 1935/6 season. He went on after his football career, to run the Stockland Hotel in Erdington with his wife Hilda, as well as having a Birmingham sports shop. Throughout his football career he also worked as a poultry farmer.

The Bradfords' were a footballing family, and Joe was one of four brothers, the others being Sammy, Billy and Ernest. His younger brother Billy played for Walsall between 1926 and 1938 and also played for Preston North End and Brighton & Hove Albion.

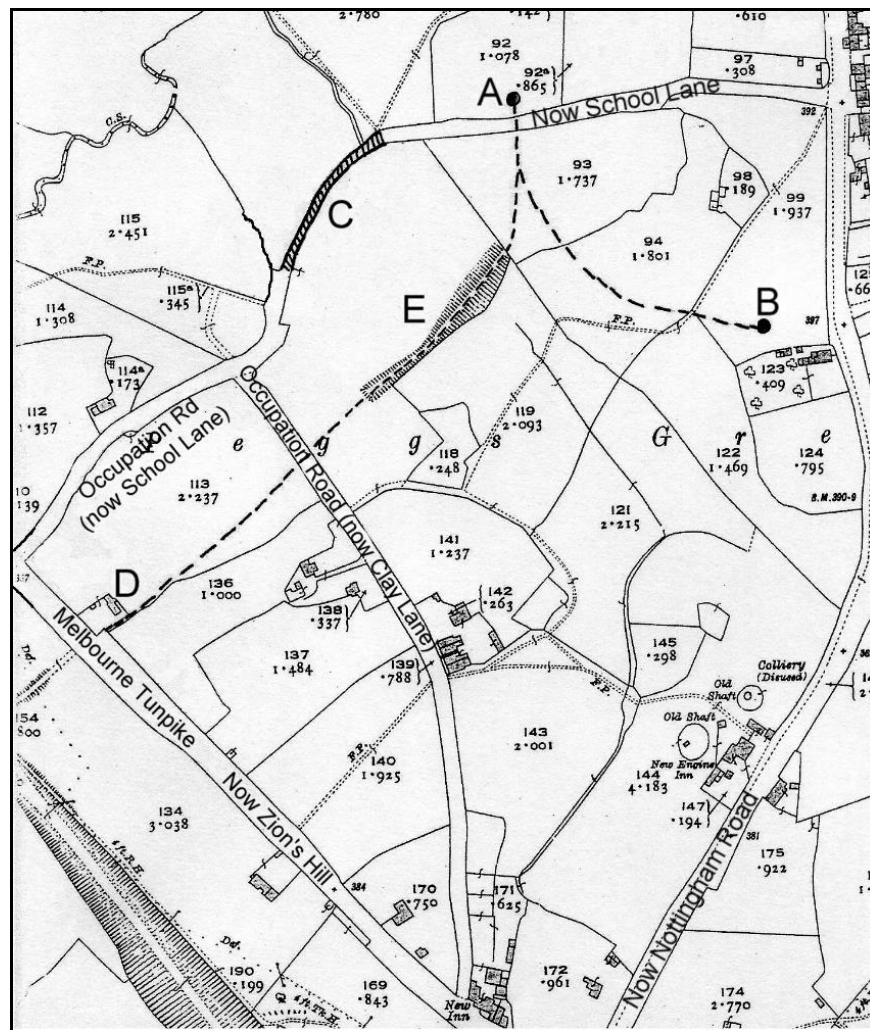
THIS IS THE THIS IS PEGG'S GREEN VICTORIA FOOTBALL CLUB THAT JOE BRADFORD SCORED 14 GOALS FOR AGAINST BIRSTALL ROVERS IN 1920



Pictured above is the Peggs Green Victoria football team who won the Coalville Charity Cup in 1928-29, when they beat Whitwick Imps 6-1. The players came from the Peggs Green and Swannington areas, and the picture was sent in by George Williamson, of Top Row in Peggs Green. He believes the picture was taken at the New Inn in the village. Back row, from the left, Ned Morley, manager; Maurice Wardle, right back; Tommy Bradford, goalkeeper; John Wilton, Left back; Jack Bird, trainer. Middle row, Tommy Bradley, right half; Ambrose Barkby, centre half; Ernie Bird, left half. Front row, Joe Hough, outside right; George Williamson, inside right; Wilf Wardle, centre forward; Joe Morley, inside half; Walter Johnson, outside left.

Click [Here](#) To Read More About Joe Bradford

LOCAL TRAMROADS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF COAL FROM LOCAL MINES
IN THE MANOR OF PEGG'S GREEN IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY



The above map is an attempt to depict an area of Pegg's Green enclosed by what is now Nottingham Road, Zion's Hill and School Lane, as it would have been in the early 19th century. It should be noted however, that in 1836, the upper portion of School Lane was not joined to Nottingham Rd due to the escarpment in that area and was also not joined in the middle.

The coal under the Manor of Pegg's Green was worked by a small private company of several local residents in the early part of the 19th century, and they constructed a network of tram roads including those shown by dashed lines on the above map. An embankment marked **E** on the map, was constructed to allow the coal to pass through to the Hinckley to Melbourne Turnpike at a weighbridge marked **D**. These mines were located in the areas marked **A** & **B**. The last one to be opened was at **A**, which is located just below where the Griffydham Senior School was built in 1915. The shaft to this mine is still in existence but has now been capped. Horse drawn wagons would have been used to transport the coal on rails at that time. The weighbridge was located in the area where "Weighbridge Cottage" currently stands on Zion's Hill. The cross-hatching in the area marked **C**, shows where the road, now known as School Lane, was not joined up at that time.

The tram road sketch and information has been taken from a book entitled - "Coalville, the first 75 Years", by Denis Baker, however, details can also be found in "Records of Whitwick Parish" by the Rev. F Mereweather, who was the incumbent at St. George's Church, Swannington at that time.

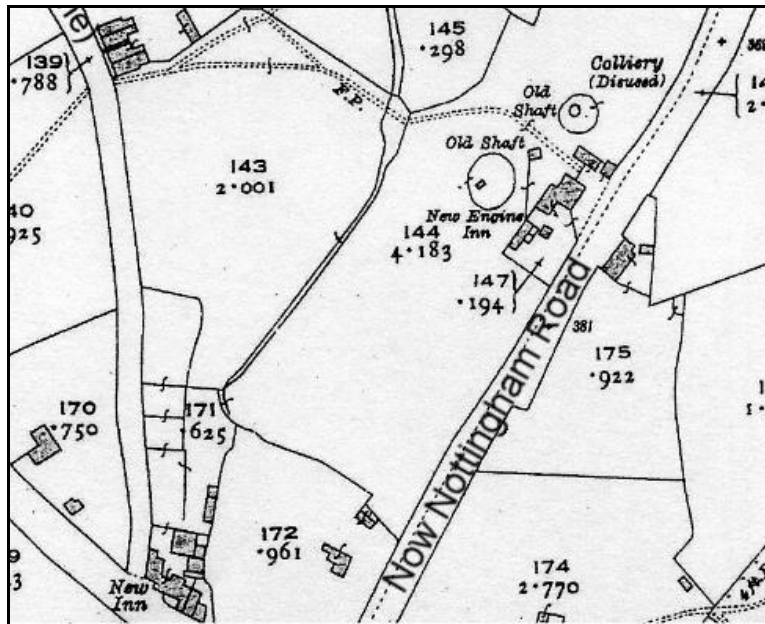


Photograph of the tramway embankment as it was in 2013. The tram rails have now gone of course, but the line of the embankment is highlighted by the white dots. A section in the middle had been taken out where marked **A**. The Griffydham Senior School building is in the distance marked **B**



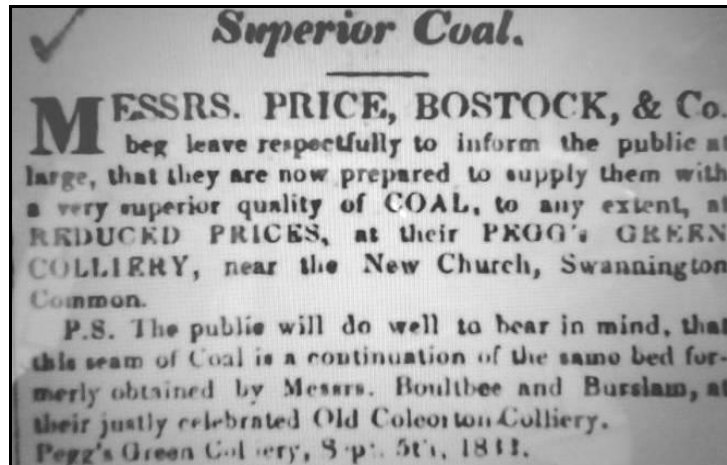
The end of the tramway embankment when viewed from Clay Lane in 2017

PEGGS GREEN COLLIERY 1830-1859



A section from the 1903 O/S map showing the location of Pegg's Green Colliery and shafts with the adjacent "New Engine Inn". (The "New Inn" pub is shown bottom left)

In anticipation of the opening of the Leicester to Swannington Railway in 1832, and the subsequent opening of the Coleorton section shortly afterwards. Edward Price, who was the senior partner in the "Heather Colliery Company", developed plans for a new colliery at Pegg's Green by leasing the underlying coal from the Boulton family in 1830. Some years earlier, Price had assisted the Boulton family in the running of their colliery at Thringstone (formerly Raper & Fenton Colliery), and was allotted a small area of land at Pegg's Green in 1805 under the Whitwick and Thringstone inclosure award. In 1830, he formed a partnership with his son, plus Joseph Bostock (a lime manufacturer of Breedon), and William Cowlshaw. They sank a shaft to the main coal at 385 feet, and although it passed through several workable seams with a total thickness of over 30 ft, it is likely that most of them had been worked previously. By 1832, the company was working the bottom 5ft 9ins of the Main Seam, which was sold at the pit-head at 8s 4d per ton. **Edward Price is listed in the 1841 Pegg's Green census as a 'Coal Master', aged 70.**



An 1832 Advertisement

The "Butty system" would have been in operation at Pegg's Green Colliery. A Butty was a contractor who agreed with the owner of a mine to raise coal at a given price per ton, delivered into carts and wagons at the bank (surface). The Butty was thus a middleman intervening between the working miners and the owner. He would have come up from the ranks of workmen and saved some money, as his business required capital to provide tools, timber, horses etc. A Butty was not recognised by law and carried no weight with a government inspector. He took no responsibility either for firing shots, or in the supervision of safety. His duties were to get the greatest amount of work out of the smallest number of men, and to keep down the cost of coal and repairs. He paid the colliers etc, who were usually engaged by the week or day. Many Butties were notorious for paying wages in goods and not in cash, a practice known as 'Truck' or 'Tommy'.

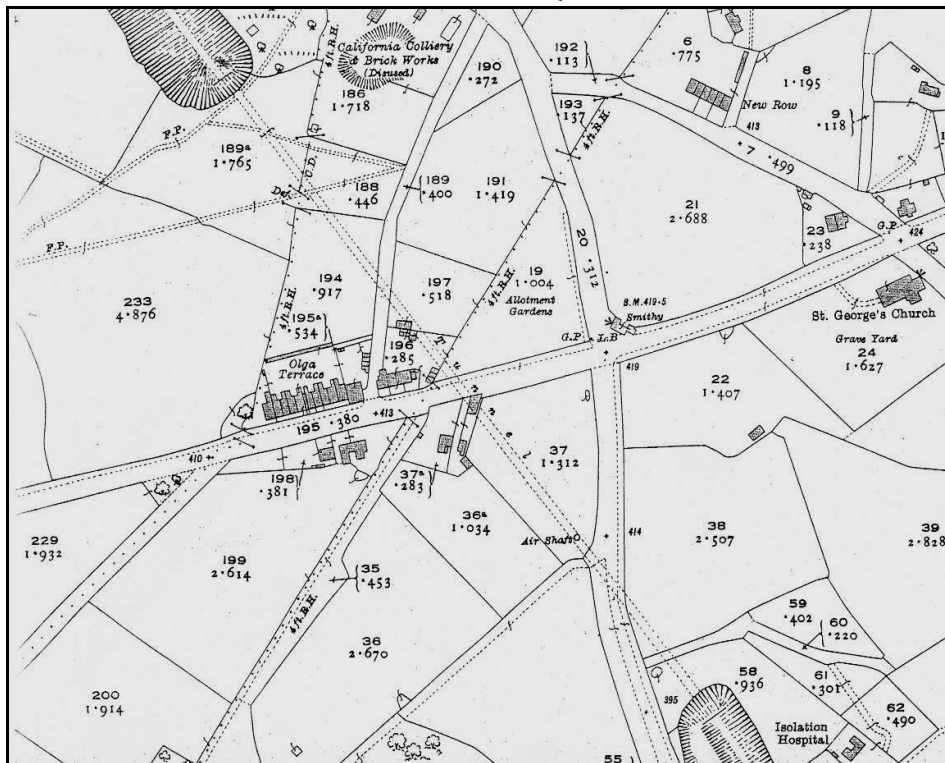
THE PEGG'S GREEN TUNNEL

George Stephenson was employed to survey the extension of the "Leicester & Swannington Railway", to be known as "Coleorton Railway", but it was William Dicken who was appointed as the engineer, and was responsible for drawing up the plans for submission to Parliament. The "Coleorton Railway" project was officially announced in the Leicester Chronicle on Nov 20th 1833, although it is thought that work was started before this date by Sir George on his own land in the area of Swannington incline, to link up with the "Leicester and Swannington Railway". The "Leicester and Swannington Railway Co" actually supported the project, by paying the costs for processing the Act of Parliament and also supplied technical knowledge in building the railway.

The contractors for the railway were Messrs Nowell and Son, and one of their first major tasks was to build a 480 yard long tunnel at Peggs Green, which the line from the bottom of the incline passed through. From the Coleorton estate records, we know that "Coleorton Brickyard", managed by Thomas Thirlby at that time, supplied some 868,000 bricks between August 1833 and February 1835, mainly for the building of the Peggs Green tunnel. The price for these bricks started at 22 shillings per thousand and reduced to £1 per thousand. The brickyard was owned by Sir George Beaumont, and had a reputation for making high quality bricks, many of which were supplied to St.Pancras station. 5,800 common bricks were supplied to Coleorton Pottery in 1841 at 25s. per thousand for the start of building the first kiln. **A complete history of the Coleorton Railway is included in the book entitled "A History of Coal Mining in Coleorton and the Local Area" by Samuel T Stewart.**



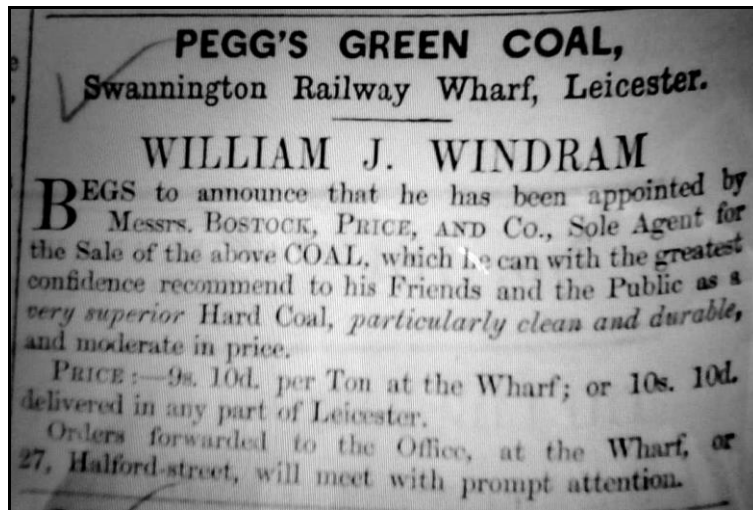
The entrance to the circular brick tunnel on St. George's Hill, Swannington which has now been filled in



Section of 1923 O/S map which shows the length of the tunnel between the two embankments partly passing under Peggs Green

In 1834, the colliery had been in dispute with the Leicester to Swannington Railway Company over its temporary withdrawal of a drawback of one-fourteenth on the tonnage rate for coal. By this time, Peggs Green Colliery was raising around 30,000 tons of coal per annum, and because it was considered to be the best coal mined in the county, it could be sold in Leicester at the high price of 13s per ton. The advert below shows that by 1840 the price had reduced by some three shillings per ton.

Leicester Mercury - May 16th 1840



The owners, c.1854, were anxious to avoid payment of extra Hinckley-Melbourne Turnpike tolls and agreed to maintain a stretch of road between the colliery and Swannington Common for seven years in return for the removal of the Turnpike toll gate bar. However, the Trustees were careful to ensure that any coal sent northwards passed through the Toll Gate at Newbold.

The owners in 1856 were Kidger and Co. Joseph Kidger was also involved with Hall and Boardman's Colliery in Swadlincote. He was also a coal merchant with his own private owner wagons.

By 1857, control of the colliery had passed to Benjamin Walker and William Worswick. It had a short branch rail connection to the Coleorton Railway. For a time, Peggs Green Colliery remained outside the Worswick-Walker Empire, but it must have felt constantly threatened by the developments to the south. Expansion northwards was difficult owing to its proximity to the Thringstone Fault, but this was accomplished in a limited way in 1852 when Price and Company leased 23½ acres of main coal at £75 per acre under part of Griffydam from the Curzon family. Working of coal was made particularly difficult at Peggs Green by the easterly dip of the strata which caused the accumulation of large quantities of water draining from the old workings between there and Lount. Testing by means of a long boring rod was essential when driving headings towards the west. It was probably such difficulties that persuaded one of the main partners to withdraw from the company in 1857, thereby allowing Messrs Walker and Worswick to secure control, but by the end of 1859 the colliery had closed. A shaft was maintained for pumping until c.1950.

CLOSURE OF PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY

The following notice appeared in "The London Gazette"- Jan 10th 1860

*Notice is hereby given, that the partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Thomas Bostock, John Price, William Kidger, John Knight, Benjamin Walker, and William Worswick, under the style or firm of Bostock, Price and Co., and sometimes called the **Peggs Green Colliery Company**, or under any other style or firm whatever, has been this day dissolved by mutual consent -*

dated the third day of December 1859.

SOME FATALITIES RECORDED AT PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY

Details of some of the following fatalities and coroner's reports can be found under the newspaper articles at the beginning of the book.

Samuel Burrows

Age: 24/25
Date: 1838
Occupation: Hewer
Colliery operated by: Price, Bostock and Co.
District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: 1 Ton stone fell from roof and crushed him

John Birch

Age: 20
Date: 1838
Occupation: Blasting coal
Colliery operated by: Price, Bostock and Co.
District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Gunpowder explosion

William Smith

Age: 35
Date: 1844
Occupation: ?
Colliery operated by: Price, Bostock and Co.
District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Buried by mass of coal falling on him

John Hutchinson (From Sheepshead)

Age: 20
Date: 1845
Occupation: ?
Colliery operated by: Price, Bostock, Price and Co.
District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Crushed by large stone falling from roof (10/12 cwt's)

John Waldram

Age: 20
Date: Aug 12th 1853
Occupation: ?
Colliery operated by: Price, Bostock and Co.
District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Fall of roof.

Jarvis Marshall

Age: 20
Date: 1853
Occupation: Loader
Colliery operated by: Price, Bostock and Co.
District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Fall of roof.

Frederick Barkby

Age: ?
Date: Nov 2nd 1854
Occupation: ?
Colliery operated by: Price, Bostock and Co.
District: Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Fall of roof.

LEST WE FORGET

When reading the following, it should be noted that these records were published twenty years after the closure of Pegg's Green Colliery, and puts into perspective what the brave men, women and children who worked down the coal mines in the early days contributed to our country. There is no mention of accidents causing serious injury of course, of which there would have been thousands. Not all fatalities were recorded for various reasons in those days either, particularly where women and children were injured or killed. During the time Pegg's Green Colliery was operating the fatalities would have been much higher than those given below.

According to the reports of the Inspectors of Mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1872, the number of people employed in and about the coal mines of the United Kingdom in 1883 was 512,933. Of these, 416,696 were employed underground, and 98,237 (of whom 4,479 were females) were employed in surface operations. The total number of fatal accidents in the year amounted to 921. There was one fatal accident for every 557 employed. Although 11,000 more people were employed over the previous year, there was a diminution of 107 mines at work.

In Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Nottinghamshire in 1883, there were 52,118 persons employed in the 369 coal mines. There were 74 fatal accidents, giving one for every 704 employed.

In 1888, the total number of persons employed in and about the United Kingdom coal mines was 592,656 and fatal accidents amounted to 885. In the Derby, Leics, Warks and Notts coal mines the number of lives lost by accidents were 61.

The following reports from 1841 / 2 puts into perspective the state, condition and treatment of young children (girls and boys) down the coal mines. Whitwick and Snibston pits feature in these reports but Pegg's Green Colliery would have been no different:-

THE CHILD EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION 1842 (WHITWICK AND SNIBSTON COLLIERIES)

One might assume that by this time, the working conditions in coal mines had improved considerably, however, much to the contrary, as the following has been included to give the reader an appreciation

of just how diabolical conditions were.

A "Children's Employment Commission" was established in 1842, and the following extract is taken from a report by James Mitchell, Esq., on the employment of children and young persons in the mines of the Warwickshire and Leicestershire coal-fields, and on the state, condition and treatment of such children and young persons. The following text and illustration are taken from the report:-

The following questions were put to **Michael Parker (No.77)** of Snibston Colliery:-

What occupation do you follow? - Ground bailiff to the Snibston Collieries.

At what age do children commence going down the pits? - Some at seven and all ages afterwards.

How are boys under 10 employed? - Opening doors, sweeping railroads, driving ponies and asses, according to a boys activities.

When do they begin to fill skips? - About 18.

Why do they not go to this work sooner? - Our coal is all in large pieces, and they are not equal to the work.

Are other boys employed at other employment? - Some work at what is called putting the coal, that is pushing and drawing the coal from the face of the work to the crane at the horse-way. Two boys are able to draw a train, or the one draws and the other pushes. A large basket is put on the train and the basket is filled. It will hold about seven cwt.

When do they take the pick in hand to dig the coal? - About 20, but some much sooner if very active. Our coal is very hard and some young people are not capable of doing it.

Do the baskets when once loaded go all the way to the shaft, and afterwards are they lifted up without being emptied? - When the trains arrive at the horse way, the baskets are lifted up by a crane and put on the great horse-wagon and then are conveyed to the foot of the shaft.

Do the boys enjoy good health? - Exceedingly good.

To what age can a man hold out to work? - Some work well at 60 years, but some are knocked up at 50 and 45. 50 may be the average.

What is the cause of a man being knocked up as early as 50? - The severe labour, and on some constitutions the bad air takes considerable effect.

Are the mines much exposed to bad air? - Only at chance times. The wind is carried through the mines.

What are the hours of work? - The holers (shot firers?) go down at two in the morning, and return about two or three in the afternoon. The others begin to go down about half-an-hour before six and are ready by six to go to work. They finish at six and take half-an-hour to come up.

How many go down together and come up together? - About four men, and if all boys, five or six. They go in the basket. We have had no accidents in our pits going up and down.

To what do you attribute freedom from accidents? - To have good tackling and taking care. There is a man whose duty is to see the boys safe in the skips coming up and that there are no more in numbers than four men, or more than five or six boys. They are particular to have a steady man at the engine.

What precautions do you take against fire-damp or choke damp? - Strong ventilation.

What time do the men take their meals? - The engine stops about half-an-hour at one o'clock, then the people all rest.

What are the wages of the fillers? - 3s. a day, no beer and the company allows 10 cwt. or 12 cwt. of coals in the month and the men have free cottages and gardens or a very small rent of 1s. a month.

Are they often out of employment? - Some time in the summer when there is a small demand for coals.

Are the people tractable, and is there a good feeling between masters and men? All quite friendly.

Do the people attend public worship? - Most of them do.

Do the children go to school? - They in general go to day-schools, and all go to Sunday-Schools.

Mostly all learn to read and many to write.

Have they a Field-Club? - Yes. They pay 8d. a-month and receive medical attendance and 7s. a-week when sick. The boys pay 4d. a month, and receive 3s. 6d. a-week when sick. If the fund falls short the company makes it good. There are few accidents from the falls of stone or coal from the roof. We have not had any such for years past.

The following questions were put to William Stenson (No.80):-

You are an engineer and have the management of the Whitwick colliery? - Yes.

Having read the evidence of Michael Parker respecting the Snibston colliery, will you be so good as to state if the same will apply to your colliery? - To a considerable degree the same. We have 110 boys under 10. We support a day-school, to which the children under 10 go, and we have a Sunday-School also. Men who act together as butties (similar to agents who employ several men to whom the men are responsible) get great wages, as much as 28s. a week. We do not put the boys to push or draw the trains. We employ horses and asses. We do not use iron chains but flat ropes, which we consider much safer. Ropes will tell a tale before breaking. Our people begin work about seven, and leave about seven at night. In other respects, the description of Mr. Parker will apply to us.

No. 255. *William Pickard*, General Steward to Sir John Lister Lister Kaye's Collieries. Examined at Denby Grange, May 21, 1841 :—

I have been a bottom-steward 44 years. We used trappers till lately, and they used to go
30 and begin as early as 6 years old. Now the doors are allowed to fall to themselves. The
men will let the children go as soon as ever they are big enough to addle any wages. They come
at 8 or 9 to hurry; but we have had trappers that begun earlier to hurry. The thinnest bed
we are working is only 10 inches. We cut the gates 26 inches; but they don't stand quite
that at the banks. The youngest children go there. The corf and coal together will weigh
35 28 stone. They will have 250 yards to hurry, on an average; they hurry 16 a-day. They
always fill or riddle. It is a rare thing for the children to go two together; they go singly.
The biggest part of the gates are dry. There is some places where the water is over their
shoes; but very few. It is mostly very dry considering. I don't like to see the poor little
children dabble in water, if it can be avoided. They go down generally at 6, or a quarter
40 after. We reckon to give over pulling at 5 out; they generally give over at 3. The hurriers
will stop to eat their bread at 12; but the bigger ones of 12 or 14 years old will be kept to
work in the hole shovelling muck, or picking it away. When I was a hurrier, they had good
reason to be tired with a belt and chain, and without rails. I do not think now that children's
work is hard work. They have generally play enough after their work is done. If a child
45 does not begin to be a hurrier at 9, he never will do in thin coals; they must be brought up
to it. We could do with them at 9; but it would be better to have them at 8. It would be
possible to cut the gates higher; but it would be a great expense. It is not only the expense
of cutting away, but there is that also of taking the stuff away. We are now paying 6d. a yard
extra for straight work in the thin bed, where we cut 16 inches of muck, &c. It would be a
50 capital thing to make the men more regular in their hours of work; but if we were to take a
man and hang him every now and then, it would not make them regular. Nine hours for
drawing coals would be plenty of time. I have known pits in the neighbourhood drawing
coals at 9 at night. The education of the children is very much neglected. The parents
don't value it, and think nothing about. The proprietors of coal-pits don't notice schooling
55 much, except the Stansfelds'. They are the best I ever knew; they are always doing some-
thing for education to the children; and Mrs. Milnes has always done a great deal too; and
Mr. Briggs also is a very good one for that. I don't know how we are to do without girls;
we cannot do without. It would be a good thing to stop girls from going after they are 12 or
13 years old. I have known a married woman hurrying for a man who worked stark naked,
60 and not any kin to her. I fear colliers could not do without the wages of girls; and they
are far better hurriers, and more attentive to their job.

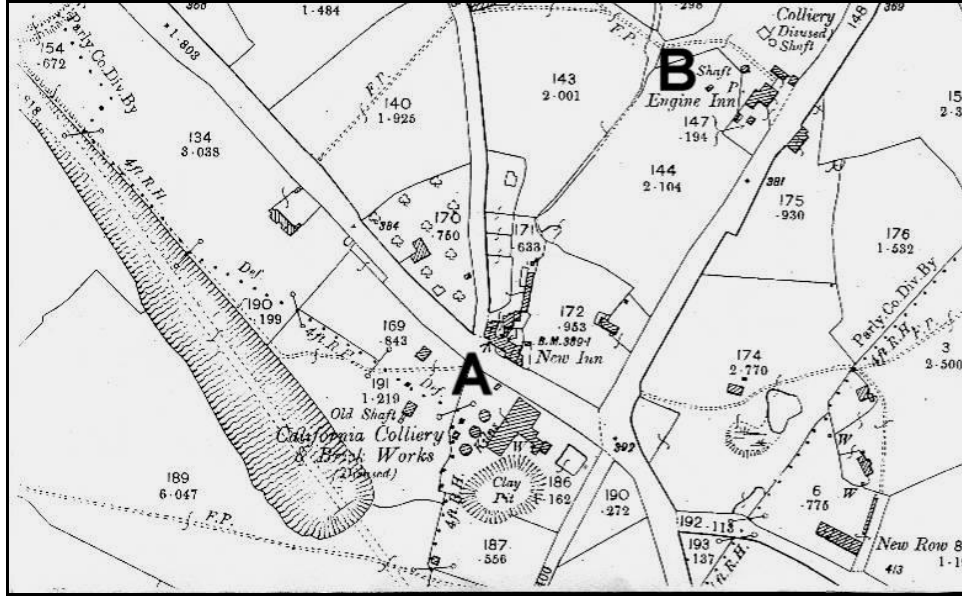
No. 255.

**CALIFORNIA COLLIERY (COLEORTON No.1.)
AND BRICK WORKS 1849-1873**

1849 was the year of the California gold rush, and a rather smaller rush for riches took place the following year adjacent to the Coleorton Railway, when Benjamin Walker and William Worswick constructed the California Colliery at Peggs Green. However antiquated the Coleorton Railway may have appeared by this time, it proved its worth in transporting materials to the colliery site, despite the fact that this had to be reached by a short branch line on a gradient of about 1 in 30. In March 1850, iron bars, fish belly rails and building materials were delivered, presumably for the branch line and engine house. They were followed on April 26th by 7½ tons of "engine works", and in October by "engine castings" and a beam weighing 10 tons 12 cwt, presumably for the colliery pumping engine. The following May saw a boiler and flywheels taken to the site of the "machine fan".

The California "coal rush" began in February 1851, with production rising quickly to about 3,000 tons per month. It peaked at 3,878 tons in March 1854, the high water mark for both the colliery and the little railway system. Presumably, to help with the haulage of this coal, Walker built a stable for his horses alongside the railway at Swannington. This era of prosperity was unfortunately short lived. The mining areas below California were riddled with old workings, impeding progress at every turn, and by the end of the year production of coal had fell away to a very low level. The California Colliery does not seem to have closed completely, and between 1865 and 1873 was shipping an average of about 100 tons per month over the railway. A surviving plan shows that during this period they were taking coal from the Main Seams under Coleorton Moor. The galleries stretched out in awkward fingers between areas of old workings. One can only feel admiration for the courage of the miners who went to work each day in such dangerous conditions. It should not be forgotten that California also had its own brickworks adjacent to the colliery, but little is known about them.

The New Inn had been built across the road from California Colliery and Brickworks, and along with the George Inn on Loughborough Rd, are the only surviving pubs now in the locality which were built adjacent to a colliery. The Angel and the Kings Arms on Coleorton Moor may be considered to be colliery pubs as they were not too far from the Coleorton No.3. Colliery ("Bug & Wink") and Swannington No.1. Colliery (Sinope), respectively.



Section from the 1903 O/S map showing the location of California Colliery (Coleorton No.1.) and Brick Works (marked A) plus the Coleorton Railway embankment

**SOME FATALITIES RECORDED AT COLEORTON No 1. COLLIERY
ALSO KNOWN AS CALIFORNIA PIT 1849-1873**

In a publication by Samuel T Stewart entitled "Fatalities in the coal mines of Coleorton and the Locality 1782-1957, a number of coroner's reports appertaining to these deaths are recorded

Edwin Jessop

Age: c.15
 Date: August 1851
 Occupation: ?
 Colliery operated by: Messrs Worswick & Walker
 District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
 Reason for fatality: Falling down the shaft (coroner's inquest report available)

James Thompson

Age: c.15
 Date: August 1851
 Occupation: ?
 Colliery operated by: Messrs Worswick & Walker
 District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
 Reason for fatality: Falling down the shaft (coroner's inquest report available)

John Williams

Age: A Boy
 Date: Oct 19th 1851
 Occupation: ?
 Colliery operated by: Messrs Worswick & Walker
 District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
 Reason for fatality: Fall of coal in shaft

John Mason

Age: ?
 Date: March 30th 1852
 Occupation: ?
 Colliery operated by: Messrs Worswick & Walker

District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Fall of roof

Joseph Horne

Age: Boy
Date: Jan 28th (20th ?) 1853
Occupation: ?
Colliery operated by: Messrs Worswick & Walker
District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Fell down shaft - Appeared in Charles Morton's, mines inspection report.

John Lakin

Age: ? A Boy
Date: Dec 3rd 1853
Occupation: ?
Colliery operated by: Messrs Worswick & Walker
District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Blow from the handle of the windlass - appeared in Charles Morton's, mines inspection report.

Robert Lakin

Age: 14
Date: April 12th 1854
Occupation: Driver of tubs to shaft bottom
Colliery operated by: Messrs Worswick & Walker
District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Fall of roof (**Coroner's inquest Report available**)

? Matchett

Age: 32
Date: April 12th 1854
Occupation: Loader
Colliery operated by: Messrs Worswick & Walker
District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Fall of roof (**Coroner's Inquest Report available**).

Thomas Jeffcote

Age: ?
Date: May 21st 1855
Occupation: ?
Colliery operated by: Messrs Worswick & Walker
District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Falling down the shaft

Thomas Saddington

Age: 60
Date: Jan 30th 1867
Occupation: Horsekeeper
Colliery operated by: Messrs Worsick & Walker.
District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Crushed by cage in shaft (**Coroner's inquest report available**)

Herbert King

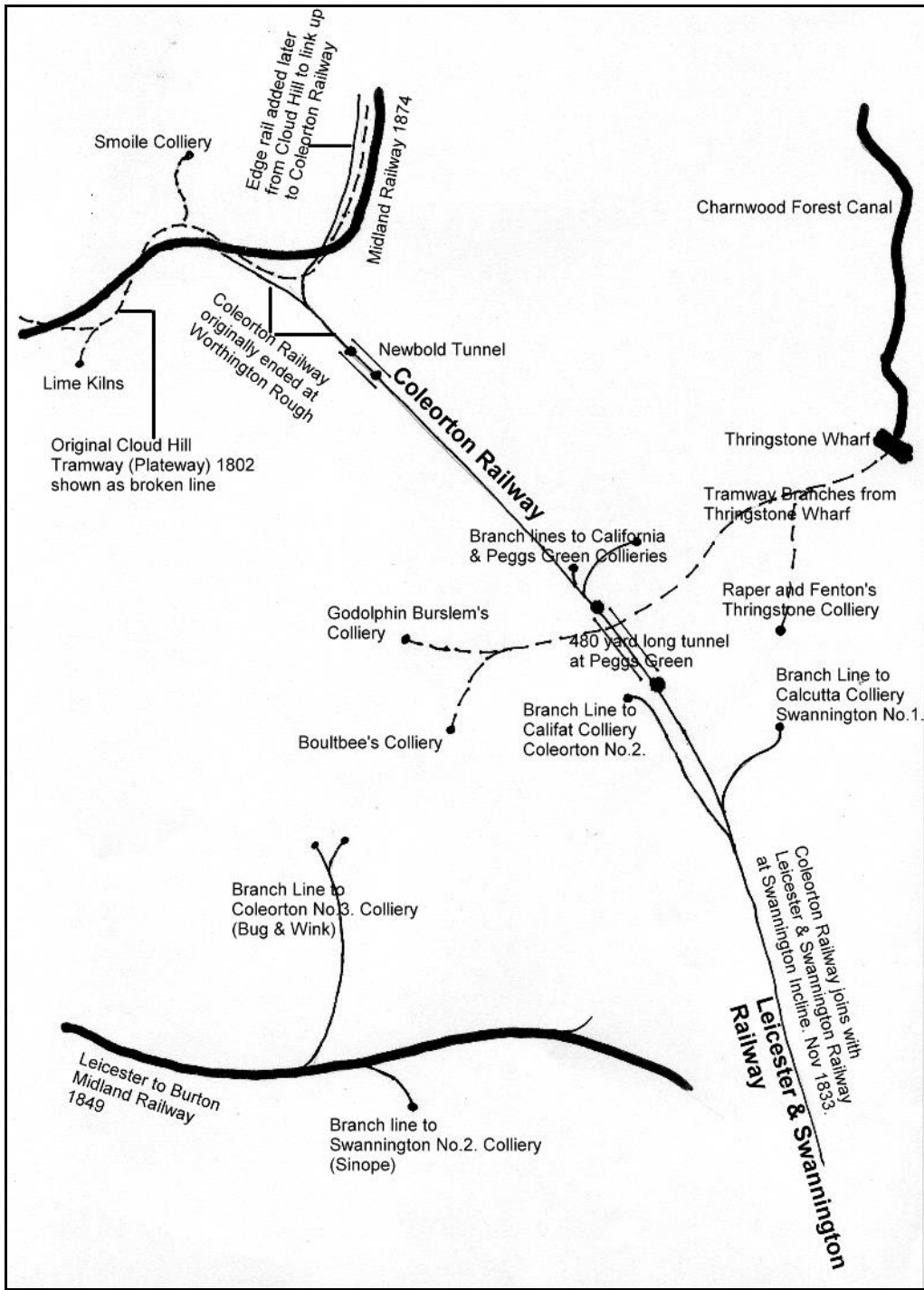
Age: 28
Date: July 21st 1869
Occupation: Loader
Colliery operated by: Messrs Worswick & Walker

District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: **Coroner's inquest report available**

William Cooper

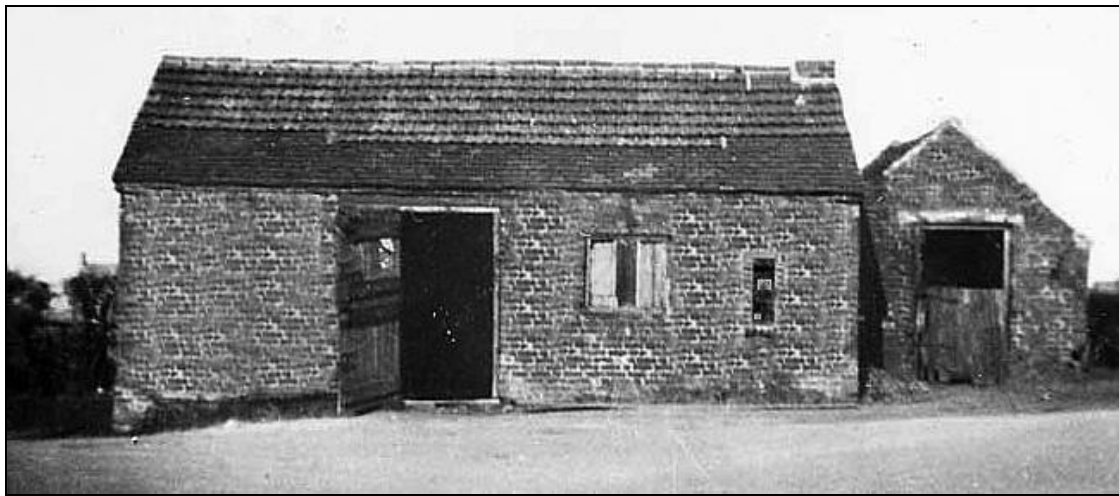
Age: 25
Date: April 6th 1869
Occupation: Loader
Colliery operated by: William Worsick
District: Ashby de la Zouch, Leics
Reason for fatality: Run over, tub upset (**Coroner's Inquest report available**)

**SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM OF CANAL, TRAMWAY AND RAILWAY LINKS
TO COLLIERIES IN THE LOCALITY**

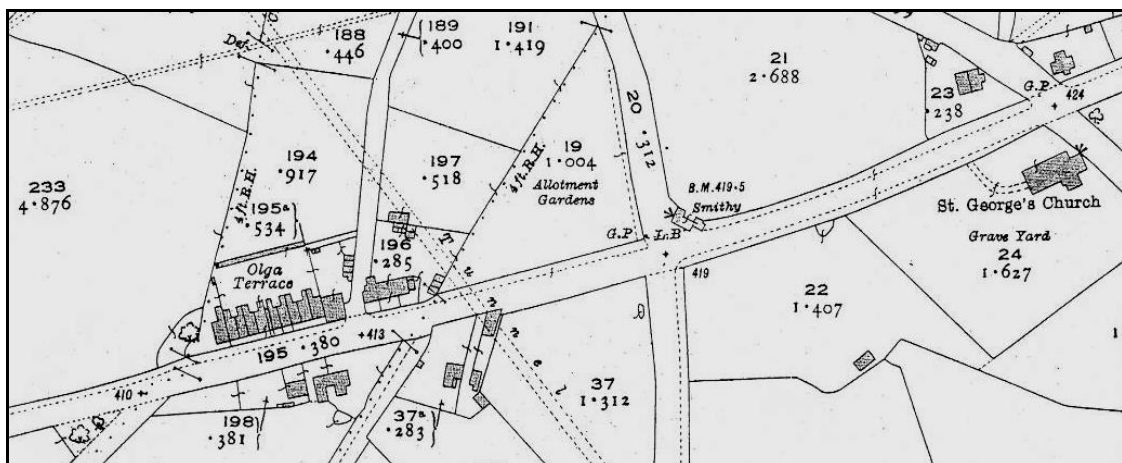


THE BLACKSMITH'S SHOP
 A FOCAL POINT FOR THE VILLAGERS OF PEGG'S GREEN, GRIFFYDAM,
 SWANNINGTON AND COLEORTON

THE FOLLOWING IS BASED AROUND AN INTERVIEW GIVEN TO
THE COALVILLE TIMES IN 1951



EDGAR MEE AT WORK



Section of 1923 O/S map showing location of The Blacksmith's Shop (Smithy) in the centre

The "Blacksmith's Shop", which was situated to the East of Swannington Island (known as Peggy Island when the author was a youngster), on the opposite side to St. George's Church, was a landmark known by everyone in the community. You even told the midland red bus driver on the C76 for example, that you were getting off at the "Blacksmith's Shop" when you purchased your bus ticket. People of that era would also recall the stop further down on Nottingham road, which was always known as Morley's cross roads, because it was adjacent to where the Morleys lived.

Reputedly built in the 1700's, it served the districts around for a couple of centuries until it was demolished for a road widening scheme, and a new Smithy was built. In the 1950's, and for many years before, Mr. Edgar Mee was the blacksmith, and rightly proud of the shop and its traditions; he can be seen at work in the preceding photograph. The Mee family, including Edgar, his father and grandfather had operated the shop for over a century (from c.1850)

Edgar's grandfather Joseph Mee apparently came from Griffydam to take over the shop, after, so it was said, that the previous owner had been "transported" for stealing iron. See the article on the Blacksmith in Griffydam where Joseph Mee worked before moving to Pegg's Green.

Mr. Mee explained that his ancestor's did things in exactly the way he was doing in 1950 and he expected that the need for shoeing of horses would continue and outlive his own ability to provide that service. One of the main changes Mr. Mee had experienced over his ancestors was the arrival of electricity. There wasn't any need to employ a man to work the furnace bellows or do the striking as this was now automated, with the bellows being replaced by an electric blower. Acetylene welding etc had arrived by this time, but the actual method of shoeing of horses had changed little. Some of the actual shoes were then purchased ready made, but some were still made completely from bar iron. In earlier days, before the arrival of farm machinery such as tractors which replaced horses, there was sufficient work to have a blacksmith in nearly every village, and they could be found in Worthington, Pegg's Green, Coleorton, Newbold, Swannington, Thringstone and Belton for example. Many of these closed down due to the introduction of farm machinery and the closure of local coal mines which also provided work. The gradual closure of all of these left Mr. Mee as the only surviving blacksmith in the area, which enabled him to continue in business.

Things are not what they used to be Mr. Mee explained, as he remembered when there was often a row of horses from the cross-roads to the shop waiting to be shod, and moreover, the lighting of fires outside when the iron "hooping" of cart wheels needed to be carried out, The hoops were heated in the fire to make them expand before fitting to the wheels. These were then quenched in water to

cause contraction of the iron hoops thereby providing a tight fit. There was a lot of work to do on the Coleorton Beaumont estate which necessitated him travelling to different farms to carry out the work on site. He recalled that in his grandfather's day a horse could be completely shod for 2s 4d. In 1950, the price was between 12s. and 16s. and this was according to the size of the horse; clearly a cart horse would be more expensive. Mr. Mee explained that there was an art in shoeing a horse, and without the careful handling of the horse it was quite easy to get kicked. He said that "his life long contact with horses bred in him a love for them, and he and his family had kept as many as three or four horses at a time, for sheer pleasure in their possession".

Apparently, the 1914-18 War was a rushed period at the shop. Mechanisation of farms was in its early stages, and the clip clop of hooves on the roads became even less with the introduction of cars, buses and lorries. Indeed, Mr. Mee well remembered rushing out of the shop to see the first cars pass by: never dreaming that they would in time, oust the horse-drawn traffic from the roads.

The vicinity of the "Blacksmith's Shop" has undergone changes, too. Mr. Mee remembered St. George's Church during the incumbencies of Mr. Bailey and Mr. Pearson and he recalled "Kirby's Windmill", which used to stand on the corner near the church. Houses were few and far between at that time. The demolition of his old shop was made necessary by the vast increase in fast moving traffic, and its dangerous proximity to the corner, but it destroyed an old-world atmosphere which had become a meeting place for all and sundry. Its structure served as a shelter from wind and rain whilst men chatted and regaled each other with well worn tales. The new building filled Mr. Mee's business requirements admirably, but the friendliness and familiarity of its predecessor was gone.

THE PENNY SCHOOL

At the end of Stoney Lane to the left of where it meets Zion's Hill, there was a school in the 1800s. This was one of a number of buildings in the area where the cottages stand today. It was known locally as the "Penny School", as this is what the pupils paid weekly for the use of their school books.

An extract from an article in the 1950 Loughborough Echo newspaper related by William Stacey states:-

"A rather more picturesque figure was that of Frank Barkby, who was often to be seen in the morning at the doorway, dressed in "Box Hat" and "Swallow Tailed Coat" with a cane in his hand, awaiting the late arrivals".

William Stacey also related that another similar school existed in one of the cottages behind the Railway Inn (now the Gelsmoor). The headmaster was Mr. Woods, a stately personage, with a long beard. William Stacey also mentioned, that he remembered a toll-gate (Hinckley Turnpike) being near this school, as well as one near the "Gin-Stables", Coleorton. **The former would have been Cart Brook toll gate which features in an earlier article entitled "Local Turnpike Roads which circumnavigated Griffydam, Pegg's Green & Part of Gelsmoor".**

The 1851, 1861 and 1871 Pegg's Green censuses list Francis (Frank?) Barkby as a School Master living in Pegg's Green. In the 1871 census he is living with his wife Elizabeth, aged 63 and 61 respectively, but they are not mentioned in the 1881 census. However, the '1887 History Gazette and Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland' lists him as being a Cow keeper, Boot and Shoe maker and School Teacher. It must have been this Francis (Frank) Barkby that Mr. Stacey was referring to, but it is thought that the Penny School finished about 1880 as the 1874 to 1899 register for the Wesleyan Day School lists many pupils coming to there from "Mr Barkby's" (Penny School) but only up to 1879.

In the Coalville Times dated Friday, October 9th, 1953, "Lavengro" recorded the following article based on interviews carried out with members at Coleorton "Darby and Joan Club" when the subject of Frank Barkby's School was raised..... *as also did an old school master - still living - named Barraclough. Mr. Barraclough has been deaf for many years, through the effects of an experience at the old school many years ago. There was a violent thunderstorm one afternoon, and he saw every single scholar home safely through the downpour, becoming seriously ill as the result of the drenching. A number present at the meeting, were greatly interested to learn that Mr. Barraclough, now a great age and residing in Wales, remembers his associations with Coleorton and district.....*In actual fact Samuel Barraclough would have been 72 years old in 1953. The writer discovered that Samuel was in fact a teacher at the old Wesleyan Day School in Pegg's Green and is mentioned in the extract of the Wesleyan Committee's 1880 - 1884 report below.....*S. Barraclough is listed as the Teacher / Master at Griffydam - Number of children 145 with average attendance of 100. In the 1881 census for Pegg's Green, Samuel Barraclough was listed as a School Master aged 24 and born in Manchester. He was lodging with Mary A. Tugby, a widow, aged 49.*

It is recorded in John Nichol's 1800 book of the Antiquities of Leicestershire, that in 1745 a place of worship called "Sion Church" was located in this area. It is thought that Zion's Hill possibly got its name from this. The writer was told that some evidence was found relating to an old chapel like window in the cottages on the site of the Penny School during building work, which adds to the intrigue about the Sion Church. Unfortunately, it was not possible to contact the relevant person who reported this.

SCHOOL LANE



Extract from an 1834 to 36 Ordnance Survey map

The above extract from the first ordnance survey map of the area confirms that the top of what we now know as School Lane Hill was not connected to the extension of the Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike road (now Nottingham Road) because of the extensive escarpment in that area. The heavy line shows that School Lane only went up to a point about half way between the brook and Nottingham Road, and a track then veered to the left along the bottom of the escarpment to "Griffy Well" and then returned up to the Top Road. This track up to the Top road still exists today, and would have been in continual use by villagers fetching their water from Griffy Well

Later, a road through the escarpment was made to join what became School Lane with the extension of the Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike road (now Nottingham Road).

Over a long period, School Lane or parts thereof had various names.....Froggart's Lane, Kidger's Lane and Occupation Road. The readers will therefore understand the confusion in trying to record where places were situated during certain periods, prior to School Lane being established throughout its length from Zion's Hill to Nottingham Road.

RICHARD'S BAKERY AND CONFECTIONERY / GROCERY BUSINESS

Richard's Bakery (also grocers and confectioners) shop was the first building on the left, just beyond where Clay Lane now runs into School Lane. From local maps, we can identify it was built between 1903 and 1923. It was also the family residence.

Richards Fish Pond, which provided endless hours of pleasure for the local fishermen and children, is at the bottom of the field behind the house and bakery. The pond was actually formed due to subsidence from local coal mine workings.

The bakery closed c.1970, and was later converted into a private house, named "Brooklands". The bakery and ovens was on the RH side of the building through the current archway, with the shop on the LH side at the front of the property.

The first record found of James Richards being a Baker and Grocer in Peggs Green is in a trade directory dated 1895. However, James Richards Snr. was recorded in the 1891 census as being a Baker and Grocer in "Kidger's Lane". The writer cannot be sure where the original business was located, but it was possibly the first property on the left down School Lane from Zion's Hill end.

James Richards Snr. (d.1909) was married to Sarah (d.1906) and they were buried in Griffydam Cemetery. James Snr., is thought to have left the business to his son James Richards Jnr., who subsequently died in 1934. James Richards Jnr., whose wife was named Bertha and their daughter Eileen were buried in Griffydam Cemetery also.

Eileen famously owned a "Lanchester" car and had the row of houses on Zion's Hill built which she rented out. It was thought that James Jnr., built the new Bake-House, and after his death, he left the business to his son Enoch. He and his wife Millie, continued to run the business till c.1970.

The general grocery and confectionery shop at the side of the bake-house, was somewhere that children on the way to Griffydam infant and senior schools could buy their goodies, and was fondly remembered by the writer.

It was a fascinating shop, and the writer remembers being able to buy "Liquorice Wood" there, this was a most unusual treat that looked like a twig from a tree which you had to chew, and it gave off the flavour of liquorice. Another fascination was the two old petrol pumps which stood at the front of the property.

Wonderful bread and cakes were made in the bakery, and cream horns and vanilla slices were a specialty. Their bread was delivered around the local area, and in the 1950/1960's they had two bread rounds, the vans were driven by Albert and Jimmy Weston who both lived on Zion's Hill. The rounds were very extensive, and they delivered bread as far as the Holly Bush Pub at Cloud Hill, which was demolished due to the extending of the quarry.

The Richards were staunch supporters of the new Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel, and it was recorded in the Trustees Book in 1924, that in order to purchase the "Chapel Field", Mr. J. Richards Jnr., would lend the money (£275) and that it would be paid back at 4.25% interest.



Above, is a picture of James Richards' Jnr's., delivery van, probably taken in the 1940's, when Enoch was running the business. The vehicle is pre 1932 registration, and Enoch Richards is thought to be the person sitting on the running board.

THE KIDGER'S - A RESPECTED FAMILY OF FARMERS, AND BUTCHERS

Many Kidger's graves (including William and Price Kidger) can be found in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist graveyard, and these are recorded in the graveyard audit which appears in the Griffydam section of the book. The Kidgers' were well respected business people in the area (farmers and butchers), and the William Kidger referred to below was secretary of the old Wesleyan Day School on the Top Road / Nottingham Road (formally Froggat's Lane) He also had an involvement with Pegg's Green colliery as one of the joint owners.

The former Kidger's house, in School Lane named "The Yew Tree" (previously the White House), together with the abattoir building and other farm buildings, still exist today. This is at the bottom of what we now know as School Lane hill on the opposite side to Froggart's Cottage. The author understands that William Kidger originally killed his beasts away from the premises illegally until the abattoir was established later.

In the 1841 census, William Kidger, aged 39, is listed as a Butcher in Pegg's Green and living with his wife Hannah, aged 40, and 4 children - Joseph, 10; Eliza, 6; Edward, 3 and Price, 1 Month. There is a farmer living with them by the name of Mr. Howett, aged 30, and a lady named Sarah Tucker, aged 46. They have a male and a female servant suggesting they were reasonably wealthy. We know also that William had started his farming activities at this time.

In the 1851 census, William is actually listed as a farmer of 211 acres employing 7 labourers and there is no mention of him being a butcher, however, his son William junior (living at home) is listed as a butcher. They now have a house servant and an errand boy living with them.

In 1860, William Kidger built a row of houses opposite their own house, known as "Kidger's Row" (see the following article regarding these cottages).

The 1861 census now lists William as a farmer of 245 acres employing 8 labourers and 3 boys. William junior is now farm bailiff, Edward is a shopman and Price is now the butcher. They have a 14 year old girl as domestic servant and a 14 year old boy as an agricultural servant.

Leicester Mail - February 29th 1868

Ashby de la Zouch Petty Sessions

ROBBING AN EMPLOYER - Mr. William Kidger, butcher, of Pegg's Green, (*Froggatt's Lane / School Lane*) charged William Knight, his servant, with stealing 30s., his property, on the 12th Oct. last. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. Kidger that on the above day, he sent him to pay a bill to Mr. Eagle, a shopkeeper, of Coleorton, giving him the 30s. He, however returned, and said that Mr. Eagle was not at home. He afterwards absconded from his employer, taking the money with him. - P.C. Cheshire proved apprehending the prisoner on a warrant, and telling him the charge. He admitted the offence, and said he had spent it.- **He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to two months' hard labour.**

In the 1871 census William is now a farmer of 215 acres with 6 labourers and 3 boys, but is also given as a shopkeeper. He is now 69 and wife Hannah is 71. William junior and Ann are still living at home unmarried and a granddaughter Edith is also listed. There is a 15 year old girl domestic servant living there also. William junior died in 1884. There is no mention of a butcher being in residence.

William & Hannah's son Price Kidger is now listed as a butcher also and living on Froggat's Lane (extension of the Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike at that time and now Nottingham road). Price is living with wife Sarah both aged 29 and they have a daughter Elizabeth aged 1 plus a domestic servant.

By the 1881 census Price Kidger is now listed as a butcher and grazier in Pegg's Green presumably now living in his father's house with his wife Sarah and six children plus 1 general servants and 1 general servant / butcher. **The latter was James Burton who became a master butcher in Pegg's Green and features in a later article.** His mother Hannah had died in 1880 but father William didn't die till 1890 although he is not mentioned and presumed to be living elsewhere.

In the 1891 census, Price Kidger is listed as a butcher and farmer on Froggarte Lane and living with his wife Sarah and 8 children plus a general domestic servant. For some reason, the Kidger's property was listed as being on Froggarte Lane at this time, even though Kidger's Lane was on the census as well and James Richard's bakehouse which was the next property along is listed as being on Kidger's Lane. **All very confusing!!**

In the 1901 census things get even more confusing as Main Street is introduced in Pegg's Green which has never appeared before or since!! Price Kidger is still given as a farmer and butcher but now on Main Street??, living with his wife and 6 children. Main Street takes in the Red Lion pub also. Price Kidger died in 1908, and his wife Sarah in 1910. How Main Street comes to be included is not known, and we have to assume that this is a familiar mistake and that since William senior built his house, it always remained the family home in which several generations have resided.

In the 1911 census, Frank William Kidger, son of Price Kidger, is listed as a butcher living with his wife Maud Hilda and have been married for less than one year.

The writer recalls, that in the 1940's, Arthur Kidger used to still kill his own beast in the slaughter house adjacent to the farm house, he died much earlier than his wife who carried on the business after his death. Arthur Horne who used to work for Arthur Kidger lived in Kidger's Row and travelled around the neighbourhood in his butchers van selling their meat. Their sausages were reputed to be particularly good.

The writer, along with other former pupils of Griffydam School, vividly remember going into the slaughter house when coming home from school in the late 1940's to beg a pigs bladder. This was then inflated, and used rather unsuccessfully as a football. How uncomplicated life was in those days !!!

A LITTLE HISTORY OF FROGGARTS' COTTAGE, SCHOOL LANE, PEGGS GREEN

This article was written by Sandra Dillon, the current owner of Froggarts' Cottage with her husband and includes input from Hilary and Pat Howden, the previous owners of the Cottage.

Our house, Froggarts' Cottage, is in School Lane, Peggs Green, currently within Coleorton Parish but which until 1936 was part of Thringstone.

We moved into Froggarts' Cottage in 2006, myself, my husband, two grown-up children and a business from Tamworth, along with my mother up from Dorset. It was an ideal home for us having lots of space and an adjoining annexe where my aged mother could live comfortably close to family, but with a little privacy. The previous owners, Hilary & Pat Howden, had transformed 4 small cottages into a family home around 1979 and added the annexe when they needed it for their own parents.

The cottages were originally built in 1860 for the Kidger family who lived in the big house opposite (now known as Yew Tree House, but previously The White House) and who ran a small abattoir and butchers shop in what is now known as "The Barn". Mr Kidger had various businesses including a share of Peggs Green mine which closed down in 1858. It's said the cottages were built to house his abattoir workers, but records show they were originally 2 cottages - occupied by Mary Kidger and the other by Joseph Hickling. However, by 1883 they were occupied by 4 families - Davis, Barnett, Elliott and Grant (still owned by the Kidger family) and in 1932 by Bradford, Walker, Elliott and Grant families. The 4 cottages were at one time known as "Kidgers Row" but by the time the Howdens' took over in 1978 they had become "The Terrace".

They were small, brick-built cottages - two up, two down - with outside loos ("thunderboxes") at the top of the garden. One still exists rather precariously, and covered in ivy which we use as a garden store. Mains sewerage didn't arrive until the early 1970s. Each of the 4 cottages measured 20ft from front to back and 12ft wide, 2 up 2 down, to accommodate whole families. Interestingly, for such a small building, the 4 cottages are on two levels - the front room being a step down from the back room, and as they are on the hill alongside the road, they step down from one cottage to the next.

The original cottages had straightforward pitched roofs. In order to raise the height of the ceilings the Howdens installed 4 dormer windows at the front. Although now rendered and painted, the original cottages were brick. They were solid brick, cavity walls not coming into general use until the 20th century, so they were probably quite difficult to heat. From the remaining chimney-breasts and flues in the house it would appear that each cottage had two fireplaces, one in each downstairs room. Probably the front rooms were used as the kitchen, although it's likely that working families back then would have made use of the community bake houses for any major cooking - the nearest probably in what is now Aqueduct Road. They had access to water from a well in Froggarts Lane. School Lane had various names over the years. Certainly in 1920 it was called Froggarts Lane. For a long time the lane did not join with Top Road as it does now. When the Howdens purchased from Mrs Kidger, the stamped conveyancing document dated Feb 1978 describes the property as "parcel of land situate in School Lane (formerly Froggarts Lane)". In 1946 the will and probate of one Phoebe Hallam shows her resident at Froggarts Lane, Peggs Green. Other names on record are "Occupation Road" which included Clay Lane, Kidgers Lane (in 1901) and "Froggatts Lane". It is possible that there were some transcription errors - but there are several official documents with the Froggarts spelling, including sales documents for the cottages that became Froggarts Cottage.

JAMES BURTON SENIOR - MASTER BUTCHER IN PEGG'S GREEN



James Burton senior's butchers van with his son James junior, daughter Dolly and step mother Kate. Unfortunately no photograph is available for James Burton senior.

Below is a rather humorous story from the Coalville Times archives relating to James Burton senior in 1901:-

Coalville Times
Friday January 11th, 1901
Page 4

Local Chit-Chat

A remarkable discovery was made by a Pegg's Green butcher (Mr Burton) last week. On slaughtering a cow which he had purchased and driven from Leicester, he found a large carving fork in the flesh of the animal's breast.

James Burton senior was born in 1859 in Osgathorpe.

On the 1861-1871 James is shown as living in Osgathorpe.

In 1881 he was in Pegg's Green and a servant / general butcher living with the Kidger family, which is presumably where he learned his trade.

INFORMATION ON PEGG'S GREEN PUBLIC HOUSES

It was not necessary to provide a name for an Alehouse until c.1825, and they were often first located in Farm houses. From 1825 to 1827 licensing laws required that an ale house, inn, public house etc., should be provided with a name. **Landlord information is taken from Licensing, Trade Directories, Census Records and Newspaper Articles.**

THE ANCHOR INN - ANCHOR LANE



Section from 1885 O/S map showing location of "The Anchor Inn" off Anchor Lane at the bottom RH side of the map

Landlords:-

1877	James Bradley	History, Gazetteer & Directory of Leices & Rutland
1887/8	James Bradley	Wright's Directory
1880	James Bradley	Wright's Directory
1881	James Bradley	Kelly's Directory & census
1891	James Bradley	Kelly's Directory & census
1901	Adolphus Bakewell	Census
1896	Adolphus Bakewell	Wright's Directory
1908	Adolphus Bakewell	Kelly's Directory
1908	Closed (see below)	

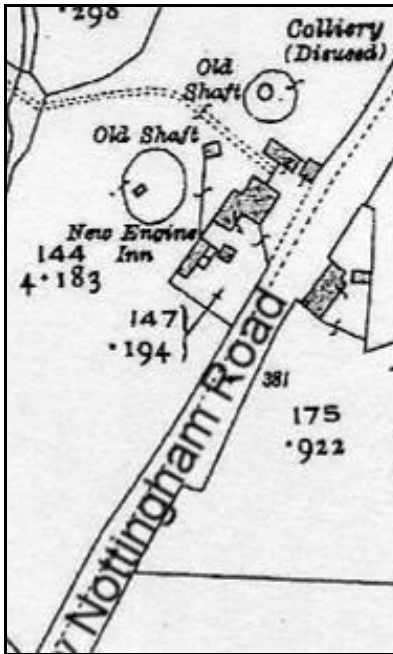
Melton Mowbray Mercury & Uppingham News - June 25th 1908

LEICESTERSHIRE LICENSING AUTHORITY

THE ANCHOR INN - Supt. Lockton said the house was now owned by Offiler's Brewery Ltd. The population of the village was as such as to give a licensed house to every 112 persons. There were eleven licensed houses, and the nearest to the Anchor Inn were The Red Lion, 836 yards and The New Engine Inn, 616 yards. The house was poor, and tumbling down, and badly adapted for a licensed house. No opposition was offered, and the magistrates refused the license.

Click [Here](#) To Read More About The Anchor Inn

NEW ENGINE INN - NEXT TO PEGG'S GREEN COLLIERY



Extract from 1903 O/S map

Landlords: -

1846	Thomas Gostelow	White 1846 Directory
1851	Thomas Gostelow	Census
1855	Thomas Gostelow	Post Office Directory
1863	James Richards	History, Gazetteer & Directory of Leices & Rutland
1869?	Mrs Knight	Newspaper
1870	Mrs Catherine Gostelow	Newspaper

Leicester Mail - January 29th 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. Op., 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, Griffydham

1877	Mrs Catherine Gostelow	History, Gazetteer & Directory of Leices & Rutland
1880	William Gostelow	Wright's Directory
1881	William Gostelow	Kelly's Directory & census
1891	James Leeson	Census
1887/8	Js. Leeson	Wright's Directory

1892	Js. Leeson	Wright's Directory
1896	William Ward ??	Wright's Directory
1901	Thomas J King	Census
1908	Tom Bowley	Kelly's Directory
1911	Clara Bowley	Census
1912	William Blythe	Kelly's Directory
1928	Nathan Hall	Kelly's Directory
1931	Nathan Hall	Marriage Certificate
1941	William Blakey	Kelly's Directory
Later	Mrs. Blakey	

When the author was a young man, Mrs. Blakey was still the landlady and served beer in jugs and snacks from an off license window just inside the front door. Men from the village who couldn't get to the pub would often send children with jugs to go and get their pint/s. Public Houses were often built next to a colliery, and there are numerous examples of this in the area, the "New Engine Inn" built next to Peggs Green Colliery being one example. This is not there anymore and the writer's last memory of this pub was when it was being run by Mrs. Blakey. The forerunner of this pub's name was the "Old Engine Inn", which was built close to Boultsbee's Colliery in Elverston's Lane off Stoney Lane, Coleorton.



The above is a pre 1931 photograph of Nathan Hall surrounded by his family. Nathan is recorded in Kelly's 1928 Trade Directory as being an Inn Keeper at the New Engine Inn. He was married for the second time in 1931 to Maria Mabel Wardle, the marriage certificate still confirms his occupation as Inn Keeper.

Click [Here](#) To Read More About The New Engine Inn

THE NEW INN



The earliest record the author has found relating to the New Inn was when a John Tugby was recorded as being the landlord in 1846 and baptism records also confirm him as a publican in 1843. We know that Thomas Cox was landlord there from before 1865 to after 1881. The Bradford family kept the New Inn around and including 1901 and Edward & Ann Bradford were recorded as being there in 1911. Ernest and Rose Bradford kept it for many years in more recent times until Ernest died and Rose carried on as landlady for a period.

Loughborough Monitor - February 16th 1865

NEW INN - PEGGS GREEN

OPENING OF A NEW LODGE OF ODDFELLOWS, M.U. (No. 5393)

A lodge of this Order was opened on the 4th instant, at the home of Mr. Thomas Cox, The New Inn, to be called the Royal Worswick Lodge, in honour of William Worswick, Esq., of Birstall Hall, nr. Leicestershire, proprietor of the Swannington and Hoo-Ash collieries, and part proprietor with Mr. W. Walker, of the new Coleorton collieries. A splendid spread of "fatted calf" and other good things in the greatest profusion was provided by the worthy host, which, having been duly discussed and prepared for inward digestion, P.P.G.M. James Peters was called to the chair, who, after a short introductory speech gave her Most Gracious majesty the Queen and all the Royal Family: this being honoured in a bumper, the chairman gave a most elaborate statement of the principles of Oddfellowship, and their true practice, also instances where it had been found useful, and urged on all who had not already done so, to unite with this flourishing order, where its members were equally at home whether in the bosom of old England, or in the far off New Zealand or Australia, or in Turkey or at the Cape of Good Hope, and the benefits felt by all in its brotherhood. The Grand Master of the Order and Board of Directors was given and lustily responded to, after which Mr. John Grice sang a most appropriate song- "Help One Another". The next toast was the officers of the Whitwick district; responded to by Mr. T. Allgood, C.S., of the district; the next toast of the evening was the health of William Worswick, Esq., which was vigorously responded to. Other toasts and sentiments were given, also better health to Geo. Lewis, Esq., the manager of the colliery, who was prevented being present by disposition. The head bailiff, Mr. W. Pickering, was also toasted, and, after the health of Henry Toone, Esq., surgeon to the Lodge, the host and others, had been given, the happy brothers and friends sang God Save the Queen and dispersed.

Leicester Journal – September 4th 1874

The anniversary of the Loyal Worswick Lodge, No. 5393, Manchester United of Oddfellows (now *Independent order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity*), was held at host Thomas Cox's, the New Inn, Pegg's Green, Thringstone, on Monday last, August 31st. After partaking of a most excellent spread, W. H. Johnson, Esq., was called to the chair, and J. B. Johnson, Esq., surgeon, to the vice-chair. - The Chairman, in a few appropriate remarks, proposed the health of "The Queen". Song, - "Good Old Jeff" by P. G. Wm. Room. The next toast was "The Prince and Princess of Wales". Song "The Prairie Flower", by brother F. Hallam, who accompanied himself on the harmonium. - The Chairman, in an amusing speech, proposed the health of "The surgeons of the Lodge". Song, - "Just before the battle, Mother", by P. G. Wm. Cox. - Dr. Johnson, one of the surgeons, responded to the toast. - The next toast was "The Members of the House of Lords and Commons". Song, - "The Ploughboy", by Bro. Shorthouse. Toast, "Success to the Loyal Worswick Lodge". - P. G. William Room, in the absence of the secretary stated that the lodge was in a flourishing condition, they had saved over £40 during the last 12 months. Brother John knight also responded. Toast - "The Visiting Brothers", coupled with the name of Brother S. W. Hallam, jun", Charnwood Forest Lodge, Whitwick. Song - "I never saw before". - Brother Elveston. Brother S. W. Hallam responded, and concluded by proposing "The health of the past and present officers of the Lodge, coupled with the name of P. G. E. Ayre". Song, - "The Stolen Child", by Brother G. Walker. Toast - "The Chairman", who responded with usual ability. Toast - "The Host an Hostess". Song, - "The Wonderful Ducks", W. H. Johnson, Esq. he host responded on behalf of himself and his wife. With other songs, toasts and sentiment, brought a pleasant days enjoyment to a close.

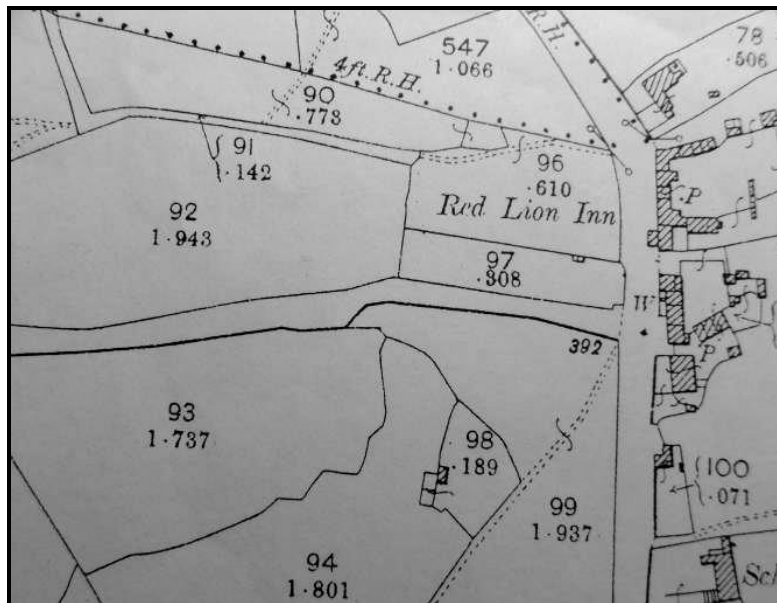
Beyond fraternal and recreational activities, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (which still exists today) promotes the ethic of reciprocity and charity, by implied inspiration of Judeo-Christian ethics. The largest Sovereign Grand Lodge of all fraternal orders of Odd Fellows since the 19th century, it enrolls some 600,000 members divided in approximately 10,000 lodges in 26 countries, inter-fraternally recognised by the second largest, the British-seated Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity.

Landlords:-

1843, 1846, 1855	John Tugby	Baptism, census records, trade directories etc.
1863	Thomas Cox	History, Gazetteer & Directory of Leices & Rutland
1865	Thomas Cox	Loughborough Monitor
1874	Thomas Cox	Leicester Journal
1880	Thomas Cox	Wright's Directory
1881	Thomas Cox	Kelly's Directory
1887/8	Hy. Jackson	Wright's Directory
1891	Henry Jackson	Census
1892	Hy. Jackson	Wright's Directory
1896	Frederick Page	Wright's Directory
1901	Joseph Morley	Census
1908	Joseph Morley	Kelly's Directory
1912	Joseph Morley	Kelly's Directory
c.1901	Bradford family	
c.1911	Edward and Ann Bradford	
1941	Frank Leslie Simmons	Kelly's Directory
1970s	Ernest & Rose Bradford	

Click [Here](#) To Read More About The New Inn

THE RED LION



1903 O/S map

Note:- The Red Lion Inn was on the opposite side of the road to where the name is shown. Although some may argue that the Red Lion was in Griffydham, the following appeared in a newspaper article dated 3rd July 1968 under the heading "Old Pub to be closed" suggesting it was registered as being in Pegg's Green:-

A public house which appears in the earliest county register in 1842 is to be closed. It is the Red Lion, Pegg's Green, Coleorton, which was the subject of a meeting of the county compensation authority. Because of a lack of use, the county authority did not wish to have the license renewed. And this brought up the subject of the compensation which applies for a loss of license to the old on-licenses in existence since August, 1904 with continuous renewal. The meeting decided that the license be referred for compensation and in the meantime, was provisionally renewed.

Elizabeth Houlton was listed in the 1861 P.G. census as being both a Victualler and a Grocer at the Red Lion, so it presumably incorporated a shop at that time.

Landlords:-

1841	Wm. Haywood	Census
1846	Wm. Haywood	White 1846 Directory
1861	Thomas Houlton / Eliz Houlton	Census
1871	Mary Houlton	Census
1880	Benjamin Percival	Wright's Directory
1881	Charles Brown	Kelly's Directory & census
1887/88	Mrs Sarah Reave	Wright's Directory
1891	William Reeves	Census
1892	Mrs Sarah Reave	Wright's Directory
1896	Frederick Tivey	Wright's Directory
c. 1900	see comments on next page	
1901	James Leeson	Census
1941	John (Jack) Stevenson	Kelly's Directory



The above photograph was probably taken about 1900 and is quite historically important. On the left hand side of the photograph can be seen 'Westbrook House' and next door is 'Westward Cottage' where Josiah Weston lived. These properties date back probably to the last quarter of the 19th century. There is apparently some evidence of an earlier cottage being there. An 1834 map appears to show buildings directly to the north of Westbrook House, before Sketchley's corner. Josiah Weston's father purchased the buildings and attached land in 1923 and their family lived there afterwards. Josiah was born in 'Westbrook House' and the family used to rent out the cottage for extra income. Josiah's father had a barber's shop in Coalville, and also ran a local barber's shop in the pantry of their house. The large pantry was two steps down from the kitchen and was also used for hanging meats and bacon.

Around the turn of the century, Josiah's grandparents (shown in the photograph above) ran the Red Lion, which was later taken over by his mother - his father could not apply for a license as he already ran another business.

If we compare the front of the Red Lion with how it is in the following Home Guard photograph, we can see the changes made to the windows on the first floor, although the upstairs windows still seem to be the same.



**PEGG'S GREEN HOME GUARD (10B PLATOON) IN 1944
OUTSIDE THE RED LION INN**

**Back Row L to R - (1) Cyril Marshall, (2) Ken Harrison, (3) Mr. Fern (4) B. Walker
(5) Mr. Collins, (6) B. Hall, (7) H. Brooks.**

**Middle Row L to R - (1) Bill Blakey (New Engine Inn landlord), (2) Mr. Fairbrother,
(3) Gordon Morley, (4) Jack Leeson, (5) John Archie Burton, (6) T. Shaw (7) ?? (8) ??**

**Bottom Row L to R - (1) W. Nutting (2) A. Bromley (3) Arthur Else, (4) Sire Weston,
(5) Gerald Burton, (6) Brian Hickling (7) Vic Clements.**



THE RED LION DARTS TEAM

Frank Howard Burton in the above photograph was landlord at the Waggon & Horses from 1919 to 1921. He married Sarah Else. The Elses' kept the Waggon & Horses prior to Howard (see the feature on the Waggon & Horses in the Griffydam section of the book)

Click [Here](#) To read More About The Red Lion

"MRS. HAYWOOD'S SWEET SHOP"

The cottage next to the Red Lion on the left hand side, and shown in the preceding photograph, used to be run by Mrs. Haywood as a sweet shop. We know she was there in the 1940's but probably much earlier than that.

Reg Burton, a resident of Pegg's Green, has good memories of the shop, having to pass it on his way home from school of course. It apparently sold a bit of everything, from groceries to sweets and chocolate. He remembers the big jars of sweets and recalls that on Tuesdays they had a delivery from Barkers of potted meat, and recalls going to get some from the shop.

Reg still remembers Mr & Mrs Haywood and their son, Fred. Their other son Sid lived next door to the shop, and today Sid's son Steven lives there. Mr. Haywood was often referred to as Checker Haywood. Sid was a life long member of the Griffydam Wesleyan Chapel.

Reg relates a funny story when he, his brother Harold Burton and Gerald Hall went to get a sausage roll (costing a penny). After discovering a cobweb on it, he took it back into the shop where Mr. Haywood duly broke the end off and returned it to the boys. For some time afterwards they joked about it, calling it Checkers penny dreadfull !!

VILLAGE BOYS SUPPORT THE WAR EFFORT

date of newspaper 1955 approx

LEICESTER'S DIARY

Edited by Eric Flavell

Wartime carollers aided Russia

February 1942

Dear Carolers,

Thank - you very much for your gift which I have just received -

I am most grateful to you for the trouble you have

taken to help the brave Russians in their terrible struggle in the glorious defense of their country

Your sincere friend

Clementine Churchill

IN the days leading up to Christmas 1941, 13-year-old Jack Burton, of Peggs Green, near Coalville, and three other public spirited local lads, Gordon Hall, Peter Harvey and Billy Collins, stepped out carol singing in aid of the war-time, Salute to Russia Fund.

They must have been in good voice as they managed to raise a princely £3. 17s. 6d in Peggs Green and nearby Griffydham, which they duly sent off to the fund.

In return they received a letter in her own hand, from Mrs. Clementine Churchill, wife of the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, thanking them

and praising their gallant effort.

The letter was lost for some 30 years until Jack recently found it tucked away in an old wallet, showed it to my colleague, Stuart Williamson, who passed it on to me.

Jack Burton, who's 60 this week and still lives in Peggs Green, is well known in the villages where for many a year he travelled with his van selling shoes.

Alas, he's long lost touch with Gordon, Peter and Billy, his fellow carollers, but should they happen to read this item, he wishes them all a Merry Christmas.

MESSAGE FROM NO. 10: A Christmas gesture to help the Russians in the last war prompted this reply from Winston Churchill's wife, Clementine, in February 1942.

The above article appeared in the Leicester Mercury

Translation of Clementine Churchill's letter:-

Dear Carolers,

Thank you very much for your gift which I have just received. I am most grateful to you for the trouble you have taken to help the brave Russians in their terrible struggle and in the glorious defense of their country.

Your sincere friend

Clemantine Churchill

Russia seems to have a short memory!!

PEGG'S GREEN "VE DAY" (VICTORY IN EUROPE) CELEBRATIONS - 1945
PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN ON ANCHOR LANE, PEGGS GREEN



Note that all the children have a Union Jack and Mavis Biddles' has an impressive bespoke 3-wheeler Tricycle, presumably utilising pram wheels. These were a precious commodity for attaching to wooden trolleys which it was a boys dream to own in those days.

GRIFFYDAM INFANT SCHOOL WAS CLOSED ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 1945
FOR THIS "VE" CELEBRATION DAY

**GETTING YOUR COAL DELIVERED IN 1942 FROM "NEW LOUNT COLLIERY"
TO PEGG'S GREEN
(Owners of New Lount were - The Leicestershire Colliery & Pipe Co.,Ltd)**



Hibbert's of Coleorton delivered coal around the area and above is a photograph of their truck with John Archie Burton of Pegg's Green, one of their drivers, on the left.

Below is a receipt for "kitchen coal" delivered to the Burton family at Pegg's Green. Note the price - weight in Tons and Cwt's and price in Pounds, Shillings and Pence - a nice little maths problem for the younger generation.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE COAL SALES ASSOCIATION - MIDLAND SELLING AGENCY No. 16 **A11062**
SELLING AGENT FOR AND ON BEHALF OF ¹²³⁵

The Leicestershire Colliery & Pipe Co., Ltd.
NEW LOUNT COLLIERIES, NEWBOLD, COLEORTON.

Weight Ticket or Consignment Note on delivery of Coal over 2 Cwt.

M M.A. Hibbert 15.5 1942
Coleorton

TAKE Notice that you are to receive herewith
tons 16 cwt. lbs. of Kitchen COAL.

	Tons	Cwt.	Lbs.	Rate.	£	s.	d.
Weight of Coal and Vehicle ..	3	2					
Tare Weight of Vehicle ..	2	6					
Nett Weight of Coal herewith delivered to Purchaser ..		16		27/11			
The Leicestershire Colliery & Pipe Co., Ltd., Sellers. Carting					1	2	4
Haulier <u>Self</u>					1	2	4

Carter's Signature _____ Weighed by W.H.
Received by _____

Where Coal is delivered by means of a vehicle, the Seller must deliver or send by post or otherwise to the purchaser or his servant, before any part of the Coal is unloaded, a Ticket or note in this form.
Any seller of Coal who delivers a less quantity than is stated in this ticket or note is liable to a fine.
Any person attending on a vehicle used for delivery of Coal, who having received a ticket or note for delivery to the purchaser, delivers a less quantity than is stated in the ticket or note is liable to a fine.

**A 1946 PEGG'S GREEN SHOPPING LIST & RECEIPT FROM
GEORGE MASON OF COALVILLE**

George Mason's shop was opposite where the library is in Coalville now on the High Street, and the order would have been delivered directly to Mr. John Archie & Mrs. Hilda Burtons address at Pegg's Green in those days. The order is transcribed on the following page.

XS 9668

Branch 107 Date March 23
 Name Mrs Burton 1916
 Address Pegg's Green

BOUGHT OF

GEORGE MASONS

GROCCERS AND PROVISION MERCHANTS.

6182

Executed by _____ Checked by _____

Item	Quantity	Price
1/2 lb Bacon	✓	1-10
2 lb Butter	✓	3-4 ³ / ₄
1/2 lb Marm	✓	10 ¹ / ₄
1/2 lb Tea	✓	1-10 ¹ / ₄
1/2 lb Fat		10 ¹ / ₄
1/2 lb Soda		2 0
1/2 lb Tea		1-6
1 Match		1 ¹ / ₂
1 lb Tea		2 10
1 lb Sugar		1-5
1 lb Tea		1-0
1 lb Tea	8	1-5
1 lb Tea	8	1-0
1 lb Tea	12	1-6
1 lb Tea	20	1-4
1 lb Tea	4	1-4
1 lb Tea		1-3
1 lb Tea		3
1 lb Tea		4-11

Returns are not allowed for unless Credit Notes are produced.
 All Receipts must be given on our Official Receipt Form.
"PURITY TIPS"
FOR THE CONSUMER'S PROTECTION

		£	s.	d.
14 ozs	Bacon		1	10½
2 ¼ lbs	Butter		3	4½ (halfpenny)
1 2/16 lbs	Marge			10¼
1 ¼ lbs	Cheese		1	10¾ (3 farthings)
1 8/16 lbs	Fat			10¼ (1 farthing)
1	Nescafe		2	0
4 ½ lbs	Gran ?		1	6
1	Matches			1½ (halfpenny)
1 lb	Tea		2	10
1	Soap			7
1	Persil & 1 Toilet ?		1	0
1 lb	Peaches		1	5½ (halfpenny)
1 lb	Sultanas			10
1 lb	Buscuits		1	6
1 Tin	Syrup		1	4
2 lbs	?		1	4
15	Woodbines		1	3¾ (3 farthings)
1	Salt			3

			1	4
				11

The writer recalls when living in Stoney Lane, Coleorton in the 1950/60's, that a lady used to come round to the house from Newbold Coop on Wednesdays on her bike to take the order. This was duly delivered on Friday by the Coop lorry perfectly wrapped in a brown paper parcel and tied up with string (no plastic of course). Both these items were saved for future use elsewhere. Tesco's have a lot to learn still !

THE END