

THE BRICKWORKS ON BREEDON BRAND



**BY SAMUEL T STEWART – NOVEMBER 2020
Updated January 2023 / Updated May 2023**

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

These show the remains of an updraft "Scotch Kiln" which still exists on one of the sites of the former Brickworks on "Breedon Brand".

PREFACE

The 1881 surveyed 6 inch O/S map (page 3), shows two separate brickworks A & B on "Breedon Brand" at that time. Based on the dates identified for different operators working in parallel, it suggests that both brickyards must have been in operation at the same time over a period, and that they were likely to have been closed within a few years of each other. It is not possible to be more specific.

Research has identified various proprietors / occupiers / tenants of the brickworks over a period of 68 years from 1814 to 1882. These were John Hackett senior & junior, John Nicklinson, Thomas Hout, William Hout, Joseph Smart & Son, and Henry Toon. Evidence suggests that except for Joseph Smart, all the others worked the same brickworks (either A or B)

The Brickworks became known locally as Griffydam Brickworks, but no evidence has been found to prove they were called that on official documents. However, later pressed bricks produced there were impressed with the name Griffydam. The part of the Lower Brand on which the brickworks were located became part of Griffydam when Worthington became a parish in its own right between 1877 and 1880, hence the name Griffydam appearing on them during that time.

The brickworks also made roof tiles, quarry floor tiles and sough (drainage) tiles. O/S maps suggests that the brickworks were still working in 1885 but are marked as being disused on the 1901 map on page 4. No information referring to an operator of the brickworks has been found by the author subsequent to 1882, at which time they were in the ownership of a Mr. Hodgkinson and were put up for auction as a result of his death.

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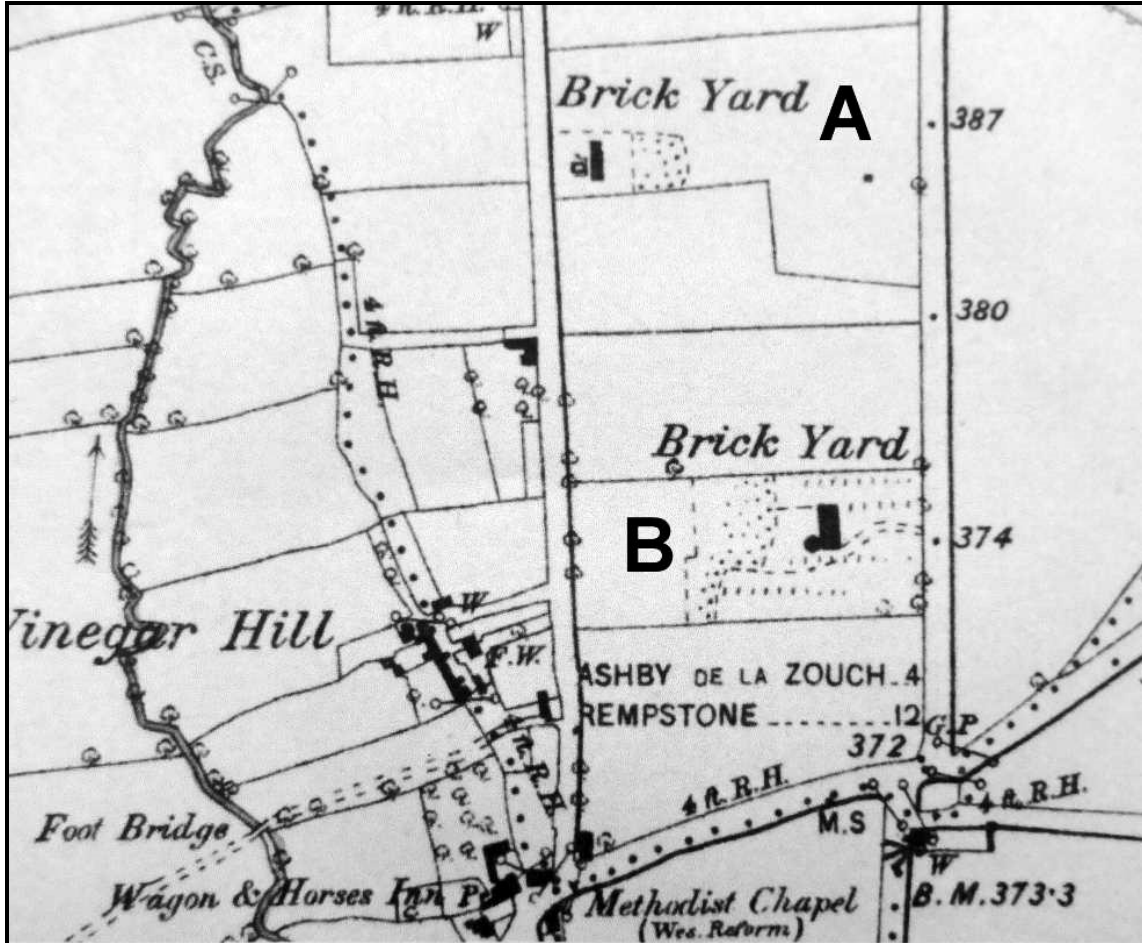
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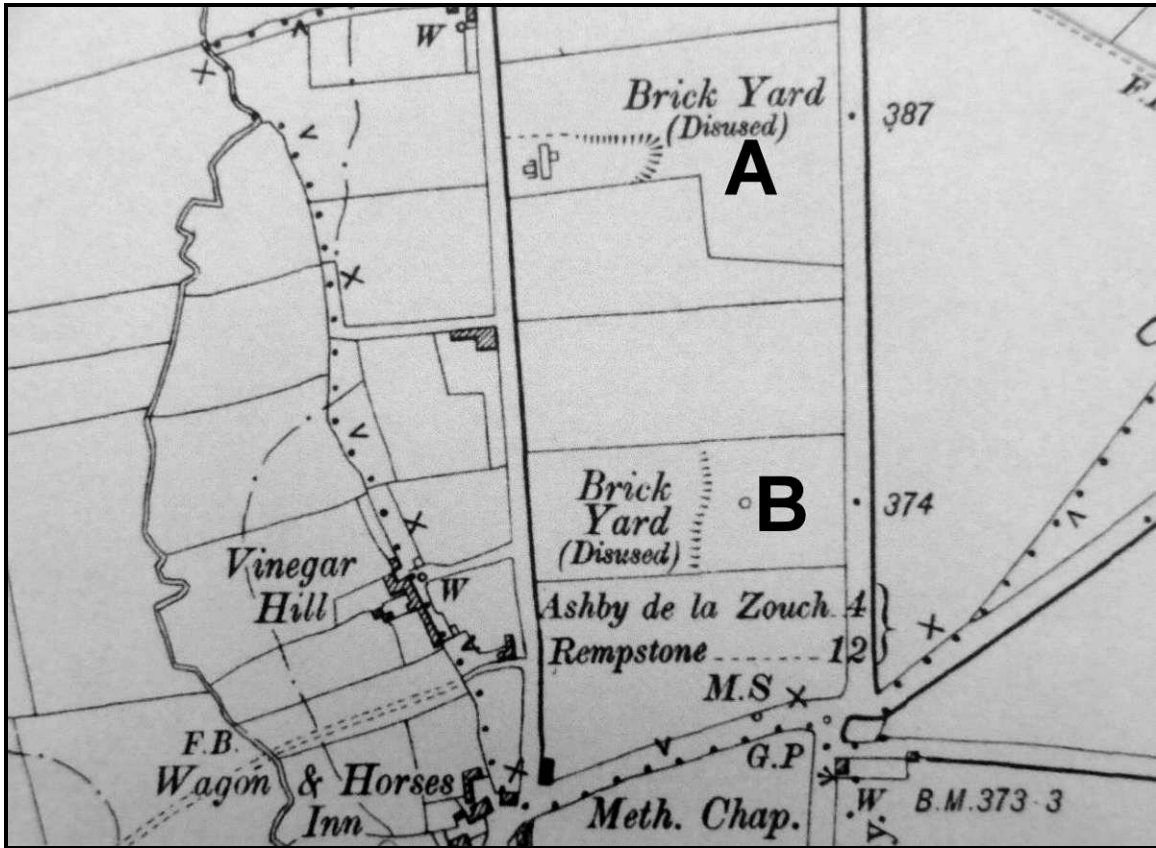
PART 1

LOCATION OF THE BRICKWORKS / BRICKYARDS ON THE BRAND

THE 1881 6inch O/S MAP BELOW SHOWS TWO SEPARATE BRICKYARDS ON BREEDON BRAND MARKED A and B



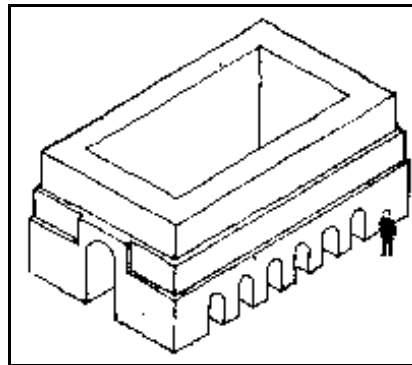
THE 1901 SURVEYED, 1903 PUBLISHED O/S MAP SHOWS THAT BY THEN BOTH BRICKYARDS HAD FALLEN INTO DISUSE.



PART 2

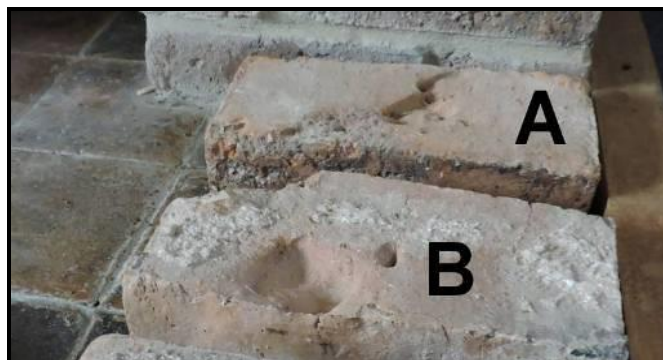
TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON BRICKMAKING

The most common type of kiln used in the UK in the 19th century was an “Up-draft” kiln which was usually referred to as a “Scotch Kiln”. At least one of these was in use on the Brand, parts of which have survived to this day, as depicted in the front page photographs. It consisted of a rectangular building which is open at the top and has side doors with arched fire holes built from fire bricks. The kilns could generally accommodate approximately 80,000 bricks at full capacity. raw / green bricks are arranged in the kiln leaving gaps in between each brick to ensure an even burn. It took approximately three days to burn off the residual moisture from the bricks, at which point the firing was increased for the final burn. It took between 48 and 60 hours to completely burn a brick to achieve its optimum strength and colour. The bricks from the centre of the kiln would have been of the highest quality, whilst the ones from the edges were sometimes clinkered and unsuitable for exterior work. The open top of the kiln was covered with old bricks and turf to help conserve heat, though flames would often be seen at night rising from the top of the kiln.



An outline illustration of an updraft kiln similar to the one shown on the front page

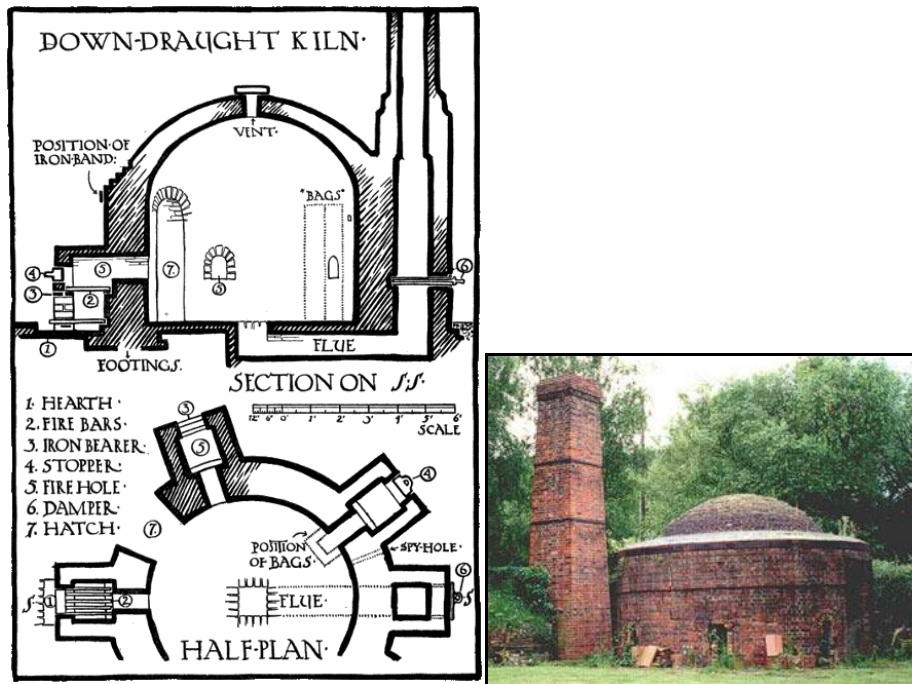
Prior to the development of mechanization allowing the manufacture of high volume "pressed bricks", the former hand moulded green bricks, were usually stacked in open-air "hacks" to dry for up to six weeks, protected from the weather and animals, by a covering of straw matting, tarpaulins, and later, wooden boarding with louvers. 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.



Examples of older hand moulded bricks damaged by animal hooves from a cottage in Griffydam

By the time high volumes of bricks were being supplied to the Worthington to Ashby branch of the Derby to Ashby Midland Railway in 1871 (see later feature), brick manufacturing at the brickworks would undoubtedly have been mechanized for a number of years and a floor heated drying shed for the green bricks prior to firing in the kilns would most likely have been in operation. The demand for increased volumes of bricks in the second half of the 19th century, coupled with the Victorian drive for mechanization, meant that by the mid 19th century extruded wire-cut and press-moulded bricks were generally in use.

Although, no physical evidence has survived the passage of time, at least one down draft kiln would have been in use where an underground flue was taken to a chimney from the base of the kiln which also provided the facility for the heat to be diverted for the underground heating of green brick drying sheds or hovels. **Green bricks is a reference to the raw moulded or pressed bricks which needed a period of drying prior to being stacked in the kilns before firing.**



An illustration of a “Down Draft” kiln with chimney



The above photographs are examples of pressed bricks which have “Griffydam” impressed into them, suggesting they were made between 1877 and 1880 when that part of the Lower Brand came into Griffydam.

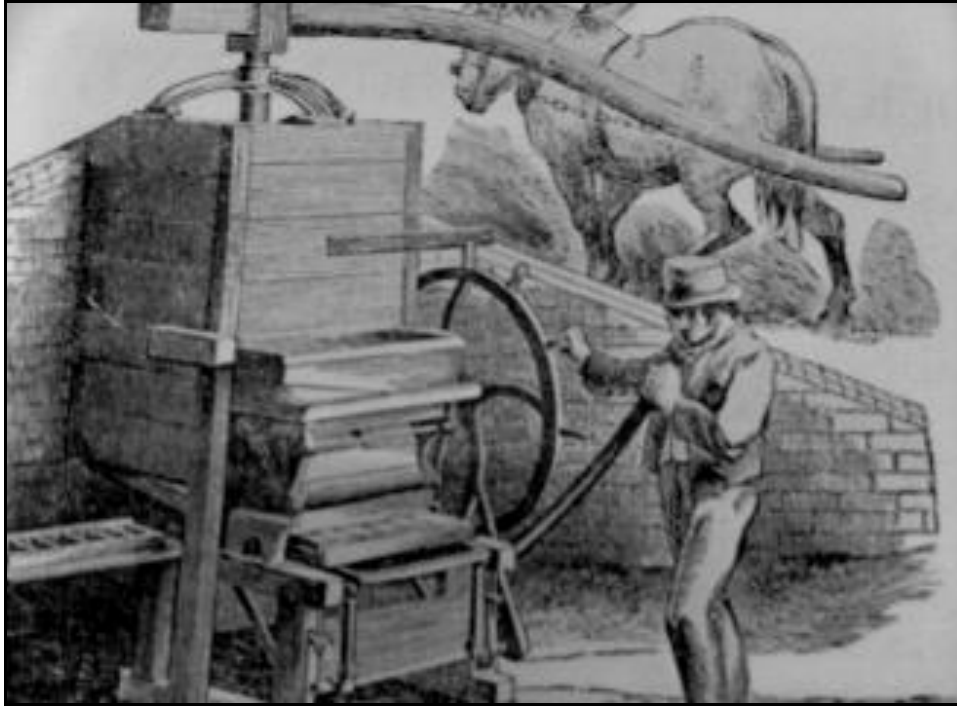


A recent photograph of the clay pit dug adjacent to the kiln on the front page. Clearly it was the large bed of available clay that was the reason for the brickworks to be established in this area



A typical clay pit. Note the turntables and tramway which would have led to the brick making area

It is quite possible that a horse driven "Pugmill" would have been in use at the brickworks at some point, for mixing the clay, as shown below



In most areas, these small brickyards owners 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. This was similar to the "Butty" system employed in the coal mines (see a typical agreement at the end of the publication)

PART 3

OVERVIEW OF KNOWN OCCUPIERS OF THE BRICKWORKS

The transcribed newspaper articles in Part 5 have been included to support the following overview and to try and give the reader a better appreciation also of what times were like in this period. The author has used the word occupiers for the various brick makers identified as there is good evidence that the sites were owned by someone else and were let on a tenancy basis.

The earliest record found of anyone owning one of the brickworks sites was in 1816 when John Hackett junior, aged 28, was recorded. He had almost certainly been left the brickworks as part of his fathers estate when he died in 1814. John junior fell into bankruptcy and the brickworks were put up for auction in 1816, along with 10 lots of land and property previously owned by his father (see Part 5). It is not known how long John Hackett senior was operating the brickworks prior to his death in 1814.

From 1782 to 1813, John Hackett senior was the licensee of a "Ale House" at Breedon-on-the-Hill and in 1801 he was operating the lime kilns at Breedon quarry. He was described as a lime burner and farmer. He gave the following account on April 30th 1801 to John Nichols, the Leicestershire Antiquarian at the limeworks:-

Mr. Monk in his agricultural report, says, "Breedon lime is not in high estimation for the farmers' use; they complain it is too strong, and they are afraid to use it on account of its great strength. Ticknall lime they approve, because they may lay on a large quantity without fear of injuring the land, the Breedon is six pence per quarter and the Ticknall somewhat dearer. Builders prefer the Breedon for their use. I recommended them to try the Breedon lime in compost with earth &c., as I should think by that method it would be found to answer, and prove a much better and cheaper manure than Ticknall".(Nichols 1804. Vol 3).

John Nicklinson senior (licensee at the Waggon & Horses) was given as the occupier of the brickworks at the time of the sale which took place in 1834. How long he was there is not known (see the newspaper article in Part 5, page 15).

Thomas Hoult is recorded in a sale of the brickworks in 1857 as being the occupier (see Part 5). How long prior to that Thomas was running the brickyard is not known. Thomas was the father of William Hoult who we know was at the brickyard in 1864 based on a newspaper report (see Part 5). The newspaper article provide some key information and a suggestion that William Hoult was the "owner" of one of the brickyards on "The Brand" which he most likely purchased at the 1857 sale and continued to operate it till at least 1880. Interestingly, the newspaper report also confirms that William Hoult was supplying significant quantities of bricks to the Worthington and Ashby section of the Derby to Ashby Midland Railway. Due to its close proximity to the start of the Worthington to Ashby section, this is not really surprising, but prior to the discovery of the newspaper article, there was no other evidence available. In the Hinckley News dated 7 Feb 1880, the brickyard is being advertised for auction and confirms that William Hoult and Henry Toon are the occupiers. The Hinckley News dated 20 May 1882 advertises the brickyard being put up for auction in consequence of the death of a Mr. Hodgkinson, presumably the actual owner of the brickyard at the time. It states that it was then in the occupation of Mr. Toon. **A special feature on Henry Toon is included in Part 7.**

In a newspaper article on page 16 in Part 5, William Hoult describes himself to the judge as a *brick manufacturer not a brick maker* which the author believes is significant, even though the

judge apparently didn't. In most areas, these small brickyard owners 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. This was similar to the "Butty" system employed in the coal mines (**see a typical agreement at the end of the publication**)

In the 1851 census for Thringstone (Peggs Green – Froggatt's Lane – In the Township of Thringstone at that time) Thomas Hoult (father of William Hoult) is recorded as an Inn Keeper (licensing records confirm the Red Lion) with his wife Elizabeth, daughters Mary and Jane and son William aged 14. They also had a servant; Richard Cooper aged 43, born in Worthington.

The 1861 census for Thringstone (Peggs Green - In the Township of Thringstone at that time) records William Hoult, aged 25 as a brick maker living with his mother Elizabeth, now a widow, and two sisters Mary and Jane. His mother is recorded as being a Victualler and grocer (licensing records confirm "Red Lion", and she had taken over the license from her husband Thomas). The reference to grocer probably refers to the shop next door. Elizabeth was born in Coleorton but Thomas's birth place was recorded as unknown.

The 1871 census for Thringstone records William Hoult as a farmer aged 35 and now living with his wife Sarah aged 20 who was born in Liverpool, plus a servant George Jones on Froggatt's Lane.

By July 1880, William and Sarah are recorded in the last newspaper article on page 18 in Part 5, as living in Castle Donington but still owning "*a brickyard on the bottom brand*".

Except for the Post Office Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland, 1876, which describes William Hoult as both a farmer and brick maker, and the 1861 census describing him as a brickmaker, but he was generally alluded to as a farmer.

We know from research evidence featured in Part 6, that Joseph Smart and Son were operating one of the brickworks from c.1845 to c.1879. Sufficient information is available to demonstrate that both brickworks **A & B** (see map on page 3) must have been operating in parallel for most of this period. **A special feature on Joseph Smart and Son is included in Part 6.**

From 1880 to 82 Henry Toon was the occupant of one of the brickyards. **A special feature on Henry Toon is included in Part 7.**

PART 4

THE WORTHINGTON TO ASHBY SECTION OF THE DERBY TO ASHBY MIDLAND RAILWAY

In 1845, the Midland Railway, anxious to keep competitors away from the Leicestershire coalfields, purchased the Ashby Canal and its associated railways / tramways for £110,000. It then forged a line from the Leicester & Swannington railway at Coalville, through Moira to its recently-acquired Birmingham-Derby route at Burton-upon-Trent. One clause of the agreement required it to "keep the canal intact and in good repair for the purposes of trade until the completion of the railway and as long after as may be deemed expedient".

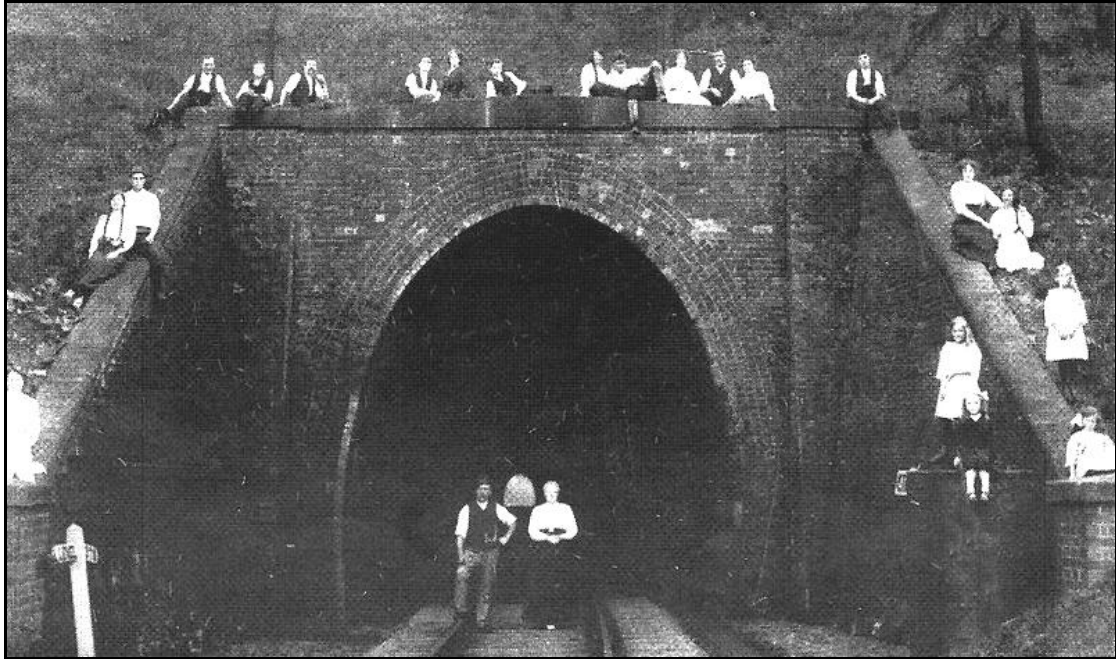
The Midland Railway, after gaining a Parliamentary Act, decided to build a line between Derby and Melbourne, which was opened on 1st September, 1868 and consisted of a double track line with stations at Derby Midland, Peartree, Chellaston and Melbourne. Just over one year later, on the 1st of October, 1869, the line was continued on as a single track from Melbourne via Tonge to Worthington.

The Midland Railway decided to subsequently extend its Worthington branch southwards into Ashby where it would connect with the Leicester-Burton line. This was laid mainly on the track bed of the original 12 ½ mile long horse drawn Cloud Hill tramway except for a few places where it was realigned to ease the curvature. The "Old Parks" tunnel was rebored to accommodate a standard gauge track and, as part of this work, it was shortened at its western end. When the new railway opened on 1st January 1874, just 308 yards of the original 447 yard long brick lined tunnel remained.

After the Second World War, the line's main use was that of transporting lime and lime stone from the Cloud Hill quarry and coal from New Lount Colliery via branch lines. The link from Ashby to Worthington eventually became redundant and was discontinued in 1955.



**A Steam Navy working on the Worthington to Ashby section
of the Derby to Ashby Midland Railway c.1872.**



Ashby Old parks tunnel after completion. Opened on January 1st 1874, it almost certainly incorporated bricks from the brickworks on "Breedon Brand".

PART 5

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

There follows details of auctions which took place as a result of John Hackett junior's bankruptcy. They were reported in the **Leicester Journal on Friday 30th August 1816**. Presumably John Hackett junior had inherited the estate from his father.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD LAND TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, By Mr. SHAW,

At the house of Mr. Bancroft. At the sign of the Horse Shoes, at Breedon in the county of Leicester, Monday 16th September next, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to such conditions which will be then produced ; By order of the assignees of JOHN HACKETT, a **bankrupt**. The following freehold and tith free lands situate in Worthington, Breedon-on-the-Hill and Charwood Forest in the county of Leicester, and containing the several quantities, and known by the names hereafter particularised viz:-

	a	r	p
LOT 1			
A close in Worthington called CHANTRY	1	2	5
LOT 2			
A close in Worthington called PEDMANS	4	3	8
LOT 3			
Another close in Worthington called PEDMANS	4	3	8
LOT 4			
A Close in Worthington called Taylor's close With the cottage standing thereon	6	1	3
LOT 5			
A close in Breedon called Boultee clay-hill and a piece of meadow land adjoining with part of a stable standing thereon, and upon part of LOT 2	7	1	2
LOT 6			
Two closes in Breedon called the top and bottom Clay Hill	8	3	18
LOT 7			
Two closes in Breedon called the Possession Bank and the Short Broom Hill with the other part of the stable mentioned in lot 5	10	0	34
LOT 8			
Three closes in Breedon called the Dump, the Lower Brownhill, and the Upper Long Brownhill.	10	1	30

LOT 9

A close in Breedon called the Brand with the Brick Yard,
and Brick kilns and hovels standing thereon. The above
premises are in the occupation of John Hackett

5	0	26
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LOT 10

Two closes upon Charnwood Forest, near to the turnpike road, leading from Ashby-de-la-Zouch to Loughborough in the occupation of William Merriman

12 0 0

Mr. Hackett will show the lots and for further information apply to Mr. Piddock, solicitor, Ashby or Mr. Curzon, solicitor, Derby

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

BY MR. SHAW

On Tuesday and Wednesday the 3rd and 4th days of September next.

**On the premises of Mr. JOHN HACKETT, a Bankrupt, at Breedon ,
All the genteel and valuable Furniture &c. &c. of the said bankrupt ; by order of the assignees.**

Beginning each morning at ten o'clock

The Farming Stock comprises two good new milched cows. One capital Herefordshire ditto, five prime fat cows, 17 good theaves, six fat double theaves, 14 good ewes, 17 store ditto, 11 shear hogs, 29 good lambs, 10 excellent draught horses and mares, mare in foal, chestnut horse, capital 6 year old horse for field or road, store pig four narrow wheel waggons, with gearing, four ditto carts, one inch ditto, new, two double ploughs and single-trees, single ditto ditto, four pair harrows, land roll, ten sets of very good horse tackle, five cow cribs, stone horse trough, sheep cratch, rick frame with stone pillows and caps, hovel of wheat, (about quarters), tarpawlings, drag rakes, rakes, forks, and most other essential implements.

Three capital well-got clover stacks, and three ditto hay ditto, be taken off the premises.

The growing crops consist of about five acres of oats and 6 1/2 acres of barley to be taken away : 9 1/2 acres of oats and 17 1/2 acres of wheat and 7 acres of barley, the straw to be returned to the premises ; 9 acres of turnips, cabbage and potatoes, 32 acres of grass, keeping 12 1/2 acres of clover aftermath till the 25th March next, 1817.

The household furniture has a great part of it purchased within the last two years and is of superior quality. **The brewing and kitchen requisites**, &c, &c, are numerous and in good preservation.

Catalogues will be distributed and may be had at the principle Inns in the neighbourhood and of the auctioneer Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

The following appeared in the London Gazette Part 1.....Jan 1 to Jun 29 1822 , which is self explanatory. As John Hackett is given as Lime Dealer, Dealer and Chapman (itinerant dealer or hawker in early modern Britain) then that is presumably describing his current status. Oh dear!!!

THE Commissioners in a Commission of Bankrupt, bearing date the 2d day of July 1816, awarded and issued forth against John Hackett, of Breedon-on-the-Hill, in the County of Leicester, Lime-Dealer, Dealer and Chapman, intend to meet on the 6th day of February next, at Eleven of the Clock in the Forenoon, at the Queen's Head Inn, in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in the County of Leicester, in order to make a Dividend of the Estate and Effects of the said Bankrupt; when and where the Creditors, who have not already proved their Debts, are to come prepared to prove the same, or they will be excluded the Benefit of the said Dividend. And all Claims not then proved will be disallowed.

Leicester Journal - Friday 7th February 1834

Valuable Freehold Land, Brick Kiln, and Premises,

At Breedon on-the-Hill, and Sheepshed, in the county of Leicester

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY B. CHEATLE,

At Mr. Nicklinson's the Waggon and Horses Inn, at Worthington, on Friday the 14th day of February, 1834. at five o'clock in the afternoon, in the under-mentioned. Or other Lots that may be agreed on at the time of Sale, and subject to conditions to be then produced, unless previously by Private Contract, of which due notice will be given,

LOT 1

ALL that Close or Parcel of LAND, situate in the Brand, in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill. containing 5a. 0r. 26p, or thereabout, be the same more or less, together, with the valuable bed of clay, being there under, and the Brick Kiln, Drying Sheds, and other buildings standing thereon, and now in the occupation of **Mr. Nicklinson.**

Leicester journal - Friday 20th February 1857

**TO BUILDERS AND OTHERS - BREEDON-ON-THE-HILL, LEICESTER
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
BY MR. G. CHUBB**

At the Beaumont Arms Inn, Coleorton, on Wednesday, the 25th of February 1857, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to the conditions of sale to be then produced : (in one lot)

All that valuable close, piece, or parcel of land, situate and being on "Breedon Brand", in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill aforesaid, containing 5a Or 26p., or thereabouts.

And also the brick kiln and sheds, now standing and being thereon, and now in the occupation of Thomas Hoult.

The above property is well known as having an excellent bed of clay under it, and is most advantageously situated for the trade, as it is surrounded by good roads, and coal abounds in the near neighbourhood.

The poor and other rates are very low

For further particulars apply to Mr. Hucknall, solicitor, Loughborough ; to Mr. Hackett in Newbold ; or to the auctioneer Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Leicester Journal - Friday 21st October 1864

Leicestershire Michaelmas Sessions

John Poyser, 56, labourer, was indicted for stealing a wheelbarrow, value 6s., the property of Joseph Perry, at Ashby, on the 18th November. On a second amendment he was charged with receiving it knowing it to be stolen. —Prosecutor said on the 17th November last, he had a wheelbarrow safe. At five o'clock the next morning it was gone, and he gave information to the police, and issued warrant against the prisoner. The police constable showed his barrow about a fortnight after, it was the barrow he had lost.—**William Holt (Hoult)** said he had a brick-yard at Breedon, about four miles from Ashby. On November last the prisoner worked for him. He said something about a barrow, and shortly after he saw him using a fresh one. —P.C. Smith said from information received, he went in search of wheelbarrow at the last witness's yard. He took possession of it and showed it to **Mr. Holt**, and to the prosecutor. —**The jury acquitted the prisoner.**

Leicester Chronicle – October 14th 1871

ASHBY COUNTY COURT – THURS OCT 19TH.

William Hoult v Thomas Haywood. – Claim £3 4s., a set-off pleaded for £3 0s. – Mr. Higginson appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Wilson for the defendant. – Defendant is a builder living at Griffydham, and on passing plaintiff's brickyard one day, saw that he had a large stock of bricks, and asked him why he did not get rid of them. Plaintiff said that because no one wanted any. Defendant offered to get him a customer on the same terms he had been accustomed to sell bricks for his father, viz., 1s. per thousand. He took a sample of the bricks, and showed them to Mr. Lambert, agent for Messrs. Eckersley and Boyliss, the contractors for the formation of the new line between Worthington and Ashby. Mr. Lambert approved of the bricks, and said he would take all Mr. Hoult had – about 60,000. Defendant said he had better see Mr. Hoult about them. Mr. Lambert took the whole of plaintiff's stock, and in all had had from him **200,000**. – Plaintiff said that he never engaged to give defendant a commission on the sale of bricks, but, in conversation with him, said if defendant could get him a customer, he should be very much obliged to him. – In the course of his examination, plaintiff said he was not a brick maker himself, but a brick manufacturer. – His Honour pointed out that this was a distinction without a difference. – Mr. Lambert was called to prove that the defendant did not sell the bricks to him, but that he had bought them of plaintiff, though he did so as the result of Haywood's introduction. – His Honour said it appeared to him that there had been on the side of each party in this case a want of manly straightforward truthfulness. – **It was quite clear to him that the whole truth had not come out. He was satisfied, however, that plaintiff had engaged to give defendant a commission if he found a customer for the bricks, and he should allow the claim of £3. – Verdict for plaintiff for 4s.**

It could be interpreted that Thomas Haywood infers that William Hoults father owned the brickworks prior to his son. Thomas Haywood was also the licensed victualler of the Griffin Inn on Elder Lane, Griffydam as well as a builder.

Leicester Chronicle – July 12th 1873

**LEICESTERSHIRE SUMMER ASSIZES
CROWN COURT , Thursday,**

**Before Baron Bramwell
(Jury – 21 men plus a foreman)**

WILLIAM HOULT (37), farmer and brick manufacturer, was charged with the manslaughter of Maria Weston, at Worthington on the 27th June. – Mr. Jacques prosecuted, and Mr. Merewether defended the prisoner. – Frederick Staniforth, labourer, living at Worthington, said on the 18th June he was standing near his master's house, on the road leading from Breedon to Worthington, at about eight o'clock. Prisoner came up in a basket trap, drawn by a pony. Prisoner passed him and stopped, and then turned towards Breedon. He beat the pony, which was galloping as fast as it could. – William Shaw, labourer, Worthington, said he was in the street in the village of Worthington about eight o'clock, and saw prisoner coming up with a pony and trap at a very fast pace. He had difficulty in getting out of the way of the pony and trap. – Mary Higglesfield said on the day in question she saw prisoner coming in a basket trap from Breedon. He was driving the pony very fast. Prisoner got up in the trap, and flogged the pony several times. – William Elliot, grocer, Worthington, spoke to seeing the prisoner driving at a furious pace at the time in question. – Josiah Weston, haggler, said the deceased was his mother. On the evening in question he was coming with a horse and cart from Griffydam to Worthington, and met prisoner with a pony and trap. He (witness) had to back his horse to get out of the way of prisoner. – By Mr. Merewether : His mother had been run over by a post-boy named Broadhurst previously. She was deaf, but could hear when spoken to loudly. – Ralph Smith, labourer, who lived on the road leading to Griffydam, said he was standing at his door on the evening in question, and saw the deceased, who was coming from Griffydam to Worthington. She was near the roadside. Saw prisoner come up, and heard him shout when about three yards off the deceased, "Get out of the way". He did not think there was time for her to get out of the way before the shaft struck her and knocked her down ; the pony trampled on her head, and the wheel passed over her. Prisoner, who was going very fast, whipped the pony after he had run over deceased. He told prisoner he had knocked deceased down, but he did not stop. Prisoner went on as far as his brickyard, which was about 300 yards off and then stopped. He (witness) went and picked deceased up. – By Mr. Merewether : Could not see prisoner if he had been looking in the direction he was coming when he first heard him, as there was a corner. The deceased was walking where the wheel of the trap would run. – James Cowlshaw, farmer, said he was riding on the road from Griffydam to Worthington on the evening in question, and saw prisoner driving at a furious rate. He rode on to the place where deceased was, and from information he received, he went after prisoner to the brickyard, and told him he had one over a woman, and injured her seriously. Prisoner replied he had as much right on the road as anyone else. He also added that he told her to get out of the way, but she would not. – Dr. Johnson, of Whitwick, said he saw deceased after the accident. He found several bruises on different parts of her body, and there was a bruise all up the leg, as also bruises on the head and temple. She was in a low state, and died on the 27th. He made a *post mortem* examination, and found the cause of death to be effusion of blood on the brain, caused by the injuries she had sustained. – Mr. Merewether, for the defence, said the deceased was deaf, but as the prisoner called out to her when three or four yards off, she had time to get out of the road. – His Lordship in summing up pointed out that the jury must satisfy themselves that the death of the woman was due to the criminal negligence of the prisoner. They must judge for themselves, if they found the death had been caused, whether the prisoner exercised proper

caution. If they believed the evidence of the witnesses, the prisoner either could not or would not stop the pony when he saw the woman on the road. If he could not stop the pony, he had not been guilty of culpable negligence. If they found he had been guilty of culpable negligence, which had resulted in the death of this woman, and considered that he was a fit person for punishment, then they must find him guilty – The jury found the prisoner guilty, but recommended him to mercy on account of the deceased being deaf. – His Lordship said the deceased had been killed entirely through prisoner's misconduct, which he considered a most cruel thing. **Taking into account the recommendation of the jury, he should not sentence prisoner to hard labour, as that would make him *the associate of thieves*, but he should order him to be imprisoned for four months, and condemn him to pay the costs of this prosecution.**

Based on the numerous times William Houlton was involved in Court cases, one does get the impression that he was a bit of a rogue, not forgetting the 4 months imprisonment he was sentenced to for what nowadays would be a charge of manslaughter. Assuming William didn't appeal and have his sentence commuted, then he presumably left things to his brick master to run the operation and probably his wife took care of the administration side.

Leicester Chronicle – August 23rd 1879

**COUNTY COURT
Before Mr. Barrow, Judge**

John Green Evatt and another v William Houlton.

Mr. Jesson for plaintiff, and Mr. Wilson for defendant. –

Action to recover £5 advanced by Plaintiff's to defendant on the faith of a contract entered into by him with them to supply bricks to order at Worthington, and which were never supplied. – Plaintiff produced a receipt signed by the defendant for £5 on account of "bricks delivered at Worthington Station", thus omitting the words "to be", but evidence being given that this was a mere clerical error, **judgment was given for the plaintiffs for the amount claimed with costs.**

Leicester Chronicle – July 3rd 1880

A Painful Case. – Hannah Saddington and Fanny Platts of Griffydham, two married women, of respectable appearance, were charged with stealing 87lbs. weight of coals, on the 21st ult., the property of William Houlton, brick manufacturer of Griffydham. – 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. Houlton'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 Houlton's brickyard". She replied "We have, our boys have been working for Mr. Houlton, 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 Houlton said: I am the wife of William Houlton, 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 William Hoult's house at Castle Donington to beg forgiveness, arriving there at half-past one in the morning!!

Hinckley News - Saturday 7 February 1880

*Breedon Brand, Leicestershire.
Valuable Freehold Land and Brickyard.*

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
By Messrs. ORCHARD & SON,**

At the house of Mr. Thomas Gostelow, known as the Waggon and Horses, Griffydam in the County of Leicester, on Monday, the 16th day of February, 1880, at Six for Seven o'clock in the evening precisely,

ALL that Close of valuable PASTURE LAND, with the Kiln, Brick and Tiled Open Shed, and other Buildings standing thereon, called by the name of "The Brick Kiln Close," containing by survey 5a, 0r. 26p., or thereabouts, situate in the parish of Breedon-on-the-hill, in the County of Leicester, and in a place there called the Brand.

The premises are in the occupation of Mr. William Holt and Henry Toone, and contain a bed of excellent clay, and adjoin the Hinckley and Melbourne Turnpike Road and the Brand Road.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneers; or to
FISHER, JESSON, & Co.,
Solicitors, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

The following suggests that the brickyard/s were actually owned by Mr. Hodgkinson

Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – May 27th 1882

VALUABLE PASTURE LAND AND BRICKYARD,
GRIFFYDAN, BREEDON BRAND, LEICESTERSHIRE
(In consequence of the death of Mr. Hodgkinson)
BY
MESSRS. AULT, SPRECKLEY, AND Co.,
AT THE WAGGON AND HORSES, GRIFFYDAM, LEICESTERSHIRE
ON MONDAY THE 5TH DAY OF JUNE, 1882
AT 5 FOR 6 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING PROMPT
SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE SALE TO BE THEN PRODUCED

All that close of Valuable Pasture Land, with the Kiln, Brick and Tile Open Shed, and other buildings standing thereon, called by the name of "The Brick Kiln Close", containing by survey 5a. Or. 26p., or thereabouts, situate in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill, in a place there called "The Brand". And now in the occupation of Mr. Henry Toone.

There is an everlasting bed of clay of the very best quality, a good trade is being done, and sample bricks quarries and tiles can be seen in the yard.

The premises are adjoined by the Hinckley and Melbourne turnpike and the Brand Roads, and are within a mile of Worthington Railway Station.

The tenancy is a yearly one and produces, with a guaranteed minimum royalty of £21, the rental of £43.

Further particulars may be had of the auctioneers St. Mary's Gate, Derby, or Mr. Alfred Heny, Solicitor, 4, Market-place, Derby.

PART 6

JOSEPH SMART & SON – BRICK MAKER ON THE BRAND FROM c.1845 TO c.1878

Although the following is mainly about the Smart families brick making activities, it should be noted that Joseph Smart & Son (James) also worked a small coal mine at Griffydam between 1874 and 1880, probably extracting coal leased from the Curzon family of Breedon. It was severely limited by the Thringstone fault to the north and the workings of the Pegg's Green Colliery in other directions.

Joseph Smart first registered a brick making business in Ashby de la Zouch, where he first moved to from Ticknall, where he was born.

Joseph Smart was first listed as part of the Worthington Parish Vinegar Hill / Brand Hill 1851/61/71 censuses, as a brick maker, and appears to be living next to the Waggon & Horses Inn on the Lower Brand with his family. Joseph was born in Ticknall in 1824, and his wife Elizabeth was born in Kimberly, Notts. His son James, was born in 1847 in Ridings, Derbyshire and he married Selina. Their first daughter Elizabeth was born in 1870 and they lived in this area also.

The landlord of the "Waggon & Horses" from 1845 to 1864 was John Nicklinson junior, who was listed in 1851 as a brickmaker. As both brickyards were in operation he could have owned the other one, as the use of the word brickmaker infers that. John must have been a busy man - landlord of a pub, farmer and brickmaker.

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, who was born in Breedon. Henry, Fanny and George would have worked at the brickworks on the Brand also.

In the 1881 Griffydam census (Vinegar Hill and Brand Hill) was now included in Griffydam), Joseph Smart was recorded as living in Griffydam, aged 57, and still as a brick maker, although we cannot take that as he was still operating the brickworks himself and could have been working for or with someone else. 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 his wife Selina had died in 1879, which would explain why the children are living with their grandparents.

It is not unreasonable to assume that the entire Smart families mentioned above were related, although the author has not researched this.

The following advertisement, which appeared in the Leicester Chronicle 9 Aug 1879 confirms that at some point, Joseph Smart and his son James had formed a partnership with a William Wildblood and Sydney Haywood. The advertisement states they were trading as "Brick and Tile Merchants and Builders". It confirms that this partnership was dissolved 26th July 1879. The only other connection the author can find between the parties is in 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 have been found at the time of writing.

In 1885, Joseph with his wife Elizabeth and their widowed son James and his four children, Elizabeth, Annie, Charles and Sarah R, emigrated to New Zealand to seek new lives, where it is possible they set up a brick making facility there.

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.

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

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

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

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PART 7

HENRY TOON

The 1880 / 1881 dates on the following receipts show that Henry Toon was occupying the brickworks which appears to have been owned by a Mr. Hodgkinson (see the following newspaper article referring to the sale of the brickyard after his death).

The receipts are for bricks purchased from the brickworks on the Lower Brand by Samuel Eagle Esq. He had purchased a house on Elder Lane in 1877 on a buy to let basis and ran a Bakers and Grocers business in an area within Coleorton known as "Rotten Row", which was actually in the Township of Thringstone at that time.

These receipts are the only records located for the price of bricks (commons) originating from the brickworks on the Brand, which is shown as being 25 shillings a thousand in 1881.

Bricks being supplied to the Coleorton Railway in 1834 from Coleorton Brickworks were 22s. per thousand but that was based on 900,000 bricks supplied. In the Coleorton brickyard ex kiln ledger for 1813 commons were 28s. per thousand.

1880	Mr Eagle		
	To Henry Toon		9 7
March 4	500 Com Bricks Delivd	..	12-0
	April 2 nd Paid		
	Henry Toon		

1851

Guffydam Brickyard
 Mr Eagle
 To H^y Toon

March 21 250 box Bricks delivered
 22 150 do
 400 at 25¢ thow .. 100 0

April 30 Settled
 H^y Toon



An example of a machine pressed brick made when Henry Toon was operating the brickworks on Breedon Brand.

The following transcribed newspaper article (shown earlier also) suggests that the brickyard was owned by Mr. Hodgkinson, and Henry Toon was only renting it as a tenant on an annual agreement.

Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – May 27th 1882

**VALUABLE PASTURE LAND AND BRICKYARD,
GRIFFYDAN, BREEDON BRAND, LEICESTERSHIRE
(In consequence of the death of Mr. Hodgkinson)**

BY

**MESSRS. AULT, SPRECKLEY, AND Co.,
AT THE WAGGON AND HORSES, GRIFFYDAM, LEICESTERSHIRE
ON MONDAY THE 5TH DAY OF JUNE, 1882**

AT 5 FOR 6 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING PROMPT

SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE SALE TO BE THEN PRODUCED

All that close of Valuable Pasture Land, with the Kiln, Brick and Tile Open Shed, and other buildings standing thereon, called by the name of "The Brick Kiln Close", containing by survey 5a. Or. 26p., or thereabouts, situate in the parish of Breedon-on-the-Hill, in a place there called "The Brand". And now in the occupation of Mr. Henry Toon.

There is an everlasting bed of clay of the very best quality, a good trade is being done, and sample bricks quarries and tiles can be seen in the yard.

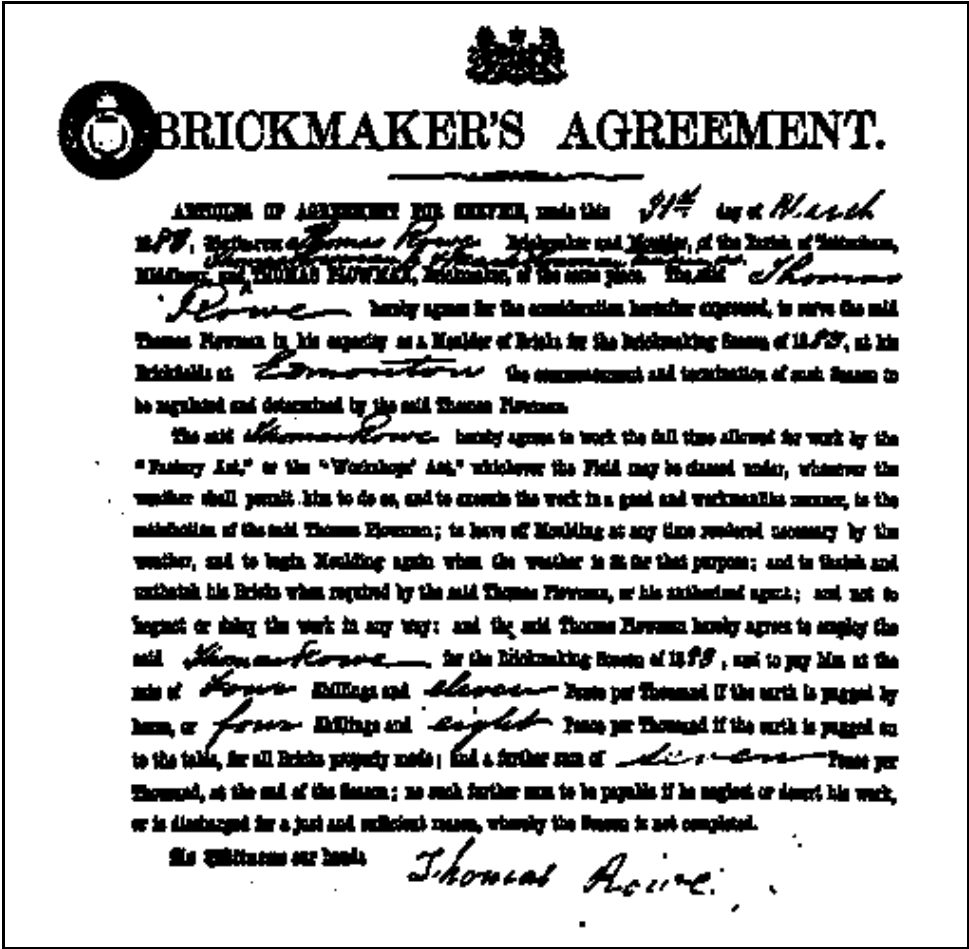
The premises are adjoined by the Hinckley and Melbourne turnpike and the Brand Roads, and are within a mile of Worthington Railway Station.

The tenancy is a yearly one and produces, with a guaranteed minimum royalty of £21, the rental of £43.

Further particulars may be had of the auctioneers St. Mary's Gate, Derby, or Mr. Alfred Heny, Solicitor, 4, Market-place, Derby.

PART 8

A BRICKMAKER'S AGREEMENT



Example of an 1883 Brick Makers Agreement

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR SERVICE, made this (31st) day of (March) 1883, Between (Thomas Rowe) Brickmaker and Moulder, the parish of Tottenham, Middlesex and THOMAS PLOWMAN, Brickmaker of the same place. The said (Thomas Rowe) hereby agrees for the consideration hereafter expressed, to serve the said Thomas Plowman in his capacity as a Moulder of Bricks for the Brickmaking Season of 1883, at his Brickfields at (Edmonton) the commencement and termination of such season to be regulated and determined by the said Thomas Plowman. The said (Thomas Rowe) hereby agrees to work the full time allowed for work by the "Factory Act," or the "Workshops' Act," whichever the Field may be classed under, whenever the weather shall permit him to do so, and to execute the work in a good and workmanlike manner, to the satisfaction of the said Thomas Plowman; to leave off Moulding at any time rendered necessary by the weather, and to begin Moulding again when the weather is fit for that purpose; and to thatch and unthatch his Bricks when required by the said Thomas Plowman, or his authorized agent; and not to neglect or delay the work in any way: and the said Thomas Plowman hereby agrees to employ the said (Thomas Rowe) for the Brickmaking Season of 1883, and to pay him at the rate of (4) Shillings and (11) Pence per 1000 if the earth is pugged by horse, or (4) Shillings and (8) Pence per 1000 if the earth is pugged on to the table, for all Bricks properly made; and further sum of (7) Pence per 1000, at the end of the Season; no such further sum to be payable if he neglect or desert his work, or is discharged for a just and sufficient reason, whereby the Season is not completed. As Witness our hands (Thomas Rowe).